

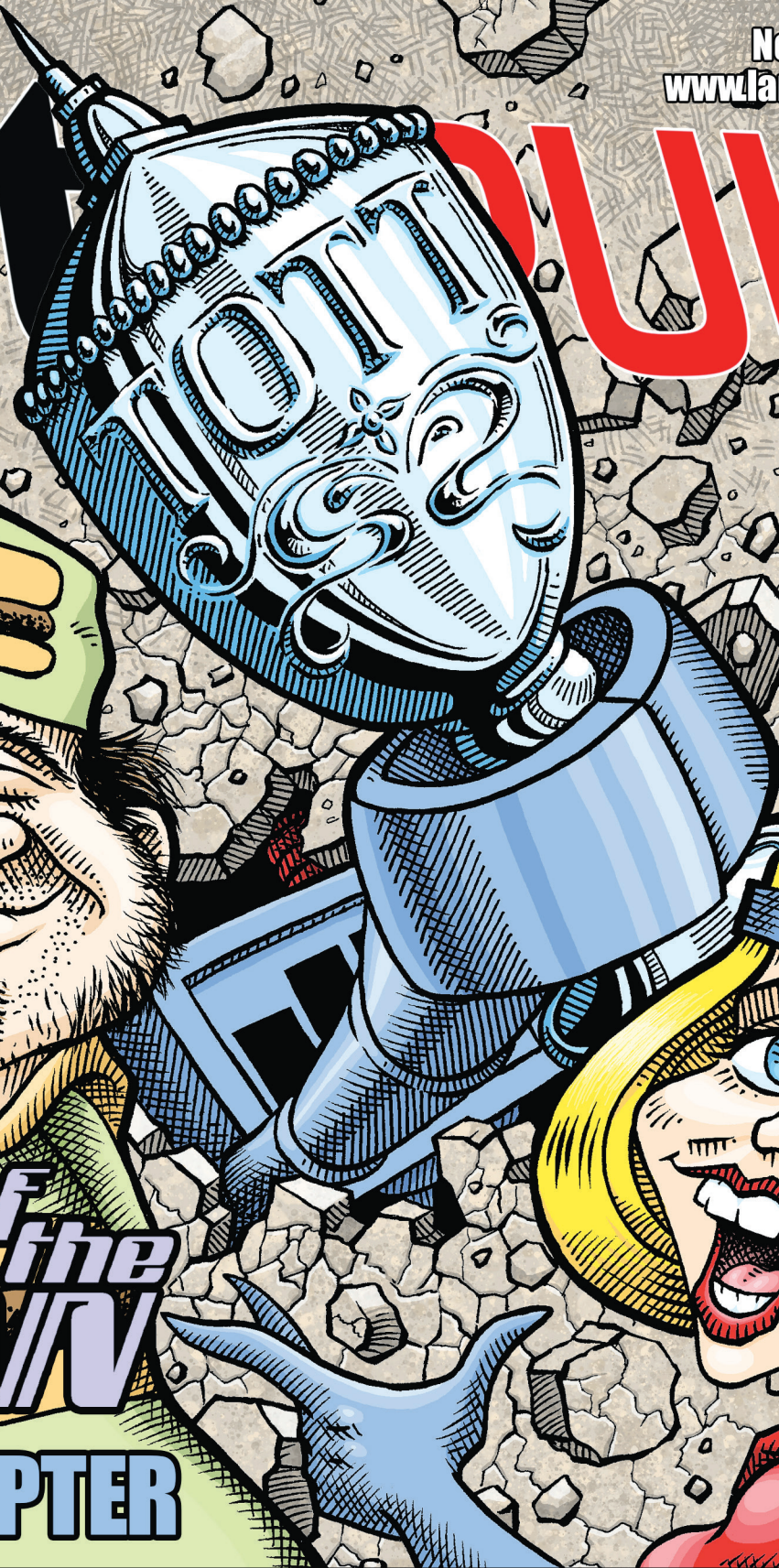


November 13-19, 2024
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- Does another adult depend on you for safety, finances, and/or errands?
- Do you feel responsible for the health and well-being of another adult?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you are a caregiver!

Connect with Tri-County Office on Aging!

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-Powerful Tools for Caregivers

- **Topic:** Self-care for caregivers
- **Next workshop:** Virtual via Zoom on **Wednesdays, January 8 – February 12, 2025**, from 6:00- 7:30 pm

-Savvy Caregiver Program

- **Topic:** In-depth Dementia education for caregivers
- **Next workshop:** Virtual via Zoom on **Tuesdays, February 4 – March 11, 2025**, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm

-Dementia Caregiver Series

- **Topic:** Basic Dementia information for anyone
- In person locations vary

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Information and Assistance: Specialists provide
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Case Coordination/Respite: May be available for
people who can benefit from limited support.

CityPULSE

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ISSUE 14**

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Best Art Supply Store fueled by owners' passion and experience



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Downtown Lansing and Grand Ledge sweep best new business categories



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Best Signature Dish is a choose-your-own adventure

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Cover illustration by Dennis Preston

It Did Happen Here

2020 WAS OUR REPRIEVE AFTER A BRUSH WITH AUTHORITARIANISM.

WHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE!

JANUARY 6 SEEMED TO BRIEFLY MAKE THIS CLEAR TO EVERYONE.

THEN MUCH OF THE MEDIA FORGOT ALL OF THAT AND REVERTED TO FAMILIAR NARRATIVES.

HOW DARE BIDEN POLITICIZE THE MIDTERMS BY ARGUING DEMOCRACY IS AT RISK?

ORDINARY AMERICANS ARE PUT OFF BY ACADEMIC JARGON THEY JUST LEARNED ABOUT FROM ME!

