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May 18-24, 2022

A story of meth,  
rape and murder  
in Oneida Township

SEE PAGE 5

## THE RED BARN HOUSE HORRORS

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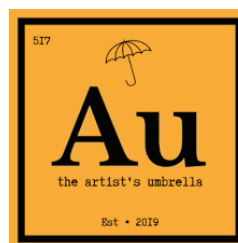
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# CityPULSE

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Meth, rape and murder



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LSO goes where no one has gone before



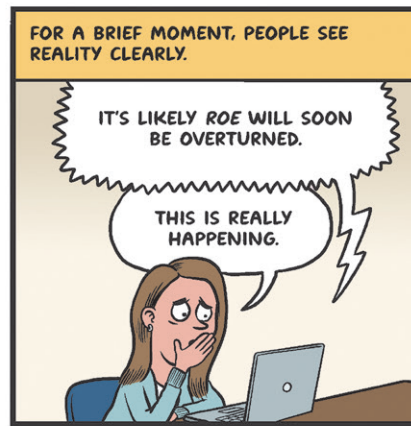
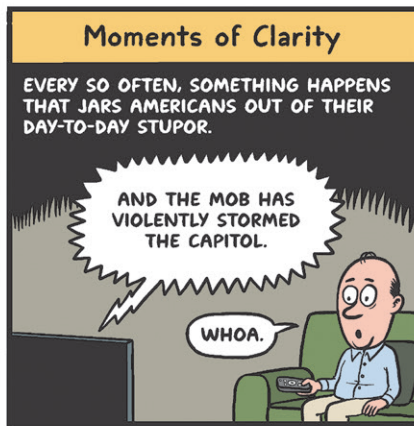
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Everything is Cheesecake upsizes



**Cover  
Art**

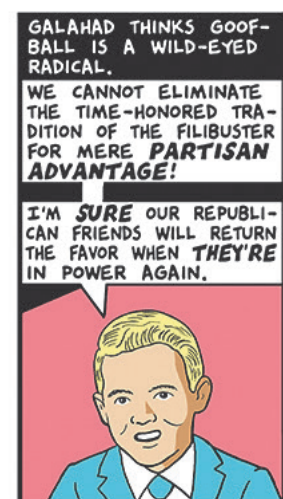
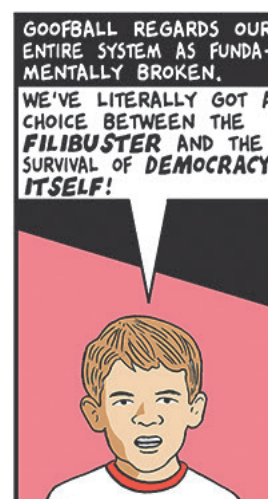
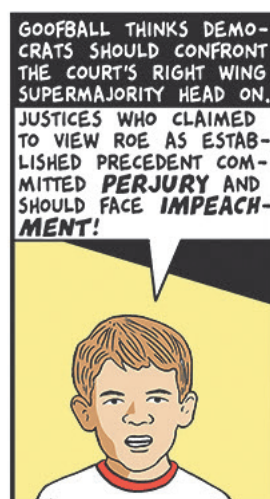
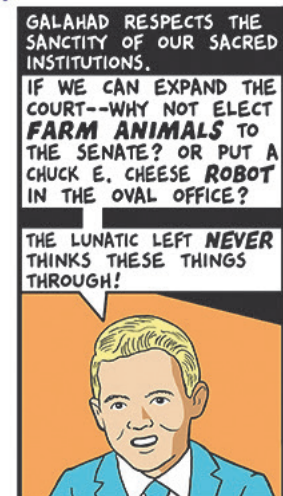
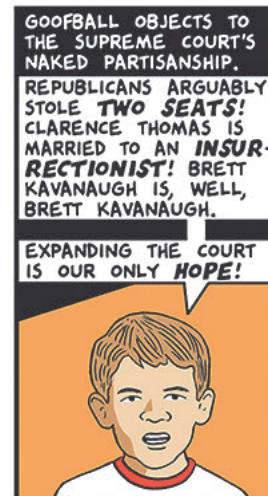
Cover photo by Ron Stratton



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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION



Photo by Ron Stratton

The converted Red Barn House stands alone in fields in Oneida Township. In this house, Clinton Decker allegedly met his death at the hands of Joseph Sadlak. Five years of Eaton County sherriff reports reveal a bizarre and violent history leading up to the murder.

# Meth, rape and murder

## A life ended on Dec. 9, 2018, but the warning signs were flashing in Eaton County for years

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

The calls began flooding into Eaton County's 911 Emergency Center at 5:35 p.m. on Dec. 9, 2018. A man covered in blood was wandering in the middle of Grand Ledge Highway in Oneida Township. In some instances, callers reported that he was attempting to jump in front of their moving cars.

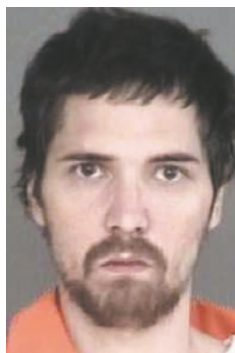
One caller, who thought the man had been hit by a car, put the man on the phone with 911.

The man told 911: "I had to kill him."

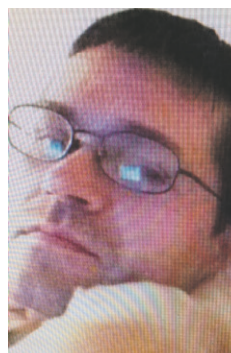
The man confessing to a killing was Joseph Sadlak, then 29. He directed Eaton County sherriff's deputies to a former red barn converted into a huge maze of a home at 1640 Grand Ledge Highway. He also provided deputies with the security codes to get inside.

Inside the home, law enforcement found the body of Clinton Decker, 44. He was half on a bed, in a pool of blood. Officers shot a pit bull three times to get to Decker's body.

This murder climaxed in after at least five years of increasingly terrifying claims by young, mostly homeless and drug-using men. At least two — also covered in blood



Sadalak



Decker

— had fled the home in terror, pounding on windows at nearby homes to plead for police and a place to hide.

Nearly three and a half years later, Sadlak is awaiting a trial scheduled for Aug. 1, but his defense team is seeking another competency evaluation that could drag the case out further. The defendant has

already been found incompetent to assist in his own defense once, which delayed a preliminary hearing to April 2021.

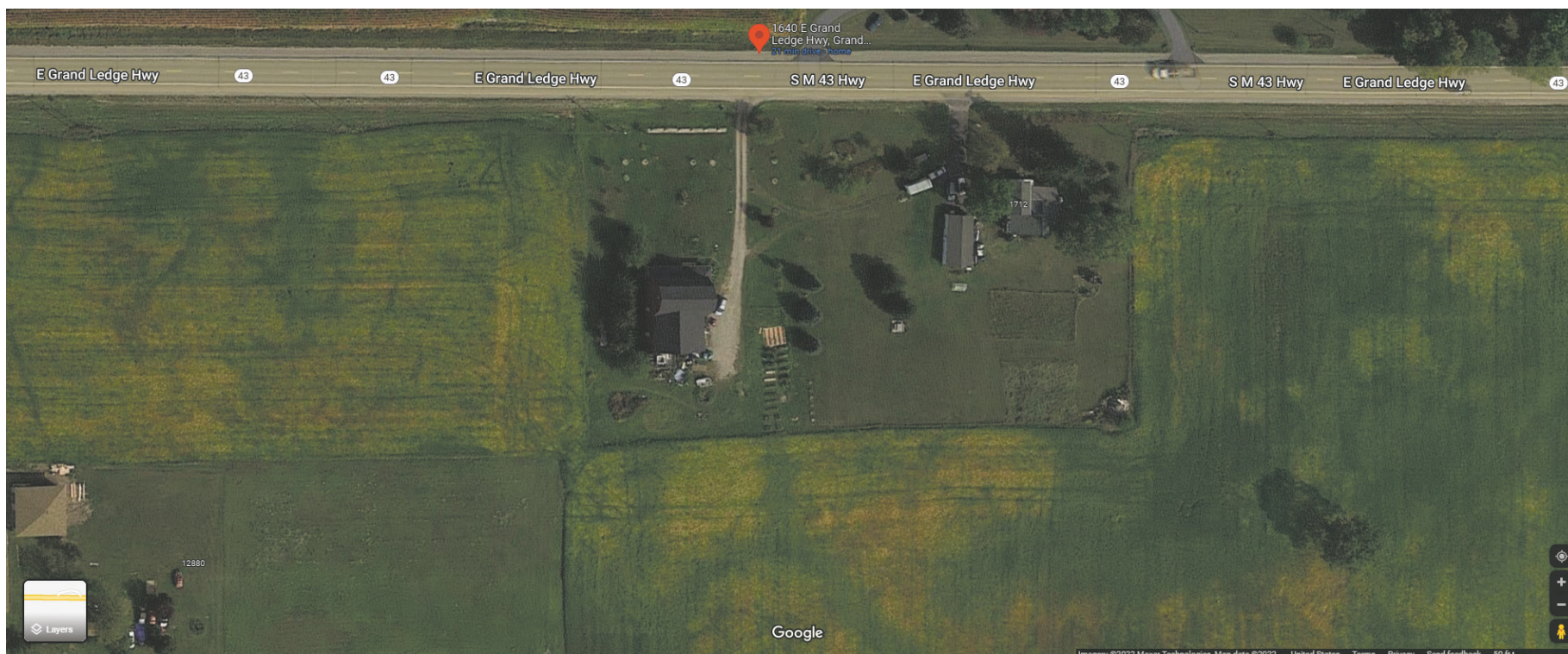
Five years of police reports from before the murder revealed a history of calls for drug overdoses, sexual assault, felonious assault, breaking and entering and welfare checks at Decker's converted barn home, according to hundreds of pages of reports released in response to a public records request. Interviews with nearby residents, as well as two of the young men who spent time in Decker's home, also tell the story of the horrors that allegedly occurred behind the red barn's doors.

Deputies noted in reports that when they reached Decker's bloody body, rigor mortis had already set in, pegging his death within six hours before officers had entered the home.

An autopsy performed by Dr. Patrick Hansma at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing found the cause of Decker's death a "homicide" by "multiple blunt and sharp force injuries."

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A Google Satellite image showing the red barn house property from above. The home in question is in the center of the picture, below Grand Ledge Highway, with a two-track gravel driveway. The image was taken before murder victim Clinton Decker and his spouse, Chadrick Decker, planted the front yard with blueberry bushes. The barn itself was built in approximately 1865. It was originally combined as one property with the 19th century farmhouse on the right. A divorce led to the property's separation into two parcels. The barn was converted into a residence, and those who have been inside say it had a large living room and an interior balcony. But for unknown reasons, the house also had a series of maze-like hallways with small hidden rooms. It was in one of these rooms that Decker had his secret sex dungeon.

## Killing

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Decker had been stabbed 31 times and hit with a blunt object at least 20 times. His penis had been sliced lengthwise along the top about an inch and half from his pubic region toward the tip. The autopsy report also revealed 13 stab wounds to Decker's head, including one through his right eyelid and into his eye, and another that penetrated his nasal cavity and bone.

Four stab wounds were discovered on his neck, including one that sliced through his right carotid artery and penetrated his jugular vein. Two wounds penetrated a lung and his heart.

Most of the blunt force trauma was on his head, and he had one defensive wound on his wrist, though it was not identified as such in the autopsy report.

According to the autopsy report, Decker's arms also showed evidence of recent and long-term needle use and "acute methamphetamine intoxication." Specific toxicology reports were redacted in the documents. The autopsy reports also noted that his teeth were in particularly "poor repair" — a possible indication of methamphetamine use.

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug that can be snorted, smoked, taken in pill form or injected. It causes the user a euphoric experience that can

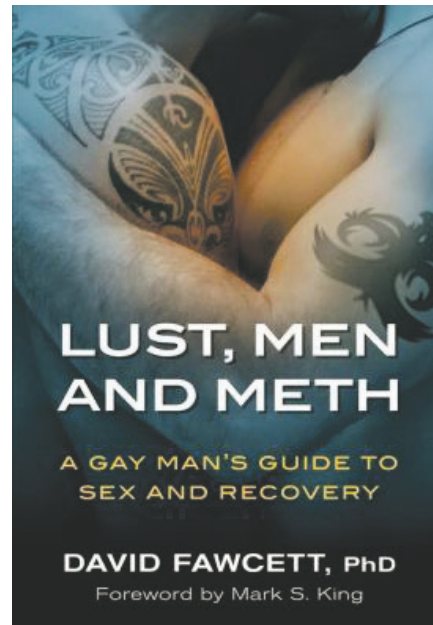
last as long as 12 hours. The drug also causes users to crave sugary substances and ignore basic hygiene like dental care.

Meth has long been a national crisis among communities of men who have sex with men, said David Fawcett, a psychiatrist who has been treating men who use meth for three decades. He's written a book about the crisis, "Lust, Men, and Meth: A Gay Man's Guide to Sex and Recovery."



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Early use of the drug causes euphoria and an increased sense of self value. It's also often "merged" with sexual experiences, creating a powerful combination of addictions. As a person spirals further into addiction, their sexual activity can become increasingly extreme, and some can begin to develop paranoia and delusions. Some also become violent after using the drug.



