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# CIVIL PULSE

June 7 - 13, 2023

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MICHIGAN!**

**The Annual LGBTQ+ Issue**

*Civil*

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A FACE,  
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A NAME.**”

**- MELISSA ETHERIDGE**



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# CityPULSE

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A look at the emergence of hyperlocal Pride events

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MSU's LGBTQ+ library collection takes off

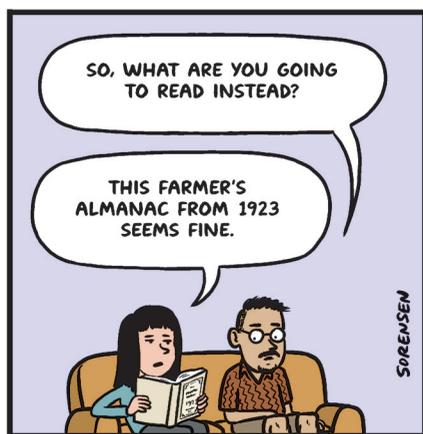
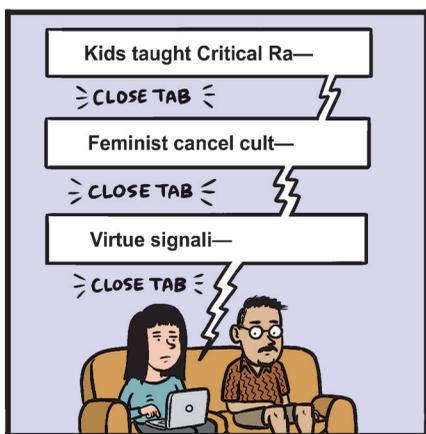
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If you can't beat the overnight oats fad, join it

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Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker



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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Developer looking to address LGBTQ+ housing concerns

LGBTQ+ people need housing but can face discrimination in the process of finding a home as well as harassment once in housing. A local Lansing developer wants to change that with a housing project for LGBTQ+ residents.

Christopher Stralkowski, a senior executive at Ferguson Development, said he is “trying to create a conversation to see if this something that would fit within the Lansing area.”

He said his initial research on LGBTQ+ housing opportunities was “disconcerting.”

“Statistically, the LGBT community has issues with housing in general, and that’s across the country,” he said. “They lack that support system that other people take for granted. Be it family, be it friends, be it professional relationships, things like that,” he said.

He is working with the LGBTQ+ networking group Suits in the City to host a September meeting to solicit input.

As COVID-19 locked the nation down, the UCLA School of Law Williams Institute released a comprehensive review of housing obstacles for members of the LGBTQ community.

Among the national study’s findings:

- Married different-sex couples are more likely to own the home they live in than same-sex couples, 79.4% compared to 72%.

- Significantly fewer LGBTQ+ adults own their homes than non-LGBTQ+ adults 49.8% to 70.1%.

On top of this, studies have also found that housing discrimination in renting and mortgage lending are obstacles. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority has recognized this disparity in the 2022 “Michigan’s Statewide Housing Plan.” That plan also argues for a need for LGBTQ+-affirming housing options. MSHDA is offering tax credits and grants to make that happen.

Just this year, Ferndale officials approved a 53-unit building specifically for LGBTQ+ seniors, funded in part



Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit

A rendering of a housing development being built in Ferndale for LGBTQ+ seniors, in part with state funds. Ferguson Development is looking into a similar project in Lansing.

with MSHDA grants.

When he was Chicago-area high school teacher, Stralkowski said he worked to create a safe and inclusive educational space. That, he said, was just part of the way he was raised. The constant drumbeat of opposition and attacks against transgender youth and people, the political football that drag shows have become, is alien to him.

“I was raised to accept people for who they are. It isn’t for me to judge, and hopefully, I’m not the one who will be judged either,” he said. “But it’s gotten to a point in our society that no one should be ashamed or feel threatened because of who they are.”

Stralkowski is the senior executive project manager at Ferguson Development, a long-established company owned by his father-in-law, Joel Ferguson, who was Lansing’s first African-American City Council member and a frequent president of the Board of Trustees at Michigan State University.

Since Stralkowski returned to Lansing, Ferguson Development partnered on building the Red Cedar mixed-use project on the east end of Michigan Avenue. Stralkowski is spearheading the redevelopment of the Pleasant Grove Elementary School property at Pleasant Grove and Holmes roads, which Malcolm X attended as a child.

The LGBTQ+ community may

seem, at first glance, to be a community without a significant need for low-income housing.

That’s untrue. The Williams Institute reports that in 2019, 21.6% of LGBTQ+ people were living in poverty, compared to 15.7% of heterosexuals. A 2021 study in the European Journal of Social Psychology found the myth that gays and lesbians are wealthy drives a belief that the community does not experience discrimination.

“Perpetuating this myth — either intentionally or inadvertently — could have deleterious effects on efforts for social change and the promotion of rights for sexual minorities,” the study found.

Stralkowski said his goal is to develop housing that offers both low-income and market-rate apartments. It’s a model that has proven successful in other Michigan cities and one which the Lansing Housing Commission is hoping to deliver in downtown Lansing with a proposed development called Riverview 220.

On top of the disparities in income and the discrimination LGBTQ people face in housing, Stralkowski said the housing market itself is facing skyrocketing prices in markets across the state.

The Michigan State Housing Plan backs up that observation.

“Between January 2013 and Oc-

tober 2021,” according to the report, “the average sales price for a home in Michigan increased by 84%, compared to the national average of 48%.”

With the project in its infancy, Stralkowski said he is just beginning to understand what issues may exist for the LGBTQ community. He acknowledged that everyone has biases “known and unknown,” and he is hoping the community will be helping the development along by better informing him of the needs of the community.

“What is the need? What is the opportunity?” He said. “What potentially are the amenities? And then the other piece to that is the idea: Where does this fit? Is it the welcoming, inclusive LGBTQ affirmative community of Old Town? Is it along the Michigan Avenue corridor? Is it in South Lansing? Is it in REO Town? Is it downtown? Is it somewhere on the edges? Where does this fit in terms of a safe, welcoming, inclusive community that is an asset as opposed to what people would say would be a liability?”

The city of Lansing had two public incidents of anti-LGBTQ+ activity in the last year. One was the burning of pride flags on the east side last June. The other was in April of anti-LGBTQ+ graffiti on the River Trail. Asked if he thought an LGBTQ+ housing facility might become a target for violence, Stralkowski said that was something “we’ll have to think about.”

While the project continues in the envisioning process, he said he will continue to educate himself.

“How am I looking at this? Am I looking at this because I’m creating a better environment in my community and what I call home and where I grew up? Or am I just doing something to make money and I’m just gonna keep moving?” he said, after noting the U.S. is a capitalist economy.

He answered his own question.

“If I can break even, I’m happy,” he said. “I’m happy because it’s what the community wants. It’s what the community needs.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOEHEL



**The Lansing Ethics Board voted Tuesday night to urge the Lansing City Council to educate itself better on procedures in light of the findings of an independent report it had ordered that found City Council member Jeffrey Brown guilty of two violations of the ethics ordinance.** Brown's lawyer denied the accusations. The report, by Southfield attorney Gouri Sashital, said Brown "has suggested that his support on matters is based upon whether he has received reciprocal support on a matter of importance to him." It also said that Brown overstepped his authority by presenting a grant funding request to Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin for two projects he hoped the city would fund. The investigation followed a complaint filed by Mayor Andy Schor and five of the other seven Council members. Brown's lawyers called the original complaint "frivolous." (For more on this story, see [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).)



**Barb Byrum announced she isn't running for the Democratic nomination for Elissa Slotkin's U.S. House seat next year but will seek a fourth term as Ingham County clerk.** The Onondaga Democrat expressed confidence she could have won the 7th District seat but spun her decision as believing "voters need me to remain here to stand up against the election misinformation and disinformation and ensure their access to the ballot box." Byrum may have learned that the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which is averse to primaries, has settled on another candidate. Her decision has cleared the field for a run by former state Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., who has been mum. On the GOP side, former state Sen. Tom Barrett of Charlotte, whom Slotkin defeated by 5% in 2022, is expected to run again.



**Duane Vernon, a Greater Lansing Sports Hall of Famer and longtime supporter of various Lansing-area organizations, died at 91.** Vernon attended Ithaca High School, where he was the school's first tennis letter winner and a member of the school's first cross-country team to win a state championship. After graduating from Michigan State University, he was a president of the MSU Alumni Club of Mid-Michigan, receiving the Outstanding Club Presidents Award in 1969; a founding member of MSU's Beaumont Tower Society; and chairperson of the Parade of Champions in 1979 and 2000, celebrating national-championship-winning MSU men's basketball teams. He was also a former president of the Lansing Jaycees, the Rotary Club of Lansing and Waverly Community Schools' Sideliners Athletic Booster Club and supported many other organizations throughout the Lansing area. He received the Spartan Hero Award from the MSU Mid-Michigan Alumni Club, Sparrow Health System's Founders Award and the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's Community Service Award, among other accolades. A funeral service will be held 12:30 p.m. Wednesday (June 7) at the Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel. Interment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery.



**The Lansing School District obtained a nearly \$1 million grant to recruit and train teachers in specialized subjects.** The \$959,694 grant, funded by the federal American Rescue

Plan and presented by the Michigan Department of Education, will be used to support the school district's "Grow Your Own" program, which will help teachers and staff within the district and new teachers who want to work within the district gain state certifications in specialized areas of education. After a screening, if applicants meet established goals for specific certifications, the district will partner with Central Michigan University to help pay for the required education credits and classes. The teachers will then be guaranteed a job in the district in their area of specialty. The district will also begin offering teaching courses in its Career and Technical Education catalog, which will allow students to try out the career path prior to college. The district hopes the program will bring in more full-time teachers since many have retired or left the profession since the onset of COVID-19. Substitute teachers have stepped in to cover classes in some of the district's schools, but they may not have qualified certifications in specialized areas like special education, art, math and physical education.

**The proposed redevelopment of the former Pleasant Grove Elementary School building in southwest Lansing is moving forward, but developers aren't sure exactly what the new development will be or when it will be completed, the Lansing State Journal reported.** The redevelopment of the site at Pleasant Grove and West Holmes roads has been in the works for years. In 2022, Ferguson Development said construction was expected to be completed by summer 2024, but COVID-19, supply chain delays and a brownfield remediation to address pollution on the site got in the way. The developers plan to demolish the run-down school and create a 27,000-square-foot commercial building with space for office, financial and medical companies as well as a 19,000-square-foot building with 30 residential apartments. The apartments could end up being veteran-focused housing, and the buildings could also contain a coffee shop or internet café. Developers plan to honor Malcolm X, who attended kindergarten at Pleasant Grove in 1931, with murals and possibly donated items. If brownfield plans are completed, the building could be demolished within the next year.



**Sparrow Health System will change its name to University of Michigan Health-Sparrow beginning April 1, 2024.** Until then, it will continue using Sparrow Health System in internal and external communications. U-M Health officially acquired Sparrow April 1, making it the second-largest health system by revenue in the state, valued at \$7.8 billion. "University of Michigan Health-Sparrow reflects a partnership going forward, building on the equity of both brands," said James Dover, Sparrow president and CEO. "Sparrow has an unmatched reputation in Mid-Michigan while U-M Health is the preeminent health system in Michigan. The new name highlights a continued commitment to bringing patients the right care at the right time at the right place, closer to home."

**PUBLIC**  
**Art**  
**OF THE WEEK**



### 'Hometown Heroes' Lugnut Stadium

Roy Saper, owner of Saper Galleries and Custom Framing in East Lansing, keeps a vigilant eye out for damage to or maintenance issues with Lansing-area art installations. In a recent conversation, he told me about an important piece missing from the Richard Hallier sculpture "Hometown Heroes," which is outside of Lugnut Stadium in downtown Lansing. A part of the sculpture depicts a ball player and a young boy seeking his autograph. Saper, who was involved in the sculpture's design, noticed in 1996 that the pen was missing from the player's hand. A second pen, which had been epoxied in place, also disappeared in 2011, and then a third pen disappeared and has not been replaced. Saper noted that the patina on the sculpture has changed and the ballplayer may need to be refinished.

— BILL CASTANIER



Public Art of the Week is a new feature that rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have an idea for either, please email [eyesore@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eyesore@lansingcitypulse.com) or call (517) 999-6704.



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## Zoning: an opportune time for action

By **JOAN NELSON**

You might have an opinion about these neighborhood issues: trees, street parking, urban farming, backyard granny flats, transportation options, corridor improvements, or gently densifying your neighborhood with more diverse housing options (i.e., duplexes, boarding houses, co-ops, quads).

This is the moment to let your thoughts be known. Over the next several months, the 2012 Lansing Comprehensive Plan (called Design Lansing) is being revisited to determine how conditions and preferences have changed in the last 10 years.

The city's principal planner, Andy Fedewa, and his team will be overseeing a six-month information-gathering process, providing multiple methods for joining the conversation. Fedewa notes that the process will likely wind down in late fall, so now is the time to opine.

Back in 2010, when Design Lansing was taking shape, clear themes emerged from hundreds of surveys and dozens of neighborhood gatherings. These themes came to be known as PET: Preserve Neighborhoods, Enhance Industrial Areas and Transform Commercial Areas.

Lansing residents indicated that they enjoyed and wanted to preserve their neighborhoods. People justifiably felt that Lansing's diverse residential sectors, with their abundant parks and green spaces, were a significant asset. So, for the last decade, neighborhood preservation has been and hopefully will continue to be a priority.

Fast forward 13 years to a worsening housing shortage, a steady rise in home

purchase and rental costs, and dramatically changing demographics — the mismatch between exclusive single-family zoning in 83% of Lansing's residential districts despite single families comprising only 40% of households.

In addition, some neighborhoods have become urban agricultural hubs (e.g., Urbandale on the east side, Hill Center on the south side) where dozens of urban farmers grow food on empty and often non-contiguous lots to sell at farmers markets or to grocery stores. Many offer Community Supported Agriculture projects, where people buy a subscription for a weekly box of their uber-local produce. Several also sell to Allen Neighborhood Center's Veggie Box program, a robust multi-farm CSA serving over 700

subscribers annually.

