

A newspaper for the rest of us.

**CITY PULSE**

Locally Owned

Aug. 3-9, 2022

[www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

**Night and day  
JazzFest fills the summer sky**

See Page 11

**ABOOD**  
LAW FIRM 1956  
517-332-5900

**sidebar**  
dine & tap  
East Lansing





# LANSING PRIDE

## AUGUST 13

1-10PM | OLD TOWN, LANSING  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

FREE ADMISSION OR DONATION APPRECIATED

### Entertainment Line Up

- 1:00 PM - WELCOME
- 1:10 PM - LanSINGout GAY CHORUS
- 1:20 PM - DANCE LANSING
- 1:45 PM - PRIDE BOARD & MAYOR SCHOR
- 2:00 PM - DRAG SHOW
- 3:30 PM - JAMES TAYLOR
- 4:00 PM - ACE DJ
- 4:30 PM - BUTCH STRUT / FEMME PARADE
- 5:30 PM - PET ME (BAND)
- 6:30 PM - THE NOISE ENT (BAND)
- 7:00 PM - DRAG SHOW
- 8:30 PM - DJ SPLENDIAH

### BEVERAGE TENT

FREE ADMISSION OR DONATION APPRECIATED

**21+** ID CHECK REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE (MUST BE 21+)  
**\$5** PER TICKET 1 TICKET= 1 DRINK CASH AND CARDS ACCEPTED

www.lansingpride.org



### Children's Area

1-7PM | SIR PIZZA PARKING LOT

#### SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

- 2:00 PM - STORY TIME WITH A DRAG QUEEN & KING
- 2:00 - 4:00 PM - BUBBLES R FUN SHOW
- 4:00 - 6:00 PM - PREUSS PETS ANIMAL EXHIBIT
- 5:00 PM - STORY TIME WITH A DRAG QUEEN & KING

#### ALL DAY ACTIVITIES | 1-7 PM

- THE RESISTANCE BOOK STORE - BOOK GIVEAWAY
- 6 HOLE MINI GOLF
- WAVERLY ROBOTICS TEAM - ROBOT DEMONSTRATION
- LANSING POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OKAY TO SAY
- CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND ANTI-BULLYING ENRICHMENT
- FREE FACE PAINTING
- MOTHER & EARTH BABY BOUTIQUE
- LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS
- CHALK ART AREA
- TRUE (TEENS RESPECTING AND UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER) - LGBTQ SUPPORT GROUP



THRIFT WITCH  
MEL ENNESS  
KEEGAN HINTON  
BAD ANNIE'S  
JAMIE SCHRINER  
GREATER LANSING CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

MAYOR ANDY SCHOR  
MORRIE'S OKEMOS  
UCF RESTORATION  
MANER COSTERISAN  
LANSING OUT CHORUS

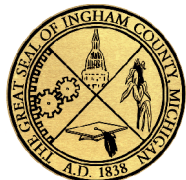
BRADLEY VAUTER & ASSOCIATES  
PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF MI  
OCTOBER MOON  
METRO RETRO  
CAPITAL CITY MARKET





# PUBLIC OFFICIALS:

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## BECAUSE WE HAVE MORE READERS!

That's according to the Journal's audited circulation numbers.

## BECAUSE WE DISPLAY PUBLIC NOTICES BETTER!

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# Want to save your constituents money?

Contact Suzi Smith, (517) 999-6704,

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If you are reading this ad, you can run your ad in City Pulse. We meet state requirements.

# CityPULSE



# CityPULSE

**VOL. 21  
ISSUE 52**

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Will Lansing Township be annexed?

**PAGE  
5**


Behind the Curtain: "Big Fish"

**PAGE  
18**


Remembering Tyler Blakslee

**PAGE  
21**


"JazzFest," by Nevin Speerbrecker

**Cover  
Art**
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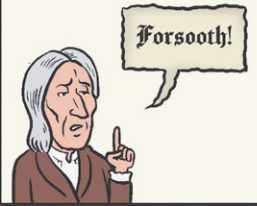
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## What Does "LIBERAL" Mean, Anyway?

"CLASSICAL" LIBERALISM  
HISTORICAL EMBRACE OF  
INDIVIDUALISM AND LIMITED  
GOVERNMENT IN OPPOSITION  
TO MONARCHY



NEW DEAL LIBERALISM  
STRONG SAFETY NET,  
FINANCIAL REFORMS TO  
BROADEN PROSPERITY

LET THERE BE  
PUBLIC WORKS  
PROGRAMS AND  
SOCIAL SECURITY!



NEOLIBERALISM  
UNFETTERED CAPITALISM  
AS ORGANIZING PRINCIPLE  
OF SOCIETY

MARKETS  
KNOW  
BEST!



LIBERALS  
GENERAL TERM FOR THOSE  
WITH PROGRESSIVE VALUES  
EXTENDING FROM SOCIAL  
REVOLUTIONS OF THE 1960S



LIBERAL ARTS  
EDUCATION  
INSTRUCTION IN THE  
HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES



NOW MEANS PRETTY  
MUCH ANYTHING!



SORENSEN

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# CityPULSE

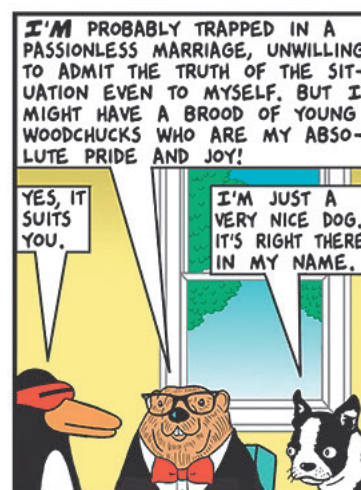
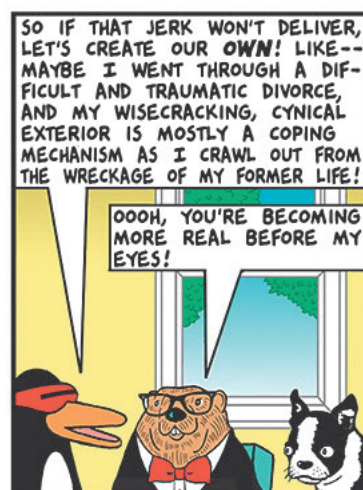
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Will the city of Lansing swallow part of Lansing Township?

## Higher city taxes appear to be biggest obstacle

Jerry Gilson was finishing yard work Sunday afternoon. The 73-year-old woman has lived in Lansing Township for 22 years in the Groesbeck area known as the “island.” That’s because it is surrounded on all sides by the city of Lansing, making it a singular oddity in a charter township that is spread over five noncontiguous land areas.

Next week, the Lansing City Council will consider whether to give Gilson and her 2,200 or so Groesbeck neighbors an opportunity to vote this November on being annexed by the city, as requested by 122 of those residents in a petition to the city last month.

Asked what she thought, Gilson paused her sweeping and considered the question. “I am satisfied with living in Lansing Township,” she said after a minute or so. “City taxes are too high. Particularly for some like me on a fixed income. So, I don’t really see a good reason for it.”

As Gilson was being interviewed, a lanky, balding man approached. “I signed that petition,” he said.

Asked why, he said, “With the debt, the taxpayers are going to get dinged badly.”

The debt he is referring to is from millions of dollars in bonds the township backed in an ill-fated deal to build a retail space called the Heights at the far northern end of Eastwood Towne Center. Despite rosy projections of 80% occupancy in the retail area, it has never climbed above 30%. Lansing Township has been struggling financially for over a decade.

The township’s 2022 budget shows anticipated revenues of \$4,471,126.44 in revenues but \$5,252,675.22 in spending. To address the budget gap, the township adopted a special, three-year tax assessment to fund police and fire employees’ salaries, raising an expected \$1.52 million in 2022 and \$4.57 million overall.

The township is believed to be around \$31 million in debt owed in bonds and interest, due over 20 years.

“Those debt issues are going to be solved,” said Treasurer Kathy Rodgers, with an affirmation by Supervisor Maggie Sanders. “In about six months, the township’s financial outlook is going to be completely different.”

Neither could explain more, citing attorney client privilege related to an ongoing lawsuit with the estate of developer Mike Eyde over \$11 million it says it is owed. He died in 2019, and the township is battling over the Heights and ultimate control of it.

The current millage costs for city and township residents are in the same ball park. Lansing Township residents pay 15.66 mills, and city of Lansing residents pay 19.44 mills in property taxes. A mill is equal to one dollar per one thousand dollars of taxable property values.

A taxable value is half the assessed value of a property. In an example



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Dave Thompson sweeps in front of his home in Lansing Township. Citing higher taxes he’d have to pay, he opposes being annexed by the city of Lansing.

provided by Rodgers of a house worth \$150,000, its taxable value is \$75,000. In Lansing Township that equates to an annual tax bill of \$1,182. In Lansing, the annual bill on that same example house would be \$1,458.

“If the city mills stay the same, the additional taxes for our sample house would be \$276 plus income tax,” Rodgers said. City income tax is 1 percent for residents and a half a percent for nonresidents. Townships cannot levy an income tax.

But if Lansing voters approve of a 3.9 mill increase for 30 years to pay for the public safety proposal that will be on the ballot in November, taxes on Rodgers’ sample house would climb about \$150 a year.

Moreover, Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox said that the current special assessments related to the township’s long-term debts would follow the properties to the city of Lansing. Lansing would have to collect those taxes, as well as city taxes on those properties.

“They’re essentially giving themselves a tax increase,” Fox said.

However, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor

said that if the annexation goes through, he would propose that the city pay the township’s special assessments for the newly annexed residents.

Rodgers and Sanders are mother and daughter. Sanders took over as supervisor in the township earlier this year when De’ontrae Hayes left abruptly for a position in another state. Sanders was elevated to supervisor from clerk. Rodgers came out of retirement to take on the part-time job of treasurer after multiple searches failed to find a resident qualified and willing to take the post.

Rodgers lives in the Groesbeck area — the only township official in an elective office im-

pacted by the proposed annexation. But both Rodgers and Sanders think annexation is a bad idea for the residents.

For affected Lansing Township residents to have an opportunity to vote on annexation, the Lansing City Council must approve language to forward to the Ingham County clerk to put on their ballots. To make the November ballot, six of the eight members of the Council must approve it by Aug. 16. As of last week, only two Council members supported putting it on the ballot: Peter Spadafore and Patricia Spitzley.

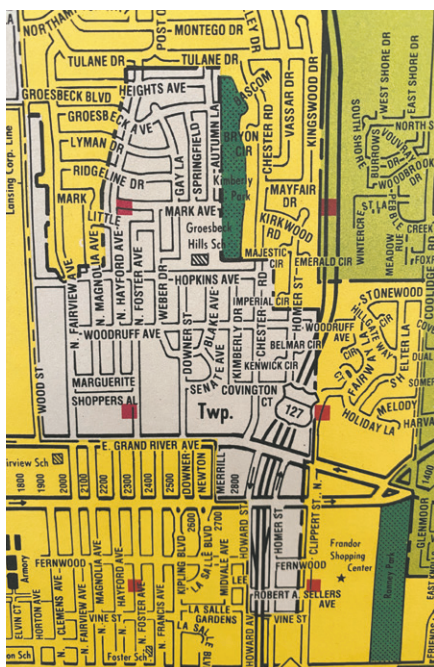
“Is there a stronger word than annexation?” Spadafore quipped.

Spitzley said, “In fact, I am good with us taking (the township) completely.”

The remaining six — Jeffrey Brown, Adam Hussain, Carol Wood, Jeremy Garza, Brian Daniels and Brian Jackson — all said they needed questions answered before they could commit to the annexation. Jackson said he was leaning toward it.

If it reaches the ballot, a simple majority of “island” voters favoring annexation could make it a reality. Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum estimated 1,827 peo-

See Annex, Page 6



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

The area in gray is a part of Lansing Township that some residents want to be annexed by the city.



# Annex

from page 5

ple were registered to vote. Rodgers said the number was about 2,000.

But the battle for annexation may be uphill because of the concern about higher taxes.

City Pulse approached 20 people in the Groesbeck neighborhood of Lansing Township on Sunday. Most declined to talk about the annexation, or were caught while taking a walk in the neighborhood but actually lived in one of the city portions of Groesbeck.

An individual who didn't want his name used laid into the township leadership and the burden of the taxes and special assessments that have flowed as a result of the bonds for the Heights.

"Someone needs to get in there and investigate this," he said. "This was a bad decision. It was a bad time to do it. Someone needs to be held accountable."

Yet, despite his anger, he is not keen

on being annexed into the city, citing the increased tax costs. "No, thanks," he said.

As the sky darkened and storm clouds began to roll in from the west, Dave Thompson, a 20-year resident of Lansing Township, was busy sweeping the curb line the street to remove sticks, leaves and other debris. After his kids left, he and his wife decided it was time to move from their Lansing home. An opportunity arose with the house they are living in now — two-story house with a garage and a large picture window facing out onto the street.

"So, we decided to take the chance," he said.

As for the annexation, he's opposed. The debt the township is wrestling with "should never have happened," he said. "Whoever's in charge of it messed up."

Despite these flaws, he said an annexation would hit his wallet. "That means our taxes are going up. We don't need that," he said. "We don't need everything going up like we have going on now."

- TODD HEYWOOD

## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

109 E. Randolph Street

Z-1-2022, Rezoning from "R-6A" Urban Detached Residential to "R-AR" Residential Adaptive Reuse

SLU-1-2022, Special Land Use Permit – Adult Foster Care Large Group Home

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearings on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider the following requests:

Z-1-2022: Rezoning 109 E. Randolph Street from "R-6A" Urban Detached Residential to "R-AR" Residential Adaptive Reuse.

SLU-1-2022: Special land use permit to utilize the existing building at 109 E. Randolph Street for a 20-bed, state-licensed adult foster care, large group home for the aged.

