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June 28- July 4, 2023

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Celebrating the 4th

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# CityPULSE

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Did everyone who's planning on celebrating Independence Day also give the same consideration to Juneteenth? If not, why not? Isn't it exactly the same thing, only we weren't taught about it during our public education that so many are trying to protect their children from, along with countless other omissions? Instead, they are busy trying to ban everything that makes them uncomfortable.

Except that not everyone was free on July 4. BUT everyone was free on June 19. And I use the term "free" loosely. We all know that was not the same freedom that white people experienced.

I wrote the following last year, and I felt like it was worth sharing with you all:

Maybe I'm crazy, or maybe I just think about this too much.

In the quest for moral clarity, the U.S. as a whole has not embraced Juneteenth in earnest. With regard to all of the things that we celebrate, most are about victories, conquest, or otherwise milestones of achievement.

Juneteenth is something different. For my entire life, up until just a few short years ago, I always thought that slavery ended with the Emancipation Proclamation. And of course, along with everything else that I have learned only recently, I'm not surprised that this was not taught to me in school.

But here's the thing. Juneteenth is cause for celebration in earnest.

Since I can remember, we wanted everyone to participate in the 4th of July celebrations of freedom. But going back in time, that was not the case, for obvious reasons. There have always been people who were not inclusive, and others not included. Regardless of the past, people assimilated and joined in celebrating freedom in the present, hand in hand, as Americans.

Juneteenth is different. Juneteenth is a celebration for Black people who finally were granted freedom, not on Emancipation Day, but years after. It's amazing to think that we enslaved people in the first place, especially given our so-called moral high ground, our self-proclaimed intellectual prowess, or our status as

the land of the free, and yet even after a war, and a presidential proclamation, that not all enslaved people were freed until years later. That's cause for celebration, for them. And I'd have been celebrating for them.

For them.

That's what's different. This celebration is for them. It's acknowledging their day of celebration that we fought tooth and nail to prevent.

There will be many, there are many, who will not pay any attention to this day. They will scoff to their children about it, they will make jokes, and they will even go out of their way to say CRT is destroying this country.

But that's where the rest of us come in. We need to squash those sentiments with reminders of why this day is even noted on the calendar.

We cannot allow it to be gentrified and dishonored.

Something I think isn't being talked about, but I believe it to be true: Juneteenth was given its name by Black people, for Black people. I think there's a segment of our populace that is resistant to its legitimacy for that reason alone. That somehow we have to be in control of everything, including the naming of holidays, and just about anything else, ever.

Juneteenth. Named by Black people, for the freedom of Black people. So it is written, so shall it be done.

If you get an invitation, accept it. Otherwise, if you don't get an invitation, ask yourself why? And work on that.

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New out-of-this-world weed strains hit Pure Options



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Elden Kelly to play final show before move to Tennessee



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Refreshing cucumber-yogurt salad

Cover illustration by Lucas Henkel

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**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER** • Berl Schwartz  
[publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5061

**ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR** •  
[arts@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:arts@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5066

**OFFICE MANAGER** • Kamara Drane  
[kamara@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:kamara@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6704

**EVENTS EDITOR** • Nicole Noechel  
[nicole@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:nicole@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5066

**NEWS REPORTER** • Todd Heywood  
[heywood.reporter@gmail.com](mailto:heywood.reporter@gmail.com) • (517) 899-6182

**STAFF WRITER** • Lawrence Cosentino  
[lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5065

**STAFF WRITER/OFFICE ASSISTANT** • Lucas Henkel  
[lucas@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lucas@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6706

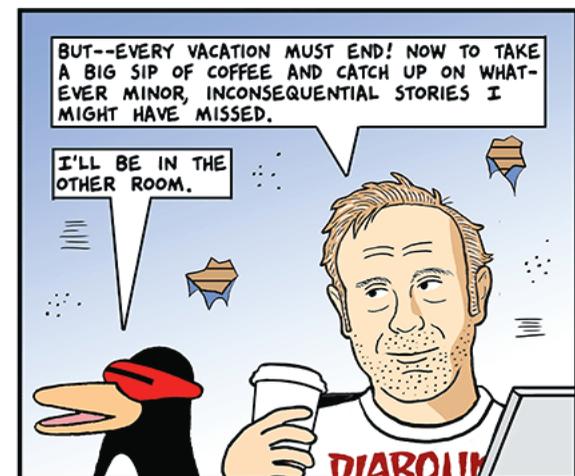
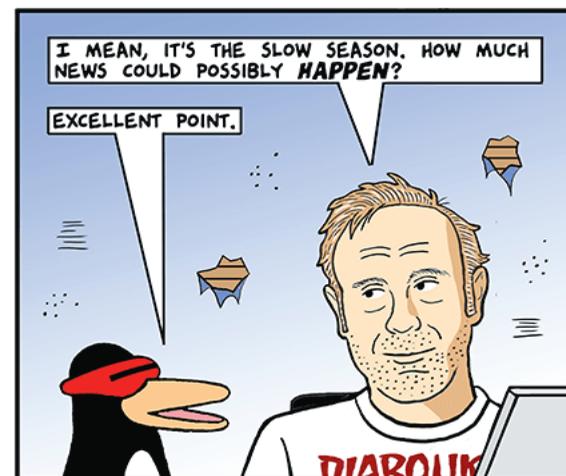
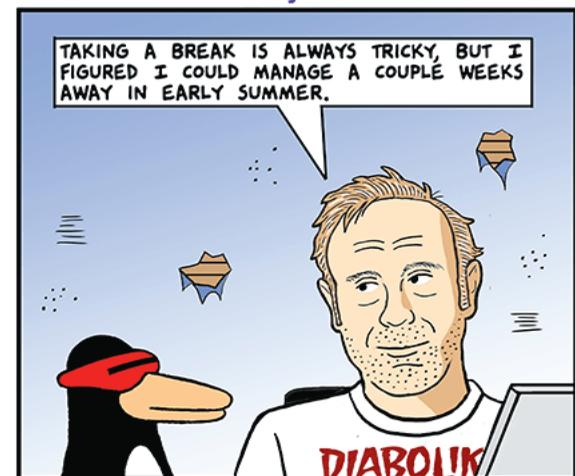
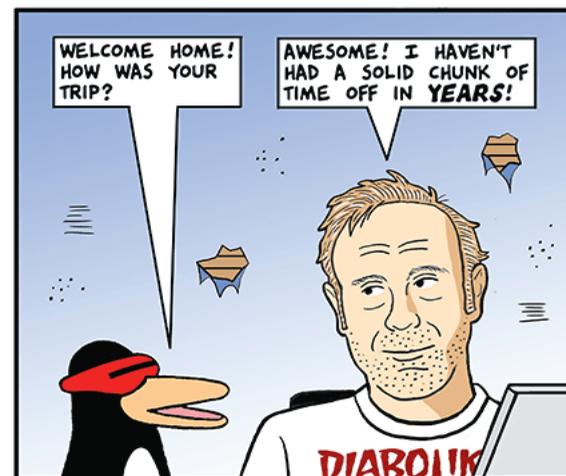
**SALES EXECUTIVE** • Lee Purdy  
[lee@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lee@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5064

**Contributors:** Dedria Humphries Barker, Bryan Beverly, Taylor Blair, Rob Brezny, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Lizzy Ferguson, Roxanne Frith, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Audrey Matusz, Kyle Melinn, Joan Nelson, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Chelsea Lake Roberts, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, David Winkelstern

**Delivery drivers:** Khalya Coleman, Cindy Heistand, Laurie Langstaff, Curt Lauck, Terri Paine

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Saying goodbye to 'Unc': Lansing remembers Ken Beachler

### Friends recall artistic force at a memorial service at Peoples Church

Lansing knew Ken Beachler for his work with the arts — whether for willling the Wharton Center into existence, helping rescue the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, sharing his encyclopedic knowledge as a programming executive and on-air host at WKAR-FM or for acting, singing and directing in local theater for more than five decades.

But growing up, his nephews and nieces knew him as “Unc” and had no idea about his prodigious work in the greater Lansing area.

“When we were younger at my grandparents’ house, we couldn’t understand why is this man painting in the kitchen when his voice is coming over the radio?” recalled his nephew Tony Beachler.

Beachler went on to tell the more than 100 attendees of Beachler’s memorial service at the Peoples Church in East Lansing on Saturday stories of the man many in Lansing knew as an arts leader. He was also an Army veteran and a Naval Reserve captain.

Kenneth Clark Beachler, who was born in Battle Creek, died June 6 in his East Lansing home of 50 years. He was 87. He was found with a glass of wine near him and classical music playing, said the Rev. Shawnthea Monroe. Beachler attended the church — although he’d go elsewhere if he thought the music was better, she said. Though in ill health, he clung to his independence.

Speakers recalled his sonorous baritone and a laugh that would fill a room. When he spoke with you, friends, neighbors and admirers who gathered at Peoples Church said, he gave you his complete attention.

For his nine nieces and nephews, Tony Beachler said, “Unc” was much like a “man of mystery.” He would come to family gatherings at a cottage north of Greenville, Michigan. But the family never quite knew when he would arrive, or what he would be driving, or wear-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Tony Beachler, one of Ken Beachler’s nine nieces and nephews, speaks Saturday at a memorial service at People’s Church in East Lansing. Seated at left is the Rev. Shawnthea Monroe, one of the church’s pastors.

ing, for that matter. He was known for dressing with flair.

Once with his family, though, he was attentive and loving. He listened with rapt attention to the stories of his nieces and nephews, then his grand-nieces and nephews.

“We got to enjoy his laughter, just the way that he would just kind of be brothers with our dad and occasionally fishing,” Beachler said, referring to Beachler’s only sibling, Fred, who died nine years ago to the day that Beachler died. “He was involved in trying to play kickball or trying to play volleyball, which was quite humorous at times, but he tried it.”

He recalled family trips to visit Beachler in East Lansing in the 1970s, when his uncle organized lectures and travelogues for MSU and then in the ‘80s to the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, when he was its founding executive director.

“There were seven of us kids at the time who would ride in a van come to Lansing in the ‘70s and ‘80s being excited to see travelogues,” he recalled about trips to the Aud. Later, it was ballet and music at Wharton, he added.

He recalled visiting Unc’s home on Hitching Post Road in East Lansing.

“Over the years, we really started to gain appreciation for art. His house on

Hitching Post has become an art gallery. And, at first, we’re like, where’s the TV? But then there was his music collection, and you could talk about that and I’m like, OK, where are all the pop artists? And he is like, no, it’s just classical.”

He and others called Beachler’s knowledge of classical music and the arts “brilliant.”

Beachler was instrumental in working with then-MSU President Clifton Wharton and his wife, Delores, to find the funding to build Wharton. The couple’s son Bruce Wharton read a letter on behalf

# Beachler

from page 5

of his parents at the service.

“Ken, who was director of the Auditorium and the lecture concert series, invited me on the walking tour pointing out the auditorium’s overwhelming deficiencies,” Delores Wharton recalled in her letter. “It was an embarrassment, especially since Cliff and I believed that if the university wanted to attract world-class talent that the premier American university and its host city deserved, a world-class culture center was needed.”

She said Beachler was instrumental to the process of developing the Wharton Center. She recalled the working partnership between the two as “perfect” and as “making our own beautiful music.”

In her letter, she recalled a fundraising concert for the Wharton Center with Lena Horne and Tony Bennett that nearly fell apart when East Lansing and the Auditorium were flooded. But Beachler was able to muster a team to transform the newly constructed Munn Ice Arena into a makeshift stage. The event went off without a hitch, with Beachler leading the troops.

“It is Cliff’s name and mine that adorn the side of a great facility on the campus of Michigan State University, but it surely would not have become the literal reality that it is today were it not for the indispensable role that Ken played,” the letter concluded.

Beachler served as Wharton first director from 1981 until 1992.

He was also a regular at the Lansing chapter of the Rotary Club, said Chris



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Bruce Wharton, a son of Clifton and Dolores Wharton, reading a letter by his mother.

Holman, a local businessman. Beachler, who served as president, grew tired of singing about Rotary to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” and other such songs at their luncheon meetings on Fridays. Instead, he brought in singers and musicians of all genres from local talents to professional performers who were in town to appear at the Wharton Center. Holman said the Lansing Rotary is the only one in the world to do so.

His encyclopedic knowledge of music led to a short term as the interim executive director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra when it was floundering during the Great Recession of 2008. When Courtney Millbrook took over the post, she said he was a valuable and supportive mentor. She said there was “no small detail” he would overlook.

For example, she recalled taking a



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Items on one of the sign-in tables.

call from Beachler after he had been on hold for a few minutes.

“I got a very frustrated and somewhat annoyed Ken Beachler because the on-hold music was horrible and he had no problem telling me that people should not call a symphony orchestra and hear awful music,” she said. It was replaced with music performed by the LSO, she added.

David Brower, a retired MSU chief financial officer and controller, formed a lifelong friendship with Beachler when they worked together on planning the Wharton Center.

