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July 19-25, 2023

CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us
Locally owned

THE Music ISSUE



Tried everything to save it. Now save yourself!



ABOOD

L A W F I R M 1 9 5 6

All the evidence you need is right in front of you. The same people who preferred “whites only” signs are the ones attacking the LGBTQIA+ community. The ones who deny systemic racism are the same ones who claim the Civil War was about states’ rights. The same ones who are saying white men are victims of persecution marched in Charlottesville chanting “Jews will not replace us” and carrying tiki torches. There is a little domestic white terrorism in all of them, and a lot of domestic terrorism in some of them. They are hoarding guns and claiming patriotism. They’ve labeled the entire left as pedophiles, devaluing the meaning of the word. These folks are the remnants of Confederate traitors, and they are working in courtrooms, police and fire departments, your bank, and anywhere else you can think of.

Germany stank up the world a while back. Even they saw and acknowledged their shame. You don’t see statues of Nazis standing in their country. You don’t see Nazi flags flying. They paid reparations to victims of the Holocaust. They made efforts to educate their population so they could learn from it and prevent it from happening again.

Yet, here, people will defend monuments of hate because we have allowed it instead of teaching the deep-seated hate that the losers of the Civil War can’t get over. They mask it as states’ rights, but we all know what it is. They print textbooks with black and white photos to give the illusion that everything was so long ago.

White Supremacy is a helluva drug. As I listen to right-wing talk radio every day, I am astounded at their audacity, but, honestly, it is just disappointing to think that they consider themselves intellectuals. Now, I may not be the



smartest guy in the room, but at least I can connect the freaking dots. On a very popular radio show this week, I heard them make that age-old claim again, “We fought a Civil War over states’ rights” and, honestly, I thought of all the young, impressionable young men who might be listening, and it’s depressing to think that they would believe that to be true. But these hosts of these programs seem sincere and even appealing, with tens, if not hundreds of millions of listeners.

We are failing the portion of this country that needs a better education in history and critical thinking. It shouldn’t be surprising that they don’t want Critical

Race Theory in schools, but they’d be OK with the Bible. The irony of white supremacy is that all you have to do to make them feel superior is not teach them the truth. It’s a miseducation that is costing lives, honor, money, and civility. Imagine how easy it is to go down the rabbit hole in conspiracy when you don’t have a basic grasp on truth and you don’t have

the tools to question something and your only research is YouTube and some guy you listen to that makes claims which support your existing beliefs.

Remember this: Lincoln was a Republican when Republicans were liberal. Do not let them claim he was anything like the GOP of today. And even though he signed the Emancipation Proclamation, he too,

wanted this to be a white nation. That grand ol’ party is not about liberty or freedom for anybody but the apologists of the Deep South and its plantation mentality.

Truth matters.

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CityPULSE

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World Heritage is a public benefit, non-profit organization based in Laguna Beach, CA.

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Cannabis Cup-winning products to hunt down

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com
CLASSIFIEDS & OBITUARIES: (517) 999-6704

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR •
arts@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

OFFICE MANAGER • Kamara Drane
kamara@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

EVENTS EDITOR • Nicole Noechel
nicole@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

NEWS REPORTER • Todd Heywood
heywood.reporter@gmail.com • (517) 899-6182

STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

STAFF WRITER/OFFICE ASSISTANT • Lucas Henkel
lucas@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6706

SALES EXECUTIVE • Lee Purdy
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



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New book remembers teacher, wife and mother



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Branch out from pizza at Jolly Pumpkin

Cover illustration by Lucas Henkel

Striking Back

DISRUPTION: IT'S VIEWED AS A POSITIVE WHEN THE INVESTOR CLASS DOES IT.

MOVE FAST AND BREAK THINGS!
WHEE!

BUT WHEN WORKERS INTERRUPT BUSINESS AS USUAL...

WRITERS ON STRIKE

WAAH! SO DISRUPTIVE!

NOW IS NOT THE TIME, GUYS!

YES, IT'S A RADICALLY DISRUPTIVE IDEA TO PAY WORKERS ENOUGH TO LIVE ON.

I WOULD LIKE TO AFFORD MY RENT IN L.A.

SEEMS PRETTY UNREALISTIC.

IF THEY CAN DISH IT OUT, THEY CAN TAKE IT.

STOCK PRICE

WGA SAG-AFTRA

HOW DARE YOU DO THIS TO OUR GREAT BUSINESS?

ADAPT OR DIE, SUCKAS!

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CityPULSE

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We work hard to keep you informed and up to date on the issues that matter most to you.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE CONTRARIAN.
SHOULD TRANSGENDER PEOPLE BE ALLOWED TO EXIST IN SOCIETY? I AM ONLY ASKING THE QUESTION, AS A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT!

THE MAINSTREAM JOURNALIST.
AS AN OBJECTIVE REPORTER, IT IS MY DUTY TO PLATFORM THIS FASCINATING CONTRARIAN AND HIS PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS!

THE RIGHT-WING IDEOLOGUE.
SEE? EVEN THE LIBERAL MEDIA ARE QUESTIONING WHETHER TRANSGENDER PEOPLE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXIST!

THE REPUBLICAN POLITICIAN.
THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT-- THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN SOCIETY IS A THREAT TO INNOCENT CHILDREN, ADORABLE PUPPIES, AND EVERYTHING ELSE WE HOLD DEAR!

THE CONCENTRATION CAMP GUARD.
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL KEEP THEM LOCKED UP IN HERE--WHERE YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THEM AGAIN!

THE JOURNALIST AGAIN.
HOW DID THINGS GET TO THIS POINT? IT IS AN UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY!
PERHAPS THE CONTRARIAN CAN PROVIDE SOME USEFUL INSIGHT!

TOM TOMORROW © 2023-07-17 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Beitler wants another bite of the City Hall apple

Chicago-based developer J. Paul Beitler is still ready to buy Lansing City Hall and renovate it into a hotel.

“Right now,” as he put it — six years after his first attempt.

But Beitler said this may be Lansing’s last chance to partner with him on the project.

“How many times do you go to the altar and get rejected?” he said. “We’ve submitted multiple proposals. Each time we have been told we need a new city hall. That has been the factor that has precluded the sale of the building. We absolutely have an interest in going forward with the plans as depicted on the YouTube video” (at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_7lxbjCKz4).

A \$40 million appropriation in the state budget for a new city hall will dramatically shift the conversation about the old topic of relocation. It’s been on hold while the city sought to determine where to relocate the city’s lock-up facility, police operations and the courts from the current City Hall. That problem was solved in November when voters approved a \$175 million bond proposal to build a new public safety facility.

And Beitler is ready to move ahead with his plan to renovate the mid-century modern building into a shining upscale hotel and restaurant.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is ready to get to work on the sale and revamp as well, city spokesperson Scott Bean said.

“Mayor Schor really, really likes the old Beitler proposal and is looking forward to the city reaching out and working with him again once we have a plan in place for a future City Hall,” said Bean.

Where a new City Hall may go is still up in the air, Bean added. No plans for a Request for Proposals have been announced yet.

But where the courts, lockup and police administrative offices will go has been determined, removing a major hurdle to relocating City Hall sans those occupants.

The city is developing plans for the new public safety complex on Washington Avenue just north of Mt. Hope Avenue. It will occupy a parking lot that the



Chicago-based developer J. Paul Beitler wants to save City Hall, a 1958 building considered a classic example of mid-century modern architecture. His plan for a hotel and restaurant, which was unveiled six years ago, is back under consideration.

city purchased from McLaren Health Care plus the grounds of the city’s South Washington Office Complex, which will be torn down.

City Hall, completed in 1958, has significant infrastructure issues that is costing taxpayers an estimated \$575,000 to \$600,000 a year in general upkeep, Bean said — an \$75,000 increase over what the previous administration said in 2017 was the maintenance tab.

In September 2021, a burst water storage tank caused water damage to the top three floors. The flood caused the offices of the mayor and city clerk and the City Council to either cancel meetings or move operations to other areas in the building or the city. The cleanup added \$83,000 in maintenance expenses, Bean said.

Beitler has been wooing the city since 2017 to purchase and renovate the current City Hall into an upscale hotel and restaurant. Former Mayor Virg Bernero selected his proposal after a public pre-

sentation and review of four proposals.

All four proposals — three by local developers plus Beitler — included hotels. But two of them would have would have constructed towers on the plaza that would have obscured the view of City Hall, which is considered a mid-century modern gem, and the third would have razed it. Beitler’s was the only one that maintained the architectural integrity.

What the shape of new deal will take is unknown. Beitler’s 2017 proposal called for his purchasing and renovating the former Lansing State Journal building at Lenawee Street at Grand Avenue for a new City Hall. Once refurbished, Beitler would have sold the LSJ property to the city at a cost not to exceed \$50 million, under a development agreement worked out by Beitler and officials of the Bernero administration.

Once that transaction was done, Beitler would have entered into a 99-year land-lease deal to take possession of and own the City Hall building, but not the land on which it stands. He would

have paid the city \$225,000 a year, plus property taxes. The \$225,000 would have covered the bonds needed to purchase the former LSJ property, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said at the time.

But missing in the equation was a home for the courts, police headquarters and the lockup. The old LSJ building wasn’t big enough. Ideas floated around, including expanding the Ingham County’s Veterans Memorial Courthouse on Kalamazoo Street for the courts, moving the police to the South Lansing precinct and housing prisoners in a new county jail to be built.

Schor, who was running for mayor at the time, supported the Beitler plan. But he began expressing doubts after he was elected and killed the deal altogether when he took office. He said it didn’t make sense to move out of City Hall until all its tenants had a new home. Thanks to public approval of a new public safety complex plus the state’s \$40 million contribution toward a new City Hall, that is a lot closer to being a reality.

Re-enter Beitler.

Beitler, a Michigan State University graduate, said his proposal is important for the city’s growth, economically and socially.

He praised the Lansing Center as “modern and perfectly sized.” More hotels will drive more people to use the Lansing Center for conventions, creating “a very strong revenue generator for the city and the business community.”

The center, he said, “has been passed over by a number of companies because there isn’t enough hotel space available within walking distance.”

Moreover, turning City Hall into a hotel would generate more pedestrian traffic for downtown businesses. That, he said, could break those businesses out of the 9 to 5 trap they have been stuck in for years.

The post-COVID real estate market has also dramatically shifted, Beitler said. With businesses realizing they can operate with smaller in-person foot-

City Hall

from page 5

prints, less office space is needed, only creating more reason to turn City Hall into a hotel, not more offices.

The building, he noted, is also not built to support apartments either.

Post-COVID downtown businesses have struggled to attract even the 9 to 5 crowd. That crowd consists mostly of state workers, but many of them still working remotely.

For Beitler, the development could create an increase in tourism. Post-COVID tourism trends, he said, are seeing people traveling shorter distances and engaging in tourism locally.

Developing City Hall into a hotel and restaurant will have one more bonus for Greater Lansing, Beitler argued.

“The hotel provides a tremendous employment opportunity for local residents at all levels of the employment spectrum — including suppliers that provide services to the hotel such as taxis, limos, laundry services and food

supplies and beverages,” said Beitler.

The increased demand for hotel rooms at this proposed development is based on one very key and unique perspective, Beitler said.

“The most important feature in real estate is location, location, location,” he said.

City Hall is perfectly placed to provide an expansive view of the state Capitol for hotel guests as well as event spaces and a proposed restaurant.

Finally, the developer said, the hotel will increase income tax and property tax revenues.

“We’re ready to move ahead,” he said in a phone interview. “We have been, and we continue to be, ready to move ahead as soon as the city can move out. We’re prepared to enter into an agreement with the city today allowing the city to remain in the building as long as they need to make the determination where to go and when. That allows us the time to do all the preparation to convert the building and complete the financing arrangements, including government incentives.”

— **TODD HEYWOOD**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from Daniel Tooman, for the property located at 525 MAC Avenue, to repair a third-floor dormer and first-floor soffit.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from Bear Creek Fence Company, LLC, for the property located at 644 Grove Street, to construct a wooden privacy fence.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from Joshua Walker, for the property located at 934 Michigan Avenue, to replace two garage doors.

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

For more information on the request please contact Tim Dempsey at (517) 319-6887 or tdempse@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhistoricdistricts@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#23-169



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY JULY 26, 2023
6:00 P.M. CENTRAL FIRE STATION**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING WEDNESDAY JULY 26, 2023 6:00 P.M. CENTRAL FIRE STATION 5000 OKEMOS ROAD

Notice is hereby given that the Chair of the Corridor Improvement Authority with support of two members of the Corridor Improvement Authority of the Charter Township of Meridian will cancel the regular meeting as stated in the adopted 2023 calendar of Jul 19, 2023. The Corridor Improvement Authority will reschedule their regular meeting to be held on Wednesday July 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meridian Central Fire Station, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864 (phone 517-853-4568). This will be a regular procedural meeting of the Corridor Improvement Authority to discuss the continued support and creation of a Tax Increment Financing plan in preparation for redevelopment in the district.