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

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

CP#22-168

## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, Monday, August 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding a new Section 888.32 for the purposes of providing for a service charge in lieu of taxes for seventy-six (76) low-income multi-family dwelling units in a project known as Walter French, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC  
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CP#22-167

## NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

(In accordance with 1956 PA 40, as amended)

**Notice is Hereby Given** that a Day of Review will be held on **Friday, August 19, 2022**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Ave., Mason, MI 48854. At that date and place, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner will hear the proofs and allegations and carefully reconsider and review the description of lands within Ingham County comprising the Drainage Districts for the Drains listed below, and he will determine whether the addition or deletion of lands will more accurately define the boundaries of the land benefitted by the Drains and is just and equitable pursuant to Section 197 of 1956 PA 40, as amended. The Drain Commissioner will also review the apportionment of benefits for assessment purposes. The Drains are located and established in the following municipalities, and a general description of the lands proposed to be added or deleted, in whole or in part, include the following:

| DRAIN NO. | DRAIN NAME   | MUNICIPALITY              | SECTION NUMBERS                                |
|-----------|--|---------------------------|--|
| A06-00    | ALLEN NO. 1 DRAIN                                  | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 23, 24   |
| A18-00    | ALTON DRAIN  | CITY OF LANSING           | 16   |
|           |  | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 16, 17, 21                                     |
| B42-00    | BUFORD DRAIN                                       | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 1, 12  |
| C00-03    | COBB DRAIN   | INGHAM TOWNSHIP           | 22   |
|           |  | VILLAGE OF DANSVILLE      | 22, 23   |
| C27-02    | HUNTLEY SQUARE DRAIN                               | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 22, 23, 26                                     |
| C38-00    | CEDAR RIDGE DRAIN                                  | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 23, 26   |
| F07-11    | FOSTER, GEORGETOWN BRANCH DRAIN                    | MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP | 14, 15   |
| G20-13    | GROVENBURG AND MENDER CONSOLIDATED DRAIN           | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33 |
| M07-00    | MELKVIK DRAIN                                      | CITY OF LANSING           | 8  |
|           |  | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 7, 8   |
| P28-01    | LAURICH DRAIN                                      | CITY OF LANSING           | 10   |
|           |  | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 15   |
| R07-18    | REMY CHANDLER, GREENS OF WALNUT HILLS BRANCH DRAIN | MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP | 5  |
| S32-00    | SUMMITT STREET DRAIN                               | DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP    | 14, 23   |
| S36-00    | SPRING PEEPER DRAIN                                | MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP | 14, 15, 22, 23                                 |
| S40-00    | STID DRAIN   | AURELIUS TOWNSHIP         | 2  |
| S68-00    | SCHERTZING DRAIN (FORMERLY KNOWN AS BROGAN DRAIN)  | BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP      | 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26                     |
|           |  | STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP      | 7, 18, 19                                      |
| V09-00    | VAN BURON DRAIN                                    | VEVAY TOWNSHIP            | 31, 32   |

Maps of the proposed Drainage District boundary revisions may be found at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office or on its website ([dr.ingham.org](http://dr.ingham.org)).

The Ingham County Drain Commissioner will have the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities within the Drainage Districts available to review. Drain assessments will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. If drain assessments are to be collected in installments, they may be paid in full with any interest to date at any time to avoid further interest charges. The entities to be assessed at large are the municipalities listed above, as well as Ingham County for benefit to county roads, and the State of Michigan Department of Transportation for those Drainage Districts that include state highways. The lands to be assessed are those generally described as being within the Sections set forth above.

Comments on the apportionments of benefits may be submitted to the Ingham County Drain Commissioner in writing before the date of the meeting to review the apportionment or may be submitted in writing or orally at the review. Written statements may be mailed to Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, MI 48854; or emailed to [drainoffice@ingham.org](mailto:drainoffice@ingham.org). Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner before the date of the meeting to ensure consideration.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at (517) 676-8395, or the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

**You are Further Notified** that persons aggrieved by the decision to add or delete property to or from a Drainage District may seek judicial review in the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days after the decision, and persons aggrieved by the decision with regard to the apportionment of benefits for assessment purposes may appeal to the Ingham County Probate Court within ten (10) days after the Day of Review.

July 28, 2022 Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner CP#22-170



# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By TODD HEYWOOD



Harry's Place kept busy Saturday (July 30) as it marked its 100th anniversary with tents and live music in its parking lot as well as packed tables inside the westside institution.

**A Charlotte man who pleaded guilty to making a fake bomb threat on the Capitol has been sentenced to 365 days in the Ingham County Jail.** Michael Varrone, 49, was also sentenced to three years' probation. To avoid terrorism charges, which carry 20-year sentences, Varrone admitted guilt in a plea deal. His Jan. 7, 2021, call was the day after a mob attacked the U.S. Capitol. He had also sent death threats to State Rep. Cynthia A. Johnson, but those charges were also dismissed under the plea deal.



Michael Varrone (Photo: Michigan State Police)



investigate claims of Nassar's abuse earlier.

**Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon reiterated her commitment to not prosecuting abortion cases.** She joined six other Democratic county prosecutors in saying they will not enforce Michigan's 1931 anti-abortion law. In Jackson County, the Republican prosecutor said he will enforce it. Their announcements followed a state Court of Appeals ruling that upheld the 1931 law, but an Oakland County judge issued a temporary restraining order as the Whitmer administration continues its pro-choice legal battle.



**A new battery plant may bring jobs, but residents across the street from where it is being built aren't happy.** WLNS reports residents on Davis Highway are concerned the increased traffic and factory view will crash property values. The factory, which is owned by Ultium Cells, is

part of a plan by GM to shift its entire product line to electric vehicles.

**The Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge in Lansing has claimed another victim.** On Friday, the "can opener," as some locals call it, sheered off the top of a truck — the fourth such incident since June 2021 at the historic, 12-foot-high railroad overpass near Potter Park Zoo, a police spokesperson said.



Courtesy Kirby Preuss

**The death of a Laingsburg-area woman found dead in East Lansing last fall has been ruled a homicide, the Lansing State Journal reported.** Jamie Antelifee, 44, was shot multiple times. The Journal obtained the autopsy report after East Lansing Police Department officials declined to reveal the manner of her death. Her husband, who was not named, was also found dead at the Halter Street address. His death was ruled a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Antelifee was seeking a divorce at the time. Police are not seeking any suspects at this time, the Journal reported.

**St. Johns Police Chief David Kirk may be back on the job after a six-week suspension in April, but the department staff is under stress.** According to an internal survey by the city, the police force believes the environment is hostile, with at least one employee fearing physical assault by Kirk. Many responses indicated there was no leadership at the top, and a desperate need for more officers. City officials declined to comment to the Lansing State Journal about the findings.



**East Lansing City Council has approved \$900,000 in improvements at Patriarche Park.** The money will be spent to demolish, remove and rebuild outdated tennis, pickleball and basketball courts, the city said. The courts will be closed Aug. 22, with completion expected by next spring.

**An MSU bomb scare Monday is being investigated as part of a larger, national trend of threats at colleges and universities.** Fee Hall was evacuated shortly after 12:30 p.m. Monday due to what an MSU Alert System text said was a bomb threat called into the building that included "specific information." Law enforcement from local agencies and the federal government are investigating and believe the threat is part of a national trend of bogus bomb threats targeting campuses across the country.



### 1516 Old Mill Lane, Lansing

This red-tagged property has boarded-up windows, an air-conditioning unit hanging precariously from another window, a collapsed porch and missing mobile home skirting. Management at Mill Pond, a southside mobile home park, says the property is slated for demolition. The company is also busy untangling the legal title to the mobile home. The place was red-tagged months ago after Ingham County Animal Control officers responded to a dog neglect case. They seized two adult pit bulls and six pit bull puppies from the home and called in code enforcement. Inspection of mobile homes is regulated under a different state law where code compliance is prohibited from acting on a mobile home property without being invited in to inspect it, city officials said.

— TODD HEYWOOD

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



# A heaping helping of ARP

At the height of its destructive powers, the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc on the U.S. economy and blew giant holes in city budgets across the nation. To ease the financial pain for beleaguered communities of all sizes, Congress approved more than \$45 billion in relief funds under the American Rescue Plan Act to help municipal governments weather the storm and continue providing essential public services. Federal lawmakers specified a dizzying array of eligible uses for the money, from backfilling budget shortfalls to direct aid for citizens and small businesses that suffered financial losses due to the pandemic.

Lansing's share of the federal crisis cash was just shy of \$50 million. City policymakers, including Mayor Andy Schor and the Lansing City Council, were tasked with figuring out how to allocate the funds, which came in two tranches of roughly \$25 million each. The first installment, received last August, was used almost entirely to plug holes in the city budget, including \$20 million to offset anticipated losses in the general fund and another \$5 million to replenish the parking fund, which presumably took a whopping hit when downtown Lansing was all but shuttered. None of the funds in the first tranche were used to soften the negative impacts of the pandemic on Lansing families and small businesses.

Last week, the City Council signed off on Mayor Schor's plan to spend the second and final \$25 million tranche of federal aid. A significant share of these one-time resources will still be used to support city government functions, with the Parks, Police and Fire departments soaking up nearly \$8 million — nearly one third of the available funds. But the plan also makes strategic investments that directly support community organizations, economic development, financial empowerment services, and an important partnership with the Lansing School District to foster student success.

Nearly \$2 million of the ARP windfall will be granted to nonprofit organizations that work to support community needs. In his initial plan, Schor proposed granting specific amounts to a short list of select community groups. City Council objected to “picking winners and losers” and instead approved a dedicated fund that will be administered by the Mayor's Office, which will manage an application process open to community organizations across the city. We think this is a reasonable approach since it will allow a wider range of groups to apply for the funds and demonstrate how they intend to use them. We also were pleased

to see the Council approve a companion resolution that calls on Schor to follow a process for awarding the community funds that is “fair, transparent, equitable, and far-reaching.”

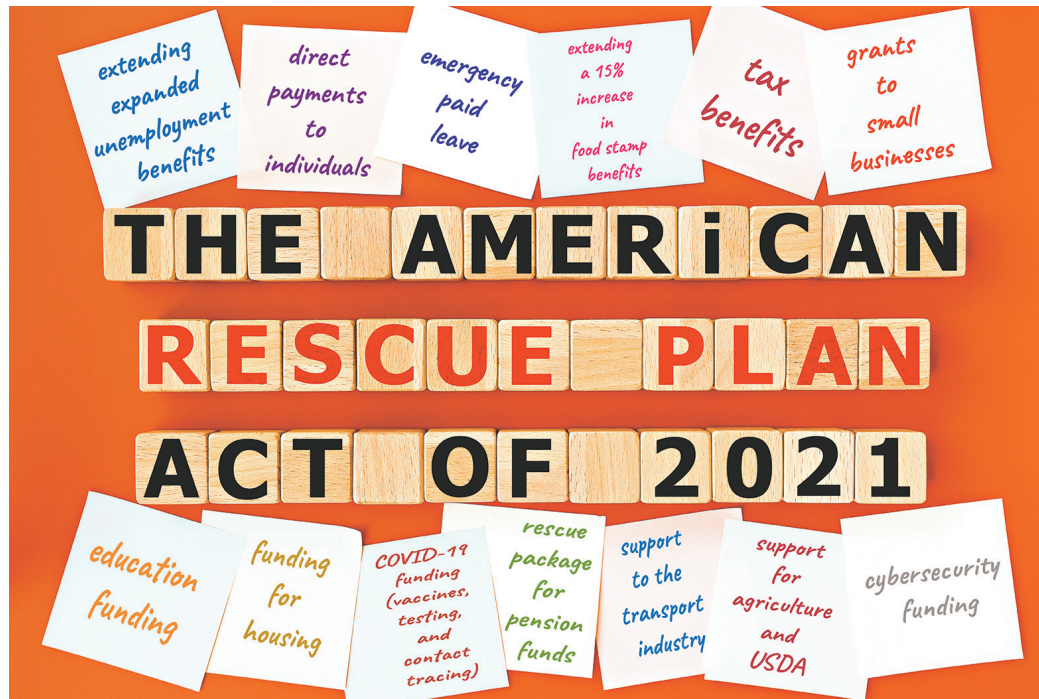
If our math is correct, the total amount Council appropriated from the second tranche of ARP funds only adds up to about \$20 million. Exactly how the

remaining \$5 million will be spent is unclear. The Council resolution says the money will be used for “public health and economic impacts; provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue to the City due to COVID-19; premium pay; and necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure,” which basically covers the entire scope of eligible expenditures of ARP relief funds. For the most part, this nebulous language gives Schor broad authority to spend the money however he sees fit. As the mayor moves forward with these unspecified expenditures, we urge him to be completely transparent with both the Council and the public as to the purpose and amount of all such spending.

It's worth noting that two Council members, Fourth Ward representative Brian Jackson and First Ward representative Brian Daniels, voted against the mayor's ARP plan because they objected to treating the federal windfall like a “Christmas list for the city of Lansing” rather than providing direct aid to the hardest hit Lansing residents. They have a point. We also would have liked to see a larger share of the city's ARP allocation dedicated to financial

assistance for distressed families. We hope the mayor will consider using his discretionary fund for that purpose. Earlier this year, the mayor announced a pilot program that would grant \$500 a month in guaranteed income to a limited number of random Lansing families. Apparently this approach was rejected by the City Council. We encourage them to reconsider Schor's plan or come up with another way to equitably distribute additional relief funds to support Lansing families in need.

That said, spending more than \$50 million in one-time cash smartly and strategically is no small task. We commend Schor and the Council for carefully evaluating the city's needs and priorities and adopting a more or less reasonable plan that balances stabilizing city government finances and services with community investments that hopefully will take some of the sting out of the pandemic for those who are still struggling with its aftermath.



## 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:**

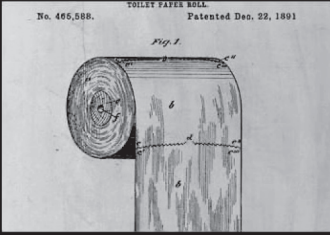
**1.) Write a letter to the editor.**

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



The "over vs. under" debate has officially been settled. The 1891 patent for the toilet paper roll reveals that the end of the roll should be positioned on the outside, a.k.a. in the "over" position.



**This isn't important but voting is. If you haven't voted before, I beg you to vote in the future. We need everyone to exercise their right to vote, it matters. Now as much, if not more, than ever. Many in**

**the Republican Party have embraced a theology and emboldened conspiracy theorists. They are a clear and present danger to freedom.**

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# Dixon faces tough road going into general election

Conservative commentator Tudor Dixon rode into the Republican gubernatorial nomination this week on the backs of the influential DeVos family in West Michigan and former President Donald Trump's late endorsement.

Had it not been for the DeVos' financial connections, Dixon wouldn't be where she is today.

She'd have never raised the \$1.6 million she reported on July 26. She'd had never gotten the help of their SuperPAC Michigan Families United and its \$2 million-plus in TV commercials they spent on her

Without this money, Dixon wouldn't have been up in the polls in the weeks leading up to the primary. If she weren't leading in the polls, it's unlikely Trump sticks out his neck to endorse her.

Trump is concerned about Trump. First and foremost. After some early endorsements that blew up in his face, he now backs people who are on the verge of winning. It makes him look like a kingmaker. If he was supporting a candidate based on who parrots his "America First" moniker the loudest, he would have backed Ryan Kelley.

Think this is exaggeration or hyperbole? Remember this:

— On Jan. 31, Dixon reported raising a grand total of \$505,766, much of which she paid back to her fundraiser. She had \$96,259 in the bank, less than some legislative candidates.