Brower recalled the quotes in Wharton’s lobby. An anonymous one says, “A community with art is a community without soul.” The second is a quote from Pablo Picasso: “Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

Said Brower, “Because of Ken’s lifelong passion and support of the arts of all types, I believe we are blessed with a lot more soul and a lot less dust.”

— TODD HEYWOOD



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Courtney Millbrook, who succeeded Beachler as executive director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: TEXT AMENDMENT #2023-02  
RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LICENSING STANDARDS

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE ZONING AMENDMENT #2023-02 (RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LICENSING STANDARDS)

The Township Board at its regular meeting on June 20, 2023 approved for introduction and subsequent adoption Ordinance 2023-02, an Ordinance amending the code of the charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County to rename Chapter 40, repeal Article III of Chapter 40, and add Article IV to Chapter 40, to authorize and permit recreational marijuana establishments.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Community Planning and Development office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517-853-4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk

CP#23-149



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ZONING AMENDMENT #2022-19  
MARIJUANA ZONING STANDARDS

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE ZONING AMENDMENT #2022-19 (MARIJUANA ZONING STANDARDS)

The Township Board at its regular meeting on June 20, 2023 approved for introduction and subsequent adoption Ordinance 2022-19, an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Meridian to update the zoning standards for marijuana related businesses in the Township and reduce the areas in which they are permitted.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Community Planning and Development office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517-853-4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk

CP#23-150

# Making a gay difference as MSU's deputy spokesperson

Dan Olsen's phone started to blow up on the evening of Feb. 13 as a gunman was loose on the campus of Michigan State University. He rushed to the emergency operations center on campus, where he stayed for 24 hours.

Olsen, MSU's deputy spokesperson, said while his role — compared to that of law enforcement and other administration officials — was “very small,” it still hit him hard.

“Our careers are spent preparing for issues in crises,” he said. “You can prepare for these in various ways and know the process, right? For how to manage a crisis, how to communicate. But nothing prepares you for the emotional toll that something like this event has taken on not just me, but my colleagues, students, faculty, staff.”

As a graduate of MSU, and a current graduate student, Olsen, 30, said he never thought he would experience a shooting on campus from up close.

The Flint-area native has followed an extraordinary trajectory since graduating from the university in 2014. He was recruited to work with public relations and communications legend Kelly Rossman-McKinney on the ill-fated Fair Michigan proposal to amend the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act in order to protect the LGBTQ+ community.

The move was pushed by Dana Nessel, then a rising legal star after bucking traditional LGBTQ+ organizational advice and suing the state for marriage equality. She won her case after it was combined with others before the U.S. Supreme Court, legalizing same-sex marriage throughout the country.

Nessel and others thought the next target should be a ballot initiative to amend the civil rights act after lawmakers had left numerous versions of the law languishing in committees without votes for decades. The law was finally amended this year after it was passed by the Democratically controlled House and Senate, then signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Olsen lives with his same-sex partner in a smaller community near Lansing. The couple raises pugs as a hobby.

While that ballot initiative never materialized, Olsen took on communications responsibilities for the organization as it moved into working with Wayne County prosecutors to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

It seemed a good fit for him. He



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Dan Olsen, deputy spokesperson at Michigan State University, says that members of the LGBTQ+ community in leadership positions, such as himself, should not be afraid to speak up.

started acknowledging his own sexual orientation during his sophomore year at MSU.

“I think those things become heavier especially as you see headlines and stories around the state and country about different violent acts that happen against men who are members of the community,” he said. “On top of that, there's what happens in the most extreme circumstances with family members and loved ones. I mean, there's anxiety and fear around that process. But I wouldn't change it.”

While he doesn't hide his orientation, it's also not a key part of the work he does. But it does help inform his advice as he is working with top university administrators in developing policies and communications strategies.

crimes unit. It was an eye-opening experience, Olsen said.

“It gave me a firsthand experience of some of the ways that our community in particular is impacted in ways that I don't know that I necessarily fully realized before,” Olsen said, “especially as it relates to the trans community and the crime that happens at an exponentially higher rate than other communities, even within the LGBTQ community.”

At the time Olsen was in the AG's office, Michigan's hate crime law did not cover the LGBTQ+ community. Legislation to expand the hate crimes law, which opponents have blocked since 1988, passed the state House last week and is expected to pass the Senate before being signed by Whitmer.

Despite those gains, the nation has seen an unprecedented increase in the number of legislative actions to curb LGBTQ rights, particularly those of transgender Americans. There has also been a backlash against businesses for supporting LGBTQ+ people. Target was dragged through the digital mud for putting up displays of pride-related items, and Bud Light, and parent company Anheuser-Busch, have faced protests, boycotts and violent videos for providing a promotional Pride beer can to a transgender social media influencer.

Olsen debated having this interview for fear it would come back at both him and the university.

“I'm not a fan of the spotlight,” he said. “But if I'm being honest, I think the national conversations happening and the different actions that are being taken do have some sort of chilling effect on the community and a hesitation to be visible. But that makes it more important for us to be in these spaces and be visible, to show and demonstrate to future generations.”

Even with all the progress, Olsen said it is important for leaders like himself and Grace Wojcik, director of the Gender and Sexuality Campus Center at MSU, to tell their stories.

“There's still so much hurt and pain for our community. Headlines, on a daily basis, show just how far we have to go. So, I think that's why it's more important than ever we need people in prominent roles to share their stories, to step into what, in this case, may be an uncomfortable space and continue for positive change.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

He said having a member of the LGBTQ+ community at the table during decision-making conversations is important. It fills out the diversity of viewpoints.

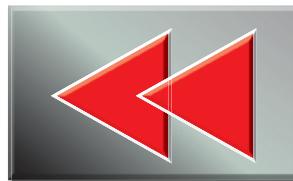
“It's important to have people who don't look like you and who don't have the same experiences that you do when you're making these decisions,” he said.

During his work at Fair, then at the Michigan Attorney General's Office under Nessel, Olsen had a front-row seat to the violence some in the community experienced. While there, Nessel and the Michigan Civil Rights Department were sued for floating the idea of monitoring hate incidents throughout the state. Behind the scenes, however, Nessel was creating the office's first terrorism and hate

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY JOSH CHAMPLIN



**Residents in Lansing's Westside Neighborhood were rattled early Thursday when gunfire erupted shortly before 1 a.m.** Lansing police spokesperson Jordan Gulkis said officers responded to the 100 block of Lahoma Street.

"Officers conducted a neighborhood canvass and located numerous bullet holes in a residence," Gulkis said. No one was injured. No one was arrested either, and the Police Department continues to investigate. Anyone with information is asked to call LPD at 517-483-4600.

**A man's shooting death is Lansing's fifth homicide of 2023.** The victim, whom officials have not yet identified, was found early Sunday near the intersection of Cherry and St. Joseph streets and pronounced dead at the scene, according to the Lansing State Journal. No suspects have yet been named by police.

**An Ingham County man was convicted of a 2008 murder by a jury.** Brad Cournaya was found guilty on a premeditated first-degree murder charge, even though the body of Krista Lueth, his girlfriend at the time, has never been found. He was already serving prison time after being convicted of soliciting a minor for sex in 2017. Ingham County Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor Bill Crino brought the case to trial by working with the victim's family, other agencies and citizens who provided information. Murder cases without the victim's body being found are rare, but Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane was able to tie Cournaya to the case with forensic and circumstantial evidence. Cournaya is scheduled for sentencing in August. Michigan law requires life without parole for first-degree murder convictions.



**Lansing Deputy Mayor Jane Bais-DiSessa is no longer employed by the city.** DiSessa was "let go" by Mayor Andy Schor, said Lansing City Council President Carol Wood. Council was informed of DiSessa's exit June 9. There was no information provided to the Council for her departure, which Wood said is normal. "Unless there was a severance or some other legal issue, the mayor can hire and fire people as he sees fit from his office," Wood said. "They are at-will employees." As a general rule, city officials do not discuss personnel matters, said Scott Bean, the city's spokesperson. Bean said there was no severance package provided to DiSessa. She had been on the job for 16 months, earning an annual salary of \$145,003.81. Schor's administration would

not comment on DiSessa's departure beyond stating she was a "valued member of the Lansing administration" and her work was "appreciated."

**Seven students or their families are joining the MSU mass shooting civil lawsuit, the Lansing State Journal reported.** The families of the three students who were killed in the shooting and the families and/or attorneys of four of the five students who were injured have filed notices of intent, which is required by state law to sue government institutions. Representatives for Yukai "John" Hao, who was paralyzed in the shooting; Hanyang Tao, who was shot in the back; and Brian Fraser and Arielle Anderson, who were killed, are the latest to signal their intent. Last week, attorneys for Alexandria Verner, Nate Statly and Troy Forbush filed notices,



claiming MSU had insufficient safety measures in place, and that the school didn't hold enough active shooter training or drills. The university is upgrading its building security, installing locks on classroom doors and working with Lansing police to set up a Strategic Operations Center. The center will monitor all surveillance cameras also being installed.

**Two men have been charged with murder following a May 7 shooting in Reutter Park, the Lansing State Journal reported.** If convicted, Kelley Whitt, 57, and Jacob Curtis, 24, face up to life in prison without the chance of parole. The shooting occurred in the evening, when the two men allegedly went to Reutter Park and confronted 48-year-old Lewis Hill. An argument over money ensued, with Hill and Whitt struggling over a long gun, police said. Curtis then allegedly got out of a car and shot Lewis with a handgun. Curtis is scheduled for a preliminary hearing Thursday (June 29), and Whitt has a hearing set for July 6.

**Lansing is installing 25 electronic speed signs around the city.** The signs were purchased with approximately \$90,000 in federal COVID relief funds. They show the speed of oncoming vehicles and record data for police, but they do not have license plate readers. They are meant to "educate" and "encourage" drivers to maintain safe speeds, Lansing Police Chief Ellery Sosebee said. The signs mark the next phase of Operation Slow Down, which was implemented in 2020 after drivers increased their driving speeds because there were fewer vehicles on the streets. Twenty of the signs will be placed evenly among the city's four wards, with the final five being placed in areas with high numbers of speeding complaints.



### 3422 Lowcroft Ave., Lansing

Lowcroft Avenue is a quaint neighborhood of generally well-kept homes and yards in south Lansing. So, the overgrown property at 3422 Lowcroft is a striking eyesore. From a front porch and entry plastered with various notices from foreclosure proceedings to red tags and a weed-choked yard, it's not difficult to imagine why the property has been cited numerous times by the city for garbage and tall weeds. Property records indicate the property was damaged in a fire. However, building and other permits expired and no work was approved.

The one-story, two-bedroom home, built in 1997, has been boarded up multiple times since July 2017, according to city property records. Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox noted that the 2022 and 2021 property taxes have not been paid. The property owner is listed as James St. Clair.

The back taxes owed to the county are \$15,816.51. On top of the taxes, city records show \$1,720.90 in fees associated with the property are outstanding. The day before the property was to be lost to tax foreclosure this year, Fox said, earlier back-due taxes, fees and interest were paid, staving off a seizure.

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call in a nomination to (517) 999-6704.

# Manufacturing tradition can bloom again with STEM education

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

Some of my smartest students were the ones training for the technical trades. I will never forget the Black woman who was already working as a sound engineer but wanted her degree in the field to shore up her qualifications. In class, she wrote about loving sound engineering because the work of creating and refining sound required her to use her brain. She was a refreshing change from students who were unclear on what they wanted to do with their studies.

Michigan has a generational history of people doing technical work. Primarily grounded in automobile manufacturing, it did not involve most workers. Most employees used only their bodies. Then came change — and anger: The gravy train departed the station without us. First, we blamed competition with Japan, then robotics, with poor effect. But now there are signs that Michigan is moving on from the great hurt. Michigan seeks to revive our manufacturing culture for the digital age.

My view is encouraged by the Michigan Labor and Economic Opportunity Department's STEM Advisory Council. This council's purpose is to foster learning and innovation, and to create a STEM culture. STEM is science, technology, electronics and math. The council awarded grants to 13 schools for STEM education. The awards totaled \$237,640, and the average per school was less than \$20,000. Actually \$18,230.76, if you think in the exact way technical people think. Actual award amounts ranged from \$20,000 to \$10,309.

These are modest awards considering the council has a budget of \$3.05 million, and the State Education Department allocates about \$9,000 per student. But money is not the point. Change is. Michigan is moving on.

Change brings a new lingo. Manu-

facturing is known as “making,” and people who work in the industry are “makers.” Most libraries today host a “maker space” with sexy machines like 3D printers. Education approaches are renamed. One is 3-P: Place-, project- and/or problem-based learning. Language is art, and mixing art up with technology produces STEAM, created by adding an A to STEM, for art.