Other things have changed in our neighborhoods as well. We now have street parking, "complete streets" (providing a bit more room, respect, and safety for bicyclists), incubator programs of all sorts, and a growing appreciation for the benefits of increased density, such as more frequent public transit, eateries, coffee shops and various sorts of stores.

As noted, Fedewa and his team from the city are offering multiple ways to weigh in on which elements of Design Lansing are still pertinent and what changes are needed to keep Lansing's principle planning guide responsive to current needs.

Keep in mind that the zoning changes that would allow for increased housing options that have been the focus of my recent columns on have to be grounded in the city's Comprehensive Plan. So please check out Fedewa's article on this page, learn about the various methods for weighing in, and join the conversation.



**Opinion**

## Updating Design Lansing

By **ANDY FEDEWA**

*(The writer is the city of Lansing's principal planner.)*

Design Lansing focused on the future physical development of the city. We are now creating a supplemental update to develop strategies focusing on social development that will improve health, education, the environment and the economy.

The supplemental update will deal with:

- **Neighborhood Accessibility:** Our residential neighborhoods were cited as one of the city's strongest assets in 2012. To ensure every Lansing resident has a healthy, inclusive and accessible neighborhood, our city needs safe housing, a variety of housing choices for ever-changing demographics, and nearby daily amenities and services.

- **Community Culture:** Our neighborhoods also foster a sense of belonging and impact one's identity. They need to guarantee participation in arts and events, community service, neighborhood organizations, access to recreation, and local small businesses.

- **Economic Opportunity:** To really prosper, the community needs resources and tools that provide households with education, job training, financial literacy and financial services.

- **Sustainability and Resiliency:** Protecting Lansing's riverways, wetlands and woodlands is only one piece of the puzzle. Residential conversions to renewable energy production, mitigation techniques for extreme weather events, and ensuring vulnerable communities are protected against nearby pollution sources and floodplain hazards will need to be prioritized.

- **Mobility and Safety:** Our city needs a connected transportation system that is multi-modal and really examines the needs of our community members vulnerable to unsafe streets such as children and their caretakers, seniors, and micro-mobility users. We need a plan to accelerate sidewalk repair and protected bike lane installation.

This process is the best opportunity to identify barriers and challenges you face so that your input can help inform the community's strategies. Ultimately, all recommendations are advisory, and there are many different opinions on many issues that the city will have to balance when receiving feedback, but please take the time to fill out a resident survey, request a "workshop-in-a-box" or if you are involved with a community organization take the stakeholder survey as a group. More information and access to these can be found on [www.lansingmi.gov/planning](http://www.lansingmi.gov/planning).



In celebration of the Landmark US Supreme Court ruling; which prohibits sexual orientation and gender identity based discrimination in the workforce. A great defeat for discrimination!

- **Victor Celentino**  
Ingham County  
Commissioner - District 6

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**PROGRESS  
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## Look for an expanded hate crime law and a state ban on conversion therapy

We all know the expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include the LGBTQ+ community has been addressed.

State law now bans someone from being fired or denied housing simply because of their personal relationships or whichever gender they identify with.

But friends of the LGBTQ+ community in the Legislature aren't done passing laws designed to protect the state's historically marginalized communities.

Next up is expanding the state's hate crime statute to crack down on those who may not physically harm another but do intimidate or threaten them.

The House is already holding hearings on the bills, which would criminalize such things as parading around a Black family's home in white robes with pointed hoods.

Those who spray paint a swastika on a synagogue could also get hit with a two-year, \$2,000 criminal sentence for ethnic intimidation on top of whatever other charges come with the defacing of private property.

In a House committee this week on the bills, the following real-life example was laid out.

Je Donna Dinges, a Detroit native, said her family was a target of ethnic intimidation in 2021 when her Grosse Pointe Park neighbor displayed a Ku Klux Klan flag in his window, which was a broomstick away from her window.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office determined there wasn't enough evidence to charge the neighbor with ethnic intimidation because the current law requires physical contact, damage, destruction, defacement of property or threats.

"My daughter and I were terrified. My daughter would awaken from her sleep with nightmares of our neighbor shooting through the dining room and killing us," said Dinges, who formed an ethnic intimidation work group in 2021.

"He couldn't be prosecuted because he did not harm us physically."

"Had this legislation been in place, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy would have been able to bring charges," she added. "He would have been held accountable."

The panel learned transgender women of color, in particular, are disproportionately impacted by hate crimes.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Opinion

What else is coming from lawmakers?

An end to "conversion therapy" on minors is also moving its way through the Senate. The first hearing on a bill to make the practice illegal also took place this week. Michigan would be the 22nd state to end the practice if signed into law.

Described as a dangerous and widely discredited practice, conversion therapy tends to come with a religious bent for those few practitioners who believe homosexuality is a condition that can and must be "cured."

Not only does conversion therapy tend not to work, but it reportedly drives youths to suicide at rates double that of their gay peers.

Expect to see these bills being brought up on the Senate floor before Pride Month is over.

Down the line, Sen. Jeremy Moss, the state's first openly gay senator, would like to see the repeal of the 2004 One-Man-One-Woman-marriage constitutional amendment.

It's functionally obsolete at the moment, but so was the state's 1931 abortion

ban until the U.S. Supreme overturned Roe v. Wade. What's stopping this same court from overturning Obergefell v. Hodges, the 2015 decision that allowed for gay marriages?

"If that is threatened, we have to act with urgency to repeal our marriage bans that could potentially dissolve marriages and relationships and threaten financial security for a whole class of people overnight," Moss said.

Overturing the 2004 constitutional amendment would require a separate constitutional amendment and a vote of the people.

The Democrats don't have a legislative supermajority to put such a measure on the ballot, so groups like Equality Michigan and the Human Rights Coalition are putting their energy and resources behind more "low-hanging fruit" while they have this "historic opportunity" with a Democratic-controlled Legislature.

At some point, this, too, is coming, considering the LGBTQ+ community is at the beginning of reversing years of discriminatory laws and practices.

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



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**Happy Pride!**

**Ryan Kost,**

**1st Ward**

**Lansing City Council**

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**Ingham County Commissioner Todd Tennis is proud to support the LGBTQ+ community and stands with all those fighting to be treated equally and justly.**



# 2023 LANSING JUNETEENTH 30th Anniversary Celebration

## JUNETEENTH, THE WAVE OF FREEDOM

Saturday, June 10 - 2pm-4pm

*Juneteenth Community Ballgame*

at Benjamin Davis Park, Lansing



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
Michigan Supreme Court Justice  
Kyra Harris Bolden

Thursday, June 15 - 5:30pm

*Kick-off Ceremony &  
Essay Competition/Scholarship  
Awards Program*

Lansing Community College - Downtown Campus  
Gannon Bldg. - 411 North Grand Avenue, Lansing

Friday, June 16 - Saturday, June 17

*The Juneteenth Freedom Festival  
featuring the Juneteenth 5K and  
the African American Parade*

at St. Joseph Park  
2125 W. Hillsdale, Lansing, Michigan

**PARADE  
GRAND MARSHALS**



James E. Bibbs



Alan Haller

Friday - Freedom Festival Friday Night Activities - 4pm-8pm  
Saturday - The day begins at 8:30 am with the Juneteenth 5K,  
followed by the Parade at 11:00 am. The festival features:  
Lansing Juneteenth /NAACP Lansing Branch Job Fair - 11am-3pm &  
Community Resource Fair - 3pm-6pm;  
Health Fair - 11am-3pm; Children's Activities - 12pm-5pm;  
Exhibits, Merchants and Food Vendors, and an amazing array of  
Main Stage Entertainment will continue until dusk.

Visit  
**LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org**  
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Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Lady Seduca charges the audience during a performance at St. Johns' Pride Fest on Saturday. Lady is the creation of Neil Monté Alexander, a recent MSU graduate.

# 'Terrified' but courageous

## Trans, nonbinary community face down hostility during Pride Month

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Two blocks of downtown St. Johns were festooned with rainbows. A vendor was making bubbles that wafted in the wind under the blue sky. Children laughed and squealed as they romped in a bouncy house. A clown made animal balloons and volunteers painted faces with rainbows and sparkles.

Saturday marked the third annual Pride Fest in rural Clinton County's biggest community, 20 miles north of Lansing. The sun shined on a bucolic, welcoming scene in small-town America.

Yet Lady Seduca was "terrified."

"I'm coming as a Black person," Neil Monté Alexander, a 25-year-old Detroit native whose stage name as a drag performer is Lady Seduca, confided about his trip to rural Michigan. "And that has a different layer of anxiety, a different layer of trauma."

"I'm coming first and foremost as a person of color," he added.

Such fears are clouding the joy and celebration of Pride Month this year — with some 400 events throughout the state — for many members of the LGBTQ+ community. Nationally, a raft of legislation attacking the LGBTQ+ community, particularly transgender and gender non-conforming people,



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Lady Seduca bows in respect to an audience member who tipped her at St. Johns' Pride festival.

has been introduced since the beginning of the year. Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBTQ+ advocacy organization, reports over 400 pieces of such legislation.

The fervor and fear over LGBTQ+ youth, and particularly transgender youth, have also hit the

greater Lansing area.

In Grand Ledge, the race for school board last fall featured an unsuccessful but vocal trio of conservative candidates who parroted claims that schools pushed an agenda on students. They were echoing the views of Tudor Dixon, the GOP candidate for governor. Dixon was advocating against a so-called "gender agenda," declaring she would ban education related to gender identity in the schools because it was a form of "grooming."

Last fall, students in Maple Valley Schools lobbied for a Gay-Straight Alliance, only to be faced with hostile adults.

In the audience was Aly Monteil, a nonbinary person who attended the schools and lives in the Vermontville area, in rural Eaton County about 35 miles southwest of Lansing.

"To see these people acting like this, it was shocking in a way," they said. "I knew we had people that were like that in our community, but I didn't know that they'd go to school board meetings and be so open about it. And just so hateful towards us."

The 19-year-old was one of several young peo-



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# Pride Month

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ple, ages 15 to 25, to whom City Pulse spoke for this report. Some were fearful of a backlash if they were in the paper. Some, like Alexander, asked that his exact city of residence was be withheld out of fear people might seek him out to cause harm.

Monteil said coming to terms with their sexuality and gender identity was a journey that began in earnest in the seventh grade.

“I’ll grow out of it,” they said they thought at the time. That was until they realized, “I’m a little bit not straight.”

By 2020, they were searching the internet for answers and connecting with gamers online. It was in the gaming community they found a connection and a word they were looking for. In chat, they first were encouraged to use they/them pronouns.

“It was great because I finally felt like I found myself in a way,” they said. “Oh, my God, I love being referred to as they/them.”

In-person support, they said, is found in the monthly meetings of I’ll Be Your Rock, a nonprofit started by

Vermontville native Christine Turpening after she came out as a lesbian.

“They’re like a family,” Monteil said.

In November, for the first time in decades, Michigan Democrats scored a trifecta, capturing control of the House, the Senate and the Governor’s Office. They quickly went to work addressing a series of longstanding policy initiatives, including those protecting the LGBTQ+ community. After decades of pitched battles to amend the state’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Michigan Democrats finally passed legislation in early March, which Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed.

Even as the legislation was heading to Whitmer’s desk, a group of eight Republicans introduced a three-bill legislative package that could leave parents or guardians of transgender children facing First-Degree Child Abuse charges — a felony with a penalty of up to life imprisonment.

The package of bills was referred to the House Criminal Justice Committee. Delhi Township State Rep. Kara Hope, a Democrat, chairs that committee.

“I have zero intention of hearing them,” she said this week. “The bills are ignorant. They are transphobic. They are hateful. They incite hate and misunderstanding, and as the chair I



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Young Jake was the winner of the Pride Gear contest at St. Johns’ Pride Fest. He’s taking a walk to show off his t-shirt, while other contestants look on.

don’t want to have any part of facilitating any of that.”

It’s similar to legislation introduced in Republican-controlled state houses across the country. In Texas, an attempt by recently impeached Attorney General Ken Paxton was made to investigate and potentially prosecute parents of transgender children for

assisting them in getting medically necessary care for their transitions. His actions were halted by a Texas appeals court.

