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May 31-June 6, 2023

# CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us  
Locally owned



# IT'S ABOUT TO HATCH

Lansing Symphony caps season with world premiere See Page 11

A photograph of a man and a woman in a bar setting. They are both smiling and clinking their glasses of beer. The woman is on the left, and the man is on the right. The background is slightly blurred, showing other patrons and bar elements.

# sidebar

dine & tap  
East Lansing

# ALL STAR MECHANICAL HEATING • COOLING 517-490-4642 LIC. 7115371

I may not be a professional writer — all the evidence you need is right here. I'm not getting paid to write. To the contrary, I pay to put my opinions in City Pulse. I'm sure many of you probably wonder why. Well, to be blunt, I feel like it's giving some people hope. Possibly even inspiring someone else to speak up. Or maybe just letting someone know that they aren't alone, that someone else feels what they feel. I have no doubt that some people likely choose not to use our services: some because they disagree with me completely, and some simply because they subscribe to the idea that you shouldn't mix business with politics. I respect those positions. It's just not in my DNA to be silent. HVAC is a passion of mine and has been since 1999. I didn't talk about much else for a long time. But I evolved and, for lack of a better term, I swallowed the blue pill, and I can't unsee what I've been awakened to.

Honestly, everything is political today. It's almost political not to be political. But as much as things are political, I would argue that police brutality is not political in and of itself. Racism is not political. White supremacy is not political. Women's bodily autonomy is not political. Sexual orientation is not political. Religion is not political. All of these things have become political because we've either ignored them for too long, or we've denied them, or we've decided that people shouldn't be able to make their own decisions for themselves. The only rights that shouldn't be infringed are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I grew up with this image of America: morally sound and virtuous. The land of the free and the home of the brave. And while there's some truth to it, I've learned that this isn't an actual depiction because it's only a partial picture. I still think it's an image that I'd like to see us aspire to. We certainly have made progress, but we will never get there if we can't publicly acknowledge all of the issues that display a different truth that has real impact on so many people today. We can want America to be the place people used to dream about and be critical of our faults at the same time. I'd argue that it is exactly what is needed in order for us to realize our potential.

What I will say is that putting someone like Donald Trump, or many other elected officials who espouse some less-than-honorable traits, does not fall in line with how normal, caring, and compassionate people would raise their children and therefore does not fit that wholesome, virtuous, or moral idea of America. The eroding of America comes from those who've accepted the type of language from leaders that they claim they wouldn't accept from the children.

I have made a conscious decision to mix my personal views publicly with this business BECAUSE I believe that it's at the core of what so many businesses have always done. From the dawn of marketing, especially in small markets, businesses wanted you to believe they cared. It may have been more subtle and not hit on such hot-button topics, but businesses have always played to your sensibilities. I'm not saying all marketing is genuine, or organic, but to argue that businesses shouldn't mix their beliefs implies that you wouldn't want to know if a business owner was contributing to the harm of a group of people behind closed doors, as long as they provided the service you need. I can't imagine many people would subscribe to that and admit it out loud.

I place these ads because I want you to know our values before you call us. Anyone who's used our services knows the quality of our work, so I'm confident, and I know on a daily basis, that we are supported by every one of them. If you don't want to use our services because you don't have the same values, then I have already saved both of us some time, and you don't even have to thank me for it.

Colin Kaepernick knew he would face major scrutiny for his peaceful protest. As if there aren't multiple examples of Black and Brown people who have also sacrificed their lives for progress, they are my inspiration for using my voice. I am merely saying what so many have said before. Hopefully, someday there won't be a need for anyone else to sacrifice their life in the name of a country that hasn't figured out how to live up to its ideals fully. You can't preach the good without acknowledging the harm caused. Impact>Intent

# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## For those with disabilities, CATA services can be frustrating

### Public transit chief looking for ways to make it better

Fred Wurtzel was in the back of a Lyft on his way to a physical therapy program. Wurtzel 71, of Lansing, who is blind, has relied on public transit for years.

But he had to use the private ride-sharing app because he forgot that he had a physical therapy appointment. By the time he realized the error, it was too late to schedule a ride on SpecTran, a paratransit program offered to people with disabilities by the Capital Area Transportation Authority. The program is a next-day service, causing those with disabilities to plan their lives at least 24 hours in advance.

Wurtzel has been completely blind since he was 50 from a genetic condition called retinitis pigmentosis. As president of the Lansing branch of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, Wurtzel uses his experiences to advocate for better services and access for people with disabilities.

This next-day service is one of two key complaints disability rights advocates said impact their social and work lives. In addition to SpecTran, activists have raised alarms about the accessibility of CATA board meetings.

Paratransit options are required under federal laws and rules. The next-day requirement is the bare minimum to meet a federal transportation mandate. As a result, many people with disabilities who have unexpected health issues arise that need immediate attention may find barriers to getting transportation to healthcare appointments quickly.

Bradley T. Funkhouser, CATA's CEO since 2018, said CATA does "everything in our power to accommodate" same-day requests, even on SpecTran.

"We have is we provide probably, if not the most, one of the most robust ADA and paratransit programs in the state al-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Constance Hart, 79, who lives in an apartment on West Jolly Road in Lansing, prepares to board a SpecTran bus with the assistance of driver Heidi Beavers. Hart was heading to a local church.

ready," Funkhouser said.

His advice to people with disabilities was to request same-day service "because we are able to, in these one-off situations, make huge accommodations on a daily basis and will continue to do so."

But such accommodations are difficult for an agency already making 1,200 trips a day.

"If we broadcast SpecTran is same-day, the system will blow up," Funkhouser said.

Meridian Township resident Karla Hudson, 52, and her husband are both blind. They have raised a family and carried out careers working around CATA's services, but it has not been easy.

Not only do they have to call the day before they need SpecTran services, but they also have to be ready during a 15-minute window for the small buses to arrive. If they are not ready, the bus moves on.

And because the service is taking multiple persons with disabilities to different locations, relying on SpecTran can be a risk for those with jobs.

companies and a slew of private companies. All operate separately, creating silos of service. Funkhouser and his team said a slew of federal and state regulations prevent them from easily integrating the numerous options to take people with disabilities throughout Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

His goal, he told the CATA board two weeks ago, is "seamless regional transportation" in the tricounty area to address the service delays and frustrations and isolation that paratransit can cause.

In October 2022, Funkhouser was appointed as executive director of Eaton County's public transportation system, EATRAN. That allowed the two companies to extend a CATA route that used to end at the Lansing Mall to the new Delta Crossing shopping center in Delta Township. The new route, which began May 8, added 30 additional stops on the route.

"My vision regionally is to have not only the existing CATA system but the other two transit systems and even private carriers all working on the same plan," he said in an interview, which he said is a big challenge.

We've gotta figure out the state regulations on transit," which he said "are even more vexing to me than in some cases than the federal regulations."

In addition to the cooperation and shared leadership at EATRAN and CATA, Funkhouser and his team has also struck a deal with Clinton County Public Transit to have connections to CATA routes. The move will require delicate navigation and negotiations among agencies, governments and the public to integrate a seamless transportation system serving the greater Lansing community, Funkhouser warned.

Meanwhile, though, to attend the CATA board meeting two weeks ago, Hudson not only had to call a day in advance to reserve a seat on SpecTran, she had to plan her arrival to assure she was on time for the meeting. As a result, she was at the Lansing Center, where the meeting was held, 40 minutes before the meeting was gavelled into session at 4 p.m.

"Can I get to my job to meet my employer's needs? I gotta be there at 8 a.m. And even if I schedule my ride, there are times the ride will get you to your workplace late," Hudson noted. "So how do we adjust for those things?"

That's an important issue. People with disabilities had a 7.6% unemployment rate in 2022, compared to 3.5% of those without a disability, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics report from February.

The limits of SpecTran can also exacerbate social isolation for people with disabilities, Hudson said. Unlike people without disabilities, many who rely on paratransit can't easily connect to a fixed bus route or jump into a car to head off for a spur-of-the-moment social gathering.

The frustration from trying to use paratransit and have a social life, Hudson said, leads many with disabilities to throw up their hands, declaring, "I just give up, you know?"

Throughout the tricounty region, there are three public transportation

# CityPULSE

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Podcast aims to break the taboo of discussing eating disorders

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Social Sloth's new location is a breath of fresh air for owners

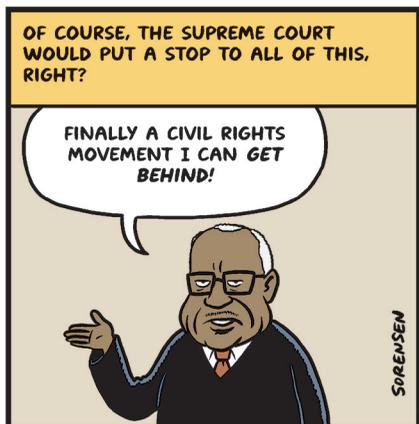
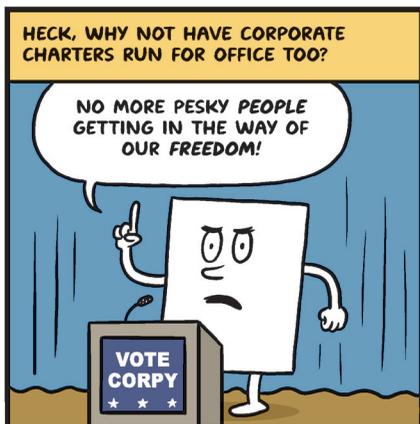
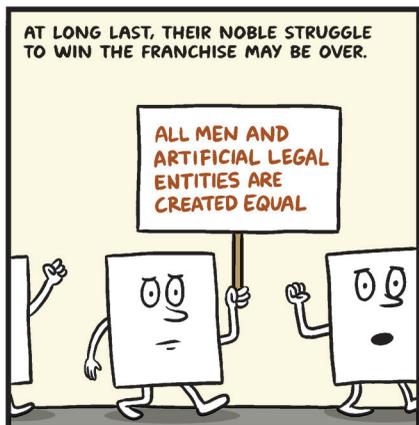
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Turn unused lawn space into a vegetable garden

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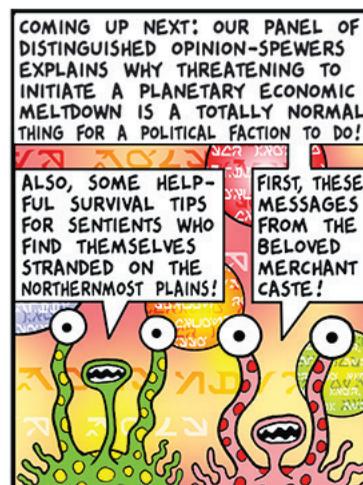
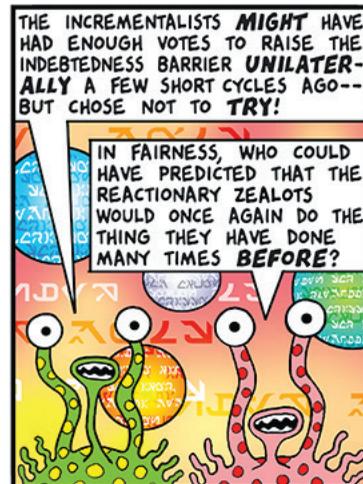
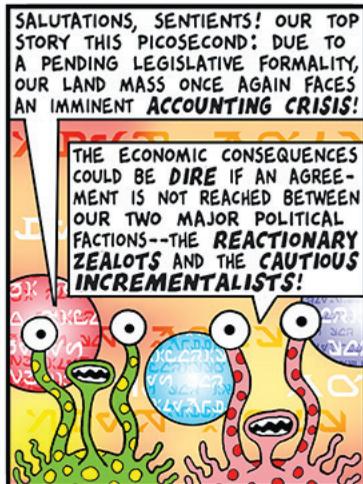
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## צְדָקָה וְחֶסֶד וְיִשְׁרָאוֹת

## לְבַרְבָּרָה אֶרֶץ הַחַיִּים



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# CATA

from page 3

Both Hudson and Wurtzel noted that they should not even have to travel to board meetings to make their views heard if CATA would reform its policy.

CATA allows people to watch board meetings by Zoom. However, if they want to use three minutes to comment during public comment sessions, things get frustrating, they said. They are required to write their statements in the chat feature of Zoom. A staff member then sends that statement to the board chair, who reads it out loud.

“They are the most absurd system I’ve ever heard of,” Wurtzel said. “First of all, I’m supposed to somehow submit my comments into some kind of chat box on the screen. I don’t know how to do that. I use a screen reader on my phone. I use an iPhone. It has a keyboard, but not a tactile keyboard. It’s extremely slow for me to type on my keyboard, and then I’m supposed to find the box and know the right commands somehow to put that message into that edit box.”

Referring to the board president, Wurtzel continued: “And then — this is the kicker: Nathan Triplett gets to read my comments on my behalf. I can’t even use my own voice to make my own public comment. It no longer is my public comment if it’s not my voice, as far as I’m concerned. My voice is my speech.”