Numbers are the language of the technical world, and I can relate. I am the third of 13 children. “Star Trek: Picard” fans know that phrasing means I am involved with something bigger than myself, like the Starfleet character Seven of Nine

Education is about the future. And the future is computers. This sharp focus on the digital environment in our state will boost the college-going effort known as Sixty by 30. It means having 60% of Michigan residents earning an education certificate or degree higher than high school by the year 2030. In this effort, the Michigan College Access Network effort targets low-income students, students of color and first-generation students.

Some people wonder, is college worth the debt? And time? Bill Gates dropped out of college. Look at him.

Here's the scoop on Gates, according to Malcom Gladwell, who wrote the book “Outlier.” He found that it takes 10,000 hours to get good at something. Gates got his hours in a high school room outfitted with these new things called computers, put there by his mama. She was a computer company VP.

Parents are key, Michigan author Veronica Wilkerson-Johnson wrote in her new book, “A Sparkle in Their Eyes: Raising Talented Diverse Students in STEAM Careers,” about how to get a good base for technical education. But, she writes, “We as parents do not have to be a Ph.D. or world-renowned STEM or STEAM scholar to

raise one.”

Her book lays out the attitudes, behaviors and programs that can shepherd a student into the careers of the future, but parents need to move with revolutionary speed. “Now,” she writes, “is the time for your students to become a part of the growing number of students of color and women as they obtain college degrees in STEM/STEAM and pursue those professions.”

Michigan is so close. The state reports that we have the fourth largest engineering, design and development workforce in the nation, with over 113,000 employed in related industries in 2020. This is the legacy of the automobile industry, which so many people in Michigan built together. Now, if we don't fight the race and class wars all over again to decide who gets the opportunities, we will progress.

STEM education is the base for additional training. A New York Times report explains the need for microchip technicians to work in Arizona, where a huge microchip manufacturing plant is being built in anticipation of “a semiconductor manufacturing boom” and the “billions of dollars that the federal government is funneling into this sector.”

In some cases, that training is minimum — just 10 days — according to the Times. However, skeptical



**Opinion**

reader comments complained that such slight preparation positions workers for the assembly line heaven when they outlive their training. A reader from Michigan also threw shade on the sincerity of the company because Arizona “is almost out of water.” And you need water to make things. Read your license plate: Michigan is the Great Lakes State.

It's all about learning, people. Do not be afraid of numbers involved in technology. Or view science and math classes as too hard. Spending two years on education after high school is not too long. Put impatience and giving up in frustration in the rear-view mirror. The state of Michigan needs its people to step-up to the educational challenge.

*(Dedria Humphries Barker is the author of “Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow.” Her column appears in the last issue of each month.)*



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY**  
**LEGAL AD NOTICE: TEXT AMENDMENT #2023-03**  
**MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSING UPDATE**

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**ZONING AMENDMENT #2023-03**  
**(MEDICAL MARIJUANA LICENSING UPDATE)**

The Township Board at its regular meeting on June 20, 2023 approved for introduction and subsequent adoption Ordinance 2023-03, an Ordinance amending the code of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County at Chapter 40, Article II, Commercial Medical Marijuana Facilities, to modify the licensing standards for medical marijuana facilities.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Community Planning and Development office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517-853-4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Deborah Guthrie**  
**Township Clerk**

**CP#23-148**

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



A PRIME COMMUNITY  
meridian.mi.us

**B/23/125 AMMUNITION FOR FY24** for the Police Department as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on JULY 6, 2023. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

**CP#23-146**

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION  
FOR THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

**For the purpose of nominating candidates to the following offices:**

City: Council Member At Large (2), Council Member Ward 1

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their local clerk, the office of their county clerk, a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote) and mailed to or dropped off at the office of the local clerk. Any qualified elector that has a Michigan Driver's License or Personal ID can also register to vote at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote). Voters who are already registered may update their voter registration at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote).

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk's Office is **Monday, July 24, 2023**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours June 29 – August 4
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm  Wednesdays 8am – 7pm

**Additional times outside of the above listed regular business hours are as follows:**

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Monday August 7 8am – 4pm  Election Day August 8 7am – 8pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	Monday August 7 8am – 4pm  Saturday August 5 11am – 4pm  Sunday August 6 11am – 4pm  Election Day August 8 7am – 8pm

**ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS**

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have an application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above tables or by visiting our website at [lansingvotes.gov](http://lansingvotes.gov).

Friday, August 4, 2023 at 5:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Monday, August 7, 2023 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, August 7, 2023 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, August 8, 2023, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

**Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC**  
Lansing City Clerk  
Phone: 517-483-4131  
Email: [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov)  
Website: [www.lansingvote.gov](http://www.lansingvote.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#23-147

## Don't feel too bad about blowing off Michigan's so-called population crisis

Pardon me if I'm not running around with my hair on fire because Michigan's population isn't exploding at the seams.

Don't listen to the outrage police. You don't give one lick that Michigan's population isn't growing like it is in Texas or Florida. You're probably relieved.

I understand that's not the chic take these days, but here's the reality:

You didn't wake up this morning stressing that you weren't going to wait longer in traffic. That you couldn't get a VRBO vacation rental Up North. That the grocery store wasn't going to run out of those cheap pints of strawberries.

No, you did not. And don't feel bad about it.

So, where did this manufactured crisis come from?

As if the whole thing was choreographed ahead of time, the Citizens Research Council came out with its report on Michigan's slow growth May 16. Bridge Michigan promoted the situation as a "crisis" (a word not used once in the CRC's 13-page summary report) on May 17.

Then, lo and behold, Bridge exclusively reported May 23 that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was going to call for a new commission to research this "crisis" as her featured announcement at the Detroit Regional Chamber Policy Conference.

Whitmer's independent panel is going to take the rest of the year to figure out how we can get more people to move to Michigan.

I don't own a crystal ball, but if this commission doesn't report back that we need to "fix the damn roads" or sink more money into improving our public schools, you can knock me over with a feather.

After all, we need better roads, better education and better communities to entice more people here to enjoy our beautiful seasons, fresh water and lush forests ... right?

The business community will likely take the opposite position on the chicken-or-the-egg argument. If we don't improve our regulatory environment and keep taxes low, the job providers won't come here with their jobs.

Resurrecting this whole "people are fleeing Michigan" schtick is a backdoor scheme that political figures create to argue for the policies they've always wanted.



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

It's a political argument that was used when Jim Blanchard was governor, when Jennifer Granholm was governor and now, when Whitmer is governor.

Let's look at the U.S. Census numbers.

Michigan had 13.5% more people living within its borders in 2020 than it did in 1970. Ohio had 10.7% more. Pennsylvania had 10.2%. Illinois had 15.2%.

This isn't a crisis. Let's discuss what is a crisis.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority reports that Michigan has 190,000 fewer homes than people need.

Places like Traverse City and parts of West Michigan have such a housing shortage that trailer parks are being seriously offered up as at least a short-term answer. In 2023, working-class folk can't afford to build a house.

Finding an existing home is hard. Much of the available stock is either big-time fix-me-uppers or way out of any normal person's price range, especially if the property taxes are too high.

This isn't the 1920s or 1930s, when auto companies were so desperate for workers that they developed entire neighborhoods around their plants. Back then, Michigan saw 30% growth between the decennial censuses.

It's not even the 1940s, when the war effort turned all those factories into "arsenals of democracy" and Michigan's population growth was around 20%.

Our industries today aren't as labor-intensive as they were. Today's farms are mostly large, automated operations. They don't need a family with eight to 10 kids to work as farmhands.

These days, the average family size is 3.13 people.

Texas and Florida are gaining people because of massive southern migration. These states aren't doing anything magical on a public policy front. They're just geographically big states near the southern border.

Homes are even more expensive and hard to get down there. The roads are more packed. Health care is harder to come by. Internet is spotty. They have more congressional districts, but so what? They have more politicians.

Meanwhile, we can still get into Sleeping Bear Dunes on the weekend. There's no real traffic outside of the construction zones. There are jobs if you need one.

You tell me who has the population crisis.

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

**4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATION**  
**JULY 4, 2023**  
 THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE WILL BE HELD AT 11AM AROUND THE CAPITOL LOOP. **4TH OF JULY CONCERT ★ 8PM**  
**ADADO RIVERFRONT PARK**  
 ★ FIREWORKS IMMEDIATELY TO FOLLOW AFTER CONCERT  
[LANSINGMI.GOV/JULY4PARADE](http://LANSINGMI.GOV/JULY4PARADE)

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Fireworks, parades, baseball and more

Where to celebrate the Fourth of July in Greater Lansing

By NICOLE NOECHEL

Greater Lansing offers a host of events to celebrate Independence Day, from a mug-making class to a baseball game, a picnic and even a replica Civil War encampment guests can walk through. To learn more about each event and the activities offered, read on.

### Friday Sampler: Fourth of July Drinking Glass

Friday, June 30  
4-8 p.m.

Lansing Makers Network  
2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing  
[facebook.com/lansingmakersnetwork](https://facebook.com/lansingmakersnetwork)

Visit Lansing Makers Network 4 to 8 p.m. Friday (June 30) to decorate a Mason jar mug with patriotic flair. The class is an introduction to permanent vinyl, teaching attendees how to weed, align and place a vinyl decal. A Lansing Makers Network membership is not required, but there is a \$20 class fee.

### Eaton Rapids Fourth of July Celebration

July 1-4  
Various times and locations  
[facebook.com/cityofeatonrapids](https://facebook.com/cityofeatonrapids)

Eaton Rapids offers a plethora of events to celebrate Independence Day. Saturday (July 1), there will be a pancake breakfast from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.; a Downtown Chalk Fest, featuring the chance to paint the city with chalk art, from 5 to 7 p.m.; live music with Sea Cruisers from 7 to 9 p.m.; and a Civil War artillery-firing demonstration at 10 p.m.

Monday (July 3), there will be a Friends of the Eaton Rapids Area District Library silent auction from noon to 5 p.m.; a Family Fun Night featuring food trucks, live music with Thick 'N' Thin, kids' activities and more from 6 to 9 p.m.; and a screening of "Top Gun: Maverick" at dusk.

Tuesday (July 4), there will be a craft and vendor show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring a kids' zone, food trucks and fire trucks; a parade at 11 a.m.; a Rotary chicken dinner at noon; historical downtown walking tours at noon and 1 p.m.; an evening celebration from 7 to 11 p.m. with a DJ, food trucks and more; and a fireworks display to cap the evening at 10:15 p.m.

Furthermore, the Michigan Grand Army of the Republic Museum will be



Courtesy of the Greater Lansing Sports Authority

Following the July 4 Lansing Lugnuts game at Jackson Field, LAFUCU will set off fireworks above the stadium, which is also a great location to view the Lansing fireworks display.

open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday through Tuesday, and a replica Civil War encampment will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday through Monday.

For a full schedule of events and locations, visit [facebook.com/cityofeatonrapids](https://facebook.com/cityofeatonrapids).

### Delta Township Fireworks Display

Monday, July 3  
10 p.m.

Sharp Park  
1401 Elmwood Road, Lansing  
[deltami.gov/residents/events/fireworks\\_display.php](https://deltami.gov/residents/events/fireworks_display.php)

Delta Township will host its fireworks display a day early, around 10 p.m. Monday (July 3). Arrive early to enjoy an evening at the park, which offers playgrounds, tennis courts, a basketball court, a fishing pond and more. Lawn chairs, blankets and mosquito repellent are recommended.

### City of Lansing Fourth of July Celebration

Tuesday, July 4  
11 a.m. parade  
Downtown Lansing  
8 p.m. concert, fireworks to follow  
Adado Riverfront Park  
201 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing  
[lansingmi.gov/july4parade](https://lansingmi.gov/july4parade)

Lansing's Fourth of July celebration, taking place Tuesday (July 4), kicks off with an 11 a.m. parade beginning at the Capitol Loop and continuing through downtown Lansing. Later, head to Adado Riverfront Park at 8 p.m. for patriotic music, marches and a salute to

members of the military by the Lansing Concert Band, plus jazz music by the Big Band. There will be snacks for purchase, and guests are advised to bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Fireworks will follow the concert around 10 p.m.

CATA is offering limited curb-to-curb service 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 4. Riders must schedule their trips by July 1 by calling 517-394-2282. One-way fare is \$2.50 and can be paid with cash, Spec-Tran punch passes or tokens. The routes are restricted to Spec-Tran service boundaries, which can be found at [cata.org/spectran](https://cata.org/spectran).

### Lansing Lugnuts vs. Lake County Captains

Tuesday, July 4  
7:05 p.m.

Jackson Field  
505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
[facebook.com/lansinglugnuts](https://facebook.com/lansinglugnuts)

What's more American than baseball? Head to Jackson Field Tuesday evening (July 4) to see the Lugnuts take on the Lake County Captains and enjoy a fireworks display following the game. You can also view the Lansing fireworks display from the stadium.