Many who have pushed such laws fear that members of the LGBTQ+ communities are attempting to

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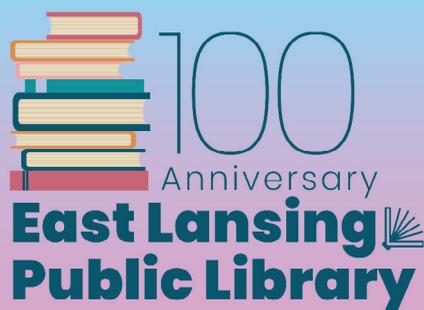
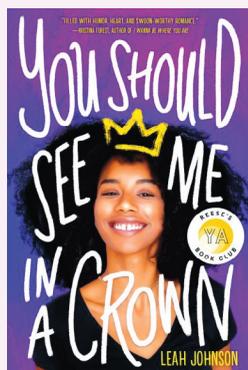
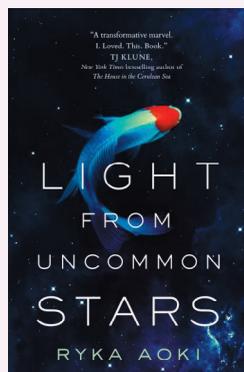
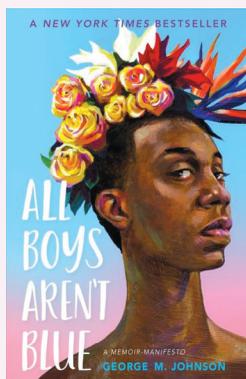
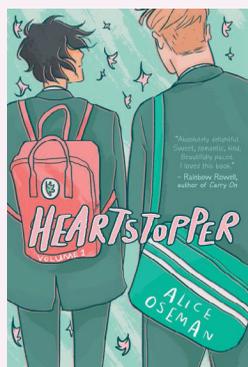
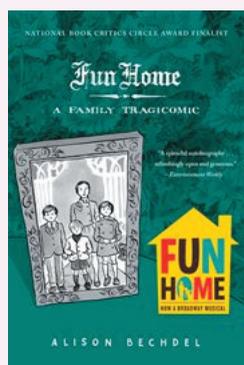
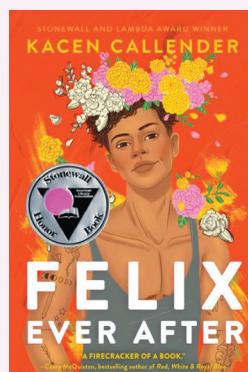
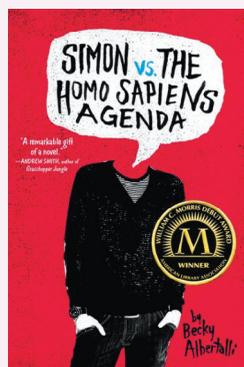
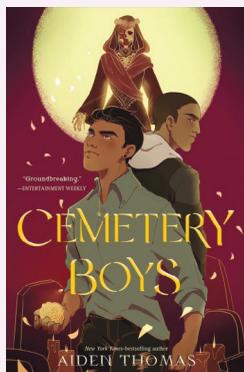


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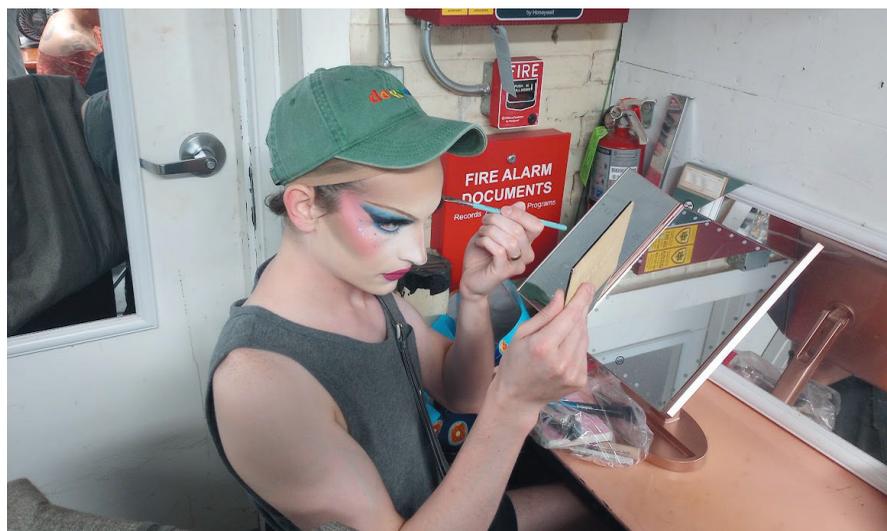
# Pride Month

from page 14

transform children through a liberal ideology that erases gender and sexuality. The right-wing Daily Caller website released a video last week called "Damaged: The Transing of America's Kids" that focused on several people who said they were confused and rushed into an identity as transgender.

That's not the experience Miss Transgender Michigan Jamie Ashby had with her own process of becoming her "authentic self."

As a young child, Ashby, who was born male anatomically, would eye Barbie dolls and wonder when her



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Nick Fuller puts the finishing touches on his make-up in preparation for a Drag Brunch performance in Royal Oak June 4. His drag persona is Jewel Jubilee.

body would look like theirs. At age 4, she was taken to a therapist in an attempt to understand why the supposed little boy was so focused on the female body.

There she was given two anatomically accurate dolls: a boy and a girl.

"The girl doll did not reflect my body, and I wanted to know when my body was going to develop like the girl doll," Ashby, 39, said. With "the male doll, I saw the genitalia as the same as mine, and I wanted to rip that off and place the genitalia on the girl doll because that is how I would see myself. It was so confusing."

She was labeled as having gender identity disorder, a diagnosis that no longer exists. The American Psychiatric Association has since adopted the term gender dysphoria to describe feelings of discomfort or worse over being misgendered.

Her struggle to be seen as her authentic self led to harassment at school and delinquency, she said. She became a ward of the state at 14, and struggling. She tried to go to Michigan State University and ended up homeless, couch surfing with people she met in the drag community. It

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## Pride Month

from page 16

was in those circles, as she worked the scenes as a queen, that she was introduced to transgender people.

In 2011, after months of talk therapy — which she paid for out of her pocket using what little bit of cash she earned performing drag — she was authorized to begin a medical transition to female. The clinician who counseled her wrote a letter and referred her to a clinic in the metro Detroit area where she could access hormones to change her body.

Now, she's working at a large mid-Michigan company as a human resources expert.

With the platform of Miss Transgender Michigan, she's hoping to use her stability and story to bring hope to others.

"I can be a voice for those who don't have one, and I can be visible for those who can't," she said. Her hope is that by discussing her adversities, children who "might be going through the same thing can find hope within my story."

In November, she will compete in Milwaukee for the Miss Universe title.



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Miss Transgender Michigan Jamie Ashby greets a young admirer at St. Johns' Pride Fest.

Ashby did not want to identify her employer in part because it could face backlash. It's not an unreasonable concern in light of the attacks on Target for having Pride merchandise or Bud Light for sending a Pride theme beer to a transgender social influencer. Stock prices for the beer manufacturer have suffered since the controversy broke in April.

Jewel Jubilee, who was crowned Amateur Miss Lansing Pride last month, lives in Ferndale and grew up in the metro Detroit suburb of Walled Lake. The 25-year-old's real name is Nick Fuller. He escaped the state for four years — two years attending a performing arts boarding school in Boston, then another two years at Fordham University in New York. He holds a bachelor's degree from Oakland University and works as an accountant by day.

Drag was not something he was certain he was interested in. But as the world slowly crawled out from under constrictions from the pandemic, he found he was not connected to any community of LGBTQ+ folks in metro Detroit. While he and his husband certainly craved that connection, his social anxiety acted as a barrier. But performing in drag, he said, gave him that connection to a community that he calls his "drag family." That family is led by Bentley James, a fixture in the Lansing drag community. Fuller calls her his "drag mama."

"It's been really life-changing and really amazing to have the familial connections with her and everyone else in our family," he said.

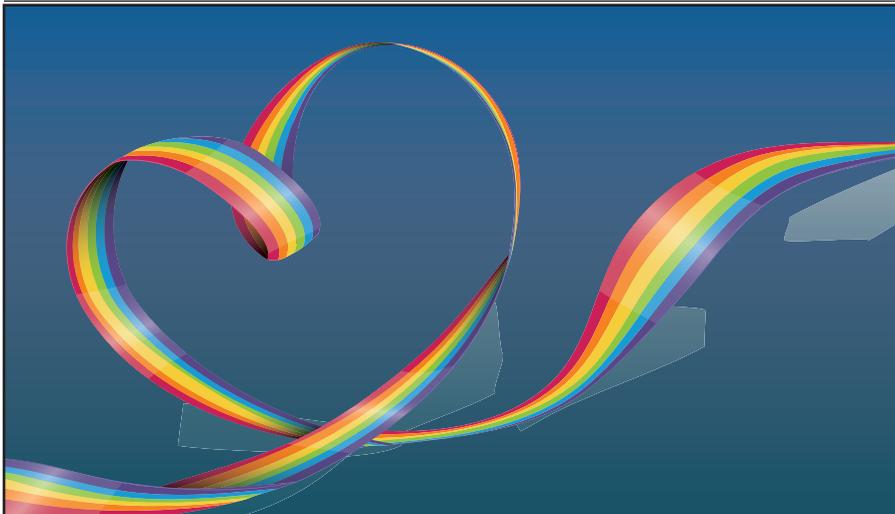
The rising backlash against the LGBTQ community is a "fucked-up situation," he said.

"We had a feeling we not only had to use our voices to raise awareness about this sort of thing but also feeling afraid and acknowledging that 'new normal,'" he said. The 'new normal' is one fed not only by the rising pushback against the community, but he is also a product of a generation

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See Pride Month, Page 20



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Todd Heywood

Aurora Manifesto, the drag persona of Armon Caston, works the crowd at a drag show in Grand Rapids on Saturday.

**Pride Month**

from page 18

raised in the specter of gun violence in gay clubs and in general.

“I am always aware of where the exits are,” he said.

Waverly High School graduate Armon Caston, 26, said when he is performing drag that his goal is not indoctrination or some nefarious plot to brainwash children. He wants to bring “love, light and laughter,” to those attending his

performances. His drag persona is Aurora Manifesto. But he has a clear message for protesters who may try to disrupt drag performances or events.

As to the backlash against drag and trans people, he said, “It’s not cool. That kills the young minds that are trying to become themselves.”

For a community that kicked out the closet door with a three-day riot in 1969 — known as the Stonewall Rebellion — led by a group of street sex workers, drag queens, butch lesbians and transgender women, LGBTQ+ Americans have seen a sea

change in the world, all acknowledged.

Ashby called the world a frightening place for the LGBTQ+ community, but she also sees the resilience.

“Leaving the house every day these days almost seems like an act of courage,” she said. “And when you get home, it’s just like a sigh of relief. But I can live to see another day. Nothing happened to me today.”



Todd Heywood

Aurora Manifesto accepts tips during the drag show in Grand Rapids, which was held in Lilith’s Lair, a hair salon that acts as a hub of support for the LGBTQ+ community.



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# MSU grad returns to direct the Gender and Sexuality Center

Michigan State University's campus was rocked with controversy in autumn 2006. A conservative student group had been involved in trying to host a "Catch an Illegal Immigrant Day," among other events and activities soaked in white supremacy and racism.

Grace Wojcik was a student just beginning to come out to her friends and engage politically on campus. She ran headlong into the MSU chapter of the Young Americans for Freedom. As the group and its leader, Kyle Bristow, ramped up to more and more provocative activities, Wojcik joined dozens of students and community activists in protest.

It was a seminal moment in her life — eye-opening and terrifying.

When the group was listed as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Wojcik said the moment was both "surreal and validating."

Relaying the story of those days to students at MSU fewer than three months into her position as the new director of the MSU Gender and Sexuality Campus Center, the 37-year-old was stunned. None of them had heard of the group or the controversies.

She was surprised by the lack of knowledge. But that is also a reality she knows comes with her job.

Another former student who works at MSU told her about the opening. "So, I know you're done with higher ed, but," Wojcik said of the student's pitch, "if you ever thought about coming back, I think you'd be good at this job."

She landed the position. In her



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Grace Wojcik returned to Michigan State University, where she was an undergraduate two decades ago, to become director of the Gender and Sexuality Campus Center.

journey from being an MSU undergrad, she's worked at Affirmations Community Center in Ferndale and then spent over a decade heading up the gender and sexuality office at Oakland University. She also earned two master's degrees to sit beside her bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies and social science/public policy studies. One is in public administration from OU, the other in social justice

from Mary Grove College.

Her journey has come full circle. But the youth she is mentoring have a different perspective on today's LGBTQ+ acceptance. When marriage equality was declared constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015, many people thought the fight for LGBTQ+ equality in the U.S. was over. She found herself both cheering and questioning the sudden market-

ing of brands using rainbows.

"It's like, 'Wow! That's so cool.' And then the other part of it is, but where have you been this whole time, right?" she said.

She finds the current generation of college students more "jaded," having weathered the Great Recession and lengthy wars since 911.

"They're gonna dig deeper," she said. They fundamentally don't believe the current social construction of capitalism serves people well.

When she was an undergraduate, students were "used to not having any sort of representation. Any progress seemed 'like a win,'" she said. "But the students now, I just don't think they see things in that same manner, which is super interesting. They wanna see action, not just words or platitudes."

While this generation grew up with the internet — and the world of ideas — at their fingertips, they also have created lightning-fast innovations in communicating with each other. But with the rise of social media activism, thought bubbles are formed, creating legions of like-thinking groups — on both sides of the political divide — where orthodoxy has taken hold. Questioning that is a social taboo and one she hopes to challenge.

"It's a huge misstep," she said of the bubbles. The taboo prevents persuasion and conversation that gains support and allies. "We can't win as marginalized people with that strategy. The numbers are not in our favor."

— TODD HEYWOOD

**HAPPY PRIDE MONTH**

**Alan Fox**  
Ingham County Treasurer

*Happy Pride Month*

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## The evolution of Pride in Michigan

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

In the late 1970s, Lansing’s first Pride celebration didn’t include any parade floats, performances or other festival-like aspects attendees have come to expect over the years.

“It was just a march to the Capitol,” said Roxanne Frith, 64, an LGBTQ+ activist and the longtime photographer for Michigan Pride. “And then they went to Turner Street and had a street dance. There was no activity except to march to the Capitol because Pride was about politics. When it began, it was always about politics.”

In the 1970s and ‘80s, and even into the ‘90s, LGBTQ+ people had far fewer rights than they do today. Pride events were organized to bring light to inequality and petition for laws that would protect LGBTQ+ community

members and create more equitable conditions.

“When we were organizing the Pride march, you have to remember that at that time, we were still being thrown in jail as gay men for having sex. It was a felony in the state book. We were just fighting for our right to exist,” said Chuck Marquardt, 53, who was an organizer for Michigan State University’s Lesbian and Gay Council and helped put on the statewide Pride march in Lansing in the late 1980s and early 1990s. “The Pride celebration was a Pride march, not a parade. The festival

we had around it had about 100 vendors from around the state coming and selling jewelry and various things that might be of interest. So, it was two

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Courtesy of Lowell Pride

Lowell held its 3rd annual Pride festival on Saturday, an example of the plethora of hyperlocal Pride events that have begun popping up throughout the state in recent years.

See Pride, Page 26



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# HOMETOWN REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2022

### A message from Dick Peffley, BWL General Manager

The Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL), Michigan's largest municipal utility, has been around for nearly 140 years, supporting the Lansing region's continued growth and development. We've watched the region grow and transform, now providing utility services to around 150,000 customers. We've had a history of generating and distributing our own power, and we intend to keep doing just that. As we look to the future, we want to keep energy costs low and reliability high while supporting a strong portfolio of mixed generation. This positions us to be competitive and continue attracting new economic industries to the region, ready to provide the services they need.



