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March 18-19 2024

CityPULSE

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ALL-ACCESS PLAY! MICHIGAN IS A BIG HIT

See Page 12



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City PULSE

Join our team during March Madness!

What does “underdog” make you think of during **March Madness**? For us, it's someone who's scrappy and determined. Someone who works hard to accomplish their goals. Someone who rises to the occasion. Someone... like us.

We're a small newsroom, but we're committed to the community and to using all of our resources to bring you the news that matters. **We strive to tell you the most important stories and to highlight solutions to local issues.** We're not afraid to hold local leaders accountable.

From reporters following leads in the community, to editors fact-checking, to photographers capturing images that resonate with readers, our team personifies the underdog. **Meet a few of us below!**



Steve Underwood, General Manager: *“As general manager of City Pulse, I'm usually the first person you see walking in the door and a jack of all trades. After being a loyal reader for so many years, it's been an honor to contribute to such a vital publication!”*



Larry Cosentino, Senior Staff Writer: *“I've been writing for City Pulse since the paper started — more than 22 years. I was brought on board to write about music, but the job quickly got out of hand. By now I've written about everything from ants to skyscrapers and met more fascinating and wonderful people than I can count.”*



Nicole Noechel, Arts & Culture/Events Editor: *“I've come to feel like a true townie after writing and editing stories about all the performances, exhibitions, events and people that make Greater Lansing a cultural hub. My greatest passion lies in the local music scene, and you can usually find me jamming out at shows in someone's basement or garage when I'm not at the office.”*

We're all in. We're all off the bench, doing our best work to bring you the news you need. And you can join us! **Please support our journalism by making a contribution today!** Your donation ensures we can keep reporting on government oversight, business policies and education initiatives right here in Greater Lansing.

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Thank you very much to those who already support us. And thank you to those who join them.

Yours truly,

The City Pulse team

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Diego Rivera brings Day of the Dead suite to UrbanBeat

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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
GENERAL MANAGER • Steve Underwood
steve@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

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

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

STAFF WRITER • Tyler Schneider
tyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063

STAFF MEMBER • Chris Silva
chris@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, Lizy Ferguson, Roxanne Frith, Mark Gmazel, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Audrey Matusz, Kyle Melinn, Joan Nelson, Tessa Paneth-Pollak, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Chelsea Lake Roberts, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, David Winkelstern

Delivery drivers: Quill Blankenship, Cindy Heistand, Curtis Lauck, Terri Paine, Diane Scofield



Play, explore and imagine with "What if Wilhelmina"

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How to make the crispiest hash browns

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Cover photo by Raymond Holt

ELECTRIC VEHICLES GONE WRONG

SOME NEW ELECTRIC CARS ARE BEING OUTFITTED WITH HIGH-DECIBEL FAKE ENGINE SOUNDS.

BRROOOWRR!

IT SEEMS FRAGILE MASCULINITY HAS LED TO SOME AWESOMELY STUPID EVs.

I JUST WANT THE COOL SMALL ELECTRIC CARS WE WERE PROMISED IN THE '80s.

HUMMER EV, OVER 9,000 POUNDS

THIS IS THE SMALLEST EV WE SELL.

TO BROADEN ITS APPEAL, IT ALSO COMES WITH A DECORATIVE COAL-FIRED STEAM ENGINE FROM AN 1880s LOCOMOTIVE.

ELECTRICITY IS LITERALLY POWER—BUT APPARENTLY NOT MANLY ENOUGH TO GET YOU TO THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY.

IF MY CAR DOESN'T STINK, MAKE A LOUD SOUND, OR TAKE UP LOTS OF SPACE, HOW DO I KNOW I EXIST?

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HELLO! I'M YOU, FROM THE PAST! I JUST TIME-TRAVELED HERE FROM JANUARY 6, 2021!

WOW! BUT IF YOU'RE ME, WHY DON'T I REMEMBER DOING THIS?

I DUNNO! TIME TRAVEL IS WEIRD. MAYBE ONE OF US STEPPED ON A BUTTERFLY OR SOMETHING.

BEST NOT TO OVERTHINK IT.

MAKES SENSE! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, PAST ME?

I JUST FINISHED WATCHING TRUMP TRY TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT--AND I WAS CURIOUS HOW THAT WORKED OUT FOR HIM!

UH, WELL--HE MIGHT BE PRESIDENT AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

WHAT? HOW IS THAT EVEN A POSSIBILITY? SURELY HE WAS CONVICTED IN THE SENATE AFTER A QUICK IMPEACHMENT AND DISQUALIFIED FROM EVER HOLDING OFFICE AGAIN!

AH, YEAH, NO. IN FACT, MCCONNELL JUST ENDORSED HIM FOR RE-ELECTION!

HUH, WELL--I ASSUME HE FACED FEDERAL CHARGES FOR HIS ATTEMPT TO SUBVERT THE ELECTION?

ER, YEAH, EVENTUALLY. BUT NOW THAT CASE IS ON HOLD PENDING A SUPREME COURT DECISION--MOST LIKELY POSTPONING THE TRIAL UNTIL THIS ELECTION IS OVER.

UM, OKAY. BUT WITH ALL THAT HANGING OVER HIS HEAD, IT'S GOING TO BE PRETTY HARD FOR HIM TO WIN THE PRIMARIES, ISN'T IT?

WELL, THIS EXPLAINS WHY YOU DON'T REMEMBER BEING ME. CLEARLY I'VE ACCIDENTALLY TRAVELED TO A DYSTOPIAN ALTERNATE TIME-LINE WE MUST AVOID AT ALL COSTS!

SURE. GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!

HEY GUYS! I'M FROM 2006! IS GEORGE W. BUSH AN INTERNATIONAL PARIAN BY NOW?

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LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Lansing schools increase enrollment, graduation rates. What's next?

When Ben Shuldiner took over as superintendent of the Lansing School District in 2021, he knew his work was cut out for him.

“The first thing I needed to say was that the district is not doing as well by its kids as it should be,” he said. “The test scores and graduation rates were certainly not great, and there were a lot of other things that needed improvement. It would have been fraudulent to not acknowledge that.”

In the decade leading up to Shuldiner's hiring, the district's net enrollment had decreased by 2,290 students, with an average of 229 students dropping out annually. In the school year before Shuldiner came on board, only 12.2% of its students met college readiness benchmarks, according to MISchool-Data.org.

Nearly three years later, the district's state testing scores remain far below the state average.

However, Shuldiner said that to foster significant academic improvement, the district first needed to focus on reversing plummeting enrollment, raising graduation rates and reducing the number of students considered chronically absent.

Some incremental progress has been made. In November, the district announced its first enrollment increase in three decades, with 136 new students bringing the total to 9,909. Ten years ago, that number was 12,463. The district also recorded its highest four-year graduation rate since at least 2006, with 76.37%, or 514 of 673 high school seniors donning caps and gowns in 2023 — up from 68.16%.

Still, as Shuldiner admitted at the district's Board of Education meeting last week, there's still a long road ahead.

“I want to be very clear here, we're not perfect. We're not even amazing yet, but the process that we're taking in terms of moving forward has been quite substantial,” he said.

“One of our failings has been transportation,” he added, citing a nationwide school bus driver shortage that was exacerbated by the pandemic.

In response, before the 2022-'23 school year, the district announced that it would no longer use the Dean Transportation bus company for its



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Lansing School District Superintendent Ben Shuldiner touted the district's first enrollment increase in three decades in a November press conference, but he said in an interview this weekend that there's still a lot of work to revitalize the long-troubled district.

high school routes. Instead, the district adopted a new policy where families of high school students can choose between a free CATA bus pass for students or a \$50 gas card per child starting before the school year. So far, the district has issued 2,656 gas cards and 755 CATA cards.

While the system is not ideal, Shuldiner said the decision may have boosted high school attendance numbers because students who miss a CATA bus can wait for the next one. However, K-8 students who are too young to ride with CATA unattended still face challenges in getting to school.

“If you look at the elementary attendance over the course of a month, and if a number went down by a couple of points, I can almost guarantee you it's because two buses didn't run. We're still struggling with that,” he said.

Another obstacle is Michigan's Schools of Choice policy, which enables parents to enroll their children outside their home district, taking those state education dollars with them. Last year, the Lansing School District saw over 6,500 resident pupils go elsewhere: 833 to Holt Public Schools, 706 to Waverly Community Schools and 532 to the East Lansing School District.

“Families choose to do this because they think the education is better somewhere else,” Shuldiner said. “Our job is

to convince them that they're wrong, but I don't begrudge a parent for thinking that because, for decades, that's what the community has been telling them.”

It's a vicious cycle of public perception, but one that's also backed by cold, hard facts. According to the Michigan Schools Index System — a 1 to 100 rating issued annually for each school and in categories like student proficiency and graduation rates — Lansing's three high schools averaged 42.66 last year. Okemos High School and East Lansing High School scored 89.87 and 75.33, respectively.

One factor in those scores is staffing, which remains a crucial emphasis area for the district. Right now, Shuldiner said the district is short 56 full-time teachers and “another 100 or so staff.” In response, the district approved a new teacher contract last fall that raised the starting salary for teachers to \$45,000.

Facilities are another concern. When Shuldiner took over, an alarming number of the district's buildings were using classrooms without proper air conditioning.

Part of the fix came in 2022, when voters approved a \$129.7 million bond that will revamp Mount Hope Elementary, Willow Elementary and Lewton School by 2027.

Mount Hope and Willow, facilities that didn't have air conditioning, are

being demolished and rebuilt from the ground up. During construction, students who went to those schools are attending Woodcreek Elementary and Riddle Elementary, respectively.

Reo Elementary, another building without air conditioning, became Lansing's new election center this year after former students transitioned to Attwood New Tech Magnet School last fall.

“By combining those six schools into three, each of the three schools that those kids are currently in are air-conditioned. Meanwhile, we're taking offline a lot of schools that are not air-conditioned and adding those in,” Shuldiner said.

As the work to improve in those areas continues, Shuldiner hopes to see fewer dropouts. Over the last decade, the district averaged 184 dropouts per year, compared with 10 or fewer for the East Lansing School District.

Last year, the dropout rate decreased from 17.04% to 8.62%, down from 122 students to 58. It was the first time since MISchoolData.org began keeping records in 2006 that the district had fewer than 100 dropouts.

“Most people look at graduation rates first, but the fact that we did this with our dropout rates is in some respects even more difficult, because it means you're holding on to every child — even if they're all not succeeding within four years,” Shuldiner said.

The administration has set a goal to have 11,500 students enrolled, an 85% graduation rate and 90% attendance by 2025. The first would require bringing nearly 1,600 new students in within two years, which Shuldiner admitted “may not be realistic.”

Still, Shuldiner, a 46-year-old Harvard graduate who founded New York City's High School for Public Service when he was just 26, is optimistic that a major turnaround is possible.

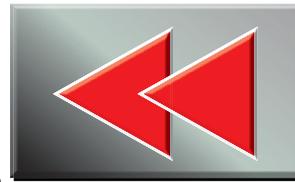
“I knew coming in that Lansing had a lot of latent potential, being the capital city and having MSU down the street. There's an infrastructure that a city of 125,000 typically doesn't have. The problem is that the systems and the structures weren't in great shape, and it would be really special to turn that around,” he said.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The Lansing City Council voted Monday to accept separate \$40 million grants for a new city hall and New Vision Lansing, a \$228 million, three-building proposal from the Gentilozzi family. However, a tie vote rejected the administration's plan to buy the old Masonic Temple building on Capital Avenue from the Boji Group for \$3.65 million for a new city hall. Opponents said they wanted more time for consideration, pointing out that the state grant is good until September 2027.



Jeffrey Cason, 17, was charged as an adult and arraigned Friday on charges including assault with intent to murder from a March 5 shooting in Lansing. The wounded unnamed victim drove to a Quality Dairy store on South Cedar Street. The hospitalized victim was reported to be in stable condition. A hearing on whether Cason should stand trial is tentatively set for March 21.



A major reconstruction of 3.7 miles of I-496 began Monday from Lansing to north of Mason. The work will include realigning and widening the freeway, reconfiguring interchanges and improving 18 bridges to ease congestion and improve safety, the Michigan Department of Transportation said. Drivers

will have two northbound lanes and one southbound lane in the morning, then the reverse in the afternoon. Drivers heading south on U.S. 127 should be prepared for slow traffic and backups south of I-496.