— In May, Dixon was doing so poorly in polls she didn't initially qualify to appear at the Detroit Regional Chamber debate during its conference on Mackinac Island. It was only after James Craig and Perry Johnson fell victim to the petition fraud that they were kicked off the ballot and Dixon was invited to the debate.

The 45-year-old mother of four and former steel industry executive is the Republican gubernatorial nominee in a year in which Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's friend, President Joe Biden, is polling in the 30% range. Still, she starts the last 100 days until the General Election with some real problems.

For one, she doesn't have a broad network of support. Unlike Garrett

Soldano or even Ryan Kelley, she doesn't have a political base that is willing to walk over hot coals for her.

Dixon isn't like Bill Schuette or Dick Posthumus, who have been in politics for so long they had allies they could turn to for support. She isn't like Dick DeVos or Rick Snyder in that she's not personally wealthy and can cut big checks.

Instead, she's a nominee who (behind the scenes) Michigan Republican Party Co-Chair Meshawn Maddock didn't want to see win the primary.

The DeVos money helped set up her for the Trump endorsement, which was a winning formula for a Republican primary. The influence of both DeVos and Trump doesn't extend much with independents.

She'll need money to combat the Whitmer message and doesn't have much. Maybe a half million dollars. Whitmer has \$14.7 million in bank and has already reserved airtime for the key months of September and October.

It certainly isn't over. Dixon is great in front of a microphone, a camera or any audience. She politically pliable. She told me last year she was against abortion 100%, no exceptions. She's now making an exception for the life of a mother.

She's not boxed into a completely unrealistic campaign gimmick like completely eliminating the state's income tax in two years. She's personable, sharp and is polling well with men.

Unfortunately for her, Whitmer's job approval numbers are back over 50%. The COVID lockdowns that cratered Whitmer's numbers have been long forgotten by the voting population. The overturning of Roe v Wade and the prospect of legalized abortion in Michigan has replaced Whitmer's restrictions as top-of-mind issues for many women and independent voters.

Gas is moving back down to \$4 a gallon, which isn't great, but it's not \$5 either. The worst of the inflation is hopefully behind us.

Without a strong message to independents as to why Whitmer needs to go and the money to get that message in front of voters, Dixon is sunk before she leaves the dock.

(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service [MIRSat\\_melinnky@gmail.com](mailto:MIRSat_melinnky@gmail.com).)



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS



## SPONSORED CONTENT



***Tyler will be lovingly remembered by all who loved him, and who had the privilege of knowing him. We have collected memories from just some of the countless people who were impacted by his kindness, passion, and love.***

"One of the things I appreciated the most about him as a teacher was he just didn't put up with nonsense, he didn't accept excuses but he was still very understanding and compassionate while pushing you to constantly do your best work and put in the effort required to thrive. Some of my favorite memories were just all the little, small moments. His power walking the halls, piling into his car to go to quiz bowl meets, hearing him talk so passionately about literature and all the wonderful stories we read in his classroom. Just an unforgettable dude."

"Mr. Blakslee inspired me to pursue higher education in the fields of English Literature and Creative Writing. I am a first-generation college student who will be graduating with a BA in English and Creative Writing in 2023 from Michigan State University. It is safe to say I would not be where I am today without Mr. Blakslee. He was truly my inspiration and sparked my passion for literature and writing. He reached out and supported me during some of my darkest days. He treated his students as individuals and supported all of their unique qualities. I will never forget him."

"Mr. Blakslee was the teacher I was looking forward to since I first met him in 6th grade! And the two and a half years with him definitely lived up to the hype. Because of his teaching style and his unique choice in books, he made me truly enjoy and want to put effort into English class for the first time. I'll never forget when he would just jump on his desk and teach me to have a different perspective. Thanks for everything! Legacy is definitely not forgotten!"

"Tyler was an amazing mentor. He taught me so much about being a great teacher and, more importantly, creating lasting relationships with my students. I always think "What would Tyler do?" when creating lesson plans."

"My favorite thing that I took with me at the end of his classes was the introduction to authors from so many different backgrounds, and from around the world. It was in his class that I realized how much rich depth there was to the literary world, beyond Shakespeare and Hemingway. When I realized that I didn't have to read books that old white guys wrote decades ago, it opened a door to one of my favorite parts of life. The least expensive, and most inspiring traveling I've ever done has been through books, and I owe that in large part to Blakslee for opening the door."

# Tyler Mitchell Blakslee just got it.

## Tyler Mitchell Blakslee left us on July 23, 2022

"TMB was without a doubt the coolest guy I have had the pleasure to look up to. Probably one of my favorite memories of him will forever be how he gave me a million nicknames and would write them on my papers. He was such a special person who changed my high school experience for the better."

"I think it's fair to say we are all way cooler people for having him as a teacher. He truly helped shape me as a person in the most positive way, showing us all that we could be ourselves. I can't even word how grateful I am for the experience of being his student. One of my favorite memories is silly, and a small moment... Blakslee enjoyed Throat Coat tea; I bought some to try per his suggestion and usually carried extra bags with me at school. One morning he stopped me in the hall to see if I would exchange tea with him because he really wanted some Throat Coat that morning, so we did a little tea trade. So small, but man, I was so happy to help him out."

"I can still remember him telling me to find what makes me happy and encouraging me to pursue my best life. He had a massive impact on my life, and where I am in the world right now. Mr. Blakslee really was one of the coolest people I had the honor of meeting."

"I remember the September I went to school very pregnant, Mr. Blakslee would throw pieces of candy at me whenever he saw me whether it be in the parking lot, hallways or lunch, and always made sure I had a snack if I was in his class."

"His laugh. His wild eyes when he was passionate. The hair. He was an English teacher to the core, lover of words, and always with a dog-eared paperback nearby. He was a friend and when I was with him, I felt like I was cool."

"Blakslee was influential in who I am today in so many ways I didn't even realize until I reflected on my time as his student. I emulated his fashion choices, picked up new interests through his uncensored exposure to all sorts of literature. I learned so much from him academically but also just how to be myself in a lot of ways. I envied his confidence, his sass, his pride, his passion. I strived for those things, and I finally got there for the most part. In a lot of ways I think he's part of the reason I decided to pursue education as my career. I wanted to be that cool teacher who opened up a new world for their students. I find myself carrying a book with me just about everywhere and it wasn't until I actually reflected on his impact on me that I remembered his advice "to carry a book in your back pocket everywhere you go". And it's good advice. I wish I could have expressed these things to him when he was still here. But his legacy lives on in the stories his pupils, friends, and family will tell and hold close. May his legacy live on for eons, for he was the raddest of the rad."

"Tyler Mitchell Blakslee just got it. He didn't patronize poor kids and he didn't take bullshit from anyone. He was the only teacher who saw through my "everything's fine" act in high school, who knew what was going on at home. He pushed me to work hard and never coast through his class, even if I thought I could; to be empathetic and self-reflective rather than condescending and arrogant. When I became a teacher, I found myself thinking "what would Blakslee do?" any time I felt overwhelmed."

"He's...Blakslee. Mr. Blakslee was transcendent. He was larger than life and, as we're seeing, found a way to connect with almost every student he encountered, regardless of background or interest or in-group. I've always known that Mr. Blakslee had a deep impact on me as a teacher and I'm beginning to truly unpack just how extensive that impact was. For me, Blakslee is That English Teacher. Even years after sitting in his auditorium-style classroom, I would tell new people about my cool, quirky tatted up English teacher and try (and fail) to properly describe him. He let us be who we were and fully humored our individual quirks. It's hard to describe how significant that was — to have, as a teenager, an adult truly take you seriously. In a time where feelings were so bad but we were told that what we felt and thought didn't matter, Blakslee constantly reassured us that it did. And that we do."

"Mr. Blakslee will forever go down in history as the coolest person I ever met. He was exactly what a lot of us teenagers needed to see and hear from, and I think what's crazy about that is he was able to touch the hearts of so many people who each had their own traumas. Along the journey that was being his student I realized, man, I wanna be just like this guy when I grow up. And to him I say, 'Mr. Blakslee, you'll always be the coolest person I ever met. You were the only person in the world that helped me understand that being myself was great and "f-you" to anyone who thought otherwise and I'm sure so many people would say the same. I wish I would've told you what an honor it was to be your student and how every life lesson has come in handy, even the ones that were hard to hear. Thank you, Mr. Blakslee, and wherever you are 'give 'em hell!'"

"Blakslee helped me through some of the absolute worst times of my life. I think it's safe to say that high school isn't kind to anyone, but he made every day a little more bearable for me. Especially when it felt like I was the only one on the brink of having a complete meltdown. Whether I was having issues with friends or was having a hard time in my home life (which he knew was far from great), he always had something profound to share with me. He was the only person who I ever spoke to about the things I was dealing with at that time. I think about him often. When I see old, worn converse I think of him. When I see pocket watches and marketing for beard competitions, I think of him. He is the reason why I write even though I don't show anyone. I think that Blakslee is single handedly... why so many of us persevered through high school. I'd like to think that he had a hand in shaping how each person he taught turned out, because I can't think of a single student he taught who wasn't impacted by him."

"He touched all of our lives in English, plays, poems and even wacky after school horror movies. I'll miss the mornings where I would walk into class fighting my own battles and he would always pour me a cup of coffee or draw me a doodle to make me feel better. Also, seeing someone completely covered in tattoos being the head of the IB English Department and being the best of the best has honestly been the greatest blessing. I'm gonna miss you."

"Words cannot express the shock and sadness that I was overcome by in the news of your passing. All I can say is thank you for everything that you were and will continue to be to all those

who walked through your door. Thank you for challenging us to look beyond what was right in front of our face and to be the best that we could be. You inspired so many and were the very essence of sucking out all the marrow of life. For me, there is seldom a day that comes to pass where I don't seek inspiration from your teachings and the very presence you brought upon entering the classroom. I can only hope to be at least half of the person and educator that you were but T.M. Blakslee you were one of a kind and you will be truly missed. I wish you nothing but peace and happiness in your next adventure."

"I wish I could thank him for everything again. It was truly an honor to be his student and on his team."

"If you knew me in high school, you would have known that Blakslee was not just my favorite teacher, he was one of my biggest inspirations. His classes absolutely changed my life and my worldview. I have him to thank for my love of literature and my Lord of the Flies tattoo. And I know I'm not alone. He inspired and entertained so many of us, informed and educated us, and did his damn best to put some smarts into our brains while he had us. I might read through some old essays tonight and pour one out for ol' Tyler. Forever grateful to have known you, Blakslee. Stay rad out there."

"I would use art to do his assignments and he loved it, that meant so much to me and I still saved some of those assignments because I was proud. He was such an incredibly smart and cool guy. He inspired so many people."

"Blakslee was many things, but to me he was a teacher, a quiz bowl coach, and a mentor. As a kid growing up in Lansing, I hadn't heard of a lot of what Blakslee talked to me about—books, movies, music, national parks. He would always share a CD with me if I asked to borrow it, just as long as I didn't scratch it. Blakslee got me excited about things I never knew I could be excited about. I can say without a doubt that I wouldn't be who I am without having met him. He saw potential in us that we might not have seen ourselves and he asked us to be the best versions of ourselves we could be. I'll always owe part of what I have now to our conversations in the car coming home from a quiz bowl competition, a lesson in class, or the potential that he saw in me. Rest easy brother, and thanks for everything."

"Blakslee was a great person and educator. He more than any other teacher impacted my ability to succeed academically after high school. College would have been impossibly hard without the things I learned from him." "I didn't get to know Mr. Blakslee for a long period of time. Yet even with that being said he managed to make such an impact on my life. He would always encourage my love of Horror and the stories I would write and that meant the world to me. Sitting in his class during lunch or after school were some of the best parts of 7th grade. I'm really going to miss him and I hope he knew how much he meant to a lot of people, including me."

***In the words of TMB himself, "I'm not sure what the future holds, but it's there... the future; we just have to doggedly pursue it. [...] Stay diligent and never give up the good fight... it's the only light there is."***



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## THE BLUE THREAD: Jazz fills the summer air in Lansing

One Sunday morning in May, when summer was new and tulips were still policing empty sidewalks, I took a stroll in a leafy neighborhood of north Lansing.

To my left, from behind a two-story garage, a delicate blue thread of music spun into the treetops.

I turned left to see if I could locate the source. At the far end of a long driveway, a burly, bearded man sat on a tiny stool, garden spade in hand, staring down at five potted plants. In front of him was a patch of dirt and an empty trellis.

I couldn't see a speaker, or the telltale glow of an iPhone, but the music was coming from his back porch. The tune was "Autumn Leaves," which, despite its name, was the perfect track to play while gazing at black soil and envisioning the flowers to come in spring. That meant that the trumpeter was Miles Davis, playing a rare sideman gig with his friend, Julian "Cannonball" Adderley.

People call Miles Davis the Prince of Darkness. I don't know about that. Miles at dawn on Sunday, threading through the trees and the rooftops of north Lansing, melding with the morning gold and the lingering dark, sounded like a second sun.

I didn't say "Hello" or even make a sound. The man was totally absorbed in the task and the music, his back to me. As the shadows retreated another inch across the driveway, Miles handed the melody over to Adderley's soulful saxophone.

I walked. The gardening man never saw me. A block away, I could still hear Cannonball's juicy alto, low in the trees.

A lot of great sounds fill the summer air over Lansing. Cars throb with hip-hop until their fiberglass teeth rattle. Towering trucks pull classic-rock guitar riffs up and down Cedar Street. And there's that lady on the motorcycle, Rose Cooper, singing her heart out on the road, a genre unto herself.

But in mid-summer, jazz — usually confined to bars, classrooms, coffee shops and other haunts — surprises us with a gracious, sun-soaked, open-air moment. This music is not meant to deaden, numb or obliterate the outside world. My morning walk with Miles left my soul dilated, receptive, harmonious.

In the next two weeks, two festivals, the

Michigan Jazz Fest in Old Town and the east side's Smooth Jazz Fete, will spin their blue threads into the summer sky. Here's a preview of some of the artists scheduled to appear at Michigan JazzFest. We'll preview the Smooth Jazz Fete next week.

### **Tiffany Gridiron: A circle unbroken**

Listening to vocalist Tiffany Gridiron talk about one of her jazz idols, singer Sarah Vaughan, is like listening to astrophysicist Neil De-See JazzFest, Page 12

8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5,  
South Turner Stage



Photo by Eva Kapanadze

Tiffany Gridiron performed with guitarist Freddie Bryant at Smalls Jazz Club in New York in January 2019.



# JazzFest

from page 11

Grasse Tyson talk about Galileo. You feel the reverence, but you see the lineage.

“What Sarah does with a song is, she plays and bends and rephrases, using the great facility of her instrument,” Gridiron said.