Information may be examined at the Economic Development Department, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public meeting to Amber Clark Economic Development Director, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to Clark@meridian.mi.us.

CP#23-164

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

Request from 530 Albert 2023, LLC, for site plan and a special use permit approval for 530 Albert Avenue. The proposed application would construct a five-story building with 120 units of affordable rental housing and approximately 1,100 square feet of commercial space. The 0.68 acre (29,969 square feet) site is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.

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

Tim Dempsey, Director of Planning, Building, and Development
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6887 or tdempsey@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

For more information on the request please contact Director Tim Dempsey at the contact info above. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#23-168

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOECHEL



Attorney General Dana Nessel’s office is handling the state prosecution of Rashad Trice, who allegedly kidnapped and murdered 2-year-old Wynter Cole-Smith of Lansing. Trice, 26, is being held at the Newaygo County Jail in White Cloud on 18 state and federal felonies and misdemeanors, including kidnapping and sexual assault. The Attorney General’s Office is reviewing police reports for possible murder charges, and along with Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane, Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, it will review and reissue the previous charges. The prosecution is being consolidated into one trial so victims, witnesses and family members won’t have to testify more than once. While the Attorney General’s Office reviews and investigates charges, the cases will continue in county courts.

The inmate suspected of stabbing disgraced sports physician Larry Nassar in a Florida prison said Nassar had made a lewd comment while watching a Wimbledon tennis match. Shane McMillan, 49, allegedly stabbed Nassar 10 times with a makeshift weapon before other inmates pulled him away. McMillan told prison workers he attacked the convicted sexual predator after hearing him make a comment about wanting to see girls play in the Wimbledon match. Nassar is in stable condition with injuries that include a collapsed lung. McMillan was previously convicted of punching a correctional officer in the recreation yard at the United States Penitentiary in Pollock, Louisiana, and working with another inmate to try and stab a prisoner

See Rewind, Page 8

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF
CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY’S
PROPOSED FISCAL 2024 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS &
PUBLIC HEARING ON ITS PROPOSED FISCAL 2024 BUDGET**

Capital Area Transportation Authority hereby provides notice to the public and to private providers of its proposed fiscal 2024 program of projects and public hearing on its fiscal 2024 budget.

The proposed fiscal 2024 program of projects follows:

**PROGRAM OF PROJECTS
CAPITAL**

Section 5307 Formula Funding

Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Less Than 30' Replacement Bus	\$ 544,608	\$ 680,760
Large Buses 40 Foot Replacement	\$ 4,628,807	\$ 5,786,008
Van Replacement	\$ 389,402	\$ 486,752
Facility Improvements (Admin, Maintenance, Storage)	\$ 169,793	\$ 212,242
Facility Improvements (CTC/CAMG)	\$ 84,897	\$ 106,121
Facility – A & E Design (CTC/CAMG)	\$ 97,631	\$ 122,039
Customer Enhancements – Shelters	\$ 169,793	\$ 212,242
Customer Enhancements – Ped. Access/Walkways/Concrete	\$ 63,672	\$ 79,591
Customer Enhancements – A & E Design	\$ 8,490	\$ 10,612
Customer Enhancements – Signage	\$ 2,547	\$ 3,184
Spare Parts	\$ 124,848	\$ 156,060
IT Hardware and Software	\$ 250,282	\$ 312,852
Safety & Security – Equipment	\$ 63,672	\$ 79,591
Maintenance Equipment	\$ 84,897	\$ 106,121
Support Vehicle Replacement	\$ 83,232	\$ 104,040
Preventive Maintenance	\$ 933,863	\$ 1,167,329
Planning	\$ 21,224	\$ 26,530
Consultant Services	\$ 62,229	\$ 77,787
Emergency Response	\$ 1,273	\$ 1,592
Total	\$ 7,785,160	\$ 9,731,450

Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Funding

Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Large Buses 40-foot Replacement	\$ 437,907	\$ 547,384
Less Than 30' Replacement Bus	\$ 395,069	\$ 493,836
Total	\$ 832,976	\$ 1,041,220

Section 5310 Funding Request

Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Customer Enhancements - Shelters	\$ 140,431	\$ 175,539
Less Than 30' Replacement Bus	\$ 171,639	\$ 214,549
Total	\$ 312,070	\$ 390,088

OPERATIONS

Federal Share Section 5307 and Other*	\$ 1,524,000
State Share*	\$ 16,095,000
Local Share	\$ 24,882,000
Farebox and Other	\$ 6,871,400
CRRSAA and/or ARP Revenue	\$ 13,000,000
Total	\$ 62,372,400

Total Capital/Operations \$ 73,535,158

The proposed program of projects will constitute the final program of projects if there are no changes. Additional details on the proposed fiscal 2024 program of projects and a copy of the proposed fiscal 2024 budget are available for public inspection at CATA’s Administration Building, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910.

CATA will hold a public hearing on its proposed fiscal 2024 budget Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023, at 4 p.m. at the Lansing Center Governor’s Room, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. This will be a levy under the current authorized millage. There is NO proposal for a new millage.

Written comments on the program of projects or the budget should be addressed to CATA Marketing, Attn: Program/Budget Comments, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910, or emailed to marketing@cata.org and must be received by 4 p.m., Aug. 16, 2023. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and should be requested by Aug. 14, 2023.

Capital Area Transportation Authority
Bradley T. Funkhouser, AICP, Chief Executive Officer

*Includes federal and state preventive-maintenance funds.



Rewind

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to death at the federal Bureau of Prisons' Administrative Maximum Facility in Florence, Colorado.

Nate Statly, one of the five injured survivors of the Feb. 13 mass shooting at Michigan State University, "has vastly improved," his brother, Josh, posted on gofundme.com. "Recently, Nate has given us so much hope by demonstrating his dedication and strength during the overnight stay for inpatient rehab. He's also been talking and laughing again, which has only reminded me how much happiness Nate can bring to a room, even in this situation," he wrote. The post requests help in acquiring a van with a wheelchair lift.

Acting on a citizen's complaint, Lansing City Attorney Jim Smiertka told the City Council that Mayor Andy Schor's fundraising email on behalf of Council candidate Missy Lilje didn't violate the city's ethics ordinance. Complainant Erica Lynn is married to Michael Lynn Jr., a former Lansing firefighter who won a \$1 million judgment in federal court against the city for subjecting him to a hostile work environment. The complaint questioned whether Schor, acting through his political action committee, could as mayor endorse candidates and campaign for them including referring to himself as mayor, among other concerns.

East Lansing Mayor Ron Bacon and Mayor Pro Tem Jessy Gregg announced they won't seek reelection to the City Council in November. Three of the five seats will be up for election. Bacon was appointed to the council in 2020 after two resignations. He was elected to serve a two-year partial term in 2021 and was appointed mayor by the

council shortly after. He said he's proud of the progress made during his time on the council, especially in terms of housing affordability and diversity, equity and inclusion. He plans to devote more time to his family, his career in biotechnology and his position as an assistant football coach at East Lansing High School. Gregg, who joined the council in 2019 and was re-elected to a four-year term in 2021, said in a Facebook post that working for the city during its slew of resignations over the past year has been "slowly killing" her.

Lansing Community College is facing four class-action suits in federal district court stemming from a data breach that began on Christmas Day 2022 and lasted nearly four months. The suits alleged the school failed to protect the privacy of as many as three-quarters-of-a-million students, employees and vendors.

After a six-year absence, a third shift is returning to the Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant to handle expected demand for the 2024 re-make of the Chevy Traverse. GM said Traverse sales were up 55% and projected 23% growth over the next five years. The plant has 2,850 workers, but GM didn't estimate how many jobs a third shift will add. The new model, which GM unveiled Monday at the plant, offers "Buckle to Drive" for front-seat passengers and notifications if back-seat riders are not buckled up. Also available is an autonomous highway driving feature called "Super Cruise." The mid-sized SUV is expected to start around \$37,000.

What experts called "straight-line winds" struck Lansing's east side around midnight Thursday. Some residents were convinced it was a tornado. Whatever it was, the storms did extensive damage to trees, one of which crushed a car and tore the side off a house. Hundreds of residents lost power. No one was reported injured.

The biggest budget in Michigan's history has another distinction: Most secretive

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her legislative compadres popped the Champagne this week on spending a historic amount of money — in the most secretive process in state history.

I suppose we can all toast to free school breakfasts and more money for local cops. But 5% of the record \$81 billion will be spent on items that never saw the light of day until seven hours before the House and Senate passed this bloated budget.

Roughly \$3.7 billion in taxpayer dollars were spent on items that only received a scant explanation in a House or Senate fiscal agency analysis made public just minutes before the budget flew to the governor's desk for her signature.

No debate. No discussion.

For example, a brand new \$286.8 million "Make It Michigan Fund" is apparently a slush fund the state can use as a match to access federal dollars. The state kicks in \$10 million to get \$100 million from the feds to fix some bridges, let's say.

There's nothing necessarily wrong with it.

My issue is that it wasn't in the governor's initial recommendation. The Senate's budget didn't include it. The House's budget didn't include it. It, like \$3.7 billion in additional spending, was birthed at 3 p.m. June 28 and took flight at 10 p.m. the same day.

In the past, the public would get all sorts of opportunities to know what was going on.

The Department of Corrections, for example, got its own budget bill based on the governor's recommendation. The House and Senate had a combined four committee meetings where their own changes were kicked around.

Once the House and Senate passed their proposals, they were sent to a joint House-Senate conference committee.

There, only "items of difference" were allowed to be hashed out. Only items already on the table could have been included in a final document. Unless it had been in the governor's proposal, the House budget or the Senate budget, it couldn't be included.

The House and Senate would then take a couple of days before voting on a conference report to ... you know ... give folks time to read it.

Fifteen other department budgets crawled along in the same fashion.

It was tedious. It was slow. It opened up the process to stakeholders gumming up the works when they saw something they didn't like.

But at least we all knew what was in it. Lawmakers had at least a weekend to sift through hundreds of pages of spending, ask some questions and flag something that didn't make sense.

Nowadays, budget bills get log-rolled together into two massive spending bills. Legislative leaders and the Governor's Office debate the budget in a series of closed-door meetings.

Massive amounts of spending are inserted at the last minute without debate.

The final House and Senate votes follow tightly rehearsed talking points made with partisan spin.

What's wrong with that, you ask?

A record \$1 billion for special pork projects to give legislators some bacon they could bring back to their district — a new park or a fire engine or a trail, or whatever.

Bacon grease makes the wheels of government spin efficiently, but it also makes the whole process pretty slimy.

Bridge Michigan reported that former Speaker Jason Wentworth steered a \$25 million no-bid contract for a health campus in his district that personally enriched his former staffer and the local Republican Party chair.

Wentworth also appears to have put his fingers on the scale to get money to dredge out a lake in his district that state environmental officials say is a low-priority project when compared to other needs.

The Detroit News reported on \$20 million awarded last year to an unknown "international business accelerator" program connected to a pair of politically connected Democrats. When the newspaper started asking questions, everybody ran away from this stinky pile of poo.

All of this spending was rushed through this new, fast-tracked process.

Some of this dive into secrecy can be blamed on COVID, when open meetings became invite-only Zoom meetings due to safety concerns.

Today, there are no excuses.

People tend to be more secretive when they feel they have something to hide.

What is hidden in this \$81 billion document?

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

By order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Registration: 8:30 AM Auction 10:00 AM

Location: The Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing MI

Alan Fox, Treasurer, Ingham County

341 S. Jefferson St. Mason MI 517-676-7220

CP#23-165

B/24/004 DEMO OF 1 PROPERTY 318 CLIFFORD STREET

B/24/005 DEMO OF 1 PROPERTY 1020 WOODBINE AVENUE 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 AUGUST 2, 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#23-166

ARTS & CULTURE

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Taking home the gold

2023 High Times Cannabis Cup Michigan winners announced

By LUCAS HENKEL

The votes have been tallied for the 4th annual High Times Cannabis Cup Michigan. More than 90 licensed cannabis brands throughout the Great Lakes State submitted a total of 527 entries to be judged across the competition's 21 categories. The winners were announced July 10 via a YouTube livestream by hosts Joey Posney, High Times' director of competitions, and Levi Miller, High Times' bulk sales manager.

Stoners from all corners of Michigan reviewed the products and cast their votes for the companies they thought should take home the gold. Without further adieu, let's dive into the winners of the Adult Use (recreational) categories.