The state has awarded six Lansing-area marijuana businesses grants of \$16,129 each as part of a statewide social equity program: Lansing's Biobizz, Capital City, Carbidex, Jartnick Consulting and Smart Meds plus 120 West in Laingsburg. Statewide, 62 licensees received \$1 million in grants through a program established in 2018 after voters legalized recreational marijuana use.

Michigan Can Lines LLC will open this year in Charlotte in the old Owens-Brockway plant, which once employed nearly 300 people. The

650,000-square-foot facility at 500 E. Packard Highway will manufacture aluminum drink cans and employ as many as 150. Owens-Brockway made glass containers there for 40 years before closing in 2010. In 2019, 500 Packard Highway LLC bought the property for just over \$3.1 million.



Okemos School District students, staff and faculty have been told to drink water only from filtered bottle-filling stations in all its buildings after elevated lead levels were found in Chippewa Middle School water. The test results reported in the letter to parents came from the Environmental Resources Group. Elevated levels were also detected at Okemos Montessori school in October.



Brenda Tracy, anti-sexual violence activist and rape survivor, is seeking damages from MSU for more than \$75 million for herself and her nonprofit for claims that include breach of contract, infliction of emotional distress and invasion of privacy. The filings in the Michigan Claims Court allege former MSU football coach Mel Tucker's sexual harassment and subsequent threats damaged her reputation.

The Mason School District has asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit accusing it of sex discrimination and indifference to sexual misconduct after it reinstated a student following a reported sexual assault. The district's attorney argued the suit did not meet the requirements to make a Title IX complaint and should also be dismissed because of governmental immunity. The suit alleges that the boy's parents, Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum and her husband, conspired with the district to reinstate their son.



Davion Davis, 20, was convicted Friday of first-degree murder and other charges in the 2022 shooting of Elijah Brooks in a Lansing apartment building. He was acquitted on a second count of assault to murder. Sentencing is set for June 5. The murder charge carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole, although Davis was 18 at the time of the crime and Michigan courts

have held that automatic life sentences for people who were 18 when they committed a crime are unconstitutional.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

An unidentified man died and two other people were rescued after their 2012 Lincoln MKZ went into the Grand River Saturday, off Jolly Road near Williams Road in Lansing. Police said the crash appears to be alcohol-related. ... A March 6 fire at the former Genesee Street School in Lansing that caused an estimated \$200,000 in damages is under investigation. There were no injuries, and no cause was released. ... A freight train hit the back end of a car at Hosmer and Euclid streets in Lansing on Monday. The driver, apparently uninjured, fled the scene on foot. The train was not damaged.



215 S. Hosmer St., Lansing

Since 2012, the city has issued 36 code enforcement violations to the owner of this 1891 property near the Stadium District, described as a one bedroom with one bath. While most of those were for the property's outward appearance, including loose trash, debris and an unkempt lawn, the house was notably designated as NEAT Unsafe in 2021, meaning the owner had 90 days to begin repairs to avoid \$150 monthly monitoring fees. Since then, it's been hit with board-up fees three times, with the most recent coming last July. The lot remains full of litter today, while the house's siding and front porch are noticeably deteriorating. The owner, Marjorie Sims, has held onto the 1,198-square-foot property, valued at \$49,800, since at least 1999, the first year recorded by the assessor's website. Sims now owes the city \$1,675 for fines resulting from those violations. Efforts to contact the owner were unsuccessful.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Public Art, by Bill Castanier. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination at 517-999-5061.

Candidates converge: Hertel, Biden push tax cuts for the middle class

Democrats have launched their latest attempt to connect with middle- and working-class voters in the runup to the 2024 election — the old tried-and-true tax cut.

On Monday, President Joe Biden released a plan to cut taxes for average Americans by \$765 million over 10 years. Curtis Hertel Jr., the presumed Democratic nominee in mid-Michigan's 7th Congressional District, pledged to make the same tax cut the cornerstone of his campaign.

If you forgot that Hertel, of East Lansing, was Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's legislative director when she expanded income tax exemptions for senior citizens and the state's earned income tax credit, be assured that he'll remind you again and again.

On working to make life more affordable for working families and seniors, Hertel said at a Monday press conference, "It's what I did in Lansing and what I'll do in Washington, D.C. ... We are going to make lowering the cost of being a Michigander, of succeeding and raising a family, a major part of this campaign."

Two long-time allies, former Michigan Education Association President Paula Herbart and Ken Barnes of the Michigan Professional Firefighters Union, supported his pledge at the Meridian Senior Center event in Okemos.

Hertel wasn't otherwise specific in his remarks or with reporters after the press conference. He talked about "working across the aisle to find common ground and find the best possible deal for Michigan."

In the same breath, Hertel also mentioned that when expanding the earned income tax credit came up in the state Senate, his likely general election opponent, Tom Barrett, voted no.

Biden is talking about increasing the child tax credit by an average of \$2,600 for lower-income families, bolstering the earned income tax and making permanent the tax credit in the Inflation Reduction Act, which the White House estimates will save people an average of \$800 a year in health insurance premiums.

In his State of the Union speech last week, the president discussed cre-

ating a 25 percent minimum tax on billionaires and raising the corporate minimum tax to "at least 21 percent." He also proposed a two-year tax credit of \$400 a month to encourage people to buy homes.

Like Biden, Hertel talked about lowering the costs of prescription drugs, but again, in vague terms. He promised more details would come.

Republicans have successfully used the tax cut mantra for years, but they certainly don't have exclusive ownership of the issue.

Whitmer has shown that Democrats can just as easily send rebate checks to taxpayers as can Republicans. Biden's not talking about sending checks to people, but the idea of giving average people a lift sells, especially at a time when Democrats needed to change the subject on a variety of issues.

Regardless of what Biden does on immigration, the more he talks about it, the more he loses. Abortion access may be an issue in other parts of the country, but Proposal 3 pretty much settled the matter in Michigan. Giving frozen embryos full personhood rights isn't something you're going to see the Michigan Supreme Court do, as happened in Alabama.

There's nothing more personal to someone than personal finances. If Biden, Hertel and other Democrats can campaign on saving people money on prescription drugs or just the average essentials, they have the chance to connect.

While they're at it, they could try picking up the mantra of being the party of fiscal responsibility. Republicans in Washington haven't balanced a federal budget in the last half century, despite their constant saber-rattling about shutting down government.

Only Lyndon Johnson and Bill Clinton were able to do that.

Biden is talking about raising taxes on the rich to reduce deficits by nearly \$3 trillion over 10 years. It's not erasing the out-of-control \$34.46 trillion debt, but it's more of a plan than what the Republicans have cooked up.

It certainly couldn't hurt to try, anyway.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Opinion

2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FY2024, 7/1/2024 – 6/30/25 NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing will hold a 30-Day Public Comment Period to solicit public input on the Draft 2024 Annual Action Plan and proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing's 2024 Program Year which covers the time period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: CITY OF LANSING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AVAILABLE FOR 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

PLACE: DRAFT 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN CAN BE VIEWED AT:

1. THE CITY WEBSITE:
<https://www.lansingmi.gov/301/Documents-Resources>
2. CITY OF LANSING, DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
316 N. CAPITOL AVE
SUITE D-1
LANSING, MI 48933
3. CITY OF LANSING, LANSING CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
124 W. MICHIGAN AVE.
9TH FLOOR
LANSING, MI 48933

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 – MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON THE DRAFT 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AND PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2024 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)

For additional information, please contact Barb Kimmel at Barb.Kimmel@lansingmi.gov.

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2024 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2024 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are estimated and based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity.

SUMMARY OF FY 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF LANSING, MI DRAFT MARCH 6, 2024

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

Background

The City of Lansing's federal Annual Action Plan (AAP) details the funding strategy for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs each year. The Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 for the City of Lansing has been prepared in response to a consolidated process developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program. The Annual Action Plan is a document for the City, which outlines how program funds will be expended during the funding cycle, and it provides a basis for assessing performance. The 2024 Annual Action Plan directs funds primarily toward meeting the national objective of benefiting low/moderate-income persons.

The City of Lansing anticipates an estimated funding allocation of \$2,070,597 in CDBG funding, \$833,394 in HOME funding and \$181,593 in ESG funding for the 2024 program year which begins on July 1.

Proposed Project Allocations

The projects listed herein are based on an estimated funding allocation and are subject to change when the Department of Housing and Urban Development releases the final allocation amounts (expected in March 2024). The funding estimates are based on previous allocations over the last five years. The City is proposing to fund the following projects during the 2024 program year (July 1 – June 30):

See PN#24-434, Page 8

PN#24-434 from Page 7

Project Name	Estimated Funding Amount	Project Description
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$1,434,121	Loans and grants for rehabilitation and Emergency Repair of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and rehabilitation in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies, as well as lead hazard reduction, emergency housing rehabilitation, technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, ADA ramps, and hazard remediation.
Rental Unit Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$480,768	Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures.
Blight Removal	CDBG: \$1,000	Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation, and clearance of dilapidated and blighted structures. Funds may also be used to acquire and clear properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity.
Public Services (limited to 15%)	CDBG: \$310,589	Includes services for low- and moderate-income individuals such as: education, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.
Economic Development & Business Technical Assistance	CDBG: \$30,000	Loans, technical assistance, and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, and façade improvement loans/grants. Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing.
CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)	CDBG: \$414,119	Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and Federal Programs. Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.
Down Payment Assistance	HOME: \$100,000	Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$15,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity.

Homeowner Housing Construction and Rehabilitation	HOME: \$508,377	Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities.
CHDO Set-Aside (15% minimum required)	HOME: \$125,009	Reserved for housing developed, sponsored, or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the city.
CHDO Operating (limited to 5%)	HOME: \$41,669	Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDO's utilizing the City's HOME funds to produce affordable housing in the community.
HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)	HOME: \$83,339	Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.
Street Outreach	ESG: \$5,448	Street Outreach activities.
Homeless Prevention	ESG: \$59,926	Homeless Prevention activities.
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	ESG: \$5,448	Funds will be provided for HMIS and comparable database costs.
Shelter Operation	ESG: \$98,060	Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities, and furnishings in shelter facilities.
ESG General Administration (limited to 7.5%)	ESG: \$12,711	Funds to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions grant program.

Public Process

The City of Lansing will provide a public notice on March 13, 2024, advertising a 30-day public comment period starting on **March 14, 2024**, and ending on **April 15, 2024**. Additionally, The City of Lansing is holding two public hearings for the above proposed project allocations on **Wednesday, March 5, 2024** at the City Planning Board meeting, and again prior to final adoption on **Monday, May 6, 2024** with the City Council.

Copies of the Annual Action Plan draft will be available for public review at the following locations:

1. The City of Lansing website: <https://www.lansingmi.gov/301/Documents-Resources>
2. City of Lansing, Lansing City Clerk's Office
124 W. Michigan Ave.
9th Floor
Lansing MI 48933
3. City of Lansing Development Office
316 N. Capitol Ave, Suite D-1
Lansing, MI 48933

Copies will be available beginning on **March 14, 2024**. Written comments on the above projects and proposed allocations will be received through **Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 5:00 PM**.

The City will provide technical assistance to citizens and groups representative of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in the review of program activities and program amendments. In addition, the City will make adequate and reasonable provisions to assist non-English speaking residents in interpreting program opportunities and provisions on a case-by-case basis, as well as provide auxiliary aides and services for individuals with disabilities.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Skeleton in a saxophone

Jazzman Diego Rivera returns to Michigan, with an 'Ofrenda'

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

This weekend, Lansing-area jazz lovers will have a welcome chance to catch up with a longtime local favorite, saxophonist Diego Rivera.

There's a lot to catch up on.

Inspired by a new home, a new job and close proximity to his family roots in the American Southwest and Mexico, Rivera is on fire, as a teacher, musician and composer.

"It's combustion," Rivera said. "It's a chemical change, man."

As a homecoming offering, he will lead a stellar quintet at UrbanBeat Saturday to unveil "Ofrenda," a recently composed suite commissioned by Chamber Music America.

Music writer Tony Zambito declared the world premiere of "Ofrenda" on Feb. 4 at Buffalo, New York's AKG Art Museum "breathhtaking," "passionate" and "historic."

"It was important that I brought the suite to Michigan," Rivera said. "It's still home. I was there for the first 44 years of my life."

In 2022, after 20 years at Michigan State University Jazz Studies, Rivera left Michigan to become director of Jazz Studies at the University of Texas at Austin's Butler School of Music.

Rivera has a growing list of recordings behind him, including six albums as a leader, but he talks as if it's all a prelude to finely blended, highly personal music like "Ofrenda."

"I feel like I'm finding my compositional voice," he said. "My work in jazz gave me tools and the ability and the language, but the fuel for my creative voice comes from my own culture."