We're on the edge of growing our generating portfolio, all of which starts with having the right workforce to get the job done. That's why over the last year, we've hired 100 new full time employees to fill retirements and department expansion. We continue to recruit new talent to join our team, and still have many exciting job openings on [www.lbw.com/careers](http://www.lbw.com/careers).

We will continue to be utility leaders in Michigan, which is why we've become the "Utility of Today, Transforming Tomorrow." To us, this means being a safe, affordable utility delivering reliable services by an engaged, diverse workforce with cutting-edge skills committed to the community, driving economic growth and leading in environmental stewardship.

We're proud to be part of this community, and it's why we continue to invest in making it the best it can be. We're committed to meeting the needs of our customers while helping support growth to the region. The BWL is proud to be "Hometown People, Hometown Power," providing the safe, reliable and affordable utility services you need and expect.

*Richard E Peffley*



Hometown People. Hometown Power.



**Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022)**

**Electric Utility**

Cust. Class	Customers	Sales (MWh) <sup>A</sup>	Revenues
Residential	86,814	600,198	\$94,566,901
Commercial	12,096	1,100,022	\$141,042,597
Industrial	248	300,906	\$36,581,944
Resale		775,332	\$43,085,379
Other		25,876	\$14,776,087
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,158</b>	<b>2,802,335</b>	<b>\$330,052,908</b>

<sup>A</sup> 1 MWh = 1 Megawatt hour = 1,000 kWh

**Water Utility**

Cust. Class	Customers	Sales (CCF) <sup>B</sup>	Revenues
Residential	50,606	2,753,583	\$18,711,422
Commercial	6,856	2,811,726	\$20,836,719
Industrial	97	309,823	\$967,335
Sales for Resale		1,921,900	\$3,633,209
Other		112,644	\$4,879,801
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,559</b>	<b>7,909,676</b>	<b>\$49,028,486</b>

<sup>B</sup> 1 CCF = 100 cubic feet of water = 748 gallons

**Steam Utility**

Cust. Class	Customers	Sales (Mlb) <sup>C</sup>	Revenues
Residential	6	1,267	\$24,713
Commercial	148	384,384	\$9,005,889
Industrial	1	161,009	\$2,734,843
Other		1,407	\$169,071
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>548,067</b>	<b>\$11,934,516</b>

<sup>C</sup> 1 Mlb = 1,000 pounds of steam

**Chilled Water**

Cust. Class	Customers	Sales (MTHR) <sup>D</sup>	Revenues
Commercial	19	9,555	\$6,133,254
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9,555</b>	<b>\$6,133,254</b>

<sup>D</sup> 1 MThr = 1,000 ton-hours

**Statement of Net Assets**

Assets	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Current Assets	\$348,239,292	\$328,536,317
Other Assets	\$132,157,776	\$165,195,285
Noncurrent Restricted Assets		\$95,811,832
Utility Plant	\$1,165,740,570	\$1,116,735,541
Deferred Outflows	\$36,239,189	\$14,417,468
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,682,376,827</b>	<b>\$1,720,696,443</b>

**Liabilities**

Current Liabilities	\$93,388,069	\$95,986,496
Other Long Term Liabilities	\$30,406,611	\$18,430,775
Long Term Debt	\$812,761,597	\$830,140,656
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$936,556,277</b>	<b>\$944,557,927</b>
Deferred Inflows	\$48,915,614	\$90,822,634
Net Assets (Equity)	\$696,904,936	\$685,315,882
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,682,376,827</b>	<b>\$1,720,696,443</b>

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses, & Changes in Net Assets**

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Operating Revenues	\$397,149,164	\$380,578,649
Operating Expense	<u>\$(348,355,940)</u>	<u>\$(300,193,068)</u>
Operating Income	<b>\$48,793,224</b>	<b>\$80,385,581</b>
Nonoperating Income (Expenses)	<u>\$(37,204,170)</u>	<u>\$(27,652,246)</u>
Change in Net Assets	<b>\$11,589,054</b>	<b>\$52,733,335</b>

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## Pride

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things. It was a protest, but it was also a celebration of us and a chance to be together, and there were so many people who came who were still completely closeted at home but could come to this event and, for that one day in the year, feel like they could be who they were, and that was super exciting.”

As time went on, however, Pride celebrations grew from a few large events in cities like Detroit and Lansing to hyperlocal festivals all over the state that now include hosts of vendors, live music, drag performances, parties and more. Last weekend alone, Muskegon hosted its 2nd annual Pride festival and first-ever Pride parade; St. Johns and Lowell hosted their 3rd annual Pride festivals; Douglas hosted its 5th annual Pride festival; Northwestern Michigan College hosted a Pride Carnival in Traverse City; and Trenton, Kalamazoo, Ferndale, Keweenaw, Ortonville, Eastpointe and Rose-

ville, Madison Heights, Ypsilanti and Brighton all held Pride celebrations as well. To name a few more events, Detroit, Grand Haven, Holly, Howell and Marquette will have their Pride festivities Saturday (June 10); Grand Rapids, Grosse Pointe, Lansing and Livonia will have their Pride celebrations June 17; Bay City, Benton Harbor, Flint, Holland, Monroe County, Owosso, Rochester and Three Rivers will celebrate Pride June 24; and Big Rapids, Macomb County, Port Huron and Saint Clair Shores will have their Pride festivities June 25.

“As a former co-chair of Michigan Pride, we would start out with a parade, then we would have a rally, and then we would have the festival. Those are the traditional Pride Month activities for the LGBTQ+ community across this country,” said Lorenzo Lopez, a former co-chair of Suits and the City and a longtime activist in the LGBTQ+ community. “That has all changed. The larger cities still have the parades — Detroit is having its big parade this year as well — but what I find fascinating, here in Michigan particularly, is

despite the negativity and the outright verbal violence against the LGBTQ+ by certain sectors of our communities across the country, small communities like Williamston, Meridian Township, St. Johns and Jackson are also having their own Prides, which we didn’t used to see. Everybody had to come to the central city. And I’m sure some of them will probably continue to do that, but they now have enough organization — and within themselves, the courage — to have Prides in their own cities and not have to rely on a major city.”

Frith said one of the main reasons for the move to more hyperlocal events is that there’s less of a need to petition the state government at the Capitol than there was before the turn of the 21st century.

“As the community grew and things became more equitable for people, they didn’t have to go in and do the work, so there was less politics,” she said. “What was more important was to go have a party. Politics have changed in the last 15 years in particular, and people go to events more in their local communities, rather than a statewide event.”

“It was probably about ‘94 or ‘95 that we started having a few more floats and things along those lines. I think by ‘96, we had as much of a parade feel as we did a march, and yet we still ended up at the Capitol,” Marquardt said. “What I love about where we are now is that we can have these hyperlocal events. Whether it’s in a school, on a campus or in the town square, it’s so wonderful that people can go to something in their own town and don’t have to travel hundreds of miles to get to a Pride celebration in their own state. I think visibility is everything, and visibility in the locations where people didn’t necessarily expect it is important. Not to say that there’s not a time to get everyone together in one spot, and the state Capitol is a very important spot to do that, and yet if we’re not fighting legislation, it’s not necessarily necessary to do it at the state Legislature.”

Another change to Pride celebrations has been the inclusion of family-focused events and activities for children.

“What I think I see more of — it’s more of a family orientation,” Lopez said. “Now they’re being promoted — and have been promoted for many years — as family events. Your children, your family, whomever you’re connected with within your family — however you define that — all of them

come. Even to the point where you have little areas specifically designed for children.”

Even with the success of Pride celebrations throughout the state, there’s still work to be done to ensure all LGBTQ+ people have equal rights and are protected from harm.

“Every event we have, at least in Lansing, we now practice — without question — alerting the Lansing Police Department,” Lopez said. “We have to make sure the police are aware of all of our events, whether they’re large or small. We have a lot of uneducated people. I remember clearly, I think it was 2019, when I was making sure the parade was in order for Michigan Pride. I was lining everybody up, and all of a sudden, these protesters came right in the middle of the road. But, luckily, in order to have a parade of that size, you have to alert the Lansing Police Department anyway. I contacted the police, and they came immediately and took care of that issue. But now we have to be even more careful because so many people have guns, and we don’t know what they’re going to do.”

“I want people to still be aware of what they really have to be concerned about,” Frith said. “There are small things that still have to happen that really take politics. We have to really work with the trans communities. There’s still danger. Trans women, particularly Black trans women, are at risk. You can get beat up and hurt and killed because of the other side of politics.”

However, Michigan’s robust LGBTQ+ community will push on and continue to celebrate how far we’ve come as a society while acknowledging how far we still have to go.

“Despite what happens, we move forward. We will not be deterred, we will not be discouraged, and we’re just gonna go forward,” Lopez said.

“I just think it’s important to get together, and it’s important to celebrate our differences and our similarities and the fact that we can coexist in a lovely way,” Marquardt said. “When you think back to the statements and the opposition stating that gay marriage would lead to the destruction of Western civilization as we know it, it’s fascinating to see just how normal everything is. It’s so normal. It’s boringly normal. And I think it’s really wonderful. The more that we’re out, the more that we’re visible, just how normal it all seems.”



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# Remembering cannabis activist ‘Brownie Mary’

By LUCAS HENKEL

Happy Pride Month, stoners of Lansterdam! This week, we’re going back in time to learn about the legendary cannabis activist Mary Jane Rathbun, aka “Brownie Mary,” and her work during the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Rathbun was born Dec. 22, 1922, in Chicago and grew up in Minneapolis. Her religious, blue-collar parents encouraged her to attend Catholic school for the majority of her childhood, but a physical altercation with one of the school’s nuns during her teenage years later caused her to leave the school and her parents’ home.

After leaving Minneapolis, Rathbun traveled across the Midwest advocating for causes like labor and abortion rights. She eventually settled in San Francisco during World War II, where she had a short-lived marriage and gave birth to a daughter, Peggy, who accompanied Rathbun when she moved to Nevada.

After Peggy was killed by a drunk driver in the early 1970s, Rathbun

returned to San Francisco. She befriended cannabis activist Dennis Peron while at a cafe in the Castro district. Rathbun worked as a waitress at IHOP, and she earned extra money selling cannabis-infused brownies to make ends meet. In the early 1980s, she was baking nearly 600 brownies per day. She advertised her “magically delicious” treats on bulletin boards throughout San Francisco and was eventually discovered by undercover police and arrested twice in a two-year span. The media was in a frenzy over the 57-year-old woman who was caught selling weed brownies out of her house and began calling her “Brownie Mary.”

In 1982, Rathbun was sentenced to 500 hours of community service in lieu of prison time. She began volunteering with the Shanti Project, a support group for those suffering from HIV and AIDS. This work inspired Rathbun to continue volunteering and working with those affected by HIV and AIDS for the rest of her life. By 1984, she was a volunteer in San Fran-



Courtesy of Maureen Hurley

Mary Jane Rathbun, aka “Brownie Mary,” worked tirelessly baking cannabis-infused brownies for those suffering from HIV and AIDS during the height of the epidemic to relieve their symptoms and improve their quality of life.

cisco General Hospital’s AIDS ward, where she continued baking her can-



nabis-infused brownies for patients suffering from the illness.

During this time, people living with HIV and AIDS were at a high risk of illnesses like Kaposi’s sarcoma, a rare form of skin cancer, and other health issues like severe weight and muscle loss, lack of appetite and fatigue. Many patients turned to cannabis to help increase their appetite, slow their weight loss and ease their overall suffering. Brownie Mary’s baked goods allowed patients to feel some relief during their lowest points.

“If the narcs think I’m gonna stop baking brownies for my kids with AIDS, they can go fuck themselves in Macy’s window,” Rathbun said during a rally in front of San Francisco City Hall in 1992.

See Lansterdam, Page 30

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# Lansterdam

from page 28

Rathbun never made money from the sale of her brownies. In fact, any money she did make went right back into buying ingredients and other supplies to make more brownies. She continued to work as a waitress for decades in addition to volunteering and lived most of her life in the public housing system.

In 1992, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors declared Aug. 25 “Brownie Mary Day” in recognition of her work at San Francisco General Hospital. That same year, Rathbun helped Peron and his spouse, John Entwistle Jr., open the San Francisco Cannabis

Buyers Club, the first public cannabis dispensary in the country. This momentous win, combined with the tireless advocacy work of Rathbun and others, helped California pass Proposition 215, otherwise known as the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, which permitted the use of medical cannabis in California. Proposition 215 was a huge victory for cannabis legalization and began a domino effect of medical cannabis legalization in other states.

“It wasn’t the hippies per se, it wasn’t the standard establishment marijuana movement players, but it was the gay people who legalized pot in California because of the AIDS epidemic,” Entwistle said of the reason for medical marijuana legalization across a majority of the country.



Courtesy of Flashbak

Mary Jane Rathbun and cannabis activist Dennis Peron share a toke together in 1993.

Rathbun died from a heart attack in 1999 at the age of 76. A week after her death, more than 300 people gathered in the Castro district for a candlelight vigil to honor her life. Many friends described her as the “Florence Night-

ingale of the medical marijuana movement.” Her memory, as well as the memory of the more than 40 million people who have died of HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, will never be forgotten.

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# MSU Libraries' Special Collections holds treasure trove of LGBTQ+ content

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Most researchers know about Michigan State University Libraries' Stephen O. Murray and Keelung Hong Special Collections because of the massive selection of comic books and material on radicalism. However, a growing number of people are finding their way to MSU's libraries to visit one of the foremost collections of books, zines, ephemera and other material relating to LGBTQ+ topics.

Leslie McRoberts, head of Special Collections, emphasized the word "foremost" in describing what has become a major trove of LGBTQ+ content within the libraries.

"It's currently the fastest-growing area of our collection. The collection of LGBTQ+ material was a natural outgrowth of the collection on radical

thought, which includes everything from '60s antiwar material to anarchist writing and materials," she said.

With groups like Moms for Liberty rallying for book bans across the country, often focusing on LGBTQ+ material, it's no wonder the LGBTQ+ collection is galloping in growth. Just last week, The New York Times published an article titled "Erdogan's Win Heightens Fears Of Homophobia," which covered the ongoing attacks against the LGBTQ+ community in Turkey. The Times reported that in the run-up to the election, Erdogan called members of the LGBTQ+ community "deviants" and said they were "spreading like the plague."