With those words, she summed up her own artistry, except that Gridiron creates colors, moods and shadings no other singer can.

All her life, no matter what else intervened, she has circled back to song. Her first solo, sung from atop a chair at age 5, had naught to do with lollipops and gumdrops: “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”

Gridiron grew up in Los Angeles, where her family was deeply involved in the Church of God in Christ. Her dad was minister of music and led the choir.

“I don’t remember not singing,” she said.

Her grandmother, Jessie Richardson, was a singing evangelist of local cable TV renown who sang in churches and other venues all over Lansing for 50 years, including one of Mayor David Hollister’s inaugurations.

A dramatic turn led Gridiron to Lansing. After living in California for 25 years, her mother got a divorce and married a high school sweetheart from her old Lansing days.

“Now she’s living in her old family home, where Joe used to come pick her up on dates,” Gridiron said. “It’s kind of crazy.”

Gridiron moved to Lansing in her junior year and sampled musical theater at Sexton High School.

The jazz studies program hadn’t yet launched at MSU, and she had no interest in classical training.

“When I got into jazz, it was like I was creating my own education,” she said.

Three great jazz singers — Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and Sarah Vaughan — drew her special attention.

“If I can dive deeply into the rich tapestries of each one of these singers, I’ll have what I need to communicate what I want to say,” she explained.

While earning a degree in social science at MSU, she was unsure of what to do until she became involved in the Multi-racial Unity Living Experience, an undergraduate race relations-focused program that began when she was a freshman. Since then, she’s come full circle and now supports that program as a supervisor in MSU’s Office of Cultural and Academic Transition.

Gridiron said the program helps students coming to MSU deal with “a level of diversity folks have not experienced before,” offering opportunities for engagement and help developing a “skill set” for dealing with diversity.

“It’s very rewarding work,” she said. “The program blew me away.”

But there was still a gap in her life, until she heard vocalist Jill Scott’s 2000 debut album, “Who is Jill Scott? Words and Sounds, Vol. 1.”

“It was like something opened up in me,” Gridiron said. “There was something about that album — I could feel myself in her.”

She snagged a spot reserved for non-music-majors in MSU vocal music Professor Sunny Wilkinson’s class.

Within two months, she sang her first



Courtesy photo

Organist Brian Charette cut his latest CD, “Jackpot,” at the New Jersey Studio where John Coltrane’s “A Love Supreme” and many other jazz classics were recorded.

gig, at the now-defunct Lighter Side restaurant in Okemos.

After three years of substitute teaching in the daytime and hustling for vocal gigs at night, she took the bold step of moving to Tokyo to teach English and sing.

She met some local musicians. Within three months, she had her first gig. In another three months, she signed a contract with Sony that yielded five CDs. On the second CD, her accompanist was the legendary pianist Hank Jones, then in his 80s. Jones, who died in 2010, was one of the finest pianists in jazz history and Fitzgerald’s accompanist from 1948 to 1953.

“The experience was like being held, like a tender baby,” Gridiron said. “There was so much facility, and artistry and history and still such a joy to play the music.”

By then, Gridiron was completely in love with the canon of jazz standards.

“The vocalist is part of the band, and I love that,” she said. “And I love the interpretive quality of it. You can do the same song 20 times and never do it the same way.”

After returning to Lansing in 2011, she resumed her job at MSU and got a master’s in social work in 2019.

It took several years, but music again called out to her.

She sat in with drummer Jeff Shoup at Moriarty’s and East Lansing’s Summer Solstice Jazz Festival in 2019 and did her first gig in New York, at Smalls Jazz Club.

The pandemic enforced another pause, but in 2019, she wrote several original tunes for three planned CDs with trumpeter Kris Johnson, a multiple-Grammy-nominated trumpeter and MSU alumnus.

“This summer has been wonderful to be peeking my head out,” Gridiron said. At JazzFest Friday, she’ll be joined by Michael Malis, a Detroit-based musician with an experimental, wide-ranging musical mind, on keyboards, along with Ann Arbor bassist Joseph Deas and Detroit drummer Nate Winn.

They’ll throw out a bouquet of standards and a few of the originals Gridiron wrote for the project with Kris Johnson, including “From My Heart to Yours,” a moving memorial to her brother.

## Brian Charette: Prague or prog?

A great noise will deep-fry the air when New York jazzman Brian Charette, one of jazz’s top Hammond B-3 organists, joins guitarist Ralph Tope for a funky-and-beyond excursion into the organ-o-sphere.

Charette’s slithery, supple new CD, “Jackpot,” is debuting to great fanfare in the jazz world. It was recorded at one of the holiest shrines in jazz, recording engineer Rudy van Gelder’s home studio in New Jersey, where many of the music’s landmark recordings were waxed by Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Miles Davis and Wayne Shorter and on and on.

“It was incredible,” Charette said. “The lathe they used to cut the records is still there.” Maureen Sickler, Van Gelder’s longtime assistant, now does the engineering. Charette used an organ touched by some of the greatest jazz organists in history, including Jimmy Smith and Larry Young.

Was it intimidating to occupy such a sacred space?

“Music doesn’t intimidate me,” he deadpanned. “Just every single other thing.”

He called “Jackpot” his “most adult” album to date.

“A lot of my albums have electronics, wind ensemble — they’re not traditional,” he said. “This is a very traditional organ quartet record.”

Charette, 49, and Lansing’s own B-3 virtuoso, Jim Alfredson, met several years ago at a trade show (both of them are endorsed by the Hammond Co.), hit it off and ended up playing many gigs together with Detroit drummer Jordan Wright, especially at Moriarty’s.

“That’s how we came to fall in love with Lansing,” Charette said. He’s even got a collection of tiny chickens knitted by the fan lady in the front row at Moriarty’s.

The pandemic didn’t put much of a crimp in Charette’s career. He prides himself on saying no to nothing.

“If you play a keyboard instrument, you can communicate, and you get along pretty well with other people, there’s a lot of opportunities to do many different things,” he said.

He recently worked with country singer, composer and fiddler Amanda Shires. “She knocks me out,” he said. “I don’t work a lot in country music, but I find it very mysterious and beguiling.” He also writes “classical, legit stuff” that he plays with the Modern Arts Orchestra of Budapest. This summer, they’re working on an “alternate take” of Via Crucis, a late work by Franz Liszt for organ, with Charette on “distorted organ.”

“It’s very rock and roll, not what you would expect,” he said.

He’s been busy with recordings, movie scores, instructional videos, new jazz and electronic music, and he’s riding a “big boom” in students that started during the pandemic.

“Everybody was home and everybody was getting a check from the government,” he said.

All in all, Charette is grateful for his chosen line of work, on both the philosophical and practical levels.

“It’s obviously not easy, but I sleep very easy at night,” he said. “It’s not a lot of subterfuge. It’s very direct, somehow.”

Saturday’s JazzFest set is likely to be moderately adventurous.

“There will be jazz, for sure, but funky beats will dominate,” he said. “In a festival setting, it’s a little more of a party style — Lonnie Smith, Herbie Hancock. We also have a lot of synth, so we have this swirly electronica thing happening.”

I asked Charette if he planned to get into “prog,” or progressive rock, in the vein of Yes and King Crimson, thereby precipitating a fun misunderstanding.

“I used to live in Prague, and I have three Czech groups I play a lot with,” he offered.

I re-phrased the question. “Oh, prog!” he cried. “I love prog rock too.”

However, being Brian Charette, he had stories ready for questions about both Prague and “prog.”

Several years ago, he was munching goodies at a trade convention mixer when he saw a rival hand reaching for the same piece of cheese.

The hand belonged to Keith Emerson, the multi-keyboardist legend from the trio of Emerson, Lake and Palmer, as close to a founding god of prog rock as they come. “We ended up playing together that night,” Charette said, adding the late artist was a “very nice man.”

## Michael J. Reed: Take one concept

While many younger musicians cram their compositions with jostling ideas, drummer and composer Michael J. Reed’s music is as centered as a rock. The confidence and wis-

See JazzFest, Page 17

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM. NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate. File No. 22-664-DE. Estate of Margaret E. Lynch, Deceased. Date of birth: 09/30/1950. TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Margaret E. Lynch, died 03/27/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Joseph Schutz, 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. 7/28/2022. John T. Conroy P43709, 410 Bridge Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. 616-454-4119. Joseph Schutz, 409 Curtiss Dr., Fate, TX 75087. 214-418-0917 CP#22-169





# JazzFest

## MICHIGAN 2022

**Thur AUG 4 • Fri AUG 5 • Sat AUG 6**

ORDER TICKETS AT [bit.ly/MJazzFest22](https://bit.ly/MJazzFest22)

or pick up at UrbanBeat 1213 Turner St.  
Lansing, MI 48906

On Turner Street in "OLD TOWN"  
[michart.org](https://michart.org) • 517.371.4600





**WELCOME TO OLD TOWN!**

We are so pleased to welcome **JazzFest Michigan** back to the streets of Old Town, Lansing. With over 30 different performances, we have a terrific line-up of artists who are as excited to get back in front of an audience as we are to hear them. There will be something for everyone—even the kids!

Enjoy a weekend of energy, excitement, music and coming together again as a community, where we can reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

**SPECIAL SONG PREMIERES**

As an added benefit, each artist has agreed to premiere a song, composition or arrangement that they've never performed publicly before.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Seating at JazzFest 2022 will be by ticket. Here's why: In the past, beverages sales covered production expenses. Now, a variety of restaurants and bars have flourished in Old Town. While we love this (and take a bit of credit for it) we don't make enough through beverage sales to pay for everything like we used to. Now ticket sales and donations are primarily how we pay for the musicians, production crew, tables, chairs, permits, insurances, etc. We've priced tickets to cover expenses only. As a non-profit organization, your donations to MICA beyond a ticket purchase are truly needed and greatly appreciated. And still, half of our performances will be free.

**BEVERAGE STATION**

There will be a beverage station in front of UrbanBeat with beer, wine & mixed drinks for only \$5<sup>00</sup>.

**ENJOY THE SOCIAL DISTRICT**

Old Town's new designation as a Social District means festival goers can buy and consume and walk on the streets with appropriately labeled alcoholic beverages from sponsor UrbanBeat and other bars and restaurants, while seeing all that JazzFest has to offer.

**VENUES**

There will be four venues this year: the South and North Turner Street Stages, the River Stage (Premier seats) and the UrbanBeat Afterglow Stage. Turner Street and River Stages are open-air. The Afterglow Stage is indoors at UrbanBeat. See the map for details.

**LIVESTREAM**

Portions of the festival will be livestreamed at [bit.ly/jazzfestlivestream2022](https://bit.ly/jazzfestlivestream2022)





**24 HOUR FLASH SALE FOR ONLINE TICKETS**

Between noon Wed AUG 3rd › noon Thur AUG 4th

Buy tickets now at [bit.ly/MJazzFest22](https://bit.ly/MJazzFest22)

**FRI AUG 5 • SAT AUG 6**

*River, Turner & UrbanBeat Stages*

|                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>General admission (GA)</b> | <b>\$10</b> per day   |
| <b>Premier seats</b>          | <b>\$25</b> per day   |
| <b>AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat</b> | <b>\$20</b> per night |

(GA) General Admission (limited seating)

**FUNDRAISER CONCERT FOR LAWRENCE 'LO' LEATHERS FOUNDATION**

**THURS AUG 4 › Donation \$50 at UrbanBeat**


**Luther Allison • Pickle Mafia**

**JAZZFEST T-SHIRTS & POSTERS**

We're excited to announce that our 2022 JazzFest t-shirts will be on sale Friday and Saturday at the festival for only \$15 - so get one for yourself or grab one for a friend! Vintage T-shirts & Posters also available.



**LAWRENCE 'LO' LEATHERS FOUNDATION**



Luther Allison and Pickle Mafia joins us this year on the kickoff fundraiser concert, on **THURS AUG 4**, for the Lawrence 'Lo' Leathers (L3) Foundation, which provides scholarships and other assistance to emerging artists seeking higher education in the Performing Arts. The L3 Foundation was formed to memorialize Lawrence Leathers, the Lansing native and gifted young musician who lost his life in 2019. Lo studied at the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in New York City, where he built on his talents before further honing them on the bandstand. Respected by the giants of contemporary jazz and appearing at major festivals worldwide, Lo won 2 consecutive Grammys performing with acclaimed singer Cecile McLorin Salvant. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support this 501 (c) 3 nonprofit's important mission.



# JazzFest 2022 PERFORMERS

## THUR AUGUST 4



### PICKLE MAFIA

8:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

From Nirvana to Ariana Grande and a slew of danceable originals, The Pickle Mafia brings an exciting variety to JazzFest. Started in May 2019, this group has already played over 60 shows across the New York state area, their mission being “to travel from city to city taking people on a musical journey together”.



### LUTHER ALLISON

9:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Luther Allison is an exciting act for all audiences. Based in New York, Allison is a multi-instrumentalist performer who specializes in piano and drums. He has performed nationally and internationally alongside many great names, and can be recognized as the current pianist for *Generation Y Quintet*. Luther truly keeps the love of jazz performance alive.

## FRI AUGUST 5



### TOM DUFFIELD

5:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Tom Duffield's piano work has been a part of the jazz and blues scene for decades. His repertoire includes interpretations of the standards as well as some surprises. A regular at music festivals on the west side of the state, we are glad to have him at the JazzFest Michigan.



### RITMO PATRIA

6:00pm | **South Turner Stage**

Ritmo Patria, directed by Mike Eyia will be performing original compositions by Gregg Hill and Cuban inspired jazz. Mike has shared the stage with a number of recording artists such as Los Lobos, Salsa great Oscar D'Leon, Pete Escovido, Wycliffe Gordon and others.



### CLIQUE VOCALS

7:00pm | **River Stage**

Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner's approach to performing and a shared love of singing jazz standards led to the formation of Clique Vocals. The duo performs with the Lansing Concert Big Band as featured vocalists.



### SCHOOL OF ROCK

7:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

School of Rock bands perform on stage at local venues. Jazzfest Michigan provides a great opportunity not only for building musical ability but for building confidence, collaboration, and social skills - not to mention it's the most fun way to learn an instrument!

### TOM DUFFIELD

7:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner



### TIFFANY GRIDIRON

8:00pm | **South Turner Stage**

Vocalist Tiffany Gridiron with her sultry vocals and playful approach, built on influence by greats such as Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. Gridiron has brought her sound internationally to excited audiences in the United States, Japan, Finland, and South Korea.



### PICKLE MAFIA

9:00pm | **River Stage**

### SCHOOL OF ROCK

9:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

### TOM DUFFIELD

9:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner



### WALTER WHITE & FRIENDS

10:00pm | **South Turner Stage**

Michigan-native Walter White has an extensive background in jazz performance, formed by his expressive-trumpet playing. His playing can be heard on many famous soundtracks, including those of TAXI and The Cosby Show. White has an impressive recording arsenal, including “Breaking Good”, a record that reached into the Top 20 on the Jazz Week charts.