"Ofrenda" weaves traditional music from Mexico with straight-up jazz as only Rivera can. To bring this rich tapestry to life, Rivera will reunite with bassist Rodney Whitaker and pianist Xavier Davis of the MSU Professors of Jazz, with guest artists Pete Rodriguez on trumpet and MSU grad Michael Reed on drums.

Rodriguez, who is also on the facul-



Courtesy photo

Diego Rivera, formerly a Jazz Studies faculty member at Michigan State University, returns to Lansing this weekend with a quintet that includes Rodney Whitaker and Xavier Davis of the MSU Professors of Jazz.

ty at Austin, is a multi-talented trumpeter, singer and percussionist, the son of Puerto Rican salsa singer Pete "El Conde" Rodriguez.

Rivera hit it off with Rodriguez as soon as he settled in. The two of them made beautiful music together on Rivera's newly released album, "With Just a Word."

"He is really a dynamic trumpet player and conguero," Rivera said. "I'm really looking forward to introducing him to mid-Michigan."

The prestigious commission from Chamber Music America's New Jazz Works program came in 2022 — not the most convenient time for Rivera.

"I was in my driveway, packing up the last of my belongings in Lansing, when I got the email that I was approved," he recalled.

Suddenly, while going through some big life changes, he also had to come up with a major piece of music. What to write?

Once he and his family settled in at Austin, the answer was in plain sight.

"My mother is from San Antonio, and much of my father's side is around here," Rivera said. "Just being around Mexi-

can-American culture, which has always been a strong presence in my music, I was reminded of many deep cultural traditions, like seeing ofrendas everywhere."

Ofrendas are the offerings placed on a home altar to honor departed loved ones on the Day of the Dead.

"The ofrenda is based on what the person was like when they were with us — their favorite food, their clothes, trinkets and things," Rivera said.

No two ofrendas are alike.

"They're so personal," he said. "There's no template for these things, but there are shared feelings we have. That's a lot like music. There are guidelines, traditions, but the music itself is so very personal. That's where I got the idea."

The opening movement, "Volver" ("Return"), evokes the spirits of the dead coming back to life. The following section, "Fotografia," evokes the emotions stirred by photographs of deceased loved ones.

"It's a bittersweet feeling," Rivera said. "When we premiered it, one-third of the audience was in tears."

The suite explores many moods and practices associated with ofrendas, including votive candles, pan de muerto (bread of the dead) and papel picado (elaborate paper decorations perforat-

ed with cut-out details). To animate the finale, "El Esqueleto," or "The Skeleton," Rivera drew from Latin musical forms such as bolero and son jarocho, a traditional genre of music from Vera Cruz, Mexico, with a "very distinctive rhythm."

"On the Day of the Dead, the skeleton wears the clothes the person used to wear, dances the same dance, eats the food," Rivera said.

Working on the suite, Rivera came up with his own take on the meaning of the ofrenda.

"The spirits have a subliminal message to us, to enjoy the experiences we have," he said. "Life is a pretty good thing. There's food, there's dancing, there's music."

Life is pretty good for Rivera right now. He loves living in Austin, and his two young daughters made new friends right away.

"They have a busier calendar than I have," he joked.

Professionally, Rivera was blown away by his welcome at the university's Butler School.

"Sometimes I sit in my office and think, 'Did I really do this? Did I really become a jazz studies director?'" he admitted. "But the students have, by far, been the best part of the transition. I can feel their acceptance of me, their confidence in me to give them a wonderful experience."

At Austin, Rivera is carrying on the same tradition he upheld for 20 years at MSU. The first guest artist he invited to Austin was Whitaker, his old MSU Jazz Studies boss.

"It was very important for my students to know who inspired the philosophies I'm trying to instill down here," Rivera said. "I've seen jazz education, mentorship, at its best, and I know that it builds to something bigger — a community, a family."

Rivera and Whitaker stay in touch frequently. They played together in Japan last summer with MSU trombonist Michael Dease and at a jazz festival in Austin.

"I bother him constantly," Rivera said. "Whenever I ask him, 'How should I do this?' it usually ends with him saying, 'You already did that, remember?'"

TURN IT DOWN!

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

HEARTLAND ROCK

Sean Anthony Sullivan talks Seger, Springsteen and growing up in Michigan

Sean Anthony Sullivan is a local singer-songwriter who's equally inspired by the Rolling Stones' "Exile on Main St." as he is by Bob Seger's "Mainstreet." Sullivan, 41, chatted with City Pulse about the Rust Belt rock style he's honed over the last 25 years and five albums. The troubadour's latest release, the "Distilled" EP, is streaming now. Backed by bassist Casey DeMott and drummer Luke Lindsay, Sullivan performs Saturday (March 16) at Mac's Bar.

Sean Anthony Sullivan

w/ All Over the Shop
Saturday, March 16
Doors 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
\$10, 21+
facebook.com/macsbarmisu

my songwriting. Artists like Jackson Browne, Warren Zevon, Steve Earle, Springsteen, Seger and Bob Dylan enamored me. Those artists could write poetry and tell a story in an unshakeable and intimate fashion. They could make you feel the words within and the emotions behind those songs.

You and Seger are both Michiganders — does that play into your connection to his songs?

Being from Michigan, the Seger connection is so strong, woven through the fabric of this region. Who can watch a Chevy truck driving without thinking of "Like a Rock"? For me, the moment as a kid when I first heard "Old Time

I hear some Bruce Springsteen and Bob Seger in your records. Are you a fan?

Sean Anthony Sullivan: My true driving force in learning guitar at a young age was to further



Courtesy photo

Sean Anthony Sullivan performs Saturday (March 16) at Mac's Bar, supporting his band's latest release, the "Distilled" EP.

Rock & Roll" amplified through the speakers at the roller skating rink was a pivotal moment. It was the first time I can recall hearing rock 'n' roll at that volume level in such a space, and it changed me.

You grew up in the Lansing area and recently moved back, but you spent years in Oregon, correct? After graduating from Michigan

See Turn It Down, Page 11

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65g Pre-Roll Giveaway Raffle runs thru March 17th!

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WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD.

FOR REGISTERED PATIENTS ONLY OR FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21+ YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR ADULT USE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA. ACTUAL VALUE OF THC AND CBD MAY VARY FROM REPORTED VALUE BY 10%. NATIONAL POISON CONTROL HOTLINE: 1-800-222-1222



LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

BEETHOVEN VIOLIN CONCERTO

MARCH 23 • 7:30 PM

Turn It Down

from page 10

State University, I made my way to the West Coast for an opportunity to work as a software engineer in the video game industry. I spent a good decade in that industry, and now I'm building platforms in the education space. Now that I'm back in Michigan with my family, when I'm not playing music or working in the studio, I'm just enjoying being here in the community, whether finding a new beach, taking in the Lansing Symphony or going to Red Wings games.

What first inspired you to become a musician?

I've played piano as long as I could read and write, starting at 6 years old. My dad was the director of bands in Charlotte for the entirety of my childhood, so I grew up in the band room and all things around that. I was exposed to everything, including his approaches to composing and arranging music. I even earned some spare cash by entering musical scores into the computer so they could be printed and published.

Did your father play music around the house?

Back then, your music collection was the records of your parents, so for me, that was a healthy diet of the Beatles, Traffic and promotional vinyl of marching band music. Hearing marching band arrangements of songs like Huey Lewis' "The Power of Love" taught me a lot about what makes a song great and a melody stick.

Is that what drew you to the guitar?

I grew up listening to horn bands and was obsessed with Chicago. I would say it was the song "25 or 6 to 4" that made me want to play guitar — the main primal guitar riff, almost Black Sabbath-esque in nature, and the explosive lead guitar parts and how they interweave with the horns. I was hooked on what a guitar could do and sound like because of Terry Kath. He is to me what Jimi Hendrix or Eddie Van Halen are to many guitar players. Additionally, my dad would play "Johnny B. Goode" on his guitar, and the way he'd make that Chuck Berry riff sing, the way those guitar speakers felt hitting my chest, I was obsessed with the feeling.

How soon did you start recording tracks?

My dad taught me how to record music in his home studio as I got older. He taught me how to use tape, including old-school editing with a ra-

zor blade, and run mixing consoles. I've been off and running ever since.

What's been inspiring your lyrics these days?

My last record was largely written and recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was an exhalation and a chance to cope with things I was feeling or witnessing. Coming out of that fog, my writing has themes of taking on life head-on and the whole "amor fati" philosophy of resiliency and renaissance. The attitude of not compromising but embracing the urgency of life and going after what's important, but these songs approach it in a way that's not too heavy.

Are your live shows all originals, or do you work in covers?

We treat our shows like a celebration of rock 'n' roll. It's a chance to all get in a room and share that love of music. We want to connect, sing together and forget about whatever heavy things are consuming us. We treat each show a little differently and mix it up depending on the room and the crowd. We like to throw in familiar tunes, sometimes as part of a larger medley. Covers are a great chance to tip our cap to artists we appreciate and who have influenced us.

For updates, follow Sullivan at [facebook.com/seanathonyullivan](https://www.facebook.com/seanathonyullivan).

OTHER UPCOMING SHOWS

GTG Records hosts an **Irish & Scottish Rock Celebration 7** to 9:30 p.m. Sunday (March 17) at the **Avenue Cafe**, featuring a lineup of artists playing rock and punk music with Irish and Scottish influences. Performing at the show are Jean Dream, Mad Moon, the Louderthans and more. FREE. [avenuecafelansing.com](https://www.avenuecafelansing.com).

Detroit rapper **Danny Brown** brings his Quaranta '24 Tour to **Grewal Hall at 224** 6:30 p.m. Tuesday (March 19). The all-ages show features tracks from his acclaimed discography that dates back to 2010. \$25-\$50. [hall224.com](https://www.hall224.com).

Rustic rock legend **John Mellen-camp** performs 8 p.m. Tuesday (March 19) at the **Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall**. The show will no doubt delve into his impressive discography of blue-collar hits, like "Hurts So Good," "Jack & Diane," "Crumbly Down," "Small Town" and "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A.," to name a few. Tickets from \$49.50. [whartoncenter.com](https://www.whartoncenter.com).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Building Board of Appeals on **Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, Conference Room A, Second Floor, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider the appeal of **Eric Kociba on behalf of Champion MSU, LCC owner of the property at 635 Abbot Road East Lansing, Michigan** requesting reconsideration of a CODE official decision on the 2006 Property Maintenance code:

1003.7 Submission of floor plans and site plan. For properties that have not been reviewed through submission and approval of a plan of development, an application for a rental unit license shall include a floor plan and a site plan with dimensions drawn accurately to scale in accordance with the requirements of this section. A request for a building or paving permit which alters an existing floor plan or site plan shall include a new floor plan or site plan in accordance with the requirements of this section.

- (1) class I, II, III, IV, and VI licenses, the floor plan shall show the number, size, and location of habitable and occupiable rooms in the rental unit, and the number, size, and location of non-habitable and non-occupiable rooms in the rental unit, as well as all exits, basement and attic egress windows, and entryways to the rental unit. For class V licenses, the floor plan submitted must represent, to the satisfaction of the chief code official, the same information as required for the other license classifications, provided, however, class V licenses may, in any event, satisfy the requirements of this subsection by submission of (a) a floor plan for each general type of rental unit (for example, efficiency, studio, one-bedroom unit, etc.); and (b) either a site plan as above described or a mortgage survey.
- (2) The site plan shall show the boundaries of the property, the location of all structures, the location, number and size of parking spaces in conformance with the City Code, the location and size of driveways, curb cuts, the location, type, and dimension of construction materials used for parking spaces and driveways, the type of materials covering area abutting or adjacent to parking spaces, and the location of fences and significant plantings. The department may require submission of a legal survey to establish the boundaries of the rental unit.
- (3) If the owner or legal agent has previously submitted a floor plan and site plan for the rental unit which is the subject of the application, the application may incorporate by reference the previously filed documents and certify that no material change to the rental unit has taken place in the prior license period.

404.4.1 Room area. Every living room shall contain at least 120 square feet (11.2m²) and every bedroom occupied by one person shall contain at least 70 square feet (6.5m²). Every bedroom occupied by more than one person shall contain at least 50 square feet (4.6m²) of floor area for each occupant thereof.

605.3.3 Switching. Except for unfinished basements, switches for lighting of every stair greater than five risers shall be provided at both ends of the stair. Switches for lighting shall be at the top of the stairs for unfinished basements. Wherever practical, wall switches shall be located adjacent to the entrance of the area being lighted.

