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May 11-17, 2022

# CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us

## THE WINE ISSUE

A guide to Greater  
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Back in 2001, when a handful of us launched City Pulse, we pledged that we would produce a newspaper that would cover the local scene with high editorial standards. Today, our pledge remains the same.

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The cost of doing so is dramatically more expensive than it was even last year. It is not just the 8-9% rate of inflation that is affecting all of us. The cost of paper — our second biggest expense — has shot up 25% in the last 15 months.

Help us keep City Pulse not just strong but improving. **Please contribute to City Pulse.** We hope you will set up a recurring donation, but whatever you can do will be sincerely appreciated.

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# CityPULSE

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Lansing Legends: Oliver Brown



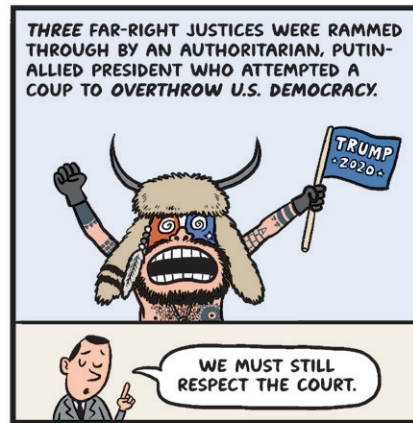
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The Wine Issue: On Cloud Wine



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LSO season closer



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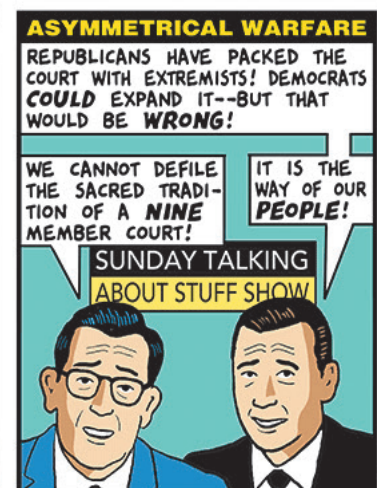
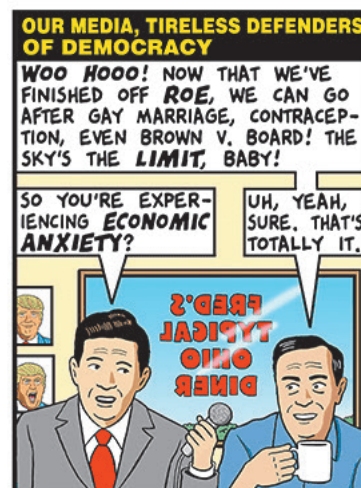
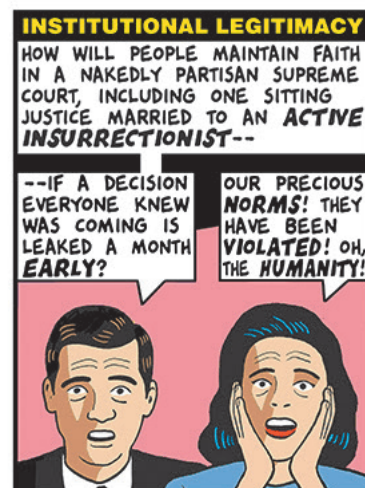
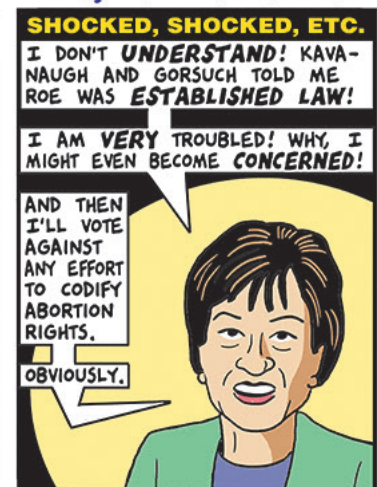
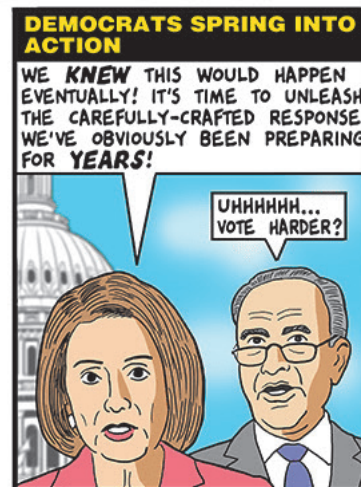
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

# More questions: Police shooting at Meijer rattles East Lansing

## Police Oversight Commission demands transparency after cops shoot Lansing man

Two rookie officers at the East Lansing Police Department are on paid leave after they shot eight rounds at a 20-year-old Lansing man who was reportedly seen with a pistol while he fled authorities in the parking lot of the Lake Lansing Road Meijer in East Lansing on April 25.

Records released this week by the East Lansing Independent Police Oversight Commission identified officers Jose Viera and Jim Menser as the two cops who shot and injured DeAnthony Thomas-Scott VanAtten, a Black man who was seen on video running away from four ELPD officers who responded

to the grocery store in response to a still-unreleased 911 call.



VanAtten

This week, VanAtten is reportedly recovering from two bullet wounds at home while his mother is joining forces with local activists to demand “justice” in the wake of another controversial police shooting of a Black man in Michigan — this time in East Lansing. Among his family’s top demands: Fire both Viera and Menser, and prosecute them for their roles in her son’s shooting.

Meanwhile, Viera’s attorney is argu-

ing that the cops will soon be “cleared” of all wrongdoing, and VanAtten has since been released from custody and has not been charged with a crime.

Many details are still scarce while the State Police investigates and decides whether to request criminal charges against VanAtten, Viera or Menser — or perhaps all three. The case will be referred to Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel’s office for a final decision. East Lansing Police Chief Kim Johnson has also vowed to review all of his department’s relevant policies to help turn the city’s first officer-involved shooting into a learning experience for law enforcement.

In the meantime, here’s everything we know — and some lingering questions that remain:

VanAtten parked a silver Chevy Equinox at Meijer at 6:34 p.m. Security footage showed him exit an SUV wearing a black ski mask and sprint through the parking lot toward the store before he returns to the vehicle, reaches inside and then runs back toward the western grocery entrance.

Two minutes later, an unidentified woman called 911 to report that she had just seen a masked Black man pocket a



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

DeAnthony VanAtten’s mother, Burnette VanAtten (second from the left) joined a Black Lives Matter protest at the Ingham County Jail to demand that both officers who shot her son be fired.

gun from his SUV and head inside Meijer. Ingham County dispatchers relayed the message (and VanAtten’s description) to officers as a “weapons complaint,” also noting: “He’s not threatening anybody with it.” Audio of the original call has not been released.

The first two officers arrived on scene at 6:43 p.m. and went inside to look for a suspect. At least two other officers were close behind, still in the parking lot. At a press conference last week, Johnson declined to specify why four separate officers were called to the store that evening or elaborate on what specific sort of criminal behavior may have been under investigation there.

Within one minute of entering the west entrance, one of the first two offi-

cers on the scene looked across the checkout lanes and appeared to spot VanAtten near the eastern entrance. Both of the cops can be seen running in body camera footage, presumably toward VanAtten.

Interior security footage of VanAtten and two officers entering the store exists, but it hasn’t been publicly released. City officials ignored a request from City Pulse this week for an explanation. The Police Oversight Commission has requested that footage be released by Friday (May 13.)

Before the two officers inside could catch up, VanAtten appeared to dart out the east entrance.

The only footage of VanAtten inside the store (via body camera) shows a third officer pointing a stun gun at him in the small lobby area between the automatic doors. That cop also gave VanAtten the first audible verbal command of the day: “Hey, let me see your fucking hands.”

With a plastic shopping bag in his right hand, VanAtten ignored the directive and pushed open the front door with his empty left hand before sprinting west through the crowded parking lot.

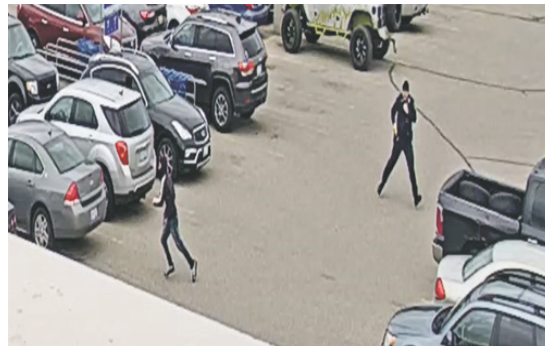
Both Viera and Menser can be heard telling him to stop and threatening to shoot him with a stun gun while chasing him across the parking lot. ELPD Officer Jeff Horn was also identified as another officer who displayed his weapon at the scene. A fourth officer has not been identified.

“Get on the ground. Get on the fucking ground. You’re going to get tased,”



Courtesy

Body camera footage shows VanAtten running away from an officer near the front entrance.



Courtesy

Surveillance footage shows VanAtten with a small, unidentifiable object in his hand.



Courtesy

Body camera footage shows VanAtten collapsed on the pavement after being shot by officers.



one cop shouted.

About a minute into the pursuit, one officer — still running several yards ahead of the others — can be heard on tape claiming to have seen VanAtten pull out a pistol as he turned back east.

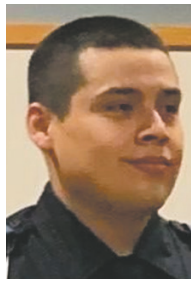
“He’s reaching. He’s reaching. He’s got a gun,” one cop shouted to the others before taking cover along the side of a nearby pickup truck and then firing two bullets in VanAtten’s direction.

A simultaneous “shots fired” call was reported over the radio to dispatchers at 6:46 p.m.

Because of the chest line positioning of the officer’s body camera, VanAtten was not visible on the body camera footage when the first two shots were fired. Parking lot surveillance footage showed a small metallic object in VanAtten’s hand, but it’s not readily identifiable as a gun.

After being alerted to the presence of a gun, a second officer who was still following close behind took cover behind a nearby vehicle, steadied his aim and then fired six more shots at VanAtten — who appeared to be unarmed — as he made his way into the officer’s sightline.

After being shot, VanAtten stumbled and fell to the ground. He shouted: “I can’t breathe.” His girlfriend was also seen on video frantically screaming at



Viera



Menser

officers with their 8-month-old child in tow. Her most repeated phrase of the evening: “You just shot him for no fucking reason.”

After cuffing VanAtten, the officers quickly shifted their abrasive tone, repeatedly calling him “buddy” while they patched up his wounds. One officer used his belt as a tourniquet while the others started searching the scene for the gun that was reportedly seen in VanAtten’s hand.

All told, VanAtten was shot twice — once in the abdomen and once in the right leg. It’s unclear which of the eight shots from either Viera or Menser made contact, or where exactly the other six bullets may have landed in the parking lot. No additional injuries were reported at the scene.

About two minutes later, one of the officers can be seen retrieving a gun from beneath a nearby parked car where Va-

nAtten was also seen crouching on video footage during the pursuit. The East Lansing Fire Department arrived at 6:52 p.m. to take VanAtten to Sparrow Hospital.

While at the hospital, the State Police decided to detain VanAtten on an unrelated probation violation warrant tied to an outstanding Ingham County criminal case, county prosecutors said. A spokesman for the State Police has declined to answer questions about the situation.

Because of VanAtten’s age, the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act ensures that portions of his criminal record will remain sealed indefinitely from public view — including the details and circumstances surrounding his latest detainment at the county jail, county officials explained.

Individuals licensed to carry concealed pistols in Michigan are only legally prohibited from carrying them in certain locations. Grocery stores like Meijer are not on that list of “prohibited premises.” Private property owners can still prohibit firearms from being carried on their premises regardless of whether the weapon is concealed. Violators can face trespass charges.

County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth said his deputies “took over guard” of VanAtten at Sparrow Hospital on April 28 after being notified of his unrelated

probation violation. No records of that probation violation exist in public court records. The Michigan State Police also indicated that VanAtten was out on bond on another unrelated and sealed criminal case during the shooting.

VanAtten was “medically cleared” to leave the hospital and taken to the county jail at 11:37 a.m. on May 2 — almost one full week after he was shot by the cops. He was arraigned on his unrelated probation violation on May 4 and released later that afternoon, Wriggelsworth said.

The Michigan State Police have not released additional information about the incident. Most local elected officials are keeping their personal opinions to themselves as the probe continues.

The East Lansing Police Oversight Commission spent about three hours on Monday crafting a series of questions for city officials and the Michigan State Police regarding the shooting and the subsequent investigatory process. Many answers are due back before the end of the month.

Visit [cityofeastlansing.com/video-release](http://cityofeastlansing.com/video-release) to watch the publicly released video footage. Those experiencing trauma related to the incident can access mental health resources by calling 211.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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

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



**In the beginning, circa 2007**



## SOE OF THE WEEK



### Eye Sore: 1820 Elizabeth St. in Lansing

Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Don't open the doors. There are no people.