### Potter Park Zoo - military members receive free admission

Tuesday, July 4  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Potter Park Zoo  
1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing  
[potterparkzoo.org](https://potterparkzoo.org)

Members of the military can enter Potter Park Zoo for free all day Tuesday

(July 4), so round up your family and enjoy all the zoo has to offer. Standard admission rates apply for non-military members.

### Mason Courthouse Car Show

Tuesday, July 4

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ingham County Courthouse  
315 S. Jefferson St., Mason  
[cruisnmedia.com/event/mason-courthouse-car-show](https://cruisnmedia.com/event/mason-courthouse-car-show)

Visit downtown Mason 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday (July 4) for Show Off Car Club's annual car show, featuring a DJ, a Kids' Corner, food vendors, prize drawings, Model T rides and chances to view a host of antique and classic cars. The first 100 attendees will receive a free goodie bag.

Registration is \$20 if you'd like to bring your own car to show off. All makes and years are welcome.

### Mason Independence Day Parade

Tuesday, July 4

4:30 p.m.

Mason High School  
1001 S. Barnes St., Mason  
[business.masonchamber.org/events](https://business.masonchamber.org/events)

Mason's Independence Day Parade begins 4:30 p.m. Tuesday (July 4) at Mason High School and continues throughout downtown Mason. Parade participants are invited to decorate their bikes at the high school at 3:30 p.m., with a bike-decorating contest for children ages 12 and under to follow at 4 p.m. The contest winner receives a free bike.

If you'd like to volunteer at the parade, call the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce office at 517-676-1046.

### Fourth of July Family Picnic

Tuesday, July 4

1-5 p.m.

First Baptist Church of DeWitt  
11068 S. DeWitt Road, DeWitt  
[facebook.com/fbcdewittmi](https://facebook.com/fbcdewittmi)

The First Baptist Church of DeWitt is holding its annual Fourth of July celebration 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday (July 4). There will be free hot dogs, popcorn and lemonade, plus games, face painting and more. There won't be a fireworks display this year due to burn bans and fire concerns, but it's still a great (and free) chance to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

# Getting funky with Astro Hippy and ProGro

By LUCAS HENKEL

Last week, GRiZ, a DJ, music producer, lifelong stoner and Southfield native, launched the newest line of products for his cannabis brand, Astro Hippy, in collaboration with Lansing's PG Group. The product drop includes two strains, Frankie's Favorite and Mint Moon Goo.

**Frankie's Favorite (Secret Stash #2) | 27% THC | \$40/3.5g**

Named after GRiZ's beloved berne-



Lucas Henkel/City Pulse

doodle puppy, Frankie's Favorite is spicy, sweet and, honestly, one of my new favorite weed strains. In the bag, this hybrid strain smells earthy and downright funky. The buds are forest green with dark blue leaves and highlights of light orange hairs, and they become a perfectly fluffy consistency after

going through my grinder, perfect for a smooth bong rip.

The taste of Frankie's Favorite is complex and delicious. When inhaled, my mouth feels tingly — almost like I've eaten something with a decent amount of freshly cracked black pepper. However, the flavor is sweet yet flowery, reminiscent of fresh lavender. To quote a friend who smoked the strain with me, "I'll actually remember how this tastes. It's been a while since I've smoked weed with a positive, memorable taste."

The packaging is also memorable. The "Griz-loc" mylar bags are inspired by the good old days of acquiring cannabis, when you would receive bud in a Ziploc sandwich bag from your go-to connection. It's nostalgic, but it also makes me think of how far Michigan's cannabis industry has come since I first started smoking weed — and how far it has yet to go.

Frankie's Favorite is also available as a 1-gram live resin cartridge. I have a rule that I only use carts when I'm out and about as a way of convenience, but honestly, I've been puffing on this one since I took it out of the box. Each hit is tastier and smoother than the last. After a few puffs, I feel relaxed and giggly but focused at the same time. It's a great strain to smoke as I log more hours on my Nintendo Switch playing "The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom."

**Mint Moon Goo live resin cartridge | 87.6% THC | \$40/g**

Mint Moon Goo is a minty-fresh take on Astro Hippy's previously released Moon Goo strain. With terpene levels testing a little over 8%, this strain is a great option for folks who are hunting

for flavor. The minty taste is refreshing but not overpowering. When I let my friend hit my pen, they said it tasted a bit like oranges. I think they were a little high at the time, but there are definitely fruity undertones.

After a few puffs, my wife and I strolled down to the Allen Neighborhood Center for its weekly outdoor farmers market. I felt relaxed and at ease as we walked among the dozens of vendors. Feeling snappy, we grabbed a jar of homemade roasted strawberry and chamomile jelly from Naughty Goat Farm & Bakery and put it on every cracker we had in our pantry once we got home.

One of the things I really like about these cartridges is that they're made of ceramic, which is more porous than metal, meaning the live resin is better absorbed than with metal cartridges. You get a fuller flavor profile and a better overall taste. High-grade ceramic is also purer than other materials like metal, so it's usually free of contaminants that can tint the taste of what you're inhaling. Further, since ceramic cartridges don't use cotton for heat, it eliminates the possibility of the nasty burnt taste that's not uncommon with metal carts.

Lansing-area stoners can blast over to any Pure Options location and try out these two new strains for themselves. Folks outside Lansing's orbit can check out Weedmaps or astrohippie.com to find other retailers carrying Astro Hippy products.

*Lucas Henkel (he/him) is a columnist and advertising assistant for City Pulse. He is a cannabis enthusiast and*



Lucas Henkel/City Pulse

Astro Hippy cartridges are made of ceramic, which is more porous than metal, meaning the live resin is better absorbed than with metal cartridges. You get a fuller flavor profile and a better overall taste, among other benefits.

*advocate that has worked in the cannabis industry since 2019. When he's not reviewing weed from across the state of Michigan (and beyond), he lives in Lansing with his wife and three cats. Have a suggestion for a cannabis product? Email lucas@lansingcitypulse.com.*

## Making trans and nonbinary people's lives a little easier

By LUCAS HENKEL

The Allen Neighborhood Center is partnering with Michigan State University's Trans-illience, a community-engaged



**Gender Affirmation Project**

Visit [trans-illience.com/gap](https://trans-illience.com/gap) to make a donation or learn more

research and advocacy team focused on supporting the health and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse communities, to help support folks who are interested in making a change to their legal name and/or gender marker. The organizations are raising funds to support the program. When launched, the Gender Affirmation Project will provide logistical and, if needed, financial support to transgender and nonbinary individuals looking to legally affirm their gender, including any of the following: legal name changes, gender marker changes on Michigan state identification materials or licenses and name and/or gender marker changes on birth certificates. The program will be available to transgender and nonbinary Ingham County residents over the age of 18.

"The Allen Neighborhood Center is a place-based nonprofit organization. The

people in our community are stakeholders. We want our trans and nonbinary neighbors to feel supported," said Kat Logan, associate director of the Allen Neighborhood Center.

There are many barriers to legal gender affirmation, the process of amending names and gender markers on documents such as social security cards, birth certificates and driver's licenses. According to Trans-illience's Gender Affirmation Project webpage, the process typically includes a petition to the court, piles of confusing paperwork, publishing the notice of a legal name change in a newspaper — which can be a major safety issue in addition to an invasion of privacy — undergoing a background check, taking time off work or school to attend a court hearing and paying fees that can cost between \$300 to \$350 on average.

The U.S. Trans Survey, one of the largest surveys of transgender and nonbinary people in the United States, found in 2016 that a third of respondents who needed to show an identification card that didn't match the gender they identified with encountered negative experiences, with a quarter of those respondents reporting they were verbally harassed. According to the Gender Affirmation Project fundraising page, other research has shown that suicide attempt rates are twice as high for trans and nonbinary youth who are unable to update



Courtesy of Jae Puckett

Jae Puckett, director of MSU's Trans-illience research and advocacy team, said the organization's goal for the Gender Affirmation Project is to "help remove barriers that other people in our community may face so they can lead healthy and successful lives."

their identification documents due to restrictive policies. Legal gender affirmation is associated with less psychological distress, lower suicidal ideation and decreased odds of anxiety and depressive disorders as well as post-traumatic stress disorder and alcohol or substance abuse.

"The work that we are doing is grounded in community," said Jae Puckett, the director of Trans-illience and an assistant professor of ecological and community psychology at MSU. "A majority of our members and advisory board under-



Courtesy of the Allen Neighborhood Center

Kat Logan, associate director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, hopes the Gender Affirmation Project allows transgender and nonbinary community members to feel supported.

stand what it's like to navigate life daily as a transgender or nonbinary person because they themselves live it every day. We want to help remove barriers that other people in our community may face so they can lead healthy and successful lives."

Those interested in donating to the Gender Affirmation Project are encouraged to visit [trans-illience.com/gap](https://trans-illience.com/gap) and follow the link to the fundraising page. Ingham County residents seeking legal gender affirmation can visit the site and fill out a request form.

# Frank Bascombe's last ride ... maybe

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Frank Bascombe, the protagonist of five of author Richard Ford's novels and an unadulterated observer of all that is good, bad and insignificant in American life, is taking his last road trip.

In a conversation with Ford from Dublin, he swore his latest Bascombe novel, "Be Mine," would be his last, but then again, the series was supposed to be a trilogy.

He said he plans to focus on writing novellas, something he's done before to great acclaim. That and learning to play the harmonica.

Ford, who has written numerous novels, novellas and a few collections of short stories since graduating from Michigan State University in 1966 and later the University of California, is quite like Bascombe, looking at his life in a rear-view mirror.

Bascombe made his debut in Ford's 1986 book, "The Sportswriter," about a failed sports writer dealing with the death of his son. In Ford's most recent novel, Bascombe has come full circle and is once again looking at the impending "drive" to mortality with his oldest son, Paul, who's dying from ALS.

Ford uses road trips to propel his stories forward. In his first Bascombe novel, it was a trip to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Now, Bascombe and Paul are driving from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota to Mount Rushmore in South Dakota around Valentine's Day. All of Ford's Bascombe books revolve around a holiday trip, whether it's Christmas, Easter or the Fourth of July, which adds an underlying tension.

Despite edging toward 75, Bascombe hasn't changed much in the intervening years. He's still selling real estate; he's gone through

two divorces, prostate cancer and the death of his first wife; he faced down a hurricane; and he was shot in a botched robbery. We know this because Bascombe lists his travails like a shopping list on the first page of the novel.

The road trip gives Bascombe the opportunity to critique the kitschiest parts of America, like South Dakota's Mitchell Corn Palace and Mount Rushmore, which Ford finds "underwhelming" once you get past the collector keychains and coffee mugs. Ford seems to be telling us Mount Rushmore is smaller than you imagine, much like the life of Bascombe.

"I just love that shit, all the doodads that make up America," Ford said.

As Bascombe and his son drive the ribbons of highways in a rundown camper, their banter is not always friendly. Paul is an underachiever, most recently working as a security guard.

Many literary reviewers refer to Bascombe as the "everyman" in American literature, which Ford rails against. He doesn't like his writing to fit into neat little boxes. To Ford, Bascombe is an ordinary guy doing ordinary things and getting by with as few ripples as possible, despite being thrown a lot of curveballs.

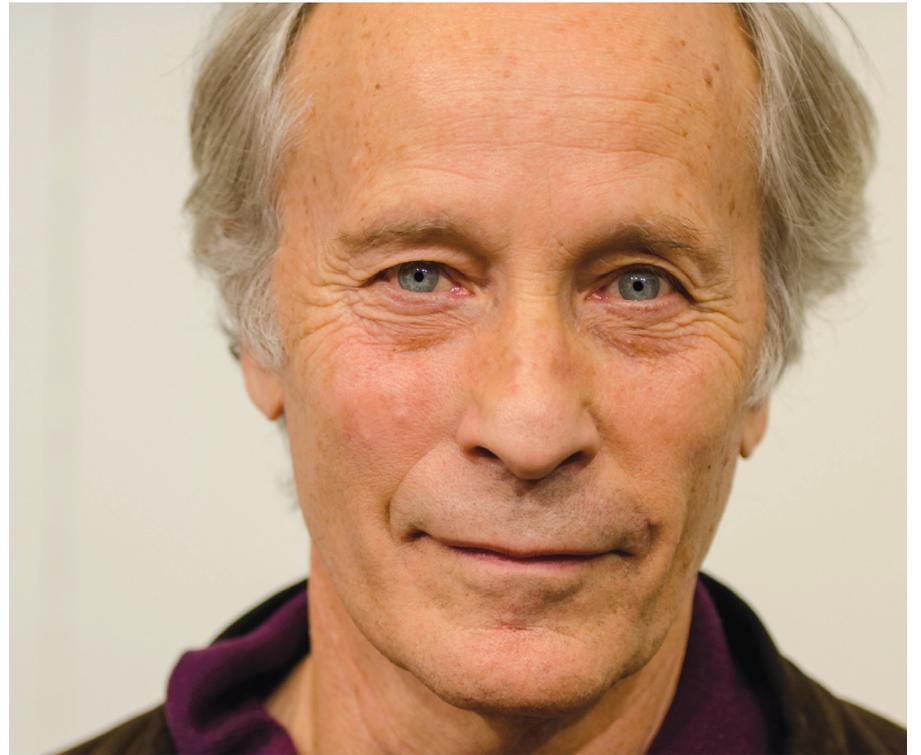
Ford is a keen observer of ordinary life, and Bascombe is his messenger. As a mantra, Ford has adopted the opening sentence of Joan Didion's book "The White Album": "We tell ourselves stories in order to live."