Indica Flower: Spritzer by Society C

For the second year in a row, Orion Township-based Society C and its Spritzer strain have snatched the crown in the Adult Use Indica Flower category. A cross of Runtz, Grape Pie and MAC, Spritzer's gorgeous purple buds made judges feel uplifted and chatty.

"It's the perfect strain for folks that enjoy MAC and love the taste of old-school skunk. The buds gave off a skunky and grapey aroma that had hints of grapefruit," one judge said.

Hybrid Flower: Garlic Cocktail by MI Loud Flower Farms

MI Loud Flower Farms' dedication to clean, flavorful, medical-grade cannabis is evident in this strain. Garlic Cocktail, a cross of GMO and Mimosa, is an indica-dominant hybrid with buds that are entirely covered in frosty trichomes, making them look almost white. Overall, judges said it's a solid hybrid with uplifting effects that don't leave you wanting to take a nap.

Sativa Flower: Blue Skunk by High Level Health

Founded in Colorado, High Level Health is ready to get its 14-time Cannabis Cup-winning products into the hands of Michiganders. Blue Skunk is described as having a pungent cheese flavor and energizing effects. One judge commented that smoking this strain "tasted like eating really good cheese that has a stank that comes back and hits



Courtesy of High Times

More than 90 licensed cannabis brands submitted a total of 527 products to be judged across the 2023 High Times Cannabis Cup Michigan's 21 categories. Stoners from all corners of the state reviewed the products and cast their votes for the companies they thought should take home the gold.

your sinuses."

Infused Flower and Moonrocks: Han Solo Funk Frosted Buds by Crude Boys

Michigan's moonrocks are so good that it's the only state to have a category celebrating this potent product on the Adult Use side of High Times' competition. (Moonrocks are typically judged on the Medical side of the competition in other states.) Crude Boys took home the win in this inaugural category for its compact and sticky buds with clear crystals the size of pretzel salt.

Infused Pre-Rolls: Lemon Rain 2g infused donut joint by North Coast Flower x Pressure Pack

Combining 2 grams of Rainbow Zkittles flower and half a gram of Gelonade live rosin, these Lemon Rain pre-rolls provide a strong citrus aroma that's present from the first pull to the last. Judges said this product gave them a pleasant and euphoric head rush, with a calm body high settling in later. Each pre-roll is hand-rolled with a custom glass tip to ensure every hit is as tasty as the last.

Non-Infused Pre-Rolls: Permanent Marker 2g cannon by North Coast Flower x Pressure Pack

Winning both this year's Non-Infused and Infused Pre-Roll categories is a testament to the craftsmanship of this collaboration between North Coast Flower and Detroit-based Pressure Pack. Permanent Marker is a potent strain that evokes creativity and gives smokers a se-

rious case of the munchies.

Solvent Concentrates: Papaya live resin by Humblebee Products x Exotic Matter

Exotic Matter's humble beginnings growing in apartment buildings and closets, combined with Humblebee Products' extraction methods, has created wonderful results. Described as tangy and juicy, this concentrate helps users slow their thoughts and disengage from the stresses of the day.

Non-Solvent Concentrates: Blue Zorbet live rosin by North Coast Flower x Pressure Pack

Yet another win for North Coast Flower and Pressure Pack! According to one judge's review, "This rosin is seductively sweet with after-tones of mint. This will surely treat you to the five-star experience you deserve after a hard day's work."

Distillate Vapes: Unicorn Piss disposable vape by Workers Cannabis

From providing fair and livable wages for its employees to pricing products at or below market price, Workers Cannabis takes its motto, "for the people, by the people," very seriously. This year is the first time the company has entered the Cannabis Cup, and its Unicorn Piss won judges over with its euphoric body buzz.

Non-Distillate Vapes: Lunar Lemon live resin cartridge by Element Extractions x ProGro

No strangers to the award podium, Element Extractions and ProGro have



teamed up to produce some of the highest quality products on the Michigan market. One judge described the taste of this Lunar Lemon live resin cartridge as "funky, lemony candies dancing on (their) tongue, followed by a time-warping haze."

Solvent Gummies: Blue Lemonade gummies by Afternoon Delite

For three years in a row, Afternoon Delite's Blue Lemonade gummies have remained at the top of the Solvent Gummies category. Judges enjoyed the taste, texture and effects, saying the edibles are great for sitting on the beach or just relaxing.

Non-Solvent Gummies: Pink Lemonade live rosin gummies by FloraCal Farms

These soft, juicy, hash-infused gummies from FloraCal Farms made the company a standout in another new category in this year's Cannabis Cup. One judge said, "These have an excellent flavor and potency and are great for pain."

Non-Gummy Edibles: Churro milk chocolate bar by Kiva

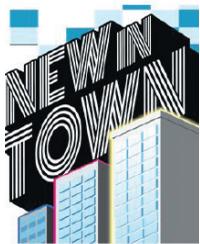
Over the last three years, the chocolatiers at Kiva have taken home 10 Cannabis Cup awards. Its products are so good that many judges described them as the standard for edibles. One judge said, "You need a crowbar to open the packaging, but it's well worth the fight."

Topicals, Tinctures, Capsules and Sublinguals: 1:1 CBD:THC transdermal patch by Mary's Medicinals

Rounding out the Adult Use side of this year's competition is Mary's Medicinals with its first Cannabis Cup win. Judges described the woman-owned cannabis brand's 1:1 transdermal patch as effective and easy to use.

For a full list of runners-up in each of the Adult Use categories as well as the winners of the Medical categories, check out hightimes.com/events.

A new chapter for Big Boy



Bob's Big Boy

Coming soon – check facebook.com/bigboyrestaurants or instagram.com/itsyourbigboy for updates

By LUCAS HENKEL

Big Boy, known for its double-decker hamburgers and checkered-over-all-wearing mascot, is preparing to open a fast-food restaurant at 6525 South Pennsylvania Avenue in Lansing. Bob's Big Boy, owned and operated by Big Boy

Restaurant Group LLC, is set to open its doors later this year.

The site of the new restaurant was once home to Zeus' Coney Island, a popular eatery that fed residents of Lansing's south side with its Coney dogs and all-day breakfast from 2005 to mid-April of this year. Bob's Big Boy will retain Zeus' drive-through as well as its indoor dining area that seats 80 to 100. While the restaurant won't have the breakfast buffet many folks are used to, Bob's will offer its own lineup of classics — with a twist.

"We will be offering many of the clas-



Lucas Henkel/City Pulse

Advertisements for Bob's Big Boy line the windows of the former Zeus' Coney Island on South Pennsylvania Avenue.

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sic Big Boy menu items that people are used to, like the burgers and Slim Jim sandwiches, but we will also offer a variety of new dishes like waffle sandwiches, seasoned fry options and new wraps as well," said Frank Alessandrini, director of operations for Big Boy Restaurant Group.

According to the company's website, Bob Wian founded the first Big Boy restaurant in Glendale, California, in 1936. Sixteen years later, brothers John, Louis and Fred Elias were the first to formally apply for a Big Boy franchise license in Hazel Park, Michigan. By 1964, the trio had opened 100 restaurants bearing the Elias Brothers Big Boy name throughout Michigan and Ohio.

I have many fond memories of eating at Big Boys throughout my life, and I'm sure other Michiganders can say the same. Alessandrini hopes to honor and celebrate that rich history when Bob's Big Boy officially opens.

"We are currently getting permits for the remodel," he said. "We are hoping to open in the next few months — defi-

nately before the end of the year."

Once opened, Alessandrini says the restaurant plans to give back to the Greater Lansing community by getting involved with local schools and sports programs. Big Boy has a longstanding history of holding fundraisers for community organizations, and it hosts numerous ice hockey clubs for kids and teens at its ice arena in Fraser.

Keep an eye on the company's social media pages, facebook.com/bigboyrestaurants and instagram.com/itsyourbigboy, for an official announcement of Bob's Big Boy's grand opening.

Lucas Henkel (he/him) is a columnist and advertising assistant for City Pulse. He is a cannabis enthusiast and advocate that has worked in the cannabis industry since 2019. When he's not writing about new businesses and organizations in Greater Lansing, he spends time with his wife and three cats. Do you or someone you know have a new business or organization that's new and noteworthy? Email lucas@lansingcitypulse.com.



Setting the stage — and the standard

Local musicians sound off on what makes or breaks an ideal venue

By NICOLE NOEHEL

If you venture down Michigan Avenue on a Friday or Saturday night, you'll likely be confronted by the sound of raucous performances blasting from the likes of The Avenue Cafe, The Green Door Bar & Grill, Mac's Bar and other staple venues on the strip.

Live music is thriving in Greater Lansing, but not all venues are created equal. Some musicians prefer inclusive, welcoming spaces that celebrate all genres, while others just prefer the spaces to be relatively clean.

For Jennifer Toms, the bassist and lead vocalist of the indie rock 'n' roll band A Rueful Noise, a "feeling of community" is what makes a venue great.

"The foundation of excellent venues is owners who care for their musicians, staff and patrons," she said. "A venue could have fantastic equipment and a busy house, but without owners who are invested in the music scene, that venue may not offer up a creative and supportive environment where both musicians and their audiences feel a sense of togetherness."

The Avenue Cafe and Displaced Manor, a DIY venue specializing in punk and metal, are the main Lansing venues Toms thinks fit this bill.

"Colleen Kelley, owner of The Avenue Cafe, has built a community that transcends the music being played on the stage through her deep care for the scene. It is a wholly welcoming space. Alexandra Saenz, who runs house shows at Displaced Manor, has also created a very special venue with an electric atmosphere, excellent sound and killer lineups," she said.

Matthew Carlson of the power-pop band The Stick Arouns and Harborcoat, a solo project, also pointed to



Courtesy of The Avenue Cafe

The Avenue Cafe was rated one of Lansing's top venues by five local musicians for its focus on community and inclusivity, plus its ability to draw packed and active crowds.

The Avenue as his top venue in town.

"There are always things I would improve in terms of logistics, but Colleen and her team have created a beautiful culture that welcomes everyone," he said. "They've been the center of the city's scene for at least 15 years, and I am so grateful they're thriving."

Carlson appreciates venues that include both standing space and seating options, like The Avenue, but he's tired of venues with outdated decor and fixtures.

"In this day and age, you can make a venue feel comfortable and welcoming without breaking the bank," he said. "Too many rooms still have 20-year-old paint jobs, broken lighting and little more panache than concrete walls and floors. Make a few minimal decorative choices that make the space more inviting. Lighting with a bit of forethought can go a long way as well."

He also wishes there were more

spaces that would focus solely on the music being played instead of trying to earn more revenue.

"The Robin Theatre does a good job of this, but almost all music in the area is built around selling alcohol. That's perfectly fine, but it means that the music is not necessarily the reason folks are in the room. I would love to see more spaces intently focusing on music, but I know the financial mathematics on that are tough."

Cale Sauter, guitarist of the metal band Cavalcade and founder of the locally operated indie label Bermuda Mohawk Productions, appreciates DIY venues for this reason.

"I will always have a spot in my heart for well-run DIY spaces because they're usually 100% focused on the music and people just hanging out and having a good time together, not to mention usually taking on certain risks to do all that for little to no finan-

cial gain," he said. "I don't want to risk putting any of those spaces on blast via name, but there are some thriving in the area right now that we love. As far as more 'above board' places around the state, Cavalcade always has a great time playing the Sanctuary in Detroit, The Avenue here in Lansing, the Pyramid Scheme in Grand Rapids and Papa Pete's in Kalamazoo, just to name a few off the top of my head."

Both James Gardin, a local hip-hop artist, and Lindsey Taylor, founder and vocalist of the indie-rock group La La Delivery, just want to see venues do a better job of cleaning between shows.

"Although some of my favorite places are dive bars, I don't like to see too grimy of places. Clean bathrooms are awesome and can be hard to find in those scenarios," Taylor said.

"I hate seeing no stage at a venue,

See Setting the stage, Page 12



Ambrosia in a tumbler

Lansing jazz venues make the best of a 'really weird' situation

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When it comes to jazz venues, Greater Lansing is a Midwestern-modest wine connoisseur. Tucked mostly out of sight are barrels and bottles of the finest stuff — nationally acclaimed musicians like trombonist Michael Dease, bassist Rodney Whitaker and guitarist Randy Napoleon, along with their ever-multiplying students, all in various stages of star evolution. Add fine local vintages like organist Jim Alfredson and salsa master Mike Eyia and there's a lot to drink up.

But when you go to the cupboard, expecting fancy stemware, you find a jumble of tumblers, coffee cups with bank logos and battered travel mugs. In Lansing, you drink your jazz ambrosia — hot, cool or mellow — from any vessel available, from an Irish pub to a public park. The music and the company are what matters.