Courtesy

Fawcett said the drug can also exacerbate existing mental health conditions.

"With meth, more than any other drug, we see psychosis, particularly paranoia," Fawcett said. "Because of the need for intensity and that psychosis, they can merge in the altered reality that can go on for days. So, people get in such a really weird blend of sexual attraction merged with really kinky and really sometimes outrageous taboo things like Satanic worship, just sort of all woven together. It seems really hot when you're high, right? But it's not so much when you're not. The problem is there is a certain small percentage of people who are mentally ill and for whom meth — either as a catalyst or just as an accelerant on that mental illness — can either hit a tipping point or be like a switch that flips it into this state where it's much worse than it was before. That's what I think probably happened here."

Sadlak, the accused killer, has a documented history of struggling with mental health concerns dating back to 2016, two years before the case first attracted media attention. The young man, his family said, had a closed head injury that changed his personality and led to losing his job. He ended up homeless.

Reports showed that Sadlak had called 911 on Nov. 24 — just days before the murder — to request transportation from Decker's red barn house to Sparrow for an

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# Killing

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unknown mental health concern, one of many 911 calls for medical and criminal activity released in the county's reports.

Reports of methamphetamine and cocaine drove the 911 calls over five years, according to call logs and conversations with people who were there. Most of those witnesses declined to speak on the record, but a majority said Decker deserved to die and that he was an "evil" man.

## Exploitation and abuse

Two men who had interactions with Decker agreed to speak with City Pulse for this story. One asked to remain anonymous and have certain details of his alleged abuse omitted to prevent others from being able to identify him. For this coverage, he will be known as "Jack Smith."

Smith said he had visited Decker's converted barn home in Oneida Township twice. Both times were to have sex with men other than Decker, in what has been described as Decker's secret "BDSM dungeon" — a room consisting of a sling and various bondage, discipline and sadomasochism-related sex toys.

Smith said the home was also filled

with security cameras, a fact confirmed in both the homicide investigation and from other police reports tied to Decker's Grand Ledge Highway address.

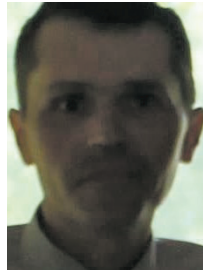
Smith said Decker attempted to dupe him into compromising situations in order to exploit him.

The first attempt involved Decker mentioning a "friend" who had left a DVD filled with child pornography at his home and seeking advice on what to do with it. Smith said he suggested Decker destroy the sexually abusive material or turn it over to the police for investigation.

Decker has been convicted of a sex crime involving children, according to media reports. A spokeswoman for the Michigan State Police, which maintains the state's Sex Offender Registry,



Herman-Starnes



Decker

said an offender's record is removed from public access after the offender dies. As a result, she was unable to confirm whether Decker had any sex crime convictions.

In another instance, Smith said, Decker attempted to get him to participate in the purchase and transport of a substantial amount of meth from Florida. He declined. Smith also believed the indoor security cameras were used to record such interactions to blackmail people under threat of revealing their incriminating statements. There were more instances, he said, but he asked they not be repeated because they could identify him to meth users in the local community.

Smith said he has been meth-free for just under five years.

Kevin Herman-Starnes, 31, spent his early life bouncing around between Jackson and northern Michigan. He was in the custody of his grandmother while his father was in and out of prison, and moved to Lansing when he was 24. Soon after, he found himself living on the streets.

He tried to get assistance through the Lansing Housing Commission but came up short, he said.

An acquaintance (whom Herman-Starnes refused to identify) later told

him about "this guy" who would be able to help him out and give him a place to stay. That "guy" turned out to be Decker.

Unbeknownst to Herman-Starnes, his introduction to Decker was similar to introductions he would subsequently witness Decker make to "hundreds" of other young, homeless men in the Lansing area. And Decker wasn't the only man engaged in the activity, Herman-Starnes said. He also described a wide network of other men recruiting young, homeless men into sex work.

After connecting with Decker, Herman-Starnes soon found himself sitting in the living room of the red barn house, drinking beer and eating pizza. He remembered sexual comments and not-so-subtle hints that Decker wanted to have sex with him. Herman-Starnes ignored them.

Later that week, he said Decker took the duo over to a series of three houses located between Oakland and Saginaw streets within walking distance of the Volunteers of America, now the New Hope Center, a major hub for the homeless. Herman-Starnes also explicitly recalled the hull of a white limousine in the backyard of one of the homes. Photos on the Facebook page of Decker's former roommate at the time revealed a white limousine parked in the yard of

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# Killing

from page 8

a home.

It was inside one of these homes, within weeks of meeting Decker, that Herman-Starnes said Decker drew a handgun and raped him. His friend was also in the house and did not intervene. “After that, you either surrendered yourself sexually to (Decker) on command or he would take it from you and you would get beaten,” Herman-Starnes told City Pulse last week.

Herman-Starnes was a frequent visitor during the spring and summer of 2015, according to a neighbor’s subsequent statement recorded by police. He would leave on the Eatan just before 7 a.m., shortly before Decker’s then-fiancee was expected to return home from work.

In late November of that year, Herman-Starnes said he had sex with Decker in exchange for \$50 but Decker refused to pay. Later that day, Decker called him promising to pay for the sex and Herman-Starnes met Decker and climbed into his PT Cruiser in southwest Lansing.

They went to Decker’s red barn house where Herman-Starnes said he was led upstairs, under the presumption Decker was engaging his sexual services again and would also pay him for the night before. Instead, he said Decker pulled out a handgun, laid out a white sheet in the room with various tools and said he had someone coming over to kill him for stealing his Vicodin.

Herman-Starnes was able to bolt out the front door when Decker was distracted, according to a police report and interview with Herman-Starnes, who is now serving time for an armed robbery conviction at the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility in Adrian. He knocked

over a bookshelf in the narrow hallway leading to the stairs to delay Decker and ran to a nearby home.

There, he beat on the front window of a nearby residence, pleading with them to dial 911 because someone was trying to hurt or kill him. While the startled residents inside the home called 911, they also shut off all the lights and retreated upstairs. The husband armed himself with a pistol.

Both the husband and wife also saw Decker’s PT Cruiser be driven slowly past before it turned around, according to their statements to police. Shortly after, Decker called the neighbors to ask if a young man had run through or was in their yard. The neighbors lied, saying there was no one there to their knowledge. Decker went on to warn them that a young man had just pulled a knife on him and could be nearby and dangerous.

Deputies arrived and handcuffed Herman-Starnes, Decker and a third man — a recovering heroin user who was Decker’s roommate — and transported them to the Delta substation.

Decker accused Herman-Starnes of pulling a knife on him and demanding \$100. Decker also claimed he knocked the knife from his hand with a phone book and that Herman-Starnes ran away with Decker in pursuit. When detectives tried to push back on his story based on what Herman-Starnes had told them, Decker demanded his attorney. He gave the detectives a name that did not appear to be an attorney on a Google search, and Decker then began screaming at his roommate and urging him not to speak with the detectives and to demand an attorney too.

Officers moved Decker to a location in the substation where he would be unable to hear the interviews, and while that was happening Decker became increasingly

belligerent — calling one of the officers “Dykezilla.” He also faked falling into a wall, went limp and complained that he was having difficulty breathing — a complaint he had issued previously before refusing medical care or transportation to the hospital. The Delta Township Fire Department was then dispatched to the substation for the second time that evening to transport Decker to a local hospital.

After the investigation was finished, detectives sought a warrant for Decker’s arrest for felonious assault. But county Prosecutor Doug Lloyd’s office declined to issue the warrant. In a letter to City Pulse, Lloyd declined to elaborate on why the warrant was not authorized. He also declined to comment on Sadlak’s prosecution, citing legal ethics that prevent disclosure.

**Serious sex assault allegations**

In November 2017, Eaton County law enforcement responded to a call about a young man hiding behind another home near Decker’s distinctive red barn house and to an additional call that Decker and other men were talking about disposing of two dead bodies. When officers arrived on the scene, they found a man cowering in fear behind a nearby dwelling, reports showed.

The young man told law enforcement

he had run from Decker’s house because the men were plotting to kill him. Because he was distraught and incoherent, law enforcement had the 20-year-old man taken to the emergency room at Sparrow Hospital’s St. Lawrence campus.

While there, he disclosed that he had been repeatedly raped inside Decker’s home. The lead nurse on duty — as legally required — called Eaton County dispatch to report the alleged rapes.

In an interview with a deputy, the young man said he was too embarrassed at the time he had his initial contact with Eaton County deputies to disclose that he had been held in the house for three days, plied with drugs and repeatedly raped by Decker and at least four other men. He told the deputy he could not recall how many times he had been raped by the five men because he had been drugged with something that made his mind go blank.

He told a deputy he had originally gone to the house to be injected with cocaine and then have sex with Decker. But the drug Decker injected him with made him feel different than cocaine. He also said that he laid in the den of Decker’s home for a time in a fetal position, before he felt someone fondling him. He assumed this was Decker.

Over next two and half days, the man

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**CITY OF LANSING**  
**SUMMARY OF**  
**ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1301**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 1300, Sections 1300.07, 1300.10, and 1300.11 to update the ordinance to reflect changes in laws and rules and the recently adopted Form-Based Zoning Code.

Effective date: June 8

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk’s Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC  
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CP#22-117

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

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of 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 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 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, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
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CP#22-116

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM. Notice to Creditors Decedent’s Estate. Case No. 22-435-DE. Estate of Julio A. Zacks. Date of birth: 12/3/1964. TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Julio A. Zacks, died 12/18/2018. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Eugenia Zacks-Carney, 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. 05/06/2022. Eugenia Zacks-Carney, 1542 Linden St., East Lansing, MI 48823. CP#22-114

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM. Notice to Creditors Decedent’s Estate. Case No. 22-593-DE. Estate of Mary Lou Goins. Date of birth: 7/16/1939. TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Lou Goins, died 3/25/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Bethany Goins, 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. 05/4/2022. Bethany Goins, 218 N. Jenison Ave., Lansing, MI 48915. 517-648-5058 CP#22-115



# Killing

from page 9

was repeatedly injected with the substance that he was told was cocaine but that created the same, unfamiliar “blank”



Lloyd



Reich

response. During that time, he said men he could not identify penetrated him sexually without his consent.

Because the man was heavily sedated and being detained on a psychiatric hold at Sparrow, the deputy gave the man a report number and advised him to call him after he was released. After 10 days, the man still had not called the deputy, nor had a sexual assault kit been received from Sparrow. The deputy closed the case without further investigation or a referral to a detective — which former law enforcement officials said does not align with standard investigative practices.

“This is really troubling,” said former Eaton County Sheriff Rick Jones. “That report should have, at the very least, been referred to the detectives. And why didn’t they get the sexual assault kit? That just makes no sense. This was not handled in the way I was trained or trained officers to handle sexual assault cases. This is bad.”

Jones, a former state legislator, challenged current Eaton County Sheriff Tom Reich in 2020 but lost. In his analysis of the documents obtained by City Pulse, he said he found nothing to indicate that Reich had acted improperly.

Reich declined interview requests and did not respond to questions sent to him by email.

## A confession of delusions

Before today, the records from Eaton County that detail Sadlak’s transportation to Sparrow Hospital from Decker’s red barn house on Grand Ledge Highway have not been reported.

In May 2019, WXYZ reported that on Dec. 1, 2018, Sadlak had called his family from the hospital parking lot. He was on a bench in shorts and a t-shirt. His family said he was desperate, so they checked him in at StoneCrest Center, a mental health facility in Detroit. They even called the facility to specifically warn them not to let Sadlak have contact with Decker. His father said Decker was “dangerous.”

Nonetheless, on Friday, Dec. 7, 2018, Decker walked out of StoneCrest accompanied by Sadlak, who was, according to his family, on a host of mental health medications — including antidepressants and antipsychotics. Sadlak reportedly suffered a closed head injury in 2016 that left him agitated, suicidal and depressed. After landing on the streets, he began using drugs.

In the same May 2019 interview, the family told WXYZ that the more time their son spent around Decker, the more of a toll it took on his deteriorating mental health condition. The family did not respond to a request from City Pulse to be interviewed, which was sent to them through their son’s defense attorney.

After being picked up off the side of Grand Ledge Highway on Dec. 9, Sadlak was taken to the Delta Township substation and placed in an interview room, according to police reports.

At 9:38 that night, detectives Ted Johnson and Heather Stefan interviewed Sadlak, according to a heavily redacted supplemental report filed by Johnson. For at least a third time that night, Sadlak waived his rights. During the interview, Sadlak informed the detectives that he and Decker spoke daily about God. But Sadlak also said Decker was a pagan, and “some of the things he was doing was bringing negative energy to the house.” Sadlak went on to say that Decker was using his pagan traditions to “steal souls and blood,” and that Decker was “sneaky.”

By the time of the murder, Sadlak said, “the house was so filled with negative energy that, at that point, he was having conversations with it.” He told detectives it was “overwhelming.”