This week's featured property is the former Wesley Church of Christ, a neighborhood house of prayer built in 1948 that has been rotting away near the entrance of Regent Park for more than two decades. The current owner, Leon Scott — who lives just a few blocks away — bought the land from the former church for \$35,000 in 2001, according to Ingham County property records.

Old newspaper advertisements show the church was operational in the late '60s, but it's unclear when it closed. Other churches with apparent affiliations to the old church didn't return calls.

Nowadays, the front doors to the chapel and several windows are boarded shut. The front yard is a mess of trash, weeds and dirt. Paint is also peeling away to reveal layers of rotting wood. Of course, some local residents are tired of seeing the worsening blight in the East-side Neighborhood.

(Shoutout to City Pulse reader Elizabeth Ferszt for bringing this property to our attention.)

There are no active real estate listings for the property, but Scott said he's been trying to sell the land for more than a decade. For unnamed reasons, "it just hasn't happened," he explained.

Unlike his neighbors on Elizabeth and Regent streets near Regent Park, Scott doesn't have to drive by the dilapidated building every day. But he agreed: The old church is a real Eye Sore.

Scott encouraged anyone interested in buying the parcel to call him at 517-372-3658. Having made similar moves in the past, Parks Director Brett Kaschinske said the city of Lansing "would be willing to take a look" at buying the parcel to expand the overall footprint of Regent Park.

— 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](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call in a nomination at 517-999-6715.

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI



### Lansing approves school bond proposal

By a margin of 71%, Lansing voters approved a \$130 million bond to rebuild four elementary schools, renovate J.W. Sexton High School and ensure every classroom across the Lansing School District has air conditioning. Voter turnout was about 13.4%. Most were absentee ballots.



### Ex-prosecutor pleads guilty to drunk driving

Former Assistant Shiawassee County Prosecutor Christopher Brown pleaded guilty to misdemeanor operating while visibly impaired and possession of a firearm under the influence. As a result, his concealed pistol license was revoked and he was ordered to pay \$1,500 in fines.

### Diversity shines at Lansing Fire Department

Data collected by the Lansing State Journal from the state's 25 largest cities showed that Lansing has the third-highest percentage of Black firefighters, at 20%. That compares to a Black population of about 23% in the city — reportedly making LFD among the best in the state when it comes to matching its staff diversity with demographics of the local community.



### Bike missing at Red Bike Delivery

The most crucial element to Jeremy Hurt's local Red Bike Delivery business — his red bike — has been reported stolen on Friday (May 6) from a bike locker at Capital City Market. Anyone with information about the bike's whereabouts has been asked to call Hurt at 231-680-0501.

### Enrollment tanks at Cooley Law School

Fewer than 700 students are attending Western Michigan University Cooley Law School this year — marking a significant decline from a peak of 3,931 students in 2010, reports the Lansing State Journal. The school did not admit a new class of students last fall because courses were entirely online. President James McGrath said he wasn't too concerned about the latest trends.



### East Lansing welcomes 'More Than Vintage'

A boutique that sells a hand-curated selection of vintage-inspired clothing and shoes opened at 108 Division St. in East Lansing. The store — aptly named "More Than Vintage" — also serves as a "creativity hub" where customers can buy, sell and trade clothing, purchase cups of self-serve espresso, grab vending machine snacks or challenge their friends to arcade games.



### Driver indicted on bank larceny charges

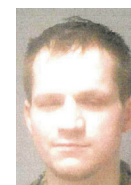
Reginald Carman, 23, was indicted on 12 separate bank larceny charges after he was accused by federal authorities of stealing more than \$1 million from several local banks last year as a former driver for Brinks' armored transportation services, FOX 47 News reports. Several of the alleged thefts occurred in Lansing. Carman has reportedly returned most of the missing cash.

### Sheriff: Inmate attacks deputy at jail

An unnamed inmate "suddenly attacked" a corrections deputy "without provocation" at the Ingham County Jail on Monday (May 9), according to a press release. The inmate allegedly put the deputy in a chokehold before backup arrived. No significant injuries were reported. The incident is being investigated as an assault and will be sent to prosecutors for further review.

### Okemos man arraigned from hospital

The Michigan State Police are still investigating a "medical emergency" at the Lansing Police Department detention facility after Nicholas Andrew Jetton, 27, of Okemos, was seen by officers consuming a "voluminous and life-threatening" amount of suspected narcotics on April 29. Jetton was reportedly cleared by Sparrow Hospital staff and taken to city lock-up, where he had an adverse reaction to the drugs and then required "lifesaving measures" before again being hospitalized. From the hospital, Jetton was charged this week with possession of cocaine and carrying a concealed weapon. The case is set to continue this week in 54-A District Court.



### Parking fines may climb in East Lansing

The East Lansing City Council is set to explore an ordinance amendment this month that could ramp up local expired parking meter fines from \$20 to \$30 — and from \$10 to \$20 if tickets are paid during the next business day. The move is designed to dissuade drivers from eating the discounted parking tickets rather than paying \$15 or \$20 to park in a nearby city parking garage.

### Juvenile arrested in Friday night shooting

Kalen Lesean Mathews, 19, of Lansing, was shot multiple times and killed on Friday (May 6) night near the 900 block of Bensch Street. An unidentified juvenile was detained at a local youth home and is set to face criminal charges in the incident. The case is set to continue this week. Matthews' death marked the city's ninth homicide of 2022 — down from 11 this time last year.

### New owner to demolish Spartan Hall of Fame Cafe

A commercial real estate firm called Alrig USA has plans to demolish the now-closed sports bar on Lake Lansing Road and reconstruct two free-standing buildings in its place, reports the Lansing State Journal. The latest plans include a "casual" restaurant with a drive-thru lane and a medical office, which has been described by developers as "more of an urgent care concept."





### CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The East Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Banquet Room of the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing MI 48823, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of East Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of the amended Local Development Finance Authority Tax Increment Financing and Development Plan for the Lansing Regional SmartZone, within the following areas:

The City of Lansing portion of the boundaries of the property to which the Plan applies can more generally be described as all real and personal property within an area bounded by Collins Road to the east, Dunkel Road to the south, I-496 to the west, and the City of Lansing boundary to the north and northeast.

The City of East Lansing portion of the boundaries of the property to which the Plan applies can more generally be described as real property within the area defined by the East Lansing Downtown Development Authority District per Ordinance 1106, with the exception of properties north of Grand River Avenue and east of Collingwood Drive.

The complete development plan, including maps and compliance with the displaced persons relocation requirements, are posted here: <https://www.purelansing.com/wp-content/uploads/LSRZ-TIF-Plan-04-18-2022.pdf> and are available for public inspection at Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, 48933, and East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, Michigan, 48823 and that all aspects of the development plan will be open for discussion at the public hearing. For more information, please call Joe Carr at the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, [jcarr@purelansing.org](mailto:jcarr@purelansing.org) or 517-230-2942.

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, City Hall, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing MI 48823 or [jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com)

**Jennifer Shuster, East Lansing City Clerk**

<https://cityofeastlansing.com/156/City-Clerk>

**CP#22-107**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from H. Kirby Albright for the property located at 1394 Foxcroft Road from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing: Section 50-301 – Table of lot and building requirements. The applicant intends to construct a patio and pool that would exceed the allowed 40 percent maximum ground coverage ratio. The property is zoned R-2 (Medium Density Single Family Residential).

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

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

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

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

**CP#22-112**

# If this term limits proposal doesn't pass, nothing will

By **KYLE MELINN**

At long last, Michigan voters will have their first say since 1992 on legislative term limits.

After years of chewing the fat on various proposals, lawmakers and various special interest groups have landed on something that could pass.



**KYLE MELINN**

**POLITICS**

The House and Senate quickly jammed onto the ballot this week a proposal that allows legislators to serve a combined 12 terms in both the House and Senate as opposed to the current configuration of two four-year Senate terms and three two-year House terms.

If you're doing your math, that means legislators could theoretically go from serving 14 years in the Legislature to 12 years in the Legislature. That's a reduction in term limits, right?

Well . . . not really.

The net effect is the 110-member state House will get more badly needed experience, allowing them to serve twice as long. The state Senate will see fewer House members jumping to the upper chamber, resulting in probably less experience.

Nearly all of the interest groups in town want this to go through. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, trial lawyers, insurance industry, Detroit city leaders and other business interests are all tired of constant churn in the House.

For them, legislative staff, bureaucratic staff and journalists (not that you should care about our plight) dealing with six years of House service is frustrating.

Most new legislators are good people with noble pursuits, but educating them on the issues is exhausting. Getting to know roughly 35 new people every other year is difficult. Once they get a good idea on how to advance good public policy, they're gone.

The joke in town is that state representatives spend their first term in office figuring out what they're supposed to be doing, the second term doing it and the third term plotting out their next job.

Sometimes that means a trip to the Senate, but that's not always the case.

What is more common is these House members hook up with a special interest in their closing months in office and take a job with them when their term is over.

You can see the obvious conflict with that practice.

Term limits are a noble concept. They broom out legislators before they can accumulate a lopsided amount of power.

Instead, it's consolidated power into the leadership team. Committee chairs are puppets of legislators. The state budget is crafted in a backroom by five or six actual legislators.

Lawmakers, fearful of losing what little time they have in office, dive into caucus seemingly all the time to essentially fall in line.

The general voting public doesn't see this. Frankly, they don't care.

The perception is legislators (as a body) live high on the hog thanks to taxpayer money, but that's not true. Lawmakers make a decent salary at \$72,000 a year, but all of the old perks — like lifetime medical insurance — are long gone.

People still have this distorted view of legislators, though, which is why a sweetener was added to this proposal in hopes of getting this passed: legislators, the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and attorney general would be required to list out where they make their money.

Michigan is one of few states to not have something like this on the books.

The path ahead isn't going to be easy for this proposal. The aforementioned high-powered interest groups swung and missed on collecting signatures for this idea through the petition process, which is why lawmakers are acting now.

Honestly, voters are not banging down the door for this reform, even after legislative embarrassments like Todd Courser, Kurt Damrow or Jewell Jones. It doesn't mean voters can't be convinced. The groups that support the proposal have vowed to spend at least \$10 million to do exactly that.

That's why I'll repeat this: If a well-funded, well-supported ballot proposal that can claim to offer fewer years of legislative service and new financial disclosure requirements can't pass, nothing will.

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# Out of compliance

Lansing isn't unusual among older American cities in facing enormous and growing challenges with maintaining its aging housing stock, especially rental properties.

Decades of accumulated losses in state revenue sharing, combined with the rising costs of healthcare and employee pensions, have seriously impaired the ability of Michigan's largest cities to enforce basic city codes that require landlords to keep their properties in a good state of repair before they can be licensed as a rental.

The dearth of quality, affordable housing in Lansing was highlighted once again following the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in late 2021. As reported by City Pulse last month, a huge influx of Afghan refugees sent the region's human service agencies and local governments scrambling to find enough housing to accommodate the newcomers. Many ended up in unlicensed rentals scattered across the city or in hotel rooms paid for by local charities.

In 2019, just before the pandemic, the Lansing State Journal reported that 38% of the city's rental properties did not have a valid rental certificate. We don't know how much the situation has improved since then, but it's clear Lansing simply does not have enough housing inspectors to get the job done.

Lansing's code compliance division takes plenty of criticism, but the data suggests they do as much as they can with the resources available to them. Over the past three years, city inspectors have conducted an average of 5,000 rental licensing inspections at 14,000 dwelling units each year. City staff also conduct around 5,000 exterior inspections of substandard properties each year, monitor more than 400 red-tagged properties, and issue 15,000 or more tickets for tall grass, trash and debris, and disabled vehicle violations.

In East Lansing, a staff of three full-time housing inspectors and one part-time inspector completed 1,831 annual rental inspections and 1,252 re-inspections for licensed rental properties in fiscal year 2021 for a total of 3,083 inspections.

Lansing's contingent of 10 housing inspectors and four part-time premise inspectors managed significantly fewer inspections on a per-staff basis. But, in fairness, Lansing's inspectors are also responsible for nuisance violations, including tall grass, trash and disabled vehicles, whereas East Lansing uses one full-time officer and six part-time officers who report to the police department to enforce nuisance violations.

We think Lansing should consider a similar path, separating the two functions so housing inspectors can focus on structures and premise inspectors can focus on quality of life issues in city neighborhoods.

While we don't profess to have all the answers, we do have some suggestions for strategies Lansing city leaders should consider to crack down on unscrupulous landlords, who find all manner of ways to evade compliance — not the least of which is simply by flying under the radar as an unlicensed rental.