PUTZ TALK

IN THE END IT WAS A CATCH-22.

HEY, WE'RE FEELING A LITTLE EXISTENTIALLY THREATENED OVER HERE.

SO "ELITIST" AND POLARIZING! YOU MUSTN'T ALIENATE THE PEOPLE WHO DEMONIZE YOU.

WE HAD THIS ONE CHANCE...

HMM... WE'RE BLAMING THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS INSTEAD OF GROTESQUE ABUSERS AND THEIR DERANGED PROPAGANDA.

WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT BEFORE?

...AND WE BLEW IT.

SORENSEN

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1905 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**ELECTION
2024**

ANOTHER IN
AN OCCASIONAL
SERIES OF
PARABLES
INVOLVING
CLIFFS

I'M GOING TO DRIVE THIS CAR RIGHT OVER THAT BIG CLIFF--JUST LIKE I DID EIGHT YEARS AGO!

WHAT? NO! JUST KEEP DRIVING! ON THE ROAD!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? IT WORKED OUT GREAT THE LAST TIME!

HAVE YOU COMPLETELY LOST YOUR MIND? WE BARELY SURVIVED!

WELL, I REMEMBER IT BEING GREAT! AND THIS TIME IT WILL BE GREAT AGAIN!

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS! IT WILL NOT BE GREAT! IT WILL BE A DISASTER--

AAAAAAAAAAAA

AND YET, YOU'VE CHOSEN TO DO THIS TO US AGAIN.

DON'T BLAME ME! THIS CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE OF YOURS LEFT ME NO CHOICE.

TOM TOMORROW © 2024 4-11-11 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

Voting results we can all celebrate: The 2024 TOTT winners

After what we've all been through with the election, "voting" and anything related to it can bring up a lot of emotions — not all positive and/or community building.

But one thing we vote for in Greater Lansing every fall generates a lot more good energy: the City Pulse Top of the Town Contest.

We launched the 2024 edition, the 17th annual, Sept. 11. And now after two rounds of voting over two months and weeks of anticipation, the big moment is here: the winners announcement.

In this issue (and online at lansingcitypulse.com) are the top three you selected in 249 categories, voted on by more than 4,100 of you casting more than 92,000 votes. We thank you, and no doubt the winners do as well.

We followed a "superhero" theme in Dennis Preston's artwork for this year's contest, even depicting the presidential candidates in costumes and capes. But today we're celebrating the heroic efforts of those Greater Lansing businesses and organizations that serve our community every day, as well as the best hangouts, the local arts and fun stuff in the "Whatever" section.

This contest holds a special place for businesses that check multiple boxes, many relatively new establishments reaching a peak in popularity. They include Flour Child Bakery (see breakout story) and Cat Constellation Café, winning or placing in more than a dozen categories each. The Cat Constellation Café — which is relocating from East Lansing to the old Su Casa Boutique location in Old Town — was the winner just once, for Best Wifi Spot. But it took second or third place in a whopping 15 additional categories. Whether it was Best Pet Rescue, Best Coffee Shop (non-Bigby), Best Mocktails, Best Trivia Night or Best Non-Profit Organization, the Café tries (and succeeds) in being a lot of things to a lot of people. Even in the Hangouts section, the Café scored among seniors and students and as both a solo and sober hangout.

As voter Kelsey Dembo said while voting for the Café in the Best Local Attraction for Kids category, "We found a place your kids will love without getting totally overstimulated. But seriously, nothing's more special than a kitten falling asleep in your little one's lap." She also tabbed it for Best Solo Hangout: "You're never lonely when surrounded by 25 cats."

You'll find some restaurants, shops and services are very familiar, having scored well in Top of the Town for many years. Peanut Barrel and Crunchy's, two East Lansing institutions under

the same ownership, won or placed a dozen times between them.

Dagwood's Tavern & Grill is also in the half-dozen-plus category, with seven placings including Best

Burger, Best Fries, Best Dive Bar and Best Spartan Sports Hangout.

Also scoring in four or more categories were Douglas J Salon + MedSpa, Harry's Place, Horrocks Farm Market, Meat BBQ, Moriarty's, Olympic Broil, Pincanna, Soup Spoon Café, The Avenue Café, Peanut Barrel, Thrift Witch and UrbanBeat. Many more made it in three categories.

But there are new names, too. Bobcat Bonnie's, where Clara's once resided on Michigan Avenue, won Best New Restaurant and Best Mocktails and added two second-place finishes. Arms & Embers Grill and Noosh Afghan Cuisine were other popular new restaurants, while the new event venue Grewal Hall at 224 and the eclectic Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge were first and third in Best New Business, respectively.