I was pleasantly surprised when I stopped by MSU's Main Library for a recent interview and was treated to my own personal pop-up exhibition of

materials from the LGBTQ+ collection, including specialized tarot cards, zines, material on drag performers, books on topics like cruising, pulp fiction, a sublime Dutch broadside

on homosexuality from the 1700s and miscellaneous flyers and posters.

McRoberts was joined by Dayna Topalian, another Special Collections

See Books, Page 32

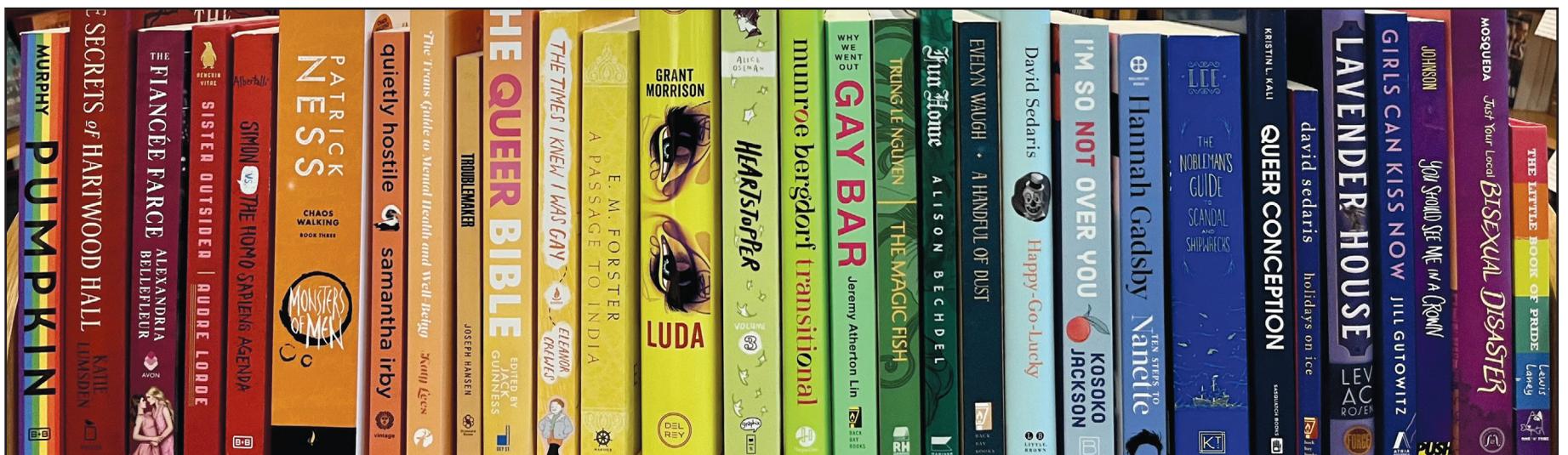


Bill Castanier/City Pulse

A collection of exquisitely illustrated tarot cards depicts various LGBTQ+ subjects.



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# CELEBRATE PRIDE

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# Books

from page 31

staffer. Topalian has a deep knowledge of the collection and also creates most of the pop-up exhibits at the library. (As a side note, she recently mounted a pop-up on W.J. Beal, a noted Michigan Agricultural College plant biologist, since MSU's W.J. Beal Botanical Garden is celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary this year.)

Topalian, who does tarot readings using the unusual LGBTQ+ cards, explained the meaning behind some of the exquisite illustrations and allowed me to pick one at random. I chose a brightly colored card somewhat reminiscent of a French Revolution scene that represents the joy of a Pride parade.

McRoberts estimates the LGBTQ+ collection is nearing 20,000 individual items, including a large assortment of items from the late Stephen O. Murray, who graduated from MSU in the early 1970s and became an anthropologist. Af-

ter his death, his partner, Keelung Hong, donated \$5 million to underwrite the Special Collections.

The late Anne Tracy was instrumental in starting the LGBTQ+ collection. Tracy was an early columnist for City Pulse who chronicled her battle with cancer, from which she died in 2003.

In addition to Murray's collection, there are papers from Penny Gardner, a local labor leader, activist and former instructor in MSU's Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures.

"The Gardner collection is important because it's an example of her deep roots in the Lansing community," McRoberts said.

You can also find records from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, held annually in Hart from 1976 to 2015, and its counterpart, Camp Trans, a gathering of transgender people and allies who stood outside the festival to protest its exclusion of transgender women.

A relatively recent acquisition was the papers of former MSU Professor Lev Raphael, which are contained in 58 boxes and cover more than 40

years of the author's writing. Raphael is the author of 17 books that delve deep into Jewish life and the gay community.

"He's a gay man writing about Jewish issues in a fictional context. His Nicholas Hoffman mysteries also cross over into the mainstream genres," McRoberts said.

What makes the Special Collections unique, in addition to its content, is its availability to the public since many research collections are restricted to academic research.

"Everyone can use it. We've never denied access to the collection," McRoberts said.

However, visitors must request to view specific documents five days in advance and can't roam the stacks, which isn't allowed in research institutions. The best way to find what you're looking for is by searching the Special Collections website, [lib.msu.edu/murrayhongspc](http://lib.msu.edu/murrayhongspc).

The MSU Archives also has an extensive collection of LGBTQ+-related material, which can be found at [libguides.lib.msu.edu/lgbtq\\_msuahe](http://libguides.lib.msu.edu/lgbtq_msuahe).

McRoberts is proud that the collections contain "items you will find

nowhere else."

"It's important to note that the Special Collections is named after a gay couple who wrote and traveled extensively, and it recognizes their life and love," she said.



Bill Castaner/City Pulse

Leslie McRoberts (left), head of Michigan State University's Stephen O. Murray and Keelung Hong Special Collections, and Dayna Topalian, a Special Collections librarian, peruse a book about queer heroes in MSU's Main Library. The Special Collections contains one of the foremost collections of material relating to LGBTQ+ topics.

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JULY 12TH	SEA CRUISERS - OLDIES	TURNER-DODGE HOUSE
JULY 19TH	MIXED FLAVORS - R&B/FUNK	BEN DAVIS PARK
JULY 26TH	SHELBY & JAKE - AMERICANA	BANCROFT PARK
AUGUST 2ND	GLOBAL VILLAGE - HITS	SYCAMORE PARK
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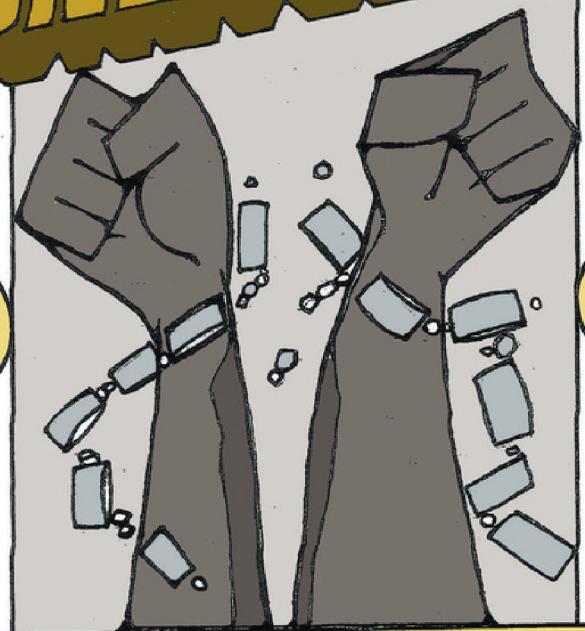
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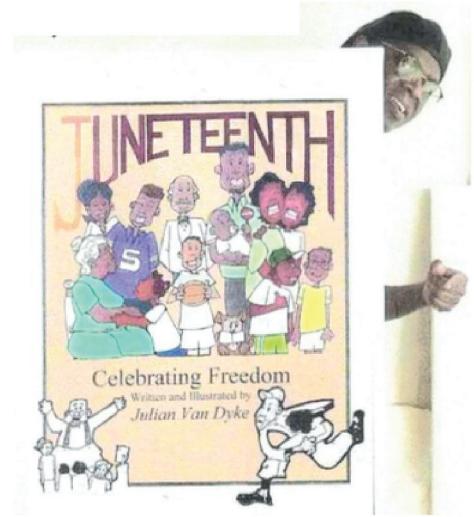
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# Two of June's must-see theater productions

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Right off the bat, let's get this out of the way: I'm highlighting both "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Love's Labour's Lost" because they're extraordinary pieces of theater from entirely different genres and eras. Choosing between them was not an option, so you get the best of both.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" will run at the Wharton Center June 13-18. The show has been fascinating and moving audiences since it premiered on Broadway in 1971, but its initial impression came through the old vinyl and 8-track tape market. Even with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, this beloved rock opera wasn't an instant hit with producers. That's why the duo went with a recording instead of a stage production — and it worked.

The question is: Why is this show still relevant 52 years later?

The answer depends on whom you ask and what their experience with the music and the show is. Regardless, it's fair to argue that a great deal of the show's popularity has to do with the humanization of Christ and his followers. The show, at its core, is about love and relationships. You see Judas not as an evil money-grubber but instead as a wise man becoming disillusioned by his close friend's growing popularity. His struggle is one each of us can connect with because we've all been happy that a friend is succeeding yet upset with the loss of the close relationship with that friend the newfound success brings.

In the musical, Judas is a fatally flawed and importantly relatable character. He's the kind of complicated villain that makes theater touch our souls in new ways.

Christ may be the titular character, but he's also the one a tsunami of emotions crashes down upon. His story we already know. It's a 2000-year-old story that's fed wars and witch hunts, both literal and figurative.

But do we really know? "Jesus Christ Superstar" portrays a very dif-



Courtesy of Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade

The North American touring company of "Jesus Christ Superstar," running at the Wharton Center June 13-18.

ferent Christ than the loving, nonchalant figure of the Bible. Here, the story focuses on the confusion, fear and frustration of being both man and God. Where do the lines between the two start or stop? "Gethsemane (I Only Want to Say)" is one of the most powerful spiritual songs in the Broadway lexicon. Here you see Christ fully realized as a human of deep faith, struggling with the events he knows are rushing at him like a freight train in the darkness. That struggle results in a powerful transformation of acceptance.

It's in this story we see Christ's emotional — and, depending on the director, perhaps subtly sexual — relationship with Mary Magdalene. She's not a strumpet as tradition would have us believe. She had an intimate relationship with Christ, sharing in his secrets and providing him comfort. For contemporary Chris-

tians, her portrayal is often shocking.

Don't expect this show to be an exact recreation of the 1975 movie. The sensibilities and styles of the times have changed. The updated version allows modern audiences to be introduced to this fantastic piece of theater without suffering from generational shock.

Now, let's take a peek behind another curtain. Lansing Community College will present William Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost" June 21-25. The incomparable Mary Job will direct this production, so expect crisp characters, well-delivered and conceptualized lines and big fun.

Shakespeare knew that love is a fickle thing and poked fun at it as often as he could. "Love's Labour's Lost" is no different than his other romantic comedies. In this instance, four men in the court of Navarre, including the king, swear an oath to forgo the company of women — and, more important, love.

But Shakespeare wasn't having any of that boring stuff. No sooner are the oaths sworn than the Princess of France and her entourage show up. Romantic gestures are made in se-

cret, oaths are broken and love blossoms. The unfolding humor of the men finding out that the others have lied to each other about keeping their oaths is a classic comedy convention of overheard revelations.

It's nice to see that Shakespearean productions are back at LCC's Outdoor Amphitheater. It'll be fantastic to see what the talented Job weaves for the audience with this piece of the Bard's canon of work. And it's free to boot, so there's no reason not to go!

## June theater productions

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3 p.m. Saturday

2 p.m. Sunday

Williamston Theatre

122 S. Putnam St., Williamston

williamstontheatre.org

### "Jesus Christ Superstar"

June 13-18

7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday

8 p.m. Friday-Saturday

2 p.m. Saturday

1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday

Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

whartoncenter.com

### "Schoolhouse Rock Live!"

Michigan State University Summer Circle Theatre

June 15-18

7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

6 p.m. Sunday

Summer Circle Courtyard

542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

theatre.msu.edu

### "Love's Labour's Lost"

Lansing Community College performing arts

June 21-25

7 p.m.

LCC Outdoor Amphitheater

lcc.edu/showinfo

### "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

MSU Summer Circle Theatre

June 22-25

7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

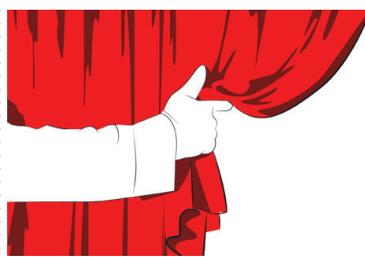
6 p.m. Sunday

Summer Circle Courtyard

542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

theatre.msu.edu

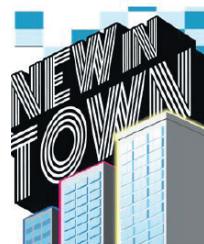
## BEHIND THE CURTAIN



# That New Place takes over In KinD Bakery for good

By LUCAS HENKEL

When City Pulse covered That New Place in February, it was a small pop-up operating four days per week for three weeks at In KinD Bakery in Williamston. Now, it has evolved into a full restaurant and bakery, taking over In KinD's old location, with power couple Carrie Ballou and Ray Priebe serving up an array of creative dishes.



## That New Place

146 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston  
8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Wednesday-Saturday  
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday  
517-242-1810  
facebook.com/  
thatnewplace517

“When it comes to baking, for me, it’s all about play,” Ballou said. “Some people say that cooking is a science, which it is, but I love taking ingredients and seeing what new, exciting things I can create.”

That New Place’s menu reflects its chefs’ adventurous and creative spirits. During the week, customers can enjoy savory lunch sandwiches like the

House Cuban, which consists of freshly baked focaccia bread topped with bssam pork (Korean spiced pork shoulder), rosemary ham, sweet-hot pickles, gruyere cheese and a house-made mo-jito sauce. It pairs well with Ballou’s famous Black and Blue Pi, a combination of fresh blackberries and blueberries inside a flaky, crumbly crust, adorned with the mathematical symbol for pi. The chefs at That New Place also plan to expand the restaurant’s sweet and savory pie options, including chicken pot pie and a beef pie with meat that’s braised in M-43 New England IPA from Old Nation Brewing Co. in Williamston.