The City Council's new Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and Tenant Safety is currently pondering these very questions, with recommendations for policy changes due this fall. At a recent meeting, At-Large Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley suggested that Lansing should adopt a system like Ann Arbor's, with escalating penalties for repeat violations and even more serious consequences, including the loss of the right to rent properties, for the worst offenders.

We concur.

Ann Arbor doesn't fool around. They issue a ticket every week for as long as a code violation persists at a rental property, for up to eight weeks. If the problem remains unfixed, the property's certificate of compliance is suspended and tenants are notified that the obligation to pay rent is suspended. If the violation still isn't fixed 90 days later, the city can go to court and put the property into receivership.

We get that Ann Arbor and East Lansing are college towns with code compliance regimens designed to

maintain safe housing for significant student communities. But it is more a question of scale than the demographic profile of the community: Lansing could field a similar effort, but it would require a lot more staff to take a more aggressive approach to noncompliant properties.

We think it makes the most sense for Lansing to put more of the burden on the bad actors by creating an escalating scale of penalties, up to and including revocation of a property's rental license, for repeat offenders.

City enforcement data suggests that the vast majority of Lansing landlords are responsible property owners who maintain their rental units in a good state of repair. Of the 5,000 housing inspections typically conducted each year by Lansing's code compliance staff, around 95% of

the properties pass the test.

This leads us to conclude that a small number of property owners are responsible for a disproportionate share of the problem — and consume more than their share of the city's enforcement resources.

The downside of more aggressive enforcement of substandard properties is that it can trigger a wave of new dislocations as tenants are forced to vacate premises that are found to be a health or safety hazard. In an already tight housing market, the prospect of finding even more quality, affordable rentals for displaced residents is daunting indeed. When a landlord is responsible for hazardous conditions that result in tenants being dislocated, we think they should bear the cost burden of relocating them. The council's Housing Committee is also reviewing how other communities address this issue. We support those efforts.



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

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



# Lansing Legends: Oliver Brown

By AUDREY MATUSZ

Lanstronauts will say the Capital City’s last celebrity export was actor Matthew Lillard (“Scream,” “Scooby Doo” and “Hackers”), but that must change. Cut to Oliver Brown, a professional stylist born and raised in Lansing. On May 15, he will host OLVR BRWN’S FSHN MXR — his first fashion mixer at UrbanBeat in Old Town. While Mr. Brown dreams of styling for the stars, it’s how he wears his humble beginnings that truly makes him shine.

**Is there anything you’ve enjoyed about working in L.A. while living in Lansing?**

**Oliver Brown:** What I like most about it is not paying that high rent. My family is here, so it’s nice to get away and work as a stylist in L.A., and then have that freedom to come home, have peace and reflect and refine my skills. I believe Lansing is really a great place to live. I can reflect on what to do next, and not necessarily get comfortable. Really make a game plan. I feel like there’s a lot of stress when you live in bigger cities.

**How long have you lived in Lansing?**

I am a Lansing native. I was born and raised here. Most of my family still lives here as well, so if you really wanted to find out things about my past you don’t have to go far.

**What was it like growing up in Lansing for you?**

It was a mix of everything. I had wonderful parents. I grew up in a single parent home most of my life. My mom supported me in everything I wanted to do, plus more. Every city has its challenges. When it came to my career and what I wanted to do, it became a little challenging. You know, Lansing isn’t known as a fashion capital, so I found myself having to explain to people what an editorial stylist is.



Photo by Amari Kelley

See Legend, Page 11 Oliver Brown’s ensemble comes from Birch Rak Clothier, located inside Bradly’s HG, in Old Town.

**CITY OF EAST LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The East Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Banquet Room of the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing MI 48823, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of East Lansing, other interested persons, and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of the request to establish an Industrial Development District per Public Act 198 of 1974, as amended, on the following parcel located with the city of East Lansing:

A PARCEL OF LAND IN THE NE FRL 1/4 OF SEC 2 T4N R2W DESC AS: COM AT THE NE COR OF SD SEC – S00D 24’ 07”W ALNG THE E LN OF SD SEC 637 FT – N89D 53’ 42”W 668.44 FT TO POB - N89D 53’ 42”W 321.89 FT – N00D 06’ 18”E 330 FT – S89D 53’ 42”E 323.70 FT – S00D 25’ 07”W 330 FT TO POB 2.44 A FOR 2021: ADDED FROM 33-20-01-02-226-018.

The request, including supporting documentation and other related documents, are posted here: <https://cityofeastlansing.com/2291/ATESTEO-North-America-Inc> and are available for public inspection at East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, Michigan, 48823. All aspects of the request to establish an Industrial Development District will be open for discussion at the public hearing. For more information, please contact Adam Cummins, Community & Economic Development Administrator, City of East Lansing, at: [acummin@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:acummin@cityofeastlansing.com) or 517-319-6864.

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, City Hall, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing MI 48823 or [jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com)

Jennifer Shuster, East Lansing City Clerk

<https://cityofeastlansing.com/156/City-Clerk>

CP#22-110

**CITY OF EAST LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The East Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Banquet Room of the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing MI 48823, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of East Lansing, other interested persons, and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the request made by ATESTEO, North America Inc., to exempt real property taxes per Public Act 198 of 1974, as amended, on the following parcel located with the city of East Lansing:

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CP#22-108

**STATE OF MICHIGAN, INGHAM COUNTY PROBATE COURT. PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING. File No. 22-00345-GM-P3.** In the matter of Mohammad Issa Sarwar. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: **TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on 06/09/2022 at 9:15am at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Richard J. Garcia for the following purpose: Guardianship hearing. Date: 5/4/2022. Bibi Khadija Sarwari, 4131 N. Grand River Ave. #12, Lansing, MI 48906. 517-894-1942. **CP#22-111**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM. NOTICE OF HEARING. File #22-000379-GM-P33.** In the matter of Sayeeda Sayeedi. **TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on June 9, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Richard J. Garcia, for the following purpose(s): Uncontested Guardianship Hearing. Date: 5/3/22. Ahmad Sayedi, 4029 Burnaway, Lansing, MI 48911. 517-619-2017 **CP#22-106**



# Legend

from page 10

## Do you recall when you first got interested in fashion?

Oh gosh, it's so clear. My dad was an artist, so I started off quite young — drawing all the time. In eighth grade, I had a binder full of illustrations of just figures, models wearing different clothes. I remember my grandma going through them and she was very impressed. She was like, “You know, these are really good. Have you ever considered being a fashion designer?” For some reason I'd correlated being a male and being in fashion as a forbidden thing. Growing up in a Black community, it can get really rough when it comes to who you want to be in life. Especially being an openly gay male and things of that nature.

I just didn't want to get that backlash. So, at 13, I was so surprised when my grandma told me to consider going into fashion. From that moment on, from eighth grade up until now, I decided I wanted to be in that industry. I wanted to be a designer.

When I graduated high school, my open house was fashion themed. I had designed all these really cool pieces on paper and sewn and glued them together as table pieces. We had a red carpet come in, photographers — it was like a fashion gala. So, full circle moment, 10 years later, I'm hosting a fashion mixer event in Lansing.

## When you are designing looks, who are you designing for?



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

There's so many things that make up who I am. I was such a nerd kid growing up. I was the Pokémon kid. There's a certain tribe that I'm creating for who loves those same things.

## How did you meet singer Dawn Richard?

Let me just go on record saying it's “RI-SHARD.” If I didn't say anything, she was going to say something to me (*laughs*). If people don't know who she is, back in the day, Sean Diddy Combs created a reality show called “Making the Band.” In the show, he created a girl group called Danity Kane. I remember my family all watching that show together in the living room. I was such a huge fan of that group that it was kind of scary. I really loved her art, too. After a few years of freelancing as a stylist and getting confident in my skills, I felt bold enough to send her an email. I probably sent her like three paragraphs. That same night, she responded back and literally all she responded with was “Love your work.” And I was like, “Alright!”

## Where did the conversation go from there?

I sent her a second email with a mood board, and all she said was, “Love it.” Literally just those two words. At this point, I was just getting these two syllable messages. I started to not believe I was actually speaking with her. However, we managed to set up a zoom call. I made the corner of my parents' kitchen look like an office. It turned out to be such an organic moment. I realized that she is such a down to Earth woman and I think we complement each other well. Before I knew it, I put together a team and we went down to New Orleans for the photo shoot. Since then, I've styled her for her live show in New York. I've styled her for “Wendy Williams.” I've styled her for “Good Morning America.” All this came about by just sending her a cold call email saying, “Hey, I would love to work with you.”

## During this pandemic, or other in times of isolation, what do you do to feel better?

I take my mental health seriously. I am a believer. I pray, I need to fast more (*laughs*). But for me, it's really grounding myself — especially as an artist. You go through ups and downs. You may have a month where the clients are calling, but the next month the clients are yawning. It's about having faith. For me, that looks like taking time to meditate and pray.

For more on OLVR BRWN'S FSHN MXR, see Page 19.

CityPULSE

LOCAL EXPERTS

GIFTS

Did you know?

It's graduation season and framing a graduate's diploma is a natural impulse for a gift. However, before you grab a frame that fits the “piece of paper”, here are some things to consider.

Where will the diploma be exhibited? If it will be hanging in your office, consider how you want to be perceived by your client and peers. The presentation of the diploma should represent your future self, rather than your current position. Also resist a trendy framing package, this will prevent the piece from looking out of date in a couple of years.

Finally, when having the diploma framed, you should ensure that the diploma is not permanently mounted as well as preserved within archival materials. This will help prevent the diploma from changing color over time.

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**Jennifer Shuster, East Lansing City Clerk**

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CP#22-109

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM. Notice to Creditors Decedent's Estate. Case No. 22-495-DE. Estate of Phillip Bell. Date of birth: 02/05/1949. TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Phillip Bell, died 9/11/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kevin Bell, 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. 05/05/2022. Kimberly L. Savage P68267, 1483 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI 48840. 517-515-5000. Kevin Bell, 1438 N. Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823. 517-449-2757

CP#22-113





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A large illustration of a brown beaver standing on its hind legs, facing left. Its back and tail are decorated with various floral and leaf patterns in shades of pink, purple, and yellow. The background is a solid pink color with faint floral motifs.

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# On cloud wine

## A local guide for aspiring sommeliers

By **CHLOE ALVERSON**

Michigan might be known for its auto manufacturing prowess, but another, tastier industry is also making its mark on the Great Lakes state.

From the Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail to right here in Mid-Michigan, there's no shortage of wineries and tasting rooms for both newbies and certified cork dorks to appreciate.

Over 160 wineries and 3,000 acres of wine grapes grace the Great Lakes state, and that's thanks to rapid growth. Since 1991, there has been an increase of over 1,000% in Michigan wineries, according to the Michigan Wine Collaborative. The collaborative is a nonprofit supporting the wine industry through marketing and promotion. It was created in 2016 after the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council was dissolved.

"The Michigan wine scene is really exciting," said Emily Dockery, the collaborative's executive director. "We are planting a lot smarter and utilizing really innovative varieties. We're at the cusp of history with that stuff, especially with cold climate plantings."

Dockery considers the industry in Michigan to be strong, with plenty of opportunity for growth. The Lake Michigan shore AVA, which stands for American viticultural area, and the Leelanau AVA are two of the hottest spots for wineries and vineyards in the state. Dockery said most vineyards are located within 20 miles of Lake Michigan.

But that doesn't mean vineyards and wineries have to be in an AVA hotspot to see success.

There are plenty of local must-try locations close to home. Here are just a few.

*"The connoisseur does not drink wine but tastes its secrets."*

— **Salvador Dali**

### LOCAL WINERIES

Petite, quaint and local were the words Deb Burgdorf used to describe her and her husband's rural establishment, **Burgdorf's Winery**.

In 2005, the Burgdorfs were nearing retirement. The couple knew they'd need something to keep them occupied, and Deb Burgdorf said her husband, Dave Burgdorf, has never been one to sit still.

The industrious couple humbly formed their business in their three-car garage. By 2009, the couple built a barn in their backyard to house all the tools necessary for wine-making — tanks, barrels, a bottle room and "Deb's Lab," where she puts her microbiology and fermentation background to use.

"We were both in science fields," she said. "We weren't in business. We had to learn on the job what to do. We had no clue all the hoops you have to jump through."

Dave Burgdorf, 70, worked as an agronomist for the United States Department of Agriculture before his retirement. He and his wife share the belief that to call themselves a Michigan winery, all the fruit they used had to be grown in the state. Dave Burgdorf said the "biggest thing" for them as winemakers is ensuring their products are Mitten-grown. The duo trademarked the phrases "Truly Michigan" and "True Michigan" and gave each bottle a gold seal to show customers that the wine is 100% Michigan-made and supports local farmers.

"We grow very little," Deb Burgdorf said. "We have just enough to show and tell people how the grapes grow and when the grapes come off the vines. But for the most part, everything is Michigan grown and brought in fresh."