The televideo service Zoom, which was popularized during the pandemic, has features allowing a host to mute participants until they are called upon, then unmute them to share their thoughts. Other public institutions are adjusting accordingly. For example, in its May 15 budget vote, the Lansing City Council shifted funding to the Lansing Public Media Center to pay a staffer to run Zoom during Council meetings and committee meetings, allowing for a remote opportunity to engage with the government. Fourth Ward Councilmember Brian Jackson introduced the budget amendment, which was unanimously approved.

The CATA board used to meet at the agency’s main offices on Tranter Street in south Lansing. Ironically, there is no public transportation to the building, even though it houses out-of-service buses.



Bradley T. Funkhouser

To address that oddity, Triplett said the board was holding its meetings in various locations on busy fixed routes to accommodate more people. The nomadic nature of the meetings now, however, has a downside: access to stable, functional internet.

Triplett said the board is attempting to “maximize participation and transparency.”

While the obstacles of being nomadic and offering multiple options to access and participate in meetings have frustrated people like Hudson and Wurtzel, Triplett said the agency was making “a reasonable accommodation now.”

He conceded the situation is not “perfect or the ultimate solution.” The board is “regularly reviewing how that works as we change locations and gain more experience with using the platforms that are available.”



Fred Wurtzel

Wurtzel, Hudson and others will continue to advocate for shifts in paratransit programming as well as technology-driven solutions to allow for participation in the CATA board meetings. Even if that means Wurtzel has to spend significantly more on a Lyft to get places than the \$2.50 fare for SpecTran.

His recent trip to the physical therapist cost him \$13. He waxes somewhat philosophical on the compare and contrast between SpecTran and Lyft.

“The flip side is that I get there in seven minutes from here, and it takes me an hour to get there from here if I use SpecTran,” he said. “So, what am I getting for my \$11? I’m getting almost an hour of my time. My time, I’m retired, but I still consider my time worth more than \$11 an hour.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

### ORDINANCE # 2629

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-3-2023  
Parcel Numbers: 33-01-01-10-353-101, -121, -131, -151, -161, -171, -181, -191, -201, -211, -231, -241 & 33-01-01-10-354-031, -041, -051, -061, -081, -131, -151, -165, -221, -231, -241, -251, -261, -291 & -301

Addresses: 818, 820, 908, 914, May Street, 817, 821, 823, 827, 843 & 903 E. Saginaw Street, 711, 713, 714, 0, 717, 718, 0, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 727, East Park Terrace, 709, 713, 714, 718, 717, 721, 722, 725, 729 Quaker Court, and 711, 715, 721, 727 & 737 N. Pennsylvania Avenue

Legal Descriptions: Lot 10, Block 2, Prines Subdivision, Lot 1, Lathrop’s Addition, Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22, Young, Stabler and Youngs, East Park Addition, Lots 16 & 17, Lot 19, except the north 94 feet of the west 45 feet thereof, & Lot 20, Wiley’s Subdivision, Lots 27, 28 & 29, Lot 30, except the South 18 feet of the east 101 feet thereof, Lot 35, except the south 99 feet thereof, Lots 36 & 38, Assessor’s Plat No. 22, from “R-MX” Residential Mix to “DT-2” Urban Flex

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on May 22, 2023, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC  
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk  
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CP#23-127

### ORDINANCE # 2628

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-1-2023  
Parcel Numbers: 33-01-01-35-154-051  
Addresses: 4111 Aurelius Road  
Legal Descriptions: Commencing 265.67 feet North of the West ¼ post, thence East 356.5 feet, North 177 feet, West 356.5 feet, South 177 feet to the point of beginning; Section 35, T4N R2W, from “MX-1” Neighborhood Mixed-Use Center to “R-2” Suburban Residential

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on May 22, 2023, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC  
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CP#23-126

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOECHEL



**The Lansing man who was accused of carrying out the Feb. 13 mass shooting on Michigan State University's campus was allegedly involved in an altercation with students weeks prior.** A tipster who said he met Anthony McRae on MSU's campus in 2018 at a community gathering told MSU Police Department Sgt. David Isabell on Feb. 14 that he'd

seen McRae three weeks earlier. McRae "seemed to be agitated" and said he'd been beaten up by students, though he didn't indicate whether they were MSU students or what had caused the altercation. The alleged altercation took place in downtown East Lansing in a location the tipster said McRae often visited on the weekends to collect cans for money. The tipster also remembered having conversations with McRae about mass shootings in the past and believes McRae had an infatuation with school shootings and shooters. Furthermore, McRae's Google search history reveals he visited the website of an Ohio-based firearms manufacturer eight times on Dec. 20 and searched for Dunham's Sports, where police reports say he purchased ammunition on Feb. 13, nearly a dozen times on Dec. 29. McRae's YouTube search history reveals he searched and watched videos of "tours of MSU's campus, killer documentaries, school shooting videos, arsons and hypnosis" on Feb. 11 and searched for videos related to "people that shot up colleges," "mass killings in colleges," "the bomber" and "the nail bomber" between December and February.

### In other related news:

East Lansing firefighters were denied administrative leave after responding to the Feb. 13 shooting, the Lansing State Journal reported. Tom Roush, president of the IAFF Local 1609 firefighters' union, filed a complaint with the city, stating Fire Chief Dawn Carson didn't allow "administrative leave for bargaining unit members who were the first responders to the active violence incident." The complaint "accuses Carson of citing city budget constraints and going around both the union and shift leaders to ask firefighters directly if they would be willing to work in the days after the shooting," the Journal reported. She "displayed a lack of concern for the safety and wellbeing of fire department personnel at a crucial time when they needed support most," Roush stated in the complaint. He said city officials met with the union following the complaint, but he isn't aware of any investigations or actions taken as a result. Interim East Lansing City Manager Randy Talifarro, who headed the Fire Department for 20 years, would not comment on whether the city is investigating the allegations.



**A 30-year-old man was shot near the BP gas station at the intersection of West Malcolm X Street and South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.** He was taken to a hospital for



non-life-threatening injuries. The Lansing Police Department said there are multiple suspects, but no arrests have been made. The department said there's no threat to the public, and the investigation is ongoing.

## CAESARS SPORTSBOOK & CASINO

OFFICIAL SPORTS BETTING PARTNER OF SPARTAN ATHLETICS



**Michigan State University Athletics is terminating its partnership with Caesars Sportsbook four years ahead of schedule, the Lansing State Journal reported.** The deal, signed in

January 2022, would have earned MSU Athletics close to \$9 million over the course of the contract. In past months, MSU sports fans voiced their concerns over the abundance of Caesars Sportsbook marketing throughout campus on game days, stating it encouraged problematic gambling among MSU's student body, including those under 21. There have also been multiple scandals involving collegiate sports betting since MSU signed the deal. The NCAA prohibits athletes, coaches and personnel from betting on sports games, but earlier this month, the University of Alabama's baseball coach and more than 40 athletes from the University of Iowa and Iowa State University were found to be doing so. In March, new regulations banned sportsbooks from partnering with colleges to promote sports wagering, which put an end to many of the partnerships already in place. Paul Shrager, MSU's executive associate athletic director, told the Journal that the school believes "there will be growth in other sponsorship categories that will take over inventory that was allocated to this particular client."



**Seasonal non-stop flights to three warm-weather international destinations will return to the Capital Region International Airport in early 2024.**

Beginning Jan. 27, flights to Cancun, Mexico, depart Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Flights to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, depart Thursdays and Sundays. Beginning Feb. 2, flights to Montego Bay, Jamaica, depart Fridays. The flights run through April 8 and will be operated by Avelo Airlines, which began service at the airport in October with two weekly nonstop flights to the Orlando International Airport. Tickets can be booked through ALG Vacations and its brands Apple Vacations, Funjet Vacations, Travel Impressions, BeachBound and CheapCaribbean.com.



5400 S. Cedar St., Lansing

A gleaming white, brand-spanking-new building doesn't sound like an eyesore — until you drive by 5400 S. Cedar St. and see the monstrosity towering over the neighboring one-story retail spaces. It's a new storage facility for the U-Haul Self-Storage company that took over the former K-Mart department store behind it.

The city's new form-based building code is partially to blame because it requires new construction to be located at the very front of the lot, making this large building seem even bigger and more out of place. Viewed from the south, it blocks at least one sign for a business on the north.

The construction was approved under a rezoning measure passed by the City Council on Dec. 14, 2020. Third Ward Councilmember Adam Hussain said he "knew it would be a disaster" when approved.

"It's nothing like they promised," said Hussain, who opposed it. Council Member At-Large Carol Wood and Second Ward Councilmember Jeremy Garza also cast no votes on the rezoning.

Reached Tuesday morning, a manager for the facility said, "We're not talking to you about this. You can talk to our marketing company." She then hung up.

Byrum & Fisk Communications, which represented the property during rezoning, did not have any contacts for the owners, Dianne Byrum said in an email Tuesday morning.

"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 [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call in a nomination to (517) 999-6704.

# Lansing puts \$530M in asks on the state Capitol's table

Would you support a four-story music and arts studio off South Washington in downtown Lansing? How about a training center at the former Sears in Frandor where people can learn everything from video production to employee wellness training?

A spruced-up Michigan Avenue? Trails that connect Lansing's River Trail to trails in Eaton and Clinton counties? A pedestrian walkway from the Grand Avenue parking garage to Impression 5?

These requests and a lot more are on the table.

Led by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, a coalition of businesses and public interests are asking state government to invest heavily in the city it calls home. They are asking the state Legislature — whose spending committees are now chaired by Lansing-area leaders — for \$530 million to tackle projects that are both flashy and dull.

The argument for the money is this:

Lansing has been Michigan's capital city for the last 175 years, and, at least in the last several years, many would argue that it hasn't gotten much for it.

It provides the police, fire and roads for state government, but it gets little in the way of direct revenue from the state, unlike other capital cities in other states.

Thousands of state employees working for departments and agencies downtown used to keep some Washington Avenue lunch spots and after-work taverns afloat. Then COVID made state government mostly a collection of nomadic employees.

The state doesn't pay local property taxes to the city. Unlike forestland, there isn't even a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes option for the city. An estimated \$4.67 million a year is lost by city government, which can collect income tax on the state employees, as long as they're still classified as working in Lansing.

Now, in 2023, state government is flush with surplus money, a little more than \$7.5 billion at last count. The people who decide where that money goes — Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Sarah Anthony and House Appropriations Committee Chair Angela

Witwer — are from the Lansing area.

As far as Lansing goes, it's really now or never.

Steve Japinga from the Lansing chamber helped pull together an enormous wish list that looks like this:

First up is a \$100 million "Making It Grow Here Fund" to clean up brown-field sites, help finance affordable housing and generally make Lansing look like a great place to locate a business with strong childcare, broadband, transit, etc.

The Lansing Center has \$30.5 million in upgrade requests. Delta Township's Wastewater Treatment Plant needs \$84 million, and that's just for starters. The Lansing Board of Water & Light needs \$50 million. Lansing's airport wants \$9.4 million to improve its roads.

"I can say that we've looked at several of the requests in the proposal, but nothing is final," Anthony told me. "In addition to those items, there are other Lansing-area needs that focus on human services and community development that are priorities for members of the Capital Caucus. Nothing is final."

There are a lot of other requests from a lot of other people. Witwer has stressed throughout the budget process that the state "has to be responsible" with its money. That said, creating vibrant communities and urban cores are a priority for her.

Up to now, the House's budget included several pieces from the list. They put in \$5 million in federal money for a Lansing Center renovation.

The aforementioned training innovation center in Frandor has \$10 million set aside — less than the \$15 million requested, but better than nothing.

Money for some housing projects, like revamping the Walter French school building, is in that budget.

Lansing could always take advantage of \$100 million for a Community Downtown Economic Development Program. There's another \$100 million for a "Regional Empowerment Zone."

Japinga concedes he's not expecting all \$530 million in next year's state budget, plus an annual \$4.67 million directed to Lansing from the state to cover the costs of providing municipal services.

But, of course, you can't get what you don't ask for.

(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS at [melinnky@gmail.com](mailto:melinnky@gmail.com).)



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Opinion

# Hey gurrl, get your Black Music Month celebration on

By DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER

The month of June liberates students from high school academics in a solemn commencement march to strains of British composer Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance symphony. However, back in the day, after formal ceremonies, African-American graduates had our own music for graduation. We borrowed the finest automobiles in our extended family and weaved through the streets blasting our music. How appropriate. Music and motion go together. June marks graduation, but the month also high-fives Black music.

Given its popularity and influences, I might go as far as saying, African-American music frees all people to move. To dance through life. Specifically, music frees African Americans to handle their world.

It has always been so. Imagine enslaved Africans chained in a ship's dark hold for a painful and mysterious Atlantic-ocean journey from Mother Africa to the Americas. Finding a common language in music, they found community in loss. The exhaustive "Norton Anthology of African American Literature," edited by Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., says, music was a powerful shield, "a psychic escape," from the "steady theme: this world is not my home."

Music gets us through good and, especially, hard times. The immense success, and appropriation, of African-American music may lead some people to think it's all about the money. But, as English R&B singer Sam Smith sings, they do it for the love.