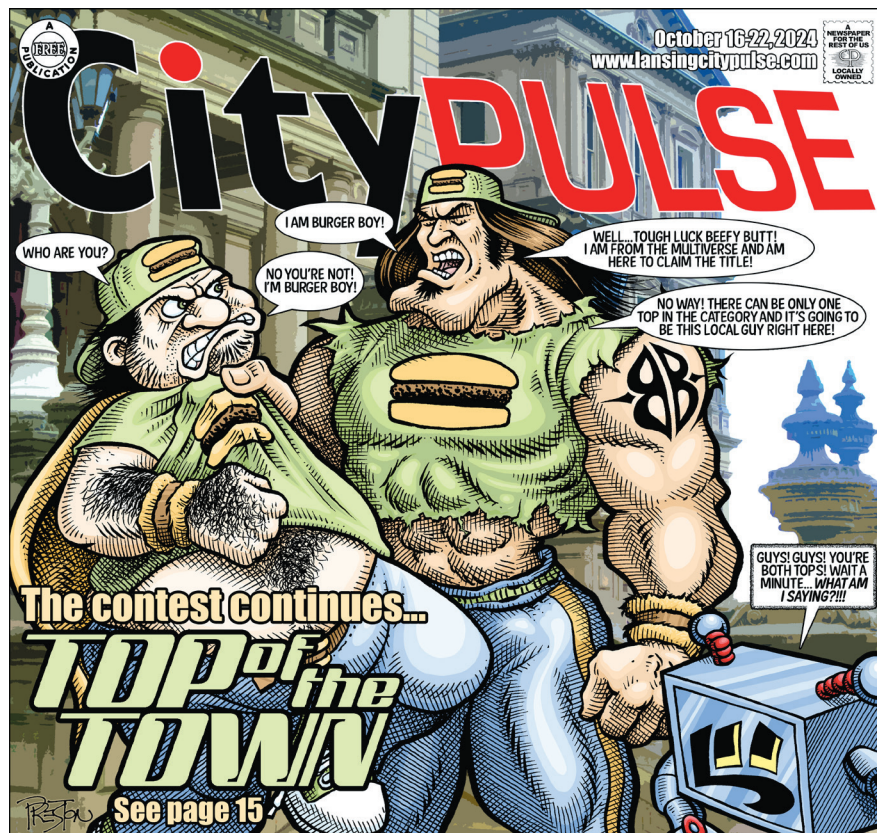
Sixteen of you, we're proud to say, voted in every ... single ... category. A few reached out to us to mention favorites. As promised, we will have a drawing soon for prizes for one of those determined voters for slogging through it to the finish.

Rich Colby of Lansing is a big fan of Pablo's on East Michigan, even though it was affected by the East Michigan Avenue construction. "My family loves to go there," he said. "Even my picky 9-year-old great-granddaughter can find something good! I really enjoy when they serenade their customers."

Meanwhile, Dennis Strahle of Eagle vouches for Horrocks, particularly for its beer selection, which was deemed the best of any retail store. "When people from out of town come to visit, they often include a stop there. Their beer selection is well organized and offers many beers by our local and Michigan breweries. It is fun to shop there to pick out beer cornucopias for friends!"

Please enjoy the results of our 17th Annual Top of the Town and keep supporting your favorite businesses, hangouts, local artists and all the rest. And remember, coming in March will be our new 2025 Top of the Town People Contest. So those of you that missed the People categories this fall will get to honor these great folks next spring.

— STEVE UNDERWOOD



Our covers from the Sept. 11 nominating round and the Oct. 16 Top Five voting round featured a superhero theme drawn by Dennis Preston. He also created this week's cover.

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CP#24-713

State of Michigan Probate Court, Clinton County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 24-32288-DE - Estate of Rae Gene Frederickson – Date of Birth: 11/23/1953. To all creditors: The decedent, Rae Gene Frederickson, died 03/24/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Carolyn Hunt, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 100 E. State Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 11/13/2024. Attorney: Kimberly L. Savage, P68267, 1483 Haslett Rd, Haslett, MI 48840, 517-515-5000. Personal representative: Carolyn Hunt, 7095 Willow Hwy, Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-489-1357.

CP#24-725

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1324**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 1236 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances Section 1236.02, 1236.03, and 1236.07 to correct internal references and clarify lot size requirements for residentially zoned lots

Effective date: November 27, 2024

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#24-723

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, 313 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300. Declaration of Intent to Give Notice By Publication. Case #24-921-DE. In the matter of Estate of Thomas A. Kephart: Service of Application for Informal Probate, Last Will and Testament and Codicils, Testimony to Identify Interested Persons, Supplemental Testimony, Renunciation, Acceptance of Appointment, Register's Statement, Letters of Authority, Notice of Appointment and Duties of Personal Representative, Notice Regarding Attorney Fees and Letter of Engagement, and Inventory cannot be made on Lorie A. Gray Ventura (child), 104 Millwoods North Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24503. I intend to publish notice on this individual because his/her address or whereabouts are unknown. I have made the following diligent efforts to ascertain his/her address or whereabouts: USPS first-class mail sent to interested person returned as Return to Sender and Unable to Forward; Google search; County real estate records search. I declare under penalties of perjury that this declaration has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information, knowledge and belief, 11/13/2024. Susan G. Kephart, PR, c/o Amanda Betush P78512, Doyle Law PC, PO Box 3752, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-3752, 517-323-7366.

CP#24-724

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

November 13, 2024
City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning
316 N. Capitol Ave
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 483-4040

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Lansing, MI.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about December 4, 2024, the City of Lansing< MI will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Detroit Field Office for the release of Project Based Vouchers (PBV) funds under Section 8 (o)(13) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)), as amended, to undertake a project known as Grand Vista Place, vacant land (currently developed as a paved parking lot) located east of S. Grand Avenue and west of Cherry Street, directly south of 507 S. Grand Avenue, in the City of Lansing. The Property is located in an area zoned DT-1 (Urban Edge). The property is comprised of two parcels totaling approximately one acre: - Parcel Tax ID # 33-01-01-16-456-012 - S. Grand Avenue, and - Parcel Tax ID # 33-01-01-16-456-101 - Cherry Street. The proposed project includes the construction of a single, L-shaped, four-story, approximately 66,736 SF, multi-family residential building along S. Grand Avenue with on-site parking to the rear of the building (accessed from Cherry Street). The building will provide 55 residential units (11 one bedroom, 36 two bedroom, and 8 three bedroom), onsite leasing office, elevator, trash rooms, laundry room, onsite maintenance room, second floor fitness room, fourth floor community room and terrace, and 55 parking spaces (49 standard and 6 accessible). The Lansing Housing Commission is proposing to use 55 Project Based Vouchers for this development. The Lansing Housing Commission (LHC) is committed to the development and management of quality, affordable, and fair housing options in a compassionate, healthy, and safe way. LHC will deliver impactful resident services while maintaining the highest performance standards and outcomes. The Property is currently developed as a paved parking lot. The property historically operated as a parking lot for the former Lansing State Journal building located to the west of the Property at 120 Lenawee. The Property is located in an area predominately developed with commercial businesses to the north and west and single and multi-family residential to the east and south.