*604.3. Electrical System Hazards
Where it is found the electrical systems in a structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants or the structure by reason of inadequate service, improper fusing, insufficient receptacle and lighting outlets, improper wiring or installation, deterioration, or damage, or on similar reason, the code official shall require the defects to be corrected to eliminate the hazard*

For more information on the request please contact Scott Weaver at (517) 319-6878 or sweaver@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. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Building Board of Appeals, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to bba@cityofeastlansing.com.

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



Trey Armstead, 5, of Lansing, enjoys the zip track.



It's not just for kids: "This is awesome," says Kale Smith of Lansing. "We were so excited when we found out an all-inclusive park was opening. We spend a lot of time here."



Cecelia Scholten, 10, of Lansing, practices skating.



Designed for parity, built to p

All-access playground has downtown Lansing riverfront

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

From a distance, it yells "fun." Up close, it whispers "compassion."

On a sunny February afternoon, I counted at least 65 kids, parents and caregivers swarming all over Play Michigan!, the colorful, \$3.3 million all-access playground that opened Sept. 16 at the southeast corner of Grand Avenue and Saginaw Street.

Who wants to wait for that proposed downtown skyscraper? Right now, you can behold the skyline of downtown Lansing and look down on the shimmering Grand River from an 8-foot tower full of laughing, screaming kids.

This is no ordinary facility. Everything here is designed for "parity of play" between kids who have physical disabilities, autism, sight impairment and other disabilities, and kids who don't.

The nonprofit Capital Region Community Foundation and private donors paid for the 1.75-acre park. The city contributed \$300,000 for a parking lot and River Trail upgrades.

The place may look like a huge, overturned bucket of candy, but everything here has been carefully designed and built for multiple purposes. On the day I visited the park, playground equipment specialist Rich Sinclair was about to explain the workings of the tower in greater detail when a red-haired boy zoomed past us, devouring a banana.

I asked Sinclair if the playground's state-of-the-art design accounted for castoff banana peels.

"We account for everything," Sinclair said. "I'm not even going to tell you the things kids drop that we account for."

Eight feet below, the playground's poured rubberized surface — the first such surface in a Lansing park — is spongy but durable,

resistant to everything from banana peels to the Grand River in raging flood.

That rubber saw plenty of action in late fall and winter. On Dec. 25, I saw at least two dozen people in the park, working off a holiday brunch.

"We are really happy with the way Lansing has responded to the park, and we haven't even hit an out-of-school time yet," Lansing parks director Brett Kaschinske said.

As the weather warms up in earnest, it's time for a closer look at the visionary planning, design and construction of Lansing's newest downtown gem, from the rubber up.

Perceived risk is fun

The idea behind Play! Michigan isn't for kids with disabilities to have a special place to play. It's for them to lose themselves in the mix of humanity and the joy of movement alongside everyone else.

The gangway to the top of the tower is gently sloped so a person in a mobility device can get to the summit.

Safety requirements limited the ramp's steepness to 1 foot in height for over 12 feet in length, so designers had to fold the gangway into a dozen crazy and unpredictable angles to pack it into a workable space. The tower is so packed with surprises that kids never seem to tire of zig-zagging to the top, sliding down and starting all over.

Sinclair is the co-owner of Sinclair Recreation, a Michigan-based company specializing in playground and park equipment. He and his wife, co-owner Diane Sinclair, have been in the playground equipment business for 34 years.

"It feels like a lot higher than 8 feet, doesn't it?" Sinclair asked when we got to the top of the tower. "If you spend the majority of your life seated in a mobility device, at a ground level, the opportunity to look down at somebody else, to have that perspective, is pretty rare. It changes your perspective on the world."

Usually, kids have to plunk themselves

down on the floor from

get into position at the

"Not only is there a

there's also a dignity i

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Here, kids in whe

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"Sliding is meant t

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Near the top of th

slide where two kids

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Cover photo
Oakland Cole, 2, of Lansing.
"We come to this park all the time," his mother,
Kayla, said, "and he's become very confident"

Photos by Raymond Holt



party nt jumping

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e top of a slide.

n ergonomic concern,
issue,” Sinclair said. “I
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ne tower is a double
can race, side by side,
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abled. It’s always go-

ing to end in a tie. As Galileo demonstrat-
ed in 1590 at the Leaning Tower of Pisa, all
objects accelerate toward the center of the
Earth at the same rate. If equal access is wo-
ven into the fabric of gravity, why should a
park be any different?

Pearl on the river

In peak hours, Play Michigan! generates
an impressive level of pandemonium. Re-
sponding to advice from members of the
local autism community, designers added
quiet corners for over-stimulated kids.

The secluded benches are also a good
place to take a break from hurtling to and
fro and soak up a bit of background.

Play Michigan! is the second major piece
in a “string of pearls” designed to bring peo-
ple to the Grand River in downtown Lan-
sing, according to Community Foundation
President Laurie Baumer.

The most recent major bead on the string
was Rotary Park, a \$2.5 million cluster of
play areas, hangouts and attractions com-
pleted in fall 2018, also funded mostly by
the Community Foundation.

In 2018, Linda Zylstra, a Foundation
board member, suggested that an all-access
playground would be a perfect addition to
the string.

Zylstra has worked for over 20 years with
Chosen Vision, a DeWitt-based nonprofit
that operates five group homes for develop-
mentally disabled adults in Grand Ledge,
Westphalia and DeWitt.

She signaled that she and her husband,
Joel, would happily invest in an all-access
playground. Not only did the Zylstras come
up with the idea for the park; they gave a
“major gift,” Baumer said.

Zylstra shrugged off the recognition. “We
were a very small part of this,” she said. “It’s
easy to give an idea. The Community Foun-
dation just took the ball and ran with it.”

Baumer told a fellow board member,
CASE Credit Union CEO Jeffrey Benson,
about the idea, only to learn that CASE
had already raised money to build a similar
playground and bought some equipment.
The project was on hold, the equipment was
in storage and the money raised was still
available.

It almost seemed like a sign from above.
Sensing momentum for the project, Baumer
made the rounds of board members and do-
nors, and all of them responded enthu-
siastically. Kaschinske and Lansing Mayor
Andy Schor loved the idea.

“Once you’ve got that kind of synergy, it’s
a go,” Baumer said.

1,000 tons of rip-rap

From the start, Baumer pushed hard for a
downtown riverfront site.

“Every kid needs to have the ability to en-
joy a river, a body of water,” she said. “Often-
times they don’t. They don’t go near a dock,
near a boat. This gives them a safe way to
enjoy something that other kids always get
to enjoy.”

A wide riverfront deck, big enough for two
wheelchairs to pass each other, was “critical”
to the project, in Baumer’s view.

Landscape architect Tim Britain and a
team from Viridis, a Kalamazoo and Grand
Rapids architectural firm, designed the
park surrounding the play area.

“Laurie was very adamant that we needed
to get this user group close to the water, so
they could see that river and enjoy its beau-
ty,” Britain said.

By design, the river is a presence every-
where in the park, especially when viewed
from the top of the play tower.

“This was hard for some people to under-
stand,” Baumer admitted. “Why the river?
Our whole goal is to embrace the riverfront,
make it more vibrant, more user-friendly

and accessible to people, and, in doing so,
create a more vibrant downtown.”

“We’ve tried to create a true destination
playground,” Kaschinske said. “Placing it
right downtown, right on the Grand River,
and tying the river to the project made it
more than a playground. Groups that come
to the Capitol — this is just a few blocks
from that.”

Landscape designer Tim Britain of Viridis
said riverfront recreation is a welcome trend
he’s seen in his 35 years in the urban design
trade.

“For ages, they were just our sewers,” Brit-
ain said. “We just dumped stuff in them. In
our infinite wisdom, we decided that they
are important for recreation and so many
other things and decided to take care of
them.”

Britain praised the Community Founda-
tion’s determination to embrace the river-
front. He recalled that when he studied at
MSU in the 1980s, he only ventured to Lan-
sing to hang with friends who were bellhops
at the Radisson.

“The image the city had — it was rough,”
Britain said. “Everybody came to East Lan-
sing then. Like a lot of our urban areas,



ingly laid in stages, color by color, to form
images of the Great Lakes, a robin and her
nest, an apple blossom and other Michi-
gan-specific images.

The park gets a lot of sun, so extra care
was taken pouring concrete to anchor a
heavy-duty tensile shade structure. (Don’t
call it a tent. The engineers don’t like that.)
While their kids are running around, engi-



Jasmine Schieberl, 8, of Lansing, enjoys the net climber

there’s been a remarkable transition in Lan-
sing in the last 30 years.”

But building a playground on a river was
a major task for project manager Rhonda
Franck of Wieland, the head contractor.

“When you have a project along the river,
it looks great, but it presents a lot of chal-
lenges,” Franck said.

Soon after ground was broken on the
park in May 2023, more than 800 cubic
yards of rip-rap (boulders) — about 1,000
tons — were heaped onto the riverbank to
control erosion and serve as a safety buffer
between the playground and the river. The
boardwalk was secured to the riverbank by
36 timber piles.

There were challenges inside the play-
ground as well.

“I think we were on vision 13 or 14 by the
time we were done,” Diane Sinclair said.
“Laurie just wanted to make it perfect.”

The rubberized surface had to be durable,
safe and resistant to flooding, but the design
team reached beyond functionality to create
a work of art.

The viscous goo was poured onto the
ground from wheelbarrows and carefully
smoothed out. A second layer was painstakingly

neering nerds might want to check out the
Mackinac Bridge-scaled turnbuckles hold-
ing the roof of the structure to its elephan-
tine, triple-thick metal pillars.

“That shade structure is not going any-
where,” Franck said.

The high-quality materials and special-
ized equipment used in the playground and
surrounding park didn’t come cheap. Con-
struction costs skyrocketed in the wake of
the pandemic and consequent supply chain
problems, pushing the budget from a pro-
jected \$1.6 million to \$3.3 million. More
than \$1.6 million came from the Commu-
nity Foundation, while private and corpo-
rate donors stepped up to fill the gap. CASE
Credit Union provided a \$100,000 gift as
part of its “CASE Cares” program. Other
corporate donors included AF Group,
University of Michigan Health, Mary Free
Bed and Peckham. Three major gifts from
individual donors, including the Zylstras,
topped \$500,000.

The project demanded constant and often
complicated communication among all the
major players — Wieland, Viridis, the city of
Lansing, Sinclair and a small army of sub-



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CityPULSE

Play!

from page 13

contractors.

“The team effort was more exceptional than I’ve ever experienced as project manager,” Franck said. “And it had to be, because it was so important it be done safely.”

“Laurie wants nothing but the best,” Kaschinske said. “That is awesome to get on a team like that. They’ve got the means to fund this and make it what it is, make it the best.”

Weeks before the scheduled opening, while the playground equipment was still being installed, Wieland workers had to drop their trowels and screwdrivers more than once a day to tell disappointed families, including crying kids, that the park just wasn’t ready yet.

“That’s when we knew it was going to be a hit,” Franck said.

Inclusive whirl

While the riverfront park took shape, the Sinclairs and the Community Foundation team sweated over every detail of the project’s most crucial component — the playground equipment.

Working with the Disability Network Capital Area, planners considered hundreds of critical questions — the variety of play, spacing between objects, signage and use of braille, and much more.

The Disability Network helped Baumer’s team conduct a survey of 50 Lansing area families.

Diane Sinclair said the input from actual users and their families was invaluable.

“It gave us solid ideas we hadn’t thought of,” Baumer said.

The isolated time-out benches sprang from input from the autism community. At first, the park design included a variant of the classic tire swing. The parent of a child with autism told Diane Sinclair that her child loves to lie down on a swing and rock back and forth. The result is a swinging magic carpet upon which you can stretch out and look straight up. The swing also bears up under half a dozen kids at a time when the occasion demands.

Even so simple a piece of equipment as the classic playground swing set is a seminar in inclusive design. Next to a set of traditional belt swings are “expression” swings, or double-seaters that allow a caregiver and child to face each other. (Kids also love to double up on them just for kicks.) Farther to the right are high-backed adaptive seats for people who need more support. One has a protective hard harness; the other has an open back to allow transfer from a mobility device.

Like everything else in the park, no matter the underlying function, the seats are colorful, inviting and fun. On our tour of the park, Rich Sinclair climbed into the hard-harness support seat, kicked back, clicked himself in and beamed like an astronaut.

His voice came in and out of ear-shot as he swung. “KIDS with special needs often HAVE, by necessity, a more latent LIFESTYLE,” he explained. “This STYLE of seat supports a VARIETY of body shapes and SIZES.”