On the weekends, customers can take advantage of the business’ expanded all-day brunch menu, which includes a wide array of breakfast classics like quiches, frittatas and biscuits and gravy. It also offers plenty of vegetarian and vegan options, too.

“Most people aren’t too excited when they hear ‘vegan’ and ‘gluten-free’ when talking about food, so we want to create items that are enticing and make folks want to take a bite,” Ballou said.

The Whole Grain Waffle, for example, is a vegan waffle made with flaxseed, whole-wheat and buckwheat flours and pecans. It’s served with a choice of maple syrup or seasonal house-made syrup. Savory vegetarian options include a succotash that’s made with roasted corn, redskin and sweet potatoes, peppers, onions and black beans in lieu of lima beans.

“No one eats lima beans, let’s be honest,” Ballou said.

The succotash is served with an egg basted in tomatillo sauce and a side of mojito sauce.

In addition to its delicious menu, the vibe at That New Place is just as warm and inviting as Ballou and Priebe. The walls of the restaurant are covered in art inspired by Michigan’s beautiful natural landscapes, and customers are encouraged to learn more about the local artists that created each piece. Lone diners can pop a squat at the counter or sit at one of the available tables. A bookshelf in the corner of the restaurant holds dozens of cookbooks and other culinary tomes that have inspired each chef’s culinary experience.



Lucas Henkel/City Pulse

The vibe at That New Place in Williamston is just as warm and inviting as co-owners Carrie Ballou and Ray Priebe. A bookshelf in the corner of the restaurant holds dozens of cookbooks and other culinary tomes that have inspired each chef’s culinary experience.

With so many new dishes and customers, Ballou and Priebe are looking to hire staff to help keep up with the newfound demand. Folks interested in working at That New Place are encouraged to bring their resume to the restaurant or email it to thatnew-place48895@gmail.com.

**Happy Pride**

**From all of us at Flat, Black & Circular**



**541 E. Grand River  
East Lansing  
(517) 351-0838  
flatblackandcircular.com**



**Spellbound in Spring!**

**LanSINGout**

**LanSINGout ♥ In Concert**

**Save the Date!**  
**Friday & Saturday**  
**June 9 & 10, 7:30 PM**  
**Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing**



**tickets:** <http://www.lansingout.com/see-us>

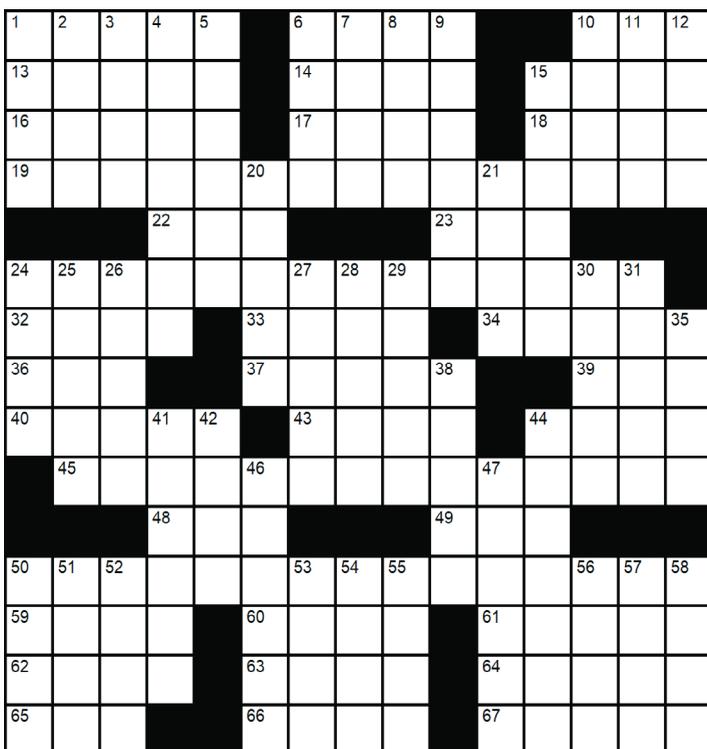
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Exactly!" -- that's what that is.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Pulitzer-winning rapper Kendrick
- 6. Over again
- 10. "Butter" group
- 13. Awestruck
- 14. Narcotic-yielding leaf
- 15. Navy, e.g.
- 16. Desert of Israel
- 17. Daybreak, in poetry
- 18. Teensy bit
- 19. <--
- 22. Like some verbs (abbr.)
- 23. Gradually lessen
- 24. <--
- 32. Loser to Bjorn in the 1976 Wimbledon final
- 33. "Didn't think I had it \_\_\_\_"
- 34. Angiogram image
- 36. Dallas basketball player, for short
- 37. Mythological Theban with a chemical element named after her
- 39. Exclude
- 40. Rhode Island-based auto insurance company
- 43. Crust deposits
- 44. River deposit
- 45. <--
- 48. Massachusetts Cape
- 49. Greek vowel
- 50. <--
- 59. Jacob's biblical twin
- 60. Wilson who says "Wow"
- 61. Gut trouble



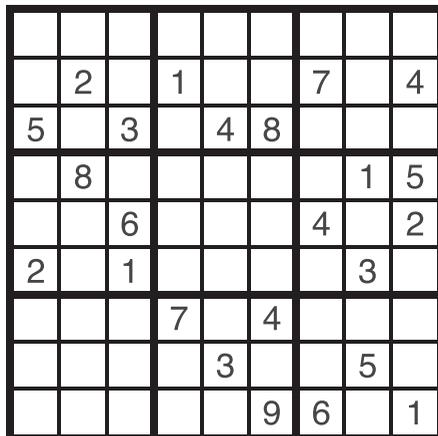
- 62. Flippant
- 63. Format for old ringtones
- 64. Internet company with an exclamation point
- 65. Collector's objective
- 66. "Mr. Roboto" group
- 67. Angioplasty device
- DOWN
- 1. "Video Games" singer \_\_\_\_ Del Rey
- 2. Like some whiskey
- 3. D&D spellcaster
- 4. Simian
- 5. Echo effect
- 6. Pinnacle
- 7. First-time gamer
- 8. Hosiery hue
- 9. Poster heading
- 10. Amorphous amount
- 11. "Coppelia" costume
- 12. Sewn line
- 15. Guggenheim Museum's Spanish location
- 20. Empty fully
- 21. "Four Leaf Clover" singer-songwriter Moore
- 24. "Letters from Iwo \_\_\_\_"
- 25. Car rental company
- 26. Courteous
- 27. Writers Guild of America, for example
- 28. Atlanta university
- 29. Rise up
- 30. "Sex and the City" role
- 31. In any way
- 35. Pot starter
- 38. Serpentine symbols
- 41. "12 for 1" Columbia House deal, essentially
- 42. Admit freely
- 44. React harshly toward, like a dog
- 46. Everyday expressions
- 47. Tech brosp
- 50. Asks for table scraps
- 51. Spot in the ocean
- 52. Cafe au \_\_\_\_
- 53. Knucklehead
- 54. Actress/inventor Lamarr
- 55. Alternative to DOS or Windows
- 56. Dull pain
- 57. Inert element used in lights
- 58. Moderate horse gait

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Answers on page 40

# SUDOKU

# Intermediate



## Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

June 7-13, 2023

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Aries-born Vincent van Gogh's painting "Potato Eaters" shows five people in a dark room, barely illuminated by lamplight. Seated around a small table, they use their hands to eat food they have grown themselves. Vincent wanted to convey the idea that they "dug the earth with the very hands they put into their bowls." I don't expect you to do anything quite so spectacularly earthy in the coming weeks, Aries, but I would love to see you get very up close and personal with nature. I'd also love to see you learn more about where the fundamental things in your life originate. Bonus points if you seek adventures to bolster your foundations and commune with your roots.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Renowned Mexican artist Diego Rivera emerged from his mother's womb in 1886. But some observers suggest that Rivera's soul was born in 1920, a pivotal time when he found his true calling as an artist. During a visit to Italy, as he gazed at the murals of 15th-century mural painters, "He found the inspiration for a new and revolutionary public art capable of furthering the ideals of the ongoing revolution in his native land." (In the words of art historian Linda Downs.) I will be extra dramatic and speculate that you may have a comparable experience in the coming months, dear Taurus: A rebirth of your soul that awakens vigorous visions of what your future life can be.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Among her many jobs, my triple-Gemini friend Alicia has worked as a deep-sea rescue diver, an environmental activist, a singer in a band, a dog food taster, an art teacher for kids and a volunteer at a sleep lab researching the nature of dreams. Do I wonder if she would be wise to commit herself to one occupation? Not really. I respect her decision to honor her ever-shifting passions. But if there will ever come a time when she will experiment with a bit more stability and constancy, it may come during the next 11 months. You Geminis are scheduled to engage in deep ruminations about the undiscovered potentials of regularity, perseverance and commitment.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** As religious sects go, the Shakers are the most benign. Since their origin in the 18th century, they have had as many women as men in leadership roles. They practice pacifism, disavow consumerism and don't try to impose their principles on others. Their worship services feature dancing as well as singing. I'm not suggesting you become a Shaker, Cancerian, but I do hope that in the coming months, you will place a premium on associating with noble groups whose high ideals are closely aligned with your own. It's time to build and nurture your best possible network.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** For years, Mario A. Zacchini worked at a circus as a "human cannonball." On thousands of occasions, he was shot out of a cannon at 90 miles per hour. "Flying isn't the hard part," he testified. "Landing in the net is." His work might sound dangerous, but he lived to age 87. Let's make Mario your role model for a while, Leo. I hope he will inspire you to be both adventurous and safe, daring but prudent. I trust you will seek exhilarating fun even as you insist on getting soft landings.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** One of my favorite astrology teachers, Stephen Arroyo, notes, "Most people have a strong opinion about astrology, usually quite extreme, even though 95% have never studied it whatsoever." Of course, astrology is not the only subject about which people spout superficial ideas based on scant research. Viral epidemiology is another example. Anyway, Virgo, I am asking you to work hard to avoid this behavior during the rest of 2023. Of all the zodiac signs, you have the greatest potential to express thoughtful ideas based on actual evidence. Be a role model for the rest of us! Show us what it means to have articulate, well-informed opinions.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Meditation teacher Cheri Huber wrote a book called "Be the Person You Want to Find." This would be an excellent title for your life story during the next 10 months. I hope you will soon ruminate on how to carry out such a quest. Here are two suggestions. 1. Make a list of qualities you yearn to experience in a dear ally and brainstorm about how to cultivate those qualities in yourself. 2. Name three high-integrity people you admire. Meditate on how you could be more like them in ways that are aligned with your life goals.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Now is a good time to take stock of how you have fared in the dating and mating games through the years. Why? Because you are entering a new chapter of your personal love story. The next two years will bring rich opportunities to outgrow stale relationship patterns and derive rich benefits from novel lessons in intimacy. An excellent way to prepare is to meditate on the history of your togetherness. PS: The term "fate bait" refers to an influence that draws you toward the next turning point of your necessary destiny. Be alert for fate bait.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Sagittarian actor Samuel Jackson loves the color purple. He insists on it being featured in his films, and he often wears purple outfits. In "Black Snake Moan," he plays a purple Gibson guitar. In the animated movie "Turbo," he voices the role of a purple racing snail. In his "Star Wars" appearances, he wields a purple lightsaber. Now I am endorsing his obsession for your use. Why? First, it's an excellent time to home in on exactly what you want and ask for exactly what you want. Second, now is a favorable phase to emphasize purple in your own adventures. Astrologers say purple is your ruling color. It stimulates your natural affinity for abundance, expansiveness and openness.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** People who understand the creative process say it's often wise to stay mum about your in-progress work. You may diminish the potency of your projects if you blab about them while they're still underway. I don't think that's true for all creative efforts. For example, if we collaborate with partners on an artistic project or business venture, we must communicate well with them. However, I do suspect the transformative efforts you are currently involved in will benefit from at least some secrecy for now. Cultivate the privacy necessary to usher your masterpiece to further ripeness.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Musician Frank Zappa (1940-1993) was a freaky rebel, iconoclastic weirdo and virtuoso experimenter. Everything normal and ordinary was boring to him. He aspired to transcend all categories. And yet he refrained from taking psychedelic drugs and urged his fans to do the same. He said, "We repudiate any substances, vehicles or procedures which might reduce the body, mind or spirit of an individual to a state of sub-awareness or insensitivity." Zappa might have added that some substances temporarily have a pleasing effect but ultimately diminish the life force. In my estimation, Aquarius, the coming weeks will be an excellent time to re-evaluate your relationship with influences that weaken the vitality of your body mind, or spirit. It will also be a favorable period to seek new modes of lasting liberation.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** If you are at a festival or fair where you could win a lot of money by smashing watermelons with your head, I hope you won't do it. If you imagine you could impress a potential lover by eating 25 eggs in three minutes, please don't. Likewise, I beg you not to let yourself be manipulated or abused by anyone for any reason. These days, it's crucial not to believe you can succeed by doing things that would hurt or demean or diminish you. For the foreseeable future, you will be wise to show what you do best and express your highest values. That's the most effective way to get what you want.

# Happy **PRIDE MONTH!**

**Intimate Toys**  
**Bedroom Games**  
**Massage Essentials**  
**Romantic Gifts**

**CIRILLA'S**  
*Where Romance Finds Fantasy*

**3205 W Saginaw St., Lansing**  
**517-327-0100**

# 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, June 7

**"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).

**"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).

**Doran McTaggart Send-Off Show** - Fundraising event for choruses and quartets that qualified to attend the Barbershop Harmony Society's international competitions in July. Free, RSVP req. 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).

**Karaoke at Mac's Bar** - 9 p.m. 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. [macsbar.com](http://macsbar.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).

**The Rough and Tumble at Pump House Concerts** - New Hampshire folk/Americana duo. 7 p.m. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. 517-927-2100. [facebook.com/pumphouseconcerts](http://facebook.com/pumphouseconcerts).