### SAM COREY & FRIENDS

11:00pm | **AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

“The Sam Corey Quartet” featuring, Kasan Belgrave, Rufus Ferguson and Joshua Watkins is a musical collective of musicians deeply influenced by the sounds of Detroit. The quartet will play a set from 11pm-12am, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:30 am.

## SAT AUGUST 6

### HIP NOTES

2:00pm | **South Turner Stage**

Hip Notes is a four-piece group playing high energy music, ballads, Latin music, and funk style modern jazz. The members are all local seasoned musicians who have toured with some of the greats such as Joe Cocker, Mica Paris, B Angie B, Mark Farner, Les Sabler, Manfredo Fest, Marty Balin to name a few. Band members are Trent Harris, Pauleo Ojibway, Gino Parker and Ruben Drake.

### KIDZBEAT

2:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

**Rhythmic Movement with Bryce Berry**

Interactive workshop for young people and the young at heart



**KIDZBEAT**  
2:30pm | **North Turner Stage**  
**Children's Ballet Theatre**  
Performance

**JAMM SCHOLARSHIP BAND**  
3:00pm | **River Stage**

**KIDZBEAT**  
3:00pm | **North Turner Stage**  
**Swing Dance Basics For Family Fun**  
With greater Lansing Academy of Dance

**KIDZBEAT**  
3:30pm | **North Turner Stage**  
**Greater Lansing Ballet Company**  
Summer Jazz Performance

**TOM DUFFIELD**  
3:30pm | **UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**



**MICHAEL J. REED**  
4:00pm | **South Turner Stage**  
Performing throughout the Midwest and New York, East Lansing's own jazz drummer Michael J. Reed, has been leading his own groups to play at many venues, and recently released his second album, "Remove All Fear". Come see this musician's growing, impressive career in action.



**BRIAN CHARETTE TRIO**  
5:00pm | **River Stage**  
Don't miss NYC-based organist/pianist Brian Charette's modern jazz. This musician has been performing extensively in both Europe and in the United States, while receiving rave reviews on his nineteen albums - many of which have been in the Jazzweek and Itunes top 20.



**SCHOOL OF ROCK**  
5:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

**SURPRISE GUEST**  
5:30pm | **UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**



**OLIVIA VAN GOOR**  
6:00pm | **South Turner Stage**  
Olivia Van Goor is a young vocalist with an old soul influenced by swing and bebop jazz, with a rich musicality unique to herself that still pays tribute to jazz tradition. This Southeast Michigan performer has been seen at historic Detroit clubs, such as Cliff Bell's and Aretha's Jazz Cafe at Music Hall. Watch her performance for that which is beyond replicating what has been done before.



**REUBEN STUMP TRIO** 7:00pm | **River Stage**  
The Reuben Stump Trio has been playing together in various ensembles for the past 3 years, performing standards. The Trio features: Reuben Stump - bass and vocals, Lansing pianist Eric Banitt and from Marquette drummer Eliza Salem.

**SCHOOL OF ROCK**  
7:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

**CLIQUE VOCALS**  
7:30pm | **UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**



**MINOR ELEMENT**  
8:00pm | **South Turner Stage**  
All-instrumental, jazz fusion band Minor Element are a must-see. Audiences can expect a groove with complexity, as this group draws inspiration from any sound including jazz, rock, and gospel. Made up by nine members of diverse musical backgrounds, this group is bringing a special experience.



**ELDEN KELLY** 9:00pm | **River Stage**  
Seasoned improviser, highly skilled guitarist, and songwriter Elden Kelly brings remarkable flare to JazzFest 2022 with Carolyn Koebel (Percussion) and Denis Shebukhov (Bass). Kelly's genre of jazz stretches the expectations of audiences with his engaging performance, with foundations in both traditional bases and fusions. Don't miss Elden and his recognizably outstanding music.



**496 WEST**  
10:00pm | **South Turner Stage**  
496 West offers soulful vocals, a powerhouse horn section, killer keys, silky strings, and indispensable percussions grounded in the soul, smooth jazz, and R&B genres with a sprinkling of the blues and gospel jazz.

**REUBEN STUMP TRIO & FRIENDS**  
11:00pm | **AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**  
The trio will perform from 11pm-12am, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:30 am.

SAVE THE DATES!

MICHIGAN  
BLUESFEST



September 15-17

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# JazzFest MICHIGAN 2022 • Thur AUG 4 • Fri AUG 5 • Sat AUG 6



\* Map is subject to change

|                    | (GA) General Admission<br>\$10 per day | Premier<br>\$25 per day | Afterglow<br>\$20 per night |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SOUTH TURNER STAGE | X                                      | X                       |                             |
| NORTH TURNER STAGE | X                                      | X                       |                             |
| RIVER STAGE        |  | X                       |                             |
| URBANBEAT STAGE    | X                                      | X                       | X                           |

## ABOUT MICA

The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art's mission is to create open spaces where people can come together, meet old friends, make new friends, and in the context of the arts take action to bring about positive community transformation. MICA's exhibitions in the visual arts and programs in music, performance, film and literature provide opportunities to entertain, educate and inspire. For more, see [micharts.org](http://micharts.org).

## MICA Board

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Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that **serves as a catalyst for community transformation through quality arts programming.** Grants, donations, sponsorships and other revenues support art and artists.

## BEVERAGE STATION & FOOD

There will be a beverage station in front of UrbanBeat with beer, wine, mixed drinks and food for only \$ 5<sup>00</sup>. Also, OZONE'S BREWHOUSE foodtruck and other vendors will be near the North Turner Stage.

## THURSDAY • AUGUST 4

| TICKETS                               | UrbanBeat STAGE |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 8:00pm Pickle Mafia <i>Donation</i>   | 1213 Turner     |
| 9:30pm Luther Allison <i>Donation</i> | 1213 Turner     |

## FRIDAY • AUGUST 5

| TICKETS  | STAGES                        |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 5:00pm Tom Duffield <i>Free</i>                        | UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner  |
| 6:00pm Ritmo Patria <i>GA &amp; Premier</i>            | South Turner Stage            |
| 7:00pm Clique Vocals <i>Free</i>                       | River Stage, behind UrbanBeat |
| 7:00pm School of Rock <i>Free</i>                      | North Turner Stage            |
| 7:30pm Tom Duffield <i>Free</i>                        | UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner  |
| 8:00pm Tiffany Gridiron <i>GA &amp; Premier</i>        | South Turner Stage            |
| 9:00pm Pickle Mafia <i>Premier</i>                     | River Stage, behind UrbanBeat |
| 9:00pm School of Rock <i>Free</i>                      | North Turner Stage            |
| 9:30pm Tom Duffield <i>Free</i>                        | UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner  |
| 10:00pm Walter White & Friends <i>GA &amp; Premier</i> | South Turner Stage            |
| 11:00pm Sam Corey & Friends <i>Afterglow</i>           | AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat Stage  |

## SATURDAY • AUGUST 6

| TICKETS  | STAGES                                    |
|--|---|
| 2:00pm Hip Notes <i>Free</i>                         | South Turner Stage                        |
| 2:00pm KidzBeat <i>Free</i>                          | North Turner Stage                        |
| 2:30pm KidzBeat <i>Free</i>                          | North Turner Stage                        |
| 3:00pm Jamm Scholarship Band <i>Free</i>             | River Stage, behind UrbanBeat             |
| 3:00pm Kidzbeat <i>Free</i>                          | North Turner Stage                        |
| 3:30pm Kidzbeat <i>Free</i>                          | North Turner Stage                        |
| 3:30pm Tom Duffield <i>Free</i>                      | UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner              |
| 4:00pm Michael J Reed <i>GA &amp; Premier</i>        | South Turner Stage                        |
| 5:00pm Brian Charette Trio <i>Premier</i>            | River Stage, behind UrbanBeat             |
| 5:00pm School of Rock <i>Free</i>                    | North Turner Stage                        |
| 5:30pm Surprise guest <i>Free</i>                    | UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner              |
| 6:00pm Olivia Van Goor <i>GA &amp; Premier</i>       | South Turner Stage                        |
| 7:00pm Reuben Stump Trio <i>Premier</i>              | River Stage, behind UrbanBeat             |
| 7:00pm School of Rock <i>Free</i>                    | North Turner Stage                        |
| 7:30pm Clique Vocals <i>Free</i>                     | UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner              |
| 8:00pm Minor Element <i>GA &amp; Premier</i>         | South Turner Stage                        |
| 9:00pm Elden Kelly <i>Premier</i>                    | River Stage, behind UrbanBeat             |
| 10:00pm 496 West <i>GA &amp; Premier</i>             | South Turner Stage                        |
| 11:00pm Reuben Stump Trio & Friends <i>Afterglow</i> | AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner |

(GA) General Admission

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BRONZE





# JazzFest

from page 12

dom of his absorbing new CD, “Remove All Fear,” belie his brief 26 years on the planet. “I like to keep the music digestible to the ear, and a little sneaky, so it keeps you coming back, wondering what’s coming next,” he said. “You can take one concept



Courtesy photo

Drummer and MSU grad Michael J. Reed: “I like to keep the music digestible — and a little sneaky.”

and expound on it, instead of putting three or four tunes into one.” The title track of Reed’s absorbing new CD, “Remove All Fear,” distills that principle to a single note, a candle with a fragile yet unquenchable flame. Reed knew the song was special, so he asked vocalist Rockelle Fortin to contribute lyrics and record the song on the album. She responded with a transcendent vocal performance that whispers like a comforting voice inside your mind. “It’s for people who deal with anxiety and fear, the things like throws at us,” Reed said. At JazzFest, Reed brings a quartet of Tim Blackmon Jr. on trumpet, Bijan Taghavi on piano and Lucas LaFave on bass. Reed grew up in Toledo, bathed by marathon mornings of impassioned choral and instrumental music in the Baptist church. He still draws his musical inspiration from his deep religious faith, but gospel music demands a fine ear as well as deep feeling. “Depending on how the holy spirit moves through the service, we might vamp on something for a while, and that developed my ear training,” he said. The greatest drummers are listeners, and Reed is a consummate one. “We drummers have a reputation of writing complex music, but it’s not about how much stuff you can put into a song,” he said. “It’s about what message you can convey, in manner that makes sense.” As a youngster, he listened to records to figure out what the drummers were doing and played along. “Growing up, music was always playing in the house — reggae, hip-hop, gospel, Motown, R&B,” he said. “Little did I know that was leading me into jazz.” Legendary vocalist Jon Hendricks

was still teaching at the University of Toledo when Reed was a freshman. “I was just trying to soak it all in, be observant, rather than actively asking questions,” he said. “I get a little nervous, very shy. I’m naturally an introvert.” Now Reed is listening to his own students, at MSU’s Community Music School-Detroit. This fall, he starts a new gig, as an adjunct professor at Saginaw Valley State University, teaching jazz combos and jazz history. His only plan for now to “record and perform with as many people as possible.” One of the stories running through this year’s JazzFest is the passing of another generational torch in jazz’s century-long relay run. The spiritual and musical weight of “Remove All Fear” hangs from the cable-tight rhythm section of Reed, pianist Luther Allison and the teacher of all teachers, bassist and MSU jazz studies Director Rodney Whitaker. “Rodney makes it easy to gel together,” Reed said. “He’s like the glue. To have him as a mentor, and have him hire me in his band, show me the things he’s learned with all the people he’s played with — it just felt right.” This year’s JazzFest features a slew of musicians who, like Reed, came up through the MSU program and are dispersing around the world, re-greening the music, upholding its traditions while taking it in new directions. Reed recalled with a laugh that when he recorded “Remove All Fear,” Whitaker was planning an album of his own, with the same personnel. “He said, ‘Man, you took my band,’” Reed said. His pride in the moment gave way to humility: “Not sure you want to use that in the article.”

**Luther S. Allison: Hometown heroes** When many young jazz musicians are asked who influenced them most, they’ll tick off the names of icons like John Coltrane, Duke Ellington or Thelonious Monk. Pianist Luther S. Allison’s answer to the question points to the hidden riches of local music scenes across the United States, including Charlotte, North Carolina, where Allison grew up. “For me, it was all about home town heroes,” Allison said. “I went through a big Lovell Bradford phase.” Lovell who? Better get wise if you ever visit the Queen City. Bradford is a fixture of the Charlotte jazz scene, as pianist, drummer and educator. Take in a few minutes of Bradford’s music on YouTube, energized in the manner of McCoy Tyner, and you can see why Allison is already near the top of the art. “I would see him at different shows, record his solos and go home and learn some of the stuff he would play,” Allison said. When Allison was in high school, another hometown hero, drummer Ocie Davis and his wife, Lonnie, started up a successful nonprofit, JazzArts Initiative. Allison and many other local musicians got their first gigs through the program, now called JazzArts Charlotte. Allison, 26, went to the University of Tennessee at age 17 and soaked up the wide-ranging experience of another hometown hero, pianist Donald Brown. His time with Brown drew him, in turn, into the rich piano heritage of the Memphis Mafia, a distinguished constellation of pianists that includes Mulgrew Miller, Harold Mabern and James Williams. That’s a lot of name-dropping, but can I help it if Memphis is so rich in musical history? Each of these artists has a unique and compelling piano “voice,” they all deserve wider renown, and they all feed into Allison’s fascinating and unique piano style. It wasn’t until Allison’s time at MSU that he stretched beyond his hometown heroes into the bebop lineage of Thelonious Monk and Bud Powell. Lately, he’s been hearkening to early jazz pioneers like Art Tatum, Eubie Blake and Jelly Roll Morton. “That’s the way-way-back,” he said. “It’s funny, but as I’m living longer, I’m checking out older and older stuff.” It all finds its way into Allison’s sparkling and urbane yet deeply grounded piano style, alert to every nuance of the moment. Allison made a connection with MSU trombone professor Michael Dease at the Brevard Music Center, where Dease runs a summer music camp. He was gravitating toward New York, but Dease nudged him to consider MSU. He said it’s been the best educational experience of his life, but he was unsure at first about moving to Lansing. “It’s the capital, but it’s even smaller than Knoxville,” he marveled. But the state’s rich jazz life has kept him busy with gigs from Detroit to Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor, Detroit, Grand Rapids and beyond. At MSU, he found the faculty not only to be world-class jazz artists, but also educators with a purview stretch-

9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St.