According to Johnson’s redacted supplemental reports, Sadlak also told the detectives about how Decker was taking some of his “soul” and how he learned that Decker had also stolen “the soul of the woman he was supposed to be with.” He also went on to tell detectives that this woman “had a child and that really hurt him because now he killed his wife and unborn child.”

Sadlak, according to reports from responding deputies and the 911 center, had made similar claims that Decker killed his “wife and unborn child.” At a preliminary hearing in April last year, Johnson testified that he had found no evidence to support any of these claims during his investigation, but he also testified he felt the statements were still “rational” remarks from Sadlak.

Following his interview with detectives, Sadlak was taken to the county jail on a murder charge. Five days before Christmas in 2018, his attorneys successfully argued for a competency exam.

After spending time at a state psychiatric facility in Ypsilanti, doctors there ruled he was not competent to assist in his own criminal defense, as did psychiatrists hired by his attorneys.

In September 2020, the court ruled that Sadlak was competent to assist in his own defense. After the preliminary hearing in Charlotte, Sadlak was sent to circuit court to face a murder charge. The murder trial was slated to begin on Aug. 1, but his defense team has since filed a request with the court to order another competency hearing, arguing that his mental health condition has deteriorated since being lodged in the county jail.

Sadlak’s defense team will face a judge Thursday (May 19) seeking another com-



Courtesy

Dr. Patrick Hansma at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing found the cause of Decker’s death a “homicide,” specifically by “multiple blunt and sharp force injuries.” Hansma is a novelist who recently published a novel about the unlikely partnership between a vampire and a graverobber.

petency hearing for their client. Prosecutors are opposing the move, which would delay a planned Aug. 1 trial date. Conrad Vincent, one Sadlak’s defense attorneys, declined to discuss the case on the record, citing legal ethics. Vincent declined to make his client available for an interview for this story.

Decker’s husband and partner of 13 years Chadrick Decker also declined to comment. Facebook messages to Decker’s sister and half sister went without response.

Herman-Starnes said he understood why others might have repeatedly returned to Decker’s home despite the alleged sexual, physical and psychological abuse he heaped on visitors. He said he personally thought of killing Decker “many times,” but “I didn’t have the balls to do it.”

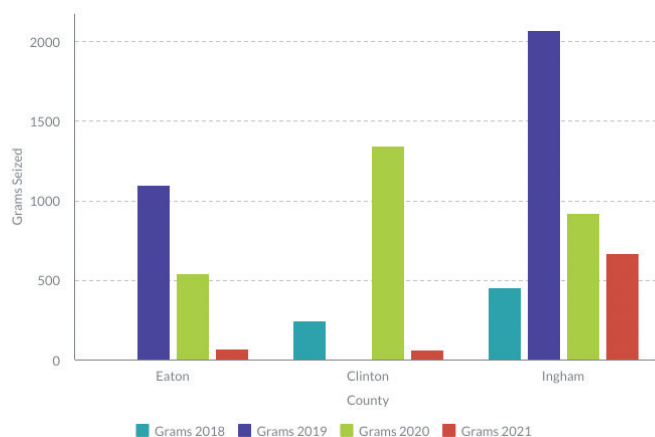
“When you don’t have anybody and anything; they get you strung out on drugs and to the point where you’re so out of your mind you just don’t know what you’re doing anymore,” he said. “They just take advantage and they know what they’re doing. I don’t know. You just feel so lost at the same time. I talked about it in jail with my counselor. You kind of bond with your abuser.”

“You hate them and you want them to die but at the same time, you need them. You rely on them for a place to eat; for a place to sleep, to use the bathroom, especially during winter you have a warm place to stay. But at the same time all of that, at the end of the day, they’re still abusing you, they’re still raping you, they’re still feeding you full of drugs,” Herman-Starnes said.

## Meth Seizures in Mid-Michigan, 2018-2021

Source: Michigan State Police and Tri-County Metro Narcotics Team

Meth Seizures by County, 2018-2021



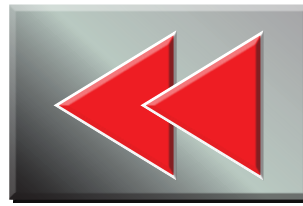
Data provided to City Pulse shows a declining number of meth seizures in Eaton County.



# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI



### New video in police shooting

The newly released video appears to show DeAnthony Thomas-Scott VanAtten leaving the Lake Lansing Road Meijer in East Lansing April 25 without paying for a few ears of sweet corn before he was shot and injured by two cops in the parking lot. Other media outlets have published misleading headlines indicating VanAtten had paid for his items before leaving.

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

### Local cops rarely enforce ATV laws

In the last year, the Lansing Police Department has issued only 13 tickets for illegally driving off-road vehicles — like dirt bikes — on city streets, the Lansing State Journal reported. Authorities have tended to lean on verbal warnings rather than issue tickets.

### Frontline workers collect 'Hero Pay'

A total of 450 city of Lansing employees — mostly within the Fire and Police departments — received a collective \$2 million in federally funded "Hero Pay" through the American Rescue Plan Act. The full payment was about \$5,000, though some employees who participated in pandemic-related workshare programs last year were only eligible to receive about \$2,000.

### New Lansing fire chief takes the reins

After wrapping up his second week on the job last week, Brian Sturdivant sat down for an exclusive interview with City Pulse. And as a Black man with personal experience dealing with two decades of racism in the "Deep South" at a fire department in Georgia, Sturdivant didn't mince many words about the culture of racial discrimination that has long brewed behind the walls of fire departments nationwide.

*Read the full Q&A at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com).*



### Inmate charged with threatening Lansing judge

Christopher Shenberger, sentenced to prison by Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Joyce Draganchuk on multiple criminal sexual conduct convictions in 2016, was charged with communicating a false threat of terrorism after he allegedly sent a threatening letter to Draganchuk in December 2021 over not considered for parole for not completing a sex offender program. Shenberger could face an additional 20 years in prison.

### Murals underway in East Lansing

Ndubisi Okoye started painting "First Class," a

529-square-foot mural honoring the legacy of local civil rights leader Robert L. Green above the entrance to the Albert Avenue Garage. The mural is expected to be finished ahead of the city's art festival on Saturday (May 21).

### City of Lansing launches hotline

Residents can now dial 311 to reach a team of customer service agents to help them with questions and concerns about tax and trash bills, parking tickets, code enforcement and more. The "One Call to City Hall" program is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. About \$410,000 in startup costs were covered through the sale of the Townsend Ramp. Mayor Andy Schor's latest budget also includes \$1 million in annual operating costs.

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



### Lansing man charged in shooting

Aldrus Dwayne Gibson, 21, was arrested and charged with assault with intent to murder in the Thursday (May 12) shootings of a 37- and 38-year-old man and woman along the 2100block of Ferrol Street in Lansing. The man was released from treatment and the woman is in stable condition.

### Local authorities fall short on equity policies

Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon's office has authorized charges for at least 20 concealed weapons felonies stemming from traffic stops for non-moving violations despite a policy that clearly prohibits those sorts of charges from being issued, reported the Lansing State Journal. Data also showed the Lansing Police Department appears to be ignoring its own internal policies that prevent officers from making traffic stops for minor equipment violations.

### New curators arrive at Broad Art Museum

Dr. Teresa Fankhänel and Rachel Winter have been appointed as the newest associate and assistant curators at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University.

### Six staffers quit Stadium District Biggby

Most of the staff of the Biggby Coffee store on Michigan Avenue across from Jackson Field have quit following accusations of a hostile workplace and mistreatment by management, local media reported. Franchise owner Mohamed Shetiah operates about 30 other Biggby locations across Michigan and Ohio, with several more also in Greater Lansing.

### Lansing charged in missing man's death

Jameer DeShuan Johnson, 23, of Lansing, was charged with murder in the death of Julian Andrew-Thomas Moore, another 23-year-old Lansing man who was reported missing on April 30 and found dead on May 2 near the railroad tracks on the 1200-block of S. Clemens Avenue.



The last Eye for Design (below) was first identified by Janet Pendleton. The detail an expansive masonry grid— belongs to the Fountain Place Apartments building in REO Town. Taking up nearly half of the eastern façade, the grid filters the morning sun rays while adding warmth and texture to the symmetrical brick building.

This week's Eye for Design (above) can be found on the campus of Michigan State University. If you know where, send an email to [knarianj@mail.lcc.edu](mailto:knarianj@mail.lcc.edu) and you could win an Eye for Design mug!



— JAMES KNARIAN

"Eye for Design" is a monthly contest that features distinctive fine points of architecture in Greater Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore and Eye Candy.

### Lansing delays two-way street conversion

Plans to convert several one-way streets to allow for two-way traffic in downtown Lansing have been delayed — now for the second time — to at least July, reported the Lansing State Journal. Officials are still waiting on steam pipe repairs and a new traffic signal to complete the transition.



# Of term limits and transparency

We've never been a fan of term limits for elected officials at any level of government. We think we've had them all along in the form of elections: If you don't like how your elected officials are serving you, vote them out of office. If you like what they are doing, keep them. To our mind, term limits are anathema to democracy itself because they artificially constrain the choices voters can make about who represents them. Like the work your state senator is doing? Too bad. They're no longer eligible to serve.

Even at the national level, what we would give to have elected Barack Obama to a third term and even a fourth. How different our nation would be today if we had enlightened, capable leadership before and during the pandemic, had we avoided the train wreck of toxic Trumpism that still churns in the bowels of our state and national politics. We note that there never have been term limits for members of Congress, which ensures that good people can continue to do good work for as long as the people they serve concur.

Our general distaste for term limits and belief that they should be repealed is why we're mostly ambivalent about the proposed constitutional amendment that fiddles with Michigan's system of term limits. Now headed for the November statewide ballot, the amendment was conceived by a statewide good government coalition that initially aimed to collect enough petition signatures to put their proposed reforms on the ballot. For reasons that aren't entirely clear, the group recently pivoted, asking state lawmakers to instead put the plan on the ballot for them. Last week, the Michigan House and Senate did just that, although the proposal adopted by lawmakers is a weaker version of the initial plan. More on that in a moment.

First, some background: Under Michigan's current system of term limits, a legislator can serve up to eight years in the Senate (two four-year terms) and six years in the Michigan House (three two-year terms), making it technically possible to hold office for 14 years. This November's ballot question will ask voters to reduce that total to 12 years by allowing up to three four-year terms in the Senate or up to six two-year terms in the House, or a combination thereof. This is easily the most confusing aspect of the plan — it reduces the overall time a lawmaker can stay in office but extends the time they can spend in one chamber or the other.

We understand concerns about concentrating too much power in the hands of long-serving elected officials, but what have we gotten in return for limiting their terms? Mostly an escalating atmosphere of poisonous partisanship and the diminution of legislative expertise, leading to a shift of knowledge (and thus power) to unelected lobbyists and the permanent state bureaucracy. Term

limits have also ramped up the pressure on lawmakers to be constantly on the lookout for their next job, which leads to cozying up to special interest groups that could offer them a paycheck after their short-lived legislative tenure expires.

Just as concerning, with guaranteed turnover in legislative seats every few years, term limits have created new opportunities for powerful lobbying firms to cultivate and recruit their own candidates to run for open seats, helping to finance their campaigns, of course, knowing that if their horse wins, they have a friend at the Capitol. Term limits ostensibly were designed to limit the corrosive influence of power in our political process by making sure no one can stick around long enough to acquire much of it. But power abhors a vacuum, and Michigan's professional influencers have been more than happy to step in and fill the void.

The proposed constitutional amendment does little to solve any of these problems, but we suppose extending the time an individual can serve in one or the other legislative chamber is an improvement because it allows lawmakers to develop a bit more expertise in the arcania of running state government before they are pushed out the door.

While we're not enamored of the proposed term limit reforms, we're far more enthusiastic about the other plank of the constitutional amendment, which requires — for the first time in Michigan's history — annual financial disclosures by the governor, attorney general, secretary of state and legislators. If the ballot measure passes, Michigan will finally lose the ignominious distinction of being one of just two states in the nation with no financial disclosure requirements whatsoever for top elected officials. Seeya later, Utah.

In their typically self-interested wisdom, lawmakers did manage to water down the original disclosure proposal, which would have required them to periodically disclose financial transactions like real estate transfers and to adopt disclosure standards that mirror those imposed on members of Congress. Apparently, that was a bridge too far for Michigan lawmakers, who excised both provisions from the plan before putting it up for a final vote.

While we appreciate the increased transparency that will result if the constitutional amendment is approved this fall, giving voters an inside look at the financial interests that swirl beneath the Capitol dome, we should continue to demand more, including changes to Michigan's Freedom of Information Act so it applies to legislators and the executive branch.

At this point, though, we'll take what we can get. Incremental progress toward greater transparency in state government is better than nothing at all.



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

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

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


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

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




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# Fraudulent petition signature gatherers must be prosecuted

Camped out in front of the CATA bus station off Kalamazoo Street with a couple of clipboards, a guy who claimed to be from St. Louis, Missouri, asked me to sign a petition.

He said what I was signing would raise the state's minimum wage a dollar. I read the petition. I gave it right back. It was a petition to repeal the state's prevailing wage law.

This was four years ago. I bring up the story to make the point that folks who pass around petitions for money have escaped accountability for years.