**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. 517-657-5800. [weaveroftheweb.org](http://weaveroftheweb.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).

**Wednesday Night Free Concerts: Sea Cruisers** - Sounds of the '50s, '60s and '70s. 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. [meridian.mi.us/calendar](http://meridian.mi.us/calendar).

### 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).

### 1st Annual Doran McTaggart Memorial Send-Off Show

Wednesday, June 7

5-9 p.m.

Lake Lansing Park South

Bandshell

1621 Pike St., Haslett

The Capitol City Chordsmen, a Lansing-area men's barbershop chorus, is hosting its 1st annual fundraiser concert Wednesday (June 7), sponsored by the Barbershop Harmony Society's Pioneer District, to support local choruses and quartets that have qualified to attend the society's international competitions in Louisville, Kentucky, in July.

Performers include the Northville-based City Lights Chorus, the Grand Rapids-based Great Lakes Chorus, the mid-Michigan-based CHONK Quartet and the Five Star Barbershop Quartet. Other Barbershop Harmony Society-registered quartets are encouraged to sing as well.

The event is free, but cash donations are encouraged. Email [mghansen1007@gmail.com](mailto:mghansen1007@gmail.com) or call 517-974-8555 to RSVP. Parking is \$5, and food will be provided. No alcohol is allowed. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.



**"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 - Frenzd** - 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).

**Two Rivers Sounds of Summer - Skip** - Grab takeout from one of our nearby restaurants and bring your chairs, blankets, family and friends. Free. 6:30 p.m. Two Rivers Park, Dixie Highway, Portland. [miportland.org/events](http://miportland.org/events).

**"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).

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**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).

**"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).

**Live & Local CityPULSE**  
**Red Cedar Spirits**  
 2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
**Sunday Jazz**  
**Randy Napoleon Trio**  
 Sun., June 11, 4-6 p.m.





## 'Sacred Spaces' walking tour

Saturday, June 10  
10 a.m.

Beaumont Tower

375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing

Saturday morning (June 10), the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and the Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections will team up to present a free walking tour of some of the oldest and most historic locations on MSU's campus. The tour is based on the book "Tales from the Archives Volume Two: Sacred Spaces," published by MSU Press.

The tour will meet at Beaumont Tower and will be led by MSU Archives staff.

Highlights will include the histories of Beaumont Tower, the Class of 1900 drinking fountain, the Memorial Grove of the Great War, the Roosevelt Elm, Deer Park and Cowles House, among other historic sites. Learn more about former President Theodore Roosevelt's 1907 visit to campus for a graduation ceremony, the first African American woman to graduate from MSU that same year and the soldiers who were honored for their sacrifices in World War I, including Francis Lankey, composer of the MSU Fight Song.

Even if you were a student at MSU, it's likely you don't know the full story about some of these pieces of the school's history.



### Notice of Public Hearing

Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy will hold a public hearing June 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm at 730 W. Maple Street, Lansing, MI 48906, (517) 485-5379, to review the proposed 2023-2024 operating budget. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address.

CP#23-132

**Notice to Creditors.** Decedent's Estate. Case No. 23-545-DE. Estate of Marsha Dee Baker. The decedent, Marsha Dee Baker, died 03/30/23. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to David Baker, personal representative, or to both the Ingham County Probate Court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 05/31/2023. David Baker 1650 Barry Rd. Williamston, MI 48895

CP#23-131

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

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING NOTICE OF POSTED MEETING MINUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all meeting minutes for the Charter Township of Lansing are posted to and available on the Township's website at [www.lansingtownship.org](http://www.lansingtownship.org). Meeting minutes may also be obtained by emailing [dptyclerk@lansingtownship.org](mailto:dptyclerk@lansingtownship.org).

Meeting minutes are also posted in, and available for inspection at, the office of the Township Clerk (located at 3209 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan) during normal business hours.

Maggie Sanders, Supervisor  
Cortney Lighthart, Clerk

CP#22-276

## Events

from page 39

**HACCP Certificate Training** - Includes meat training as well as juice training for those who need it. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Okemos. 517-884-7076. [canr.msu.edu](http://canr.msu.edu).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. Noon-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Improv! Acting Camp** - We take kids from where they're at and facilitate their development from there. For some kids it will be basic skills, for others it will be honing already developed skills. Ages 5-13. Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-1p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Improv Acting Class** - Perform characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! Play theater games and learn why "yes, and" is the basic rule of improv. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Jump Into Reading** - Join Ms. Emma at the Play-ground of Dreams for stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. If weather is unsuitable, storytime will be held at the Eaton Rapids Library. Intended for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. 11 a.m. 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Make with Wood** - Weeklong camp for ages 13-14. Learn the skills necessary to make things like keepsake boxes, pencil holders and a candy dispenser. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.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-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Nature Investigators** - Weeklong camp for 5-year-olds. Explore the great outdoors as we examine bugs, investigate the water cycle and grow our own plants. Feed birds and take a closer look at the shapes and textures of leaves. Daily nature walk. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Reiki for Kids & Teens** - Reiki can be used to calm emotions and reduce stress. Fun, engaging, hands-on activities will teach students about the Reiki energy and its history. 5 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Roll Out the Barrel - Polka Music Fun!** - Learn the history of accordion & polka, different

polka styles and enjoy rollicking Polka music. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Secret Formulas** - Weeklong camp for ages 10-12. Explore the chemistry behind your favorite snacks and drinks to discover what makes them so delicious. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

## Tuesday, June 13

**35th Annual Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Outing** - Play 18 holes in a scramble event, plus golf games and contests. Grilled lunch, swag bag and post-game social hour. 9 a.m. Forest Akers West Golf Course, 3535 Forest Road, Lansing. 517-887-1377. [tcoa.org](http://tcoa.org).

**Acting Technique Class** - Learn the fundamentals of acting: diction, projection, stage presence, stage directions, working off a partner, basic script work and improvisation. 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Ballet Class** - Each class includes full barre, center and/or choreography. Learn advanced techniques such as beats, multiple pirouettes, greater turn-out, higher extension and longer variations. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Big Kid Bingo at High Caliber with WITL** - Prizes include concert and baseball tickets, items from local businesses and more. 6-8 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. 517-721-1790. [highcaliberkarting.com](http://highcaliberkarting.com).

**Downtown Lansing Farmers Market** - Fresh produce, baked goods, artisan crafts, activities, music and more. 3-7 p.m. Reutter Park, 400 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. [downtownlansing.org/downtown-farmers-market](http://downtownlansing.org/downtown-farmers-market).

**HACCP Certificate Training** - Includes meat training as well as juice training for those who need it. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Okemos. 517-884-7076. [canr.msu.edu](http://canr.msu.edu).

**"Jesus Christ Superstar"** - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

**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](http://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](http://meetup.com/lansing/events).

See Events, Page 42

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 36

L	A	M	A	R	A	N	E	W	B	T	S						
A	G	A	P	E	C	O	C	A	B	L	U	E					
N	E	G	E	V	M	O	R	N	I	O	T	A					
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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 36

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

# Happy Pride!

**Visit the Preuss Pets  
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Animals  
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June 17th, 2-3 PM**



**Store Hours:**  
**Monday – Friday: 12 p.m.-7 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.**  
**Sunday: 12 p.m.-6 p.m.**

**Preuss Pets**

**1127 N. Cedar, Lansing | 517.999.PETS | preusspets.com**

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

## PARK IT



Courtesy photos

With the onset of summer, Lansing is once again awash with free concerts at parks across the region. Pictured above is a concert at Lake Lansing Park South in Haslett.

### Greater Lansing is once again stacked with free park concerts

Now that Michigan is fully defrosted and the summer sun is burning hot, music fans can once again experience live tunes under blue skies at local parks and plazas. These shows are a longtime fixture in the area and always offer a mixed bag

of genres. Best of all, they're suitable for the whole family. For the ultimate outdoor concert experience, organizers suggest attendees bring blankets or chairs and a picnic basket. Here are some of the upcoming events to put on your calendar.

#### Lansing Parks & Recreation presents: Concerts in the Park 2023

7-9 p.m. Wednesdays

FREE

lansingmi.gov

This year's eight-week Concerts in the Park series, hosted by Lansing Parks & Recreation, utilizes various parks across

the city and showcases everything from country and R&B to folk and blues. The series opens and closes with local Tejano bands for the first time. The opener, the Tejano Sound Band, was co-founded by brothers Johnny Vasquez (accordion) and Richard Vasquez (guitar/banjo). The group has been a staple in the Tejano music scene since its 1994 formation. Known for its progressive Tejano tunes, the band incorporates hints of jazz, norteño and cumbia music into what its bio calls a "Texas sound with a Midwestern twist."

**June 14:** Tejano Sound Band (Tejano) - Moores Park

**June 21:** Kathy Ford Band (country) - Durant Park

**June 28:** Frog & the Beeftones (blues) - Fulton Park

**July 12:** Sea Cruisers (oldies) - Turner-Dodge House

**July 19:** Mixed Flavors (funky R&B) - Benjamin F. Davis Park

**July 26:** Shelby & Jake (Americana) - Bancroft Park

**Aug. 2:** Global Village Band (hits) - Sycamore Park

**Aug. 9:** Aldaco (Tejano) - Frances Park

#### Sounds of Summer 2023

7-9 p.m. Fridays

Lake Lansing Park South Bandshell

1621 Pike St., Haslett

FREE

pk.ingham.org

Lake Lansing isn't just for boating and sunbathing, especially during the summer. The Friends of Ingham County Parks hosts concerts at the park's Bandshell every Friday in June, July and August. Not only are the shows free, but so is the parking. For the kids, there are Big Wheel tricycles at the tricycle track, a bounce house and a giant inflatable slide.

Don Middlebrook and the Pearl Divers opened the series last week, and next on

the roster is Oxymorons, a nostalgic band that teeters between folk and classic rock. Led by longtime friends and musical partners, Oxymorons has curated an eclectic list of unforgettable songs from the 1960s to today. The set is packed with radio hits from Jackson Browne and Bob Seger to Keith Urban and Chris Stapleton.

**June 9:** Oxymorons Band (classic rock)

**June 16:** Universe Band (variety)

**June 23:** Capitol City Chordsmen (barbershop chorus)

**June 30:** Meridian Community Band (patriotic)

**July 7:** Roadside Attraction (classic party music)

**July 14:** Sea Cruisers (oldies)

**July 21:** Tony Thompson & Friends (funk, soul)

**July 28:** Stone Street Revival (oldies with horns)

**Aug. 4:** Global Village Band (classic rock, soul)

**Aug. 11:** The Frog King (Neil Diamond tribute)

**Aug. 18:** Jeff Baldori (jazzy mix)

**Aug. 25:** Showdown (classic rock)

#### East Lansing Summer Concert Series

6-8 p.m. Fridays

Ann Street Plaza

Corner of Albert and M.A.C. avenues

FREE

cityofeastlansing.com

The 2023 East Lansing Summer Concert Series kicks off July 7 and features seven live performances on Friday evenings in the heart of downtown.

**July 7:** Cross Eyed Strangers

**July 14:** Taylor Taylor

**July 21:** Twelve Above

**Aug. 4:** Monte Pride

**Aug. 11:** Alex Mendenhall

**Aug. 18:** Clipboards

**Aug. 25:** Risky Studios

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true colors in  
our community!

uulansing.org

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Sunday Worship & Youth Classes:  
10:30 am  
facebook@UULansing

5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing

## Events

from page 40

#### 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.

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

**Mini Pizza Party** - Celebrate the beginning of summer reading! Make your own pizza and enjoy other mini snacks. Intended for teenagers. 3-4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**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** - Eight-week boot camp consists of introductory, intermediate and advanced skill-level training. Proper mastery of technique is reinforced at twice-weekly practices. Bring a mouth guard and water bottle. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. 517-802-7974. lansingrollerderby.com.

**Summer in the Park - Pint-sized Polka** - Join us at Oak Park for a high-energy time full of singing, clapping and dancing to polka music! If there's bad weather, the event will be held at the Charlotte Community Library. 11 a.m. 230 S. Clinton St., Charlotte. pintsizpolkas.com.

#### Wednesday, June 14

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

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

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST," "Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Broadway Jazz Dance** - Bust a move with the signature style of artistic director and Broadway veteran Mark Ruhala! All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Concerts in the Park - Lansing** - Tejano Sound. 7 p.m. Moores Park, 420 Moores River Drive, Lansing. 517-483-4000. lansingmi.gov/994/concerts-in-the-park

**"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.

**Food Frenzy** - Try food from more than a dozen food trucks. Live music by Stringville and Bypass. 4-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 N. Cedar St., Holt. 517-930-2655. holtfoodfrenzy.com.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. Noon-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Improv Acting Class** - Perform characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! Play theater games and learn why "yes, and" is the basic rule of improv. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**"Jesus Christ Superstar"** - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

**Karaoke at Mac's Bar** - 9 p.m. 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.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.

**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.

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### My new favorite at familiar El Oasis

By LIZY FERGUSON

I've lived on the east side for more than 15 years, so El Oasis' original location on Michigan Avenue and its menu aren't novel to me, nor are they probably new to many of you, dear readers. However, in the past year of my frequent visits, I've discovered a new favorite dish, which was necessary after more than a decade of essentially ordering the same thing.

When I was ill recently, I had the Veggie Oasis Burrito and a side of chips and salsa delivered to my home. The burrito has become my go-to affordable comfort food infusion, apart from Babes Corner's chicken salad sandwiches.

The burrito is priced the same as those with a premium meat filling, but I would argue its superiority any day. First of all, it's huge. The heft of it will immediately reassure you that even if this

is all you get to eat today — because you're out of groceries, can't imagine leaving the house and can't justify getting delivery twice in one day — you will be sustained.

The Veggie Oasis includes the usual burrito fillings — beans, rice, lettuce, tomato, onion and sour cream — but it stands apart from its meat-filled counterparts not only in the way many veggie

options do, with the inclusion of the noble avocado, but with a fried, cheese-stuffed poblano pepper. I've had many burritos from many restaurants in my day, but I've never had one like this anywhere else. The poblano has a charred bitterness that offsets the fatty richness of the avocado and cheese and the acidity of the salsa. Poblanos are fairly long, as far as peppers go, so you get some in almost every bite, and the bites without still contain plenty of the flavorful and savory rice and beans.