"It's funny because you're playing these little hole-in-the-wall venues, but I'm playing with world-class people," Napoleon said. "I don't feel that the people I'm able to play with are less than the people I've played with in New York. And these students can really play. It's a great situation — and really weird."

Michigan State University has several dedicated music venues, including the Fairchild Theatre, Cook Recital Hall and the new Billman Music Pavilion, where everything is state-of-the-art, climate-controlled and educational, but french fries, hugs from old friends and massive mugs of beer

are in short supply.

Off-campus, jazz can burst out almost anywhere in Lansing, from Blue Owl Coffee in REO Town to the parking lot of the Eastwood Towne Center to the lower level of the downtown library, but we'll concentrate on three of the busiest jazz venues in the area, with apologies to any establishments that have been left out.

Hands down, the most venerable jazz tradition in town is Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's Pub on East Michigan Avenue. The venue will celebrate a staggering nine years of weekly jazz nights July 25.

The music is first-rate, from national poll winners like Dease and Whitaker to out-of-town luminaries like New York organist Brian Charette.

A newbie might wonder — am I welcome? One ruffled smile of greeting from drummer Jeff Shoup tells you all you need to know.

This is serious jazz, but at Mort's, they only burn the candle at one end. The music starts at 7 p.m., so people can catch dinner first, and the jam session ends at 10 p.m., so they can climb into bed.

"Moriarty's on a Tuesday night has become a community unto itself," vocalist Sunny Wilkinson said. "Jeff has, little by little, created a real jazz venue where people listen, appreciate the music and are moved. People have tables that they specifically occupy each week, and most people greet each other warmly with hugs. There is a lot of joy going around."

Shoup said the two most frequent

rampant." They also need to have "great drink specials, good sound, great sound engineers, and the staff has to be friendly."

"In Lansing, I enjoy The Avenue because of the community that shows up to events, and I enjoy the Robin Theatre for some of the same reasons. I honestly just prefer spaces where listeners of my music can feel welcome if they show up," he said.

Taylor said a variety of different ele-



Courtesy of Jeff Shoup

Drummer Jeff Shoup took a quick break from organizing Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's — and from laying down the beats — to capture the view from his drum kit.

comments he hears from visiting artists are, "I can't believe all these people came out to hear us play" and "I can't believe people are actually listening and paying attention."

"Sometimes I have to remind musicians that they don't have to sandbag and play super quiet so as not to disrupt anyone's dinner," Shoup said. "The people are here to hear you — turn that thing up!"

"The stage, the sound system and the lighting all add to the ambiance," Wilkinson said. "Hats off to Jeff Shoup for creating this gem in the disguise of a local bar."

Meanwhile, tucked into the century-old brickwork of Old Town is UrbanBeat, formerly the rough-and-rowdy Mustang Bar. Owner Terry Terry and his crew keep the place hopping nearly every night with a wide range of events, from poetry readings to private

parties, but the epicenter of Michigan JazzFest never strays far from jazz.

One memorable night, Whitaker brought a New York-level frontline of Terell Stafford and Tim Warfield. Dease held a grand CD release party there last month. Eyia's Orquesta Ritmo frequently blows in and proceeds to blow the roof off. UrbanBeat also pulls top jazz artists from across the Midwest, like guitarist Fareed Haque and trumpeter Walter White.

"UrbanBeat has turned into a gorgeous concert venue," Wilkinson said. "The ambiance has a hip city vibe about it. The sound guys are wonderful and helpful. The lighting is beautiful. It's also a plus that they now have a grand piano. Our audiences are there to listen and participate with their encouragement and enthusiasm. It's not

See Jazz, Page 14

Setting the stage

from page 11

and I'm tired of dirty bathrooms. I think the hole-in-the-wall, grungy bar aesthetic is played out at this point," Gardin said.

Like Toms, Gardin enjoys venues with an inclusive atmosphere where "none of the 'isms' are allowed to run

ments make up an ideal music venue.

"I'd say booking acts that bring in crowds is the number one goal," she said. "Good rooms that are equipped for the best quality sound to mix bands properly is important. A welcoming interior where people feel relaxed is important, too. I've heard it over and over from friends that they don't like going to certain venues because of their vibe. It takes a while to build up a successful business, but as

long as the vision and drive are there, anything is possible."

When performing in Lansing, she prefers Mac's Bar and The Avenue, but for more of a DIY, all-ages space, she also enjoys the Fledge.

"Michigan offers some great spots to play. The Blind Pig in Ann Arbor is also one of my favorites," she said. "When there's a decent crowd and good sound, I'd say there's a lot to be grateful for."

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Pipe dream

Brian Vander Ark discusses new Verve Pipe album and the band's East Lansing roots

By RICH TUPICA

Looking back on his band's platinum-selling success, the Verve Pipe's Brian Vander Ark quickly pointed to his most surreal moment from the group's peak.

"Meeting David Letterman," Vander Ark, 59, recalled, thinking back to the band's April 1997 "Late Show" performance. "We were huge fans."

That same year, thanks to the international success of the group's moody alt-rock ballad "The Freshmen," the Verve Pipe also performed on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno." That's a rock 'n' roll dream come true for a DIY band that formed in East Lansing.

"I was living in Grand Rapids at the time, but I soon moved to East Lansing to be with the band," Vander Ark told City Pulse. "I was a manager at a sporting goods store."

After meeting a couple of talented

Lansing natives, drummer Donny Brown and guitarist Brian Stout, things came together in 1992. While the lineup changed various times over the following decades, those early days — the height of now-defunct venues like Small Planet — were pivotal to the band, which continues to write, record and tour.

"My brother (Brad Vander Ark) and I formed the band with two musicians from Lansing, which is why we were known as an East Lansing band," Vander Ark said. "I lived there for some time while we got our act together. Our first meeting was at the Wendy's there. We all had yellow legal pads, Diet Cokes and baked potatoes — the standard meal for poor musicians. Our notes included what original songs we had and what covers we would want to play."

The Verve Pipe was set to return to its old stomping grounds July 15 to play the grand opening of a new chapter in Lansing's music scene:

Grewal Hall at 224, a new venue in the heart of downtown Lansing. However, construction was not completed in time, so the all-ages show was rescheduled to Dec. 9.

That homecoming gig will no doubt spark old memories for Vander Ark. Thinking back to the band's mid-'90s pre-fame days, when it shared stages with countless college bands and touring acts across the state and beyond, Vander Ark said East Lansing was flush with gigging options — and some competition, too.

"The Small Planet was a great venue," he said. "They really enjoyed bands that played original music. Rick's was not a pleasurable experience, although they did have live music every night. Unfortunately, the owner of Rick's refused to let you play there if you played the Small Planet. We jumped ship."

Of course, once "The Freshmen" broke on MTV and radio stations across the map, the Verve Pipe's

horizon quickly expanded. Released in March 1996, the band's "Villains" LP, its third studio album, slowly gained traction over the next year and ultimately went platinum.

In 1997, "The Freshmen" hit No. 1 on the Billboard Alternative chart and peaked at No. 5 on Billboard's Hot 100. However, this was far from an overnight success story.

"The Freshmen" was written over many months in 1990," said Vander Ark, who penned the hit song. "There was no inspiration for the story — only that I wanted to write about an experience I had with my on-and-off girlfriend at the time."

In 1996, the Verve Pipe received its first taste of mainstream success after "Photograph" climbed the charts. The dynamically melodic track reached No. 6 on Billboard's Alternative chart and No. 17 on its Rock chart.

See Pipe dream, Page 16

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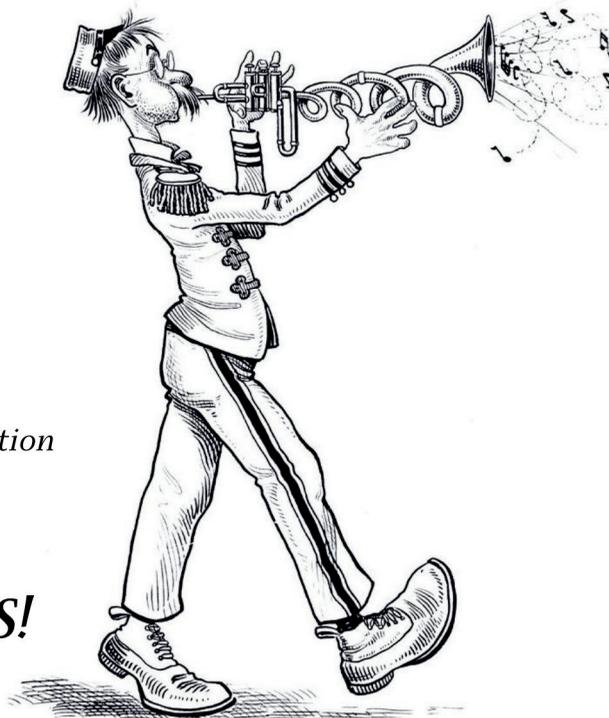
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Jazz

from page 12

just a gig — it's an occasion when we play at UrbanBeat."

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As with Mort's and UrbanBeat, the ambiance is friendly and the music is nonpareil. Napoleon has brought along many other MSU professors at one time or another, as well as visiting luminaries like Ann Arbor bassist and composer Paul Keller and New York bassist John Webber.

"I've traveled all over the world, and you just don't find a talented pool of musicians like we have in Michigan," Napoleon said.

Many of them are in a phase of life where they're ready to settle down, raise a family and teach or pursue other projects, and local music lovers reap the benefits.

"It's a beautiful feeling," Napoleon said of performing at Red Cedar Spirits. "I spent the first 15 years of my career, after I finished college, traveling on the road more than I was home. Then I had kids and started teaching, and I've had to slow my touring schedule, but it's important for me to keep on playing and make music at a high level, and I'm able to do that there. I feel like we can bring people a little taste of what the music is like in New York. I'll also say their bourbon is quite spectacular."

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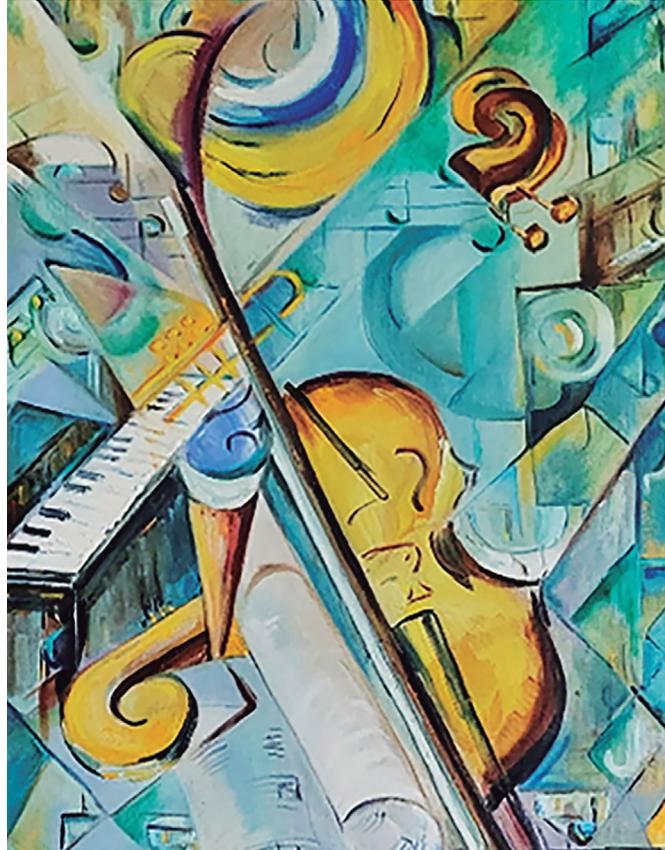
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Pipe dream

from page 14

“Photograph’ was written much later, after the band had released two albums,” Vander Ark said. “I thought it was an interesting concept — the idea that someone is frozen in a photograph, unable to move. Whatever pose you are in is how you will be perceived for the life of the photograph.”

After its 1990s pinnacle, the band soldiered on with Vander Ark at the helm. The week after the 9/11 attacks, the band dropped its “Underneath” LP. The record features songs by Vander Ark and Brown

but also co-writing credits from its Grammy-winning producer, the late Adam Schlesinger of Fountains of Wayne and “That Thing You Do!” soundtrack fame.

“Adam was a gem to work with. He came up with a lot of great ideas — he really held the band together,” Vander Ark said.

After a few years of inactivity on the album front, the Verve Pipe returned in the 2000s with a couple of curveballs: a holiday EP and a children’s album. The band even played shows with its children’s material.

Looking back on those records, Vander Ark said that period was not a calculated career move.