The estimated total project costs are \$19,926,906. Of which, the proposed annual PBV funding is \$847,632, and project sources of funding include a \$4,617,222 MSHDA Tax Exempt Bond Loan, \$1,603,208 MSHDA HOME Loan, \$2,576,478 MSHDA CERA Loan, \$3,200,000 LHC Sponsor Loan, \$13,320 of Interim Income, \$161,841 of Deferred Development Fee and \$7,754,437 of Equity from the sale of low-income Housing Tax Credits.. Other annual funding sources include a City of Lansing PILOT.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Lansing, Michigan 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 www.lansingmi.gov/development or City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933 and may be examined or copied weekday's 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 Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933. Any comments should go to Doris.Witherspoon@lansingmi.gov. The comment period is November 14, 2024 – December 2, 2024. All comments received by December 2, 2024 will be considered by the City of Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Lansing certifies to HUD that Andy Schor in his capacity as Mayor 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 approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Lansing to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Lansing's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual 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 of the City of Lansing (b) the City of 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 has 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. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec 58.76) and shall be addressed to Michelle King, PIH Representative, Detroit Field Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 477 Michigan Avenue 16th Floor, Detroit Michigan 48226. Objections can also be submitted via email at Environmental-PublicComments@hud.gov . Potential Objectors should contact Michelle King via telephone at : 313.234.7397 or by email at Michelle.d.king@hud.gov to verify the actual last day of the objection.

Andy Schor, Mayor, City of Lansing

CP#24-727

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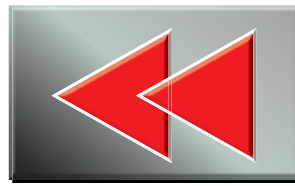
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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES

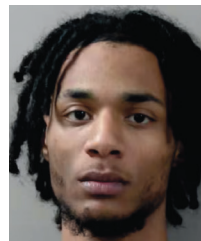


Several hundred U of M Health-Sparrow nurses and healthcare professionals conducted an informational picket outside the Michigan Avenue hospital Tuesday to advocate for fair contract negotiations.

The 2,000-member Professional Employee Council of

Sparrow Hospital-Michigan Nurses Association negotiated its last contract with Sparrow Health in 2021, which expired Oct. 30. Union rep Leah Rasch said members are concerned over UM-Sparrow's ability to recruit and retain the employees for a proposed \$97 million psychiatric hospital to replace former Lansing Eastern High School building and at a \$32 million healthcare facility under construction near Grand Ledge. Speakers included State Sen. Sam Singh, state Rep. Emily Dievendorf and Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber. Union members picketed on their personal time.

The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office charged Xavian Soto (pictured), 19, of Jackson, with open murder in the shooting death of 18-year-old Braylon Shepherd. Soto, also charged with carrying a concealed weapon and felony firearm, was denied bond after he was arrested in Calhoun County. Shepherd died Thursday after police responded to the shooting on the 600 block of Sadie Court, near Grand River Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.



East Lansing and Michigan State police are investigating a homicide after discovering the remains of two people inside a freezer while investigating a "suspicious situation" at Coolidge Place Townhomes on the 1500 block of Wintercrest Street near U.S. 127 and Coolidge Road. They had responded to a 911 caller who noticed blood on a floor in the townhome. A WLNS-TV crew witnessed two covered bodies taken from the home into a hearse. No arrests have been reported.

The resolution of a data-entry error has vaulted Democrat Rebecca Bahar-Cook (pictured) into second place in the yet undecided race for two seats on the MSU Board of Trustees. Allegan County Clerk Bob Genetski confirmed his office underreported Bahar-Cook's votes by 20,000. The Associated Press declared victory for Republican Mike Balow, but the found votes have vaulted Bahar-Cook from third place, 7,000 ahead of Republican Julie Maday. Several thousand military and overseas ballots were yet to be counted as of Friday, leaving the race too close to call.



An MSU student is recovering from a rare case of bacterial meningitis. MSU officials said the risk to the campus community is minimal. The Ingham County Health Department and MSU have conducted contact tracing and identified and rendered care to those in close contact with the patient.



Plans to complete the multimillion-dollar MACOTTA Club food incubator at the historic Knapp's Centre downtown are delayed to next summer. Downtown Lansing Inc. executive Julie Reinhardt said designing and accommodating the nonprofit's incubator, which will have a food hall setup, bar and dining room seating for up to 300 people, have taken longer than anticipated. The incubator is expected to bring in six restaurants plus food trucks and food makers.



The timeline for expansion and whether additional staff would be hired was not specified. A public hearing is scheduled for today.

7th District Republican U.S. Rep.-elect Tom Barrett of Charlotte told City Pulse in an exclusive interview Thursday he would keep the district's office in Lansing as an expression of his priority to represent all of his constituents, including the Democratic-leaning voters in Lansing and East Lansing. Barrett, a former state representative and senator, beat Democrat Curtis Hertel Jr. last week to win the seat vacated by Democrat Elissa Slotkin, who won a U.S. Senate seat. Slotkin returned the district office to Lansing in 2018 after she beat Republican Mike Bishop, who had moved the office outside of the city when he won in 2014.