They can blatantly lie about what they are advocating for because it's not a crime. If the Legislature tried to make a crime to lie, they could argue a First Amendment violation and likely win.

What can be prosecuted and should be prosecuted is what we're seeing with the petition signatures for Republican gubernatorial candidate James Craig and Perry Johnson. In these cases, attorneys Mark Brewer and Steve Liedel have found blatant examples of what is called "round robin" signing.



POLITICS  
KYLE MELINN

They have evidence that a "Gang of Eight" paid petition circulators signed the names of random Michigan voters on various petitions so they could earn their per-signature fee and complete whatever goal was set for them. By some reports, the fee is now \$20 per signature.

Another candidate, a potential judicial candidate from Southeast Michigan, fell victim to the same scheme from First Choice Contracting. Five names, Nicholas Charlton, Jonell Hampton, Stephen Tinnin, Yazmine Vasser and William Williams, appeared as signature collectors on all three petitions.

The judicial candidate who talked to MIRS opted not to run instead of filing petitions because he questioned the signatures' legitimacy.

Craig and Johnson — who pushed their signature collection to the deadline — did file. It's only now, after Brewer blew the whistle, that Craig is claiming to be a victim of the forgeries.

The Bureau of Elections will tell us in a couple of weeks if Craig and Johnson will make the August primary ballot after all of their bad signatures are thrown out. But that shouldn't be the end of the story.

Regardless of how the Republican field shakes out, these individuals must be prosecuted by authorities.

Back in 2010, former U.S. Rep. Thad McCotter's reelection campaign turned in petitions with names clearly ripped out of a phonebook. Two former McCotter staffers received probation and community service for their role in the scam.

Conservative activist Brandon Hall was jailed for 23 days for his role in forging petitions on a judicial campaign. He pled guilty to 10 felony counts of election fraud.

In the McCotter and Hall cases, lazy staff work caused panic, which resulted in very bad choices. In the case of James Craig and Perry Johnson, we are talking about theft and scam. If investigators agree with Brewer and Liedel, the attorney general must throw the book at these aforementioned "Gang of 8" for the integrity of our election system.

Regardless of how you feel about the former Detroit police chief or the Quality Guru, Michigan voters may

not get the option of voting for either during this summer's primary. If too many fraudulent signatures are found, either one or both will be kicked off the ballot.

Both men paid people for work they didn't do. Just as if someone sold you a car with no engine or claimed to fix a leaky roof and did not. The circulators scammed them and are scamming all of us. They are making a mockery of our sacred electoral system.

The irony of a cop and a quality expert turning in cruddy signatures is rich, to be sure. Campaigns shouldn't be putting themselves in a position where they are either too time-strapped or broke to scrub signatures.

Still, a signal needs to be sent to the bands of transient circulators who travel from state to state to do this work that Michigan is serious about its election system. Inserting random names onto a petition is not OK.

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

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

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

Request for consideration of a site plan and special use permit from Josie Lewis to use the multiple-family dwelling at 404 E. Michigan Avenue for a fraternity. The property is zoned RM-54 (University Oriented Multiple-Family Residential District).

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

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

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

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City 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#22-119

### Notice of Public Hearing

Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy will hold a public hearing June 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm at 730 W. Maple Street, Lansing, MI 48906, (517) 485-5379, to review the proposed 2022-2023 operating budget. **A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address.**

CP#22-118

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Peter B. Kleinhenz for the property at 352 University Drive to replace six basement windows with glass block windows.
- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Kathryn J. Tieman for the property at 338 M.A.C. Avenue to renovate the front porch, add an egress window and a limestone patio in the rear yard.
- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Anna Zacharski for the property at 503 Park Lane to demolish a chimney.
- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Anna Zacharski for the property at 503 Park Lane to demolish the existing garage.

For more information on the request please contact Darcy Schmitt at (517) 319-6941 or [dschmitt@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:dschmitt@cityofeastlansing.com). Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [coelhistoricdistricts@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:coelhistoricdistricts@cityofeastlansing.com).

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Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#22-120



# 2022 EAST LANSING ART FESTIVAL

MAY 21 & 22, 2022 | SAT 10-6 P.M. & SUN 10-5 P.M. | DOWNTOWN EAST LANSING | ELARTFEST.COM | FREE

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Transportation Authority

## ARTIST AWARDS

**MSU Federal Credit  
Union's Desk Drawer Fund**  
Diamond Excellence Award

**City of East Lansing,  
Arts Commission & DDA**  
People's Choice Award

**Woven Art Yarn & Seams**  
Excellence in Fiber

**Graduate Hotel**  
Go Green Award

**John and Diane Revitte**  
3D Appreciation

**Saper Galleries**  
Best in Gallery

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Arts Commission  
Communications  
East Lansing Hannah  
Community Center  
East Lansing Public Library  
Information Systems

**CITY OF  
EAST LANSING:**  
Parking & Code  
Enforcement (PACE)  
Police Department  
Fire Department  
Public Works &  
Environmental Services  
...and the many City employees  
and community volunteers who  
go the extra mile to make the  
festival a success!



## PRESTIGE SPONSORS



## GRANT SUPPORT

The festival is presented by the East Lansing Art Festival Board in cooperation with the City of East Lansing.



## ARTISTS DEMONSTRATION AREA

**Saturday, May 21**  
Artists 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

GL Reality Labs, *Tilt Brush* Demonstration  
Community Dark Room, *photography*  
East Lansing High School, *Art Department*  
East Lansing Public Library, *multimedia*

**Sunday, May 22**  
Artists 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

GL Reality Labs, *Tilt Brush* Demonstration  
Greater Lansing Pottery Guild, *ceramics*  
East Lansing Ceramics Group, *ceramics*  
East Lansing Public Library, *multimedia*

This two-day celebration of arts and culture kicks off the local festival season. The East Lansing Art Festival is an outdoor celebration of fine art and fine craft which includes two days of performances, hands-on art activities, an artist demonstration area, an interactive art installation and virtual poetry reading and performance schedule. The festival opens on Saturday morning and runs through Sunday afternoon. This highly anticipated mid-Michigan festival attracts over 60,000 knowledgeable art patrons from around the region.

## JACKSON MAIN STAGE

Saturday, May 21		Sunday, May 22	
10 a.m.	Eugene Clark	11 a.m.	Flames N Dames
11:45 a.m.	Greater Lansing Academy of Dance	11:30 a.m.	Cross-Eyed Strangers
1:15 p.m.	Amy Petty	1 p.m.	C-Mighty - Risky Music Group
2:45 p.m.	Ammy Amorette	2:30 p.m.	Joe Reilly and the Community Gardeners with the All Nations Dancers
4:15 p.m.	Eagle Spirit Dancers	4 p.m.	Angela Davis

## ONLINE SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 21		Sunday, May 22	
11 a.m.	Poetry Readings	11 a.m.	Poetry Readings
11:30 a.m.	GL Reality Labs - Tilt Brush Demo	11:30 a.m.	Community Dark Room - Lumen prints Demo
12 p.m.	Poetry Readings	12 p.m.	Artist Award winner int. - Excellence in Fiber
1 p.m.	Artist Interview - People's Choice #1	12:30 p.m.	Poetry Readings
1:30 p.m.	Poetry Readings	1 p.m.	C-Mighty - Risky Music Group live-stream
2 p.m.	Artist Interview - People's Choice #2	1:30 p.m.	Artist Award winner int. - Diamond Purchase
2:30 p.m.	Artist Interview - People's Choice #3	2 p.m.	Artist Award winner int. - Go Green Award
3 p.m.	Artist Interview - Best in Gallery	2:30 p.m.	Artist Interview -3D Appreciation
4:15 p.m.	Eagle Spirit Dancers live-stream		

## EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Booth Number	Artist Name
<b>2-D MIXED MEDIA</b>	
3	Inty Muenala
6	Jason Keusch
10	Salina Kalnins
13	Sarah Anderson
19	Lee Burstein
37	Espacia Fotiu
62	Steph Joy Hogan
81	Sarah VanTol
93	Ila Catherine Hofacker
105	Karin Wagner Coron
107	Kandy Myny
132	Kathy Sheldon
139	Tyler Voorhees
169	Marshelia Williams

86	Lavinia Hanachiuc
87	Andy Hill
113	Joe Piotrowski
123	Michael Schroeder
159	Dan Carmichael

<b>CERAMICS • FUNCTIONAL</b>	
50	Jeff Hageman
56	Jim Reinert
65	Emily LoPresto
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Millie Funk	Ammy Amorette
Theresa Levett	Rian Harlow
Melanie Griffin	Patricia Von Niessen
Ben May	

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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Taking it to the streets: Navigating the 59th East Lansing Art Festival

By SARAH SPOHN

After the East Lansing Art Festival (ELAF) went digital in 2020, and then hosted a smaller footprint in 2021, local art aficionados can rest assured that the 59th annual event is returning and is “pretty much back to business as usual,” according to ELAF coordinator Heather Majano.

“We have 171 artists on site, two full days of performances, interactive opportunities with artists at the artist demonstration area, and eight food trucks,” Majano said. “On top of that, MSU’s Art Fair is also back this year.”

Typically, the free event draws around 60,000 attendees to the streets of downtown East Lansing. For 2022, Majano said she expects that or an even larger crowd. Extra sanitation stations will be set up while additional cleaning volunteers will be on duty at the food court in the Bailey Street Parking Lot (129 Bailey St.).

“As far as social distancing, there aren’t currently any requirements on that from the Health Department,” she said. “If that changes within the next week, we are definitely going to follow those guidelines. We’re just encouraging people to do what they feel safe with, so if that means wearing a mask, then please, by all means, wear a mask.”

For those still not comfortable attending the large-scale event in person, the festival offers a solution. “We have virtual offerings on our East Lansing Art Festival Facebook page,” Majano said.

“There are still many opportunities for you to be a part of the festival if you can’t be on site. We have all of our artists

online, so you can go to their website and purchase directly from their shops.”

But, for those looking to get out and explore the bustling streets, there will be plenty to look at. At the heart of the festival, of course, is art — and there’s plenty of it. As usual, there are juried fine art and craft exhibitors from all over the country. This year’s roster is diverse as ever and includes ceramics, paintings, mixed media, fiber art, digital art, wood, metal, photography, glass, jewelry, printmaking, photography, sculpture and metal art.

As for live entertainment, it’s also a mixed bag. The Jackson National Life Main Stage in the Ann Street Plaza (on the corner of Albert and M.A.C. avenues) will host musicians, puppeteers, magicians, hula hoopers, and Native American dance and storytelling performers. Across the way, in Fountain Square, outside of the East Lansing Marriott, festival-goers can take in a stacked schedule of live artist demonstrations.



photo by Daniel Hogan

Steph Joy Hogan was voted the Top of the Town best artist in 2021. The local artist will be at the 59th ELAF.

### NEW THIS YEAR

Although the festival celebrates a long history of tradition, Majano said this year’s ELAF includes a few new exciting components — including a larger-than-life installation at Albert and Division Street.

“The East Lansing Arts Commission and their cultural arts grants are funding this floral art install by Sparrow Bloom Co., a local florist,” she said. “It will be a great opportunity for selfies, quick family photos, and photos with your friends. There’s usually a really ugly barricaded turnaround for the parking garage. This will help make it prettier and beautify that corner.”

Majano added that a locally based software development company, utilizing the latest technologies in virtual and augmented reality, will also be in the artist demonstration area, adding a fun, techie facet to the weekend.

She said the company, GL Reality Labs, usually works with movies. “They have virtual reality goggles, so artists can actually design 3D art in a virtual reality. Kids will be on stage with goggles, and you’ll see on the video screens behind them — they’re actually building and creating art in a virtual reality, making it come alive and interacting with it. It’s going to be this cool opportunity to see the next wave of digital art.”

### ELAF ARTIST SPOTLIGHTS

*While artists from across the map will be at the festival, City Pulse caught up with three locals who will be on hand, showing and selling their work.*

#### STEPH JOY HOGAN

A familiar name in town, Steph Joy Hogan was voted the Top of the Town best artist in 2021 and in the Top 3 in 2018, 2019 and 2020. This Lansing-based 2D mixed-media artist uses acrylic ink and paint, found paper scraps and hand-painted paper to cre-

ate vibrant, colorful pieces.

She has been a featured artist at ELAF every year since 2018, when she was awarded an “emerging artist” tent. Hogan said she is thrilled to reconnect in person this year.

“The East Lansing Art Festival is always a favorite because I get to create those connections with people local to me, and it’s just very special,” Hogan said. “I find these interactions so energizing and really fueling and inspiring for my creativity.”

Although some shoppers might shy away from talking with the artists, feeling awkward or nervous, Hogan, 46, said she encourages festival attendees to chat it up with vendors.

“It takes a lot of courage and vulnerability to put yourself out there and share the art you’ve creat-

ed, and it’s so validating when people show interest in your work,” Hogan said. “I highly recommend saying hello and complimenting work you like, even if you don’t plan to make a purchase.”

“Most artists love to talk about how and where they work, what inspires them, what they’re working on next, and more,” she added. “Ask us which is our favorite piece and why. Tell us which is your favorite. You’ll definitely hear a lot of fun stories.”