Aretha Franklin loved her music, and she never worried about the money. One time her sister was helping to straighten up Franklin's home and found a royalty check for \$20,000 on the floor under the coffee table. Reetie was not worried about getting paid. Her brother Cecil collected her concert fees, but after he died, Franklin collected her pay herself and carried it in her purse onto the concert stage. Her money was for taking care of people. When on the nightly news she saw people in



Kobby Dagan/Shutterstock

Stevie Wonder

trouble, she sent them a check. When Black Power activist Angela Davis was locked up in California, Aretha Franklin sent her bail money.

We African Americans live in a world that tortures us for love. We are brutalized in particular for romantic love. Consider Stevie Wonder and his hit song, "My Eyes Don't Cry."

This is a song deceptive in its treatment about suffering for love. First stanza lyrics roll out, "I was a lonely no one/ Living in the slums of love's misery/ Starving from the lack of sweet affection/ Until you came and rescued me."

But the moving chorus signals time to live: "My eyes don't cry no more/ My heart don't ache no more/ Since you walk through my door/ I don't no longer have to be blue."

Just as music can create a new grammar, "My Eyes Don't Cry" instrumentals kick in with a badass bassline that doesn't sound like Africa, or English, or sorrow. It twists with electric hope. That's the artistry of Stevie Wonder's bass man, Nate Watts (who was engaged to my sister-in-law).

This is what he told our family about the supremely popular "My Eyes Don't Cry." He said he was tired of playing it.

Well, too bad, Nate, 'cause people ain't tired of hearing it. At every concert, on every stage in the world, even Wembley Stadium in England, people have been hollering for "My Eyes Don't Cry" for 36 years, since its release on the 1987 "Characters" album (when albums were big, round black plastic). It's their jam.

No concert, or party — graduation, birthday, wedding, family reunion — unfolds without "My Eyes Don't



Opinion

# Unregulated green energy threatens family farms in Clinton County

By **ANDY EDICK**

*(The writer lives in Eagle Township in Clinton County. He has worked on farms and grown up around farmers.)*

In the May 10 CP Edit, Clinton County officials and residents are portrayed as NIMBY-driven opponents of clean energy. This perspective fails to understand that Clinton County's planning and zoning commission is experiencing turnover and a transition in leadership while navigating a possible onslaught of incoming wind and solar companies. Additionally, Eagle Township, in Clinton County, is staring at the possibility of a state-sponsored megasite that could cause the loss of 2,000 acres of farmland. Cascading development could easily cause another 2,000 acres of farmland to be lost. As a result, the township and county may be expected to account for an additional 10,000 residents if the megasite comes to fruition. The megasite and cascading development could cause farming in Eagle and Watertown townships to be wiped out — causing several family farms to go out of business. Clinton County is not ready for the task of effectively managing the amount of change that is coming down the pike in the area of planning and zoning. A moratorium, at this moment, is necessary.

As for understanding the operation of cash-crop farming, the May 10 CP Edit fails to understand that most cash-crop farmers in Clinton County lease, not own, the vast majority of the farmland they use. Large-scale solar projects threaten family farms. The USDA reported that from 2014 to 2021, 13.62 million acres of farmland have been lost nationwide. The solar industry threatens to take more by targeting private landowners and offering them a lease or purchase of their agriculturally zoned land at a price that is exponentially higher than that of a farm lease. This will trigger simple supply and demand economics — driving up the price of land leases and land values



based on solar speculation. Tax benefits that are referenced are also very lofty. Large-scale solar farms will seek a renaissance zone allowing them tax exemption from certain taxes such as state education tax, personal and real property tax and local income tax. Farmers are facing challenges from urban sprawl, land speculation, megasite development, foreign investment and now wind and solar projects. Where is the protection for the farmers?

Brownfields and land otherwise unsuitable for farming need to be prioritized over using farmland for clean energy. Adding solar panels on large industrial complexes and in regional industrial parks are a few examples of how land conservation can be done while moving toward clean energy. General Motors has roughly 250 acres that could be utilized for wind and solar at their Delta Township site. Detroit has 14,000

## Opinion

vacant acres that would benefit from the addition of clean energy infrastructure. Greenfield development is used as a soft target for a wide variety of development, while brownfields lay dormant for decades. Once our finite supply of farmland is taken, it is never returned.

I do believe in wind and solar when properly implemented, but we do not need to eat up productive farmland for this initiative. Clean energy need not be a threat to farmers across the state, but if solar and wind is allowed to run unfettered, it will threaten the livelihood of farmers. A targeted approach is needed with renewables that minimizes regional impacts to local agricultural assets. When the author of The CP Edit states that we need a sea wall against the rising NIMBY tide, it could be translated as we in the state government know what your community needs better than you. This top-down mindset creates a slippery slope, and lobbyists will have a field day if control is wrestled from local governments. Hurling insults and diminishing viewpoints is no path toward a compromise. The NIMBY argument is convenient for those that do not take the time to hear people's real concerns. This is not a NIMBY issue.

State of Michigan 54-A District Court, Ingham County 124 W. Michigan Ave 54 Floor, Lansing, MI 48933 **Order for Service by Publication. Case No. 23-00369-SPD.** Plaintiff: Annette Burns 1105 Climax St. Lansing, MI 48912 Plaintiff's Attorney: John A Finley p86315 The Covert Law Firm PLLC 328 W. Ottawa St., Garden Level Lansing, MI 48933. Defendant: Michael S. Hoseman 5730 Orchard Ct. Lansing, MI 48911 **To: Michael S. Hoseman. It is Ordered:** You are being sued in this county by the plaintiff to obtain title to and possession of the Property described as; Lot(s) 3 Orchardvale, according to the record plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 28 of Plats, Page 6. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before June 7, 2023. If you fail to do so, a default judgement may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in City Pulse for three consecutive weeks and proof of publication shall be filed in this court. 5/17/2023 Judge S. Buchanan P61500. **CP#23-124**

## BARKER

from page 7

Cry." An audible icon, the song raises people to their feet. It inspires them to dance. It gets them hustling.

The Hustle is a dance. The Hustle is so tribal, it could be straight from an African village. Or off the gangplank as Africans chained at the ankles shuffle off. Or by the accused hobbling into a court of law. Or the convicted shambling on the side of the highway.

The Hustle came in with "My Eyes Don't Cry." It is the Black woman's tribal line dance. No partner, no problem. The Hustle relieves at least one consequence of the wholesale prison lock-up of Black men. The Hustle brings joy, however temporary, to women whose lives mass incarceration blasted apart.

As a dance, the Hustle creates harmony and unity. All the dancers step left, and all step right, and then all move to and fro, dip, then turn and start all over again. Dancers try hard to get it right. They worry about doing it wrong, which is more

than can be said about some Americans today.

With "My Eyes Don't Cry," Stevie Wonder created a national Black anthem. It is one of his two, counting "Happy Birthday," the cake-and-candles tune birthed by the passage of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Music is art. Art is a way of processing the world. By not forgetting their music, Africans enslaved in the Americas maintained their culture, then it evolved to dominate American culture. This is why President Jimmy Carter declared June as Black Music Month in 1979, and, five commanders-in-chief later, President Barack Obama renamed it African American Music Appreciation Month. (He graduated from Harvard University.) Both presidents held high the incredible fortune of the United States: Black American music.

*(Dedria Humphries Barker, a Lansing resident, is the author of "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow." Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of each month.)*

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing:

Request from BL Mash East Lansing, LLC for site plan and a special use permit approval to open a restaurant which serves alcohol in the white box space at 212 Albert Avenue. The 4,755 square foot space is zoned B-3 (City Center Commercial District).

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Additionally, members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the City Clerk or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic access information:

Marie E. Wicks – City Clerk  
410 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
[mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com)  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

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

**Marie E. Wicks**  
City Clerk

**CP#23-128**

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## East Lansing native launches eating disorder recovery podcast

By TAYLOR BLAIR

If a podcast can accomplish anything, it can drop you into someone else's shoes and possibly even save someone's life in the process.

Amy Goeckel, 30, an East Lansing native, aims for her podcast, "The Eating Disorder Diaries," to help those struggling with eating disorders by taking them along on her journey of recovering from a 16-year battle with bulimia nervosa. The podcast is a labor of love that feels like a memoir told to you by a friend, with some episodes featuring interviews with her family, mental health professionals and other eating disorder survivors in recovery.

"I felt called to share my story in some way or another," Goeckel said. "There's so much that I want to convey regarding tools that I've learned."

Growing up, Goeckel lived with her parents, Chris and Cindy Goeckel, and younger sister, Alyssa. Goeckel's parents doted on her natural leadership abilities and creativity. After two years at Lansing Community College, she completed her bachelor's degree in statistics at Michigan State University.

She moved to Denver in 2019, embracing the landscape change. She maintains a mindful routine, including working on her podcast. She began developing the podcast in December 2022, almost unknowingly, while journaling.

"I was nervous about it. I was nervous to tell my therapist!" she said. "I was like, 'This is kind of cringey,' but I also love podcasts. It's what I listen to all the time."

Goeckel released the first three episodes back-to-back over three days in March. Now, there are seven episodes available. Listeners can download new episodes biweekly on Spotify.

The podcast has been downloaded in 63 countries, affirming the global need for discussions surrounding eating disorders. Goeckel finds it "unbelievably rewarding."

Discussing eating disorders isn't a walk in the park. Struggling with one can be an isolating and shameful experience, but one of Goeckel's goals is to break the taboo surrounding the topic.

The first episode chronicles Goeckel's youth, when her eating disorder began. Her experiences of low self-esteem and



Courtesy of Amy Goeckel

Amy Goeckel, who grew up in the East Lansing area and graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in statistics, created her podcast, "The Eating Disorder Diaries," to chronicle her recovery from bulimia nervosa and help those struggling with their own eating disorders.

comparing herself to peers at school may be considered typical by teenage girls, but, coupled with trauma from a sexual assault in her childhood, Goeckel sought ways to cope, which led to her bulimia diagnosis in eighth grade. After being untruthful to her childhood therapist and nutritionist, she convinced her family that she was "cured," though many difficult years were ahead. It took a lot of internal work and acceptance of therapy to come out on the other side.

Goeckel doesn't shy away from asking her parents hard questions, and she

highlights their honest recollection of getting her help for the first time after discovering her disorder. In the third episode, you can hear her parents' perspective of these memories firsthand. Goeckel wants people to tell their stories on their terms and extends that courtesy to all of her guests.

"It's all about boundaries and wanting to protect others in your life," she said. "I think that eating disorders, while they impact the person suffering significantly, they also impact anyone who loves that person, and it can wreak havoc on an entire family."

According to a 2020 report by Deloitte Access Economics, "The Social and Economic Cost of Eating Disorders in the United States of America," eating disorders are considered among the deadliest mental illnesses, resulting in 10,200 deaths per year. The same report states that 28.8 million Americans will struggle with an eating disorder in their lifetime.

The 2002 study "Characteristics and Treatment of Patients with Chronic Eating Disorders" reports that out of the total population of adolescent girls in the U.S., 35 to 57% will engage in disordered eating, abuse diet pills and laxatives or self-induce vomiting.

"You can walk into a room of 10 people and, statistically, one person is going to suffer," Goeckel said. "That's a massive number, and we shouldn't feel alone and isolated. I wish I had known that."

To promote audience growth for "The Eating Disorder Diaries," Goeckel began to advertise the podcast on social media. She found overwhelming support — even from her employer.

"I work a corporate job, and to come forward and tell my boss that this is something that I was passionate about, I was very nervous," she said. "It was hard to say it out loud."

Through promoting her podcast, she found more tools and support for herself.

"Popping on a podcast or following a social media account that's recovery-focused can help you out," she said.

Goeckel religiously attends therapy and support groups, which she credits a lot to her recovery. She also meditates and journals, the latter being the catalyst for her podcasting journey.

"Whether you're someone suffering from an eating disorder, love someone suffering from an eating disorder or just interested in learning about them, I want my podcast to be another tool in your toolbox," Goeckel said. "Had I known half of what I know now when I was in the depths of my eating disorder, I could have healed faster. I'm hoping I reach someone who's struggling right now, and that they can relate to me, and they can take what I learned and heal in their life."

# My smokin' hot Canadian honeymoon

By LUCAS HENKEL

My wife and I recently traveled to Hamilton, Ontario, for a belated honeymoon. We ate a lot of poutine; played games at Snakes and Lattes, a board game café chain; attended a drag show at The Drink in Toronto's "gayborhood"; and, of course, smoked a lot of premium Canadian cannabis. Here's a breakdown of some of the products I enjoyed while visiting the Great White North in case you make a trip out this summer, too.

made by crossing Purple Afghani and OG Kush. The flavor of the cannabis itself is reminiscent of cherries, with a woody, hashy undertone. The high starts out as stimulating and cerebral before fading into a deep feeling of relaxation. Each blunt contains terpene levels of around 5%, making it an especially tasty treat after successfully crossing the Canadian border.

BOXHOT, owned by Motif Labs, is based in southwest Ontario. To create these infused beauties, an automated machine injects potent cannabis distillate oil into the center of each blunt. This helps the blunt burn slower, so you can really enjoy the taste of the weed.