Once the Burgdorfs receive shipments of grapes and other fruits, the real magic begins. The couple's winemaking facility is complete with 55 jacketed tanks — ranging from 200 liters to 400 liters — with temperature controls for the fermentation process. There's also the massive crusher de-stemmer, tons of barrels and a bottling room. They produce 4,000 cases of wine each year — a sizeable jump from the original 500. Still, it's run a small operation.

"Nothing is automated," she said. "It's all hand-done with five people."

In total, the Burgdorfs have a staff of "about 10," who are all "pretty much part-time." Their family helps with events and such when they can, but relatives are spread out across the

country.

When the family gathered for Easter, the afternoon included an egg hunt around the Haslett winery for the grandchildren — ages three, eight and 10.

Like any true winemaking grandparents would, the pair have wines named after their three grandchildren: Faye, a cabernet franc aged in French oak; Finlay's Reserve, a blend of three grapes into a "bold, dry red"; and Fischer's Reserve, a hybrid red wine. The couple plans to make large bottles of each and save them for when the grandkids are of drinking age.

And, of course, being so close to East Lansing, the winery has a series called Spartan wines, with a white, blush, red and bourbon-barreled reserve.

Despite retirement from her previous career, Deb Burgdorf noted winemaking has become a full-time gig for her and her husband. Running the business out of their home also impacts privacy, but she said they have mornings and evenings to themselves.

"People can get away, sit outside and have a glass of wine," she said. "It's different from going to a restaurant because of the atmosphere, and they know it's made right here. It's an interesting place."

Beyond that, Burgdorf's offers winery tours, hosts private events and has a tasting room stocked with all things wine — like stemless glasses, a wine purse and decorations with all kinds of wine puns. Deb Burgdorf said her husband acts as the tour guide, mixing humor with education for an unforgettable winery experience.

For those who cannot make it to the wooded outskirts of Haslett, their wines are available at local shops like Horrock's Farm Market and Quality Dairy. But, to truly experience Burgdorf's, it's worth the drive.

Driving north from Lansing on US-127, you can't miss the big red barn on the hill with "Uncle John's Cider Mill" in tall white lettering.

### Uncle John's Cider Mill

8614 N. US-127, St. Johns  
(989) 224-3686  
ujcidermill.com

See Cloud wine, Page 14



Courtesy

Deb and Dave Burgdorf operate Burgdorf's Winery out of their home in Haslett.

### Burgdorf's Winery

5635 Shoeman Rd.,  
Haslett  
(517) 655-2883  
burgdorfwinery.com



# Cloud wine

from page 13

Over the last 50 years, the 200-acre farm has grown into a hotspot for both college students and Mid-Michigan families during summer and fall months. Activities include live music, pumpkin patches, craft shows and a fall festival. The family fun is brought to the public by the Beck family, who have owned the



Courtesy

Dede Beck (second from left) co-owns Uncle John's Cider Mill with her husband, Mike Beck, and brother-in-law, John Heystek.

farm since the 1970s after John "Uncle John" Beck and his wife, Carolyn, bought it from his parents.

"I see everyone from all walks of life," said Dede Beck, co-owner of Uncle John's, "and it makes me so happy, because I look around and it's clear we're not attracting just one group of people."

Uncle John's is well-known for the array of not only fresh apple cider, but also hard cider flavors, which Dede Beck, 51, said started 19 years ago, as a way to do more with the apples. But Uncle John's also makes another adult beverage: wine.

"Wine and hard cider are, essentially, the same thing," Dede Beck said. "It's just fermented fruit. When you break it down, hard ciders have a lower alcohol content, usually."

Beck, who co-owns the mill with her husband, Mike Beck, and her brother-in-law, John Heystek, said the wines are all "very simple." There's a red wine and a white wine, and also a variety of fruit wines — concord, peach, cherry and cranberry.

"We have a line of mead wines, which are wines made with honey," she said. "A lot of the mead wines are overlooked, because people don't understand what they are. They're just a lot more complex and have great flavors."

Beck's favorite wine from Uncle John's is the "pyment," a grape and honey wine that she "just loves." She said mead wines are the way to go. Beck noted the wine and hard cider made at the cider mill are made with Michigan-grown fruits. Uncle John's doesn't grow all the fruit because, as she said, "we just don't have enough trees."

"These are wines people have liked over the years," she said. "We haven't expanded a ton on our wine line, because we put the focus on hard ciders."

The cider mill has a tasting room — which opens Memorial Day weekend — where visitors can try the hard ciders and wines in flights.

"People can pick four different things and mix and match any of the wines or ciders together," Dede Beck said. "It really gives them a good opportunity to sit down and enjoy the product."

For those looking to get some sun, Uncle John's has plenty of events planned for the summer and is set to open on Thursday, May 26. Beck noted the cider mill is putting "a little more effort" into summer events compared to before, but her and her family try to hone in on tradition. Like many other family businesses, it's all about the "core values."

"I think farmers are humble to a fault," she said. "We're not good braggers, but we like to have people on our property and we enjoy what we do. We just want to share that."

## LOCAL RETAIL

Merry Hass never owned a business before. And she never felt the urge to open her own business.

Then, in 2019, she and her husband, Brian Hass, opened **The Port** in downtown Portland. "It was truly a calling from God," she said. "There's nothing else to it. That's all it was."

Merry Hass, 53, said she was never a big drinker, and she was especially not a wine enthusiast. She partnered with Modern Craft Wine, a Michigan-based wine producer with wines that are meant to be mixed with other drinks, and operates a tasting room out of The Port.

"Honestly, I think Modern Craft has been in the leading edge in Michigan wine," Merry Hass said. "We mix wines together. We put pop, juice and Redbull into our wines. Just a splash to change the flavor."

Modern Craft has six tasting room locations throughout the state — The Port being one of them. The Port also features a candle-making bar and an events space.

"For us, it's more about the experience for people," she said. "We do have, what they call, the 'pinky-up' wines for those who like that. It's fun to cater to those people and introduce them to something a little bit different."

Hass described the atmosphere as relaxing, and she said she hopes her customers connect with one another while they visit and shop from 100% Michigan-made products.

"It's a great gathering place," she said.

## The Port

143 Kent St.,  
Portland  
(517) 515-5517  
theportmi.com



Courtesy

Vine and Brew in Okemos.

Certified sommeliers will accompany customers at **Vine and Brew**, where guests can choose from thousands of wines and beers. The store offers a unique selection of wines, including those made by independent producers and "boutique wines" that may not be found elsewhere. The workers can answer any questions and help pair a wine with a dinner or event.

## Vine and Brew

2311 Jolly Rd., Okemos  
(517) 708-2030  
vineandbrew.com

In 1981, Clarence "Dusty" Rhodes opened Dusty's Cellar after traveling the world as a

broadcast journalist. A series of businesses influenced by his travels and passion for "a great meal with great company" were established over the years. In 1995, his son, Matt Rhodes, purchased the business and has continued to carry on the legacy, even after his father's passing in 2010. Dusty's features an impressive bakery, restaurant, wine bar, tap room and shop full of unique goodies.

## Dusty's Cellar

1839 W. Grand River Rd.,  
Okemos  
(517) 349-5150  
dustyscellar.com

## WINECATION

After living in North Carolina and Virginia, Jessica Youngblood was inspired by the vast wine country there. When she moved back to her family's farm in southeast Michigan, she wanted to recreate the experience. In 2016, the Youngbloods planted their vineyard and the first crop came two years later. By 2019, **Youngblood Vineyard** was open for business.

"Our philosophy is that we are farmers first and the wine is secondary to what we do, which gives us complete control over the winemaking process," Young-



Courtesy

Youngblood Vineyard.

blood said. "We're also the only commercial vineyard in all of metro Detroit. And we make all of our wine from our own grapes."

Youngblood, 46, noted the vineyard has been 100% estate-grown since day one, even after losing 80% of the crop in 2020. This year, the vineyard produced 2,600 cases of wine. Once the vineyard has matured, she predicted they could see just under 6,000 cases.

"We're a big advocate of teaching and learning," she said. "We encourage people to come and go out into the vineyard. That's why we don't have a tasting room offsite, because we want people to see the vines and know where their wine came from."

Youngblood Vineyard, which serves as a learning vineyard, also hosts unique events like tiny goat yoga and fireworks shows. The official opening date is Saturday, May 28 for Memorial Day weekend.

Located in Traverse City's old asylum, **Left Foot Charley**, or LFC, was established in 2004. Winemaker Bryan Ulbrich and his wife, Jennifer, saved a vineyard from

disaster and created their first dry Riesling. LFC gets its grapes from small, locally-owned vineyards to bring a variety of aroma and flavors to the region. Last November, LFC won an award for its 2019 Le Caban Riesling in the Jefferson Cup Invitational, a competition showing the diversity of wine in the United States.

## Left Foot Charley

The Tasting Room  
806 Red Dr. #100,  
Traverse City  
(231) 995-0500  
leftfootcharley.com

The longest-operating, largest and most-awarded winery in Michigan is arguably **St. Julian Winery & Distillery**, an institution in Paw Paw for more than

100 years. The notable tasting room blends history and tradition with a modern appeal.

Alyssa Sonnevill, director of marketing, said around 99% of ingredients are grown close by.

"The idea of being Michigan-grown is at the forefront of what we do," she said. "We use all Michigan-grown inputs and craft unique, innovative wines and more traditional wines from the grapes here in Michigan."

Sonnevill noted the winery aims to "elevate the Michigan wine scene," with flavors like cotton candy and Blue Heron — a blend of pear and mango. So, while you're out exploring the new additions to the Michigan wine scene, be sure to not forget about the long-running fixtures. Many, like St. Julian, have aged like wine.

## St. Julian Winery & Distillery

716 S. Kalamazoo St.,  
Paw Paw  
(800) 732-6002  
stjulian.com

**Dusty's offers Michigan wine from 25 different Michigan wineries with over 120 different selections. We offer Michigan wines by the Glass in both the Wine Bar and Tap Room. Special orders welcome.**

**Retail Store Hours:**  
**Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.**  
**Sunday 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.**  
**1839 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos**  
**(517) 349-5150 • dustyscellar.com**



# Chardonnay and OG Kush or Northern Lights and cabernet?

California sommelier offers expert advice on dank wine pairings

About two years ago, the first “Lansterdam in Review” column appeared in our Summer Issue as a stoner twist on a summer cocktail guide that we affectionately labeled our “Summer Strain Guide.” And as we crafted this week’s Wine Issue, I just knew I had to bring weed into the fold.

Since I love good wine nearly as much as I love good marijuana, I also thought it’d be simple to write a pairing guide — particularly after a full summer spent working (and drinking) at a tasting room at Bel Lago, an award-winning winery on the Leelanau Peninsula near Traverse City.

But as it turns out, I’m certainly not the first person to come up with the concept of pairing certain strains with certain wines. There’s a wide array of resources out there on how certain citrusy strains like Tangie and Lemon Haze create a perfect balance when enjoyed with white wines like a buttery chardonnay or a crisp sauvignon blanc. Spicier strains like Skywalker OG reportedly fare better with richer red wine varieties like zinfandel and cabernet sauvignon.

Apparently, it’s a fine science. And for science, I like to bring in the experts.

Jamie Evans — aka The Herb Somm — is a California-based entrepreneur, author and certified sommelier who specializes in cannabis, wine and everything in between across the canna-culinary world. I stumbled upon her blog and pairing guides during my research and reached out for some advice. And like the rest of the cannabis world, it’s all about the terpenes.

For the uninitiated, terpenes are the crucial compounds that differentiate different plants, herbs, flowers and spices. They’re also the organic compounds that give cannabis all the wonderful aromas and flavors you perceive when you’re smelling your favorite strains, Evans explained.

The most common terps are myrcene, caryophyllene, limonene, pinene, linalool, terpinolene, humulene and ocimene — which, when combined with THC, create a symphony of different physical and psychoactive effects that dictate how you feel after you smoke any given strain.

If you tap into your senses, you can learn to recognize the differences between each terpene and apply this knowledge to craft cannabis and wine pairings, The Herb Somm explained.

“The goal when creating a pairing is for all of the components to enhance each other. You might even be surprised

if the combination creates an entirely new flavor not yet experienced in the food, wine, or cannabis alone,” she said. “This is what I call ‘discovering your herbal palate.’”

Evans suggests popping some bud into a wine glass and twirling it around all fancy (much like you would wine) to smell the different aroma layers that jump out of the glass. Inhale several times briefly, making a mental imprint to compare and contrast with other strains. As it turns out, wine has plenty of terpenes that define the experience too, and the combinations are endless.