#### DIANE MATER

Diane Mater, a first-year ELAF artist, has a diverse resume when it comes to art. The Lansing resident has been a painter, woodworker and, a few years ago, also started jewelry making. Now, her repertoire includes handcrafted sterling silver, gold, and pearl rings, necklaces, earrings and bracelets. “Most of my pieces are fairly simple in style,” Mater said. “They’re not flashy or grandiose.”

Mater, 59, said she operates MaterJewelry out of her garage, cutting out shapes, soldering and polishing stones and gems. Some simple pieces, like silver rings, can take an hour or so to create. Meanwhile, other complex works, like pearl brooches, can take upward of 10 hours. Her items range \$10 to \$400, but most come in under \$60.

“It’s more everyday jewelry, except for a few pieces,” Mater said. “Overall,



Courtesy

Diane Mater’s brand, MaterJewelry, will be featured at ELAF.

I would describe it as everyday jewelry, with a bend towards the mid-century modern aesthetic.”

#### DANIEL J. HOGAN

A Lansing artist who works with ink and watercolor to create drawings and comics, Daniel J. Hogan is known for his whimsical cartoon-based work. His first time as a vendor at the East Lansing Art

Festival was in 2018, alongside his wife, Steph Joy Hogan. Last year marked a recording-breaking sales weekend at the ELAF for the cartoonist.

“I get a lot of kids in my tent because of my cartoony work,” he said. “It’s always

great when they see a piece and say how much they love it or want it. Whenever a parent says their child likes to draw, I tell them to keep drawing.”

While some of his most memorable stories from festival interactions include meeting the next generation of artists, Hogan, 40, said he encourages artsy folks of all ages.

“I only started cartooning 10 years ago at age 30. It’s never too late to start making art,” Hogan said. “I get the ‘I can’t even draw a straight line’ response from many guests, and I reply with, ‘So? I don’t care about straight lines. Straight lines are boring.’ It’s the same reason I don’t go for realism in my art. I’m not interested in realism or looking like a photograph. Draw stick figures — that’s how I started.”



Daniel J. Hogan



Art by Daniel J. Hogan.

### 59th annual East Lansing Art Festival

Downtown East Lansing  
May 21, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
May 22, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
elartfest.com

See Pages 14–15 for schedule



# LSO goes where no one has gone before in season closer

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Is there anything new under the Sun? The first minutes of “Earthrise,” the world premiere of a cosmic-themed work by LSO composer-in-residence Patrick Harlin, left room for doubt.

## Review

World premiere or not, it all sounded familiar. Tiny twinkles of “Star Trek,” swoops of stratospheric strings in the style of John Williams, chugging brass pulling against the Earth’s gravity, yeah, yeah, we know — but wait. The eye-watering opener of Friday’s Lansing Symphony season closer was just getting started. Harlin had much bigger ideas in mind.

Like a mad mixer with wall-to-wall reel-to-reel equipment, the orchestra fast-forwarded though every familiar space trope since Sputnik, including chattering, muted brass straight out of Carl Stalling’s “Bugs Bunny” adventures with Marvin the Martian. A premature climax came in the form of a ballsy bull charge into the fanfare from “Also Sprach Zarathustra,” aka “2001: A Space Odyssey.” BOOM, boom, BOOM.

“There, that’s out of the way,” Harlin

seemed to be saying. “Now let’s get to business.”

But where could they go from there? A gut-deep churning in the strings, followed by disorienting, verge-of-chaos acceleration, gave way to the most elusive of cosmic phenomena: human thought. Way up there, beyond escape velocity, quiet spaces beckoned. A simple downward “de-da,” answered with an upward “da-de,” hinted at deeper questions stirring in the void. In a maneuver Harlin calls the “lighthouse,” music director Timothy Muffitt swept his arm 180 degrees, back and forth — sometimes fast, sometimes slowly — as the sections of the orchestra changed color, pattern and texture like a luminescent squid.

Finally, amid the murmurs and pulsations, the wonderment and the vertigo, a three-syllable love theme marked the



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Lansing Symphony Orchestra maestro Timothy Muffitt and guest soloist Clayton Stephenson bounced into the rag-timey finale of Florence Price’s Piano Concerto in One Movement at Thursday’s dress rehearsal for the symphony’s season closer Friday.

moment humans looked back and saw their own home, the tiny blue Earth, rising above the horizon of the Moon. An

inner voice seemed to whisper, “There it is. There it is.” Massive pillars of melody in the brass underpinned what may be history’s most dramatic epiphany — the shocking image of Earthrise.

At that moment, tears welled up in my eyes. I found myself thinking, not about space travel, but about the end of Thornton Wilder’s play “Our Town,” when the dead Emily rises from the cemetery to watch her own 12th birthday party and futilely urges the living people to appreciate what they have.

The strings exhaled a sigh of revelation that ionized into glassy harmonics

See Symphony, Page 18

# PRESTON ART & MUSIC

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# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

LANSGING AREA  
BANDS CONTRIBUTE  
TO GUIDED BY VOICES  
TRIBUTE ALBUM

Local label Phonophore Records  
releases 'All The Good Kids'



Cover art for "All Good Kids - A Tribute to Guided By Voices."

Matt Carlson is known locally for his singer/guitarist work in The Stick Arounds, and his solo project, Harborcoat, expanded his rock 'n roll workload when he founded Phonophore Records. Even through the pandemic, the newly launched label has kept busy with a series of releases. Back in April, the imprint released a dynamic 28-track tribute to Guided By Voices — a legendary, lo-fi indie-rock outfit led by the prolific Robert Pollard.

Carlson chatted with City Pulse about "All Good Kids - A Tribute to Guided By Voices." Here's what he had to say about the freshly issued compilation that features a wide range of Midwest bands, including a laundry list of Michigan-based outfits. Friday (May 20), Carlson's bands The Stick Arounds and Harborcoat both perform at The Avenue Café.

**Whose idea was the Guided By Voices (GBV) covers record?**

**Matt Carlson:** This was all me. I'm the guy to blame for this thing. I'd been pondering the idea of a tribute record for a while. I had a few artists that I seriously considered for the idea, but I just kept getting pulled back into Guided By Voices.

**Why did you pick GBV?**

First, because they're one of my favorite bands. I also knew a bunch of disparate bands in the Michigan music scene who were GBV fans of one stripe or another. The second benefit of choosing GBV is the sheer mass of songs from which to choose. Their catalog is literally thousands of songs and growing on an almost daily basis, and that isn't even counting Robert

Pollard's solo records and side projects. Despite the massive amount of material to choose from, there is also a huge sonic spectrum in the GBV canon. Pollard is known to say that GBV traffics in "The Four Ps" — pop, psych, prog and punk. GBV have so many amazing songs that there are a bunch of tunes that fans would consider "hits" that aren't even on this release. That's a rare thing.

**How did you first discover GBV?**

My drummer and dear friend Joel "Kernel" Kuiper spent something like a full year, 2004, I think, trying to turn me into a GBV disciple. I dug what I had heard, but I just wasn't taking the time to try and dive in. So, Kernel gave me a comp called "Human Amusements at Hourly Rates." At first, I was attracted to a few of the catchier and "produced" songs. Then, after a few more listens I was fascinated by this weird wizard



Matt Carlson

in Dayton, Ohio. Once I figured out how great the songs were, the more I fell in love with the DIY aspect of many of their records. These were guys just pumping out loads of amazing songs — made on everything from high end studio gear to a boombox cassette deck.

**Genre-wise, how would you describe the tracklist on your tribute?**

Eclectic certainly seems like an accurate descriptor of this comp. There's indie rock, pop, noise rock, punk, goth

and more on this thing. Some of the versions on this release are somewhat faithful to the original, but it truly felt like there was an individual stamp by each band on the comp. Every band inserted their own personality into their song.

**I know you can't pick one favorite, but what are a few tracks you think people should check out?**

The Ladyship Warship version of "Hot Freaks" just kills me every time I hear it. I love that they turned it into a duet. The whole thing slinks along with these vague but lascivious lyrics, and it just works so damned well. It is a perfect example of so many songs on this comp that are played with great personality.

Also, my dear friend David Baldwin, who plays with me in Harborcoat, released a song under his pseudonym Teutonosaur. I could be wrong, but I think this is the first official release of David's career with him as the front-person. His version of "The Best of Jill Hives" is just beautiful. Singing along with Dave when it plays makes me happy.

Our only non-Midwest entry on the comp was my new friend Kevin Robertson from Scotland. I met Kevin virtually and became very fond of the band he shares with his son, Scott, called Vapour Trails. I reached out to Kevin since I knew he was a GBV fan. He and Scott came up with a gorgeous version of "14 Cheerleader Coldfront." That's just two voices and a pair of acoustic guitars. It was great to grow the Phonophore family across the Atlantic.

**Stream "All the Good Kids" at [phonophorerecords.bandcamp.com](https://phonophorerecords.bandcamp.com).**



## Symphony

from page 17

as the orchestra thrummed and exploded to an orgiastic climax of self-recognition.

It's a good thing Harlin is sticking around for another year as LSO composer-in-residence, having lost out on the pandemic season of 2019-2020 — but good luck following this one up.

There's nothing like touching native soil after returning from space (or so I've heard), and that made the solidity and weight of Florence Price's Piano Concerto all the more welcome. The very first note played by guest pianist Clayton Stephenson hit so hard it rang the Earth's crust like a bell. That enabled Stephenson and the orchestra to anchor stern columns of sound into the bedrock and string them with grand cables of spacious melody.

Stephenson had power to spare, but he seemed to relish lingering in the quieter gardens of the second movement, dreamily drawing out melody after melody. Many times, the notes at the end of a phrase dripped sweetly from his hand like dark syrup from a tree trunk. Along the way, he drew oboist Stephanie Shapiro and cellist JinHyun Kim into delightful, one-on-one dances.

The finale shook off any lingering melancholy with a rousing juba, an early form of ragtime dance. Rarely does an orchestral stab at anything close to jazz escape a feeling of awkwardness, and this performance was no exception. But Stephenson's overall zest and the orchestra's energy pulled you on the floor in spite of yourself.

Uh-oh — the red light is on, meaning it's time to wrap up, but it's just as well. It saves me from an exhausting, and futile, blow-by-blow description of the evening's epic closer, Brahms' magisterial Second Symphony. The whole horn section, especially principal horn Corbin Wagner, embodied the essence of light itself. Under Muffitt's sweeping, big-picture direction, inexorable tectonic plates of sound melded, collided and came to rest, only to surge and shift into even more majestic forms. When the orchestra played an octave — the same note, sounding at high and low frequencies, in different sections of the orchestra — it felt like they were dividing the Biblical firmament above from the firmament below. This wasn't even music. It was mist and rock, the twisting trunks of oaks and the sparkle of cascading rivers, revealed to your ears instead of your eyes.



# Two books dig deeper into Bath School massacre

BY BILL CASTANIER

Today, May 18, many Bath, Michigan, residents will wake up knowing it's the 95th anniversary of the Bath School massacre, which remains the worst school disaster in U.S. history.

The violent attack was perpetrated by Andrew Kehoe, a disgruntled local farmer and former school board member who had collected grievances against the community, ranging from high taxes to losing local elections. In response, Kehoe used dynamite to blow up the school. Following the explosion, the perpetrator set off a cache of explosives in his car — killing himself and others nearby.

Ultimately, it claimed the lives of 38 school children and six adults, including teachers, while 58 others suffered injuries. A day after the tragedy, the death total swelled to 45 after the wife of the bomber was found dead. One new book and one updated one detail that horrific day and bring surprising new information to the disaster.

The first, "Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing," by Chicago author Arnie Bernstein, has been expanded with a new introduction and new interviews with two survivors, Myrna Gates-Coulter and Ralph D. Witchell. Bernstein conducted the interviews shortly after the first edition in 2009.

"I felt I needed to interview them for the record," Bernstein said. "Their stories deepened and expanded the stories that were previously published."

"When I began writing the story, I wanted it to be my 'In Cold Blood,'"



Amie M. Jones

Bernstein said, referencing the 1966 Truman Capote true-crime classic. "I learned that it was never my story. It was their story."

It is important to note that Bernstein stuck to the facts while writing his book, while Capote wove in bits of fiction for dramatic effect throughout "In Cold Blood," which detailed the 1959 Clutter family murders at a Kansas farmhouse. However, while writing the book, Bernstein said he did borrow stylistically from Capote, including using "short bursts" of dialogue and facts.

In his new introduction, Bernstein writes about "memory and the importance of bearing witness." Following the Sandy Hook school massacre in 2012, the author was met with a barrage of interviews from media across the world. He writes in his book: "It was an awesome responsibility being the spokesperson for two generations of murdered children."

Signed copies of Bernstein's book are available at Everybody Reads Bookstore in Lansing.

The new book, "The Forgotten Children of Bath: Media and Memory of the Bath School Bombing of 1927," is the by-product of a dissertation by Amie M. Jones, a 2019 Ph.D. graduate of the University of Georgia. Jones, who graduated with a degree in journalism and mass communication, captivatingly details how contemporary mass media covered the story as it unfolded in 1927, along with a focus on the collective memory of survivors and community members.

And for those who want to delve more deeply into that coverage, the book provides copious citations of news accounts. It was digging back into archives that initially led Jones to this historic Mid-Michigan case.