“We were asked to be part of a compilation of children’s songs for chari-



Photo by Jamie Geysbeek

The Verve Pipe’s July 15 show at Grewal Hall at 224 was rescheduled for Dec. 9, but singer and guitarist Brian Vander Ark still chatted with City Pulse about the band’s history and its next album.

ty. Once we wrote a couple of songs, we decided to continue on and write more,” he said. “Although it was a great experience playing kids’ shows, I felt like we needed to get back to the adults. Never say never on recording another children’s album, but I doubt we will go back to those live shows.”

Back in the day, Vander Ark scored a hit after penning a song about an ex, but these days, he said his song-crafting stimulus is not easily traced.

“I can’t pinpoint a certain inspiration other than reading fiction or coming up with my own stories,” he said.

But when it comes to the band’s still-thriving calendar of live shows, Vander Ark said both new and old fans will be pleased.

“We put on a very entertaining show. Dynamics are important to us, so you’ll get hard rocking and some acoustic songs. It’s a fun night,” he said.

And while the band’s current setlists are filled with cuts from its lengthy discography, fans should also expect to hear some newly penned songs, including tracks from 2021’s “Threads” LP. Vander Ark produced the full-length during the pandemic.

While that was a stressful time for the world in general, the songwriter said the album was a joy to work on.

“I didn’t feel much stress recording it. It was my third time producing my own band,” he said. “I enjoyed the experience very much. We are working with another producer for the new album so I can concentrate on other things and not be all consumed.”

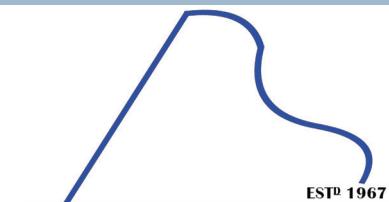
Did he say a new disc is in the works?

“We hope to have a new album out soon,” he confirmed. “The songs have been written. Now comes the best part: laying the instruments down and singing.”

As for the yet-to-be-named record of original songs, a fall release date is “very much a possibility,” according to the band’s management — though an official date hasn’t been announced just yet.

With an enduring and fruitful three-decade career behind him, along with more than 27 million YouTube views on “The Freshmen’s” music video, Vander Ark offered one bit of advice to new and emerging local songwriters: “Always go with your instincts.”

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Lansing hip-hop artists taking the scene by storm

By JAHSHUA SMITH

Last year, when I wrote about the state of Lansing hip-hop, I said I felt that a collection of the greatest voices ever to represent the genre was born in Lansing. While that remains true, I also love that the city continues to play host to a number of quality artists from all over the world. Likewise, it's inspiring to see the idea of community continuing to buoy the scene, with a host of different organizations, initiatives and public spaces giving the younger generation a chance to sharpen their skills.

My prior piece extensively detailed how my career began to take off alongside James Gardin as we went from open-mic performances at Respiration, a monthly hip-hop showcase, to headlining our own shows and performing across the nation. With the re-emergence of Mac's Bar, but also other venues such as The Junction and The Avenue, plus a host of open mics and events like Karaoke Kickback, I feel confident that some of the newest talents in the city will similarly serve as a launchpad for the next leaders in Lansing hip-hop. The connection to Michigan State University is ever-present as well, painting a picture that the culture is in good hands moving forward.

With all that in mind, I wanted to spotlight some of the younger artists I feel are poised to make an impact on the city. Lansing hip-hop continues to evolve at an impressive pace, and there are far too many young artists thriving to make this a definitive list, but I think these are some potential torchbearers for the next era of rap in the area.

JURELL

Formerly known as Young O, Jurell is a quadruple-threat artist who I think serves as a great prototype for a generation of artists that are rewarded for experimenting outside the conventional box of rap. He is lyrically gifted but also produces the majority of his own music, plus he has a great singing voice and live stage show — the hip-hop equivalent of baseball's five-tool batter. His most recent releases are "The One That I Want" and "The 3AM ep" with MikeyyAustin, and both projects really drive home the versatility in his music.

THE PLAYER

Anthony "The Player" Jones is one of the most gifted lyricists under the age of 21 that I've been blessed to see perform on stage. It's inspiring to see just how good some of the kids are in Lansing, going far back into their teenage years — The Player has been a top-tier talent in the city before he could legally vote. What impresses me most is that his lyricism isn't rooted in

any particular area. He's just as skilled when the topic is more lighthearted or boastful. I joke a lot about real songwriting touching a multitude of concepts, whereas a lot of "raps about rapping well" are put on a pedestal despite their shallowness. The Player gives you a lot of different approaches to a track, but they all pack a punch. His stage show is rapidly evolving to the point that each new gig feels like the first time.

5AM AND JUICE

As far as producers go, I'm proud of these two former attendees of All of the Above Hip-Hop Academy. They're multi-talented producers who also engineer and DJ, making them invaluable parts of the performance ecosystem in Lansing. They both serve as glue that enhances the work of other artists they collaborate with. Their respective sounds can vary, sometimes fitting dark and brooding tracks or upbeat anthems, as evidenced by the work on "Breath of the City," a piece commissioned by the city of Lansing.

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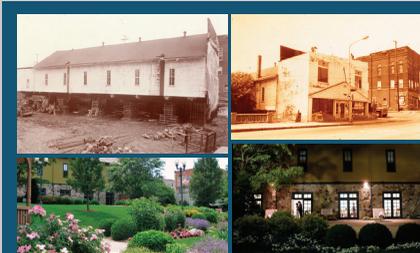


Greater Lansing music scene directory

Whether you're looking to gig and record locally, try your hand performing at open mics or just attend local shows and shop for records, Greater Lansing has you covered. Here's a beginner's guide of what to keep on your radar.

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Former LCC professor honors late wife

By **BILL CASTANIER**

As Bill Blanchard wrote his new book about his late spouse's life, "Jan's Journey: A Portrait to Last a Hundred Years," he was often asked if it was about her battle with multiple sclerosis.

"It was not intended to be about Jan's illness. It's about her life as an outstanding teacher, mother and wife and a memorable person," he said.

Even as you read the prologue, you know you're in for one hell of an emotional roller coaster. Blanchard recalls one night when Jan was well into her illness. As they were lying in bed together, he realized how little he knew about her life before they met as teenagers at Everett High School.

"As we snuggle as spoons, I think back to the earliest stories Jan told me and decide to write them down," he writes. "The next morning, when I try to outline the events in Jan's life, I realize how little I know. I will talk with her sister, Debbie; her brother, David; her father and her friends. I begin the research."

Blanchard will hold two public events to promote the book: one Sept. 18 at the Grand Ledge Area District Library and another Sept. 19 at the Okemos Library. Both events are free, and the book will be available for purchase.

Blanchard began recording conversations, learning more about Jan's life growing up in Lansing. He was

perfectly prepared to do this — after he graduated from Everett and Michigan State University, he went on to attend the prestigious cinema studies program at the University of Southern California in 1967, the same year he and Jan married.

After working on feature films in California and Alaska, Blanchard and Jan returned to Michigan. He began a 30-year career teaching film production at Lansing Community College, while she began her teaching career in the Lansing School District.

Blanchard said it was a few years later, in 1970, that Jan was diagnosed with MS.

The book reads like a movie script, and with Blanchard's formal training, that makes perfect sense. He acknowledges the style, which he has adapted with great dexterity into book form.

"It's like a documentary without moving pictures," he said. "It wasn't my intention to write a book, but I decided to write it all down for our son, Tony, who I realized didn't know about (Jan) before she got sick."

Blanchard said his technique was to interview Jan's friends and family using a small cassette recorder. He would then transcribe it.

"She would sit with me as I typed it

into an early personal computer, and she helped create a timeline. She enjoyed listening to the tapes," he said.

As you read the book, you realize the process was as important to Blanchard as it was to Jan. The taping and replaying brought them closer together as the disease began to take its inevitable toll.

Blanchard began the recording process in 1990, six years before Jan's death. At some point, with the encouragement of her friends, he decided to compile the information into a book, which would include diarylike entries about Jan's illness and its progression.

"I thought it might be a guide to help someone else who is dealing with MS or another debilitating disease," he said.

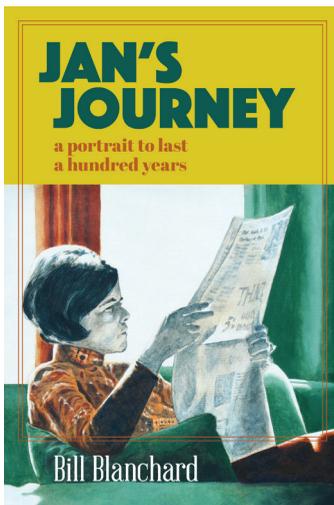
To that end, the book is blunt and to the point. It doesn't blur out the clinical nature of the disease. Blanchard is also forthright and often angry about a medical system that, at the time, was often clueless and lacked care.

When asked about an overarching theme, Blanchard thought for a moment and said, "I want it to be about how important teachers are, and how they help kids grow into adults. That would be Jan's legacy."

Another legacy could be not letting a disease such as MS define who you are. During her illness, Blanchard and Jan traveled quite extensively, learning to navigate the world with Jan's mobility problems.

The two of them worked together on a travel video about navigating Mackinac Island in a wheelchair, for which they won an award.

In the book's epilogue, Blanchard



Courtesy of Bill Blanchard

In 1990, six years before the death of his late wife, Jan, former Lansing Community College film production Professor Bill Blanchard began recording discussions with her friends and family about her life. With the encouragement of her friends, he decided to compile the information into a book, "Jan's Journey: A Portrait to Last a Hundred Years."

writes, "We all want to be remembered. Jan would want to be remembered as a teacher ... Jan's life is the best story I know."

The sections of the book on Jan's teaching experiences and how she integrated her love of nature into her classroom are nothing short of inspirational.

"The hardest thing about writing the book was the ending — and to be done before I would know the ending," Blanchard said.

"Jan's Journey" book discussions

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

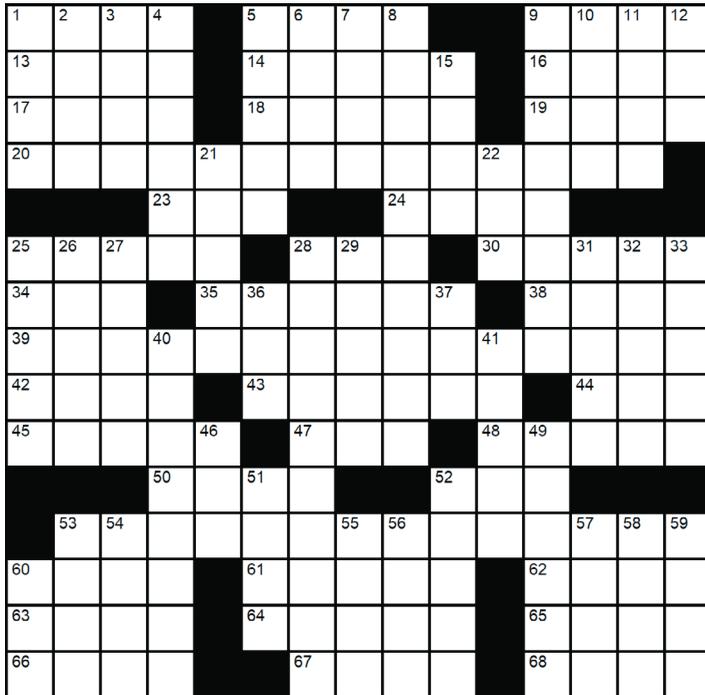
"Make Me One With Everything" -- it's a lot to include.

by Matt Jones

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ACROSS

- 1. Unfreeze
- 5. Late-week exclamation
- 9. Faucet issue
- 13. Revolutionary War spy Nathan
- 14. Exasperate
- 16. Munich article
- 17. Letters on egg cartons
- 18. 1960s art-rock group Procol ____
- 19. "Johnny's Theme" composer Paul
- 20. More petty golf assistant?
- 23. Temperature tester
- 24. Nightstand topper
- 25. Intrusively forward
- 28. ____ kwon do
- 30. Casino game
- 34. Sugar bowl invader
- 35. Text messages for the public, e.g.
- 38. ____ occasion
- 39. Devices to watch movies like "Rambo" and "Rocky"?
- 42. Lose energy
- 43. Indian cheese
- 44. "What ____ you suggesting?"
- 45. Song of lament
- 47. It may be shared by coworkers
- 48. ____ Ring (2022 George R.R. Martin-involved RPG)
- 50. Autobahn auto
- 52. Took down