Courtesy photo

Pianist and MSU grad Luther S. Allison draws on a rich heritage of “hometown heroes” from the rich jazz scene in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he grew up.

ing far beyond music. “They want you to understand the implications of the music and the world at large, the government, even race issues,” he said. At JazzFest, Allison will be joined by Michael J. Reed on drums and MSU bass student Jonathan Müir-Cotton. He’ll take his New York trio, with MSU grad (and “Late Show with Stephen Colbert” house bassist) Endea Owens and drummer Charles Gould, to his old stomping grounds of Charlotte and environs for a tour this fall.





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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## ‘Big Fish’ brings a magical, diverse show to Riverwalk

By TODD HEYWOOD

How does one come to terms with a fantastically imaginative father who’s painted a world of witches and giants? That’s a key conflict in the upcoming Riverwalk production of “Big Fish: The Musical.”

### Big Fish: The Musical

Riverwalk Theater  
Aug. 18-21 and Aug. 25-28  
Thursdays the show starts at 7 p.m.  
Sundays, 2 p.m. matinees  
All other dates curtain is 8 p.m.  
Tickets, \$24 adults, \$20 seniors, \$12 children under 12

Yes, it’s based on the 2003 movie of the same name. The film was directed by Tim Burton, who is known for his remarkably visual and emotional productions. “Big

Fish: The Musical” promises the same commonality of the mundane and the fantastical. It’s a mythology of a father and son attempting to understand each other.

With a cast of 28, this is certain to be a swirl of action for lead actors as well as the ensemble and supporting cast.

The surreal story, as told by lead character Ed Bloom (Cameron Going), confronts the witch (Ny’kieria Blocker) in the swamp at an early age. She shows him his future, including how he will die. This key confrontation unleashes Bloom’s journey and frees him of the fears of death. Blocker said she has approached the witch from a slightly different perspective than most might expect.



Ny’kieria Blocker

of the character and her role in freeing Bloom to be his authentic self. She said some of the experience comes from shows she’s done in Lansing, where she said she didn’t feel “completely included” in the community that’s known to

“I don’t think she’s evil,” Blocker said. “She’s tired of being misunderstood and excluded, so she’s retreated to the swamp to escape the world.”

Blocker said her experience as a Black woman certainly underpins her interpretation



Courtesy photo

“Big Fish” cast members Cameron Going, Emily Stokes and Brian Farnham.

become insular and cliquish. In the same breath, she also acknowledged that she has had less interaction with the cast because her character has only two scenes.

Playing the son of Will Bloom is Camryn Cardwell. This is the 11-year-old’s seventh show on Lansing stages. He said he’s had a great time with the cast and crew and feels a part of the community. His dad, Paul, part of the family-owned business LeRoy’s Bar and Grill on South Cedar Street, has long been connected to the theater community through the bar, which was often the spot actors and



Camryn Cardwell

crew alike headed for food and drink after rehearsals and shows. “They’ve been great with Camryn,” his father said. “There has been no issues, and he is clearly having a great time.”

Blocker, however, has a slightly cynical view, noting she feels responsible to protect Camryn, who is an interracial youth, from microaggressions based on race and racial stereotyping. “I feel I owe that to him,” she said.

Within the “Big Fish” mythology, Edward Bloom claims to have befriended a giant that had once threatened his hometown. The giant (named Karl) turns out to be a misunderstood creature craving the intimacy of friendship and food — lots of food. The giant is played by Luka Pawsek, an immigrant from Slovenia. And while this is his third run on the boards for local theater, Pawsek comes from a long line of performers. His father, mother and grandfather all did theater in Slovenia — introducing him to the art early in his life.

And not only is Pawsek an immigrant who proudly said he started learning English when he was 5 years old, but he’s also a proudly married gay man. It was that marriage that brought him to Lansing, where he spends his days slinging lattes and hot brews to customers at a Starbucks.

“Sure, my experience as an immigrant to America plays into this performance,” he said. “I spent the first year or so in the country observing the society and community, watching what I said and

how I said it so I didn’t cause issues. I think that parallels Karl’s journey in some ways.”

He noted that while he has felt embraced by the theater community here, he is disappointed in what he sees as a lack of deep, concerted outreach to communities of color and helping to overcome some of the stereotypes that may prohibit an actor of color from auditioning. He noted the myth that men who do theater are all gay prevented many of his men of color coworkers from auditioning for shows for fear of being labeled as gay.

“But I also know, when I walk into an audition and look around, the first question I ask is always: ‘Will someone who looks like me be considered for any of these roles,’” he said. “Are they willing to do color-blind casting?”

As for “Big Fish” specifically, it’s a big, magical show, about a huge life, featuring a diverse cast. And dancing elephant butts. No, seriously: Dancing elephant butts, mermaids, a giant and a witch. For those in search of mythical storytelling, buried in extraordinary emotions, this is the production to see.



Courtesy photo

Quinn Kelly

### Other shows:

#### Wiley and the Hairy Man

Lansing Community College  
Theater Under the Stars  
Outdoor Amphitheater  
Aug. 3-7, 7 p.m.  
curtain FREE

#### Bell Book and Candle

Riverwalk Theater Black Box  
Thursdays the show starts at 7 p.m.  
Sundays, 2 p.m. matinees  
All other dates curtain is 8 p.m.



# A GRAND RE-OPENING

## A fixture returns to Downtown Lansing

By SARAH SPOHN

Downtown Lansing residents and workers can once again get their pie and eat it too. On July 5, Grand Traverse Pie Company reopened its Washington Square store following nearly two years of being closed due to the pandemic.



### Grand Traverse Pie Co.

200 S. Washington Square,  
Lansing  
(517) 316-0900  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
gtpie.com

“With a lot of people working remotely, there just wasn’t enough of a customer base to keep the store open during those times,” general manager Nik Parkinson said. “However, with state workers starting to return back to work part time, and some full time, and with other offices opening up over the last six to eight months, we decided it was time to reopen and give it another go.”

The café serves sandwiches, soups,

salads, quiche, pot pies and desserts like cookies and, of course, their famous pies, by the slice or whole.

“Besides our dessert pie, our chicken pot pie is our best-selling item,” Parkinson said, “We make dozens of them every day. They’re savory, hot and delicious.”

Other popular menu items include the cherry chicken salad with cucumber, tomato, feta, Michigan dried cherries and berry cherry vinaigrette. Other go-to’s are quiche by the slice and chicken fiesta salad with cheddar cheese, black bean and corn mix, tortilla strips and chipotle ranch dressing. Pie-wise, the cherry crumb pie made from Michigan Montmorency cherries, topped with a layer of rich chocolate ganache, takes the cake as the most popular.

Aside from simply tasting good, sourcing regional ingredients is also important to the Traverse City-based company, which also has locations at 3536 Meridian Crossing Drive in Okemos and 1403 E. Grand River Ave. in East Lansing.



Courtesy photo

Grand Traverse Pie Co., located at 200 S. Washington Square., reopened on July 5.

“All of our apples, blueberries and cherries are all Michigan fruit,” Parkinson said. “We’re super proud about that.”

While the lunch rush is always busy, the café also offers customers breakfast items like muffins, turnovers, cinnamon rolls, scramble wraps and coffee, starting at 8 a.m. daily.

“We do more than just lunch,” he said. “Right now, we’re running a promotion Monday through Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. where customers can get a free coffee with any purchase.”

Inside, the downtown space seats about 80 people. Outside, the sidewalk patio includes umbrellas, tables and chairs for about 24. For those still not comfortable dining in, Grand Traverse offers takeout, delivery through DoorDash and catering.



Courtesy photo

Grand Traverse Cherry Crumb

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Red Haven  
© Tom Gennara



# Author remembered for penning 'The Bible' of Michigan architecture

'The Buildings of Michigan' remains a go-to for historians

By **BILL CASTANIER**

With the recent death of Kathryn Anne Omoto, the Mitten State lost one of its true architectural history buffs. The author died at her home in Elk Rapids, Michigan, this past week. She was 86.

Omoto dedicated her life to preserving the state's architectural history and from 1970 to 1997 was Michigan's historic preservation officer.

Some might know her by the name Kathryn B. Eckert — the name printed on the cover of her monumental book, "The Buildings of Michigan." First published by Oxford University Press in 1993 for the Society of Architectural Historians, it became "the bible" of Michigan architecture, according to Omoto's former colleague Laura Ashley.

"She inspired a generation of architectural historians," Ashley said. "I was blown away by the information she had in her head."

Ashley went on to direct several programs in the state's history organizations, including Michigan's Historical Marker Program. Along the way, "The Buildings of Michigan" was always nearby.

"In the office, when someone asked a question about historic buildings, we would ask, 'Did you look in the bible?' she recalled.

Looking back, Ashley said her mentor taught her how to dig deeper while researching. From landmark buildings and the homes of the wealthiest to unique vernacular buildings, nothing was off limits. They all had a story to tell.

"Kathryn would always ask why a building was built that way," she re-

called. "She took into consideration the influence of where the people came from who built the building."

In the sprawling 602-page book, which features 1,000 entries and 400 photographs and illustrations, Omoto and her contributors provide a broad view of everything from Detroit's Guardian Building and the Fisher Theatre to the livery stable down the street. In the Lansing section of the book, Omoto digs into the Capitol, but also the more

Sandra Clark, now the director of the Michigan History Center in Lansing, who worked closely with Omoto for several years in the various reiterations of the State History bureaucracy, said: "She made people aware of the importance of historic structures in Michigan. As head of SHPO (the State Historic

Preservation Office), she really established the preservation ethic in Michigan and made it into a professional program.

eyes about historic architecture," Christensen said. "She wanted to consider a whole range of styles and building materials."

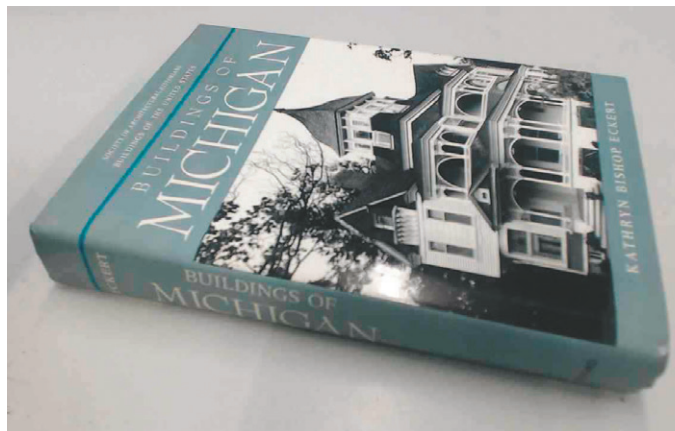
He pointed to how the book considers the breadth of Michigan architecture and contains entries of everything from Perma-log homes to simple field stone structures in Northern Michigan.

Christensen also said Omoto was an expert in the use of local materials and was especially attracted to sandstone and limestone building materials. She even wrote a book, "The Sandstone Architecture of the Lake Superior Region," highlighting those structures. Beyond that, she also authored "The Campus Guide: Cranbrook," which examines the vast trove of architecture and artwork of Cranbrook.

And that passion never ceased. All her friends and fellow workers knew of Omoto's love of northern western Michigan and especially her love of the Leland area. Most recently, among other preservation missions, she worked diligently with locals to help save her beloved Fishtown — carrying on a long tradition of preserving Michigan's Architectural legacy.

In the preface to the first edition of the book, Omoto thanked her many co-workers who helped with the book and wrote: "As a lifelong resident of Michigan, the rewards of this project have been enormous. The countless buildings that have sheltered or surrounded me all my life are now my intimate friends: each has told me its story, and I have pressed close to hear and to learn."

Good advice from a whisperer of Michigan architectural history. Long may her legacy stay with us.



"The Buildings of Michigan" was first published in 1993.

ordinary Clarence L. Munn Ice Arena and MSU's former University Village.

And not only did the book consider the great houses of automobile entrepreneurs in Grosse Pointe, the massive factories of Albert Kahn and the mid-20th-century buildings of Alden B. Dow and Minoru Yamasaki, but also the work of hundreds of local architects, like Lansing's own Darius Moon.

Over in Bay City (my hometown), Omoto details the high Victorian Sage Library, the Richardsonian Romanesque City Hall alongside the wood-frame clapboard Mader and Joseph Trumble House, which served as a way-side stop for travelers in the 1800s.

"Also, during difficult discussions with developers, she was compassionate with them and had a way of taking all the anger out of the air," Clark added.

Another co-worker, Robert Christensen, who closed his career as Michigan's coordinator for the National Register of Historic Places, also recalled her dynamic eye.

"Omoto was able to open a lot of

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# TURN IT DOWN!

## Guest Column

*This week, musician Sean Madigan, of Kind Beast, writes a guest column about his late friend Tyler Blakslee, who died following a July 23 accident. Blakslee, a respected fixture in the local scene since the 1990s, was also a beloved teacher at Eastern High School.*

### Remembering 'a poet and seeker'

In the summer of 2000, I was 22 and newly arrived to Lansing, trying to figure out life while attempting to turn a few acquaintances into friends. Days after arriving, I was driving my 1994 Ford Escort very fast down a road that appeared to be paved with sand and not at all serviceable. The acquaintance-turned-friend beside me, whom I knew as Louie Dazzle, insisted "this is the way" as we cut off Michigan Avenue. He said to "keep going, it's good" every time I turned to ask, "You're sure we should be driving here?"

In an instant we were airborne. My humble vehicle landed with remarkable ease in a pit of dirt. We were

surrounded on all sides by dark walls looming several feet high.

"Louie!" I screamed. "You said you knew the way."

He looked at the clock on my radio, noted it was nearing 3 a.m., and shook a finger as he said, "I know a guy."

The guy, it turned out after a 20-minute walk, was a young man who slept in full pajamas and, even at this unholy hour, was tickled to see Louie Dazzle at his door.

"We've got a solvable problem, we just need rope," Louie said.

The young man in pajamas heard Louie only partially, however, as he'd already begun accosting me about rumors he'd heard 'round-the-way in this time before social media.

"You like Bukowski?" he asked. "I've got a bootleg of him reading at K College."

This person's name was Tyler Blakslee. And while we failed miserably in pulling my Escort from that pit of dirt, Tyler had, by the end of the night,

charmed me as I imagine he charmed so many others. A conversationalist from the start, he waxed with categorical precision about The Jesus Lizard's back catalog as we made pageantry of attempting to yank my hatchback from its fate using nothing more than a piece of twine found in his kitchen.

Within days, we resumed our conver-



Tyler Blakslee (left) and Sean Madigan.

Courtesy photo

sation in bars and apartments. I found in Tyler a man possessed of mythical impressions of lived experience, his own and that of others. He gravitated toward artists of great hubris, like Hemingway and Nick Cave — as well as those with a flair for the magical and dark fantasy: John Cheever, John Carpenter. An aesthete in every sense, Tyler's living spaces were virtual installations featuring themed compartments: Tiki lounge; monster museum; '70s Playboy; "The Wolf Room." His creativity encompassed not only music, design, collage and poetry, but also his way of being.