"Following the tragedy of Sandy Hook, I wondered what was the worst school disaster and Googled it. I had never heard of the Bath School massacre," Jones recalled. "It was there the idea for my research developed."

From there, Jones soon learned that following the bombing, media from all over the world descended on the small community by train, plane and automobile.

"It was a tiny village with a population of about 400, and overnight it was the center of media attention," the author said.

Digging back, Jones said she realized there was no template for press coverage

of school massacres, as there is today. Back in 1927, some news stories referred to the Bath perpetrator as a "fiend" and a "madman," among other monikers.

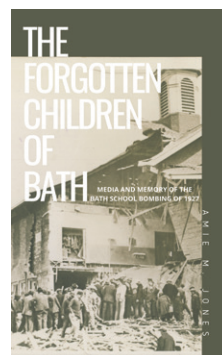
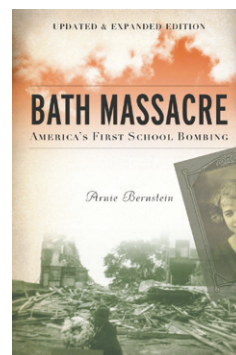
Jones' research showed that media coverage of the massacre centered around three major themes: "tales of heroism, the presence of miracles and the labeling of Andrew Kehoe as a madman."

She found while reviewing scores of news articles that newspapers closer to Bath focused on bravery in rescue work, and kindness and philanthropy. Also, local coverage continued long after major media left to go on to the next big story, which was Lindbergh's Atlantic crossing and his landing in Paris.

The author was also surprised how quickly real photo postcards of the Massacre were in print and being sold and how fast a newsreel was shown at Lansing's Strand Theatre.


Jones also believes that Bath residents were not forthcoming in speaking to non-local media, especially in light of the estimated 60,000 to 80,000 disaster tourists who filled the roads leading to Bath following the massacre.

In addition to pouring over microfiche of newspapers of the day, while researching, Jones visited Bath, including the Bath School Museum, where she met with second-generation survivors. "They were very nice to me," she said. "I stayed with family members."



"Bath Massacre" and "The Forgotten Children of Bath" both painstakingly retell the tragic 1927 school bombing.

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# Everything is Cheesecake upsizes to Jolly Cedar Plaza

BY SARAH SPOHN

When Deanna Brown was working her customer sales job at a Fortune 500 company, she felt burnt out. Needing an outlet to de-stress, she found out that baking cookies and cakes in the kitchen was her happy place. A specific favorite to serve up was the ever-rich cheesecake.

This month, her business, Everything is Cheesecake, celebrated its grand opening of a brick and mortar location on the south side of Lansing. The business has humble beginnings, with Brown selling cheesecakes out of a cooler, under a pink tent, on the corner of South Martin Luther King Boulevard and Pierce Rd. She then graduated to a food truck on Cedar Street — and now, finally, a full-on store front.

Brown, a Lansing native, said the growth has been steady, but natural, all through word-of-mouth.

“To this day, we’ve never taken out any advertisements of any sort,” she said. “We’ve never done any Facebook or Instagram ads. Everything is all just word-of-mouth. That’s how we got our traction.”

On May 7, Everything is Cheesecake celebrated its grand opening at 5214 South Cedar in Lansing’s Jolly Cedar Plaza. After receiving the keys in April 2021, the entire space, a former Domino’s Pizza, was completely redone. The inside front now features el-

egant countertops, with a white marble look, a display case with the day’s flavors, and a mural created by local artist Ozay Moore. The art covers the entire right wall and details each step of Brown’s business journey.

Brown said the support she’s received from the community is indescribable. No matter the weather, before it opens, customers willingly line up outside to get a slice of Everything is Cheesecake.

“Lansing has been so supportive throughout my whole journey,” Brown said, “It feels good to be here on the south side, the side of town I was born and raised in. Having the support of the city means so much because this is just a little small business that was my dream. To see it come to fruition like this, and have the customers behind me, is an awesome feeling.”

On the menu is a dynamic batch of options: fresh-strawberry glaze, very berry, key lime, strawberry crunch, Cap’n Crunch, cinnamon roll, lemon, Oreo and more. But for those looking to recreate Brown’s menu at home — good luck. These tasty treats are well-kept family secrets.

“A lot of these recipes I use are over 125 years old, and belong to my grandmother,” Brown said. “You just can’t give anyone these recipes.”

Keeping these recipes under wraps, at least for now, isn’t hard. Every-

## Everything is Cheesecake

5214 South Cedar St., Lansing  
Thursday-Saturday: 12 to 6 p.m.  
Sunday: Noon-4 p.m.  
(517) 580-3633  
everythingis cheesecake.com



Photo by Sarah Spohn

A slice from Everything is Cheesecake.



Photo by Sarah Spohn

Deanna Brown poses next to her business’ mural, which details her journey running Everything is Cheesecake. The new shop celebrated its grand opening May 7. The former food truck has grown a local following in Lansing thanks to word-of-mouth fanfare.

thing is Cheesecake is a tight-knit operation. Brown’s staff comprises only four employees, including Brown’s daughter, who often works the front counter. When he can, Brown’s husband helps bake.

for customers.

“We sell out because this is a small family business, we’re not at a scale yet where we’re able to have a large production, or a bunch of employees,” Brown said. “But we’ll get there.”



Though, as head baker, every cheesecake is mixed personally by Brown herself. Her assistant, Carol Pierce, assembles the strawberry shortcake and lemon cakes.

Although the business frequently sells out before closing time every day, Brown said that’s a good problem to have. She also realizes it can be upsetting or inconvenient

## Arts & Entertainment Editor

City Pulse, Lansing, Michigan’s weekly alternative newspaper seeks a writing editor to cover and oversee our arts & entertainment coverage.



For 21 years, the Greater Lansing community has looked to City Pulse for comprehensive arts and entertainment coverage.

### Duties include:

- Assigning stories and reviews to staff members and freelancers.
- Editing stories, reviews, standing features and columns.
- Writing 1-3 print stories a week, including occasional cover stories, and two to three exclusive web stories a week.
- Overseeing annual theater awards selections.

If you are interested, email a cover letter, resume, writing samples and three references to  
**[publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com)**  
Please put **A&E Editor** in the subject line.

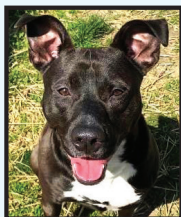
**CityPULSE**

*We celebrate diversity and welcome all that would apply.*

## Ingham County Animal Shelter

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

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

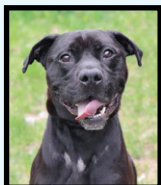


**Benji** is a sweet, bouncy 7 yr. old who loves people and is fine with other dogs. He would love an active home with lots of outdoor time.

**SOLDAN'S PET SUPPLIES**

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locally owned & operated since 1955  
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5016 S. MLK Jr. Blvd  
**Okemos**  
2283 Grand River Ave.  
**DeWitt**  
12286 Old U.S. 27  
**Charlotte**  
515 Lansing St.



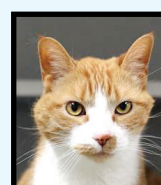
**Chattahoochee** is a smart, friendly and outgoing 7 yr. old lab/chow mix. He likes other dogs and would enjoy a home that can give him attention and love.

Sponsored by  
**Anne & Dale Schrader**



**Mentos** is a sweet scared 9 yr. old Siamese who would do best in a quiet, calm home. He would prefer a one person household with no other pets.

City Pulse



**Hoosier** is big handsome orange tabby. He enjoys gentle petting and should be fine with older kids that won't try to pick him up.

Sponsored by  
**Schuler Books**



**Ormand** is a young buff colored gentleman who is super friendly and should do fine with kids, other cats and maybe a polite dog.

In memory of Rodica's cats



# New pot shop takes over old East Lansing car dealership

## Multi-state cannabis giant rolls up cheap bud for college crowds

A new marijuana dispensary is set to open its doors next week on the western edge of East Lansing. And while there will certainly be a wide assortment of weed lining its shelves, the staff at Ascend Cannabis would prefer the new store be thought of as much more than a “pot shop.”



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

Ascend Cannabis is set to open for business on Tuesday (May 24).

“Think of us as more than a dispensary — so much more,” explained Regional Retail Director Vince Bozman. “Part of our mission is bettering your life through cannabis, but we also really want to be a part of the East Lansing and Lansing community. Whether with community service or sponsorships, we just want to make our presence known with accessible, affordable cannabis for local residents and by making a positive impact in the community any way we can.”

Bozman billed Ascend Cannabis as one of the largest vertically integrated cannabis companies in the country, with at least 20 other dispensaries and several cultivation operations across six states, including six stores in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Detroit and Morenci.

The newest location in East Lansing is a revival of the long-shuttered Sawyer’s Pontiac dealership, just east of the Red Cedar redevelopment project. It opens Tuesday (May 24).



Ascend also has a large cultivation facility on Hazel Street in Lansing, which will supply weed directly to the East Lansing pot shop when it opens for business. ... Oh, right. It’s not a pot shop. Joaquin Torres, a visiting manager from Grand Rapids, prefers the term “lifestyle center.”

“I think another big part of our mission is breaking down stigmas about cannabis and also having some really highly trained associates who can help guide customers to the best products that work for them,” said Torres, who manages Ascend’s 28th Street provisioning center in Grand Rapids. “It’s about inviting everyone to the table and making cannabis more accessible.”

And, at Ascend, accessible means cheap — really cheap.

“Because we’re one of the largest operators out there, that comes with some really affordable pricing,” Bozman added. “Our mission is about ensuring we have

affordable products for everyone who comes in the door. It needs to be accessible from a monetary standpoint.”

When the store opens next week, the \$90 ounces from Ascend’s in-house brand “Simply Herb” will be the single cheapest weed option in Greater Lansing. Trust me: I’ve shopped around.

Pincanna is the current record holder with \$99 ounces. Aside from shake, the cheapest ounce at neighboring Pure Options retailed for \$152 last week — and there was only one strain in stock.

As mentioned in last month’s Gift Guide, Simply Herb is a decent, no-thrills brand for any occasion that’ll still get smokers plenty high. Maybe more important, it won’t break the bank.

Cannabis connoisseurs also won’t be disappointed: Ascend’s other in-house brands, “Ozone” and “Ozone Reserve,” are tailored for smokers more willing to shell out a bit more cash for a superior product. I’ll pick some up Thursday (May 26) at the grand opening festivities.

Bozman also said a variety of other Michigan-based brands will be available next week — and more affordable for Ascend’s dedicated customer base: Michigan State University students.

All students get a 10% discount, as well as a free prerolled joint with every

purchase of \$25 or more. Medical marijuana patients will also receive an added 15% discount.

Home delivery is set to launch over the summer, covering all of Lansing and East Lansing.

“Ascend is for everyone — not just a certain group. Anybody can come here, and spend \$5 or \$500, and walk away with a product that works for them and their budget,” Torres added.

Bozman said all the extra space in the parking lot could eventually enable Ascend to host events, including the possibility of live music, food trucks and a pop-up, drive-in movie theater.

Also worth mentioning, largely because it’s unfortunately so rare in the cannabis industry: The general of Ascend’s new East Lansing location, April Clark, is a woman — and she’s damn proud of it. A recent MJBizDaily report found that the portion of management positions filled by women in the cannabis industry is about 22%, which is far lower than the national average for all businesses in the traditional economy — a still abysmal average of about 30%.



*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).*



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

Regional Retail Director Vince Bozman and visiting manager Joaquin Torres stand by a sign at Ascend Cannabis which details its mission statement: “Bettering your life with cannabis.”