Love earthy red wines such as Pinot Noir? Evans recommends pairing them with strains that have an expressive myrcene profile, exhibiting notes of mushroom, mixed herbs and forest floor. For the white wine lovers who love citrus flavors such as Sauvignon Blanc, Evans recommends looking for strains that have more expressive limonene profiles, boasting aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, grapefruit and tangerine. If all else fails, just pick up a bottle of rosé.

“Because rosé wines typically have higher acidity and more neutral flavors, they pair exceptionally well with a wide selection of cannabis strains, particularly those that have pronounced limonene (citrus) or linalool (floral) terpene profiles,” Evans explained.

|                  | Myrcene   | Limonene   | Alpha-Pinene   | Beta-Caryophyllene  | Humulene   | Linalool   |
|------------------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Aromas           | Earthy<br>Mixed Herbs<br>Mushroom<br>Forest Floor<br>Skunk<br>Mango | Lemon<br>Lime<br>Grapefruit<br>Blood Orange<br>Tangerine | Pine Trees<br>Pine Needles<br>Wet Wood<br>Rosemary<br>Dill | Clove<br>Black Pepper<br>Cinnamon                                 | Perfumy<br>Jasmine<br>Ginger Flower<br>Tea Tree                          | Citrus Blossom<br>Violet<br>Lavender<br>Rose<br>Lilies<br>Geranium           |
| terpene benefits | Sleep Aid<br>Muscle-relaxant<br>Anti-depressant                     | Stress Reliever<br>Weight Loss Aid<br>Mood-enhancer      | Aids Asthma<br>Provides Energy<br>Anti-inflammatory        | Anti-anxiety<br>Anti-inflammatory<br>Antioxidant<br>Pain Reliever | Antifungal<br>Anti-depressant<br>Sleep Aid                               | Anti-anxiety<br>Sleep Aid<br>Muscle-relaxant<br>Anti-depressant<br>Anti-sore |
| cannabis strains | Kush<br>Kush<br>Critical Mass<br>Harlequin                          | Lemon Haze<br>OG Kush<br>Tangie                          | Bubba Kush<br>Jack Herer<br>Trainwreck<br>ACDC             | Bookstar<br>Northern Lights<br>Skywalker OG<br>Dancehall          | Island<br>Sweet Skunk<br>Skywalker OG<br>Banana Kush                     | Lavender OG<br>LA Confidential<br>Amnesia Haze<br>Charlotte's Web            |
| terpene effect   | Sleepy<br>Sedated   | Enhanced Mood<br>Uplifted                                | Alert<br>Focused   | Reduced Pain<br>Calm<br>Stress Free                               | Tranquil<br>Peaceful   | Relaxed<br>Rejuvenated   |
| food pairings    | Mushroom Risotto<br>Spinach Quiche<br>Truffle Popcorn               | Oysters<br>Seared Scallops<br>Lemon Bar                  | Pesto Pasta<br>Sautéed Pine Nuts<br>Rosemary Popcorn       | Seared Spiced Steak<br>Chipotle<br>Spiced Nuts<br>Pumpkin Pie     | Coconut<br>Jasmine Rice<br>Ginger Honey<br>Chicken<br>Carrot Ginger Cake | Vegan Curry<br>Herbes de<br>Provence<br>Crème Brûlée<br>Honey                |
| wine pairings    | Pinot Noir<br>Syrah<br>Grenache                                     | Chardonnay<br>Sauvignon Blanc<br>Albariño                | Pinot Gris<br>Vernantino<br>New Zealand<br>Sauvignon Blanc | Zinfandel<br>Cabernet Sauvignon<br>Petit Sirah                    | Rosé<br>Torrontés<br>Gewürztraminer                                      | Muscat<br>Bleeding<br>Violette<br>Nebbiolo                                   |

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Terpene & Aroma Guide

Discover Your Herbal Palate

Courtesy/The Herb Somm

Jamie Evans created a pairing guide to help people “discover the magical world of terpenes.”

Pairings from Pincanna



PINCANNA

FARM. LAB. MARKET.

In addition to its storefront in East Lansing, Pincanna also operates a pot shop in Kalkaska — just a short drive away from some of the finest wine country in Michigan. They recommend certain strains with certain wine like “Creme Rose” with rosé; “Watermelon Mimosa” with champagne or prosecco; “White Truffle” with dry white wine like pinot grigio or chardonnay; “The Main Event” with light reds like pinot noir or grenache; “Kush Mints” with medium reds like merlot or cabernet franc; and “Flying Elbow” with bold reds like cabernet sauvignon or malbec.



Lansterdam

in Review:

The Wine Issue

For additional resources on wine, food and cannabis pairings, visit theherbsomm.com. More about Evans’ sensory evaluation techniques can also be found in her latest book, “Cannabis Drinks: Secrets to Crafting CBD and THC Beverages at Home.” And as always, please tread lightly: Smoking too much pot after drinking can compound some pretty undesirable effects.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse’s managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Editor & Publisher Magazine has also labeled him as “arguably, the state’s authority on everything you need to know about cannabis.” Have a suggestion for a cannabis product? Email [kyle@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:kyle@lansingcitypulse.com).

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Secret Formula

pureoptions.com



# Find your ‘wine home’ at Hooked

By CHLOE ALVERSON

Hooked was bustling, and not just because of the construction next door. During a 50-degree day, with the sun shining, patrons were chatting away while enjoying their fresh coffees on the patio.

The wine bar, which also serves coffee and has a bookshop, opened last month inside the Red Cedar Development project on Michigan Avenue, sitting on the border of East Lansing and the Capital City. Matt Grossman co-owns Hooked with his wife, Sarah Reckhow. They are both professors at Michigan State University, and share a love for wine.

“We met in Berkeley, California, which is about 45 minutes from Napa and Sonoma,” Grossman said. “That

was a big part of our romance and our lives in California. That’s our wine home.”

For a while, Grossman and Reckhow shipped wine into Michigan from California because there wasn’t a place in Greater Lansing that stocked their favorite wines. Their business plans grew from there. And while opening a wine bar

## Hooked

3142 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing  
8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday  
& Tuesday  
8 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
Wednesday – Friday  
9 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
Saturday  
9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 721-1330  
hookedlansing.com

was an obvious dream, adding the coffee and bookshop elements to Hooked came later in the planning stages.

Neither Grossman nor Reckham have any previous business experience, but they were eager to launch an establishment that is “an increasingly popular model in college towns.”

“It’s not just a separation of things, but the integration,” Grossman said.

The store offers guided learning through book clubs, builds taste with first-class products and gives community members a space to connect. At any given moment, either coffee or wine are being poured, with flights of the two beverages offered in a space adorned with thousands of books — some of which cover wine.

Aside from book clubs, Hooked also hosts coffee and wine clubs. The gatherings allow participants to taste their options before committing to two bottles of wine or two bags of coffee each month (for a monthly fee of \$50 for the wine and \$35 for coffee).

On Tuesday nights, there’s a Parent Happy Hour where the parents sip wine while the children listen to stories. Wednesdays are Wine Wednesdays, obviously, so there’s a wine and cheese tasting earlier in the evening, and a later wine and chocolate tasting.

Hooked has a lot on hand, and its distribution model allows access to products far and wide.

“Just like books, we have a regular ordering system for wine,” Grossman said. “Anything you don’t see — you can order and we’ll have it the next time you’re here. We want people to feel like this is their wine home.”



Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

Hooked opened last month and sells a variety of wines, some of which are Michigan made.



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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. BRENDA JONES-HARDEN**

***Children and Families Expert***



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

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

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



## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Fashion and makeup creatives hope to put Lansing on the map

By SARAH SPOHN

Surprisingly, some highly sought-after fashion, nail, hair and makeup professionals are based in Lansing — not just New York, Los Angeles or Miami.

Many of these industry creatives are coming together for the first-ever Olvr Brwn's Fshn Mxr (or, with vowels, Oliver Brown Fashion Mixer) on Sunday (May 15) from 7-11 p.m. at UrbanBeat in Old Town. The carefully curated event showcases fashion and makeup industry experts, and includes a DJ, a signature cocktail, art, live music by The Corzo Effect and networking with local businesses.

Celebrity makeup artist Kierra Lanice is quick to shy away from the "hometown hero" label despite her cosmopolitan life experience. The humble makeup artist currently resides near REO Town, and will be in attendance at the Fshn Mxr event.

Lanice, a Lansing native and graduate of J.W. Sexton High School, studied

cosmetology at Douglas J. Aveda Institute in East Lansing before moving to Houston. After landing a contract with ViacomCBS (now called Paramount), she became a go-to makeup artist working on sets and projects for TV shows, awards ceremonies and red carpet events like the BET Awards. She is an industry-recognized beauty expert, makeup artist and beauty educator whose work has been showcased in Glamour and Essence magazines, on Times Square billboards, in New York Fashion Week events and on red carpets for the Grammys.

Despite a thriving career in Texas, she missed her home in Lansing and her supportive network in "the 517."

"Here in Lansing, you can't go to a Quality Dairy without knowing somebody you went to school with, or somebody that knows your family, your mom, or your grandparents," she laughed. "I really missed that, so I moved back January 1, 2020 in hopes of really re-establishing myself back home."

After spending much of her time in other cities like Los Angeles and New York, and living the often-glamorized metropolitan city life, she aims to help people realize that "you don't have to live in a big city to get the 'big city break.'"

She hopes that by sharing the highs and lows in her career thus far, she can motivate and inspire others. She has volunteered her time to speak candidly with students at senior seminar days at Sexton High School. She believes it's important for young people to have representation, discover their passions and relen-

tly pursue their purpose.

"You have to remember where you came from and who you were before you started," Lanice said. Not long ago, she was a little girl who loved fashion and frequently went to the library to look up style books and magazines and read the latest issue of Teen Vogue.

"I remember not having representation, not seeing people that I could look at as mentors, or not having exposure to that kind of lifestyle," she said.

She recalled career days at her elementary school where the students heard from lawyers, doctors, state workers and GM employees.

"I wanted to be a fashion designer, but I didn't have people that were coming to the school who spoke or resonated with me and what I wanted to do," she said. "I think it's important to give back so that you can speak to that 10-year-old version of yourself, and be that person that can be that representation for them."

For Lanice, it's not about fashion or any particular career or lifestyle, but about finding purpose in life. "Makeup is just a platform for it," she said.

She believes events like the Fshn Mxr are needed to help Lansing celebrate the talent that grows here. "I think one of the biggest things we've all heard is, 'oh, there's nothing to do in Lansing. Nobody's from Lansing. There's nothing here.' But no, there's actually a lot here. Lansing may be very quaint in the grand scheme of things, however, it has birthed some of the most profound leaders and the most skillful artisans."

Many sought-after professionals who regularly work on editorial shoots and projects are from Lansing, or have returned to the Capital City. Highlights include celebrity loctician (expert in the artistry of dreadlocks) and owner of The Dread Bar Tamaki Gaskin, who has worked with NFL players. Editorial photographer Alfield Reeves will show-

case and selling his work, which has also been shown in galleries and museums across the state. Contemporary artist Faness, also from Lansing, will be there too.

"She designs some of the most amazing, insane concepts on the hands of

## OLVR BRN'S FSHN MXR

7-11 p.m. Sunday, May 15  
UrbanBeat  
1213 Turner Rd., Lansing  
\$35-65  
urbanbeatevents.com



Courtesy photo

Kierra Lanice's work, on Karen Polinesia, for the cover of Fault Magazine.



Courtesy photo

## Kierra Lanice

some of the most amazing people," Lansing-born professional stylist and event host Oliver Brown said. (For more on Brown, see p. 10.). "She's also been able to translate that same nail art onto actual art and canvases."

Both Kierra Lanice and Brown hope the city can continue to cultivate and celebrate Lansing artists, shaping the way people perceive the capital city's talent.

Brown also hopes the annual mixer event will become part of a bigger picture. "My goal is to bring a fashion show and gala here to Lansing," he said, "giving people a look into the mind of a stylist, and how a fashion show and styling can really tell an amazing, compelling story through art and fashion."



# LSO season closer has old music, new music and 'new old' music

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It seems rude to rush past Johannes Brahms' sun-kissed, billowing Symphony No. 2, the centerpiece of Friday's Lansing Symphony Orchestra season, but there's just too much going on in Friday's season closer to linger on it.

Let the prospect of a leisurely, Brahmsian immersion in harmonic nectar and melodic winds, ideally suited for spring healing and renewal, waft along on its own reputation while we stampede to more urgent wonders.

Friday's concert features the world premiere of a new, space-themed work by LSO composer-in-residence Patrick Harlin and the dynamism of 2022 Gilmore Young Artist Clayton Stephenson, who will play a gorgeous piano concerto by African-American composer Florence Price.

## Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Clayton Stephenson, piano  
7:30 p.m. Friday, May 13, 2022  
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall  
\$20-55  
(517) 487-5001

Kalamazoo's biennial Gilmore Piano Festival named Stephenson a 2022 Gilmore Young Artist this spring, along with Indonesia-born Janice Carrissa, a student at the Curtis Institute of Music.