## Cherry Kush Oil-Infused Blunt by BOXHOT

Fatties | 34.1% THC | \$13.10/g

*The Gym Cannabis in Hamilton, Ontario*

Cherry Kush is a potent, indica-dominant strain that's

## Galactic Runtz by Tribal | 21.9% THC | \$22.27/3.5g

*The Gym Cannabis in Hamilton, Ontario*

Galactic Runtz is a gassy, sweet indica strain that's created by crossing Falcon 9 (Sunset Sherbert x Tina) and Runtz. It was the perfect choice to smoke while sitting on the beach and watching the sunset. There were streaks of purple on each bud that matched the evening sky,



and one bowl made me feel completely at ease.

Based in Quebec, Tribal aims to produce nothing less than the best. From its top-shelf genetics selection to its development of innovative harvesting techniques, the company has created a strain library that's potent and terpene-rich. Each eighth is packaged in a sealed air-tight can to preserve the cannabis' freshness. My budtender suggested I keep the leftover bud in a separate container to ensure it doesn't dry out, a common issue with this type of packaging.

## Orange Kush Cake Live Resin Double-Infused Pre-Roll by Avana | 33.7% THC | \$12.30/g

*Cannabis Cupboard in Hamilton, Ontario*

Orange Kush Cake is one of my favorite cannabis strains, so when my budtender at Cannabis Cupboard recommended this double-infused joint, I nearly hopped across the counter. This sativa-dominant hybrid strain is created by crossing Wedding Cake and Jilly Bean with Sour Tangie, Rozé Zkittlez and OG Eddy Lepp. It has a citrusy taste and creates a fun, cerebral high that will leave you giggly and hungry — a perfect appetizer before brunch.

Avana's double-infused pre-rolls are a labor of love. By combining its background in the legacy cannabis market and its cutting-edge low-temperature infusion technology, the company was able to create a great line of products. Its 1-gram joints are coated with live resin before being rolled in kief. Each

## Lansterdam in Review: Canadian cannabis

puff from this joint was just as tasty and smooth as the last.



## Animal Face Cookies Pre-Roll by WINK Cannabis | 29.28% THC | \$8.88/g

*Friendly Stranger in Toronto, Ontario*

Animal Face Cookies is a hybrid cannabis strain that's created by crossing Face Off OG, Animal Mints and Girl Scout Cookies. This combination of strains creates a product that tastes like fruity cereal. Each blunt is rolled in a wrap containing a blend of hemp, chamomile and cocoa, which adds an extra layer of flavor. This joint was a great post-dinner, pre-show treat.

## Bubba Kush Root Beer by Keef Brands | 10 milligrams THC | \$6.55/12 fl oz

*The Gym Cannabis in Hamilton, Ontario*

After returning to our Airbnb following a day of traveling and sightseeing, I capped the night off with a frosty can of infused root beer from Keef Brands, which won Best Edible at the High Times Cannabis Cup Denver in 2015. The company's line of cannabis-infused soda is available in select states around the U.S. and Canada — not Michigan yet, but here's hoping we get it soon.

Each 12-fluid-ounce can contains the equivalent of 5.07 grams of dried cannabis flower and 10 milligrams of THC. It tastes very similar to A&W root beer and made me feel very relaxed but not sleepy. Medical marijuana patients should definitely be on the lookout for the 25-milligram and 100-milligram versions.



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Courtesy Patrick Harlin

Pianist Clayton Stephenson (left) and LSO composer-in-residence Patrick Harlin met in Stephenson's Boston apartment recently to work out the details of Friday's Lansing Symphony world premiere concerto, "The Fourth Pedal."

# Explorer in residence

## Patrick Harlin caps three-year LSO voyage with world premiere

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It's hard to budge a symphony orchestra, what with all those tubas, fiddles, harps and whatnot. The weight of tradition makes it even harder.

But in the past three years, 38-year-old composer Patrick Harlin has whisked the Lansing Symphony Orchestra into some wild places, from the Amazon rain forest to outer Earth orbit. He's coaxed wind players to mimic tropical birds and persuaded maestro Timothy Muffitt to circle like a lighthouse.

Harlin's energy, vision and craft have helped the orchestra come alive with more new music than ever, from big Wharton Center concerts to an intimate, sold-out series devoted entirely to new music, LSO at the Robin Theatre.

The orchestra will announce its second composer-in-residence in the coming weeks. For now, Harlin will cap his three-year tenure as the orchestra's first composer-in-residence this Friday (June 2) by drop-kicking a hallowed orchestral standby, the piano concerto, into the quantum realm. Harlin and pianist Clayton Stephenson have been concocting the plan since they both took part in an LSO concert a year ago and bonded over their many mutual interests, from astronomy to hip-hop. "The Fourth Pedal" is a love letter and a kiss-off to a grand tradition, spinning grand piano majesty into electronically generated loops and opening the door to whatever comes next.

Harlin said it's a "daunting" prospect to step into an arena dominated by Beethoven, Brahms and other big guns, but there's a gleam in his eye, even as he plays humble.

"I think I found a solution," he said.

### Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Clayton Stephenson, piano  
7:30 p.m. Friday, June 2  
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall  
\$25-58  
www.lansingsymphony.org

### Fresh winds

A post-pandemic ripple of energy is pulsing through classical music, and it's not just the alleged "orgasm heard round the world" reported via Twitter from the audience at an April performance of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony at Los Angeles's Walt Disney Hall.

Concert halls are scoring big with new music, from hit operas like Terence Blanchard's "Champion" and "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" at the Metropolitan Opera to the Louisville Orchestra's epic choral-orchestral work "Mammoth," with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, performed inside Mammoth Cave in Kentucky in April.

A 21st-century cohort of composers open to using multiple styles of music is bringing diverse perspectives and stories to receptive listeners.

Market research shows double-digit jumps in orchestra attendance among millennials (aged 26-42) and Gen Z-ers (11-25), while older audiences have been slow to return to the concert hall post-pandemic, many of whom are not expected to ever come back.

Executive director Courtney Millbrook said the LSO audience has grown visibly younger at subscription concerts, the summer outdoor series and especially at LSO at the Robin, although the orchestra doesn't track demographics.

"It's pretty clear that the pandemic has reset things," longtime Lansing arts patron Sam Austin said. "We have to get a new, younger audience, and most of them probably don't care about Mozart, beautiful as it is."

After a lifetime of cutting-edge science as a physics professor at the MSU Cyclotron, Austin expects the same spirit of exploration from art and music.

Austin and his wife, Mary, are key financial supporters of the composer-in-residence program and the LSO at the Robin series.

The magnum opus of Harlin's Lansing tenure (so far) is "Earthrise," an emotional rocket ride inspired by Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders' famous 1968 photo of the Earth rising over the lunar surface.

"Earthrise" got a standing ovation from the Wharton Center audience when it premiered in May 2022.

# Residence

from page 11

“This is where Patrick really stands out,” LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt explained. “He’s adventuresome and innovative, but never to the point where he’s losing touch with the audience. There’s a grounded-ness to this music that will make the new ideas, the innovations, feel even more powerful.”

“Earthrise” also earned the LSO a notable new fan.

“I’m honored that my Earthrise photo inspired a young talent to compose such an interesting piece,” Anders commented under a YouTube post of the performance. “He should go far in the musical world!”

(Harlin said it was “meaningful” but “surreal” to get that kind of recognition.)

That exploratory spirit is exactly what the Austins were hoping to spark.

It took a while for the change to take hold. Sam Austin said he talked with the LSO for almost 10 years about setting up a composer-in-residence program.

“Being a physicist and into music, you deal with the past by using it,” he said. “You may mention Einstein and Newton, but you build on them. In music, people just keep playing all the old stuff. I just like the idea of hearing new things, and that was rather unlikely, at least in this area.”

Subscription concerts under Timothy Muffitt’s predecessor on the podium, Gustav Meier, “bored” the Austins, and they weren’t alone.

Soon after Muffitt came on board in 2006, the rusty needle began to move.

On some nights, new music stole the show. Audiences jumped to their feet when athletic marimba player and multi-percussionist Lisa Pegher dove into an electrifying (and electronically enhanced) performance of Paul Dooley’s “Northern Nights” and a furious percussion concerto by Joseph Schwantner.

Muffitt and the orchestra were not just checking a box. They were going for blood.

In early 2019, the LSO scored a big-city coup with the premiere of a harp concerto by one of the nation’s foremost composers, Jennifer Higdon, played by samurai harp warrior Yolanda Kondonassis. A few weeks before that, the orchestra premiered a profound and



Courtesy Patrick Harlin

Stephenson (at the piano) and Harlin hooked up the titular “fourth pedal” (visible at lower left), an electronic device that will spin the notes into amplified loops that stretch into the beyond.

lyrical trombone concerto by MSU composer David Biedenbender — also a premiere.

“These are not dinky, three-minute pieces,” Muffitt said. “The response to David’s piece was fantastic. It’s like — we’re not apologizing for doing this. I feel our community is right there with us, and this is part of our identity as an orchestra.”

The fresh winds also roused the orchestral ranks. LSO timpani player Andrew Spencer found himself pounding the skins with extra brio.

“For so much of my career, especially at the beginning, it was always the ‘three B’s,’” Spencer said, and he didn’t mean Biedenbender. “The musicians are embracing playing new pieces and audiences seem to enjoy hearing them.”

Learning new pieces means extra work, but LSO principal trumpeter Neil Mueller said the musicians relish the challenge.

“A lot of times, we show up and ask, ‘OK, what are we playing? What are we wearing? When does the rehearsal end? You get locked into a punch the time clock sort of attitude,’” Mueller said. “Tim is committed to new music and so are the musicians. We want to pump new life into the ecosystem, and audiences have been responsive.”

## Haydn in plain sight

After planting the flag for new mu-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Pianist Clayton Stephenson performed a year ago with the LSO and music director Timothy Muffitt, hit it off with composer-in-residence Patrick Harlin and agreed to return to give the world premiere of Harlin’s piano concerto, “The Fourth Pedal.”

sic, the next logical step for Muffitt and the orchestra was to find a composer who could work with the group over a few years, get to know the musicians and the community and even write music tailored to the talents of individual players.

Muffitt, a passionate advocate and consummate interpreter of classical composer Joseph Haydn, compared Harlin’s tenure to the hazy days when Haydn wrote reams of sublime symphonies for the court orchestra of his longtime patrons, the Esterhazys, in 18th-century Austria.

“Here’s one of the greatest composers ever, and he has this band of musicians of a very high caliber at his disposal on a daily basis,” Muffitt said. “He writes music, puts it in front of them and gets immediate feedback. Even Haydn grew as a composer in that kind of relationship.”

Despite the vaporized pandemic season of 2020-‘21, Harlin set to work right away.

“What we got from Patrick was a much more intimate connection than we envisioned,” Muffitt said. “He spent a lot of time in Lansing.”

Harlin was a key player in launching LSO at the Robin, an eclectic series of almost all-new music played by a rotating cast of LSO musicians that will enter its fourth season in fall 2023.

The series has showcased dozens of living composers, many of them in attendance at the intimate, 90-seat theater. A genre-blurring concert called “Crossovers” Feb. 16 pinballed through music with bluegrass, hip-hop, Yiddish and jazz elements, but the show-stopper was a rousing performance by Lansing’s All of the Above Hip-Hop Academy.

Harlin worked with the rappers to arrange their music for a backing group of bass clarinet, trumpet and strings.

Their music confronted gun violence, three days after a shooting at MSU, but also expressed pride, hope and exuberance, especially in the rappers’ ode to Lansing, “Breath of a City.”

“It was fun to see such unmitigated joy from performers,” Harlin said.

At every Robin Theatre concert, several audience members found the Austins, sitting quietly in the back of the hall, and thanked them for supporting the series.

“That’s very unusual,” Mary Austin

said. “The Robin concerts attract a mix of people you don’t see at the symphony.”

For Muffitt, the launch and success of the Robin series was a long-held dream come true.

“We were looking for that kind of opportunity, a really strong new music initiative, for many years,” Muffitt said. “Having Patrick on board helped us go from concept to a tangible result.”

## To the lighthouse

If there is a common source of energy among the cohort of younger composers whose music is filling concert halls in the 21st century, it’s the unresolved tension between their love of orchestral tradition and the urge to pry open the hermetic concert hall to the noise outside.

“River of Doubt,” performed by the LSO in January 2022, featured field recordings of birdsong Harlin recorded in the Amazon rain forest, along with intricate trills and warblings played by the musicians. Harlin painstakingly transcribed the bird songs, resorting to some strange markings on the page.

“I wanted to merge the soundscape in the real world with the soundscape in the concert hall,” Harlin said.

As Harlin got to know the players, he put juicy bits in his music for some of the orchestra’s stellar players, including clarinetist Guy Yehuda and bassoonist Michael Kroth.

“I realized each of those players can fill the hall,” Harlin said.

Harlin called on Mueller’s noble trumpet to conjure one of the most moving moments of “Earthrise,” when the blue oasis of Earth shines across the airless void.