A few feet away is the popular “inclusive whirl,” an all-access variant of the “run like crazy, jump on maybe lose a foot” merry-go-rounds of yore.

This one is built so that people in wheelchairs can slide right into the circle, at ground level, and spin to their heart’s content. The design encourages frequent outbursts of “co-operative play,” a Holy Grail of inclusive playgrounds.

“Someone in a mobility device stops by to enjoy the whirl, and their able-bodied peers take great joy in spinning them,” Sinclair said.

One of the most popular pieces of equipment here is as simple as they come — a chair you can sit and spin around in to your heart’s content.

“One of the largest growing sectors of the special needs population is in autism spectrum disorder,” Sinclair said. “Experts tell us spinning is a very calming, centering activity for them.”

There are lots of extras to discover on the playground’s periphery walkway. Metallic chimes, in the form of flower-like stalks with four petals, encourage impromptu duets.

“Most of these go ‘klunk,’” Sinclair said. “These actually make music.”

In a sneaky touch, the two stalks are harmonically tuned to sound great together, but most kids can’t reach both at once. It takes a partner.

“It’s a very unobtrusive way for two people who don’t know each other to have a play experience together,” Sinclair said.

‘Get out there’

None of the principal players in the development and construction of Play Michigan! were interested in creating a “hidden gem.” (The exclamation point should have tipped you off.) An enormous sign throws the bouncy logo onto busy Saginaw Street, all but daring drivers to ignore the cries of “Oh daddy, can we go?” coming from the back seat.

“I’m sure there’s plenty of people that have driven by and seen it, or their kids saw it, and either that car had to turn onto Grand Avenue then, or it would in the near future,” Kaschinske said.

From the road, the colorful apparatus is an eye-catcher, but, by



Montgomery Brooks, 6, spins his siblings, Avery 2, and Kendal, 11, on the Inclusive Whirl.

design, the heart of the park is carefully hidden. The seamless mix of equipment for people with disabilities and everyone else deeply impressed designer Britain.

“Other parks we’ve designed are inclusive of kids with disabilities, but this was a very unique charge,” Britain said. “This is the prime user group it’s designed for, and the rest of the population gets to enjoy it. The design is invisible, and that’s how it should be. It’s for everybody.”

Kaschinske said he’s seen a sharpened appreciation for outdoor recreation in general, owing largely to the pandemic, and “people have kept that momentum up.”

“That’s why you’re seeing the numbers you do at this playground,” he said. “It really hits so many aspects of what we, as human beings, crave for ourselves and our kids. The diversity of ages, abilities, socio-economic groups — it’s free, and that’s what our parks mission is.”



Amber Yarger of Lansing, and her son Rowan, 3, scoping out the playground.

Kaschinske got so excited talking about the park that he broke some kind of fourth wall and addressed the reader directly.

“When’s the last time you were on a swing?” he exhorted, as if he were doing a TV spot. “Get out there and enjoy it.”

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to add Chapter 887 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances, Sections 887.01-887.07, to authorize a payment in lieu of taxes program in conformity with the State of Michigan property tax exemption alternative, authorized under 1966 PA 346, as amended; specifically MCL 125.1415a, which permits a city to elect to consider a payment in lieu of taxes for a housing project developed or rehabilitated for workforce housing after the passage of an enabling ordinance.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TDD (517) 483-4479) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
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CP#24-436

Sportswriter sees ‘disgrace’ in MSU’s non-recognition for 1966 team

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Like the indomitable Blues Brothers, sportswriter and author Tom Shanahan is on “a mission from God.”

That mission is to get Michigan State University to recognize its important role in desegregating college football. He takes MSU to task for its lack of effort to recognize Duffy Daugherty and his role in desegregating college football in the 1960s.

In his new book, “The Right Thing to Do: The True Pioneers of College Football Integration in the 1960s,” he makes the case that Daugherty and the 1965 and ‘66 football teams kickstarted desegregation in college football. The 1965 team shared the national championship with the University of Alabama, while the 1966 team did so with the University of Notre Dame, based on various polls.

Shanahan began the quest with his book “Ray of Light,” which detailed the career of Jimmy Raye, the first Black quarterback to lead a team to win a college national championship, which he did at MSU in 1966.

In a recent interview, Shanahan told me he was disappointed that after his first book, the myth about Alabama coach Bear Bryant’s supposedly sending Black players to MSU still exists. The legend is that Bryant did so in the 1960s because he could not integrate his own team.

Shanahan pointed out that the myth was recently restated by MSU basketball coach Tom Izzo in a post-game interview after beating the Uni-

versity of Maryland.

He is also miffed that Bryant is lionized for helping desegregate the SEC.

“Alabama was the seventh team of 10 to desegregate,” he said.

But he is also miffed at MSU.

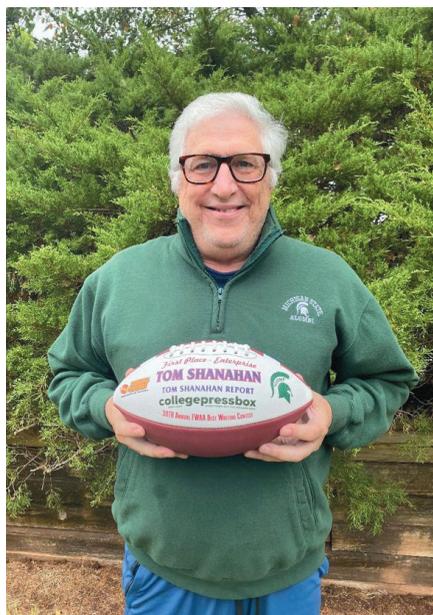
“It’s a disgrace that MSU has done nothing to recognize the 1966 team,” he added.

As a point of reference, Shanahan said that 41.5% of Black players nationwide who won a 1960s national championship ring were from MSU.

“The 1966 team was transcendent” but inadequately recognized by the school.

Shanahan said he finds it ironic that MSU’s campus does not recognize the 1966 team, yet there is a plaque at MSU for the so-called “Game of Change.” That 1963 game pitted the desegregated Loyola University Chicago basketball team against all-white Mississippi State University in the NCAA regional semifinal round. What made it historic was that the Mississippi State coach and president defied Mississippi’s unwritten law against competition with teams that had Black players.

In the new book, Shanahan points to numerous other college sports programs across the country that have recognized groundbreaking Black athletes. He quotes MSU athletic director Alan Haller in a speech on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2022 as saying that MSU had plans to recognize the 1965 and ‘66 teams and Duffy Daugherty with a statue outside the football building. He talked about plans for a statue based on the iconic photograph of Daugherty with George Webster,



Courtesy photo

The new book by sportswriter Tom Shanahan (pictured above), “The Right Thing to Do,” chronicles Duffy Daugherty and the 1965 and ‘66 MSU football teams’ underrecognized role in integrating the college sport.

Bubba Smith, Bob Apisa, Gene Washington and Clinton Jones.

“It will be the first thing you see as you go into the building,” he quotes Haller as saying.

Granted, MSU’s football program has had a few speed bumps since then, but nothing has happened to recognize the two teams.

College programs that have erected memorials include the University of Alabama; the University of Tennessee; the University of Iowa; the University of Kentucky; the University of California, Los Angeles; and Auburn University, among others. Once again, irony strikes (this time twice): The University of Houston erected a

statue honoring Bill Yeoman for his pioneering role in desegregating the school’s football team. Yeoman served as an assistant coach under Duffy at MSU. Syracuse University retired the jersey of Wilmeth Sidat-Singh, a pioneering Black quarterback in the 1930s and a member of the Tuskegee Airmen. Daugherty was a lineman on Syracuse’s 1937 team when Singh was banned from playing against Maryland because of his race.

According to Shanahan, a 1978 MSU grad who was sports editor of the State News, MSU has numerous firsts the school could recognize, going back to Gideon Smith, a Black player on the 1913 and ‘14 teams.

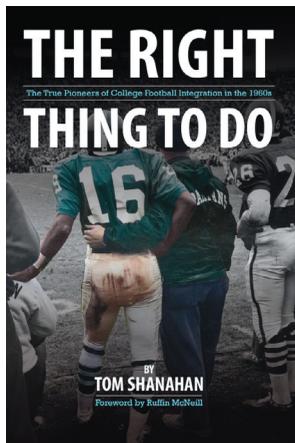
Shannon said the only explanation he can think of for the continuation of the Bear Bryant myth is Bryant got his message out first, and it became embedded in popular culture.

“It may be a better story — Southern coach fights for desegregation — but it’s just not true,” Shanahan said.

He said the facts show that Duffy developed a relationship with southern Black high school football coaches, most notably Bubba Smith’s father, and that was the beginning of college football’s underground railroad.

He also believes that sportswriters did not write about race in the 1960s.

“It’s a failure of sports journalism,” he said. “The clock is ticking on telling that story. Most of the players are approaching their 80s.”



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Daydreaming pays off for new Lansing tattoo shop owner

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

After 12 years in the tattoo industry, Jero Garza had grown weary of life on the convention circuit.

For years, it had him traveling from coast to coast, peddling his craft to tattoo enthusiasts both in Michigan and nationwide. However, following an appearance in Minneapolis in early January, he decided enough was enough.

Daydream Tattoo Studio

1568 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
Monday–Thursday:
Noon–9 p.m.
Friday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–10 p.m.
Sunday: By appointment
(517) 505-1123

He contacted two of his best friends, fellow tattoo artists Jacob Hendrickson of Darkside Studios in Cadillac and Ohio artist Chris Taube, and told them he was



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Madison Gensterblum (left) gets some fresh ink by artist Kylee Michelle at Lansing's newest tattoo shop, Daydream Tattoo Studio, which opened Feb. 8 at 1568 E. César E. Chávez Ave.

considering opening his own shop. They pledged their support and promised to make guest appearances until he could recruit a full team.

By Feb. 8, Daydream Tattoo Studio was up and running in a 1,100-square-foot space at 1568 E. César E. Chávez Ave. in Lansing, just off Oakland Avenue.

"I would drive by the building every day, and it always got my attention. It was a cool spot that's like five blocks from my house, and I thought it would be awesome to be able to walk or ride a bike to work. So, I took it, and it was ready to

open within three weeks," Garza said.

Garza, 38, specializes in realistic horror-style tattoos. In addition to Hendrickson and Taube, who still come in to help on occasion, he hired another artist and is in the process of bringing a second employee on board this month. His goal is a staff that can provide a variety of styles.

"After 12 years, you know, I figure I've built a decent name, and I think this could be a fun place where people would want to work. I could share my experience; I can help open doors for people. I just want to see the industry and its artists grow," Garza said.

When he settles in with a full team of four resident artists, including himself, he plans to continue to make convention appearances under the Daydream Tattoo Studio banner.

Their first opportunity will come next month, when Lansing hosts the Tattoo City Tattoo Convention April 26 through 28.

"After that, we've already lined up events in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Minneapolis, Nashville and Chicago — pretty much wherever there's a big show in a big city," Garza said.

He said one benefit to having a presence at these conventions is that it gives

him and his team more opportunities to connect with and learn from other talented artists. He hopes some of them might be interested in visiting Lansing as guest artists.

"I want to bring in all these big-game guys and have diverse guest artists in the shop. I want to get the lettering specialists from Chicago; the portrait artists from Dayton, Ohio; or the American-traditional dude from Philadelphia — specifically, people who do their work very, very well," he said.

Garza sees his new business venture as the culmination of a lifetime of dreaming, which is how it got its name.

"It was the one thing my mom always told me to stop doing when I was little: 'You have your head in the clouds. Stop daydreaming.' Well, now, I showed her," he said with a laugh.

Having actualized his dream, however, Garza has shifted his focus back to the tangible, emphasizing cleanliness, safety and customer satisfaction.

"We're just really focused on growth and trying to bring something fresh to the community," he said. "Our goal is to provide a high-end service where the customer experience is number one."

'What if Wilhelmina' engages audiences of all ages

By DANA DEMINK

A lively and engaging theater experience awaits kids, adults and everyone in between this weekend at Michigan State University's Arena Theatre. While "What if Wilhelmina" is billed as a sensory-friendly, interactive musical for neurodiverse audiences, I would contend that this inclusive, immersive experience is a delight for audiences of all ages and abilities.

When my companion and I descended the stairs of the Auditorium Building into the Arena Theatre's waiting room space, we were met by friendly and welcoming students who shepherd us into a classroom filled with coloring tables and a face painting station. We were encouraged to color our own name tags. We spotted a table loaded with noise-blocking headphones and handheld fidget toys that audience members could take into the theater with them. Activity books and crayons were in abundant supply.