The award is a career boost and cash bonanza for a young artist, but it also comes with performing and outreach obligations, including a live gig with the Lansing Symphony.

Lansing may have snared Stephenson just before his rocket really goes off. In early June, he is headed to Fort Worth, Texas to face off with pianists from Russia, Japan, China, Ukraine, South Korea and around the world at the ultra-prestigious Cliburn Competition.

Even though he's navigating two colossal career milestones in the course of a few weeks, Stephenson, 23, sounded overjoyed to bring the Concerto in One Movement by pioneering African-American composer Florence Price to Lansing.

The concerto starts with a grand, romantic sweep in the velvet-steamroller style of Tchaikovsky or Dvorák, but Stephenson is especially fond of the intimate sequence that follows.

"There's a feeling of gospel music, the call and responses that are happening," Stephenson said. "It starts with the oboe only, you get to hear the piano interacting with the cello alone. It becomes al-

most like chamber music."

Price was the first African-American woman to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra, when the Chicago Symphony performed her Symphony in E Minor in 1933, but her work was seldom played until the 2000s.

"She is such an inspiration," Stephenson said. "In spite of racism and discrimination, she was able to get her pieces performed."

In 2009, a trove of her manuscripts was discovered in her former summer home outside Chicago, were published by E.C. Schirmer and many of them are belatedly entering the classical repertoire across the nation, and the world.

Stephenson grew up in a single-parent household in Brooklyn with few resources, but plenty of music playing in the house.

"I was a music appreciator before I was a musician," he said. He didn't have a piano until he found one in a dumpster behind an elementary school.

At 10, he went to pre-college at Juilliard under a program for underprivileged youth in the area. He's now studying piano performance at the New England Conservatory — the same place where Florence Price studied — and working toward an economics degree at Harvard.

Stephenson is not into boundaries. His Gilmore recitals playfully tossed jazz and classical works together. He also loves hip-hop, country, heavy metal, alternative rock and anything else that "expresses emotion and experience."

"I have this ritual before I play," he said. "I watch a young Michael Jackson with the Jackson 5, singing 'I'll Be There.' At such a young age, to be so musical, it just inspires me. It never gets old."

The Price concerto, which premiered in 1934 in Chicago, fits an unusual middle spot between the other two works on Friday's LSO concert.

"There's old music everybody knows, and there's new music that's being created," Stephenson said. "But this is both old and new, because our ears are fresh to it."

Did somebody say "new music?" Seattle-born composer Patrick Harlin was appointed LSO composer-in-residence

in fall 2019, just before the pandemic shut down public concerts for a year and a half. Despite the disruption, the orchestra has made sure Harlin's ac-



Courtesy photo

Clayton Stephenson, a 2022 Young Artist at Kalamazoo's biennial Gilmore Piano Festival, will play a romantic and grand piano concerto by African-American composer Florence Price at Friday's Lansing Symphony season closer.

cessible yet adventurous music is being heard, leading up to Friday's world premiere.

Harlin's music traces an upward trajectory, starting underground with "Rapture," his first major piece, written as a master's student. "River of Doubt," a mesmerizing highlight of the Lansing Symphony's first concert of 2022, evoked a torturous journey along the Amazon River. Harlin's next major work, "The Art of Flight," took to the air, and became the highlight of a virtual chamber concert by the LSO in February 2021.

"Earthrise," Friday's world premiere, ventures even higher.

"I wanted to capture, for me, what it's like to look up at the moon and the stars, the cosmos, and what that would be if you were on a rocket, the turbulence, the ensuing lack of gravity, the floating sensation," Harlin said.

In 2019, Japanese billionaire and fashion magnate Yusaku Maezawa announced that he would pay for eight select artists to accompany him on Elon

Musk's flight into lunar orbit, planned for 2023, and use the experience in their artistic projects.

A pandemic-idled Harlin applied for a slot. If selected, he proposed, he would write "a 21st-century soundtrack for space travel."

"I don't think I made it through the first screening rounds, but I still wanted to write it," he said.

As composer-in-residence, Harlin has gotten to know Lansing's players. To make up for the lost year of 2020-21, Harlin will stay on another year, write two more new pieces for the orchestra and continue an ongoing round of workshops and classes with local schools and performing arts groups such as All of the Above Hip-Hop Academy.

"I'm listening to the concerts, hearing players and their personalities and finding ways to put that in the music," he said.

At an adventurous, sold-out April 7 new music concert at the Robin Theatre, he heard LSO principal oboist Stephanie Shapiro play her brains out in "Six Riffs After Ovid" by Ann Arbor composer Michael Daugherty.

"It was jaw-dropping," Harlin said. "I had to write some solos for her in 'Earthrise.'"

LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt has been an eager co-conspirator in Harlin's adventures all along, but this time, he is in it up to his scalp.

Instead of beating time, Muffitt will act as "a beam from a lighthouse," in Harlin's description.

"As soon as his hand passes a player in the orchestra, they change from one chord to the next chord or sound," Harlin said. The "lighthouse technique," he explained, "creates a wave or cascade of shifting sonorities."

If the birdsong-like passages that permeated "River of Doubt" felt spontaneous and natural, that's because they were. There, as in "Earthrise," Harlin gives musicians "parameters" on when to play instead of "prescribing notes."

"I'm pushing against what players are used to doing, and I'm so happy Lansing is open to stuff like that," he said. "It'll be crazy — I hope — to see how this plays out. You can't capture it with a video recording and microphones. It just isn't the same."



# 'White Nights' delivers captivating Michigan mystery

By **BILL CASTANIER**

While on vacation in the Upper Peninsula, odd couples Laurel and Arnie and Claire and Charles unwittingly become amateur homicide detectives after they stumble into an investigation of a suspicious death. Soon, as told in Deb Davies' new mystery, "White Nights," they discover the case may not have been accidental.

The whodunit story gets rolling after local law enforcement asks Arnie, a county sheriff, to lend a hand in the investigation. From there, the couples discover a starving stray dog — a dog that may hold the clue to the possible murder.

In this, her second book, Davies takes readers on a road trip with four likeable characters, along with their various middle-age quirks. Readers see the novice investigators as they navigate divorce, death of a spouse and other situations folks go through — like sore knees.

Davies continues her refined ability to create the sense of place she displayed in "Northern Light," the first title in her coast-to-coast Michigan mystery series.

In "White Nights," Davies deftly melds the rugged backwoods aspects of Michigan's Upper Peninsula with the beauty and calm of its streams, contrasted with

the glory and power of Tahquamenon Falls. The author and her husband, Rick, have a Montgomery Ward kit house they use as a cottage near Luzerne on the Big Creek, which feeds into the Au

Sable River. Her firsthand experience in Northern Michigan adds believability to the book's plot.

As for her full-time residence, the author, who is nearly recuperated from a winter knee replacement, lives

in the Jackson area, where she recently retired from teaching at Jackson College.

She is now well into her third book, which is set in Empire, Michigan, on the magnificent dunes. Given the terrain, and the vast expanses of Lake Michigan beaches, Davies said the still-untitled book is more difficult to write because so much has been written about the area.

Her current and previous book had more intimate settings. In "White Nights," most of the action takes place in a few rundown cabins, with streams and rivers as the backdrop.

As for the main characters, Davis

leaves some of their makeup to the reader's imagination. She believes her characters are "in their mid-50s," but she doesn't know for sure. "Laurel has a grown child, and Claire has had cataract surgery," she said. "The men are getting knee problems, so mid-50s sounds about right."

The author, who is in her 70s, said she wanted the couples to be genuine and believable, not superheroes. "They are no Navy SEALs," Davies said. The author added that the characters are amalgams of individuals she has known and worked with throughout her life. Charles, who is a birder, is based on a friend of hers.

Davies, who's spent a majority of her life writing and teaching writing, said she knew her literary niche from the jump. Since her earliest days as a writer, she told herself, "If I were to write a novel, it would be a mystery," she recalled. "I've always liked the puzzle aspect of a mystery."

And she has the documentation to prove it. When she applied to Michigan State University's writing program back in the 1980s, she submitted a complete

mystery as a writing sample.

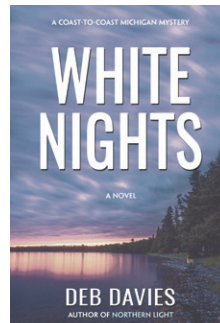
"It caught the eye of MSU Professor Diane Wakoski," Davies said. "She took the time to read and critique it in a four-page letter. I went on to take four classes with her. She was an important mentor for me."

While her college days are well behind her, Davies still challenges herself. She said her new series of books presented her with an entirely unexpected problem — the two books had to be internally consistent and the characters accurately described in the second book. "I had to go back and re-read the first book," she admitted. Looking forward, Davies, who is passionate about shelter dogs, said, like "White Nights," a pooch plays another role in her next mystery— though this time an even bigger part.

"White Nights" is a fast-paced mystery revolving around a greedy land scheme, complete with characters who alternate between good and evil. It almost goes without saying, but there is a nasty antagonist and a death-defying escape, with the protagonists using more brain power than muscle to solve the murder.



Davies



## 'On the Road' again Kerouac and Kesey hit milestones

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Two important American novels, both penned by counterculture icons, celebrate significant anniversaries this year, and both authors play an important role in the great American road trip.

Not only does Jack Kerouac celebrate his 100th birthday, but it is also the 65th anniversary of the publication of his landmark "On the Road" which is a jazz-like syncopated journal of the journeys of Kerouac and his beat generation friends.

Meanwhile, Ken Kesey will be remembered this year for the 60th anniversary of his book "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," a fictional account

of inmates in an Oregon mental institution. The book became a movie starring Jack Nicholson as the book's protagonist, Randle Patrick McMurphy, a rough and tumble grifter who decides to spend his time in a mental institution instead of prison. The book, narrated by another inmate, "Chief" Bromden, is still considered one of most important anti-authoritarian books of the 1960s.

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Are You Cereal?”—  
it’s right there on  
the box.  
by Matt Jones

- Across**
1. “Call of Duty: Black \_\_\_”
4. “The Ten Commandments” figure
9. Irritate
14. On a pension, briefly
15. Blazing
16. Risky GPS suggestion
17. Tried a little tender... loin
18. One-liner expert
19. Word in the name of many dental offices
20. Cereal featuring a wide receiver on the box?
23. “\_\_\_ Scared Stupid” (1991 film)
24. 86.4 trillion nanoseconds
25. Run up a bill
28. “Spotlight” actor Schreiber
29. “Confessions” R&B singer
32. The \_\_\_ (mysterious “Top Gear” driver)
33. Film composer Morricone
35. Acid in proteins
36. Cereal featuring a Grammy-winning singer-songwriter on the box?
41. Per \_\_\_ (salary phrase)
42. “Turning Red” studio
43. Off-duty
44. Turn down an offer
46. White who voiced Muriel on “Courage the Cowardly Dog”
50. Brett’s role on “Ted Lasso”
51. Put two and two together
52. Monkey for whom a blood factor is named
54. Cereal featuring a “Muppets Take

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- Manhattan” and “Man of La Mancha” actor on the box?
58. Soft palate dangler
60. Rolled chip brand with “Fuego” and “Nitro” varieties
61. One in Orleans
62. Pesto ingredient
63. Take out
64. Shortz employer, for short
65. To the point that
66. Coat or shirt, maybe
67. Slide into your \_\_\_
- Down
1. Treatment for sore gums
2. Czar known as “The Great”
3. “Tristram Shandy” author (and 23-Across anagram)
4. Thanksgiving parade sponsor
5. “Carmina Burana” showstopper
6. \_\_\_ Valley (Thousand Oaks neighbor)
7. “Domino Masters” host Stonestreet
8. Form a splinter group
9. Like annoying telemarketers
10. “I relate,” online
11. Foolishly impractical
12. Website address
13. Benz tag?
21. Income
22. Monopoly game piece
26. Subtle (or not-so-subtle) gesture
27. Vanity centers
30. Bit of a beverage
31. Like most IPAs
32. Like Yogi, compared to other bears
34. \_\_\_ pla (fish sauce)
35. “How to Get Away with Murder” actress \_\_\_ Naomi King
36. Clear-skies forecast
37. Proto-\_\_\_ -European (early language)
38. Barely
39. “In the Heights” creator \_\_\_-Manuel Miranda
40. Drive out, in a way
44. Storm of the Fantastic Four
45. Beer brand from Holland
47. It’s heard twice in “Have you heard?”
48. Well-suited name (and a notable National Spelling Bee final word shout-spelled by the winner)
49. Ledger column
51. T-shirt size
53. Putdown for Bob and Doug McKenzie
55. Et \_\_\_ (and others)
56. Model/actress Delevingne
57. About a B-minus, if I’m being generous
58. “Sit, \_\_\_, sit. Good dog” (“Family Ties” vanity card)
59. Moving vehicle

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

May 11-17, 2022

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** “Choose the least important day in your life,” wrote Aries author Thornton Wilder. “It will be important enough.” I recommend that you make those your words to live by in the next two weeks. Why? Because I suspect there will be no tremendously exciting experiences coming your way. The daily rhythm is likely to be routine and modest. You may even be tempted to feel a bit bored. And yet, if you dare to move your attention just below the surface of life, you will tune into subtle glories that are percolating. You will become aware of quietly wondrous developments unfolding just out of sight and behind the scenes. Be alert for them. They will provide fertile clues about the sweet victories that will be available in the months ahead.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** “Every successful person I know starts before they feel ready,” declared life coach Marie Forleo. Author Ivan Turgenev wrote, “If we wait for the moment when everything, absolutely everything, is ready, we shall never begin.” Here’s what educator Supriya Mehra says: “There’s never a perfect moment to start, and the more we see the beauty in ‘starting small,’ the more we empower ourselves to get started at all.” I hope that in providing you with these observations, Taurus, I have convinced you to dive in now. Here’s one more quote, from businesswoman Betsy Rowbottom: “There’s never a perfect moment to take a big risk.”