“That was a nice moment toward the end, a really great trumpet moment,” Mueller said. “Each instrument brings something different, and it’s nice when someone understands what the trumpet can do.”

At an early 2022 rehearsal, long before he set “Earthrise” to paper, Harlin made the unheard-of request to take over 10 minutes of rehearsal time — not to tweak a finished work, but to try some experimental “games” in the early development of “Earthrise.”



Courtesy Patrick Harlin

Harlin recorded the sounds of the Amazon rain forest and wove them into “River of Doubt,” performed by the LSO in fall 2021. He likens the orchestra to a complex ecosystem, with each section and musician filling a crucial role.

# Residence

from page 12

To put this seemingly modest request in perspective, the orchestra usually rehearses for each major concert only twice, for about two and a half hours.

“That much time is like asking for somebody’s firstborn child,” Muffitt said.

But by then, Harlin, Muffitt and the orchestra had reached a high level of trust.

“They didn’t think it was a lark,” Muffitt said. “They knew it was serious business. We had the opportunity, in a very Esterhazy-like situation, to test it out.”

But Harlin had weirder things in mind than Haydn did when he asked Count Esterhazy’s musicians to leave the stage while playing the “Farewell Symphony.”

In one experiment, Harlin asked the musicians to play random notes. Musicians who played on top of each other were eliminated from the “game.”

“You had to put a note where no one else was,” principal oboist Gretchen Morse said. “Somehow, I was able to do it, and I won a six-pack of beer. What’s more motivating than that?”

Next, Harlin tried to paint a sonic “blur effect” by having the musicians chase each other sequentially, each playing faster than the one before.

“It sounded terrible,” Harlin said. “I could tell it wasn’t going to work and it was the wrong tack.”

Finally, Harlin struck gold with a technique he called “the lighthouse.” Instead of marking time, Muffitt served as the focal point of an invisible control beam, sweeping his arm to and fro in a semi-circular pattern.

“As soon as his hand passes a player in the orchestra, they change from one chord to the next chord or sound,” Harlin said, with the aim of creating “a wave or cascade of shifting sonorities.”

The result was a shimmering aura of sound that set the stage perfectly for the symphonic thrusts and climactic re-entry of “Earthrise,” which had yet to be written.

“That one did work, and it was really cool,” Harlin said.

For Muffitt, moments like that demonstrate the value of a long residency.

“It’s all about trust,” Muffitt said. “Patrick had to be comfortable asking, and we had to be comfortable saying ‘yes.’ That happens when relationships are built, nurtured and developed.”

Orchestral rehearsals are often tense, with a painfully limited time to conquer mountains of complicated music, but Harlin and Muffitt were invariably on the same page.

“You have to pick and choose what to work on, and what you think will solve itself on its own,” Harlin said.

“I’ll circle a bunch of things as we go through, and every time, Tim captures my top items, without fail.”

At rehearsals, Harlin’s eyes would often stray from the score in front of him to the drama on the stage.

“Tim is also a really fun conductor to watch,” he said. “He’s incredibly elegant on the podium. There’s this component of seeing how your music is presented, not just hearing it, and Tim is able to put the music into movement, which is very rewarding to a composer.”



Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders felt “honored” by the Lansing Symphony’s performance of composer-in-residence Patrick Harlin’s “Earthrise,” inspired by Anders’ famous photo. In a YouTube comment, Anders predicted Harlin would “go far.”



Courtesy NASA

## Attack of the fourth pedal

Last weekend, Harlin and pianist Clayton Stephenson huddled in Stephenson’s Boston apartment to work out the details of Friday’s premiere.

Their newfound artistic bond is just the kind of bonus Muffitt hoped the composer-in-residence project would bring.

A year ago, Stephenson, 24, came to Lansing to perform a piano concerto by pioneering African-American composer Florence Price. Harlin’s “Earthrise” premiered the same night.

Stephenson loved Harlin’s music and Harlin sensed a kindred musical spirit.

“I don’t always get that at every concert, even with the best soloists,” Harlin said. “There’s something about the way he was approaching the music in his playing.”

The two quickly developed a warm relationship. Three days after Stephenson left Lansing, the LSO asked him to return in a year.

“I wanted to work with someone who has their whole career ahead of them and is open to new ideas,” Harlin said.

“It’s fun to delve into uncharted territory,” Stephenson enthused.

Harlin’s music doesn’t imitate jazz or R&B outright, but he uses harmonies and meters that Stephenson called “modern and energetic.”

Breathing air is another virtue Stephenson seldom encounters in the composers he interprets. He admitted to an impossible itch to interrogate Mozart on his maddening piano fingering, which seems to require six fingers on each hand.

“Having the composer being alive is a great asset to the performer,” Stephenson said. “Many times I’ve wanted to ask, ‘Why did you do this? Why did you put this in here?’ Now I can.”

Harlin welcomes the give and take. “I told him, ‘If something is feeling weird, or you don’t like a section, just tell me. This is your concerto. You can’t do that with Beethoven, but I’m right here.’”

They spent a lot of time last weekend working on a hypnotic, undulating pattern of ultra-fast 16th notes that runs through much of the concerto.

“He wanted it played in a specific

way, more wave-like,” Stephenson said. “There’s no way to write it down like that. Those things helped me bring this piece to life.”

Harlin didn’t want to say too much and spoil the concerto for the audience, but the names of the movements circle back to the unresolved tension between Harlin’s love of tradition and his urge to break away from it.

The first movement, “The Echo Chamber,” leans into the glamorous, mirror-gazing exchanges between piano and orchestra that fill a traditional concerto, until they ominously begin to resemble 21st-century bubbles of information and culture.

He called the second movement a “theme and variations a la Wikipedia,” but its official name is identical to a web address — <https://piano-concerto.com/sub/liminal>.

Unsurprisingly, the music takes a dizzying dive into “hyperlinks” and has a bit of trouble finding its way back home.

“Sorry about the title,” Harlin chuckled. (He didn’t look sorry.) He knew it would show up as a hot link when mentioned on line, so he bought the web domain and is building a web page for it. Click at your own risk.

The third movement, “Object permanence,” deals with the question of whether things exist when there is no observer.

Hey, isn’t that the old tree-in-the-

forest cliché? Harlin seemed to regret having said that much. He simply described the fourth movement, “The Fourth Pedal,” as “a study in the flow of energy in music.”

“I can’t really say anything else,” he said.

Then he said something else.

The fourth pedal, he added, is not a metaphor — or not just a metaphor. It’s a real pedal, hooked up to the piano, “right on the edge” of electronic enhancement.

“It’s augmenting the capabilities of the pianist,” he said. “What he plays gets looped back, and he adds on top of that.” To blur things even more, Stephenson will add his own improvisations to the loop.

Oboist Morse speculated that playing a brand-new piece lights up dormant areas of the brain, in both performer and listener.

Morse’s day job is doing neurofeedback, a therapy for pain and stress management that helps patients monitor and adjust their brain’s electrical output.

“We’ve played Dvorak’s Ninth a million times, and Beethoven and Brahms,” she said. “New works aren’t written into your brain and body. I like the newness. It gets the brain cells working a little more than something old and familiar. We can all think about what colors and frequencies might be shifting in our brains Friday night.”

Courtesy Patrick Harlin

LSO musicians echoed recordings of actual birdcalls, including a species called “musician wren,” painstakingly transcribed in Harlin’s score.

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## Seven summer reads to take to the beach

By **BILL CASTANIER**

It's finally summer, which means it's time to head out to Michigan's coastal beaches and bask in the sunlight with a good book. Here's a list of seven options to read before you get a sunburn. They may fall into the category of "beach reads," but they're not mindless thrillers.

### "Fixit: An IQ Novel," by Joe Ide

Los Angeles author Joe Ide's new urban thriller, "Fixit: An IQ Novel," continues main character IQ's tussle with doing what's right and practical despite the legal ramifications. This time, he's in the hospital when his ex-girlfriend is kidnapped by his nemesis, a Los Angeles hitman. The ex-girlfriend describes the man as an underground private investigator who helps find justice when the police won't or can't. With its suspense and villains, this adventure tops Ide's previous works. The series has been optioned by Netflix.

### "Warrior Girl Unearthed," by Angeline Boulley

"Warrior Girl Unearthed" explores Native American culture in Michigan's Upper Peninsula through the eyes of a teenager. The southwest Michigan-based author, Angeline

Boulley, hit it big time with her first book, "Firekeeper's Daughter," which was recently selected as the 2023-'24 Great Michigan Read by the Michigan Humanities Council. Boulley's sophomore publication doesn't fall far from that tree.

In this outing, Perry Firekeeper-Birch, a teenage Native American girl, confronts the ugly past when a summer internship leads her on an escapade to recover lost and stolen artifacts from her Anishinaabe tribe. The book is filled with information about the complex culture of Native Americans, and readers will cheer for Perry and her twin, Pauline, as they investigate a series of kidnappings of tribal women and take on purveyors of Indigenous artifacts.

### "Small Mercies," by Dennis Lehane

Boston-raised author Dennis Lehane's new book, "Small Mercies," is set against the backdrop of the tumultuous 1974 busing controversy in Boston, which moved kids between public schools to achieve racial integration. In this thriller, a young mother battles the Irish mob as she looks for her missing daughter. At the same time, a young Black man is killed. The book confronts the racist ideology of the time and pulls no punches.

### "Simply Lies," by David Baldacci

Virginia author David Baldacci strikes again with his new book, "Simply Lies," which introduces a new

protagonist, Mickey Gibson, a former detective and single mother of two who works for a global investigation firm that forces wealthy deadbeats to pay their bills. When Gibson discovers a dead body that turns out to be someone in the witness protection program, the thrilling chase is on to discover who the killer is and why Gibson's friend deceived her.

### "Flags on the Bayou," by James Lee Burke

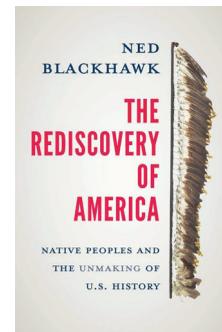
Later this summer, watch for James Lee Burke's new mystery, "Flags on the Bayou," a standalone novel set in Civil War-era New Orleans. The book follows an enslaved woman, Hannah Laveau, who's on the run after being accused of murder.

As much as I'd love for Burke to live forever, he's 86 years old, so if you haven't read any of his works, you may want to start before he writes his last book. I recommend his "Dave Robicheaux" mysteries — most are set in the bayou country of Louisiana, which he knows well since he was raised on the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast.

### "The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History," by Ned Blackhawk

After reading these five break-neck thrillers, it's time to get back to reality with "The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History," by Yale scholar Ned Blackhawk, who was raised in Detroit. The book covers the history of the United States' Indigenous population, spanning five centuries.

The book will open readers' eyes to a new range of ideas and correct a history that has too often focused on



an ill-conceived notion of who Native Americans were and are in this country. The groundbreaking book, which addresses the "struggles, survival and resurgence of the American Indian nations, was recently featured on the cover of The New York Times' weekly Book Review.

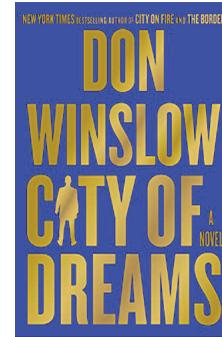
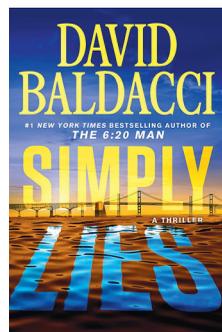
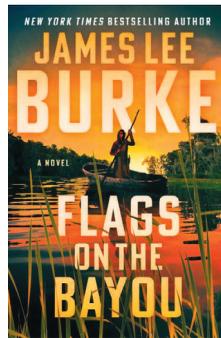
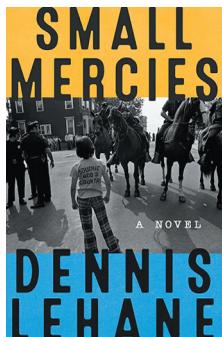
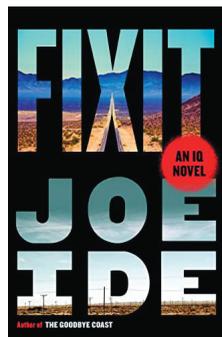
### "City of Dreams," by Don Winslow

Don Winslow's "City of Dreams" is the second installment in his "City" trilogy, and you really shouldn't read it until you read the first book, "City on Fire." Winslow likes to write in threes — most notably his drug cartel series, which will scare the you-know-what out of you.

Winslow is great at writing about thugs. In "City of Dreams," a Rhode Island crime boss, Danny Ryan, is on the run. He ends up in Hollywood, where he hooks up with a starlet, kicking off the classic crime novel. In a surreal moment,

Danny discovers that Hollywood is making a movie about his life.

The next book, "City in Ruin," sees Ryan chasing his dreams in Las Vegas. Winslow, who has been writing for more than 30 years now, says he will be retiring to his home in San Diego. In the meantime, check out some of his earlier works, like "A Cool Breeze on the Underground," about a college student turned investigator in New York City during the punk era.