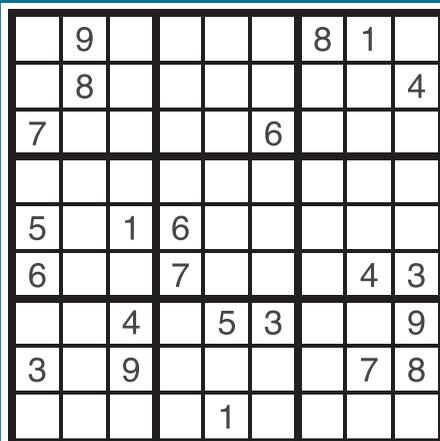


- 53. Equipment in an unruly hybrid of "Dancing with the Stars" and "Hockey Night in Canada"?
 - 60. Result of dividing by 2
 - 61. Overseas money
 - 62. Skeleton segment
 - 63. Moisturizer additive
 - 64. Have ____ at the table
 - 65. Divisible by 2
 - 66. Tick relative
 - 67. Some Morse code
 - 68. Oboe player's need
- DOWN
- 1. "As a result ..."
 - 2. Greasy spoon dish
 - 3. "M*A*S*H" star Alan
 - 4. Opulence
 - 5. State-straddling lake
 - 6. Nibble away at
 - 7. As to
 - 8. Like some naughty words, length-wise
 - 9. High-grossing 2016 comic book adaptation
 - 10. Cheese protector
 - 11. Like a starless sky
 - 12. Carrot cohort, in the frozen food section
 - 15. Exercise spot with a song written about it
 - 21. Faithful
 - 22. Sound booster
 - 25. Command after "copy"
 - 26. No later than
 - 27. Look fixedly
 - 28. Jack Black/Kyle Gass duo
 - 29. Olympics venue
 - 31. Work out dough
 - 32. ____ nous (just between us)
 - 33. Nevada senator Jacky who used to be a computer programmer
 - 36. Prune trees
 - 37. MS submitter's enclosure
 - 40. Court charge
 - 41. Emmy winner Goldstein
 - 46. "Westworld" actor Brynner
 - 49. Stoller's partner in songwriting
 - 51. "The Sopranos" actress ____ de Matteo
 - 52. Short staffers?
 - 53. Tourist-heavy Indonesian island
 - 54. Bunches
 - 55. Layered cookie
 - 56. Castle protection
 - 57. Cabot ____ ("Murder, She Wrote" setting)
 - 58. Bendy joint
 - 59. Transmit
 - 60. Black Forest ____

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Answers on page 26

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

July 19-25, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You are about to read a thunderbolt of sublime prophecies. It's guaranteed to nurture the genius in your soul's underground cave. Are you ready? 1. Your higher self will prod you to compose a bold prayer in which you ask for stuff you thought you weren't supposed to ask for. 2. Your higher self will know what to do to enhance your love life by at least 20%, possibly more. 3. Your higher self will give you extra access to creativity and imaginative powers, enabling you to make two practical improvements in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In 1991, John Kilcullen began publishing books with "for Dummies" in the title. For example: "Sex for Dummies," "Time Management for Dummies," "Personal Finance for Dummies" and my favorite, "Stress Management for Dummies." There are now more than 300 books in this series. They aren't truly for stupid people, of course. They're designed to be robust introductions to interesting and useful subjects. I invite you to emulate Kilcullen's mindset, Taurus. Be innocent, curious and eager to learn. Adopt a beginner's mind that's receptive to being educated and influenced.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "I could be converted to a religion of grass," said Indigenous author Louise Erdrich in her book "Heart of the Land." "Sink deep roots. Conserve water. Respect and nourish your neighbors. Such are the tenets. As for practice — grow lush in order to be devoured or caressed, stiffen in sweet elegance, invent startling seeds. Connect underground. Provide. Provide. Be lovely and do no harm." I advocate a similar approach to life for you Geminis in the coming weeks. Be earthy, sensual and lush. (PS: Erdrich is a Gemini.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I hereby appoint myself as your temporary social director. My first action is to let you know that from an astrological perspective, the next nine months will be an excellent time to expand and deepen your network of connections and your web of allies. I invite you to cultivate a vigorous grapevine that keeps you up to date about the latest trends affecting your work and play. Refine your gossip skills. Be friendlier than you've ever been. Are you the best ally and collaborator you could possibly be? If not, make that one of your assignments.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There are two kinds of holidays: those created by humans and those arising from the relationship between the sun and Earth. In the former category are various independence days: July 4 in the U.S., July 1 in Canada, July 14 in France and June 2 in Italy. Japan observes Foundation Day on Feb. 11. Among the second kind of holiday is Lamas on Aug. 1, a pagan festival that marks the halfway point between the summer solstice and autumn equinox in the Northern Hemisphere. In pre-industrial cultures, Lamas celebrated the grain harvest and featured outpourings of gratitude for the crops that provide essential food. Modern revelers give thanks for not only grain but all the nourishing bounties provided by the sun's and Earth's collaborations. I believe you Leos are smart to make Lamas one of your main holidays. What's ready to be harvested in your world? What are your prime sources of gratitude?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): For many of us, a disposal company regularly comes to our homes to haul away the garbage we have generated. Wouldn't it be great if there was also a reliable service that purged our minds and hearts of the psychic gunk that naturally accumulates? Psychotherapists provide this blessing for some of us, and I know people who derive similar benefits from spiritual rituals. Getting drunk or intoxicated may work, too, although those states often generate their own dreck. With these thoughts in mind, Virgo, meditate on how you might cleanse your soul with a steady, ennobling practice. Now is an excellent time to establish or deepen this tradition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I'm wondering if there is a beloved person to whom you could say these words by Rumi: "You are the sky my spirit circles in, the love inside love, the resurrection-place." If you have no such ally, Libra, the coming months will be a favorable time to attract them into your life. If there is such a companion, I hope you will share Rumi's lyrics with them, then go further. Say the words Leonard Cohen spoke: "When I'm with you, I want to be the kind of hero I wanted to be when I was 7 years old."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your theme for the coming weeks is "pleasurable gooseflesh." I expect and hope you'll experience it in abundance. You need it and deserve it! Editor Corrie Evanoff describes "pleasurable gooseflesh" as "the primal response we experience when something suddenly violates our expectations in a good way." It can also be called "frisson," a French word meaning "a sudden feeling or sensation of excitement, emotion or thrill." One way this joy may occur is when we listen to a playlist of songs sequenced in unpredictable ways — like Mozart followed by Johnny Cash, then Edith Piaf, Led Zeppelin, Blondie, Queen, Luciano Pavarotti and Yellow Magic Orchestra. Here's your homework: Imagine three ways you can stimulate pleasurable gooseflesh and frisson, then go out and make them happen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Fire rests by changing," wrote ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus. In accordance with astrological omens, I ask you to meditate on that riddle. Here are some preliminary thoughts: The flames rising from a burning substance are always moving, always active, never the same shape. Yet they comprise the same fire. As long as they keep shifting and dancing, they are alive and vital. If they stop changing, they die out and disappear. The fire needs to keep changing to thrive! Dear Sagittarius, here's your assignment: Be like the fire; rest by changing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There's ample scientific evidence that smelling cucumbers can diminish feelings of claustrophobia. For example, some people become anxious when they are crammed inside a narrow metal tube to get an MRI. But numerous imaging facilities have reduced that discomfort with the help of cucumber oil applied to cotton pads and brought into the proximity of patients' noses. I would love it if there were also natural ways to help you break free of any and all claustrophobic situations, Capricorn. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to hone and practice the arts of liberation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Silent gratitude isn't very much use to anyone," said Aquarian author Gertrude B. Stein. She was often quirky and even downright weird, but as you can see, she also had a heartfelt attitude about her alliances. Stein delivered another pithy quote that revealed her tender approach to relationships. She said that love requires a skillful audacity about sharing one's inner world. I hope you will put these two gems of advice at the center of your attention, Aquarius. You are ready for a strong, sustained dose of deeply expressive interpersonal action.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): According to the International Center for Academic Integrity, 95% of high school students acknowledge they have participated in academic cheating. We can conclude that just one in 20 students have never cheated — a percentage that probably matches how many non-cheaters there are in every area of life. I mention this because I believe it's a favorable time to atone for any deceptions you have engaged in, whether in school or elsewhere. I'm not necessarily urging you to confess, but I encourage you to make amends and corrections to the extent you can. Also: Have a long talk with yourself about what you can learn from your past cons and swindles.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at 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, July 19

2023 Michigan Dairy Expo and Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days - 7:45 a.m.-7 p.m. Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu/events/2023-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days.

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

Blake & Jessie James - 7-10 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

"Blind Spot," "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.

Cars & Cones - Bring your classic car, grab a coney dog and enjoy the company of others who love cars. Drivers (plus one passenger) receive free admission for the evening. 5:30-8 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-372-0529. reoldsmuseum.org.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, 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.

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

Improv Acting Class - Perform characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! Play theater games and learn why "yes, and" is the basic rule of improv. 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

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.

Kids' Mud Run at Grand Woods Park - Obstacles include a hay climb, over/under wall, pool noodle hurdles, mud pits, balance beams and much more! Registration req. 5 p.m. Grand Woods Park Drive, Lansing. 517-323-8555. deltami.gov/residents/events/kids_mud_run.php.

Lansing Concerts in the Park - Mixed Flavors - 7 p.m. Benjamin Davis Park, 5500 Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing. 517-483-4000. lansingmi.gov/994/

concerts-in-the-park.

"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK" - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Mixed-Media Art Display by Jane Cloutier - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

MSU Muelder Summer Carillon Concert Series: Simone Browne - Independent carillonist from Tucson, Arizona. 6 p.m. Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Potter Park Zoo Visit: Feathers - Discuss how birds get their colors, clean their feathers and use them for a variety of needs. 3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradi.org.

St. Johns Concerts in the Park Presents: An Evening of Vocal Performances - Jeff Richards with four friends: Michaela Stiles, Heidi McNaughton, Joey DiMenno and Steven Easterling. 7 p.m. St. Johns City Park, 801 W. Park St., St. Johns. clintoncountyarts.org/experience-the-arts-concert-in-the-park.

Watercolor Pen Painting - Create art out of old book pages using watercolor pens! Registration req. Intended for adults 18+. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradi.org.

Weaving the Web: Wheel of the Year - 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. weaversoftware.org.

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

Thursday, July 20

2023 Michigan Dairy Expo and Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days - Quiz bowl contest 8:30 a.m., pee-wee showmanship 4 p.m., celebration picnic 5:30 p.m., ice cream social 8 p.m. Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu/events/2023-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days.

50th Annual MACC Golf Classic 2023 - 18 holes of golf with cart, continental breakfast, lunch, goodie bag, beer and wine, soda, water and door prizes. 8 a.m. Eldorado Golf Course, 3750 W. Howell Road, Mason. 517-676-1046. business.masonchamber.org.

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

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

"Be Here Now" - A comedic look at what we're willing to do for love, happiness and to create meaning in our lives. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

"Be Here Now"

July 20-Aug. 20

8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

3 p.m. Saturday

2 p.m. Sunday

Williamston Theatre

122 S. Putnam St., Williamston

The Williamston Theatre is ending its 2022-'23 season with the Michigan premiere of "Be Here Now," by Deborah Zoe Laufer. The show runs Thursday (July 20) through Aug. 20, with performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

The theater describes the play as "a comedic look at what we're willing to do for love, happiness and to create meaning in our lives."

"Bari's always been a bit of an angry, depressed misanthrope. And losing her job teaching nihilism in New York to work at the local fulfillment center in her rural hometown has sent her into despair. She begins to find connections with the quirky people she meets in town, including a local artist with his own list of insecurities. When recurring headaches manifest bizarre, ecstatic, almost-religious experiences, they change her entire view of life. She discovers they are also killing her. She must decide between a short life of indescribable joy or a long life of mediocrity."

The play contains mature content and language. It runs approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

Tickets are \$28 for Thursday evenings, \$37 for Friday and Saturday evenings and \$34 for Saturday and Sunday matinees. Senior citizens 65 and older and members of the military receive a \$2 discount on all tickets. Student tickets are \$10. To purchase tickets, call the office at 517-655-7469 from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or visit williamstontheatre.org.



"Blind Spot," "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 - Chelsea Community Orchestra - 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.

Family Pops Concert - Free concert by the East Lansing Kiwanis Community Band. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. 7 p.m. Robert L. Green Elementary School, 1811 Pinecrest Drive, East Lansing. 517-332-5662.

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

"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

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.

LBCA's FREE Summer Concert Series - Shelby & Jake - 7 p.m. McClintock Park Amphitheater, 255 McClintock St., Laingsburg. laingsburgbusiness.org/music-in-the-park.

"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK" - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

LIBRARY BOARD - 7 p.m. City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

Medicine Wheel Bracelet Craft - Kids will learn the traditions of the medicine wheel from many cultures and make a bracelet to wear 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.