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** Poet Ranata Suzuki writes, “There comes a point where you no longer care if there’s a light at the end of the tunnel or not. You’re just sick of the tunnel.” That’s good advice for you right now, Gemini. The trick that’s most likely to get you out of the tunnel is to acknowledge that you are sick of the damn tunnel. Announce to the universe that you have gleaned the essential teachings the ride through the tunnel has provided you. You no longer need its character-building benefits because you have harvested them all. Please say this a thousand times sometime soon: “I am ready for the wide-open spaces.”

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** In the coming weeks, your imagination will receive visions of the next chapter of your life story. These images and stories might confuse you if you think they are illuminating the present moment. So please keep in mind that they are prophecies of what’s ahead. They are premonitions and preparations for the interesting work you will be given during the second half of 2022. If you regard them as guiding clues from your eternal soul, they will nourish the inner transformations necessary for you to welcome your destiny when it arrives. Now study this inspirational quote from poet Rainer Maria Rilke: “The future glides into us, so as to remake itself within us, long before it occurs.”

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** “Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set,” wrote author Ellen G. White. That’s true! And that’s why it’s so crucial that you formulate the highest standards you can imagine—maybe even higher than you can imagine. Now is a favorable phase for you to reach higher and think bigger. I invite you to visualize the best version of the dream you are working on—the most excellent, beautiful, and inspiring form it could take. And then push on further to envision even more spectacular results. Dare to be greedy and outrageous.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** Before Virgo-born Leslie Jones achieved fame as a comedian and actor, she worked day jobs at United Parcel Service and Roscoe’s House of Chicken and Waffles. Her shot at major appreciation didn’t arrive until the TV show Saturday Night Live hired her to be a regular cast member in 2014, when she was 47 years old. Here’s how she describes the years before that: “Everybody was telling me to get a real job. Everybody was asking me, What are you doing? You’re ruining your life. You’re embarrassing your family.” Luckily, Jones didn’t

heed the bad advice. “You can’t listen to that,” she says now. “You have to listen to yourself.” Now I’m suggesting that you embrace the Leslie Jones approach, Virgo.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** “A person must dream a long time in order to act with grandeur, and dreaming is nursed in darkness.” Author Jean Genet wrote that, and now I’m offering you his words as the seed of your horoscope. If you’ve been attuned to cosmic rhythms, you have been doing what Genet described and will continue to do it for at least another ten days. If you have not yet begun such work, please do so now. Your success during the rest of 2022 will thrive to the degree that you spend time dreaming big in the darkness now.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** “Cursed are those who feel floods but who can only express a few drops.” So says an internet proverb. Luckily, this principle won’t apply to you in the coming weeks. I expect you will be inundated with cascades of deep feelings, but you will also be able to articulate those feelings. So you won’t be cursed at all. In fact, I suspect you will be blessed. The cascades may indeed become rowdy at times. But I expect you will flourish amidst the lush tumult.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** “It takes a great deal of experience to become natural,” wrote Sagittarian author Willa Cather. I’m happy to report that in recent months, you Sagittarians have been becoming more and more natural. You have sought experiences that enhance your authenticity and spontaneity. Keep up the good work! The coming weeks should bring influences and adventures that will dramatically deepen your capacity to be untamed, soulful, and intensely yourself.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** “I intend to live forever,” proclaims 66-year-old comedian Steven Wright, who then adds, “So far, so good.” I offer you his cheerful outlook in the hope that it might inspire you to dream and scheme about your own longevity. Now is a great time to fantasize about what you would love to accomplish if you are provided with 90 or more years of life to create yourself. In other words, I’m asking you to expand your imagination about your long-term goals. Have fun envisioning skills you’d like to develop and qualities you hope to ripen if you are given all the time you would like to have. (PS: Thinking like this could magically enhance your life expectancy.)

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** “Stop insisting on clearing your head,” advised author Charles Bukowski. “Clear your f---ing heart instead.” That will be a superb meditation for you to experiment with in the coming weeks. Please understand that I hope you will also clear your head. That’s a worthy goal. But your prime aim should be to clear your heart. What would that mean? Purge all apologies and shame from your longings. Cleanse your tenderness of energy that’s inclined to withhold or resist. Free your receptivity to be innocent and curious.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** “The winner will be the one who knows how to pick the right fights,” wrote author Jane Ciabattari. Heed her advice, please, Pisces. You will soon be offered chances to deal with several interesting struggles that are worthy of your beautiful intelligence. At least one will technically be a “conflict,” but even that will also be a fruitful opportunity. If you hope to derive the greatest potential benefit, you must be selective about which ones you choose to engage. I recommend you give your focus to no more than two.



# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing’s music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

## LIFE CHANGING ALBUMS:

### ALFONSO CIVILE OF HEARTSICK TALKS ‘THE CROW’



Shane Pitmon

Vocalist Alfonso Civile of Heartsick has been in Lansing’s metal scene for years. The band just released a new song, “Desperate and Broken.”



Courtesy photo

Brandon Lee as Eric Draven in ‘The Crow.’ Lee was accidentally killed while making the film.



Courtesy image

Album cover for the 1994 soundtrack, released on Atlantic Records.

## Local metal fixture looks back on moody 1994 soundtrack

After its formation back in 2000, Know Lyfe quickly became a heavy hitter in Lansing’s metal scene. From there, the band took off, released a stack of records, and made waves nationally — even reaching the Billboard charts. After 15 years as Know Lyfe, the outfit rebranded as Heartsick, but continued to unleash its signature concoction of alternative-metal and post-hardcore into its distinct brand of progressive heavy metal.

The band, now on a month-long tour with The Veer Union, just released a ferocious new single and video, “Desperate & Broken,” which features Clint Lowery of Sevendust. Then, in June, the band (which comprises vocalist Alfonso Civile, guitarist Jerred Pruneau, bassist Waylon Fox and drummer Talmadge Jake Bryan) will return home for a few Michigan dates. In the meantime, check out the band’s discography at [heartsickband.bandcamp.com](https://heartsickband.bandcamp.com).

Before he left for tour, Civile, a founding member of the group, chatted with City Pulse about how a shadowy film starring the late Brandon Lee steered him into the life of a hard rock musician.

**When and how did you discover your life-changing album?**

Alfonso Civile: It was 1994, I was 13 and the movie “The Crow” had just hit theaters. Me and some friends snuck in to watch it at our local movie theater and hang-out spot in Miami Lakes, Florida. I was immediately hooked. The very next day, I raided my sister’s tape collection and found the soundtrack to the movie. My sister had no idea I would sneak in her room and steal the tape just to play it.

**How was hearing “The Crow” soundtrack a life-changing experience for you?**

This would be the start of my obsession with heavy music and alternative style. After I discovered it, I listened to that tape nonstop for weeks. The moment I heard “Burn” by The Cure, I was hooked. It felt almost like I was in a trance. Some of the other stand-out tracks are: Rollins Band “Ghost Rider,” Pantera “The Badge” and “Slip Slide Melting” by For Love Not Lisa.

From there, I began to look at what other records my sister had by artists on the soundtrack. I just started

diving in. I was trying to listen to as many of the tapes as I could before she found out and tried to murder me (laughs). Before I discovered the first record that would change my life, I was pretty much just into R&B singing in a vocal boy band group. I’d listen to pretty much most all R&B singers of the ‘90s, plus salsa and merengue because of my parents.

**What aspects of the album touch you the most and why?**

There are so many dark and brooding things going on — plus the heavy guitars on songs like “Milque-toast” by Helmet. Man, it’s like this weird walk-through purgatory or some gothic temple. The landscapes the songs painted gave that mental image of all the dark and rugged images in the movie. It’s the perfect soundtrack. The most effortless introduction to Gothic, industrial, alternative and heavy metal you could possibly get.

**In what ways has this album directly affected your life?**

Every Halloween, from when I

first saw “The Crow” and heard the soundtrack, between 1994 and 2000, I literally dressed as Eric Draven. It’s where I discovered how cool the color black was and how incredible a story could be within a dark, sad concept. I discovered heavy metal. I fell in love with big, heavy distorted guitars and electronic beats meshed with pounding drums. This soundtrack changed my life, literally.

**Do you prefer to listen to this when you’re having a good day or a bad day?**

Anytime, like right now — go get on Spotify or wherever you get your music. Stream the soundtrack. You won’t regret it. Listen, if I put on “The Crow” soundtrack on any day, it will for sure be a good day. It’s still my all-time favorite movie and soundtrack ever. It’s perfect. Nothing in that movie is out of place or written wrong. It’s a pure, 100% classic.

**Follow Heartsick at facebook.com/heartsickband or visit heartsick.us for a complete list of show dates.**





# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).  
Deadline is 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  
**Filomena Castriciano**  
Thurs., May 12, 7-9 p.m.  
**Flipside**  
Sat., May 14, 8-11 p.m.

#### Blue Owl

1149 S Washington, Lansing  
**Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill**  
Thurs., May 12, 6-8 p.m.

#### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**Darin Larner Jr.**  
Fri., May 13, 7-10 p.m.  
**Melissa Dylm**  
Sat., May 14, 7-10 p.m.

#### Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Mixpack**  
Fri., May 13, 8:30 p.m.  
**Fatboy & Jive Turkey**  
Sat., May 14, 8:30 p.m.

#### Lansing Brewing Company

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing  
**Be Kind Rewind**  
Fri., May 13, 8-11 p.m.

#### Renos North

16460 Old US 27, Lansing  
**The New Rule**  
Fri. & Sat., May 13-14, 6-10 p.m.

#### The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington, Lansing  
**Allison deGroot and Tatiana Hargreaves**  
Wed., May 11, 7:30 p.m.

#### Urban Beat

1213 Turner Rd., Lansing  
**Open Mic with Rick Hansel**  
Wed., May 11, 6p.m.

#### Shawn Maxwell

Fri., May 13, 7-10 p.m.  
**Jon Gewirtz Quartet**  
Sun., May 15, 2-4 p.m.

### Shawn Maxwell

Friday, May 13

7 – 10 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing  
[urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com)

Chicago-based jazz musician Shawn Maxwell is set to perform at Old Town's UrbanBeat on Friday (May 13). The saxophonist has been on the scene since the early 2000s, performing solo and with his group, The Shawn Maxwell Quartet. Over the years, he's released nine albums of original compositions. Maxwell's latest album was 2020's "Millstream." For the past four years, Maxwell has been touring the states with his quintet, Shawn Maxwell's New Tomorrow. He blends the sounds of jazz with the music he grew up listening to: R&B, hip-hop, rock and classical. Tickets for the show are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the doors. A dinner menu will be available, but it's not included in ticket prices.



**Adult and Child Yoga**- 5-6 p.m. Schavey Elementary Gym, 1721 Shavey Rd, DeWitt.

**Allen Farmers Market** – 18th outdoor season starts this week! 2:30-7 p.m., corner of Shepard and Kalamazoo, Lansing.

**Art Exhibit: This Rebirthing**- 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

**Weaving the Web: Strength** - Join us online or in-person. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center St., #7A, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Working Women Artists Spring Show** - through May. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

### Thursday, May 12

**Beal Botanical Garden Tour: Wild Foods and the Salad Bar of Spring** - 12:10-12:50 p.m. Beal Botanical Garden, W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. [events.msu.edu](http://events.msu.edu).