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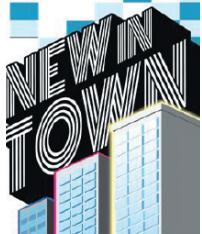
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# Social Sloth moves to Okemos, expands offerings

By LUCAS HENKEL

Social Sloth Café & Catering's new location in Okemos, once the site of Akagi Sushi, is a breath of fresh air for husband-and-wife team Burçay and Aybars Gunguler.



## Social Sloth Café & Catering

1754 Central Park Drive, Suite F, Okemos  
11 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Monday-Saturday  
517-253-0240  
socialslotchcafe.com

"This location gives us a bigger kitchen where we can focus on serving more food that we haven't been able to serve before," Burçay Gunguler said. "We're also in a spot that gives us more people and foot traffic than our last place, which is really exciting."

The family-owned restaurant, formerly located in downtown Lansing for two-and-a-half years under the name Social Sloth Café & Bakery, has discontinued its rotating menu, but it now offers a variety of vegan- and

vegetarian-friendly dishes. Aybars Gunguler, the lead chef, is focusing on creating more dishes that are native to Turkey, including more savory mezzes, the Turkish word for "small plates."

One new menu item that Burçay Gunguler is especially excited about is the doner kebab.

"Doner means 'to turn or rotate' and is kind of like the Turkish version of a Greek gyro," she said. To create the protein, meat — typically beef or lamb — is seasoned, stacked in the shape of an inverted cone and turned slowly on a rotisserie next to a vertical cooking element. The restaurant's popular doner-kebab wrap contains homemade tomato sauce, sumac onions, pickles and a fresh-cut salad on top of lavas bread.

In addition to these new savory menu items, Social Sloth continues to offer plenty of homemade desserts like limoncello cake, crème brûlée and baklava as well as customized cakes for all occasions.

If you're looking to take your cook-

ing to the next level or want to spice up your next date night, consider enrolling in one of Social Sloth's new cooking classes. The next class on Sunday (June 4) will focus on creating an authentic Turkish breakfast, featuring traditional dishes like menemen, which includes eggs, tomato, green peppers and spices such as ground black and red pepper cooked in olive oil. Participants will also learn how to make pisi, a fluffy ball of fried bread that's served with breakfast in Turkey.

After the class, participants and instructors will sit down and enjoy the meal they prepared together. The table will also include a spread of olives, tomatoes, cucumbers, feta cheese, jam and Turkish tea and coffee.

"We want everyone who takes one of our cooking classes to be able to explore the cuisine but also be able to sit and enjoy the food they made with each other," Burçay Gunguler said.

The two-hour-long class is \$90 per participant, and interested parties can sign up on the restaurant's web-



Courtesy of Social Sloth Café & Catering

Chef Aybars Gunguler, co-owner and lead chef of Social Sloth Café & Catering, is focusing on expanding the restaurant's menu with options like doner kebabs, the Turkish version of a Greek gyro.

site. To stay in the loop about other events, follow Social Sloth on Facebook, facebook.com/socialslotchcafe, and Instagram, @socialslotchcafe.



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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 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

### Wednesday, May 31

**"A Course of Love" with Lucille Olson** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**After-School Enrichment Time** - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market).

**Aura Photos with Simply Divine kickoff** - Meet Jim and Brandie from 1129 Simply Divine and get your aura photographed and read! Readings start at \$40. Noon-6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Black** - 7-10 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. [williamstonroadhouse.com](http://williamstonroadhouse.com).

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Code Club!** - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. Register at [hq.girlswhocode.com](http://hq.girlswhocode.com) using club code MI45609. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**"The LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan"** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Living History Music & Arts Noon Recital Series** - Samuel Shuler, organist. Noon. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capital Ave., Lansing. 517-485-9477. [lansingcentralumc.net/events](http://lansingcentralumc.net/events).

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

**Open Mic Hosted by Rick Hansel** - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover! 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Spring on the Grand River Lunch Cruise** - We're offering special rates! Menu consists of chicken salad croissants, fresh fruit, broccoli slaw, chips

and fresh-based cookies. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Grand River Park, Lansing. 517-627-2154. [michiganprincess.com](http://michiganprincess.com).

**Weaving the Web: Witches' Pyramid** - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**"Wild Florescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. [thepeopleschurch.com](http://thepeopleschurch.com).

### Thursday, June 1

**"Alabaster"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. 517-641-6728. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Capital Area Audubon Society June Meeting** - Quick annual meeting followed by free ice cream social and guided walk around Fenner. 7 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. [capitalareaaudubon.org](http://capitalareaaudubon.org).

**Dimondale Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**THE HENHOUSE PROWLERS** - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. [macsbar.com](http://macsbar.com).

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](http://greendoorlive.com).

**Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club** - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. [ladiessilverblades.org](http://ladiessilverblades.org).

**"The LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan"** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Medusa** - 7-11 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. [williamstonroadhouse.com](http://williamstonroadhouse.com).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild's 16th Annual 12 x 12 show** - Pieces by fine-art artists who enjoy working with many different mediums. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

### Hiroya Tsukamoto live in concert

Saturday, June 3  
6:30 p.m.

Elderly Instruments  
1100 N. Washington Ave.,  
Lansing

Award-winning fingerstyle acoustic guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto will visit Elderly Instruments Saturday evening (June 3) for an intimate performance.

The musician was born and raised in Japan and came to the United States in 2000 to attend Berklee College of Music. His style fuses folk, jazz and world music, and he headlines concerts throughout the U.S. and beyond.

"Tsukamoto's instrumental abilities are indeed breathtaking and astounding, but his performances are so much more than that. He has the unique capability of engaging an audience through a personable and genuine approach that transfuses his audience and almost transcends his capabilities as a guitarist," Elderly Instruments said on its website. "Tsukamoto plays with an effortless skill on the guitar and a repertoire that will have you traveling the world, not to mention experiencing new sounds with his own compositions."

"Hiroya has been captivating Lansing audiences for as long as I can remember, and this time he'll be delivering an unforgettable performance in the newly remodeled Elderly Instruments showroom. It's going to be an intimate and incredible experience," said AJ Glaub, Elderly Instruments' social media and events coordinator.

"My main guitar, which I plan on bringing to this show, is originally from Elderly Instruments," Tsukamoto said. "My friend bought it new 22 years ago, and several years ago, he got ill and handed it over to me. I'm happy to bring it back to its original location."

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased on Elderly Instruments' website, [elderly.com](http://elderly.com).



**Summer Concerts on the Square** - Sea Cruisers. 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-543-0400. [micharlotte.org](http://micharlotte.org).

**"Wild Florescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. [thepeopleschurch.com](http://thepeopleschurch.com).

### Friday, June 2

**After-School Enrichment Time** - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**"Alabaster"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Bubble Play Date** - Hands-on, immersive play experience for adults and littles. Dress to get messy! Registration req. 10:30-11 a.m. Patriarche Park, 1100 Alton St., East Lansing. [lansingareallittles.com](http://lansingareallittles.com).

**Cruise to Holt** - Bring down your classic, modern or project cars and bikes — if it has wheels, bring it, or just come take a look! DJ,

giveaways and food truck. 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market parking lot, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. 517-694-2135. [delhitownshipmi.gov](http://delhitownshipmi.gov).

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**"The Fourth Pedal"** - For his final concert as composer in residence, Patrick Harlin presents his world-premiere piano concerto, "The Fourth Pedal." Season concludes with Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 2. 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-487-5001. [lansingsymphony.org](http://lansingsymphony.org).

**Friday Night Concert Series** - Don Middlebrook and the Pearl Divers (tropical rock/beach music). Kids can enjoy big wheel tricycles at the tricycle track, a bounce house and a giant inflatable slide. 7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Bandshell, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. 517-676-2233. [pk.ingham.org](http://pk.ingham.org).

**"The LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan"** - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Mark Collins at Harrison Roadhouse** - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. [harrisonroadhouse.com](http://harrisonroadhouse.com).

**Live & Local**  
**Red Cedar Spirits** CityPULSE  
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
**Tony Thompson**  
Fri., June 2, 7 p.m.  
**Jazz Sunday**  
Sun., June 4, 6 p.m.



## Events

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**Mid-Michigan Art Guild's 16th Annual 12 x 12 show** - Pieces by fine-art artists who enjoy working with many different mediums. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

**National Cancer Survivors' Day Celebration** - Cake and ice cream, rock painting, beading, tai chi, drumming, door prizes, massage therapy, visits with Sparty and more. RSVP encouraged. 4-6 p.m. Karmanos Cancer Institute – McLaren Greater Lansing, 3520 Forest Road, Lansing. 517-975-3051. karmanos.org.

**North of Five at The Peanut Barrel** - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

**Soulstice** - 9 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**Take-Home Crafts** - Make African paper beads. Take-home kits come with supplies and instructions. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**TGIF Dinner and Dance** - Sea Cruisers band on the patio. DJ in the house. 7 p.m.-midnight. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com/calendar.

**"Wild Florescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

### Saturday, June 3

**"Alabaster"** - 3 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**BAD Brewing Summer Block Party** - Beer, Tantay food truck, music with Be Kind Rewind and Pinter Whitnick. 1-8 p.m. BAD Brewing Co., 440 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 517-676-7664. badbrewing.com.

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Capitol City Old Car Club 2nd Annual Benefit Car Show** - Car show, DJ, giveaways, food trucks, tours of the LCC auto lab. Proceeds will be donated to the CCOCC Scholarship Fund to assist students enrolled in the LCC automotive technology program. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. oldcarclub.com/car-show.

**Contra & Square Dance** - All dances taught – no partner needed. Come at 6:30 for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. 7 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-614-5858. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**Fingerstyle Guitar Workshop with Hiroya Tsukamoto** - 3 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

**Hiroya Tsukamoto Live** - 6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

**Kids Go Fish! Learn Fishing Basics** - Equipment provided. Receive a fishing pole and filled tackle box to take home. Ages 5-12, must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Registration req. 10-11:30 a.m. or noon-1:30 p.m. Jaycee Park Pavilion and Launch, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**"The LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan"** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

**Live Music with Atomic Annie at LBC** - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

**Mensa Admission Test** - American Mensa is an organization open to anyone who scores in the top 2% on an accepted, standardized intelligence test. 14+. Parental permission req. for ages 14-17. Picture ID req. \$60. 9 a.m. Howell Carnegie Library, 314 W. Grand River Ave., Howell. 248-660-3181. american-mensa.org.

**Meridian Township Farmers' Market** - Ready-to-eat foods, produce, meat, cheese, eggs, baked goods, bread, crafts and so much more! 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/farmers-market.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild's 16th Annual 12 x 12 show** - Pieces by fine-art artists who enjoy working with many different mediums. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

**The Powerlight Band** - Come enjoy the Powerlight Band as they perform the soulful sounds of Motown, Funk and R&B. Doors 5 p.m., show 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**St. Johns Pride Festival** - Food trucks, speakers, live music, family-friendly drag show, raffles, giveaways, kids' corner and more. Noon-4 p.m. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. 734-489-1035. facebook.com/sjccallcoalition.

**Welcome Summer Festival** - Vendors, food truck, workshops, public ritual, charity raffle and more. Please bring shelf-stable donations for the Pagans In Need food pantry for entry. All proceeds benefit Pagans In Need and the Temple Project. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. weaversoftheweb.org.

**"Wild Florescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

### Summer Send-Off Food and Supply Drive

Saturday, June 3  
J.W. Sexton High School parking lot  
102 McPherson Ave., Lansing

According to Feeding America, one in seven Michigan children is systematically hungry. Rebekah Bellgowan, a local philanthropist, is doing her part to fix that with a food and supply drive. She's asking for non-perishable foods; personal hygiene items such as razors, soap, shampoo, conditioner and feminine hygiene products; and gently used summer clothes and footwear.

If you'd like to make a donation, you can drop off items at 1714 W. Kalamazoo St. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday (May 31) through Friday (June 2). The distribution will happen noon to 5 p.m. Saturday (June 3) in Sexton High School's parking lot, and community members are welcome to stop by and pick up items they need.

If you'd like to help organize items, make baskets or assist with distribution, contact Bellgowan at 517-513-5046 or bellgowan@gmail.com



**World Migratory Bird Day 2023** - Participate in fun, family-friendly stations set up throughout the zoo and learn the importance of migratory birds, along with some simple practices you can use to help! 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

### Sunday, June 4

**"A Course in Miracles" with Dan and Carol Maynard** - Noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

**"Alabaster"** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Capital Pro Wrestling** - 3 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. 517-894-4589. americanluchalibre.com

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket.

**Eastern Ingham Farmers Market** - Locally grown produce, baked goods, prepared food, handmade artisan goods, live music, kids' crafts and so much more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmers-market.org.

**Hawk Island Triathlon** - Beginner-friendly event for people of all ages, body types, fitness levels and abilities. Sprint, super sprint, kids' races and relays. Check-in 7 a.m. for adults, 10:30 a.m. for kids. Hawk Island County Park, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. 517-374-5700. southlansing.org.