But he takes that maxim up a notch. On the road trip to death, he shadow boxes with what it means "to live and to die."

"It would be nice if you could forget. I'd like to forget the death of my father," he said.

Ford's father died when he was a young boy, and he was raised by his widowed mother, which he wrote a memoir about.

One thing hasn't changed in Ford's five Bascombe novels and the rest of



Courtesy of Wikipedia

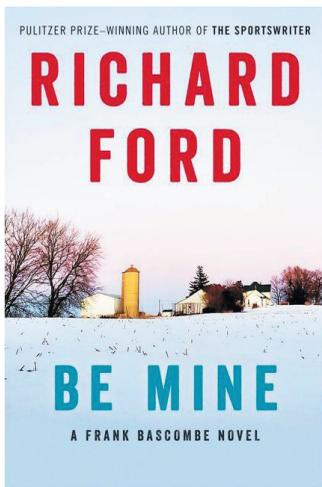
Richard Ford recently released the fifth and final novel in his Frank Bascombe series, "Be Mine." He plans to focus on learning the harmonica and writing novellas, something he's done before to great acclaim.

his previous work: Each is dedicated to his college sweetheart, Kristina. A few years ago, as he and Kristina left a dinner at Cowles House on MSU's campus, where they met so long ago, they walked holding hands like they did when they were undergraduates in the mid-'60s, then just a military brat and a girl who wanted to be in the hospitality industry. They've had each other's back since, both superstars (Kristina Ford is an urban planner) in their own fields. A few years ago, they showed their love for MSU by creating a \$10 million scholarship endowment.

Like Bascombe, they both love the thrill of buying and selling real estate. They recently sold a home on the coast of Maine and moved to Billings, Montana, where Ford can see the foothills of the Rocky Mountains from his downtown office.

"It was Kristina's idea — she's a Western girl," he said.

It's always a joy talking with Ford, and each time I learn something new about him. This time, I learned he's a fan of Groucho Marx and the 1950s' game show "You Bet Your Life." I now see some of Marx's persona in his writing.



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# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene **BY RICH TUPICA**

## ELDEN KELLY EXIT INTERVIEW: PART ONE



Courtesy of Jeff Dunn Photography

Lansing guitar virtuoso Elden Kelly is relocating to Memphis, Tennessee. His farewell album-release show is July 9 at the Turner-Dodge House.

For more than a decade, guitar virtuoso Elden Kelly has been a uniquely brilliant fixture in Lansing's music scene. Being an improvising musician nurtured by jazz but also a composer, singer-songwriter and solo fingerstyle guitarist, his distinct style is refined, pristine and downright jaw-dropping to witness in person.

However, Kelly's time in Lansing is nearing an end. Next month, he's moving to Memphis, Tennessee, because his wife, Lani Kelly, a classical oboist, landed a job with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Before that, he'll play a farewell concert and live album-release show July 9 at the Turner-Dodge House.

City Pulse caught up with the 37-year-old musician — here's what he had to say about the big move and his future as a Memphian.

*This is part one of a two-part interview; pick up the July 5 issue to read the conclusion.*

**Your wife has a new gig in Memphis, but do you have plans set up in Memphis yet?**

**Elden Kelly:** Although Memphis will be our new home base, my performing career is taking me to many places lately. In late June, I will perform overseas with the Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet at JazzAscona, a weeklong festival in Switzerland, where I'll join them for three concerts. I plan to return to Los Angeles soon with a new band I'm developing with accordionist Cory Pesaturo and mandolinist

**Elden Kelly - farewell concert and live album release**  
 July 9  
 2 p.m.  
 Turner-Dodge House  
 100 E. North St., Lansing  
 \$20-\$35  
 eldenkelly.com

Eva Scow. I have a new jazz project in the works with some big names in New York City that I can't reveal yet, but we will record sometime in the fall.

**When did you first start performing locally?**

Well, my first locale was Vermont, where I grew up. I was born in western Massachusetts, and at age 7, my family moved to Richmond, Vermont, just outside of Burlington. I began to perform there at coffeehouses in my early teenage years, and by 15, I was gigging around the jazz scene in Burlington. After music school in Boston, ages 18 to 22, I moved to Michigan, and I didn't perform a lot for about two or three years while I completed a degree in ethnomusicology. I started performing again here in Michigan when I was 24.

**Have you been to Memphis to check it out yet?**

I've been to Nashville, Tennessee, but I actually haven't ever been to Memphis. Coincidentally, my dad recently moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, about three years ago, so it'll be nice to be somewhat closer to him and my 95-year-old grandma in St. Louis.

Although Memphis is inarguably one of the cradles of the blues, I suspect its scene may be similarly varied under the surface. We'll see. I hope it allows me to play out in my home city more frequently — even during the week, not just on weekends.

**What can you tell us about this**

**limited CD release you'll have at the show?**

It's a sampler of original music and interpretations I played live in one take in front of a small gathering of friends and fans at Troubadour Recording in Lansing. There are originals, jazz fingerstyle and some transformations of familiar tunes. I wanted to capture what I do in a live solo show — no overdubs, layers or looping on this one.

**As for the Turner-Dodge farewell show setlist, what do you have in mind?**

The show will be a retrospective of original material I wrote while living in Lansing over the years. I'll play things from the CD and things not on the album. The material has developed over the years, and this show is for the fans and people who know me already but also those new to my music to represent a wide palette of my artistic personality.

**What initially brought you to Lansing?**

I'm grateful for the opportunity to have come to the Lansing area in the first place by Rodney Whitaker granting me a teaching assistantship for Ken Prouty, my master's degree adviser. It was a bit of an adjustment coming from living in Boston, but we like Lansing. I'm eternally grateful to my friend Gregg Hill and Cold Plunge Records. He has been an absolute rock for me as an artist. Honestly, my wife and I didn't have plans to stay in Lansing as long as we did after MSU, but the cost of living is great, and the people are some of the nicest you'll meet anywhere.

**How does it feel to leave Lansing?**

Transitions can certainly be hard, but what makes it all a lot easier for me is all the great connections I've made all around the state — from Traverse City and Lansing to Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo and the rich scene of Detroit that I'll look forward to returning to. Even though I'm not living here, I'll certainly be back to play.

**Looking back, what will be your fondest memories of Lansing?**

So many memories! My wife and I bought our first house here in Lansing less than a year ago. We built a little studio out back together. I didn't enjoy that for nearly as long as I had hoped, but what's more important are the skills I learned and who I became through building it. I never thought we could do it, but now we know how to build anywhere. The lesson was that the process, not just the final product, is valuable.



### Busy Lansing-based guitarist is now Memphis-bound

LANSING PARKS & RECREATION

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2023

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JUNE 21ST	THE KATHY FORD BAND - COUNTRY	DURANT PARK
JUNE 28TH	FROG AND THE BEEFTONES - BLUES	FULTON PARK
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
AUGUST 9TH	ALDACO - TEJANO	FRANCES PARK

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Photo by Kasey LyWare

Attendees at Lindsay and Nikki's wedding — from left, Sally Floyd; Chelsea Davis; Dave Butler; Kearstin Ervin; the brides Lindsay Dryer and Nikki Dryer; Rhonda Butler; Matt Butler; Megan Champlin; and Adam Champlin — are shown in this 2015 photo taken in Ionia, Michigan. Not in attendance, the writer, Josh Champlin, brother of Lindsay Dryer.

# My gay marriage mea culpa

By **JOSH CHAMPLIN**

*(The writer lives in Shiawassee County, where until recently he was a reporter for the Owosso Argus-Press.)*

It took almost eight years to realize I was a bigot. When I was just starting out in my journalism career, one of my first published stories was a 2015 feature about my sister, Lindsay, coming out and marrying a woman. The general theme was my reluctance and eventual grudging acceptance of her decision.

I was wrong. It wasn't enough to tell my sister I supported her. The right thing would have been to tell her — or anyone else who wanted or didn't want to hear it — that I supported her unconditionally. I do now, no matter what.

That story, in the San Diego Reader, which like City Pulse is an alternative newspaper, was headlined, "My Sister is Gay." I recounted my experiences, or lack thereof, of having interactions with members of LGBTQ+ community. At the end, I wrote that I wasn't going to her wedding. It was a matter of principle. There was no way for me to reconcile that ceremony, conducted by my stepdad. He was able to obtain his ordained minister certification for about \$11 online. Lindsay got married within days of the Supreme Court decision, I think fearing challenges that could have put the ruling in limbo. The point is that I wouldn't attend, due to some religious "high ground" upon which I supposedly lived. More on this later.

I grew up in the '80s and '90s, moving around a lot. I lived with my Mom and Lindsay in Kansas, Florida, Nebraska and finally Michigan, in Ionia, population

about 11,000, the biggest city in rural Ionia County and home of a maximum security prison with a population half the size of the town.

I still remember the other boys on the playground playing "smear the queer," where some random kid was chosen to be the "queer" and was then barraged by dodgeballs. I was probably 7 or so. I didn't even know what a "queer" was. Someone with big ears? Were they wearing a certain color? Did they have a really nice skateboard or BMX bike someone was jealous of?

Then it was on to middle and high school, where I eventually learned that some people, even some I might have known, may have been gay or lesbian. I didn't know if I knew anyone who was actually gay. I held no animosity toward gay people whatsoever. But when I heard and saw some poor kid being called gay slurs, I was indifferent. I didn't step up and stop it. And that was wrong.

I wasn't like that when other kids were bullied. Any time I witnessed some economically disadvantaged or special-needs kids being picked on, it absolutely enraged me. Even though I was small (I'm 5'6" and about 140 lbs. now), I stood up for them when they were bullied. Miraculously, I never got knocked out. One of the things I'm MOST proud of is something my brother Matt said. He was working with a former special-needs student whom I graduated high school with. He found out that Matt was my brother and took him aside. He asked my brother to thank me for standing up for him many times in high school when he was being bullied —

## Gay marriage

from page 15

20 years before. How he remembered that, I have no idea.

What I should have done, though, was to also defend those who were being called gay slurs. But I didn't.

After graduating from high school, I joined the Marine Corps and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, near San Diego. I was completely apolitical during this time, but I was exposed to the gay culture in Southern California, which had been not only visible but accepted for decades. I got hit on by gay men and trans women at clubs and bars. I didn't take it as an insult or an affront.

When it happened, friends would tease me, saying that maybe I liked it or something. Again, I was indifferent.

When my time in the Marines ended, and being homesick, I moved back to Michigan. For about nine years, I worked in jobs that didn't accomplish anything and made me feel like nothing I did mattered.

I could have worked myself to death in a factory. It was time for a move, and San Diego beckoned me. So I dropped everything, went back to San Diego, and got a job, apartment, a girlfriend and went to community college.

I was exposed to many of my girlfriend's LGBTQ+ friends, and always got along well with them. Later, after we broke up, I had gay roommates and friends. But I was still indifferent. I liked them and trusted them on a personal level, but on a political level, I stayed out of the entire debate. It didn't affect me.

In 2014, my sister, Lindsay, visited for a week to see the sights and do some exploring. She had recently come out as gay publicly, and family members first reacted with shock, then gradually came to accept it. A few months before in 2013, while I was visiting my family in Michigan, Lindsay blindsided everyone by announcing she was a lesbian at a birthday party for our grandmother. It was unexpected to say the least, because Lindsay had a then-10-year-old daughter.

My reaction at the time was, basically, "Hey, good for you, but I'm dealing with my own stuff right now." I put it out of my mind. I had enough to worry about with my job, landlord issues and my recent breakup with my girlfriend.

At the time, I had recently published my first-ever cover story, also in the San Diego Reader, about my roommate, another former Marine who struggled with PTSD and his substance abuse is-



Courtesy photo

Seen in this 2015 photo are, from left, stepfather Dave Butler; Lindsay Dryer; her wife, Nikki Dryer; and Lindsay Dryer's mother, Rhonda Butler.

sues. That story was about 5,200 words and actually got a ton of positive feedback.

Meanwhile, Lindsay's revelation was gnawing at me. The best therapy, I've found, is to write and get it all out there — let the chips fall where they may. So, I asked my sister if it would be OK to write a story about it. At that time, there was no plan to submit it for publication; it would be just something between us. I just wanted her to know my feelings, and wanted to know hers. She agreed it was a good idea, even if no one ever read it.