Tyler, without doubt, sought a life writ large.

Among certain sectors, Tyler is best known as a singer of rock 'n' roll bands. Prior to his untimely passing, a case was being made that he was "LANSING'S GREATEST FRONTMAN." To have seen him perform is to know this is not hyperbole. Onstage, Tyler was

#### Tyler Mitchell Blakslee:

July 24, 1977 - July 23, 2022  
Celebration of Life  
Sunday, Aug. 7, 2-5 p.m.  
Lansing Brewing Company  
518 E. Shiawassee St, Lansing

## Live & Local CityPULSE

### B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing

#### Liv Conaty

Thurs., August 4, 7:30-10:30 p.m.



### Bluegill Grill

1591 E. Lake Lansing Rd., Haslett

#### Tony Thompson

Thurs., August 4, 5-8 p.m.



### Classic Pub & Grill

16219 S. US-27, Lansing

#### Velocity Shift

Sat., August 6, 8 p.m.



### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

#### DJ E-Nyce

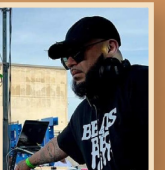
Thurs., August 4, 7-10 p.m.

#### Travis Faber

Fri., August 5, 7-10 p.m.

#### Jacob Ford

Sat., August 6, 7-10 p.m.



### The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### The New Rule

Fri. & Sat., August 5-6, 9:30-1 a.m.



### The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Soulstice

Fri., August 5, 9 p.m.

#### The Corzo Effect

Sat., August 6, 9 p.m.



### Lansing Brewing Co.

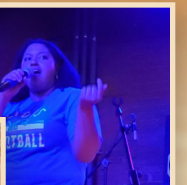
518 E. Shiawassee, Lansing

#### Ellisa Issa

Fri., August 5, 7-10 p.m.

#### Downriver Dan

Sat., August 6, 7-10 p.m.

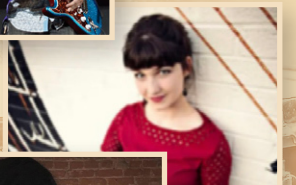


### Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

#### Kendall Cassella

Fri., August 5, 8-10 p.m.

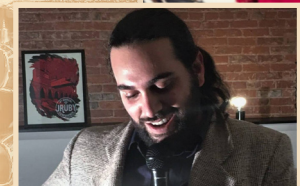


### The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington, Lansing

#### Esteban Touma & Friends

Thurs., August 4, 8 p.m.





# TID

from page 21

part shaman and part drunken bard. He didn't headbang but, rather, whipped his torso forward and back, his waist a hinge from which he swung mightily as he sang. He came onto the Lansing scene with a high-octane group named Hot Like Vegas, which evolved into the dystopian post-punk concept Biddy, Biddy, Biddy. After a melodious record with Hawks and Snakes, Tyler formed The Fencemen with four dear friends and recorded what many consider his opus, an album titled "Times Are Alright."

But truly, it may be Tyler's contributions to Lansing's youth that resound most forcefully.

Having taught English for 15 years at Eastern High, he won numerous awards and brought a kind of inspiration and rigor that is rare to contemporary education. He presented authors like Haruki Murakami and Amy Hempel to classrooms of unsuspecting teens. I thought, "My God, what if I'd had this guy around to blow my mind at age 16?"

An outpouring of appreciation from students has followed Tyler's tragic passing, just as so many voices from the music community have gone up in a chorus to celebrate a true charismatic: a poet and seeker who could wax philosophical in his pajamas while



Courtesy photo

Tyler Blakslee performs with The Fencemen.

laughing devilishly as the frail twine he'd brought along for the rescue snaps the moment its tugged.

Our friendship's beginning carried notes of the mythic, as did so much of my time with this rousing, unforgettable human.



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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Finished at the Bottom”--bottom row on your keyboard, that is.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2022 Matt Jones

Across

1. One of the former Dutch Antilles

6. H.S. diploma alternative

9. Oceanic movement

13. Hacienda homes

14. “Better Call Saul” costar Seehorn whose name is pronounced “ray”

16. Open up \_\_\_ of worms

17. \*Casual term for a trio of great European composers

19. Half of a golf course

20. \*Got a little rest

22. One of 17-Across

25. Simple

26. Feel discomfort

27. Greek vowels

30. “Please stay!”

31. Lip shiner

33. In layers

35. Percolate

36. \*Variant bingo wins that are really just both main diagonals at once

37. “A horse is a horse” horse

41. Dealer’s request

43. Other song on a 45

44. When, colloquially

47. Lion’s exclamation

49. “Down with thee!”

50. Hubble with a space telescope named after him

51. Restaurant employee

53. \*Requirement for drawing a dragon, according to Strong Bad (to add teeth, “spinities,” and angry eyebrows)

58. Like an easy job,

Down

1. Stage routine

2. “Go team!” cheer

3. Practical purpose

4. Unit of cookies

5. Makes embarrassed

6. Kinnear of “Little Miss Sunshine”

7. “\_\_\_ (Nothing Else I Can Say)” (2008 Lady Gaga song)

8. Good thing to stay

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slangily

59. \*IRS forms used to report business income or loss

63. “Chocolat” actress Lena

64. “The Ballad of Reading \_\_\_” (Oscar Wilde)

65. Moroccan capital

66. Air France fleet members, once

67. Actor Sheridan of “Ready Player One”

68. Casual stroll

out of

9. \*Neutral-colored candies discontinued in 1995

10. Least welcoming

11. “Mother” metal performer Glenn

12. “Romanian Rhapsody No. 2” composer Georges

15. Shakespeare’s Bottom had the head of one

18. Junkyard car’s coating

21. Clarinet relative

22. “Are you using your own \_\_\_?” (self check-out query)

23. Stir (up)

24. Lotion additive

28. Ended in \_\_\_

29. Icelandic post-punk band \_\_\_ RUs

30. Pediatricians, e.g.

32. \*They’re actually different letters than the ones with the tildes

34. Former Canadian baseball player

36. “Dynamite” K-pop band

38. \_\_\_-To-Go (Fortnite item for immediate teleports)

39. Actress Falco

40. Woodland grazers

42. Half a “Mork & Mindy” signoff

43. Display of daring

44. Artworks painted on dry plaster

45. Anheuser-Busch nonalcoholic brew

46. Fesses up proudly

48. Blown away

52. Five Pillars religion

54. Flavor enhancer that’s “king of flavor,” in Uncle Roger videos

55. Aspiring doc’s exam

56. Ship greeting

57. TV component?

60. Fall back gradually

61. Orioles legend Ripken Jr.

62. Part of many Quebec place names

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Answers on page 25

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 25

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

August 3-9, 2022

ARIES (March 21–April 19):

Aries poet Ada Limón advises us to notice and love “the music of the world.” She says that praising and giving attention to the good things “are as important and necessary as witnessing and naming and holding the grief and sorrow that comes with being alive.” This is always a crucial principle to keep in mind, but it will be extra essential for you in the coming weeks. Your ability to attract the influences and resources you need most will thrive if you focus on and celebrate the music of the world. PS: I encourage you to sing more than usual, too.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20):

Here’s my hope for you in the coming months: You will cultivate a specialty for connecting people and situations that need to be affiliated but aren’t yet. You will regard your flair for blending as a gift you offer generously. Can you picture yourself doing that? I think it will be fun and will also benefit you in unexpected ways. So here’s my proposed plan: Conspire to heal fragmentation and schisms. Unite heavenly and earthly things. Keep the far side and the near side in touch with each other. Never let the past forget about the future, and vice versa. One more thing, Taurus: Be gleefully imaginative as you mix and conjoin and combine.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20):

In a play by Gemini philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, a character says, “Hell is other people.” What did he mean by that? One interpretation is that our fellow humans always judge us, and their judgments rarely align with who we really are and who we imagine ourselves to be. Here’s my solution for that problem: Choose allies and companions whose views of you match your own. Is that so hard? I suspect it will be easier than usual for you in the coming months, Gemini. Take advantage of life’s natural tendency to connect you with cohorts who appreciate you. Be picky as you avoid the hell of other people.

CANCER (June 21–July 22):

The people most likely to succeed as entrepreneurs are those with a high degree of analytical intelligence. Right? Well, it’s more complicated than that. Reasoning ability and problem-solving skills are key skills, but not as important as emotional intelligence: the power to understand and manage feelings. I mention this, Cancerian, because the coming months will be a favorable time to advance your ambitions by enhancing and expressing your emotional intelligence. Here’s some reading to foster your powers:  
1. [tinyurl.com/EmotionSmarts](https://tinyurl.com/EmotionSmarts)  
2. [tinyurl.com/SmartFeeler](https://tinyurl.com/SmartFeeler)  
3. [tinyurl.com/WiseFeeler](https://tinyurl.com/WiseFeeler)  
4. [tinyurl.com/BrightFeeler](https://tinyurl.com/BrightFeeler)

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):

In the coming weeks, Leo, I urge you to always be confident that YOU ARE THE PARTY! Everywhere you go, bring the spirits of fun and revelry. Be educationally entertaining and entertainingly educational. Amuse yourself by making life more interesting for everyone. At the same time, be kind and humble, never arrogant or insensitive. A vital part of your assignment is to nourish and inspire others with your radiance and charm. That formula will ensure you get everything you need. I foresee bounty flowing your way! PS: Regularly reward your admirers and followers with your magnanimous Cheshire-cat grin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):

In my Astrological Book of Life, here’s what I have inscribed about Virgos: You may not always find the perfect solution, but you are skilled at finding the best solution available. This will be an especially valuable knack in the coming weeks, both for yourself and others. I trust you will scan for practical but compassionate answers, even if they are partial. And I hope you will address at least some of everyone’s needs, even if no one is completely satisfied. You can be the master of creative compromise that we all need. Thanks in advance for your excellent service!

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):

Everyone knows that

“balance” is a keyword for you Librans. However, there are many interpretations of what balance entails. Here’s how I define it for you during the coming weeks: 1. an openness to consider several different ways to capitalize on an opportunity, but to ultimately choose just one way; 2. the ability to see and understand all sides of every story, while also knowing that for pragmatism’s sake you must endorse a single version of the story; 3. the capacity to be both constructively critical and supportively sympathetic; 4. the facility to be welcoming and inviting while still maintaining healthy boundaries.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):

“Life is enchanting for me because I have so much control over what I think,” my Scorpio friend Daria told me. “If I decide to flatter myself with comments about how attractive I am, I can do just that. If I would like to imagine a good fairy visiting me while I sleep and giving me a dream of having an orgasm with my lover while we fly over the Serengeti Plains, I can.” I asked her about the times when worries gush forth unbidden from her subconscious mind and disturb her joy. She said, “I simply picture myself showing those worries in a hole in the ground and blowing them up with an exploding rose.” I bring Daria’s mind-management expertise to your attention, Scorpio, because the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to raise your mastery over what you think.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):

People might impatiently advise you to relax and settle down. Others might tell you to stop dreaming such big visions and formulating such adventurous plans. Still others might give you the side-eye because they imagine you are having too much fun and brainstorming too wildly and laughing too loudly. If you receive messages like those, give the complainers a copy of this horoscope. It will tell them that YOU WILL NOT COMPLY WITH ANY INHIBITING DIRECTIVES. Your astrologer, me, authorizes you to be as vast and venturesome and enterprising and spontaneous as you dare. In doing so, I am speaking on behalf of the cosmic rhythms. Your plucky audacity has been heavenly ordained.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):

In accordance with astrological omens, I hereby authorize you to worry, worry, and worry some more. Stew and simmer and ferment as you weigh all the options and mull the correct actions. But when the time is right, end your fretting with crisp decisiveness. Shake off any residual doubt that still clings to you. And then undertake robust action to transform the situation that provoked your righteous brooding. In my astrological opinion, what I have just described is your best plan for success in the coming days.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):

“I was looking for a love unlike my parents’ love or my sister’s love or the love on a foreign kitchen floor,” writes Rebecca Dinerstein Knight in her novel The Sunlit Night. “I wanted to forgive my mother and father for their misery and find myself a light man who lived buoyantly and to be both his light and his dark.” I offer you her thoughts, Aquarius, in the hope of inspiring you to expand and deepen your ideas about the love you want. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to revise and reinvigorate your definitions of intimacy and togetherness. You will have extra power to see new truths about how best to create maximum synergy and symbiosis.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):

“Even raw and messy emotions can be understood as a form of light, crackling and bursting with energy,” writes Jungian psychoanalyst Clarissa Pinkola Estés. For example, “We can use the light of rage in a positive way, in order to see into places we cannot usually see.” Likewise, confusion might be a healthy sign that a long-held misunderstanding is dissolving. Disappointment may herald the demise of an unrealistic expectation. So let’s unleash a big cheer for raw and messy emotions, Pisces! I suspect they will soon be your gateway to clarity and renewal.

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





# Ending it on a high note

Lansterdam in Review goes up in smoke after two-year run

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Well, this is it: The final Lansterdam in Review by me. After more than two years of blowing through more weed than I'd care to measure in order to bring you this column every week, it's all over. The stash is dry. The bowl is cashed. The joint is roached.

When I stepped down as City Pulse's managing editor this summer, I was determined to keep this column alive for the long-term future — and grateful for the ability to keep it going. But after mulling it over for the last two months, I've decided that it's finally time to pull the plug.

No, I didn't win the Mega Millions last week — though I probably wouldn't tell you if I had. For reasons still unclear even to me, I've simply decided it's time for this weekly feature to end.

I'm still in Lansing, and still smoking plenty of weed, but I'm officially retiring from the position of "arguably, the

state's authority on everything you need to know about cannabis" (thanks Editor & Publisher magazine). And I'm formally surrendering my title of "biggest waste of space in the paper." (Thanks, Deborah from Okemos, who scribbled on and snail-mailed me back a clipping of my own column last year.)

As of this week, cannabis is back to just being my favorite hobby.

The last two years have been a wild ride. When this column was born, there were only two or three recreationally licensed dispensaries in Lansing, and only a handful of grow operations. I've literally watched the industry sprout from the seed and quickly blossom its way to a full, budding flower — perhaps almost too quickly. There were nearly 1.3 million recreational marijuana plants blooming their way to harvest statewide from 711 growing operations last month, reports the Oakland Press. That's up a whopping 71% from January, with 526 retailers now in Michigan.

Some have suggested we've hit a saturation point on the market. Perhaps they're right. So, consider this me doing my part to help clear some space and cut

back some of the noise.

I'm proud to have visited, toured and written about nearly every retailer (and most commercial grow operations) across Greater Lansing. I've made great friends along the way, and I'm truly honored to live in a region that's setting sincerely high industry standards for the rest of the state. I'm convinced the Capital City is enroute to become the Cannabis Capital of Michigan.