Potterville Public Schools Superintendent Sam Sinicropi has attributed a \$1.2 million shortfall in its general fund to poor accounting practices rather than theft. Police investigated the district after an 2023-'24 audit revealed a less-than-1% balance of unrestricted funds. Michigan law requires it be at least 5%.

Public safety

A 24-year-old man suffered a non-fatal stab wound Sunday on the 6000 block of Sommerset Road on the south side of Lansing. No arrests have been made. ... A multi-vehicle crash Sunday at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Olds Avenues injured four, one critically. The cause of the crash was not reported.



8630 Wintergreen St., Delta Township

One neighbor who lives near this 1,602 square-foot, three-bedroom home just east of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Delta Township wrote City Pulse this fall that she has been wondering for years what, if anything, was being done to address its ongoing decline. Built in 1967, the property is immediately recognizable due to its broken garage door, which is stuck in place a few feet above the ground, revealing wall-to-wall junk including yard tools, oil cans and a rusty trailer cart. Nearby, a broken light fixture dangles from its wiring amid chipping paint and a few fallen roof tiles. John Kuchar has been the house's only owner since 1984, but its future became uncertain after he died last summer. "We have complained about this property for years and get no answers," the neighbor wrote, adding that the backyard also hosts a broken junk-car frame. "It's been on our radar," Delta Township Code Enforcement and Rental inspector Anton Woods told City Pulse on Monday. "We're working on it, but that's all I can tell you at this time."

— 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.

Winners and losers from the 2024 election season

By **KYLE MELINN**

With all these winners and losers in this week's edition of City Pulse, here is my personal list of winners and losers from the 2024 election cycle.

WINNERS

1. The Polls — It feels like after every election cycle, we all take turns taking a stick to the pollsters who blew the election results. Not this one.

The polls said it would be close. It was close. Donald Trump won Michigan by 1.38 percentage points. That falls within the margin of error of nearly every poll in the Real Clear Politics average



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

since September. Nearly every poll had Elissa Slotkin winning the U.S. Senate by a razor-thin margin. That's what happened. Good work, pollsters.

2. Michigan's TV stations, paid media outlets — So much money was spent in Michigan. So much. Nearly \$300 million on the presidential race, according to AdImpact, which tracks such things. About \$219 million in the U.S. Senate race. Nearly \$40 million on our U.S. House seat. Another \$27 million was spent in the congressional district next door to us. That's pretty much half of a billion dollars on trying to influence your vote. HALF OF A BILLION DOLLARS! Just in Michigan!

I'll let you figure out a better use for a

half of a billion dollars.

3. The Voters — The plus side to having insane money spent in our election? Everyone knew about it. We haven't had a higher percentage of our voting population participate in an election since the state started keeping track of such things in 1948. Around 78% of all Michiganders who could have voted did. That crashed four years ago, when 70% showed up and the previous record of 72.7% from the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon race.

4. State House Republicans — Most Republicans are peacocking around after last Tuesday's results. They have a right to be. However, the biggest winners were the GOP House candidates, former Gov. Rick Snyder, Dick DeVos and the people behind

the scenes who won back the state House in convincing fashion despite being significantly outspent.

The Democrats went on network TV in Detroit. It didn't work. Republicans' micro-targeting strategy connected with voters much better.

They used the state House Democrats' record against them. The House Democrats ignored their record and painfully campaigned on abortion. (More on that later.) Michigan House Republicans picked up four seats, making it the country's only legislative chamber to change partisan hands.

5. Justice Kyra Bolden, Kimberly Thomas — Republicans threw all their eggs in the House and basically left their Supreme Court nominees to fend for themselves. They were eaten alive.

Bolden and Thomas were well funded

See MELINN, Page 10



Senior Health Series

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Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing, MI 48823



UofMHealthSparrow.org/SeniorHealthSeries



Michelle Becher, D.O.
Gynecology



Jessica Lutz, D.O.
Family Practice

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CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

ORDINANCE NO. 1541

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD SECTION 37, INITIATION OF TRAFFIC STOPS, TO EAST LANSING CITY CODE CHAPTER 44, OFFENSES.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

City of East Lansing City Code shall be amended as follows:

SECTION 37 - INITIATION OF TRAFFIC STOPS

Sec. 44-37 – Permitted and Prohibited Traffic Stops

1. No law enforcement officer employed by the City of East Lansing Police Department shall stop or detain an operator or occupant of a motor vehicle based solely on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socio-economic status, age, cultural group, or disability.

2. Except where an officer reasonably believes, based on articulable facts, that the violation is of a nature or magnitude that poses an immediate risk of harm to person(s) or property, a law enforcement officer employed by the City of East Lansing shall not stop or detain the operator or occupant of a motor vehicle based solely on one of the following offenses:

(a) Cracked or chipped windshield.

(b) Loud exhaust.

(c) Tinted windows.

(d) Object hanging from rearview mirror.

(e) Cracked, broken or burned-out tail lamp where at least one tail lamp remains functional and properly illuminated.

(f) Registration plate lighting violations.

(g) Location of registration sticker.

(h) Location of temporary or paper registration plate, so long as it remains clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle.

3. Nothing in this chapter prohibits a law enforcement officer employed by the City of East Lansing from taking one or more of the following actions, so long as it does not result in an investigative detention:

(a) Issuing a civil infraction citation to a parked or standing motor vehicle.

(b) Mailing a civil infraction citation as permitted by law.

4. If a law enforcement officer employed by the City of East Lansing has already stopped or made contact with a vehicle for another lawful purpose, he or she may issue a citation to, or request charges against, an operator or occupant of a motor vehicle for any of the offenses listed in this Section.