Sometimes, these things are tricky between siblings and family members. For example, as kids we used to whale the tar out of each other, but if anyone messed with her on the school bus, they were going to catch an ass-whipping from me. But as her brother, I could kick her ass whenever. I wish I could say that I won all those fights against Lindsay when we were kids, but that would definitely be untrue. She's a little scrapper and handed me my ass on several memorable occasions. How to approach the story? From a political perspective, or a personal one? I had to be careful. Just tell the story.

At that time, I was conservative, but was branching out and listening to all possible views. Previously in 2012, I had attended a Ron Paul rally at the University of California-La Jolla, where the doctor explained his campaign platform — he wanted to repeal laws, not make them. Politics is mostly scenery for the rubes, but his message resounded with me. Let the people be free from government intrusion into their lives. About 13,000 people attended that rally.

Three years later, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of gay marriage. That

ruling re-affirmed my faith in the ideals that we are supposed to espouse. Finally, the Supreme Court has put our courts and people on the right trajectory. You don't have to go to law school to understand what freedom means.

That decision took courage by the court to do the right thing, including the enshrinement in law of the right to gay marriage. Bush Jr. wouldn't have liked it. Fuck him. Gay rights shouldn't be a partisan or political, or even a religious issue.

The Hamtramck City Council has permanently covered itself in shame after banning the Pride flag from being displayed on city-owned property. This is blatant discrimination, and we should call it as it really is. The story about Lindsay was a perfect project for a college class I was taking at the time. After class one day, my professor sat down with me to personally go over the story. He told me it was worthy of publication and urged me to submit it to the Reader. Despite my misgivings about submitting something that was never meant for publication, I said I'd reach out to Lindsay and see what she thought. She was not only open to it — I think she wanted to gain some exposure on how small-minded many Michigan residents were about LGBTQ+ people who lived with us, were our friends, co-workers. The story ran, and Lindsay was not happy. People read this thing. The Reader had a weekly circulation of over 50,000. It got more exposure than she was counting on.

Not long after, I moved back to Michigan, and for the past five years, armed with an associate's degree in journalism, worked for the Owosso Argus-Press in Shiawassee County. One duty was to edit letters to the editor. Some of the things and opinions I've heard defy log-

ic and would make your blood boil.

It's difficult to actually read the biases and built-in hate for any viewpoint that doesn't align with theirs. And given that 63% of the paper's readership was Republican, I challenge you to do that but five years and then ever vote for a Republican again.

In all honesty, working in Shiawassee County has left me with nothing but disdain for Republicans. Go ahead and Google "Covidville, USA," on the web news site Bulwark.

But on the whole since publishing the story about Lindsay, LGBTQ+ issues didn't come up when I was in Shiawassee County, and I haven't touched the topic. The closest thing was last year at the Downtown Owosso Farmers Market. The county's Pride chapter had a booth on Saturday mornings. Well, some of the county's local religious zealots came out with bullhorns, saying completely inappropriate and unacceptable things. I did a story. The zealots said things about immorality, and all the rest of the drivel you can imagine. That's what passes for "controversy" in Shiawassee County.

My story about Lindsay and me in the Reader was published in 2015 — eight years ago. And it took far too long to realize I was wrong about not attending her wedding. I'll admit it now, though it should have come sooner.

Not that I'm alone in taking time to come around. According to a Gallup poll conducted this month, 71% of Americans now support same-sex marriage, and that number has consistently remained over 50% since 2010. In 1996, the number was 27%. Even in 2023, about half of Republicans believe gay marriage should be legal.

Perhaps we're evolving as a society in our beliefs, to accept others for who they are, and to respect human rights. Even in flyover country.

As the good doctor Hunter S. Thompson once alluded to, perhaps we can defeat the forces of "old and evil." Well, here's where I say my actions were a half-measure. They weren't good enough, and didn't do enough. And that will never happen again. I support Lindsay and her decisions — fully and unconditionally.

And if Lindsay were to get married today, I would absolutely go to her wedding to support her and her wife. Because in the last eight years, I've realized that family only ever comes once. But it's more important than that — we have one chance at this thing called life.

Whenever the great scribe comes to score against my name, they will never call me a bigot. I love people. And that means my sister. I'm only sorry for not supporting her sooner.

# Jonesin' Crossword

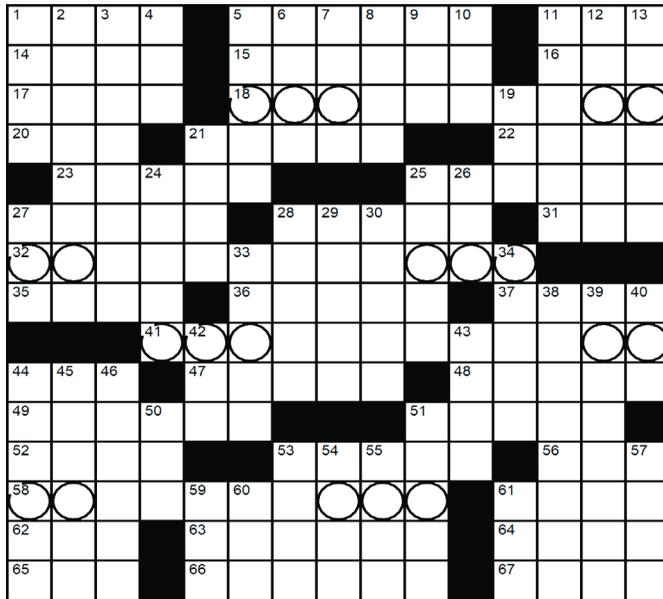
By Matt Jones

"Another Steak Out" -- they all make the cut.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2023 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. Haydn's nickname
- 5. The Big \_\_\_ ("Chantilly Lace" singer)
- 11. Drain of energy
- 14. River that passes by Essen, Germany
- 15. European country, to its residents
- 16. Boxing victory, for short
- 17. Nucleus locale
- 18. Aggressive handshaker's quality
- 20. Isle of \_\_\_ (Irish Sea land)
- 21. Nuts

- 22. 15-Across's capital, to us
- 23. Frankincense, e.g.
- 25. Amorphous (or creepy U.K. TV character Mr. \_\_\_... yeah, go look it up)
- 27. \_\_\_ Bell (Anne Bronte pseudonym)
- 28. Protagonist in "Racing Stripes," e.g.
- 31. Nondiscrimination hiring letters
- 32. Sudden good fortune, for example
- 35. Prefix with "allergenic"
- 36. A complete buzzkill
- 37. "Buyer beware" phrase
- 41. Shade enhanced by a diet of shrimp
- 44. Musical tool
- 47. "All good, thanks"
- 48. 1980s TV character Brewster
- 49. Home of the world's tallest building for about six years



- 51. Like Rembrandt
- 52. "Alice's Restaurant" singer Guthrie
- 53. Pop-up breakfast food?
- 56. Director Ang
- 58. Betty White's character on "The Golden Girls"
- 61. Indian restaurant basketful
- 62. "Another Green World" composer Brian
- 63. School poster paper
- 64. Celtic great Larry
- 65. Tax form ID
- 66. "Why am I included in this?"
- 67. A&E component

**DOWN**

- 1. Baby buggy, to Brits
- 2. Absolute sovereignty
- 3. Espionage device, pre-digital era
- 4. Triceps spot
- 5. Yellowstone grazers

- 6. Palindromic name
- 7. Gearshift position
- 8. Bit of strategy
- 9. One at Oktoberfest
- 10. Dryer at a car wash, sometimes
- 11. Flash light?
- 12. "Kimberly \_\_\_" (2023 Best Musical Tony winner)
- 13. Olive's guy
- 19. Miracle-\_\_\_ (plant food brand)
- 21. Charles, now
- 24. "\_\_\_ Flubber" (movie sequel)
- 25. Carried along, colloquially
- 26. Fond du \_\_\_, Wisconsin
- 27. Koln complaint
- 28. Goes fast
- 29. \_\_\_ Trinket (Elizabeth Banks, in "The Hunger Games")
- 30. Straightforward
- 33. As a friend, in Paris
- 34. Completely broken
- 38. Author Upton
- 39. German Y.A. fantasy series adapted into a 2008 movie
- 40. Blue, in jigsaw puzzles, often
- 42. Two Truths and a \_\_\_ (icebreaker game)
- 43. Orchestral work
- 44. Disconcerting looks
- 45. Producer Spelling and others
- 46. Subject of the article "How Tom Hanks Made Us Cry Over a Volleyball"
- 50. "The Raven" author
- 51. Ram maker
- 53. City northeast of Reno
- 54. Chutzpah
- 55. Eat away (at)
- 57. Remnants
- 59. On the double
- 60. "Boo-\_\_\_!"
- 61. Hawks' and Bucks' org.

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

June 28-July 4, 2023

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Physicist Albert Einstein said, "The formulation of a problem is often more essential than its solution, which may be merely a matter of mathematical or experimental skill. To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old questions from new angles requires creative imagination and makes real advances." What he said here applies to our personal dilemmas, too. When we figure out the right questions to ask, we are more than halfway toward a clear resolution. This is always true, of course, but it will be an especially crucial principle for you in the coming weeks.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** "Every great advance in natural knowledge has involved the absolute rejection of authority." So said Taurus biologist and anthropologist Thomas Huxley (1825-1895). I don't think you will have to be quite as forceful as that in the coming weeks. But I hope you're willing to further your education by rebelling against what you already know. And I hope you will be boisterously skeptical about conventional wisdom and trendy ideas. Have fun cultivating a feisty approach to learning! The more time you spend exploring beyond the borders of your familiar world, the better.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Hooray and hallelujah! You've been experimenting with the perks of being pragmatic and well-grounded. You've been extra intent on translating your ideals into effective actions. I'm not sure I've ever seen you so dedicated to enjoying the simple pleasures. I love that you're investigating the wonders of being as down-to-earth as you dare. Congratulations! Keep doing this honorable work.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** I wrote my horoscope column for more than 10 years before it began to get widely syndicated. What changed? I became a better writer and oracle, for one thing. My tenacity was inexhaustible. I was always striving to improve my craft, even when the rewards were meager. Another important factor in my eventual success was my persistence in marketing. I did a lot of hard work to ensure the right publications knew about me. I suspect, fellow Cancerian, that 2024 is likely to bring you a comparable breakthrough in a labor of love you have been cultivating for a long time. And the coming months of 2023 will be key in setting the stage for that breakthrough.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Maybe you wish you cared more deeply about a certain situation. Your lack of empathy and passion may feel like a hole in your soul. If so, I have good news. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to find the missing power; to tap into the warm, wet feelings that could motivate your quest for greater connection. Here's a good way to begin the process: Forget everything you think you know about the situation with which you want more engagement. Arrive at an empty, still point that enables you to observe the situation as if you were seeing it for the first time.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You are in an astrological phase when you'll be wise to wrangle with puzzles and enigmas. Whether or not you come up with crisp solutions isn't as crucial as your earnest efforts to limber up your mind. For best results, don't worry and sweat about it; have fun! Now I'll provide a sample riddle to get you in the mood. It's adapted from a text by David Wallechinsky and Irving Wallace. You are standing before two identical closed doors: one leading to grime and confusion, the other to revelation and joy. Before the doors stand two figures: an angel who always tells the truth and a demon who always lies. But they look alike, and you may ask only one question to help you choose which door to take. What do you do? (Possible answer: Ask either character what the other would say if you asked which door to take, then open the opposite door.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** I found a study that concluded just 6.1% of online horoscopes provide legitimate predictions about the future.

Furthermore, the research indicated 62.3% of them consist of bland, generic pabulum of no value to the recipient. I disagree with these assessments. Chani Nicholas, Michael Lutin, Susan Miller and Jessica Shepherd are a few of many regular horoscope writers whose work I find interesting. My own astrological oracles are useful, too. And, by the way, how can anyone have the hubris to decide which horoscopes are helpful and which are not? This thing we do is a highly subjective art, not an objective science. In the spirit of my comments here, Libra, and in accordance with astrological omens, I urge you to declare your independence from so-called experts and authorities who tell you they know what's valid and worthwhile for you. Here's your motto: "I'm the authoritative boss of my own truth."

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Is it a fact that our bodies are made of stardust? Absolutely true, says planetary scientist Dr. Ashley King. Nearly all the elements comprising our flesh, nerves, bones and blood were originally forged in at least one star, maybe more. Some of the stuff we are made of lived a very long time in a star that eventually exploded: a supernova. Here's another amazing revelation about you: You are composed of atoms that have existed for almost 14 billion years. I bring these startling realities to your attention, Scorpio, in honor of the most expansive phase of your astrological cycle. You have a mandate to deepen and broaden and enlarge your understanding of who you are and where you came from.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** I foresee that August will be a time of experiments and explorations. Life will be in a generous mood toward you, tempting and teasing you with opportunities from beyond your circle of expectations. But let's not get carried away until it makes cosmic sense to get carried away. I don't want to urge you to embrace wild hope prematurely. Between now and the end of July, I advise you to enjoy sensible gambles and measured adventures. It's OK to go deep and be rigorous, but save the full intensity for later.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Is there a crucial half-conscious question lurking in the underside of your mind? A smoldering doubt or muffled perplexity that's important for you to address? I suspect there is. Now it's time to coax it up to the surface of your awareness so you may deal with it forthrightly. You must not let it smolder there in its hiding place. Here's the good news, Capricorn: If you bring the dilemma or confusion or worry into the full light of your consciousness, it will ultimately lead you to unexpected treasure. Be brave!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** In Larry McMurtry's novel "Duane's Depressed," the life of the main character has come to a standstill. He no longer enjoys his job. The fates of his kids are too complicated for him to know how to respond. He has a lot of feelings but has little skill in expressing them. At a loss about how to change his circumstances, he takes a small and basic step: He stops driving his pickup truck and instead walks everywhere he needs to go. Your current stasis is nowhere near as dire as Duane's, Aquarius. But I do recommend you consider his approach to initiating transformation: Start small and basic.