**JUGGLERS AND WOULD-BE JUGGLERS** - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

**Kung Fu Vampire** - 7 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

**Make and Take Rain Sticks with Sallie Thrush** - We'll provide materials and guide you through the process, including filling the tube and sealing the ends. Then you can decorate it as you wish! 3 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

**Mastermind Prayer Group** - The mastermind process is a collective support of each other's heart's desires. Everyone is encouraged to join us and hold the vision for each other. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild's 16th Annual 12 x 12 show** - Pieces by fine-art artists who enjoy working with many different mediums. Noon-4 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

**Pure Winds – Regeneration** - 4-6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeat-events.com.

**Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp Orientation** - Eight-week boot camp consists of introductory, intermediate and advanced skill-level training. Proper mastery of technique is reinforced at twice-weekly practices. 5-7 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. 517-802-7974. lansingrollerderby.com

**Sharrie Williams Gospel Brunch** - Noon-3 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**"Wild Florescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

### Monday, June 5

**After-School Enrichment Time** - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Craft Closet Clean Out** - Craft the day away in the Charlotte Community Library's Spartan Room. Crafting materials provided (while supplies last). 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

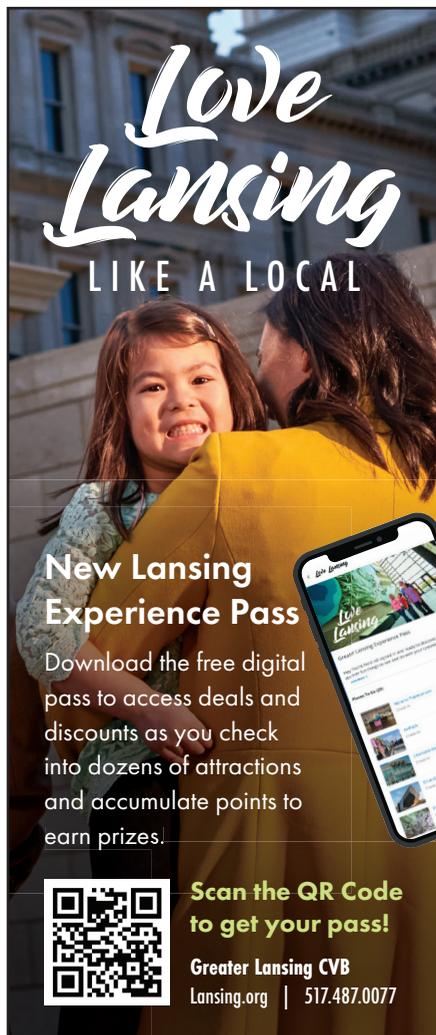
**Finance Committee** - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Health Fair** - Featuring the Sparrow Hospital Mobile Health Clinic; Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties; and Ingham County Health Department's Strong Start, Healthy Start initiative. Health screenings, information and free lunch. 1-5 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

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# Williamston Theatre's 'Alabaster' is intense but humorous and heartwarming

By **MARY CUSACK**

As far as Williamston Theatre's productions this season would indicate, 2023 seems to be the year of the woman. Its selections have included the coming-of-age story "Wild Horses" and "Mrs. Harrison," a powerful depiction of two women battling over the right to tell the story of a deceased woman of color. The company makes it a trifecta with its current production, the all-woman show "Alabaster."

Playwright Audrey Cefaly has crafted an intense play that's balanced with a fair amount of necessary humor. Alice (Kristina Riegle) is a famous photographer who's embarked on a new project: capturing stories and images of women who have endured unspeakable tragedies. She's arrived in Alabaster, Alabama, to interview June (Katherine Banks), who was the lone survivor after a tornado destroyed her family's farm.

While Alabaster is the name of June's hometown, it also reflects some significant symbolism. A common medium for sculptors, alabaster is soft and easily worked into intricate pieces with delicate detail. To the untrained eye, alabaster can be mistaken for marble, a much harder substance.

At first, June comes across as hard-

ened by her past. After meeting many women who have persisted through horrible circumstances, though, Alice recognizes the softness hidden behind June's tough façade.

June is not the only damaged soul, and she challenges Alice to face her own flaws. June and Alice poke, prod and push each other, the power dynamic fascinatingly fluid. The story is ultimately about women supporting each other through critical moments of personal growth, and watching Alice and June tenuously build trust is quite compelling.



**Review**

## "Alabaster"

Through June 18  
 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
 3 p.m. Saturday  
 2 p.m. Sunday  
 Williamston Theatre  
 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston  
 517-655-7469  
 williamstontheatre.org

Cefaly employs aspects of magical realism in the form of mother-and-daughter goats Bib (Gloria Vivalda) and Weezy (Hallie Bee Bard). The elderly Bib, literally on her last legs, represents the heart and soul of the farm. Weezy, on the other hand, represents something else. Is she

June's spirit animal? Guardian angel? The devil on her shoulder? More than a comedic foil, although she does serve in that capacity, Weezy is worldly and wise but also weary. Perhaps she's a form of a scapegoat, having taken on all of the pain associated with the farm's tragedy.

Whatever Weezy represents, she's complex, and Bard is outstanding in



Courtesy of Chris Purchis

June (left), played by Katherine Banks, and Alice, played by Kristina Riegle, work through difficult trauma together in Williamston Theatre's production of "Alabaster," by Audrey Cefaly.

her portrayal. Weezy has to be tough, funny and tender, not only challenging June but also grounding her. Although June and Alice must both relive their tragedies in front of the audience, it's Weezy who experiences the most visceral loss, and Bard drives that loss home.

As always, Williamston Theatre's production values are worth the price of admission alone. Monika Es-

sen's circular barnwood centerpiece is mesmerizing, and Michelle Raymond's props and set dressing create a cozy hovel experience. Lighting designer Shannon T. Schweitzer and sound designer Julia Garlotte have outdone themselves by creating the most intense thunderstorm experiences one is likely to have in an intimate theater space.

## Events

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**Mid-Michigan Art Guild's 16th Annual 12 x 12 show** - Pieces by fine-art artists who enjoy working with many different mediums. Noon-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

**"Wild Floreescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

### Tuesday, June 6

**Communities in Schools of Michigan Leadership in Education Dinner** - Honoring Faye Alexander Nelson, Michigan director of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, for her commitment to philanthropic work in the state. Reception, dining and entertainment. 6 p.m. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-489-4592. cismichigan.org.

**LAGE Game Night East** - Variety of board games, card games, dice games, cooperative games and strategy games. Bring your own or play games other people bring. All skill

levels welcome. 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

**LAGE Game Night West** - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

**Open Mic** - 7 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild's 16th Annual 12 x 12 show** - Pieces by fine-art artists who enjoy working with many different mediums. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

**Picnic Playdate: A Family Storytime** - Follow the little red wagon to the Trinity Episcopal Church playground for a summery family storytime with songs, activities and a snack! 11 a.m.-noon. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Gear fitting for those who need it. 7-9 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. 517-802-7974. lansingrollerderby.com

**"Wild Floreescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

### Wednesday, June 7

**"A Course of Love" with Lucille Olson** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**After-School Enrichment Time** - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 16

I	S	L	I	P	S	H	S	T	R	E	W
M	O	I	R	A	P	E	A	A	I	O	L
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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 16

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

# THE PULSIFIEDS

## Events

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**Delta Dental: FT Lead Software Designer/Implementer (Oracle/J2EE).** Lead & coordinate creation of analysis & design specifications, perform programming & testing system components. Req: Bachelor's or equiv. + 5 yrs. exp.; alternatively: Master's or equiv. + 3 yrs. exp. Jobsite: Okemos, MI. Hybrid position w/ in-office requirement. Must live within a commutable distance of Okemos, MI & be able to work in-office as req. Apply online at [www.deltadentalmi.com/careers](http://www.deltadentalmi.com/careers).

### Engineer

The Michigan State University Facility for Rare Isotope Beams seeks qualified candidates for the following full time position:

**Engineer** (East Lansing, MI) Design, develop, deploy, support FRIB EPICS-based control system; function as architect/developer for high level applications, support accelerator operations and experimental systems; integrate advanced hardware systems, architectures, support artificial intelligence and machine learning in accelerator operations and experimental science. Qualified candidates will possess Master's Degree in Electrical Eng or Computer Science + 2 years' exp as Research Assistant or any related position in computer software and algorithm development. Must have exp or edu in distributed high performance computing software, and programming in C/C++, Python, and Java. Will accept exp earned prior to qualifying Degree. Christine Bargerstock, Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, Michigan State University, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824. To apply for this posting, please go to [www.careers.msu.edu](http://www.careers.msu.edu) and search for posting number 859019. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer

**Doran McTaggart Send-Off Show** - Fundraising event for choruses and quartets that qualified to attend the Barbershop Harmony Society international competition. Performances by City Lights Chorus, Great Lakes Chorus, 5 Star, CHONK and more. Free, RSVP req. No alcohol allowed, bring lawn chairs. 5-9 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Bandshell, 1621 Pike St., Haslett.

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Laney Kay and Trenton Too** - 7-10 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. [williamstonroadhouse.com](http://williamstonroadhouse.com).

**LBCA Meeting** - 7:30 a.m. Pine Hills Golf Course, 6603 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg.

**"The LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan"** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

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

**Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting** - Free, virtual networking group for individuals ages 13-18 interested in birding. 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 946 4329 0865. Password: Chickadee.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild's 16th Annual 12 x 12 show** - Pieces by fine-art artists who enjoy working with many different mediums. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Nu-Blu (Bluegrass/Americana Band)** - 6 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-372-7880. [elderly.com](http://elderly.com).

**"Ripple of Change" Author Event** - A burned-out physician and his frustrated patient deploy insight, personal experience and irreverent humor to launch a sorely needed discussion on today's healthcare system. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Weaving the Web: Cord Magick** - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**"Wild Florescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. [thepeopleschurch.com](http://thepeopleschurch.com).

## Thursday, June 8

**"Alabaster"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. 517-641-6728. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Chipmunk Story Time** - Stories are followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866.

**Dimondale Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**Jackalope** - 6:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](http://greendoorlive.com).

**Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club** - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. [ladiessilverblades.org](http://ladiessilverblades.org).

**"The LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan"** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild's 16th Annual 12 x 12 show** - Pieces by fine-art artists who enjoy working with many different mediums. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Summer Concerts on the Square** - Frenz. 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-543-0400. [micharlotte.org](http://micharlotte.org).

**Thursday Night Live Courthouse Concert** - Bring lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy live family entertainment. 6:30-8 p.m. Ingham County

Courthouse lawn, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 517-676-1046. [masonchamber.org](http://masonchamber.org).

**Toys for Dogs in Need** - Help the Capital Area Humane Society by creating a braided fleece toy that will be donated to brighten a dog's day. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**"Wild Florescence"** - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. [thepeopleschurch.com](http://thepeopleschurch.com).

## Friday, June 9

**After-School Enrichment Time** - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**"Alabaster"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Chris Canas Band** - 9 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](http://greendoorlive.com).

**Cruise to Holt** - Bring down your classic, modern or project cars and bikes — if it has wheels, bring it, or just come take a look! DJ, giveaways and food truck. 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market parking lot, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. 517-694-2135. [delhitownshipmi.gov](http://delhitownshipmi.gov).

**Divination Roundtable** - Learn a new divination method, get a reading and compare notes with others in your field. All readings free, all systems of divination welcome. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Dogs After Dark** - You and your dog can enjoy a guided walk through the nighttime woods! Approximately 3 miles long. Dogs need 6-foot, non-retractable leash. 8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. [meridian.mi.us/hnc](http://meridian.mi.us/hnc).

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.** In the matter of the DONNA J. IRISH TRUST dated May 9, 1986, as Restated March 26, 2019. **TO ALL CREDITORS:** The decedent, Donna J. Irish, who lived at 2401 Chatham Road, Lansing, MI 48910, died on April 18, 2023. The decedent was a Grantor and Initial Trustee of the Donna J. Irish Trust dated May 9, 1986, as restated March 26, 2019. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust estate will be forever barred unless presented to Laura K. Groll, Trustee, at 1541 Hatch, Okemos, MI 48864, within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice. Laura K. Groll, Trustee. 1541 Hatch Okemos, MI 48864 Smith & Brooker, P.C. Charles T. Hewitt P39724 Attorneys for Trustee 703 Washington Ave. Bay City, MI 48708-5732 (989)892-2595.

CP#23-129

### PUBLIC NOTICE Request for Bids - Roof Replacement

Oneida Township Hall 11041 Oneida Rd, Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Oneida Charter Township is accepting sealed bids through Wednesday, **June 7th, 2023, 1:00pm** regarding the replacement of the roof for the township hall and the garage adjacent to the hall. **Sealed bids** must be submitted and clearly labeled "Bid for Roof Project" and addressed to Oneida Township Supervisor. Bids must arrive to the township by the date and time listed above. The timeline is short as to make a decision as swiftly as possible to get on your schedule. Discussion regarding bids will be had at the June 13th Board meeting. This is an open meeting; you are welcome to attend. Bids will be opened on June 7th at 1:00pm, to allow time for any additional questions to be asked prior to the Board meeting. The scope of work for the project includes, but is not limited to, stapled shingle removal and installation of new roof deck **as needed**, and installation of new shingles or metal roof, whichever is your specialty. Prospective bidders can walk the site at any time. Questions about the project can be directed to the Supervisor, Don Cooley. Please call us at 517-622-8078. Oneida Charter Township reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, or to award on any or all items, as is in the best interest of the Township.