5. Except for those offenses listed in this Section, nothing in this Chapter prevents a law enforcement officer from initiating a traffic stop for any infraction or criminal offense based on reasonable suspicion or probable cause as defined by applicable law.

6. This Section does not apply to commercial vehicle enforcement.

7. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to create criminal or civil liability for a law enforcement officer who acts in good faith in the execution of his or her duties.

8. When a law enforcement officer acts in good faith in making a stop pursuant to this chapter, the City shall indemnify, defend, and hold the officer harmless as to any civil liability arising from that stop.

9 – Severability

The various sections and provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed to be severable. Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole or any section or provision of this ordinance other than the section or provision so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

10 – Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon legal publication.

Marie Wicks

East Lansing City Clerk

CP#24-721

MELINN

from page 9

and ran a quality campaign that got their names in front of voters, Republican, Democrat and independent. This race was over before the 10 p.m. news.

LOSERS

1. Whoever ran the Hertel campaign — I’m cutting Curtis Hertel some slack here because I’m quite sure he was not the admiral in that deflatingly bad congressional campaign. The D.C. geniuses who pulled this campaign plan off the shelf will not want this effort on their resume.

Despite having PLENTY of money, they let Hertel get defined before he could define himself. They rarely let him speak plainly. They screwed up the debate. They didn’t let him on local radio interviews. Instead of playing to his strengths of getting shit done when he worked in government, they tried to pass him off as just some “regular” guy. I couldn’t watch a hockey game without seeing that “liberal lobbyist” ad (literally) five times.

Barrett’s bag of bad votes as a strident conservative legislator were rarely opened ... unless it had to do with abortion, and then they literally made up policy he never supported!

2. Whoever thought abortion was on the ballot — I understand this whole “abortion-is-on-the-ballot” thing came from the Democratic Party mothership, but come on. Abortion was not on the bal-

lot. It was in 2022. It was not in 2024. You only needed to read a few polls to figure that out.

You had a convicted criminal who passively inspired a violent riot at the U.S. Capitol at the head of the Republican ticket. Instead, you’re running ads on re-productive health care? Which we made a constitutional right in our state two years ago? What about video of cops getting their heads beat in with a flagpole flying a MAGA banner?

3. Project 2025 canard — With real issues facing Michigan’s middle class, Democrats (again from the national mother-ship) created this bogeyman called Project 2025, a conservative idealogue dream. What’s in?

YOU HAVE TO READ NEARLY 1,000 PAGES TO FIND OUT! (menacing music in the background). Conservative think tanks like the Heritage Foundation are literally paid to come up with this stuff all the time. Sometimes Republicans do some of it. Sometimes they don’t. Trying to make this into some novel concept that Trump was secretly behind was not digestible.

(Kyle Melinn is editor of the Capitol news service MIRS. Email him at melinn-ky@gmail.com.)

CORRECTION

Because of a reporting error, last week’s column by Kyle Melinn included a wrong date. The memorial event for the late U.S. Rep. Bob Carr at Beggar’s Banquet in East Lansing will be 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 12. Please RSVP to Eric Schertzing at schertzing@aol.com.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Pursuant to Section 401 of Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act), notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting held on October 9, 2024, the Williamstown Township Board of Trustees adopted amendments of the Williams-town Township Zoning Ordinance to rezone the following parcels:

2.15 +/- acres at 3962 Vanneter Rd, Williamston, Michigan, 48895, owned by Charles R Perkins Trust, from RR (Rural Residential) to R-1 (One Family Residential).

The parcel is described as follows:

PARCEL 33-03-03-36-201-003

WMS 36-1-1 COM AT THE N 1/4 COR SEC 36 -S03D30’10”E ALNG NS 1/4 LN 150 FT TO THE POB -S03D30’10”E 150 FT -E PLL WITH 1/4 LN 624.36 FT -N03D30’10”W 150 FT -W PLL WITH 1/4 LN 624.36 FT TO THE POB SEC 36 T4NR1E 2.15 A

10 +/- acres at 3840 Vanneter Rd, Williamston, Michigan, 48895, owned by Carolyn Lightfoot Trust, from RR (Rural Residential) to R-1 (One Family Residential)

The parcels are described as follows:

PARCEL 33-03-03-36-251-001

WMS 36-4 BEG. 24 RDS S OF W 1/8 POST OF NE 1/4 -E 40 RDS -S 16 RDS -W 16 RDS -S 6 2/3 RDS -W 24 RDS -N 22 2/3 RDS TO BEG. SEC. 36 -T4NR1E -5 A.

PARCEL 33-03-03-36-251-002

WMS 36-3 N 6 A. OF W 1/2 OF SW1/4 OF NE 1/4 OF SEC. 36 T4NR1E -6 A.

A copy of the ordinance amendments may be obtained or inspected at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, MI 48895 during normal business hours. Pursuant to Section 401(6) of Act 110, the amendments shall take effect upon expiration of seven days after publication of this notice.

Robin Cleveland, Township Clerk

CP#24-726



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ARTS & CULTURE

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Noodle, doodle and Nodd

Odd Nodd Art Supply makes art accessible to all

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Some retail stores transcend their material origins, like Pinocchio, and acquire a soul.

In a few short years, Odd Nodd Art Supply owners Casey and Whitney Sorrow have woven a cozy, colorful and indispensable nest for professional artists, art students, crafting enthusiasts, seekers of art therapy and people who have no idea what they need.

The Sorrows put their hearts into the store, along with their considerable expertise in fine art, crafts (at all levels of skill) and other artistic pursuits.

"I like the customers who are like, 'I can't even draw a stick figure,'" Whitney said. "It doesn't matter if you can't draw. There's so much value in putting colors together, putting lines together, just the sound of a pen on a nice piece of cotton rag. There's therapy in so much of it."