We took our seats and were imme-

diately immersed in storybook author Joseph Belisle's boldly illustrated world. Familiar songs from classic children's movies such as "Zuckerman's Famous Pig" and "Rainbow Connection" drew us into a comfortable, exploratory play space where rainbow décor conveyed the message that "everyone is welcome," as well as the primary colors in an artist's palette. We were introduced to "the world's most beloved pet cat," Wilhelmina, who escapes out the window and into a larger-than-life world of hijinx and "catcapades," and to her human companion, Faith,



Review

"What if Wilhelmina"

March 15-17
7 p.m. Friday
6 p.m. Saturday
11 a.m. Saturday–Sunday
Arena Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

a 7-year-old girl who is prone to a bit of outsized worry.

Adapted for the stage by MSU Department of Theatre faculty member Dionne O'Dell and performed by her Sense-Ability Ensemble, this heartwarming production teaches that we can overcome our worries by engaging in coping strategies through music, dance and some controlled screaming, brought to us by the Screamer charac-

ter from Edvard Munch's iconic painting. The original song lyrics, also by O'Dell in collaboration with composer Chelle Peterson, magically convey the frustrations and dilemmas of childhood through repeating lines such as "have faith," "I'm not going to take my nap" and "it's not my fault."

While the hilariously imaginative puppets, insightful lyrics and well-choreographed dancing all contribute to a joyful theater experience, one cannot forget that O'Dell and her team are doing important work. This production was created "from the ground up for audiences that are neurodiverse," O'Dell said. She and her Sense-Ability Ensemble consulted with special education and physical therapy experts to explore how sensory elements such as giving the audience the opportunity to smell a stage element (a flower) or recreating the sounds of a thunderstorm can amplify the theater experience for audiences of diverse abilities. Members of the Sense-Ability Ensemble receive special training to sensitively respond to the needs of individual audience members should someone experience sensory overload, for example.



Photo by Harley Cook, courtesy of Michigan State University

The cast of Michigan State University's production of "What if Wilhelmina," adapted by Department of Theatre faculty member Dionne O'Dell from Joseph Belisle's critically acclaimed children's book.

Neurodiversity aside, when my companion and I eagerly reached out our age-worn hands so we could feel Wilhelmina's whiskers or experience her scratchy sandpaper kisses, we remembered a time of being enthusiastically transported into a story, immersed by the sights and sounds of the narrative. MSU's "What if Wilhelmina" invites audiences of all ages to play, explore and imagine.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Brute Force" -- getting ready for the 15th.
by Matt Jones
© 2024 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Interstate entrance
- 5. Accept formally
- 10. Beginning from
- 14. Lake near Buffalo
- 15. Burton who hosted "Reading Rainbow"
- 16. Nevada gambling locale
- 17. Noodles that translate to "little ribbons"
- 19. Crumbly cheese
- 20. Piracy venues
- 21. First claim, slangily
- 23. Traffic predicament
- 24. Leafy replacements for burger buns, sometimes
- 28. Org. that's busy in April
- 31. Transylvanian count, informally
- 32. "Blazing Saddles" actress Madeline
- 33. 2019 MLB champs
- 35. Abbr. before a founding date
- 37. Some orchestral instruments
- 40. With 42-Across, date hinted at by a hidden sequence in the four long Across answers
- 42. See 40-Across
- 44. Horseshoe-like Greek letter
- 45. Sicilian erupter
- 47. "Star Trek" character
- 48. Dirt road grooves
- 50. Agree to another tour
- 52. Small peeve

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- 53. Covert escape route
- 57. Maximum effort
- 58. Outbursts from Bart, at times
- 59. A head
- 62. "In ___ of gifts ..."
- 64. Slow companions at home?
- 68. Pilot predictions, for short
- 69. "The Thursday Murder Club" novelist Richard
- 70. Arizona mesa dwellers
- 71. Albanian's neighbor
- 72. Makeup of Maslow's hierarchy
- 73. Wild guess
- 7. Tube where eggs travel
- 8. Lose composure
- 9. Connery's antagonist, in '90s "SNL"
- 10. Newfoundland sound
- 11. 1991 Joy Fielding thriller named for a line in a classic kids' primer
- 12. Alternative to bottled
- 13. Soap pump contents
- 18. Not new
- 22. Bee formation
- 25. Birch, e.g.
- 26. Cafe au lait container
- 27. Flightless South American birds
- 28. "___ the Unknown" ("Frozen II" song)
- 29. Barack's first chief of staff
- 30. Avoid
- 34. Icelandic band ___
- Ros
- 36. "Damn Yankees" co-director Stanley
- 38. Roman 651
- 39. Sealed up
- 41. Old-fashioned
- 43. Man-goat of myth
- 46. "Don't worry about it, I got you"
- 49. ___ a dime
- 51. Type of review
- 53. Department that works with marketing
- 54. The 1%
- 55. "One of ___ things is not like the other"
- 56. Latticework strips
- 60. Form a scab
- 61. Air filter acronym
- 63. Computer tower port
- 65. Wee child
- 66. Wee-___ (kids)
- 67. Close kin, for short

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Answers on page 21

SUDOKU

Advanced

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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

March 13-19, 2024

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I will never advise you to dim the flame of your ambition or be shy about radiating your enthusiasm. For the next few weeks, though, I urge you to find ways to add sap, juice and nectar to your fiery energy. See if you can be less like a furnace and more like a sauna, less like a rumbling volcano and more like a tropical river. Practically speaking, this might mean being blithely tender and unpredictably heartfelt as you emanate your dazzling glow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Some spiritual traditions tell us that the path to enlightenment and awakening is excruciatingly difficult. One teaching compares it to crossing a bridge that's sharper than a sword, thinner than a hair and hotter than fire. Ideas like these have no place in my personal philosophy. I believe enlightenment and awakening are available to anyone who conscientiously practices kindness and compassion. A seeker who consistently asks, "What is the most loving thing I can do?" will be rewarded with life-enhancing transformations. Now I invite you to do what I just did, Taurus. That is, reevaluate a task or process that everyone (maybe even you) assumes is hard and complicated. Perform whatever tweaks are necessary to understand it as fun, natural and engaging.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do you have a relative your parents never told you about? If so, you may find out about them soon. Do you have a secret you want to keep secret? If so, take extra caution to ensure it stays hidden. Is there a person you have had a covert crush on for a while? If so, they may discover your true feelings any minute now. Have you ever wondered if any secrets are being concealed from you? If so, probe gently for their revelation, and they may just leak out. Is there a lost treasure you have almost given up on finding? If so, revive your hopes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian poet Pablo Neruda wrote this to a lover: "I want to do with you what spring does with the cherry trees." That sounds very romantic. What does it mean? Well, the arrival of spring brings warmer soil and air, longer hours of sunlight and nurturing precipitation. The flowers of some cherry trees respond by blooming with explosive vigor. Some trees sprout upwards of 4,000 blossoms. Maybe Neruda was exaggerating for poetic effect, but if he truly wanted to rouse his lover to be like a burgeoning cherry tree, he'd have to deal with an overwhelming outpouring of lush beauty and rampant fertility. Could he have handled it? If I'm reading the upcoming astrological omens correctly, you Cancerians now have the power to inspire and welcome such lavishness. And yes, you can definitely handle it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Speaking on behalf of all non-Leos, I want to express our gratitude for the experiments you have been conducting. Your willingness to dig further than ever before into the mysterious depths is exciting. Please don't be glum just because the results are still inconclusive, and you feel a bit vulnerable. I'm confident you will ultimately generate fascinating outcomes that are valuable to us as well as you. Here's a helpful tip: Give yourself permission to be even more daring and curious. Dig even deeper.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Unexpected mixtures are desirable, though they may initially feel odd. Unplanned and unheralded alliances will be lucky wild cards if you are willing to set aside your expectations. Best of all, I believe you will be extra adept at creating new forms of synergy and symbiosis, even as you enhance existing forms. Please capitalize on these marvelous openings, dear Virgo. Are there parts of your life that have been divided, and you would like to harmonize them? Now is a good time to try. Bridge-building will be your specialty for the foreseeable future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Many of you Libras have a special talent for tuning in to the needs and moods of other people. This potentially gives you the power to massage situations to serve the good of

all. Are you using that power to its fullest? Could you do anything more to harness it? Here's a related issue: Your talent for tuning in to the needs and moods of others can give you the capacity to massage situations in service to your personal aims. Are you using that capacity to its fullest? Could you do anything more to harness it? Here's one more variation on the theme: How adept are you at coordinating your service to the general good and your service to your personal aims? Can you do anything to enhance this skill? Now is an excellent time to try.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Psychologist Carl Jung said, "One of the most difficult tasks people can perform is the invention of good games. And this cannot be done by people out of touch with their instinctive selves." According to my astrological assessment, you will thrive in the coming weeks when you are playing good, interesting games. If you dream them up and instigate them yourself, so much the better. And what exactly do I mean by "games"? I'm referring to any organized form of play that rouses fun, entertainment and education. Playing should be one of your prime modes, Scorpio! As Jung notes, that will happen best if you are in close touch with your instinctual self — also known as your animal intelligence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Can Sagittarians ever really find a home they are utterly satisfied with? Are they ever at peace with exactly who they are and content to be exactly where they are? Some astrologers suggest these are difficult luxuries for you Centaurs to accomplish. But I think differently. In my view, it's your birthright to create sanctuaries for yourself that incorporate so much variety and expansiveness that you can feel like an adventurous explorer without necessarily having to wander all over the Earth. Now is an excellent time to work on this noble project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You picked Door #2 a while back. Was that the best choice? I'm not sure. Evidence is still ambiguous. As we await more conclusive information, I want you to know that Door #1 and Door #3 will soon be available for your consideration again. The fun fact is that you can try either of those doors without abandoning your activities in the area where Door #2 has led you. But it's important to note that you can't try *both* Door #1 and Door #3. You must choose one or the other. Proceed with care and nuance, Capricorn, but not with excessive caution. Your passwords are "daring sensitivity" and "discerning audacity."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): My second cousin has the same name as me and lives in Kosice, Slovakia. He's a Slovakian-speaking chemical engineer who attended the Slovak University of Technology. Do we have anything in common besides our DNA and names? Well, we both love to tell stories. He and I are both big fans of the band Rising Appalachia. We have the same mischievous brand of humor. He has designed equipment and processes to manufacture products that use chemicals in creative ways, and I design oracles to arouse inspirations that change people's brain chemistry. Now I invite you, Aquarius, to celebrate allies with whom you share key qualities despite being quite different. It's a fine time to get maximum enjoyment and value from your connections with such people.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): My Piscean friend Jeff Greenwald wrote the humorous but serious book "Shopping for Buddhas." It's the story of his adventures in Nepal as he traveled in quest of a statue to serve as a potent symbol for his spiritual yearning. I'm reminded of his search as I ruminate on your near future. I suspect you would benefit from an intense search for divine inspiration — either in the form of an iconic object, a pilgrimage to a holy sanctuary or an inner journey to the source of your truth and love.

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, March 13

2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

"A Course of Love," facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show - The Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Bunny Wreaths - Celebrate spring by making a cute bunny wreath. Intended for adults. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradi.org.

Coffee and Conversation - Join us and learn about fellow Chamber of Commerce members. 9 a.m. City Hall Community Room, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/coffee_and_conversation.php.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Foundations in Faith Christian Church Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6 p.m. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. 517-292-4093. foundationsinfaith.church.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

JP Peters at the Graduate Rock Bar - 8 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle - 9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Lansing Women's Art Collective mixed-media art display - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. iamc.info.

Open Mic, Hosted by Rick Hansel - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover; all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Spartan Bike Films Bonanza 2024 - Fundraiser for MSU's biking-related student clubs. Enjoy eight short films and get pumped up to ride this spring! 7 p.m. McDonel Hall Auditorium, 817 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-897-3067. facebook.com/msubikes.

Tap II Class - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Weaving the Web: Free Will - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, March 14

2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

"A Course in Miracles," facilitated by Lisa Schmidt - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

"Amadeus" - A fictional account of the lives of composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show - The Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Beginning Cha-Cha Group Dance Class - A lively and energetic ballroom dance. Seven-week class. Registration req. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Beginning West Coast Swing Group Dance Class - Partner dance with roots in Lindy Hop. Seven-week class. Registration req. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

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

Chronic Pain PATH workshop - Six-week workshop helping individuals with chronic pain improve their health and feel better. 9:30 a.m.-noon. Westside YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. To register, call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or email histedc@coa.org.