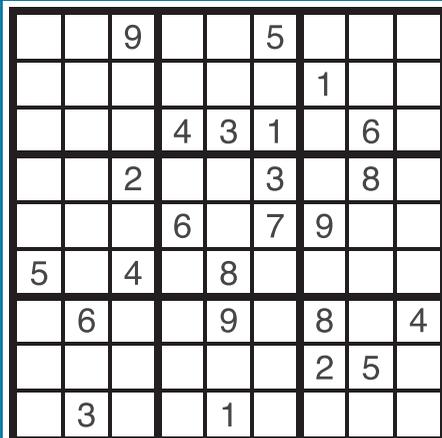
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Author K. V. Patel writes, "As children, we laugh fully with the whole body. We laugh with everything we have." In the coming weeks, Pisces, I would love for you to regularly indulge in just that: total delight and release. Furthermore, I predict you will be more able than usual to summon uproarious life-affirming amusement from the depths of your enchanted soul. Further furthermore, I believe you will have more reasons than ever before to throw your head back and unleash your entire self in rippling bursts of healing hysterical hilarity. To get started, practice chuckling, giggling and chortling for one minute right now.

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Answers on page 19

# 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!

# 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 28

**2023 Barney Awards** - We'll reminisce about our favorite scenes and songs from this season's shows, look ahead to season 35, present awards and enjoy food and drinks. Cocktail attire encouraged. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

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

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

**Bingo** - Entry pack \$20, includes regular games and dauber. Early bird and jackpot games sold separately. Charity game tickets available. Food available for purchase. Doors at 4:30 p.m., early bird games at 6, regular games at 6:30. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

**"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](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Bookend Art Gallery display by mixed-media artist Angela DeVries** - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

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

**Chalk Painting** - Bring your friends and family to the Playground of Dreams for an all-ages craft! 3 p.m. 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**CharLit Adult Book Club at Charlotte Community Library** - Informational meet and greet where participants will pick out the club's first book, which will be discussed in July. 6:30 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**The Diamond Sutra Workshop with Oliver Zhang** - Learn about the Diamond Sutra, or "The Perfection of Wisdom Text that Cuts Like a Thunderbolt." 6:30-8:30 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. 517-371-3010. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

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

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 10 a.m.-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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - Sing your favorite tunes or bring a group and listen while enjoying drinks and food. 7-10 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Lansing Concerts in the Park - Frog & the Beeftones** - 7 p.m. Fulton Park, 4300 Sheffield Blvd., Lansing. 517-483-4000. [lansingmi.gov/994/concerts-in-the-park](http://lansingmi.gov/994/concerts-in-the-park).

**"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).

**Make a Megis Shell Necklace** - presented by the Zibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways. Best for ages 6+ with parental assistance. Registration req. 2-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Meridian Dems Meeting** - Summer fundraiser party featuring music, food and fun. \$25 donation suggested. Mitchell Robinson, a Democratic member of the state Board of Education, will discuss initiatives, issues, problems and solutions regarding public schools in Michigan. 6 p.m. social time, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-351-8547. [facebook.com/meridiandems](http://facebook.com/meridiandems).

**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).

**Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society: Preserving Physical and Digital Materials, Scanning Photographs and Long-Term Storage with Heidi Butler of CADL** - 7 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. [mmgs.wordpress.com](http://mmgs.wordpress.com).

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

**Rummage and Bake Sale** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Liederkrantz Club Lansing, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-882-6330. [facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub](http://facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub).

See Events, Page 19

### Capital City Comic Con

4-8 p.m. Friday, June 30

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, July 1

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, July 2

Lansing Center

333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

The 8th annual Capital City Comic Con, running Friday (June 30) through Sunday (July 2), offers a host of comic-book- and pop-culture-themed activities for all ages, including costume contests, meet and greets with celebrity guests, esports tournaments, tabletop gaming, panels, workshops, vendors and more.

Attendees can take part in "Fortnite," "Super Smash Bros." and "Street Fighter" tournaments throughout the weekend, with prizes for the winning players. Guests can rent Xbox, PlayStation and Nintendo Switch controllers for free or bring their own.

The tabletop gaming area in the Radisson Hotel, located across the Grand River from the Lansing Center at the corner of Michigan and Grand avenues, offers both an open-play area and scheduled events, including Dungeons & Dragons Adventurers League campaigns, a Dungeons & Dragons player vs. player arena charity event and Magic: The Gathering games. The space is open 10 a.m. to midnight Friday, 8 a.m. to midnight Saturday and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

There are four costume contests throughout the weekend. Friday offers an all-ages animation-themed contest, where attendees can dress up as characters from animated films or TV shows. During the main event on Saturday, there will be a contest for ages 13 and up, and at the afterparty at Lansing Shuffle, there will be a contest for ages 21 and up. Sunday offers a kids' contest, limited to ages 12 and under. Guests can dress up as whichever character they prefer for the Saturday and Sunday contests.

The vendor hall features hundreds of booths from artists, publishers, writers, video game developers, charities and more. There are a number of celebrity guests to meet, including actors and actresses, comic book creators and publishers.

There are also a plethora of workshops and panels every day, with topics ranging from self-publishing and crowdfunding to creating cosplay jewelry and making your own dice for tabletop games.

Following the main events, Lansing Shuffle will host afterparties 8 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, featuring food and drinks for purchase, DJ sets and booths from artists and vendors. Friday evening, the "sci-fi geek" band Wesley and the Crushers will play an album-release show, and Saturday evening, there will be a cash-prize costume contest and a cosplay photography contest.

Midtown Brewing Co. is also hosting a pop culture trivia contest 8 p.m. Saturday.

Weekend passes are \$60, Friday and Sunday passes are \$20, and Saturday passes are \$30. Tickets are free for children 13 and under. To purchase tickets or learn more about the events, visit [capcitycomiccon.com](http://capcitycomiccon.com).



**Live & Local** **CityPULSE**  
**Red Cedar Spirits**  
 2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
**Lisa Smith and Friends**  
 Fri., June 30, 7-10 p.m.



# Events

from page 18

**St. Johns "Concert in the Park" series featuring LANSING CONCERT BAND BIG BAND** - Bring a lawn chair or blanket. 7 p.m. St. Johns City Park, 801 W. Park St., St. Johns. clintoncountyparks.org/experience-the-arts/concert-in-the-park.

**Weaving the Web: Beauty** - 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. weaversoftheweb.org.

**Wednesday Night Free Concerts - Shellouts (classic rock)** - 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. meridian.mi.us/calendar.

**Wine Down Wednesday** - \$1 off glasses of wine. Reservation req. Call during regular business hours to reserve your spot. 5-7 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 5635 Shoeman Road, Haslett. 517-655-2883. burgdorfwinery.com.

## Thursday, June 29

**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.

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. 517-641-6728. shoppbfm.org.

**"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.

**Bookend Art Gallery display by mixed-media artist Angela DeVries** - Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

**Community Helpers** - Learn how different professions help our community! Take a look at their vehicles and hear about their jobs. Grades K-3. 10:30 a.m. Playground of Dreams Pavilion #2, 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**Concerts at the Shell - Meridian Community Band** - 7 p.m. McCormick Park, 300 N. Putnam St., Williamston. facebook.com/williamstonconcerts.

**Dimondale Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. villageofdimondale.org.

**Harborcoat (Solo Acoustic)** - 5 p.m. Horrocks Farm Market, 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-323-3782. shophorrocks.com.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community

Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**JP Peters at Old Bag of Nails Pub** - JP of JP & The Energy makes a solo stop at the newest venue to host live music, Old Bag of Nails. 7 p.m. 210 Cascade Blvd., Lansing. 517-826-6266. oldbagofnails.com.

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**Laingsburg Farmers Market** - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1.

**Lansing City Council Candidate Meet & Greet** - Opportunity to meet and greet candidates for Lansing City Council before the Aug. 8 primary election. 6:30 p.m. Lansing Public Media Center, 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lwvlansing.org.

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

**Modern Dance Class** - Push your body in a creative way while engaging artistically with emotional honesty. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Music in the Park - Tony Thompson & Friends, opener Wild Honey Collective** - Bring your friends and a lawn chair or blanket. Food concessions available onsite. 7 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/music\_in\_the\_park.php.

**QPR Training** - Evidence-based emergency mental health intervention that teaches participants to recognize signs of suicide and the steps to getting a person help. Adults only. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Rummage and Bake Sale** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Liederkrantz Club Lansing, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-882-6330. facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub.

**Summer Concerts on the Square - Jimmy & the Mortals** - 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-543-0400. micharlotte.org.

**Two Rivers Sounds of Summer - We Three Strings** - Grab takeout from one of our nearby restaurants and bring chairs, blankets, family and friends. Free. 6:30 p.m. Two Rivers Park, Dixie Highway, Portland. miportland.org/events.

**Upbeat Thursdays with Anthony Taylor Trio plus Open Jam after the show** - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

## Friday, June 30

**"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.

## EVOLVE! block party and drag/burlesque shows

Saturday, July 1  
2-11 p.m.

**117 W. South St., Lansing**  
To close out Pride Month, Tease A Gogo, a Lansing-based burlesque, drag and comedy event series, and House of Manifestation, a Lansing-based performers' collective, are teaming up to host their 2nd annual Pride-themed block party 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday (July 1) in REO Town.

The event is all-inclusive and open to all ages, focusing on allyship, art and self-love. There will be kids' activities, live music and performances, vendor booths, food and drinks for purchase and chances to connect with LGBTQ+ community members and local organizations that support LGBTQ+ interests.

There is a \$10 suggested donation for attendees.

After the block party, guests ages 18 and older can stick around for a House of Manifestation drag show at 6:30 p.m., hosted by local drag performer Auroara Manifesto, and a Tease A Gogo burlesque show at 8:30 p.m., hosted by Grand Rapids-based artist, comedian and character actor Sarah Jean Anderson. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. To purchase tickets in advance, visit [brownpapertickets.com/event/6022553](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/6022553).



**Capital City Comic Con** - Comic book artists and writers, celebrities, esports sessions, artists and vendors, tabletop gaming, cosplay contests, panels, workshops and more! 4-8 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Comic Con Official Afterparty: Wesley and the Crushers CD & Comic Book Release Party** - Food, drinks, live music by Wesley and the Crushers, DJ sets and more. 8 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Cruise to Holt** - Bring your classic, modern or project cars and bikes — if it has wheels, bring it, or just come take a look! 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market parking lot, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. 517-694-2135. delhitownshipmi.gov.

**Darin Larner Jr.** - 6:30 p.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 5001 N. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-901-5001. onenorthdining.com.

**Elysia Marie: Bringing the Show Home!** - 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**"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.

**Friday Night Concert Series - Meridian Community Band** - Kids can enjoy big wheel tricycles at the tricycle track, a bounce house and a giant inflatable slide. 7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Bandshell, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. 517-676-2233. pk.ingham.org.

**Karaoke at High Caliber Karting** - No drink minimum, no cover charge, all ages welcome. 7-11 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. 517-721-1790. highcaliberkarting.com.

**Lansing Common FC vs. Thundercats SC** - Drinks from Strange Matter Coffee and food from Stacks BBQ and La India Mexicana Cocina food trucks, plus regular concessions. 7 p.m. Eastern Stadium, 400 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. lansingcommonfc.com.

**Rummage and Bake Sale** - \$3 bag day. 9 a.m.-noon. Liederkrantz Club Lansing, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-882-6330. facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub.

**Seth Austin at Harrison Roadhouse** - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

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

See Events, Page 20

# Red Cedar spirits®

July specials for . . .