To the industry: Thank you for being so welcoming, and for all the free samples of weed. To longtime readers (certainly not Deborah) who have appreciated reading my cannabis-themed adventures and product recommendations. You're the reason I've kept this going so long. I'm sorry to now leave you swimming without any pot recommendations in a still growing sea of new cannabis products. And to those who complained about there being "too much" marijuana coverage in City Pulse: Your welcome, but I'm sure some new, word savvy smoker will light up this page back up soon enough.

So long, and stay stoned, Greater Lansing.



## DO YOU SMOKE? AND ENJOY WRITING?

Are you interested in covering the Greater Lansing marijuana industry for City Pulse?

If you are an enthusiastic smoker and also have a knack for journalism, email your resume to: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) ... put "Lansterdam" in the subject line.

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\$25.00

15+ Pure Options Strains Pre-Packed Eighths



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Pure Options 1g Pre-Rolls

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[pureoptions.com](https://pureoptions.com)

**Warning:** Use by pregnant or breastfeeding women, or by women planning to become pregnant, may result in fetal injury, pre-term birth, low birth weight, or developmental problems for the child.

FOR REGISTERED QUALIFYING PATIENTS ONLY OR FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR ADULT USE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA. ACTUAL VALUE OF THC AND CBD MAY VARY FROM REPORTED VALUE BY 10%.

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# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

### Wednesday, August 3

**25th Annual Muelder Summer Carillon Concert Series** - 6 p.m. Beaumont Tower at MSU, W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

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

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing.

**Alluring Nature 2022 Art Show: En Plein Air Exhibition** - August. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos.

**Book Group** - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Mark's Place, 238 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids.

**Brown Bag Books** - August 1-31! Mystery, comedy, adventure and the chance to win prizes. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Concert in the Park** - Louie Longoria Band 7-9 p.m. William E. Tennant Performance Shell, 801 W Park St., St. Johns. [clintoncountyarts.org](http://clintoncountyarts.org).

**Concerts in the Park** - 7 p.m. Global Village at Davis Park, 5500 Pleasant Grove, Lansing.

**Improv! Acting Summer Camp** - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Rd, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Ingham County Fair** - August 2-6, Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash, Mason. [fair.ingham.org](http://fair.ingham.org)

**It's My Art Show!** - on display through Aug. 29. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. [retreadart.com](http://retreadart.com).

**Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr Blvd., Lansing. [lamc.info](http://lamc.info).

**Meridian Farmers' Market** - 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. 3-7 p.m. Okemos.

**Meridian Township Summer Concert Series** - 6-8:30 p.m. 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

**Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting** - Zoom. 7-8 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Pkwy. # 200, Okemos. [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org).

**Pagan Community Night** - online or in-person. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St. 7A, Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Storybook Stroll** - through late August. Read while you stroll the trails! 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Wiley and the Hairy Man** - 7-8:30 p.m. LCC, 419 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. 517-483-1122. [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu).

**Wine Wednesday** - Wine & cheese tasting 6 p.m., wine & chocolate tasting 8:30 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

### Thursday, August 4

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N. Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-230-0520.

**Grand Ledge Music in the Park** - DLJ - 7 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St, Grand Ledge.

**Improv! Acting Summer Camp** - Act on your feet! 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Rd, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**It's a Thursday Thing** - In downtown St. John,

### 2nd Annual Rosé All Day

**Cooley Gardens**  
**125 W. Malcolm X St., Lansing**  
**Saturday, Aug. 6**  
**11 a.m.—4 p.m.**  
**General ticket: \$40**  
**[lansing501.com/events/rose-all-day](http://lansing501.com/events/rose-all-day)**

Rosé All Day festival is all about the wine, but there's so much more. The five-hour shindig is stacked with live music from Jackamo, various local artisans and boutiques and food trucks. Adding to the fun is a drag show hosted by Asio Aviance and Caj Monet — it's no wonder why it's being promoted as "the most Instagram-worthy event of the year."

Now in its second year, the event invites the 21+ crowd to wander through Lansing's beautiful Cooley Gardens while tasting more than a dozen rosé wines. Of course, attendees can drink rosé all day, or switch it up and grab a craft beer or buy a Frosé cocktail. A \$40 ticket includes five rosé tasting tickets, and a commemorative wine glass and tote bag. Extra thirsty? Additional tasting tickets are available for purchase.



musicians will be performing on the corner. 5-7 p.m. [downtownstjohnsmi.com](http://downtownstjohnsmi.com).

**MACC Courthouse Concert** - 8 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse in downtown Mason., 315 S Jefferson, Mason. [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

**Michigan JazzFest** - Presented by MICA - 28th annual Michigan JazzFest will take place August 4-6 in Old Town. 6-11 p.m. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Music in the Park** - Food concessions available. 7-9 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St, Grand Ledge. [grandledgechamber.com](http://grandledgechamber.com).

**Pearl Keychains and Bracelets** - All supplies provided. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Playground of Dreams, 00 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. [eradi.org](http://eradi.org).

**Stitch 'n Bitch** - Come hang out with fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Summer Concert Series** - 7-9 p.m. American Legion Bandshell, McCormick Park, 300 N. Putnam St., Williamston.

**Summer Concert Series** - 6:30 p.m. The Courthouse Lawn, 100 W. Lawrence Ave, Charlotte.

**Tabletop Gaming Club** - Play our board & card games or yours. Ages 10+. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Wiley and the Hairy Man** - 7-8:30 p.m. LCC, 419 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. 517-483-1122. [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu).

### Friday, August 5

**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).

**Brown Bag Series** - Sally Potter. Noon-1 p.m., St. Johns Rotary Park, 107 E. Railroad

**Cruise In** - 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers' Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**Dinomania** - Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. Info at [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Dog Days of Summer** - Coming to Williamston in August! A fun, pet-friendly event for the whole family. 5-8 p.m. 102 S. Putnam, Williamston.

**East Lansing Summer Concert Series** - headliner Cross Eyed Strangers. 7 p.m. 225 Ann St, East Lansing.

**End of Summer Reading Party** - MOO-ville ice cream social at the Playground of Dreams! 3-4 p.m. 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids. [eradi.org](http://eradi.org).

**Friday Night Concert Series** - 7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Band Shell, 1621 Pike St, Haslett. [pk.ingham.org](http://pk.ingham.org).

**Ingenious Engineers** - Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

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

**Moonlight Movies** - Encanto - 9-10:30 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**Movies in the Park** - 9-11 p.m. Mount Hope Park, 7419 E. Mt. Hope, Grand Ledge. [deltami.gov](http://deltami.gov).

**Pinball Arcade** - Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Ray Bonneville at Pump House Concerts** - 7-10 p.m. Pump House Concerts, 368 Orchard St, East Lansing.

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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# Prepping perfect peppered pickles

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Some of the best chefs I know are vegetable farmers, preparing their own produce in their home kitchens during the heat of summer. With a hungry crew grumbling in the fields, time is of the essence, but the rush won't diminish the farm cook's determination to serve fresh, high-quality produce at its absolute best.

Cooking for a large group, preferably with as much free food as possible from the farm, means a deluge of vegetables. It means lots of chopping. Nonetheless,

Asian ingredients like fish sauce, Thai chili peppers and lemongrass — which Cua grows in a greenhouse and sells at the market. Any herbs can be used in Pepper, she says, including mint, basil, cilantro and parsley. As the season progresses, the lineup of ingredients in Pepper will change. In early summer she uses garlic scapes. In late summer, she uses fresh chilies rather than dried ones.

"We scoop Pepper onto whatever we are eating," she told me. "Even plain rice."

Cua then leaned in conspiratorially. "When I'm eating alone, I just mix Pepper with cucumber." Sometimes, instead of mixing it in, she said, she slices the cucumber and scoops it up like chips and salsa.

I took a load of the requisite ingredients back to the lab, where I was able to confirm that Pepper goes marvelously with whatever you scoop it on. And, as promised, it makes the humblest bowl of rice taste like an exotic meal. Pepper is not very salty, but is

full of strong flavors that interact with what you eat it with, making anything it touches more interesting.

Then I tried adding cucumbers, per Cua's suggestion. It was a spectacular combination, and I can understand why somebody would want to hide away and eat it privately. The watery, crispy cucumber almost completes the Pepper experience. But I felt something was missing, to my taste. I wanted vinegar with my herbs and cucumbers. I wanted peppered pickles.

So, I added white wine vinegar. After a few minutes, they were amazing. The next day they were even better. Crisp, aromatic and refreshing, the whole family fell in love with these peppered pickles.

And moving forward, I'll be prepping Pepper whenever I have fresh herbs. Adding it to



your meal is a glorious way to eat.

## Pepper

Here is Cua's recipe for Pepper. Scoop it onto whatever you are eating, and enjoy the aromatic whirlwind of flavor.

*Serves a lot of people, unless one of them is Cua, who might just eat it all*

- 2 stalks lemongrass
- 1 bunch basil
- 1 bunch cilantro
- 1 bunch mint
- 1 bunch parsley
- 1 bunch spring onions, white and green parts

- 5 garlic scapes, or 5 cloves of garlic
- Crushed hot pepper flakes, to taste
- 2 tablespoons fish sauce

Mince all of the ingredients but the fish sauce. Stick to one ingredient at a time and keep chopping until it's finely cut. The chopping can be an intimidating task, but it's worth it. Combine the ingredients in a mixing bowl. Add the fish sauce. Taste. Add more if necessary. If you want it saltier, but have limited tolerance for fish sauce, then use salt.

If you want to make peppered pickles, you don't need to mince the herbs as finely. A coarse chopping will be fine. Then add cucumbers, also chopped coarsely, and enough white wine vinegar to cover everything.

Alternatively, substitute yogurt for the vinegar, for a tangy, creamy, cooling snack with pizzazz aplenty.



Courtesy photo

## Pepper with cucumber chips

most farm recipes come together quickly. There is enough to squash all appetites and leave the eaters nourished as well as satisfied. While preparing such meals, a farm cook can go head-to-head with any line cook. And the menu planning, recipe development, leftovers utilization, and inventory awareness required of a farm cook puts them on the level of an executive chef.

Cua Grogan is one such chef. A Montana farmer of Hmong descent, her ancestors came from the rugged hill country around Vietnam, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Laos. Her parents fought alongside the Americans in the war, where Hmong fighters specialized in rescuing downed pilots from the steep jungle.

When the war ended the U.S. government resettled the Hmong fighters and their families. Many chose to live in Montana, where the farming is good, the people are nice and the mountains remind them of home.

Most vegetable lovers have a special appreciation for herbs, and Cua is no exception. This time of year, she prepares "pepper," a condiment that combines garlic, onion and herbs with



Courtesy photo

## Peppered Pickles

## Events

from page 25

**Michigan JazzFest** - Presented by MICA, 28th annual Michigan JazzFest takes place August 4-6 in Old Town. 6-11 p.m. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Sundown Safari Camping** - Aug. 6, 6:30 p.m. - Aug. 7, 9:30 a.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org).

**Wiley and the Hairy Man** - 7-8:30 p.m. LCC, 419 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. 517-483-1122. [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu).

## Sunday, August 7.

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Focus Tour: Solace** - One artwork. One guest. One theme. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Greek Mythology with Curtis Pratt** - 9:30-10:15 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 S. Washington, Lansing. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Positive Mental Health Fun Day** - 1-5 p.m. Slater Park, 2700 Mark Ave, Lansing.

**Sunday School for Witches** - workshop series. 3-4:30 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., 7A, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Wiley and the Hairy Man** - 7-8:30 p.m. LCC, 419 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. 517-483-1122. [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu).

## Monday, August 8

**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).

**Beginning Strings Camp @ MSU Community Music School** - Ages 6-12. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Rd, East Lansing.

**Build & Destroy** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Forensics** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Glee Singing Broadway Styles** - Sing your heart out! Aug. 8-11. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Rd, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Movie Magic** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Sunset Storytime Mondays** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

## Tuesday, August 9

**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.

**Genealogy Help** - get assistance with Ancestry Library Edition. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Indoor Farmers Market** - 3-6 p.m. 4150 S M-52, Owosso. [hipaa.jotform.com](http://hipaa.jotform.com).

**Minecraft Mania!** - All skill levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.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.

**Picnic Playdate Family Storytime** - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

**Play in the Park** - 7-8 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

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



# Is East Lansing's best Greek restaurant inside a sports bar?

By KYLE KAMINSKI

You don't have to be a Michigan State University student or alum to find some nostalgia in kicking back and watching the game at a sports bar in a college town like East Lansing.

And, in the classic Greater Lansing fashion of "things that are also other things," as Lansing Facts would say, this next dish comes from one of the best of the bunch: East Lansing's "top Greek restaurant," which also doubles as a sports bar, which also triples as a catering business.

It's **Lou and Harry's**, which has been serving delicious Greek meals for 30 years. I stuck with their signature dish, the \$12.99 **Chicken Shish Special**. It's something that I've now ordered at least a dozen times

since my first visit two years ago. But I just had to go back one more time last week to refresh my memory, and to grab this tantalizing photograph.

Juicy, flavorful chunks of marinated chicken are grilled to a perfection level of charred crispness on the skin and then layered over a bed of rice pilaf. It's served with warm, toasty pita bread, a side cup of tzatziki sauce and a generously sized Momma Greek Salad. The name comes from Momma's signature Greek dressing, and you get plenty of it to dump over a mix of iceberg lettuce, fresh feta, kalamata olives, pepperoncini, green pepper, tomato and red onions.

The word "shish" means "skewer," and shish kebabs are what give the dish its Greek kick. They're essentially just skewered chicken cubes that have been grilled



Kyle Kaminski



Chicken Shish  
Special at Lou  
and Harry's

than a diner, but hey: If you can walk and chew gum—and do both superbly well—then you should do it.

And I'd say it's been working out pretty well for Lou and Harry's, which has been a fixture since 1992. Why? Because it's a go-to for everyone.

And then plucked into a big pile. Flavorful. Satisfying. Affordable and filling. In Lansing, we're lucky to be inundated with a wide array of good Greek food. And Lou and Harry's keeps up with the best of them. The downtown East Lansing location on Grand River Avenue definitely feels much more like a bar

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| <p><b>Eastside Fish Fry</b><br/>2417 E. Kalamazoo St.,<br/>Lansing<br/>(517) 993-5988<br/><a href="http://eastsidefishfry.com">eastsidefishfry.com</a></p> | <p><b>GUY FIERI APPROVED!</b> We were featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Our fried home-style classics and fresh seafood are some of the best in Lansing. We've got the classics: fried chicken buckets, chicken wings, exotic fare, like frog legs and alligator tails and fresh seafood. Desserts, too!</p> |
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