Ray Chen

Saturday, March 16
7:30 p.m.

Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

Taiwanese-Australian violinist Ray Chen has collaborated with many of the world's top orchestras and performed at concert halls across the globe, taking classical music and bringing it into the modern age to resonate with audiences of all ages and musical sensibilities. His performance 7:30 p.m. Saturday (March 16) at the Wharton Center with pianist Julio Elizalde will include a special arrangement of Chick Corea's jazz-fusion standard "Spain" alongside Beethoven's Violin Sonata No. 7, Bach's Partita No. 3 for solo violin, Tartini's "Devil's Trill" sonata, Dvorak's Slavonic Dance No. 2 and more.

Chen came to prominence in the classical world through his first-place wins at the 2008 Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition and the 2009 Queen Elisabeth Competition. Since then, he has been featured on Forbes' list of 30 most influential Asians under 30, appeared at major events like France's Bastille Day celebration and the Nobel Prize Concert in Stockholm and co-founded the music practice app Tonic, which "aims to motivate musicians and learners around the world to practice their craft together," according to his website. The Huffington Post wrote that his performances are "to die for," and music critic Anne Midgette applauded his ability to "do pretty much anything he wants on the violin."

Tickets for the Wharton Center show are \$19 for students and youth and start at \$25 for the general public. They're available at whartoncenter.com, the Wharton Center Ticket Office or by calling (517) 432-2000.



Crafty Vibes - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Jazz/Hip Hop II class - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiesilverblades.org.

Lansing Home & Garden Show - Beautiful feature gardens, three seminar stages and hundreds of local businesses featuring every product and service you'll ever need. 2-8 p.m. MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. showspan.com/lhg.

Lansing Women's Art Collective mixed-media art display - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Symphony Band - Presenting works by Tielman Susato, Luis Serrano Alarcón, Michael Daugherty and Jacques Press. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly - Weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. facebook.com/HaslettTops.

Women's "Writes" Area Women Author Showcase - A showcase of women authors, featuring a group discussion of training, techniques, inspirations and the authors' books. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Friday, March 15

2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

See Events, Page 19

Events

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2nd Annual Quinceanera Spectacular Event - Get ready for an unforgettable evening filled with a fashion show, music, dancing and delightful surprises! 6-8 p.m. The Cadillac Room, 1115 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-321-7731. pierresbridal.com.

“A Course in Christ” Book Study and Lunch Potluck - 10:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

“Amadeus” - A fictional account of the lives of composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

“A Windfall of Linocuts” Art Show - The Lansing Area Printmakers’ Collective is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer’s Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

The Coffeehouse at All Saints - Monthly showcase of Michigan-based musical and spoken-word talent. Bring your own snacks/drinks. Free admission. 7:30 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-7160. allsaints-el.org.

Cristo Rey Church Fish Fry - Fried cod, fries, mac and cheese, coleslaw and a roll. 50/50 raffle. All-you-can-eat \$20, 3-piece meal \$15, kids’ 2-piece meal \$8, toddler 1-piece meal free. 5-7 p.m. 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. 517-394-4639. cristoreychurch.org.

David Francey - This Scottish-born Canadian is recognized as one of today’s finest singer-songwriters. 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Empire, Ideology and Poetics of Place in Isfahan, with Professor Samira Fathi - Hybrid event with an in-person audience and a Zoom livestream. 3 p.m. International Center, Room 303, 427 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/about/reg-links.

“Fitness Over 50” Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

GL Opera House’s St. Patrick’s Day Celebration with the Pub Runners - Pub Runners band takes you on a tour through Ireland with songs and stories of Irish culture. Doors 6:15 p.m., show 7:15 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. gloperahouse.com.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry - Three pieces of fried cod (limited baked cod available), steak fries, mac and cheese and coleslaw. Dine in or take out. \$15, kids 14 and under \$10. 4:30-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

Lansing Home & Garden Show - 11 a.m.-8 p.m. MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. showspan.com/lhg.

Lansing Women’s Art Collective mixed-media art display - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers.

Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Frog & Koop at the Peanut Barrel - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

Justin Deason at Mash Bar - 7 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

The Reason You Came at Mash Bar - 10 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

“Refuge Recovery.” A Buddhist Path to Recovering from Addiction - Peer-led group meeting with a 20-minute meditation and a reading from the book “Refuge Recovery.” 6:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Symphony Orchestra: Honors Concert and “West Side Story” - 8 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Texture Adventure - Children ages 2-4 and their caregivers can explore science through hands-on, inquisitive learning in a responsive, playful, exploratory environment. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Two Faced Wilson at Harrison Roadhouse - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

Travelogue: Republic of Georgia - Join Eric Freedman in traveling to the original Georgia, spending time in its capital, Tbilisi, and along the Black Sea. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, Room 213, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4233.

VFW Post 671 Fish Fry - Fried pollock, fries, coleslaw and a dinner roll. All-you-can-eat \$15, children under 5 free. 4-7 p.m. 12250 Old US 27, DeWitt. 517-669-9251. vfw671.org.

Saturday, March 16

2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

“Amadeus” - A fictional account of the lives of composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

“A Windfall of Linocuts” Art Show - The Lansing Area Printmakers’ Collective is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framer’s Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

“Adventures on Cherry Tree Lane,” A Ballet For Everyone! - Based on the stories of “Mary Poppins,” by P.L. Travers. 2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. thestudiopac.ticketspice.com/cherrytreelane.

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

Dine-in or carryout sauerkraut dinner and dance - German dinner 5-6:30 p.m., music and dance to follow. \$15 adults, \$7 children 10 and under. Liederkrantz Club Lansing, 5828 S. Penn-

sylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-290-8624. facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub.

Donuts & Storytime - Bring the kids to the library for stories, activities and donuts. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Game Night - All table games are welcome, so bring your campaigns, board games, card games — whatever you like. BYOB. 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

GL Opera House’s St. Patrick’s Day Community Celebration - Family-friendly event with a parade, live music and dancing, food and drinks. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. gloperahouse.com.

Home Composting Basics - Get acquainted with the basics of what goes into a healthy compost, why it’s beneficial for your crops and when to put each step into action. 10 a.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 500 Clifford St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/.

Intermediate Ballet class - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East

Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Lansing Home & Garden Show - 10 a.m.-8 p.m. MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. showspan.com/lhg.

The Lash Celtic Mayhem at Mash Bar - 11 a.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

Live Music with Ben Traverse at LBC - 7-10 p.m. No cover. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Lansing Women’s Art Collective mixed-media art display - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-2 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - Find our winter market in the JCPenney wing of the Meridian Mall. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

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NOTICE

THE CITY OF LANSING BOARD OF REVIEW WILL HOLD AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024, AT 2:00 PM.

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF THE CITY OF LANSING WILL MEET IN REGULAR SESSION TO HEAR APPEALS ON:

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024. 9AM TO 12 PM & 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM;
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 - 9AM TO 12 PM & 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM;
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024 - 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM AND 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM;
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024, 1:30 PM TO 4:30 PM

AT LANSING CITY HALL, 124 W MICHIGAN AVE, 3RD FLOOR.
IF YOU WISH TO APPEAL YOUR ASSESSMENT OR SIMPLY WANT MORE INFORMATION. PLEASE CALL THE ASSESSING OFFICE AT 517 483-7624. APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO AVOID EXCESSIVE WAIT TIMES. TAXPAYERS MAY SUBMIT AN APPEAL IN WRITING. ALL WRITTEN APPEALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FORMS AND INFORMATION AT WWW.LANSINGMI.GOV

2024 Ratios and Tentative Multipliers

Clinton County		
Property Class	Ratio	Tentative Multiplier
Agricultural	43.83	1.1408
Commercial	48.92	1.0221
Industrial	47.32	1.0566
Residential	N/C	
Timber Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

Eaton County

Property Class	Ratio	Tentative Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	47.85	1.0449
Industrial	47.65	1.0493
Residential	45	1.1111
TimberCutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

Ingham County

Property Class	Ratio	Tentative Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	49.05	1.0194
Industrial	45.9	1.0893
Residential	44.03	1.1356
TimberCutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

CP#24-424

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent’s TRUST - Estate of Frederick L. Lawless and Patricia S. Lawless Trust – Date of Birth: 11/07/1927. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Frederick Lavern Lawless, died 01/26/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to David C. Lawless, Successor Trustee and Personal Representative, at 140 Dean Road, Tawas City, MI 48763, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 03/13/2024.

CP#24-437



'The REDress Project'

Through Sunday, March 17

West Circle Drive, Michigan State University

To commemorate Women's History Month, the Michigan State University Museum, in collaboration with the MSU Native American Institute and other MSU partners, has installed a display of 60 red dresses along West Circle Drive, aiming to shed light on the national crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The outdoor display runs through Sunday (March 17).

Indigenous women in the United States and Canada face disproportionately high rates of violence, according to a press release from MSU. Each dress in the display, which was created by Red River Métis artist and activist Jaime Black-Morsette in 2009 and has traveled to more than 50 locations across the globe, "symbolizes the absence and presence of Indigenous women and girls affected by violence, serving as a visual reminder of their stories and the ongoing struggle for justice," the press release states.

"Through the haunting beauty of suspended red dresses, 'The REDress Project' affirms our commitment to amplifying Indigenous voices, advocating for their rights and standing in solidarity against the epidemic of violence on Indigenous women and girls, demanding justice and accountability," said Kevin Leonard, interim director of the Native American Institute.

Events

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Rainbows & Gold Pre-Parade Party - Help us make a paper chain rainbow and enjoy an Irish-themed scavenger hunt and a flamingo story read by author Steve Boughton. 12:30-2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladi.org.

Ray Chen - This much-anticipated violin performance features works by Bach, Beethoven, Dvorak and more. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Sean Anthony Sullivan at Mac's Bar wsg All Over The Shop - A night of rock 'n' roll music. 21+. 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Sistas in Business Mixer - An inspiring event dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the brilliance of Black women entrepreneurs in Lansing. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Socialight Society, 5294 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. grassrootsgivinglan-sing.com.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration - Come down to Bridge Street in downtown Grand Ledge and take in the sites and sounds of the 2 p.m. parade as well as other local festivities before and after the parade. grandledgechamber.com.

Sustainable Fashion Show - Vendors will be selling upcycled and sustainable clothing from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fashion show runs 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on stage at the center of the

mall. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-853-4466. meridian.mi.us.

Texture Adventure - Children ages 2-4 and their caregivers can explore science through hands-on, inquisitive learning in a responsive, playful, exploratory environment. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Tiger and Dragon Kenpo Martial Arts Training - Based on a variety of martial arts systems, Tiger and Dragon Kenpo is designed to develop self-confidence in the warrior. 1 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Video Game-Inspired Music - Two MSU professors co-curate a program featuring instrumental, electronic and guest-ensemble performances of music from the world of gaming. 8 p.m. Murray Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Wine in the Woods - Bring your favorite beverage and enjoy a guided walk through the woods. After the walk, "unwine" by the campfire and enjoy gourmet smores. 21+, registration req. 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866.

Sunday, March 17

2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

"Adventures on Cherry Tree Lane," A Ballet For Everyone! - Based on the stories of "Mary Poppins," by P.L. Travers. 2 p.m. Hannah Com-

munity Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. thestudiopac.ticketspice.com/cherrytreelane.

"Amadeus" - A fictional account of the lives of composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

The Devil You Don't at Lansing Shuffle - 6-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

GLAD Drum Circle - All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-803-2392. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Green Man Day - On the third Sunday of each month, we'll get together to take care of some projects that need doing, either at the church building or on our property. Noon-5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.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.

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 5-7 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Kegs and Eggs Brunch at LBC - We'll be serving up a deliciously exclusive brunch menu with special-edition dishes! Call us at 517-371-2600 to make a reservation. 10 a.m.-noon. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Lansing Home & Garden Show - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. showspan.com/lhg.

MAC St. Patrick's Day Dance - Dancing to ballroom, swing, Latin and country music. Cookies, soda and water provided. 5-7:45 p.m. 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Please pre-register with the Michigan Athletic Club at 517-364-8888.

No Damn Green Beer Party at LBC - Featuring traditional Irish pub music, St. Paddy's cocktails, an exclusive beer flight, the release of a new Irish red beer and more. 1-4 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

On the Lash at Gravity Smokehouse - 2-5 p.m. 2440 Cedar St., Holt. gravitysmokehouse.com.