Mixed-Media Art Display by Jane Cloutier - Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Events

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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 Garden – Bypass - 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens Amphitheater, 2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. 517-694-2135. delhitownshipmi.gov.

Music in the Park – Global Village, opener School of Rock - Bring friends and a lawn chair or blanket. Food concessions available onsite. 7 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. grandledge-chamber.com/music_in_the_park.php.

Peace Out Tie Dye - Tie-dye your own scrunchie, headband or bandana! Supplies provided. Grades K-3. Registration req. Playground of Dreams Pavilion #2, 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Ripple Effect: Artists' Insights from the River Trail – Jill Dombrowski - Burchard Park houses the Brenke Fish Ladder in the historic Old Town neighborhood. This sidewalk mural will be installed near the playground. 6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Summer Concerts on the Square – Laurie and the Lefties - 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-543-0400. micharlotte.org.

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

Wacousta Picnic Playdate Family Storytime - Stories, songs, activities and a snack. Event will be canceled if it rains or storms. 11 a.m. Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, 9180 Herbi-son Road, Eagle. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Zoo Nights #3 (21+) - Happy hour-style event featuring tastes from local restaurants and beverage companies. See the zoo after-hours, visit with the animals and enjoy yard games with friends. 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Friday, July 21

2023 Michigan Dairy Expo and Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days - 8 a.m.-noon. Pavilion for

Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu/events/2023-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days.

Alex Mendenall - 3 p.m. The Willows at East Lansing, 3500 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. 517-336-3424.

"Be Here Now" - A comedic look at what we're willing to do for love, happiness and to create meaning in our lives. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

"Blind Spot," "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.

CADL Adventurer's Club – Tabletop Games - Play a new RPG led by library staff and meet players from your community! 6:15-8 p.m. CADL - Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

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.

East Lansing Summer Concert Series – Twelve Above - Bring a lawn chair or blanket. 6-8 p.m. Ann Street Plaza, corner of Albert and M.A.C. avenues, East Lansing. 517-319-6888. cityofeastlansing.com/455/summer-concert-series.

"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 – Tony Thompson & Friends - 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.

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

Hot Sauce & Trivia Contest at Charlotte Community Library - Answer trivia questions between each round of hot sauce. Make it through all 10 rounds to win a gift certificate to WhistlePig BBQ. Ages 13 and over. Registration req. 7 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery

& Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.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.

"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK" - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Live Music on the patio with Sam Jesh & the Bees - 8-11 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Mixed-Media Art Display by Jane Cloutier - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Steak & Walleye Dinner - Ribeye sizzler and 7-ounce walleye, baked potato, mixed vegetables, dinner roll and coffee. Dine-in or takeout. \$18 per person. 5-7 p.m. Knights of Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

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

Saturday, July 22

"The Adventures of Nick Danger" - Audio play. 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. audioairforce.com.

"Be Here Now" - A comedic look at what we're willing to do for love, happiness and to create meaning in our lives. 3 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

"Blind Spot," "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.

Dirty Laundry - 7-11 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

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

"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Lansing Common FC vs. Livonia City FC - Drinks from Strange Matter Coffee and food from Stacks BBQ and La India Mexicana Cocina food trucks, plus regular concessions. 6 p.m. Eastern Stadium, 400 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. lansingcommonfc.com.

"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK" - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Live Music with The Swift Brothers 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.

Mixed-Media Art Display by Jane Cloutier - Noon-2 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Science Alive! - Visit with LIVE animals up close and personal! For families with kids ages 3 and up. Registration req. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Taste of Woodworking: Long-Grain Cutting Board - Learn how to use basic woodshop tools to design and make a beautiful cutting board. Beginner-focused, ages 16 and up. Registration req. 9 a.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2370 Alpha Access St., Lansing. 517-234-4566. lansingmakersnetwork.org.

Sunday, July 23

"Be Here Now" - A comedic look at what we're willing to do for love, happiness and to create meaning in our lives. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

See Events, Page 23

Ingham County Animal Shelter

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

Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.



Demi Lovato is a worried little husky who was brought to the shelter as a stray. She's definitely a glass-half-empty kind of girl! She is quite thin and will need some TLC to help her fill out and hopefully grow into her amazing tail. She would do best in a calm and patient home with people who can convince her that life is good!



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Lansing
6201 W. Saginaw Hwy.
5016 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.

Okemos
2283 Grand River Ave.

DeWitt
12286 Old U.S. 27

Charlotte
515 Lansing St.



Frida Kahlo is a beautiful tabby who came to the shelter when her owner moved away and left her behind with her babies. She has been in foster care raising them, but they are old enough to find homes of their own, so now it's Frida's turn to enjoy life as a carefree feline!

Sponsored by Schuler Books



Blake Shelton is a big, goofy bulldog who came to the shelter when his owner passed away. He is friendly, outgoing and has what we like to call a large zest for life! Every day is the BEST DAY EVER for him! He is looking for an active family that loves to be busy and won't mind a 70-pound goober "helping."

In Memory of Rollie

Sponsored by Mary Calera



Lady Gaga is a friendly little border collie/shep mix who came to the shelter as a stray. She is a well-behaved girl who has been polite but is not interested in playing with other dogs. She's super smart and would probably enjoy learning tricks or other things to keep her stimulated.

Sponsored by
Anne & Dale Schrader



Luke Bryan is a big, handsome tabby who came to the shelter with his friend Jason Aldean and several dogs when they were found living in poor conditions. He's a friendly, outgoing gentleman who loves ear scratches and head rubs. He is an outgoing cat who should do well in just about any home.

In Memory of Rodica's cats.

Events

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“Blind Spot,” “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.

East Lansing Farmers Market - Solo performances by Dan Dan of The Swift Brothers. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityfeastlansing.com/farmers-market.

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. easterning-hamfarmersmarket.org.

“The Great Lakes as Spirit” with Peter Champoux - Interesting, historical and spiritual discussion about the Great Lakes. Following Sunday service, there will be a special gathering at our pond. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

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

Karaoke Kickback - Local vendors, food and drink specials. 21+ 9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

“LET THE PAINTINGS TALK” - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Live music on the patio with Keala Venema - Noon-4 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 24

Acting Scene Study Camp - Act off your partner, be in the moment and have fun! Ages 5-13. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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.

Celebrating the Spectrum Opening Concert - Performances by MSU College of Music piano mentors. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Dinosaur Safari - Weeklong camp for 5-year-olds. Get prehistoric by investigating the life of dinosaurs. Stomp around while learning about dino diets, fossils and extinction! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.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.

Fizz Wiz Chemistry - Weeklong camp for ages 6-7. Mix acids with bases, create gooey slime and change the color of liquids using the power of

chemistry! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

FOWLerville FAMILY FAIR - 9 a.m.-11 p.m. 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. 517-223-8186. fowlervillefamilyfair.com.

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

Improv Acting Class - Perform characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! Play theater games and learn why “yes, and” is the basic rule of improv. 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jump Into Reading - Stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. If weather is unsuitable, storytime will be held at the Eaton Rapids Library. Intended for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. 11 a.m. Playground of Dreams, 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

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Mixed-Media Art Display by Jane Cloutier - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Native American/Anishinaabeg Dance - Enjoy a presentation of Michigan’s Anishinaabe culture, language and dance, concluding with a performance of the Hoop Dance or Jingle Dance. Registration req. 2 p.m. Island Park, 206 W. River St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Reiki for Kids & Teens - Fun, engaging, hands-on activities 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.

Slime Entrepreneur - Weeklong camp for ages 10-12. Make regular slime, fluffy slime, foam and other sticky, squishy substances. Learn how to start your own slime business, design packaging and advertise! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

S’more Stories Storytime - We’ll read stories about camping and the outdoors, sing songs and, of course, make s’mores! 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Video Game Designer - Weeklong camp for ages 8-9. Engage in Scratch programming to build your own game. Draw inspiration from existing games as you explore the history of this ever-evolving industry! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Tuesday, July 25

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.

After-Dinner Stroll - Join friends and take a 30-minute after-dinner stroll around Charlotte! 6:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Ballet Class - Learn advanced techniques such as beats, multiple pirouettes, greater turn-out, higher extension and longer variations. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Delta Township Music in the Park – Wild Honey Collective, opener School of Rock - 7 p.m. Sharp Park, 1401 Elmwood Road, Lansing. deltami.gov.

Hot Sauce Trivia Contest

Friday, July 21
7 p.m.

Charlotte Community Library
226 S. Bostwick St.,
Charlotte



Think you can handle the heat? Charlotte Community Library is hosting a “Hot Ones”-style trivia contest 7 p.m. Friday (July 21) for ages 13 and up. Participants will answer trivia questions between rounds of hot sauce samples, which will start off mild and get hotter as the rounds continue. Those who can make it through all 10 rounds will win a gift certificate to Whistlepig BBQ in Charlotte.

Participants under 18 must have parental permission. There is a \$5 registration fee. To register, call the library at 517-543-8859.

There will also be a concurrent three-round contest for ages 8 through 12 with no entry fee.

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

FOWLerville FAMILY FAIR - 9 a.m.-11 p.m. 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. 517-223-8186. fowlervillefamilyfair.com.

Friendship Bracelets & Keychains - Materials provided. Grades 4-6. 3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

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

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.

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Mixed-Media Art Display by Jane Cloutier - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Eight-week boot camp consists of introductory, intermediate and advanced skill-level training. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. 517-802-7974. lansingrollerderby.com.

Summer in the Park: Dance with Kindness - Modern dance/flow arts program that combines music, dance and audience participation. 11 a.m. Oak Park, corner of Clinton and Seminary streets, Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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 26

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

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.

CharLit Adult Book Club - 6:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.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.

FOWLerville FAMILY FAIR - 9 a.m.-11 p.m. 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. 517-223-8186. fowlervillefamilyfair.com.

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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. 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

It’s Elementary: Zombee Hunting - Discover science in the world around you with experiments, crafts, activities and more. Snack included. Grades 3-6. Registration req. 3 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

“The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art,” by Brian Snyder - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

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.

Lansing Concerts in the Park – Shelby & Jake - 7 p.m. Bancroft Park, 1330 Otto St., Lansing. 517-483-4000. lansingmi.gov/994/concerts-in-the-park.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

On our way into the Jolly Pumpkin Café & Brewery in East Lansing for a weekday lunch date, I told Mr. She Ate a story from my childhood. Most Sundays were spent attending mass and having coffee and

donuts at St. John Catholic Church & Student Center on M.A.C. Avenue, and my family would always park on the ramp just west of the church. Whenever one of us kids would dare to touch the handrail in the stairway, my mother would immediately admonish us, telling us that “college students pee on those!” I was left wondering who, exactly, these degenerate, free-peeing university students were and why they were spending time terrorizing East Lansing’s parking ramps.

Having just returned from a family vacation to France, which involved plenty of public transportation, I now understand the urge to prevent your children from touching pretty much anything they see. With that in mind, we left the kids at home and enjoyed lunch tête-à-tête. I hadn’t been to any of the Jolly Pumpkin locations throughout the state, and I was extraordinarily interested in the menu, which included so many items that sounded appealing to me.

We dove into lunch with an appetizer order of the Red Chicken Nachos (\$14.50). They arrived at our table quickly, and Mr. She Ate immediately went outside to take a phone call, so I made it my mission to eat as many of the pickled red onions as possible. The chips, while appropriately salty, weren’t thick enough to stand up to the volume of toppings. Constructing a perfect nacho bite is an art — you don’t want a mainly barren chip with a smidge of toppings or a smattering of burnt cheese, nor do you want a chip so entirely laden with chicken, beans and cheese that it crumbles before it can reach your mouth. I was so hungry that I threw caution to the wind, attacking the plate with my fork and disregarding the chips entirely.

Two things about me: I love to eat healthily, although I equally love to indulge, and I’m a sucker for marketing. If something is called a “bowl,” a “power bowl” or a “Buddha bowl,” I’m probably going to order it. This occasion was no exception, and I requested the Mediterranean Bowl (\$15.50), while Mr. She Ate asked for the Perfect Fried Chicken Sandwich (\$15.50) with truffle fries (\$2.50).

I have never regretted an order more. When our lunches arrived, I took three bites of my bowl before I pushed my plate away and turned my attention to the fried-chicken situation across the table. The fries were thin, crispy and fragrant with the scent of truffle. I grabbed handfuls of them, dragged them through the accompanying aioli and let them melt in my mouth. I snatched my husband’s sandwich out of his hands, unable to resist the crispy fried chicken covered in bright, beautiful slaw and pickles, and took some of the most humongous bites

Jolly Pumpkin elevates traditional dishes to new heights



Courtesy of Jolly Pumpkin Café & Brewery

With seven locations throughout the state, Jolly Pumpkin Café & Brewery has come to be celebrated for its artisanal, granite-baked pizzas, but it also offers equally enticing appetizers, salads, bowls, sandwiches and desserts.

pizza with smoked chicken (\$20) was lackluster at best. The chicken was the sole source of flavor. Who would’ve thought spinach, shaved garlic, preserved lemon, extra-virgin olive oil, Parmesan and fresh mozzarella could produce such a bland, lifeless combination? I can’t imagine ordering this pizza without a protein add-on. It was disappointing, to say the least.