The Sorrows have packed a teeming coral reef of art supplies into the sunlit brickwork interior of their Old Town digs at 317 E. César E. Chávez Ave., next to a set of defunct railroad tracks.

But the diverse inventory, from fountain pens out of a dream to the newest 3-D sculpting media, only tells half the story.

"When my father died, the grief was so deep that for about two months, I would sit with a ream of copy paper and make fine, intricate doodles," Whitney said. "It was the only thing that grounded me, and it was then I realized that looking at art as what products you create is so limiting. It's really about the process. That's where the magic happens for me."

For Casey, a printmaker and illustrator, the social part of running a store is the perfect complement to the often-solitary work of an artist.

"We're kind of like the bartenders of the art world," he said. "A lot of people come in here and talk to us about anything."

During the pandemic, Odd Nodd's staff helped hundreds of people find a way to express themselves, distract



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Whitney (left) and Casey Sorrow, co-owners of Odd Nodd Art Supply, love to help non-professionals find a doorway into art.

themselves and blossom in unexpected ways.

Last week, in the aftermath of a bruising election season, traffic again ticked up.

"Yesterday, a few people came in looking for therapy through art, and I feel it's pretty important to be here for people," Casey said.

The store is a haven for so many people in part because Casey and Whitney came to the art world from different directions.

Casey grew up in Holt and hitched his early love of doodling to the world of Dungeons & Dragons, at first copying the monsters from the game, then inventing his own. (His self-published bestiary, "Bizarre Monsters," is quite a trip.) Longtime Lansing-area dwellers may recall him as co-author with Eric Millikin of the comic strip "Fetus X," banned from Michigan State University's The State News after a condemnation from no less a hater than then MSU President M. Peter McPherson.

While studying at MSU, Casey had his first experience with an independent art supply store, Grand Arts Supply in downtown Lansing.

As manager of MSU's art supply store, Casey worked regularly with Grand Arts Supply owner Greg Limmer. When Odd Nodd opened in 2019, Limmer passed Casey his pricing gun from his store, which closed in 2015. Casey's prints



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

OKTO sensory art clay is one of many new products that lure newbies into glorious, creative messes

have appeared in many publications, including The New York Times.

The gems in Casey's portfolio are his illustrations for two books of previously unpublished James Joyce material, "The Cats of Copenhagen" and "Finn's Hotel." Both have appeared, with Casey's illustrations, in many international translations.

"Casey has a fine arts background, and he can get deep into that with people who are trained," Whitney said.

By contrast, Whitney has always poured her creativity into crafts, "hyper-focusing on a million different things" like beadwork and clay modeling. She grew up in East Lansing, spent some time living on both the East and West coasts and returned to the area to be near family.

About 15 years ago, when Casey was teaching an art class at MSU's Kresge Art Museum, one of his students passed a hand-bound book to Whitney.

"It sort of made my brain explode," she said. She dove headlong into bookbinding and now divides her time between bookbinding and embroidery.

Casey estimated that about half of his customers are either fine artists working professionally in the area or students at MSU or Lansing Community College buying supplies for courses. The rest, he said, are hobbyists "or people who are just interested in playing around with artistic materials."



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Fitting everything he wants to sell into Odd Nodd's Old Town store is "a slide puzzle that keeps me up at night," co-owner Casey Sorrow said.

"We love introducing new products and projects to people to get the creative juices flowing," Casey said.

A light, soft clay that can be "painted" into 3-D artwork, made by Ukraine-based manufacturer OKTO, is a new product that's catching on fast.

Another counter bristles with smooth, rich Blackwing pencils crafted from Japanese graphite and California cedar; the flat-ferruled axe of choice for creative minds from animator Chuck Jones to composers Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein to literary lions like John Steinbeck and Vladimir Nabokov.

The stationery and fountain-pen counters have become the hubs of thriving artistic subcultures. A selection of beautifully made journals, many of them from Japan, challenge you to come with thoughts worthy of their creamy paper. There are travel journals, bullet journals (for focus and productivity) and good old figuring-life-out journals, a solace and life raft during the pandemic.

Odd Nodd's fountain pen department is tops in the state, drawing fans from hundreds of miles away. The Lansing Analog Society, a devoted group of pen, ink and paper aficionados, meets regularly at the store.

"Come to a meeting," Casey said. "You'll get sucked into a rabbit hole."



Thank you for voting for us!



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Mon: 9 AM - 8 PM
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The three Ps of local cannabis: Pure Options, Pincanna and Pleasantrees

By CHRIS SILVA

The results of the 2024 Top of the Town contest highlight what Lansing residents have known for years: The area is home to some of the most innovative, consumer-focused cannabis companies in Michigan. With a longstanding tradition of excellence in the industry, Lansing has emerged as a hub for some of Michigan’s most in-demand cannabis products, and this year’s winners reflect the best of the best.

Pure Options and Pro-Gro sweep the awards

No stranger to success, Pure Options dominated this year’s contest, with its in-house brand Pro Gro leading the way. Pro Gro won all three Best Cannabis Flower categories and took home second place for Best Cannabis Growing Brand, reinforcing Pure Options’ reputation as one of the region’s premier flower producers. Pro Gro also won Best Distillate Cartridge and tied for second for Best Non-Solvent Concentrate, while another of Pure Options’ in-house brands, BAMN, earned third place for Best Solvent Concentrate.