**Decolonial Dream | Nicolei Gupit** - opening reception with an artist talk at 5:30 p.m. 5-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

**One Seed, One State: Library Garden Planting** - join us to plant the library vegetable garden. 3-4 p.m. Dansville Branch Library, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. 517-623-6511. [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

**Pagans Night Out** - 6:30-9:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center St., #7A, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**RideON Bike Clinic for National Bike Month** - 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.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](http://manifestlansing.com).

### Friday, May 13

**50 over Fitness** - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Brahms Symphony No. 2: "Passion & Emotion"** - 7:30 p.m. Tickets and information at [lansingsymphony.org](http://lansingsymphony.org).

**Howl at the Moon** - a guided walk through the nighttime woods. This walk is dog friendly. Dogs must be on a 6-foot leash. 8:30-9:30 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos.

**Sewers Salute Quilts of Valor Meeting** - Quilters are welcome to join to make patriotic-themed quilts. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Towar Hart Baptist Church, 6157 Towar Ave, East Lansing.

### Take and Make: Stained Glass

**Kites** - kits will be available in our vestibule 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**TGIF Dance Party** - Everybody welcome! 7p.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. [tgifhawkhollow@cs.com](mailto:tgifhawkhollow@cs.com).

### Saturday, May 14

**Centennial Farm Antique Spring Sale at the Barn** - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 4410 W. Howe Road, DeWitt. 517-669-5096.

**Courageous Conversations** - Understanding Gender Identity, "Trans-Parent Love" play. 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington., Lansing. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Edible Wild Plants Walk** - a spring edible plant walking tour of the Harris Nature Center. 1-3 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866.

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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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### Wednesday, May 11

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).



# TWIGS takes care of everyday tasks for cancer patients

By **CHELSEA PHILLIPS**

When Elizabeth Read's mother passed after nearly three years of fighting pancreatic cancer, her grief left her wanting to help others battling the disease. This led Read to starting a nonprofit organization focused on alleviating everyday burdens for cancer patients.

Read's mother often expressed how lucky she felt to be supported by friends and family for everyday tasks. Her husband could afford to take time off work for appointments and hire help for lawn care and housekeeping, which allowed her mother to focus her remaining time enjoying her grandchildren.

However, not all cancer patients can afford to do this. Read had a friend whose mother was also battling cancer, but had to work while undergoing treatment. Read saw the difference it can make for a patient to get

much-needed support and started a non-profit called TWIGS — To Work In Grateful Service. The name is a tribute to Read's mother, whose nickname was "Twigs."



The organization provides light housekeeping, lawn care, rides to appointments and grocery and prescription delivery

## TWIGS

twigsinc.org  
twigs753@gmail.com  
(517) 927-0153

to cancer patients who are undergoing treatment.

"They were the things I noticed while helping my mom that made the biggest difference," Read said.

Friends and family often offer help to cancer patients, but don't always consistently follow through, she said.

"Cancer patients never talk about it, but treatments never last three months and you're done," she said. "It's always at least a year-long process."

Read's mother was told she had a year

left, but made it nearly three years.

"I believe a lot of that was because she had the support she did," Read said.

The organization filed for 501(c)3 status just before the pandemic hit, but the IRS lost the application.

TWIGS officially received nonprofit status in April 2021.

Over a year later, the organization has partnered with Sparrow Hospital and is working on a partnership with McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital.

The nonprofit hopes to build community partnerships with lawn care and house cleaning companies. The services offered are on a volunteer basis. Volunteers must undergo a full background



Courtesy

Elizabeth Read was inspired to start TWIGS in 2019 after her mother died from cancer.

screening, be fully vaccinated and wear masks while on the job. The precautions are necessary, Read noted, to make immunocompromised cancer patients feel safe with the volunteers.



## Nominations for 'Flowers for Fighters' now open

Now through Friday (May 20), TWIGS is hosting "Flowers for Fighters," where locals can nominate a person who is currently undergoing treatment to receive a pot of flowers and support service access, which can include "light housekeeping, yard work/mowing, grocery and prescription delivery, or appointment rides," as appropriate and requested.

At least 50 recipients will receive an 8-inch pot of flowers and information about the services they provide. Nominations can be made directly through the website now through Friday, May 20. Donations can also be made through the website.

Visit [twigsinc.org](https://twigsinc.org) to nominate a loved one.

## Events

from page 24

**Free Brush Drop-off** - 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Recycle Center, 1418 Grovenburg Rd, Holt. [delhitownship.com](https://delhitownship.com).

**Inebriated Insights** - Join the Keys team for a night of intoxicated witchcraft. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., #7A, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](https://manifestlansing.com).

**Lids for Kids** - Lansing - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Marshall Street Fire Station, 815 Marshall St, Lansing. 517-394-7500. [lidsforkidsmi.org](https://lidsforkidsmi.org).

**Miniature Golf Day at Old Town General Store** - Michigan author Gretchen Smith penned *Amazing Strokes*, a book about miniature golf. 1-5 p.m. 808 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing.

**MSU Horticulture Gardens Spring Plant Sale** - 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Plant & Soil Sciences Building, 1066 Bogue St, East

Lansing. 517-353-0443. [hrt.msu.edu](https://hrt.msu.edu).

**Native Michigan Plant Sale** - The Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Township Farmers' Market, 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. [wildoneslansing.org](https://wildoneslansing.org).

**No-Till Gardening w/Allan Whitley** - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 500 Clifford St, Lansing, MI 48912, Lansing.

## Sunday, May 15

**Delta Community Choir presents** - "Folk Songs, Fake Songs, and Fun" Spring concert benefitting Our Savior Lutheran Food Bank. 4-5:30 p.m. Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing.

**With Soldering: Solar Phone Charger** - 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](https://impression5.org).

**Woldumar Folk & Bluegrass Jam** - 2-5 p.m. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old

Lansing Rd, Lansing.

## Monday, May 16

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](https://meridian50plus.com).

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

**Lego Palooza** - Come get creative with Legos at the library! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](https://gladl.org)

**Workshop - Purposeful Communication** - 6-8:30 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4233. [parksonline.lansingmi.gov](https://parksonline.lansingmi.gov).

## Tuesday, May 17

**Board Game Meet Up** - ages 18 & up.

6:30 - 10:30 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

**DDL Walking Club** - explore local parks and trails around DeWitt. 10-11 a.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Rd. [dewittlibrary.org](https://dewittlibrary.org).

**Jug & Mug Ski and Social Club meeting** - Find out about the exciting trips and events available to members. 6-8:30 p.m. Tony M's Creyts Rd., Lansing. 517-663-1854. [jugandmug.org](https://jugandmug.org).

**Rebuild a Computer** - for teens to work with the components of a desktop computer. 4-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](https://eradl.org).

**Sporcle Live! Trivia** - 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. [crunchyseastlansing.com](https://crunchyseastlansing.com).

**Toastmaster Meeting** - in person and on Zoom) - W 6:30-7:30 p.m. Downtown CADL, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing. [cadl.org](https://cadl.org).



# Savory salad with rhubarb hummus

By **ARI LeVAUX**

If you know any rhubarb recipes that call for less than a cup of sugar, you are a statistical anomaly. It's understandable, given the culinary perfection made possible by the combination of rhubarb and strawberries — with or without pie crust.



Courtesy

This feral salad contains many strong flavors, highlighted by bitter dandelions and the floral acidity of the rhubarb.

The tart, juicy stalk of the rhubarb plant creates such an indisputably glorious flavor in concert with berries, fruit and sugar, what could possibly be gained by doing anything else? A lot, it turns out, as rhubarb can be used in savory ways, too. Its acidity can replace lemon or vinegar in soup, can act like a tomato in salad or something exotic in curry. Just remember to stick to the stalks and avoid the leaves, which have toxic levels of oxalic acid and are considered inedible.

The rhubarb in my neighborhood began growing about a month ago. I ushered in the season with a sour stew of lamb, potatoes, onions, carrots, celery and garlic. The tang of the rhubarb took the place of a glass of wine that I might otherwise have poured into the soup pot. Then, I made a rhubarb-based sauce in which I sautéed sliced rhubarb with onions and garlic and then pureed it. The flavor of that savory rhubarb sauce was similar to that of the applesauce one might enjoy on a pork chop. But of all of the savory ways I've prepared rhubarb, hummus is the best.

Rhubarb comes from Tibet, whence it spread north and east. Marco Polo brought some plants back to Europe

from northern China and the descendants of these plants eventually made their way across the pond to the New World. Before it was everyone's favorite substrate for vanilla ice cream, rhubarb was used medicinally in treating a variety of ailments. During the heyday of the Silk Road, dried rhubarb root was so prized that it could be more expensive than cinnamon, saffron or even opium. Today, modern science is vindicating many of the old medicinal uses for rhubarb. Compounds extracted from rhubarb are being used in chemotherapy and to treat Alzheimer's disease. It's also a powerful antimicrobial and antioxidant.

As rhubarb became established and widespread, its price came down. But the price of sugar remained high, so not much rhubarb got eaten until sugar became less expensive in the late 1800s. To this day, rhubarb is still sometimes called a pie plant. When rhubarb arrived from Europe, it's thought to have first taken hold in Maine, an appropriately cantankerous place for this sour plant. It spread across the northern half of the country, establishing itself wherever there was a winter cold snap. Rhubarb has a way of finding neglected corners of gardens and alleyways, where it can live in peaceful obscurity. Thanks to this hearty, independent streak, people discover, adopt or otherwise inherit rhubarb more often than they plant it. But if you can't find enough, or any, rhubarb growing in your neighborhood, you can probably pick up some baby plants at the farmers market. And now is a great time to plant it.

I make my rhubarb hummus thin enough to use as a dressing for a strong-flavored salad, such as with dandelion leaves or other wild greens. It's a bitter, earthy way to usher in the new season in the spirit of a "spring tonic." Back in the pioneering homesteader



times, families would prepare a spring tonic at the end of a long winter. It was made of fresh plants and whatever else they could scrounge from the springtime landscape, to get a dose of nutrients and stimulate the digestive system. Rhubarb, rich in vitamins and minerals, was a popular ingredient in many spring tonics. Dandelion — another nutritious early riser — was also a popular spring tonic ingredient.

You might think that dandelions are too bitter for your tender sensibilities, but my rhubarb hummus will change that. Creamy, nutty and tangy, it smothers the dandelions to the point where their flavor is not overwhelming. Indeed, dandelion never tasted so mild-mannered. And some tart, juicy slices of rhubarb sprinkled on top play the role of early-season tomatoes.

## Dandelion and rhubarb salad with rhubarb hummus

This feral salad contains many strong flavors, highlighted by bitter dandelions

and the floral acidity of the rhubarb. In addition to making dandelions edible to those who might otherwise find them too strong, this hummus also does a lovely job saucing up meat, pasta and vegetable dishes.

## Rhubarb hummus

1 16-ounce can of garbanzo beans, or about a cup and a half of soaked garbanzos

3 tablespoons tahini

1 teaspoon salt

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 cup olive oil

4 ounces of rhubarb — a good sized stalk — chopped

2 tablespoons lemon juice

For serving: fresh dandelion greens — flowers, stalks and roots too, if you wish — and more chopped rhubarb.

Add the hummus ingredients to the blender and blend until they are smooth. If the blender won't make a proper vortex, add liquid from the garbanzo can or cooking pot. Adding all of the liquid in a can, about a cup, will make a thinner hummus fit to dress a salad like we're making today. For a hummus to use as a dip, add less water, which will make a thicker hummus.

To make the salad, toss the chopped dandelion greens with the hummus and scatter with chopped rhubarb. Drizzle with olive oil and serve.

## Appetizers

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# Holy smoke! The Shredder is a meat lover's dream

By **CHLOE ALVERSON**

Looking Glass Brewing Co., at 115 N. Bridge St. in downtown DeWitt, opened in 2018 inside the former Mount Hope Church. The microbrewery — which still has stained glass windows and pew benches — has anywhere from 10 to 16 beers on tap at a time, which are brewed in the basement

of the former church. Even though I worked in a craft beer restaurant for years, beer isn't really my thing. I usually go with a hard cider or sour. They taste less beer-y to me. This was my first time at Looking Glass, so I played it safe with the cherry hard cider. It was refreshingly sweet, with a slightly tart aftertaste. I had two.



Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

The Shredder sandwich from Looking Glass Brewing Co. in DeWitt.

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Since there's a stacked menu, I wasn't sure what to eat. The microbrewery has a menu created by Chef Josh Moyer, and it changes every few months, depending on the season. The menu has a bit of everything: burgers, sandwiches, tacos and flatbreads. A gentleman sitting at the table next to me ordered a massive pulled pork sandwich and it looked delicious. I simply had to order it. The sandwich was called The Shredder, which is made up of smoked pork and beef, pickles, beer cheese and onion straws. It comes topped with garlic aioli on a sesame bun.

The meat was perfectly tender and smoky, and the sandwich surprisingly came topped with coleslaw and on a brioche bun. I'm here for it.

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