Race the Leprechaun - At the top of every hour, race in go-karts against our resident leprechaun. If you score a higher lap time, you get a free race. Noon-7:30 p.m. High Caliber Karting and Entertainment, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. highcaliberkarting.com.

Rachmaninoff's Two-Piano Suites - Duo piano performances of the music of Sergei Rachmaninoff. 3 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship - 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org/join-us-for-worship/.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing 175th anniversary celebration - Special service led by Rev. Neal Anderson, featuring a performance of the hymn "Hope and Blessings," commissioned for the celebration. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. uulansing.org.

"We The People," with Kathy Kris - Session covering some of the ideas in Kathy Kris' upcoming book of the same name. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Wind Symphony and Alumni Band - A celebratory concert honoring legendary MSU band

director Leonard Falcone. 3 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Monday, March 18

"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show - The Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. Noon-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Ballet II for kids - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Burger Night - Choice of hamburger, cheeseburger or olive burger, plus fries. Dine in or take out. \$8. 5-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Gloss Mondays Open Floor - Aspiring drag performers showcase their talent. 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Jump Into Reading - Join Ms. Erin for stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Ages 0-5 with caregivers. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

"Letting Go: The Pathway of Surrender" Book Study - A guide to helping to remove the obstacles that keep us from living a more conscious life. 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Lansing Women's Art Collective mixed-media art display - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

"The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery" Book Study, with Jeff Benoit - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Rest with Music: Ricky Nalett - Take a break from your day, relax and enjoy a free concert under the "night sky" of the planetarium. Noon. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. health4u.msu.edu/courses/rest-with-music.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Tuesday, March 19

"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show - The Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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Events

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Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop. Learn how to meal plan, decrease stress, balance blood sugar, make goals, improve energy and more. 9-11:30 a.m. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Listening in Black and White: Louis Armstrong's "Musical Universe" a Century Ago - Presented by Jeffrey Magee, Professor of music and theater at the University of Illinois. 4:15 p.m. Large Rehearsal Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing.

517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Gardening with Native Plants - Make gardening easier and attract birds and butterflies with native plants. Registration req. 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Intro to Acting/Improv for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

LAGE Game Night East - 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.

Lansing Women's Art Collective mixed-media art display - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Level I Dance Class - Introduction to theater dance using ballet, tap and jazz. Ages 5-8. 4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Preschool Family Storytime - Join us for stories and literacy-enhancing activities, including songs and rhymes. Ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

"The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery" Book Study, with Rev. Sharon Ketchum - 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

StressBusters: Positive Mental Health for Kids - 3 p.m. session for ages 3-6 and caregivers, 4 p.m. sessions for ages 7-10 and 11-14. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-346-8094. gladl.org.

Trivia at Lansing Shuffle with DJ Trivia - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

YA Book Club - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 8-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Wednesday, March 20

2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

"A Course of Love," Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show - The Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Darin Lerner Jr. at the Graduate Rock Bar - 8 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Foundations in Faith Christian Church Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6 p.m. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. 517-292-4093. foundationsinfaith.church.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jake Shulman-Ment and Laurel Premo - These artists share a certain ruminant, compositional style, each drawing from deep roots in folk music and stories of their ancestors. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle - 9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Lansing Women's Art Collective mixed-media art display - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamc.info.

Mozart's "Don Giovanni" - This opera, based on the escapades of libertine Don Juan, is considered by many to be one of the greatest of all time. 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Open Mic, Hosted by Rick Hansel - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Squeegee Painting - Intended for grades 4-12. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradi.org.

Tap II Class - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Wheel of the Year: Ostara and Balance - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about Monday, April 1, 2024, the City of East Lansing will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project known as the Emerson Park Improvement Project – Phase II. The existing site will continue to serve as a public park. The primary scope of the project is to install a new accessible 4-foot concrete walkway, edging and safety surface material under existing fitness equipment, landscaping along the western park edge to naturalize the area and increase pollinator habitats, and planting edible fruit trees for community consumption.

The proposed Emerson Park Improvement Project – Phase II has a total project CDBG funding of \$124,825. Emerson Park is located at 1135 Arbor Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of East Lansing has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of East Lansing, City Hall located at 410 Abbot Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823. Files may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of East Lansing Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. All comments can be addressed to Matt Apostle via email at mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com. All comments received by 5PM on Friday, March 29, 2024, will be considered by the City of East Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice the public is addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of East Lansing certifies to HUD that Robert Belleman in his capacity of City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of East Lansing to use CDBG Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of East Lansing's certification received by Wednesday, April 17, 2024, or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of East Lansing approved by HUD; (b) the City of East Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality (e) the City of East Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 55. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58 or 24 CFR Part 55) and shall be emailed to DetroitCPD@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Date: March 13, 2024
Robert Belleman, City Manager
City of East Lansing
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP-24-438

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Pad Thai, mangoes, sticky rice and everything nice

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

When my uncle traveled abroad to serve in the Peace Corps during the '90s, he met a Thai woman who generously taught her language to the Americans. He fell very in love with his teacher; the rest is history. As a result of this global love story, I was exposed to a sliver of Thai culture as a child and got to try homemade dishes with curiosity and delight. While many things have blurred with the decades since then, one truly special dish stands out in my memory: mangoes and sticky rice.

So, when I saw Eato Chef post this delicious dish for dessert, I thought back to those good times, told my dog to clear my schedule and high-tailed it out to its Airstream trailer on the edge of Horrocks Farm Market.

Eato Chef, in its fourth year, is a much-loved and highly rated local business serving "Gourmet Chef In-

spired Thai Food & Fusion." Its social media pages are the best places to find information on the food, but there's no need to chase it from location to location. You can reliably find it in Horrocks' beer garden from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

I started my meal with the signature pad Thai with shrimp. Emboldened by the special treat that was to come, I stretched my spice level up to a three. Nose running just a little, I ate slower than I normally would of the plentiful noodles and long strips of green onion, letting the spice die a bit between bites. The tangy, vinegary and spicy dish primed my palate for the sweet and earthy dessert.

The rice was mild and tinged with a honey flavor. The texture was chewy and moist and had a subtle crunch from the flecks of sesame seeds. Then I took my first bite of mango, and after about 10 seconds, the flavor nearly exploded.



Pad Thai
\$16.25

Mangoes and sticky rice
\$9.01

Eato Chef
7420 W. Saginaw Hwy.,
Lansing
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-
Saturday
(517) 258-1257
eatocheffoodtruck.com



Chelsea Roberts for City Pulse

Eato Chef's pad Thai primes the palate for a dessert of mangoes and sticky rice.

It was so powerful — it almost tasted like candy, or a memory. The fruit was perfectly ripe, so soft it was practically like mousse, but not yet falling apart or getting fibrous. Simple, sumptuous and so sweet as to almost be tart, but not sour.

Perhaps it was my dinosaur brain unlocking an old time with this spe-

cial dish from my childhood. Maybe it was the spice levels in my mouth making everything that much more intense. Whatever it was, that mango was unforgettable. I finished the dessert with a smile and an ever-renewing appreciation for the local joints that make Lansing a great place to dig into a special dish.

It's a potato. It's a thing. It's Potato Thing!

By **ARI LEVAUX**

This potato thing sizzled into my life when my 6-year-old decided to cook a potato.

He grated a spud, heated oil in a pan and added the tangle of potato shreds. He had the sense to leave the pan on low heat before getting distracted, which might be the only reason he managed to cook Potato Thing. The human urge to mess with things unnecessarily may have no greater stage than the kitchen. Potato Thing prefers to be left alone — until it's time to flip.

I was in the kitchen at just the right time to flip this sizzling disk that smelled of gold. Gazing at the browned side facing up, I saw the

bright, greasy matrix of crunchy potato fibers I had been smelling. Attracted by the smell, we gathered around the pan. When the other side was done, we feasted on the tater tot-like magnificence of a crispy exterior and pillowy center.

Since then, I've been seeing Potato Thing everywhere. Even the gas station the other morning, when my hunting buddy got back into the car with a so-called "Potato Triangle" that looked familiar, or the local greasy spoon, which serves this side called "hash browns."

The kids kept asking me to make it again, and I tried, but I couldn't recreate the magic of that original thing.

At the farmers market, where so much important information is

shared, Big Nancy set me straight on Potato Thing, or "fries," as she calls them. Big Nancy grows potatoes and high-CBD hemp and sells sacks of each, potatoes in mesh bags and hemp buds in Ziplocs.

"You need a really hot pan," Big Nancy said, nodding understandingly, when I told her about my troubles.

"You know how to make Potato Thing?" I asked, eagerly.

"It's pretty much the only way I eat spuds," she said.

For the next three weeks, I made Potato Thing. On weekends, I'd visit Big Nancy at the market to buy potatoes and talk Potato Thing.

She recommends waxy potatoes like Huckleberry Gold, a purple-skinned, yellow-fleshed variety she sells, or its more common cous-



Potato Thing only improves with the addition of cheese, an egg or other proteins.

in, the Yukon Gold. A lot of water gets released during a batch, and Big Nancy covers her skillet with a

Potato Thing

The quantities listed are for a single Potato Thing that will fill a 6-inch pan. You can grate and mix larger batches and even use a larger pan, but keep the individual Potato Things small and manageable. Following Big Nancy's lead, some cheese, an egg or other goodies will add depth and contrast to Potato Thing, not to mention protein.

For one 6-inch Potato Thing

- 1 pound peeled potato
- 1 tablespoon high-temperature fry oil (safflower and peanut are my favorites)
- 1/4 teaspoon each of salt and pepper

Optional toppings: cheese and foods that go with cheese and potatoes like chili flakes, jalapeno slices or an egg

Grate the potato and save the small, french fry-sized piece that remains in your fingertips after you don't grate your knuckles. Squeeze the grated potato in a colander, as if making a snowball, and then transfer it to a bowl. Add the salt and pepper (and chili flakes, if you wish) and mix.

Pat the ball into a hockey puck-sized disk that fits on a spatula.

Heat the oil on medium/high. As it heats, add the potato end you didn't grate and adjust the heat to a temperature where the fry cooks gently, bubbling contentedly but not menacingly. That's your cue that the oil is ready.

Remove the small fry and add the puck of shredded potato.

Use a spatula, fork or even your fingers to shape the thing into a circle about a half-inch deep. Press gently on the thicker parts, first in the center and then the edges, while pulling in the rim to keep it sharp. By this time, it should be sliding in the pan like an air hockey puck. Put the lid on and hover nearby on alert. The minute you start to smell a hint of overbrowning, flip it.

If you look at the bottom and conclude you flipped it too early, you can reflip it again later. For now, let the new side cook, lid on.

If it looks like it needs oil, add just a little or some butter. When you smell brown, turn it down and let it slowly cook home. Turning down the heat at the end allows time to add toppings like cheese, a fried egg or both.

Put the lid back on to melt the cheese. Serve hot.

If it cools down, don't despair. Refried in oil, Potato Thing reheats just like any leftover, but it's more golden.

Flash

from page 22

tight-fitting lid, which concentrates the steam and cooks the potatoes at a temperature that's hotter than boiling water. Her cast iron lid collects water, which she occasionally pours off.

When I make it, I squeeze out the water before frying. And that's not the only way my Potato Thing differs from hers. But we are perfectly aligned in the most important part, where you just stand there and don't do anything. No stirring. One flip. And it's done.

"If you want, you can put cheese on it," Big Nancy said, with a twinkle in her eye.

BETTER HOLIDAY MEATS!



Beeler's Spiral Half Bone-In Ham

- Uncured
- All Natural
- Antibiotic Free
- No Growth Promotants
- No Added Nitrates/Nitrites
- Humanely Raised
- NonGMO

749 LB



Tofurky Plant-Based Ham Style Roast with Amber Ale Glaze

15.99 19 oz

NET WT. 19 OZ (1 LB 3 OZ) 539g



Norwegian Whole Salmon Fillets

10.99 LB



Thomas Farm Lamb Loin Chop

- Pasture Fed & Raised
- All Natural
- Antibiotic Free
- Hormone Free

17.79 LB



BetterHealthMarket.com

EAST LANSING
 (Frandor) Across from Frandor Mall • 305 N Clippert Ave
 517-332-6892
 Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-9pm • Sun 10am-7pm

SALE PRICES GOOD MARCH 1 – MARCH 31, 2024



Join us for MSU's 14th Annual CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ & DOLORES HUERTA COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION MARCH 25, 2024

Join us for workshops and a dinner celebration honoring farmworkers. The event is free. Registration is requested. For more information use the QR Code above or visit <http://tinyurl.com/CCDH2024>



Project 70/60