## Seed hub

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Skill Sets”--going a bit squabbly.  
by Matt Jones

Across

1. “People Puzzler” ainer  
4. Adult Swim’s “Joe \_\_\_\_ Talks With You”  
8. English university city  
13. Tab, for example  
14. “I’m rippin’ up \_\_\_\_ doll ...” (Aerosmith lyric)  
15. “Ad \_\_\_\_ per aspera”  
16. \_\_\_\_ of the hat  
17. Really close group of friends?  
19. Equilateral unit of steam?  
21. Palindromic dental deg.  
22. How cuneiform characters were often preserved

23. Dollar bill depiction, familiarly  
25. Yell after finishing a ride, maybe  
26. Reddit Q&A forum  
29. To be, to Nero  
30. They’re on all four Monopoly board edges, for short  
31. Territorial land grabber  
35. Response to “Are my shoes really that waterlogged?”  
39. Fashionable quality  
40. NFL Pro Bowl safety Chancellor  
42. Albanian’s neighbor  
45. OutKast’s city, for short  
46. “Fine, what’s the answer?”  
48. “Be right there”  
51. Snowball thrower  
52. Bathrooms in Bath  
53. Sound from an ocean

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- predator imitating a mouse?  
57. High-pitched cries of joy during summer?  
59. London’s national art gallery  
60. “Arrivederci” relative  
61. They’re all mined  
62. Actor Sitka (one of two actors who appeared with all six different Stooges on film)  
63. \_\_\_\_ Haute, Indiana  
64. Nair rival, once  
65. Punk record label, or a retired ultra-fast aircraft  
  
Down  
1. Showed one’s ire  
2. Antique book protector  
3. Seaport southeast of Roma  
4. “Crazy” singer Cline  
5. La Salle who returned

- to “Coming 2 America”  
6. Jar sold near the farfalle  
7. Ottoman Empire official  
8. Uses high-tech beams  
9. “Roman J. Israel, \_\_\_\_” (2017 movie)  
10. Musical practice pieces  
11. Stage offerings  
12. Bike seat  
13. Expensive eggs  
18. \_\_\_\_TV (“Adam Ruins Everything” network)  
20. Cattle farm  
24. “The X-Files” program, for short  
26. Former Bowl of Hawaii  
27. Everest, for one  
28. “Tokyo Vice” star Elgort  
32. Sounds of dismay  
33. Mensa still tests them

34. 1968 CCR hit preceded by the lyric “Baby I love you”  
36. Alerts from HQ  
37. Winter Olympics groups  
38. Exchange blows  
41. She was followed by Scholz  
42. Carefree reply  
43. Turn LEAD into GOLF, maybe?  
44. Tend to your Crockpot stew a few hours later  
47. Squat muscles  
49. Suffix similar to -ish  
50. “Crazy Rich Asians” director  
51. “Hey! Over here!”  
54. Many millennia  
55. Like some collectibles  
56. Cubism-influenced Swiss artist  
58. To be, in Tijuana

SUDOKU

Advanced

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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 23

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

May 18-24, 2022

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** “The only way to the truth is through blasphemy,” declared Aries author Flannery O’Connor. I appreciate the cheeky sentiment, but I don’t believe that all truth requires blasphemy. In many cases, rebellion, irreverence, and skepticism may be enough to pry loose hidden and buried information. Outright blasphemy isn’t necessary. What does this have to do with you? Well, I’m hoping you will be feisty and audacious in your quest for interesting truths. As you dig, I invite you to be less than perfectly polite. Don’t be rude or unkind, of course. Just be charmingly bold.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** “I am so beautiful, sometimes people weep when they see me,” declares comedian Margaret Cho. I would love for you to summon her level of self-esteem and bravado in the coming weeks. According to my interpretation of the astrological omens, you now have the right and duty to boost your self-worth. All of creation is conspiring with you to develop more faith in yourself. And if you do the work to deepen your confidence and self-esteem, there will be an added bonus: a health breakthrough. As spiritual author Caroline Myss says, “Belief in oneself is required for healing.” My prediction: You will rouse an enhanced power to get the soul medicine you need.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** According to the blogger Artemisiaaea, “The grandeur of life is the attempt, not the solution. It’s about behaving as beautifully as one can under completely impossible circumstances; making room for what breathes in the presence of the attempt—in the coming-to-be.” I invite you to embrace that wisdom in the coming weeks, Gemini. You won’t be dealing with impossible circumstances, but you may have to navigate your way through fascinating brainteasers and heart riddles. Whatever your destination might turn out to be, enjoy the ride with all the verve you can summon. At least for now, put aside your longing for particular results and instead simply live your life as if it were a magnificent work of art.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** It will be in your interest to change more than usual in the coming weeks. I suppose you could wait around passively and scramble to adjust as life flings challenges your way. But the better approach would be to make conscious decisions about how you want to transform. Identify the situations that would most benefit from modification and then initiate the transitions. Rather than depending on fate to provide you with random wake-up calls, choose constructive wake-up calls that are fun and invigorating.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** “If everyone likes you, it probably means you aren’t saying much,” declared politician Donna Brazile. I suspect you will disprove her theory in the coming weeks. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will have a lot to say; your communications will be even more interesting than usual. And yet, I also expect you will receive extra respect and appreciation from others. While you may articulate ideas that are challenging to some, you will do so with enough charisma to disarm agitated reactions. A winning combination: expressiveness and approval.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** Have you heard of Virgo adventurer Reinhold Messner? The man is a marvel, and not just because he’s a passionate environmental activist. He was the first mountaineer to reach the top of Mt. Everest alone, as well as the first to ascend Everest without supplemental oxygen. No one before him had ever climbed all 14 of the world’s peaks higher than 26,000 feet. He has transited Greenland and Antarctica without the aid of dog sleds or snowmobiles. He also completed a solo trip across the Gobi Desert. I propose we make Messner your inspirational role model for the next four weeks. You may not achieve history-making triumphs like him, but you could surpass what you assumed were your limits. I trust that you will break at least one of your personal records.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** “The world is a very puzzling place. If you’re not willing to be puzzled, you just become a replica of someone else’s mind.” Author Noam Chomsky said that. It’s useful counsel for you right now. I’ll go even further. I will advise you to relish the healthy pleasures of being both mysterious and mystified. Seek out fertile enigmas and be a fertile enigma yourself. Explore the rejuvenating wisdom of being indefinable and uncategorizable. Exult in the quizzical joys of Eternal Paradox.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** Have you ever contemplated the beauty of the people and animals you care for and thought, “I would love to give them the strongest blessings I have to give, the smartest love I can express, and the best listening I’m able to provide.” If so, Scorpio, the coming days will be an excellent time to do that. You will have an extra capacity to offer exceptional gifts that are useful and inspirational. You will be at the peak of your ability to home in on what your beloveds need.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** Sagittarian author Madeleine L’Engle told us, “The discoveries don’t come when you’re looking for them. They come when for some reason you’ve let go conscious control.” That approach isn’t absolutely true, but it may be useful for you to deploy in the coming weeks. I invite you to relinquish at least a modicum of your conscious control. And if zesty discoveries start flowing in, consider relinquishing even a bit more conscious control.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** Is it a legend or a true story? Scholars disagree about whether Capricorn scientist Isaac Newton really was spurred to formulate the theory of gravity when an apple fell from the tree he was sitting beneath. This much is certain: Newton lived in the home near the famous apple tree. And that tree is alive today, 380 years after his birth. Ripe apples still fall from it. Is there an equivalent landmark or keystone from your own past, Capricorn—where an important insight arose or pivotal event happened? The coming weeks would be a good time to revisit that power spot, at least in your imagination, in quest of fresh inspiration.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** Aquarian poet Jack Gilbert devoted himself to soulful beauty. I swooned when I first read his line, “We must unlearn the constellations to see the stars.” I cried for joy when he said, “We must have the stubbornness to accept our gladness in the ruthless furnace of this world.” On the other hand, I suspect Jack may have been overly consumed with his pursuit of lyrical moments. His girlfriend Linda Gregg said, “All Jack ever wanted to know was that he was awake—that the trees in bloom were almond trees—and to walk down the road to get breakfast. He never cared if he was poor or had to sleep on a park bench.” I bring this up, dear Aquarius, hoping you will avoid Gilbert’s lack of attention to practical matters. In the coming weeks, I invite you to be your extravagant, idiosyncratic, interesting self to the max. But also be sure to eat healthy food, engage in pleasurable exercise, and get plenty of rejuvenating sleep—preferably in a comfortable bed rather than on a park bench.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** The Uberfacts Twitter account informs me that if you were to consume the amount of food equivalent to what a hummingbird eats, you would eat 300 hamburgers or 7,800 cabbages per day. To match the amount of exercise a hummingbird gets while burning all those calories, you’d have to do approximately 37 bazillion jumping jacks. You will never do this, of course. But in the coming weeks, you may be more metaphorically hungry than usual. I predict you will be voracious for new information and novel experiences and fresh ideas. Not 300 hamburgers or 7,800 cabbages’ worth—but still, a lot. My advice: Have fun being insatiably curious and greedy for stimulation.



OUTontheTOWN

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 upcoming Wednesday edition. 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  
**The Swift Brothers Dan Dan Solo**  
Thurs., May 19, 8-11 p.m.

**Blue Owl**  
1149 S Washington, Lansing  
**Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill**  
Thurs., May 19, 6-8 p.m.

**Eaton Rapids Craft Co.**  
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**Keegan Jacko**  
Fri., May 20, 7-10 p.m.  
**Dan Laird**  
Sat., May 21, 7-10 p.m.

**The Exchange**  
314 E. Michigan, Lansing  
**The New Rule**  
Fri.-Sat., May 20-21, 9:30 p.m.

**Green Door**  
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
Sloan  
Fri., May 20, 8:30p.m.  
**Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk**  
Sat., May 21, 8:30 p.m.

**Lansing Brewing Company**  
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing  
**Erin Coburn**  
Fri., May 20, 7-10 p.m.

**Robin Theatre**  
1105 S. Washington, Lansing  
**Betse and Clarke**  
Wed., May 18, 8 p.m.  
**Aaron Putnam and Friends**  
Thurs., May 19, 8 p.m.

**Urban Beat**  
1213 Turner Rd., Lansing  
**Mike Ward**  
Thurs., May 19, 6:30-8:45 p.m.  
**Rock Legend Series**  
Fri., May 20, 7-10 p.m.  
**Ammy Amorette Band**  
Sat., May 21, 8-11 p.m.

**Cirque Italia**  
Water Circus I: Silver Unit  
Thursday, May 19 – Sunday, May 22  
Ingham County Fairgrounds  
700 E. Ash St. Mason  
[silver.cirqueitalia.com](http://silver.cirqueitalia.com)

Cirque Italia brings a jaw-dropping, European-style extravaganza to the Ingham County Fairgrounds. This “aquatic spectacular” features a custom water stage that travels across the map. The stage, with 35,000 gallons of water, features performers that are promised to dazzle and thrill the audience with every move. The talent roster features performers from across the world, all performing under the big top tenttent, from aerial acts and hand-balancing to contortionists. Show times times vary, check the website for tickets.



Courtesy photo

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

**Allen Farmers Market** - back outdoors! Corner Shepard/Kalamazoo. 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

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

**Food Frenzy** - 4-8 p.m. Holt Farmers’ Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. [www.delhitownship.com](http://www.delhitownship.com).

**Inside Peace: Documentary Screening and Discussion** - 7-9 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. 517-332-5523.

**Ozark Fiddle Gems Workshop** - Let’s dig into some lesser-known Ozark tunes to sweeten up our repertoire. 3 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington, Lansing. [elderly.com](http://elderly.com).

**Ride of Silence** - The 15th Annual Greater Lansing Ride of Silence will be a solemn bicycling procession to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured. 6-8 p.m. MSU to Lansing, MSU Wells Hall Plaza, Lansing. 517-202-0812.

**Wine Wednesday** - Wine & Cheese tasting at 6:00 or Wine & Chocolate tasting at 8:30pm. 6-10 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [hookedlansing.com](http://hookedlansing.com)

**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 19

**2022 Ox Roast Festival and Carnival** - 4-10 p.m. St. Peter Catholic Church, 515 East Knight Street, Eaton Rapids.

**3 Shapes To Banjo Glory Workshop with Clarke Wyatt** - 12 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington, Lansing. [elderly.com](http://elderly.com).

**Chipmunk Story Time** - children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. 10-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos.

**Coffee Hour with East Lansing’s Mayor** - 5 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

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

Friday, May 20

**2022 Midwest iHemp & Cannabis Expo** - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 810-202-8480. [ihempmichigan.com](http://ihempmichigan.com).

**2022 Ox Roast Festival and Carnival** - 4-11 p.m. St. Peter Catholic Church, 515 East Knight Street, Eaton Rapids.

**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).

**The Chenille Sisters, wsg The Royal Garden Trio** - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**Euchre Tournament** - Partner euchre tournament fundraiser. 5:30-11 p.m. VFW Hall, 2497 N. US 27, St. Johns.

**Ladies Night Out** - Lemon and Lavender Painting on glass. 6-8 p.m. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 100 E. Cesar Chavez. [info@paintyourpoison.com](mailto:info@paintyourpoison.com)

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

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

See Events, Page 25

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

G	S	N		P	E	R	A		L	E	E	D	S	
C	O	L	A		A	R	A	G		A	S	T	R	A
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

Wednesday, May 18

**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).



# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Square One brings a breakfast lover's nirvana to Hannah Plaza

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

If your ear is pressed as firmly to the Greater Lansing food scene pipeline as mine is, you've probably already been to Square One. In fact, every single time I have dined in, I've seen more than one person I know. While the smallish eatery, nestled in Hannah Plaza close to Pizza House, is relatively new, it seems to have caught on like wildfire (with good reason).



Lawrence

The takeout situation is strong, especially if you jump right into action at 8:15 Saturday mornings. That is perfect timing for my family, which includes two young kids. I like to first peruse the rotating selection of baked goods and always snag a cinnamon roll for my 4-year-old if they aren't sold out. On my first visit, which consisted of takeout, I went a little bonkers and ordered a large selection of items to sample. The lemon poppyseed and blueberry muffins were still warm from the oven and the oat milk latte was large and strong, and those factors made the subsequent hour I spent trying to convince said 4-year-old to get onto the soccer field so much easier.

My breakfast entrée, if that's a thing we're doing now, was the West Side omelet. The omelet has some more traditional components like bacon, spinach, and green onion, it elevated with the addition of roasted red pepper and sent into the stratosphere with herb cream cheese. This was one of the best omelets I can remember eating. Mr. She Ate reached breakfast nirvana with his Bacon Bravocado sandwich and remarked that the same herb cream cheese that I so thoroughly enjoyed was also tickling his palate.