I can never resist adding chips and salsa to my order, and especially when I order at off times — on this occasion, when the food truck opened at 10 a.m. on a weekday — I'm impressed by the chips' crispy freshness as I dip them right into the center of the burrito's filling and then drag them through the salsa. The salsa, a pico de gallo, differs greatly from the hot or mild options offered

with main courses, and my one disappointment this day was the lack of the garlic-y, almost creamy "spicy green" salsa, which isn't on the menu but is often available if you ask for it. I received the mild green salsa, which is vinegary, bright and delicious. You can never have enough of it — even if you've eaten it thousands of times.



**Veggie Oasis Burrito**

\$11.99

**Chips and Salsa**

\$3.50

El Oasis food truck  
2501 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing  
10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday  
517-648-7693  
eloasisfood.com



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

El Oasis' Veggie Oasis Burrito stands apart from its meat-filled counterparts not only in the way many veggie options do, with the inclusion of the noble avocado, but with a fried, cheese-stuffed poblano pepper.

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# Just a little patience

By **ARI LEVAUX**

“Overnight” often means getting something in a hurry, like a package you ordered online. But with oats, it means the opposite. Overnight oats are currently having a moment as a breakfast fad, but the dish is based on a very old concept: You can prepare grains by soaking them, rather than cooking them.

To make overnight oats, you add liquid like milk, yogurt or water to some oats and wait until morning. By then, the oats will be as soft as if they were

cooked on the stovetop. It’s a great way to get your fiber without slowing down your morning or burning your tongue.



Part of the fun of this passive porridge is dressing it up with fruit, nuts, sweet syrups or anything else you might put in hot or cold cereal. This time of year, frozen berries are on sale while distributors clear out last year’s

inventory ahead of the new crops of blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries that are on the verge of being harvested. As it happens, frozen berries are perfect for overnight

oats. Add them at night, straight out of the freezer. By morning, they will be fully soft and integrated into the dish.

Rolled oats are the softest of all grain options. They’ll be ready so quickly that you don’t even need to wait all night. If you don’t mind chewing a little, you can dive in right away and eat your oats like corn flakes. Steel-cut oats, where the grain is chopped rather than rolled, need a much longer time to soak, just as they take longer to cook.

And then there are all the other grains — whole and in parts. They all soften at different rates and have different textures and flavors. Rolled flakes generally soften the quickest. I’ve also had good luck with mixes like seven-grain and five-grain cereals.

To get to know the personality of each grain, I try it in plain water first,

preferably in a lineup with other grains for comparison. My favorite grains for overnight soaking are a combination of rye and spelt flakes. Both are varieties of wheat, and both take all night to soften. The rye is more complex, assertive and coarse, while the spelt is mellow and smooth. Together they form a combination that’s soft yet firm without being mushy. Whichever grains you choose, adding some chia seeds will give your mixture a pudding-like stiffness.

Finally, you must choose your liquid. While water is enough to satisfy the most Spartan grain eaters, the majority prefers something creamier. Milk is one option, as are milk-like fluids made from nuts, grains and legumes. There’s a certain symmetry and simplicity to adding oat milk to your overnight oats. Soy milk and almond milk are thicker. Some have vanilla flavor already added in, but you can also add it on your own. You can mix and match the soaking mediums to your heart’s content, but my favorite of all is plain yogurt. It’s thick and creamy, and the acidity helps the grains along their journey.

See Flash, Page 45



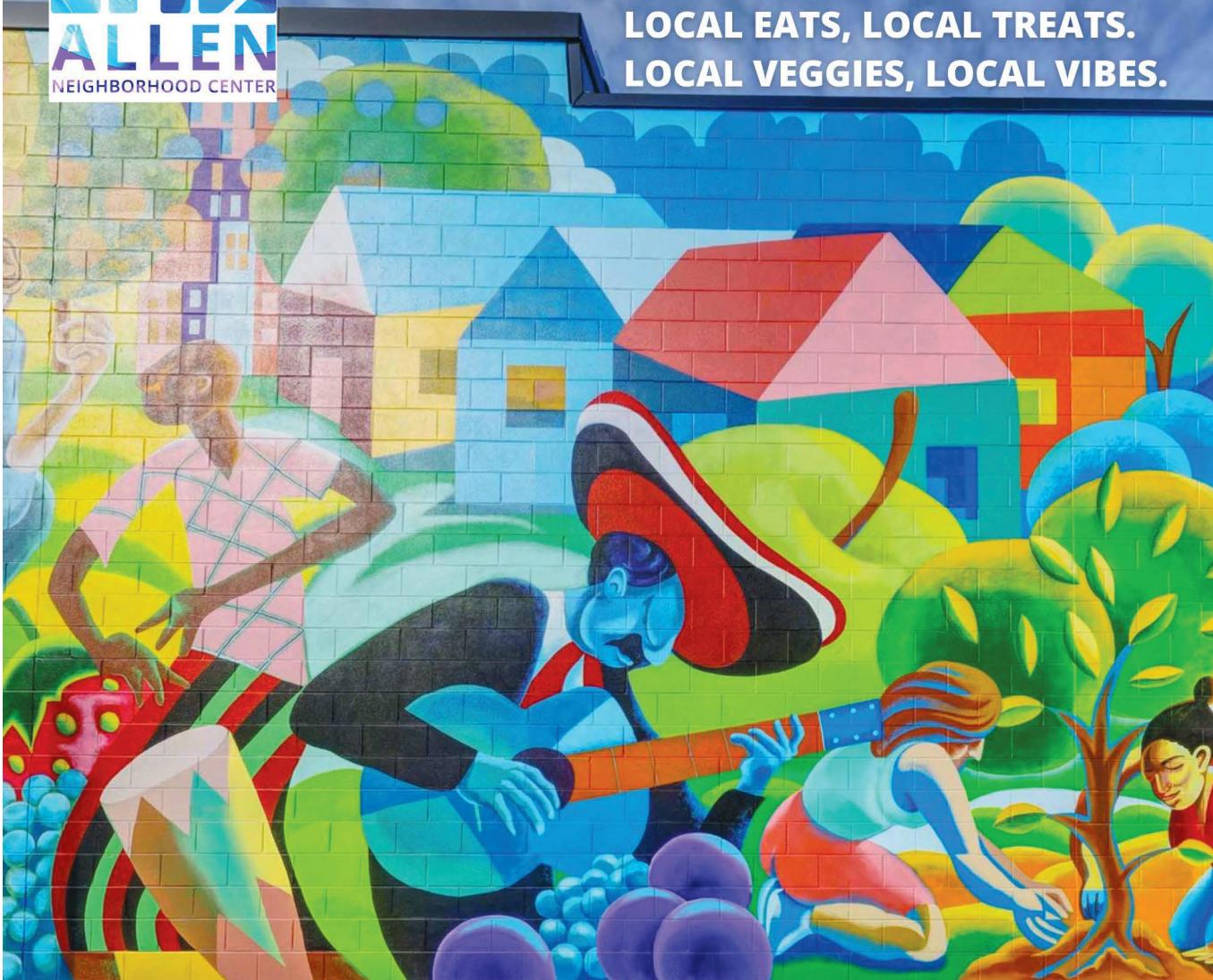
## ALLEN FARMERS MARKET

EVERY WEDNESDAY, 3 - 7PM

1629 E. KALAMAZOO, LANSING

LOCAL EATS, LOCAL TREATS.

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## HAPPY PRIDE MONTH!

1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
517.316.2377

# Flash

from page 44

Ultimately, the proper consistency and flavor of cereal is a very subjective and personal choice, as is the presence or absence of gluten and other factors. Personal preference should guide the details of how you prepare your overnight grains. I'll leave you with a recipe for my preferred formulation of overnight grains, in the hopes that you'll take it and transform it and make it your own.



## Overnight spelt and rye

This recipe is a template for any type of overnight grain, with any type of soaking liquid and any type of topping. My way results in a kind of cake/pudding that I'm happy to wash down with coffee and repeat.

- Makes one serving
- 1/2 cup spelt flakes
- 1/2 cup rye flakes
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds
- 1 cup yogurt
- 1/2 cup frozen blueberries
- optional: sweetener

Combine the spelt, rye and chia seeds in a bowl. Add the yogurt and stir it all together. Add the blueberries and the sweetener if using, then stir again. Cover the bowl and put it in the fridge overnight. The next morning, enjoy your bowl of soft, sweet, chewy, tangy grains.



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Overnight grains are a trendy breakfast meal that's easy to make — as long as you have the patience to wait until morning.

### Happy Pride!

The Light House Chapel  
 1501 Windsor St. Lansing, MI 48906  
 Service 11:00 AM Sundays. Inclusive.  
 Metaphysical. Open and Affirming.  
 Holistic. Healing. Spiritual Messages.  
 Rental Space Available for all occasions.  
 517-712-2622.

Woodbridge has an opening in Lansing, Michigan for a Senior Process Engineer. Support existing equipment on the floor from a hardware, software and mechanical perspective. Troubleshoot any problems with specified function of machinery. Propose and implement improvements to existing processes. Create manufacturing equipment and fixture specifications based on program requirements. Create and maintain project plans including product and equipment requirements, budgets, manpower, technical objectives, schedules, and project and product cost estimates. Validate new equipment, fixtures and modifications adhering to Woodbridge Group procedure guidelines. Improve processes in quality and cost according to Woodbridge best standard practice. Perform daily process operations. Select and optimize equipment. Liaise with maintenance to solve process equipment problems. Liaise with production to address production concerns. Plan and execute process improvement experiments. Optimize raw material usage and minimize waste. Participate in health and safety and quality audit processes. Write and update work instructions/SOTs, JSAs, procedures etc. Full requirements: Master's degree or equivalent foreign degree in Mechanical Engineering or a closely related engineering field, plus two (2) years of experience in each of the following: AutoCAD, lean manufacturing, continuous improvement, 5S, Kaizen, statistical process control, statistical experiments, program management, assembly process, mechanical design, product manufacturing, and plant manufacturing. Qualified applicants should apply online by going to <https://www.woodbridgegroup.com/careers/>, or by sending resumes and cover letters to Matt Womack at [Matt\\_womack@woodbridgegroup.com](mailto:Matt_womack@woodbridgegroup.com).



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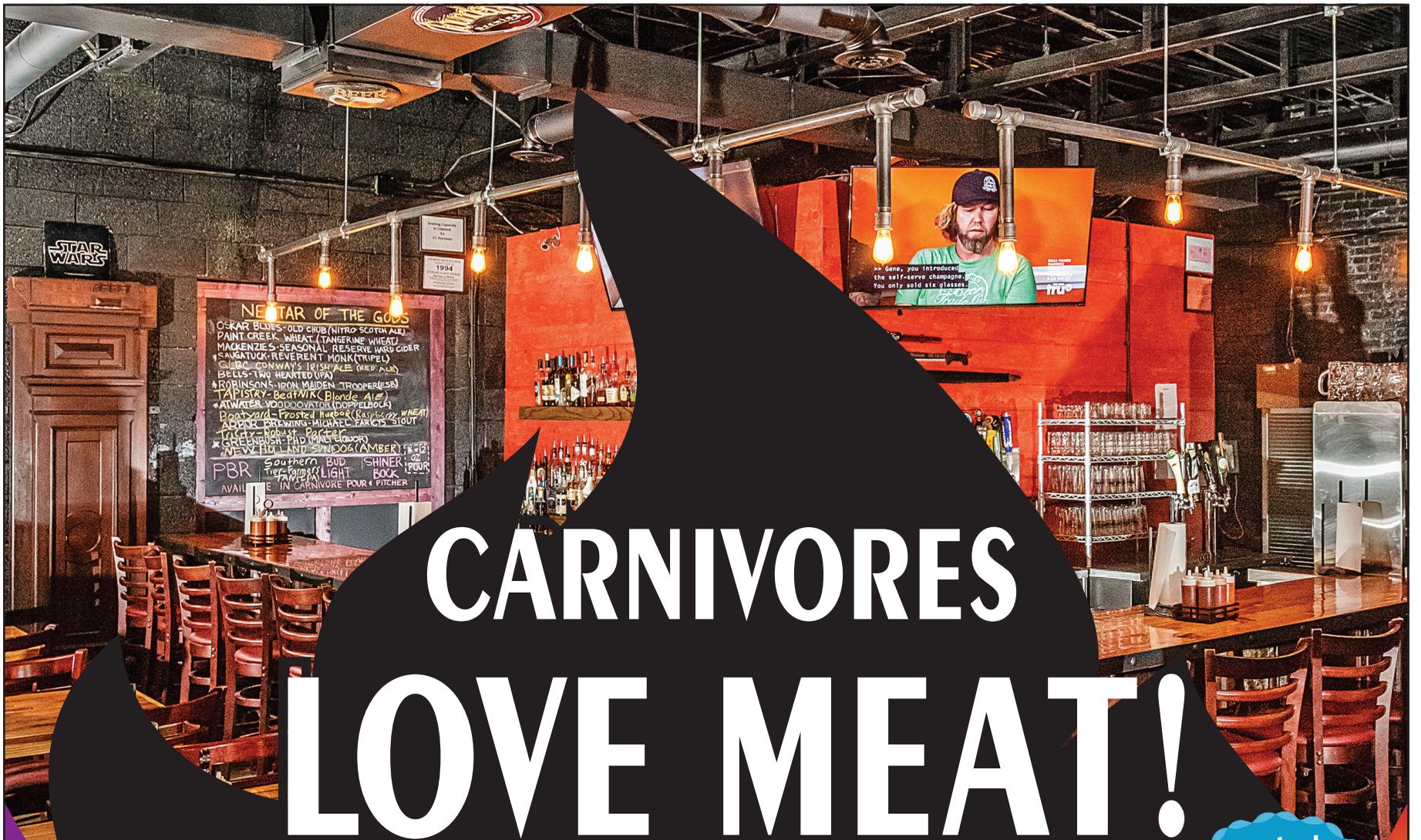
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