Jacqueline Kilgore  
Oneida Township Clerk

CP#23-125

### INGHAM COUNTY NOTICE OF CLOSEOUT PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR INGHAM COUNTY SITE READINESS PLANNING GRANT

Ingham County will conduct a closeout public hearing on June 27, 2023, at 341 S. Jefferson, Mason, MI 48854, for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to submit comments and receive a final report on the completion of the Ingham County Site Readiness Planning CDBG grant.

The CDBG grant provided funding to assist in site readiness due diligence activities, such as environmental assessment, infrastructure analysis, traffic study, and more at sites located in Williamston, Mason, Vevay Township and Delhi Township. The CDBG project benefitted at least 51% low to moderate income persons; No persons were displaced as a result of the project.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the project in person at the public hearing or in writing addressed to Becky Bennett, Director of the Board of Commissioners Office.

Citizen views and comments on the CDBG project are welcome.

Ingham County  
Dillon Rush  
517.331.0069

CP#23-130

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Slice by Saddleback delivers deliciously

By **LIZY FERGUSON**

Takeout is a luxury, of course, but some days it feels like the only thing tethering me to sanity and convincing me to forge ahead in life.

Am I being hyperbolic? Probably. But I don't think I'm alone in often finding myself thinking, "If I make it through the day, I'm going to get myself a treat because I deserve it." That was my state of mind when I ordered the decadent combination of pizza and ribs after completing a to-do list that felt like running a marathon through wet cement.

Saddleback BBQ is a beloved Lansing institution that has never steered me wrong, and this is — at least so far — also the case with Slice, its two relatively new pizza outposts with locations in the south and west sides of town. Slice's menu features — apart from a unique assortment of pizzas made in a wood-fired oven — meat-

balls, salads and the wings and ribs you'd expect from a Saddleback-owned business.

Priced at \$13.49, the slice-and-ribs combo was an easy sell since I was already craving both. (The restaurant also offers a slice-and-wings combo for \$10.99.) The harder part was deciding on the slice. Given my advanced knowledge that pickles and barbecue are a perfect pairing, the Green & White, topped with pickles, dill and garlic sauce, came out on top.

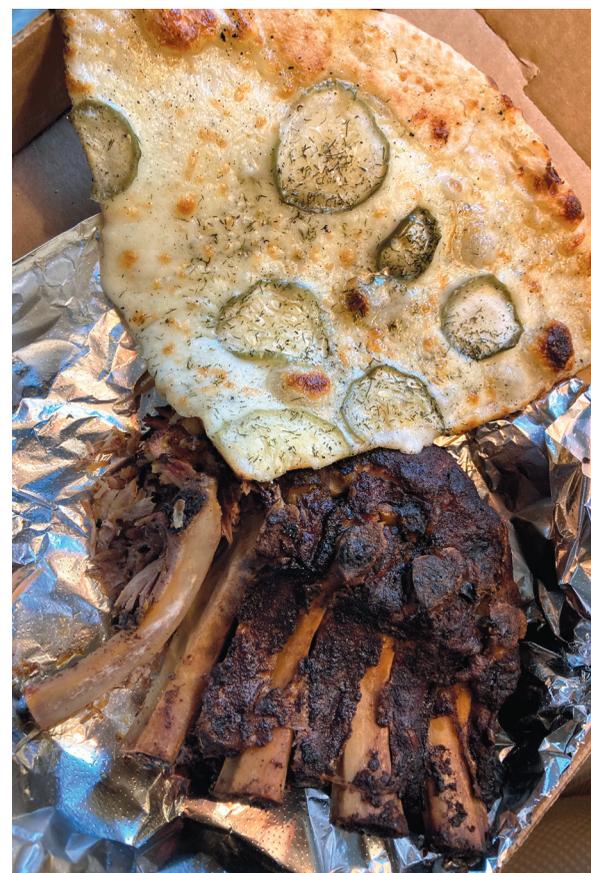
I was thrilled with my choice and overjoyed with the size of the slice, which was about double the size I was expecting. In my semi-feral state of hunger, I quickly found myself tearing off pieces of pizza and making little tacos with the falling-off-the-bone rib meat. The components were delicious separately, but when combined, they made for a soul-soothing bite.

The pizza crust was truly the stand-out. It was chewy and slightly charred

on the bottom, with a buttery, almost nutty flavor. The garlic sauce was very rich, and while this might keep me from ordering a whole pickle pie, it made for a perfect standalone slice.

The ribs were less saucy than I would have liked — I supplemented with some spicy Stubb's barbecue sauce from my fridge — but were plentiful. For the price, I was left more than satisfied.

I've officially added Slice to my treat-myself rotation. I need to try its Date Night pizza with dates and goat cheese, the Jammer Squares with red pepper jelly and cream cheese and maybe one of the featured pizzas, which have included olive burger and crab rangoon pies in the past.



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

At its \$13.49 price point, Slice by Saddleback's Slice & 4 Ribs combo is more than satisfying.



**Slice & 4 Ribs**

\$13.49

Slice by Saddleback South Lansing

3135 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily

517-306-9002

slicebysaddleback.com

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Lansing - Haslett - South Side

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SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

**TOP 5 DINING GUIDE**  
THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2022 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

TOP 5 FAST-FOOD RESTAURANTS

- 1. Culver's – all locations**  
Fast-food chain specializing in frozen custard and burgers made with Midwest beef and dairy  
See [culvers.com](http://culvers.com) for locations, hours and phone numbers
- 2. Olympic Broil**  
Casual fast-food outpost with hefty burgers, coney dogs, wraps and sandwiches  
1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing  
517-485-8584  
[olympicbroil.com](http://olympicbroil.com)
- 3. Chick-fil-A**  
Fast-food chain known for chicken sandwiches, tenders and nuggets  
5617 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
517-321-7800  
[chick-fil-a.com](http://chick-fil-a.com)
- 4. Bell's Greek Pizza**  
East Lansing staple serving pizza, pasta and other Mediterranean food  
1135 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
517-332-0858  
[thebellspizza.com](http://thebellspizza.com)
- 5. Nip N Sip Drive-In**  
Old-school drive-through joint serving American classics like burgers, wings, subs and shakes  
2603 N. East St., Lansing  
517-372-3734

10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday  
10 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday  
10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday

**Coming Sept. 13: Top of the Town 2023**

# Carrot aioli: It's better than grass

By ARI LEVAUX

Nearly 2% of the land in the Lower 48 is lawn. In the most populous areas, that percentage is even higher. It's fair to say that most of us have too much lawn and not enough garden — especially this time of year, when you keep getting ambushed by little plants at the farmers market. You bring them home and have nowhere to put them.

If you're lucky enough to have some lawn at your disposal, chances are you may have considered the idea of converting it into a garden. Sure, it's nice to frolic on freshly mowed grass once in a while or whack around a croquet ball, but it would also be nice to have space for more tomatoes.

Lawn conversion can be a grueling project. Or it can be as relaxing as a cup of tea. I chose the path of least resistance, but to each their own.

## To plastic, or not to plastic

The hard way to replace a lawn is to dig out the thick sod, shaking the dirt

from the hefty roots. You must dispose of all this plant matter and the wasted potential it represents. Those roots are made up of a lot of carbon, which would be good to have in your future garden. The problem is that as long as those roots are alive, they won't decompose. They're also nearly impossible to kill. No matter how hard you try to remove every last root, you'll probably still have grass sprouting in your garden.

The easy way to replace a lawn is to cover it with a sheet of black plastic. You can then attend to other matters while the lawn becomes a worm farm. Two months later, what was formerly turf is now a sea of soil, mostly soft worm poop. Weed-free and ready for planting.

The only problem with the easy road is that you have to wait for results. The problems with the hard road are that the results are less perfect and you have to get to work right away.



Each path is therapeutic in its own way, and, fortunately, we don't have to choose. We can actively dig up one spot while elsewhere, tucked under plastic, the earth turns itself. When the time comes to garden, the digging will be easy as butter.

If you get that plastic on soon, you could have a garden spot by mid-summer, which would be a perfect time to plant a fall garden.

Kale, spinach and carrots can grow throughout the fall and even winter if you take measures to keep them warm. Beets, radishes, salad turnips and many other short-season, cool-weather crops can also produce large harvests with an early July start.

While you work on your new garden spot, move your piece of plastic to its next location: the future garlic patch.

Garlic is planted sometime in the fall, by about Halloween. So, if you were to move your plastic in the middle of summer, the new spot would be right on schedule for garlic. When the frost is on the pumpkins and next year's garlic is in the ground, you can fold up that sheet of black plastic after a productive season

and keep it safe for next year's lawn-killing adventures.

## How to plastic

Hardware stores should have black plastic, although it might not be in the garden section. You want at least 6 millimeters in thickness. At my local Ace Hardware, a 10-foot-by-25-foot piece cost \$30.

Before you lay down the plastic, first rake and mow the spot, leaving the clippings scattered. After the plastic is in place, set heavy objects like bricks or pieces of wood around the edges to keep the wind from getting under it. Furniture works, too, depending on the exterior decor you're going for.

Before you plant, consider digging a trench around the edge of the new spot and installing some kind of edging to block the grass roots from invading. Wood boards, buried with the thin edge at ground level, will stop the march of the persistent lawn — or at least slow it to a manageable pace.

In honor of our future harvests of carrots and garlic, here is a recipe for carrot aioli. Garlic and carrots are always in season, even in the middle of winter when they're stored patiently in the pantry. Being a form of mayonnaise, carrot aioli makes everything taste better.

## Appetizers

WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED?  
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## Carrot aioli

In this recipe, steamed carrots take the place of egg as a thickener, if not an emulsifier. The tangy, rich sauce is good on bread, chips, pasta, protein, raw or cooked vegetables — just about anything savory. Or straight off the spoon.

Makes four large servings

1 pound carrots, trimmed, peeled and cut into 3-inch lengths

1 tablespoon chopped garlic

1 teaspoon salt

Juice of 1/2 a lemon and zest

1 cup olive oil

A pinch of thyme, oregano or anything green from your herb garden

Steam the carrots until you can easily poke a fork through, about 25 minutes. Meanwhile, add the garlic, salt, lemon juice and zest, oil and optional herbs to a blender and blend until smooth. Add the carrots, still hot so they cook the garlic a little, and blend until silky smooth. Add a little more olive oil if necessary to help the mixture achieve a nice vortex in the blender.

Serve as a condiment, dressing or main course. Refrigerate any leftovers.

**Friday June 2nd**



# CELEBRATE National Donut Day!

## 99¢ Donuts All Day!

Rolls Not Included. June 2nd Only While Supplies Last.



# Restaurant Appreciation Summer

**All ads half price June 21-Aug. 30:**

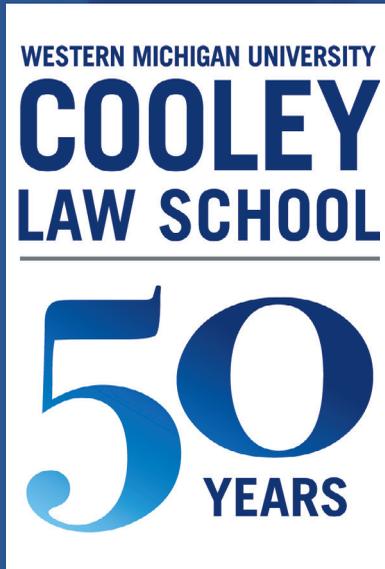
1/4 Page	Normally \$448	Your Price <b>\$224</b>
1/3 Page	Normally \$549	Your Price <b>\$274.50</b>
1/2 Page	Normally \$815	Your Price <b>\$407.50</b>
Jr. Page	Normally \$831	Your Price <b>\$415.50</b>
2/3 Page	Normally \$987	Your Price <b>\$493.50</b>
3/4 Page	Normally \$1058	Your Price <b>\$529</b>
Full Page	Normally \$1280	Your Price <b>\$640</b>
Back Page	Normally \$1536	Your Price <b>\$768</b>

Run as many times as you wish.



# CityPULSE

Contact **Lee Purdy** at [lee@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lee@lansingcitypulse.com) or **(517) 999-5064**



# PRIDE MONTH

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023 - NOON-1:00 P.M. (ET)

In honor of Pride Month, please join us for the *WMU-Cooley Pride Month Community Conversation* with Preston Mitchum. Mitchum is a Black queer attorney, advocate, and activist. He is the founder and principal of PDM Consulting, a multi-purpose consulting firm focused on the power of Black people, LGBTQ+ people, and young people. He has been featured in Washington Post, BET, MTV, The Root, The Grio, The Atlantic, BuzzFeed, CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, The Guardian, and more. *Go to the QR code to sign up for the event link.*