My children hammered an order of chocolate chip pancakes. No surprise, right? They're 4 and 2 years old. But the pancakes were even better than what those little developing palates deserved. They were clearly cooked on a buttered surface, which is the only way I've ever been able to successfully get crispy griddled edges on my pancakes. The maple syrup was thick and real, although I didn't let them have much because they were already chowing down on chocolate and cinnamon rolls for breakfast.

During a lunch visit, Mr. She Ate pivoted from continuing to sample the mouthwatering breakfast menu and chose a Reuben. The marble rye game is strong at Square One, and the highly piled corned beef was juicy and flavorful. I don't know what absolute weirdo ever came up with the idea of a Reuben sandwich, but I include them when I count my blessings.

I chose the oatmeal bowl, which featured lots of properly prepared oats (they can get sticky and mushy very quickly) and fresh fruit. If you're an oatmeal lover like I am and in search of a healthy breakfast option that won't leave you lethargic, keep the Square One oatmeal top of mind. A scoop of almond or peanut butter and splash of almond milk would be a perfect addition, and one for which I would certainly be willing to pay an extra fee.

Mr. She Ate and I split an order of the Nutella stuffed French toast, because I am an absolute sucker for house-made baked goods and needed to sample the challah. Nutella always immediately transports me to high school French class, when I had my first taste of the then-exotic hazelnut spread and also had my mind blown when I learned that you can order a beer in a French McDonald's. I wanted this French toast to have a little more texture and to have spent another 30 seconds on the griddle, but the bread itself had a perfect texture and crumb.

We've visited Square One time and again in the last few weeks, and earlier this week I grabbed a takeout breakfast on my way to take my children to swim lessons. Eddie happily sat poolside and

See She ate, Page 25

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

Breakfast is often referred to as the most important meal of the day. In many circumstances, it can also be the most delicious meal of the day. Be it a laid-back brunch, a protein-packed kick starter, or breakfast for dinner—count me in. I'm all in for an omelet, chicken and waffles, grits, and more strips of bacon than anyone should be proud of. Bring on Square One Breakfast & Bakery in the Hannah Plaza in East Lansing — an amiable and unassuming café with house-baked goods and a friendly staff. A short stroll from campus, this eatery hits the mark on flavor and convenience for the MSU community where students, faculty, and families are welcomed.

The house-baked items are a treat, but I wish there were more options available for take-away. I'd love to be able to just pop in, grab a croissant or something sweeter with a cup of the Saugatuck-roasted Uncommon Coffee and bound into my day.

#### The Good

Over the course of my visits, neither I nor my dining companions had a bad bite. The waitstaff and managers are all extremely kind, both with their effort and their personas. I could see a high level of rapport with the café's regular customers, but I could also feel the genuine care and appreciation for myself as a newbie. I was fortunate on one occasion to get the last available table, but while a busy floor would mean a dip in service, the Square One crew checked in regularly and were very attentive.

On to the menu: The Spartan Feast included scrambled eggs, home fries, two choices of meat (bacon and chorizo for me) and biscuits and gravy (which I will return to shortly). The chorizo was marvelous— not too spicy, allowing

the cumin and garlic to shine through. The eggs and bacon were cooked nicely, but I would've preferred the potatoes to be a bit crispier. My companion ordered the Wake n Bacon burrito packed with scrambled eggs, green onion, avocado, home fries, and plenty of bacon. This breakfast handheld isn't for the faint of heart: It is hearty, cheesy and can be paired with a crispy hashbrown, similar to one found under the



Beverly

shiny arches in corporate land. The BLT was solid as well, offering a copious helping of bacon and fresh ingredients piled between two thick slices of toasted sourdough.

#### The Better

Any place with challah bread on the menu will automatically have my attention. One that uses the challah for French toast is striving for greatness and even more so when the toast is stuffed with a cream cheese filling and topped with whipped cream and fresh strawberries. It's sinfully good. The blueberry buttermilk pancakes are also very tasty, balancing the right amount of fruit without overbearing the fluffiness of the cake. Also, very good were the Maz Benedict with two of the scratch-made English muffins, which had the appropriate level of sponginess found in authentic muffins from my travels across the pond. The eggs were poached perfectly, the hollandaise light and flavorful, and the house-made sausage was good enough to order a third patty to share.

#### The Best

My friends, let me bring you in on a little secret: The biscuits and gravy at Square One are among the best I've ever eaten. Seriously, a colleague and I are still talking about them several days later, and I only offered them a single bite. First off, the biscuit (of which my companion had their own, served warm with honey) is outstanding. Perfect buttery morsels baked from scratch onsite, it was flaky and soft like those found in kitchens of generations of yore. Coupled with the gravy's chunky bits of savory goodness, the dish is rich and creamy with notes of sage and other aromatics. If only I could get a dozen biscuits to go, I absolutely would.





# Events

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## Saturday, May 21

**2022 Midwest iHemp & Cannabis Expo** - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [ihempmichigan.com](http://ihempmichigan.com).

**2022 Ox Roast Festival and Carnival** - 12-11 p.m. St. Peter Catholic Church, 515 East Knight Street, Eaton Rapids.

**Charity Corn Hole Tournament** - The Ishi Odamtten Foundation. 1-6 p.m. Lake Lansing Park - South, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. [ishiodamttenfoundation.org](http://ishiodamttenfoundation.org).

**Courageous Conversations** - "Healing the Heart", with Meditation, Quantum Expansion, and Sound Healing. Zoom and in-person. 1-3 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Rd., Lansing. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Dine In or Carry Out Sauerkraut Dinner** - 5-10:30 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-882-6330.

**East Lansing Art Festival** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Downtown East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Kittenpalooza** - Join AAO Cat Rescue and Ingham County Animal Control & Shelter at Ingham County Fair Grounds for Kittenpalooza! 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E Ash Street, Mason.

**Lansing Area Peace Education Annual Meeting** - Potluck dinner. Everyone welcome. 4-6 p.m. United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Rd., 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-515-5634. [peaceedcenter.org](http://peaceedcenter.org).

**Lansing Roller Derby** - 5:30-9:30 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [eastlansingrollerderby.com](http://eastlansingrollerderby.com)

**Meridian Garden Club Annual Spring Plant Sale** - 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Central Park Pavilion, Central Park Drive, Okemos.

**Toastmaster Meeting** - Experience the value of our Advanced Toastmasters Club. 9:30-11:15 a.m. MSUFCU, 4825 Mt Hope Rd, East Lansing. 517-505-1449. [cdas.toastmost.org](http://cdas.toastmost.org).

**Totally Buggin'** - AM - 9 a.m. PM - 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

## She ate

from page 24

slowly devoured a cinnamon roll (surprise, surprise) and bacon — his favorite breakfast combination. After I dried Jane off, she joined me to indulge in her cinnamon roll pancakes, which absolutely hit the spot for the 2-year-old phenomenon. She has always been a good eater, but if you have a picky kid — I challenge you to let them try the ooey gooey, fluffy and sweet cinnamon roll pancakes.

**Women of Vision Luncheon** - Join "Against All Odds" as we celebrate at our 14th Annual Luncheon. 12-3 p.m. MSU Kellogg Center, Lincoln Room, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing. [againstalloddsfoundation.com](http://againstalloddsfoundation.com).

## Sunday, May 22

**2022 Ox Roast Festival and Carnival** - 12-6 p.m. St. Peter Catholic Church, 515 East Knight Street, Eaton Rapids.

**East Lansing Art Festival** - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Downtown East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**East Lansing Art Festival 2022** - Cross Eyed Strangers will perform at 11:30 a.m. Ann St. Plaza, 225 Ann St, East Lansing.

## Monday, May 23

**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](http://meridian50plus.com).

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

**Take and Make: Nature Crafts** - Kits will be available starting today 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Workshop** - Exploring our ways of being - who we are being at any given moment can be influenced by many factors. 6-8:30 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster Ave, Lansing. [parksonline.lansingmi.gov](http://parksonline.lansingmi.gov).

## Tuesday, May 24

**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](http://dewittlibrary.org).

**Parent Happy Hour** - Storytime for kids and wine flight specials for parents. 5-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

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

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

With MSU students about to depart for the summer, East Lansing will again experience its annual lull. The next few months are a perfect time to visit Square One and work your way through the menu. There are so many lunch items that I can't wait to try, and you'll find me in the corner booth with the large oat milk latte. Just be sure to leave a cinnamon roll for me.

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# Fun with squeezed spinach

By **ARI LEVAUX**

I love buying spinach at the farmers market in spring. There is great variety to be found, from dainty babies to long-stemmed beefsteaks. Each vendor has different looking spinach, and each farmer has a different way to cook it.

I got a good one recently from a farmer friend who told me about a Chinese-style spinach and noodle dish. She boils the spinach and then plunges it into cold water, as one does with vegetables. Next, she squeezes the spinach, pressing out all the water.

After following her lead, I was amazed by how small a ball of squeezed spinach you get from a large bunch of fresh. This increases the density of the spinach, such that a small amount can have a sizeable

impact on flavor. Because late spring is the best time to gorge on spinach, I began using squeezed spinach in all of my and my friends' favorite spinach dishes.

My spinach squeezing associate chops this extra-dense spinach and adds it to noodles in a broth flavored with soy sauce, chopped garlic, sesame oil and shrimp paste. She serves it with chile sauce and ranch dressing.

Ever since, I've been squeezing a lot of spinach. Especially the big, juicy leaves of full-grown plants. I don't even bother with baby spinach, which lacks the gravitas, fi-

ber and earthy flavor of mature spinach.

I decided to use chopped squeezed spinach to make a batch of sag paneer, the Indian dish of greens and cheese. Usually, I puree the cooked spinach in a blender, un-squeezed. But this time I used chopped squeezed, for a coarser version of sag paneer. The paneer cheese is easy to make, providing it doesn't all get eaten at the curds and whey stage.

So fun and soothing to eat, like an extra-thick broth. I tried some with nothing but chopped squeezed spinach, and a little salt. It was tasty, but not as all-around satisfying as the squeezed sag paneer I eventually made.

The most decadent way to eat squeezed spinach is with lots of ricotta cheese. I make this creamy spinach sauce with garlic, lemon and Romano cheese, and serve it over hollow noodles like penne. Thus far in my research, these lemon ricotta noodles are everybody's favorite way to consume squeezed spinach.



Courtesy photo

Squeezed Spinach

## Squeezed Spinach Pasta

This dish is bright, creamy, puffy and soft, yet balanced with pockets of dense green earthiness.

### Serves 4

1 tablespoon salt  
1 pound spinach (preferably not baby spinach)

1 pound penne or similarly hollow pasta (the package should indicate that the pasta was dried slowly)

2 cloves garlic, chopped  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
2 tablespoons butter  
Juice and zest of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a lemon  
1 cup ricotta cheese  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup grated Romano cheese  
Hot pepper flakes or paprika, to taste

Boil two gallons of salted water. If you have a pasta insert for your pot, use it. Add the spinach and boil for about four minutes. Remove the spinach and immediately plunge it in cold water to cool. Then place in a colander to drain. Add the pasta to the greenish boiling water and cook.

While the noodles boil, squeeze the spinach into as tight a ball as you can, pressing out all possible liquid. Place the spinach on a cutting board and chop it.

Saute half the garlic in the oil and butter. Scatter the spinach into the pan, add the lemon juice and zest, and give it a modest stir. Cook for a minute on medium, then add the noodles and the cheeses. Stir it all together. Season with salt and pepper. Dust with chile flakes and serve.

## Squeezed Spinach Sag Paneer

This rustic dish is full of flavor. Serve with jasmine or basmati rice.

### Serves 4

1 gallon milk  
1 cup of yogurt  
1 pound spinach  
1 tablespoon salt  
4 tablespoons ghee, oil or butter  
1 teaspoon cumin seed  
1 teaspoon coriander seed  
1 large onion

**FLASH**  
in the pan



1 inch of peeled ginger, minced  
2 teaspoons garam masala powder  
Sliced jalapeno pepper, to taste

To make the cheese, heat a gallon of milk. When it simmers, turn off the heat and stir in the yogurt. Let it sit for about half an hour, as the acid from the yogurt will trigger the formation of large, smooth curds that float in the surrounding, relatively thin whey. When it's cool enough to work with, strain the curds in a metal strainer or with cheesecloth. Let them settle while you prepare the spinach.

Boil two gallons of salted water. Add the spinach to the boiling water for four minutes. Then strain and plunge in cold water. When it's cool, strain and squeeze the spinach into a ball. Move it to a cutting board and chop it.

Slice the cheese into slabs, and cut the slabs into cubes. Heat the ghee in a pan and fry the cheese until golden brown on some if not all sides. Remove the cheese from the pan and set aside. Add the cumin, coriander, ginger and onion to the pan. Stir it all together. When the onion starts to caramelize and make water, add the garam masala and jalapeno peppers, if using.

When the onions have completely cooked down, add the spinach and cheese. Stir briefly, salt to taste, and serve with rice.

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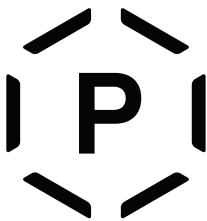
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