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### 2023 award winning bourbon

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**2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing**  
4 - 11 p.m. Thu, Fri and Sat, 4 - 9 p.m. Tues Wed, Sun

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

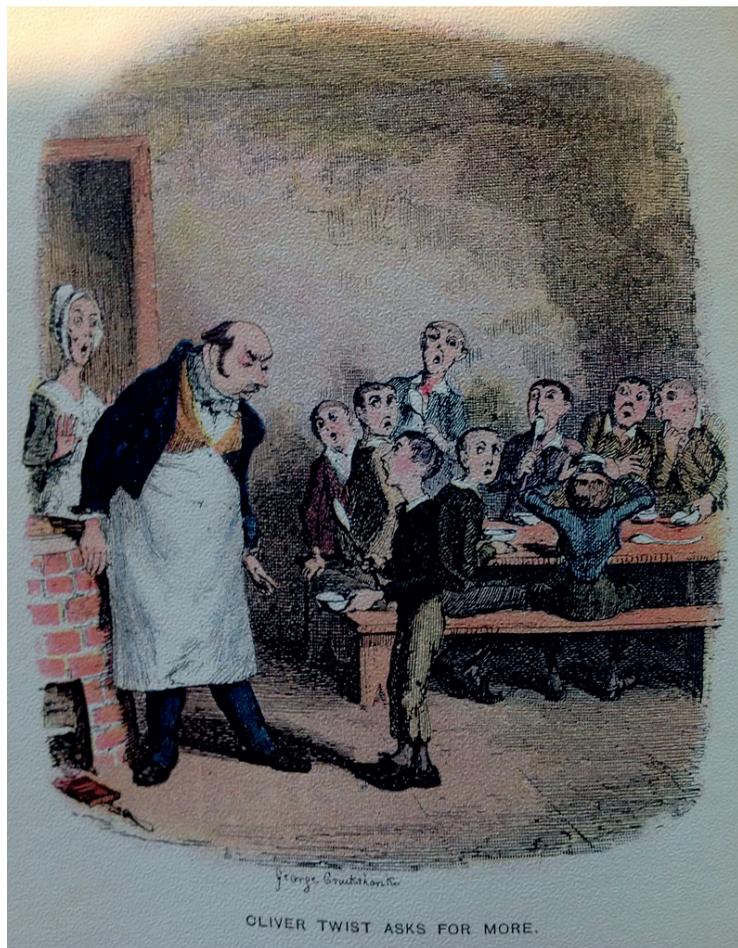
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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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Lansing, MI 48912

**CityPULSE**

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

## Events

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**Two-Faced Wilson at The Peanut Barrel** - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

### Saturday, July 1

**"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.

**Capital City Comic Con** - Comic book artists and writers, celebrities, esports sessions, artists and vendors, tabletop gaming, cosplay contests, panels, workshops and more! 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Comic Con Official Afterparty** - Food, drinks, costume contest, cosplay photography competition, DJ sets and more. 8 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Grand Ledge Community Food Drive** - Runs July 1-31. Donations will be delivered to the Grand Ledge SDA Food & Clothing Bank. For a list of items needed, visit gladl.org. Drop items off at the Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

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

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

**River Walk Trash Cleanup** - Pick up the trash on the Lansing River Trail and the areas around our building! We'll walk for about 30 minutes together, then head back to the church for disposal and cleanup. 11 a.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

**Tease A Gogo & HOME Present: EVOLVE! An All-Inclusive, All-Ages Block Party** - Free Pride-themed block party with kids' activities, entertainment, live music, local entrepreneurs and more. 2-6 p.m. 117 W. South St., Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

**Tease A Gogo & HOME Present: EVOLVE! A Celebration of Inclusion, Art & Self Love** - Refreshments and food available for purchase. 18+. House of Manifestation drag show at 6:30 p.m., Tease A Gogo Burlesque Extravaganza at 8:30 p.m. 117 W. South St., Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

### Sunday, July 2

**"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.

**Capital City Comic Con** - Comic book artists and writers, celebrities, esports sessions, artists and vendors, tabletop gaming, cosplay contests, panels, workshops and more! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Conversation Café: "God Is Everywhere"** - Read and discuss "God Is Everywhere," a Unity archive article by Glen Clark (1946). 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

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

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

St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

**Laingsburg Outdoor Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Roosevelt Row, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1.

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

**Live music on the patio with Tony Thompson** - Noon-3 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

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

### Monday, July 3

**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.

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

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

**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.

**Reiki for Kids & Teens** - Fun, engaging, hands-on activities will teach students about Reiki energy and its history. 5 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

### Tuesday, July 4

**4th of July: Military Members Receive Free Admission!** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

**Independence Day Parade 2023** - 4:30 p.m. Mason High School, 1001 S. Barnes St., Mason. 517-676-1046. business.masonchamber.org.

**LAGE Game Night East** - Variety of board games, card games, dice games, cooperative games and strategy games. Bring your own or play games other people bring. All skill levels welcome. 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

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

**Trivia at Lansing Shuffleboard & Social Club with DJ Trivia** - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

### Wednesday, July 5

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

# FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

# A sobering taste of drunken noodles

By LIZY FERGUSON

It's a sign of maturity to be able to admit you're wrong, and I'm hopefully creeping a bit closer to behaving like an actual adult by acknowledging that I had it all wrong about Taste of Thai. I don't remember exactly how my negative bias formed, but prior to last week, I hadn't been there in years and had no plans to return. Thankfully, a friend offered to pick up a Thai dinner for us, denying me — out of Midwest politeness — the ability to decline and affording me the opportunity to eat a healthy serving of crow. I selected the Pad Kee Mao, also known as drunken noodles due

to its popularity and efficacy as a meal to gobble up during or after a night of heavy alcohol consumption. Though

I was stone-cold sober, I can see why it would be the perfect pairing. The thick, chewy rice noodles, bathed in a rich and slightly spicy gravy and heavily laden with fresh Thai basil, delivered a wonderful, carb-heavy mouth feel. You have your choice of protein, and though I'm a habitual tofu or chicken person, I opted for beef this time. For this dish, I think beef is the best choice. The meat was perfectly cooked, a rarity in stir-fry dishes, and it imbued the delectable sauce with its richness, which was balanced out by strands of green onion,

the aforementioned basil and crunchy bean sprouts.

This is a dish I've had many times from many different places, but this was the best of them all. Don't get me wrong, I've never had a bad plate of drunken noodles, but sometimes it can taste like the dish itself had a long night — overcooked noodles, cooked-to-death vegetables, et cetera. Taste of Thai's version was fresh, lively and full of rich textures and flavors.

Now that I know better, I'm excited to go back and look at every menu item through this newly informed lens — especially the Taste of Thai Noodle, which boasts the restaurant's signature tamarind sauce, a unique, earthy, sweet-and-sour taste I can never get enough of. I'd also like to do some drinking



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

Pad kee mao, or drunken noodles, is a popular dish to gobble up during or after a night of heavy alcohol consumption, but Taste of Thai's version is delicious even when you're stone-cold sober.

there — the restaurant offers a variety of interesting and lovely-looking beverages, including Thai Iced Green Tea and Butterfly Pea Flower Tea. The point is, Taste of Thai, I'm sorry. I was wrong.



### Pad Kee Mao

\$15.25

Taste of Thai

2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday  
Noon-10 p.m. Saturday

Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

517-324-0225

tasteofthaiel.com

### 3. Olga's Kitchen

Chain restaurant specializing in Mediterranean-inspired flatbread sandwiches and salads

354 Frandor Ave., Lansing

517-332-2500

olgas.com

10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

### 4. Zeus' Coney Island

Casual eatery with Greek dishes, burgers, hot dogs, Reuben sandwiches and more

6525 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

517-272-7900

grecianisland.com

7 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

### 5. Lou and Harry's Bar/Grill

Sports bar offering Greek food, burgers, specialty drinks and more

211 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

517-657-2762

louhas.com

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday

11 a.m.-2 a.m. Tuesday-Sunday

Coming Sept. 13: Top of the Town 2023

## TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

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

### TOP 5 GREEK FOOD

#### 1. Zaytoon — both locations

Fast-casual restaurant serving shawarma, falafel and other Mediterranean staples. See zaytoongrill.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

#### 2. Steakhouse Philly Bar & Grill

Relaxed bar and eatery serving classic and creative cheesesteaks, plus Greek fare  
3020 Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
517-337-2210  
steakhousephilly.com  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
Noon-6 p.m. Sunday

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# Cooked as a cucumber?

By **ARI LEVAUX**

At an overpriced tapas joint, I once took a chance on charred cucumber salad. The dish sounded counterintuitive, to put it delicately, because everyone knows cucumber should be served cool. Cooking a cucumber would be like giving Samson a haircut before a battle.

The best have tried — and failed — to find a way to cook cucumbers that people want to eat. Even the late James Beard, with a recipe for poached cucumbers, couldn't pull it off. The limp slices were only rendered edible with the cream, mushrooms and twist of black pepper he called for. I was not converted.

Yet there I was, ordering a dish I was quite sure I would hate on the longshot possibility that the rules of culinary physics might be temporarily bent by some cucumber-whispering chef. Perhaps there would be enough heat to induce a measure of charred fragrance without silencing the loudest crunch in the vegetable kingdom. But no, I got \$16 worth of sliced, blackened sog-giness, stuck to chunks of goat cheese like clothes scattered upon furniture. Another failed attempt to cook a cucumber.

Cucumbers are mostly water, so it's no surprise they don't respond to fire. In Malaysian rendang curry, cooled cucumber slices often accompany the spicy gravy, at the ready to douse any flames.

The synergy between cucumber and water is the driving force behind the resurgent trend of cucumber water. By now you have surely noticed the large, clear dispensers of cucumber water that

have replaced water coolers in lobbies, waiting rooms, offices, dining rooms and wherever else fine water is served. They are designed to display the cucumber slices, which soak prominently inside the transparent tanks, quietly releasing their cucumber coolness into the drink.

You don't need a fancy fruit-infusing cooler to make cucumber water. All you need are cucumbers, water and a vessel. It's a bit like making sun tea — but without the sun. Instead, use ice to hold the temperature where it needs to be.

To make cucumber water, wash a cucumber and slice it thinly, unpeeled. Discard the ends. Add the cucumber to the water, along with lemon slices or other cool ingredients. Wait. Drink. Feel cool.

The mild, refreshing flavor of cucumber may be subtle, but it's persistent. If given the chance, it will quietly impregnate everything in its path, allowing a small amount of cucumber to flavor a lot of water — and hydrate a lot of people.

That mild cucumber flavor is famously harnessed when the vegetable is mixed with garlic, mint and yogurt. This combination of flavors is found in many parts of the world, from Indian raita to Greek tzatziki. The mint enhances the cooling action, while the garlic balances the minty aroma with its sharp pungency.

Here is an example of this combina-



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

The mild, refreshing flavor of cucumber is famously harnessed when the vegetable is mixed with garlic, mint and yogurt, as it is in khyar bi laban, a Lebanese cucumber-yogurt salad.

tion in a recipe for Lebanese khyar bi laban, or cucumber-yogurt salad. The chunks of cucumber add their watery crunch to a flavor that's salty and refreshing, like a dunk in the ocean in the middle of summer.

## Khyar bi laban

This combination of cucumber, yogurt, mint and garlic straddles the line between a dressing and a salad depending on what you serve it with and how finely you chop the cucumber. Today's recipe is a salad, so the chunks are large.

I don't typically peel cucumbers, but I do for this recipe to preserve the classic white look.

Makes 4 servings

3 cups peeled cucumber, diced into 1/2-inch cubes or smaller

1 1/2 cups yogurt (preferably strained, aka Greek style)

12 large, fresh mint leaves

1 teaspoon minced garlic (minced with the mint, see below)

1 tablespoon salt

Place the cucumber in a strainer, sprinkle it with salt and set it aside for 30 minutes so the salt can draw water from the cucumber. Give it a gentle stir every 10 minutes to help coax the water out. Meanwhile, mince or crush the garlic and mint together, then stir this mixture into the yogurt. Give the cucumbers a gentle squeeze and combine them with the yogurt, garlic and mint. Chill for 30 minutes. Serve cool.

## FLASH in the pan



## Appetizers

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Lansing  
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## Events

from page 20

**"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.

**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.

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

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - Sing your favorite tunes or bring a group and listen while enjoying drinks and food. 7-10 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Kindness Rocks** - Share messages of kindness and create art on rocks to keep or share! Registration req. 2 and 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. glad.org.

**Lainey Kay** - 7-10 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

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

**St. Johns "Concert in the Park" Series featuring MIRANDA AND THE M80S** - Bring a lawn chair or blanket. 7 p.m. St. Johns City Park, 801 W. Park St., St. Johns. clintoncountyarts.org/experience-the-arts/concert-in-the-park.

**"Troop Beverly Hills" Movie Night** - Popcorn and refreshments will be provided. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**Weaving the Web: Fire** - 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. weaversoftheweb.org.

**Wednesday Night Free Concerts - Meridian Community Band** - 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. meridian.mi.us/calendar.

## Thursday, July 6

**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.

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

**"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.

**Concerts at the Shell - Cedar Creek (bluegrass)** - 7 p.m. McCormick Park, 300 N. Putnam St., Williamston. facebook.com/williamstonconcerts.

**Dimondale Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. villageofdimondale.org.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Laingsburg Farmers Market** - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1.

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