Also missing the mark was the Seared Sesame Tuna (\$16.75). A few of the Thai-

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

The dining scene in East Lansing continues to evolve, both in diversity of cuisine and quality of food options. With recent downtown investments in infrastructure and residential developments



Beverly

came new commercial spaces that have been filled with service, retail and restaurant options. On one hand, some of the new eateries mirror the area’s longstanding favorite fares — new American, Mexican and gastropubs — while on the other hand, some of them are elevating these flavors to new heights.

In addition to the new living and dining spaces, downtown East Lansing has offered the outdoor Albert El Fresco area for the last few summers. Born out of the pandemic’s indoor capacity requirements, the pedestrian space provides rocking chairs, games, hammocks and outdoor lighting. Albert El Fresco shuts down a portion of Albert Avenue and entices visitors with programming like live performances and group yoga. These are welcome recreational opportunities for all ages, and I have observed diverse crowds during my outings there.

Nestled in the middle of this space is the Jolly Pumpkin Café & Brewery, an offshoot of Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales. Founded in 2004, the Dexter-based craft brewery has been fermenting tasty and bold beverages for nearly 20 years, and in 2009, it opened its first restaurant in Traverse City. A second opened in 2009 in Ann Arbor, and there are now seven total locations across the state, known for envelope-pushing dishes and elevated flavors. The restaurants have come to be celebrated for their pizzas and their magnification of traditional American dishes.

The East Lansing location takes advantage of the extended sidewalk and increased foot traffic from the El Fresco action with its own outdoor seating that allows guests to enjoy beers and cocktails within a roped-off area. Each time I visited, diners and drinkers alike partook in the highlights of summer: sun, fresh air and people-watching. The restaurant itself has a large footprint, able to accommodate both intimate and large groups, and an under-construction second-floor spirits bar plans to accompany the main bar, which serves more than 20 Jolly Pumpkin and North Peak brews on tap.

What should have been better

Sometimes, when good restaurants franchise out, attention to detail and quality standards can dip. As I already mentioned, Jolly Pumpkin’s reputation for granite-baked pizza is strong. However, on my first visit, the Popeye

Be my huckleberry

By ARI LEVAUX

We can't all have huckleberries. These notoriously fickle plants only grow in the mountains of the Northwest, and they refuse to submit to domestication. They have a unique aroma that's unlike any other fruit, but their cousin, the blueberry, offers the closest comparison and is a worthy substitute in most cases.

So, when I relate the events of the huckleberry milkshake challenge, you can follow along wherever you reside with whatever blue-tinted berries you have available. And you should, to help you cope with the furnace-like summer heat.

Like many of my challenges, the huckleberry milkshake challenge began with my kids engaging in one of their preferred pastimes: spending my money. They somehow got it into their minds that they deserved huckleberry milkshakes. I assured them I could do better at home. Of course, they didn't believe me. And they weren't swayed by any potential cost savings.

This apparent stalemate was quickly broken by the fact, as they pointed out, that my boast moved me into checkmate because the only way to prove my superiority was a side-by-side comparison. Which meant a trip to the shack after all.

We pulled up to the window and ordered two large huckleberry milkshakes. The barista was kind enough to identify each ingredient she added to the blender: ice, milk, sugar, huckleberries and homemade vanilla syrup. But seeds of doubt began to sprout in my heart when she couldn't, or wouldn't, divulge what was in the vanilla syrup. And when I tasted this stupendous milkshake and found myself instantly floating on a purple cloud, I knew I was really in trouble.

I let the boys split one of the shakes as we jetted home, and I put the other one in the freezer for later. Then I went vanilla shopping.

I was hoping to find the kind of Italian vanilla syrup they have at any espresso bar. It wouldn't be homemade, but it would be vanilla syrup. Alas, it wasn't meant to be in small-town Montana. I did have vanilla extract at home, but that alone was not going to cut it. I had a plan that involved multiple sources of vanilla. I grabbed a box of Jell-O instant vanilla pudding. I've used this product before in off-label ways, and it



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Huckleberries can be hard to find, but you can use any blue-tinted berries in this refreshing, heat-combatting summer milkshake.

always delivers.

Armed with my vanilla extract and pudding, I felt ready to take on the espresso shack. I may not have had the secret syrup recipe, but I had the pow-



er of redundancy, which can do wonders for flavor. And with vanilla, in particular, I have another rule: You can never have too much of it. The sweet aroma of the vanilla pod dances with the berry fragrance, and there isn't anything not to love. My kids felt the same way about my victorious milkshake, thank you very much.

Blue berry milkshake of victory

Find as many sources of vanilla as you can. I used extract and pudding mix, but you could also include vanilla ice cream.

Makes two servings

1/2 cup berries

2 cups milk (oat milk is just as good as cow's milk here)

Six ice cubes

2 tablespoons sugar or honey

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

2 tablespoons Jell-O instant vanilla pudding mix

Add everything to a blender and mix until smooth. Taste and adjust the sugar, vanilla, milk and berries as necessary.

He Ate

from page 24

sauced bites were absolutely delicious, but the unevenness in the compilation of the dish was bizarre. Some pieces of tuna were seared appropriately, but others were way overdone. Some of the garlic-Parmesan crostini were too soft, and other pieces were hard as a rock. Some of the Asian-inspired bruschetta bites were draped in cilantro, but others had none. The kitchen could stand to keep a keener eye on consistency.

What's really good

My love for burgers is well documented at this point, and I have a new fondness for Jolly Pumpkin's Lamb Burger (\$18). Spiced with cumin and topped with garlicky spinach, a fried egg and roasted-onion aioli, this handheld was juicy, flavorful and filling. I loved the runny yolk combined with the spinach, aioli and the crusty bark of the grilled

lamb patty. It was a delightful mess and required multiple napkins.

The side of truffle fries (\$2.50) came with a choice of sauce. I tried both the smoky aioli and the bright turmeric aioli, and each was wonderful.

Another strong dish was the Candied Brussels Sprouts (\$12.50) with bacon and Parmesan. Bathed in a sweet and spicy honey sauce, the sprouts were crisped well, while the tangy but sweet flavor profile struck a balanced chord.

Best bite

One of the restaurant's summer specials is a slamming BBQ Salad (\$16). A still-steaming smoked chicken breast arrived atop a bed of romaine, surrounded by corn, peppers and red onion. I was enamored with the pairing of barbecue sauce and jalapeño ranch dressing, which may seem odd, but I promise it worked. A final lovely touch was found in the cornmeal-breaded onion straws, which provided a perfect crunch in every bite.

She Ate

from page 24

I've ever taken in my life.

During another visit, we ordered dinner to go and sampled the Cobb (hold the olives) and Harvest salads (\$14.50). Mr. She Ate inhaled the Cobb and proclaimed it to be highly above average. He loved the bacon buttermilk dressing and oven-roasted tomatoes, and this is coming from a man who resists an entrée salad and never eats fresh tomatoes. I'm happy to have found a satisfying option when we're looking for a lighter restaurant dinner.

My Harvest salad was huge, just like I like it, overflowing with fresh, crisp leafy greens and kale. I've never met a beet I didn't like, and our recent vacation reinvigorated my love for goat cheese in salads, although nothing can hold a candle to a Parisian salade de chèvre chaud.

We all know fries don't travel well. In the next few weeks, while you can still find parking, get yourself to the Jolly Pumpkin. Order the fried chicken sandwich and the truffle fries. You can probably share them with a friend — or a hungry wife. Just make sure you bring hand sanitizer if you're parking on the ramp.

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Fowlerville Family Fair

July 24-29
9 a.m.-11 p.m.
Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds
8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville

The Fowlerville Family Fair, running Monday (July 24) through July 29, offers all the classic activities summer fairgoers know and love. The main events include harness racing 5:30 p.m. Monday (\$5), demolition derbies 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday (\$15), a wrestling showcase 7 p.m. Thursday (\$15), a rodeo 7 p.m. Friday (\$15) and a concert with country musicians Granger Smith and Chase McDaniel 7 p.m. Saturday (\$50 to \$60). Attendees can also enjoy carnival rides and games from 1 to 11 p.m. daily, plus a host of vendors, food stands, livestock displays, animal auctions and more. Admission for Monday is free, and there is a \$5 admission fee Tuesday through Saturday. Kids 4 and under are free, and parking is free. Ride tickets are \$1.50 each or \$60 for 50. Most rides require three to six tickets. All-inclusive ride tickets are \$25 Wednesday and \$30 Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday. The fair also offers on-site camping. A basic package is \$15 per night, and sites with water and electrical hookups are \$30 per night. To reserve your campsite, purchase tickets and view the full schedule of events, visit fowlervillefamilyfair.com.

Appetizers

WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED? CALL 517-999-5064

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2501 E. Michigan Ave.
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TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS. Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

T	H	A	W	T	G	I	F	D	R	I	P			
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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

Events

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"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK" - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Mixed-Media Art Display by Jane Cloutier - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

MSU Muelder Summer Carillon Concert Series: Katarzyna Takao-Piastowska - City carillonist for Emmerich am Rhein, Germany. 6 p.m. Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Peggy Nusz - 7-10 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

"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.

St. Johns Concerts in the Park - Dave Bennett Quartet - 7 p.m. St. Johns City Park, 801 W. Park St., St. Johns. clintoncountyarts.org/experience-the-arts/concert-in-the-park.

Summer Reading Finale Foam Party & Carnival - Earn tickets for games and treats by completing GLADL summer reading logs. Everyone is invited to come play in the foam! 6 p.m. Jaycee Park Pavilion, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Weaving the Web: Sacred Space - 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 - Slick Jimmy - 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. meridian.mi.us/calendar.

Thursday, July 27

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.

"Be Here Now" - A comedic look at what we're willing to do for love, happiness and to create meaning in our lives. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Concerts at the Shell - Local Talent All-Stars - 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.

Family Pops Concert - Free concert by the East Lansing Kiwanis Community Band. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. 7 p.m. Robert L. Green Elementary School, 1811 Pinecrest Drive, East Lansing. 517-332-5662.

FOWLERVILLE FAMILY FAIR - 9 a.m.-11 p.m. 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. 517-223-8186. fowlervillefamilyfair.com.

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

Events

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Hot Pants de France - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

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.

LBCA's FREE Summer Concert Series – Deerfield Run - 7 p.m. McClintock Park Amphitheater, 255 McClintock St., Laingsburg. laingsburgbusiness.org/music-in-the-park.

"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK" - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Mixed-Media Art Display by Jane Cloutier - Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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 Garden – Global Village - 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens Amphitheater, 2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. 517-694-2135. delhitownshipmi.gov.

Music in the Park – Mixed Flavors, opener Kanin Wren - Bring friends and a lawn chair or blanket. Food concessions available onsite. 7 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. grandledge-chamber.com/music_in_the_park.php.

Online Account Inventory - Join our technology coordinator to explore the idea of what happens to your social media accounts after you die. Intended for adults. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Rock Painting - Brighten up these everyday objects and hide them around town for the

community to find later. Grades K-3. 10:30 a.m. Playground of Dreams Pavilion #2, 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

"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.

Summer Concerts on the Square – Soul Town - 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-543-0400. micharlotte.org.

Thursday Night Live Courthouse Concert – Mama Tryd Band - Bring lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy live family entertainment. 6:30-8 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse lawn, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 517-676-1046. masonchamber.org.

Two Rivers Sounds of Summer – The Cover Brothers - Grab takeout from one of our nearby restaurants and bring your chairs, blankets, family and friends. Free. 6:30 p.m. Two Rivers Park, Dixie Highway, Portland. miportland.org/events.

Wacousta Picnic Playdate Family Storytime - Stories, songs, activities and a snack. Event will be canceled if it rains or storms. 11 a.m. Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, 9180 Herbi-son Road, Eagle. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Friday, July 28

"Be Here Now" - A comedic look at what we're willing to do for love, happiness and to create meaning in our lives. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Craft Club - Make different types of friendship bracelets. Grades 4-12. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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.

The Dangling Particles at The Peanut Barrel - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

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Sheet Metal Workers Ass'n Hall, 4931 Contec Dr., (North off E. Jolly Rd.), Lansing, Michigan. For information, call Jean 517.974.5085 Thurs. & Fri. July 27 & 28, 9am-6 pm Sat., July 29, 9am - 1 p.m.

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