Pure Options’ success can be attributed not only to its top-tier products but also its consistent commitment to delivering exactly what consumers want. Its Frandor location was voted Best Indoor Grow Shop, Best Marijuana Provisioning Center and Best CBD Store/Boutique, while its Midtown store secured the third-place spot for Best Marijuana Provisioning Center. With a strong presence across the state, Pure Options is known for offering a well-curated selection of popular products, from flower to pre-rolls to vapes, while maintaining a welcoming, customer-friendly atmosphere.

Pure Options’ reach extends beyond cannabis and into the community, hosting big-name comedy shows at Grew-



Courtesy photo

Pure Options dominated this year’s Top of the Town contest — especially its Frandor location, which won Best Indoor Grow Shop, Best Marijuana Provisioning Center and Best CBD Store/Boutique.

al Hall at 224 and equally as notable concerts at its Frandor location. Situated near Michigan State University, the Frandor dispensary becomes a lively gathering spot on game days, offering a unique vibe for both locals and students.

Pincanna and Pleasantrees focus on quality and transparency

East Lansing also had its fair share of winners this year. Pincanna, a frequent Top of the Town favorite, was voted Best Cannabis Growing Brand and East Lansing’s Best Marijuana Provisioning Center, with a second-place finish in the Best Indoor Grow Shop and Best CBD Store/Boutique categories. Its proximity to Michigan State University has helped make it the go-to dispensary for students, blending convenience with quality.

Pincanna also had a strong showing in several product categories, with notable wins for its in-house brands Funky Extracts, which took first place in both edible categories, and Fruit & Fuel, which racked up awards in the Best Non-Solvent Concentrate, Best Distillate Car-

tridge and Best Cannabis Flower categories.

For East Lansing residents seeking top-notch cannabis in a more intimate setting, Pleasantrees also earned recognition as the second-best provisioning center in East Lansing and third-best CBD store/boutique. Although situated farther from campus, Pleasantrees stands out for its carefully curated selection of products and its commitment to quality. The company recently introduced a policy barring remediated cannabis flower in any of its retail locations, further solidifying its dedication to offering only the best to consumers.

This emphasis on transparency and quality is evident not only in Pleasantrees’ retail operations but also in its production practices. The company ensures all products sold in its stores — especially its own — meet the highest standards, free from remediation or potentially harmful CBD conversion oil.

This year’s winners are a testament to all the hard work, dedication and



Courtesy photo

Pincanna’s proximity to Michigan State University has helped make it the go-to dispensary for students.



Courtesy photo

Although situated farther from MSU’s campus, East Lansing’s Pleasantrees stands out for its carefully curated selection of products and its commitment to quality.

passion that keeps Lansing at the forefront of Michigan’s cannabis industry. An additional congratulations goes out to you, the voters. Your knowledge of products and standards for quality represent what’s best about our industry and culture.

Lansing's Autumn Favorites!

IN QD STORES NOW!

QD Quality Dairy

Apple Cider, Egg Nog, Peppermint Stick, Pumpkin Pie

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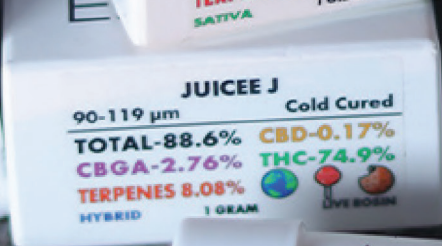
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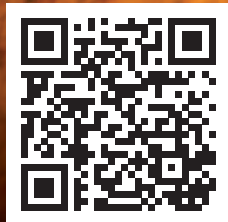
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Concentrate



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The history behind this year's library and bookstore winners

By **BILL CASTANIER**

More than 150 years ago, a circulating or subscription library opened in Lansing's Old Town at what is now 200-202 E. Cesar Chavez Ave.

The only known remnant or ephemera from that bookstore, which was housed in a drugstore, is in the collection of Capital Area District Libraries' Local History Room, which is part of CADL's downtown branch.

An ad from that period states that patrons could rent books for 10 cents a week — about \$3.80 today.

Following that humble beginning, the Ladies Library and Literary Association was founded in the early 1860s but lacked funding. The original library's location bounced around for several decades, including using three rooms in the original city hall.

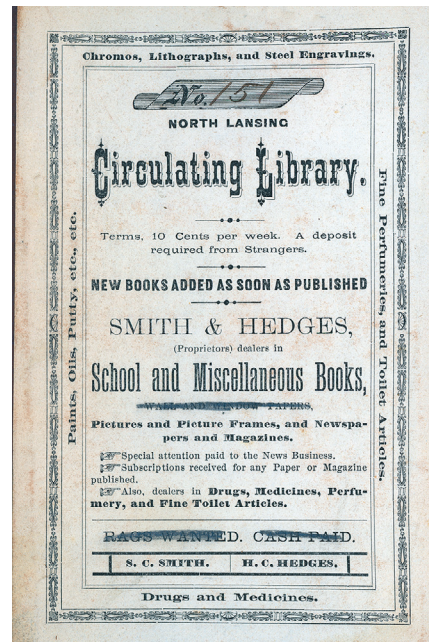
Later, State of Michigan Librarian Mary Spencer worked feverishly with the community to establish a Carnegie library, which opened in 1905 after a city referendum in 1902 agreed to raise \$3,500 annually tied to a \$35,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie.

Carnegie, a philanthropist and steel magnate, was responsible for building 1,700 libraries nationwide, including over than 60 in Michigan. Lansing's still stands today on Shiawassee Street, though repurposed by Lansing Community College.

The Carnegie Library met the community's needs until 1964, when the Lansing Board of Education opened a new main library in downtown Lansing, which is still in use today. However, CADL, a countywide system that came into existence in 1998, is looking at moving the library and its executive offices, which share the building at 401 S. Capitol Ave., for financial reasons.

In what might be an ironic choice in the annual Lansing Top of the Town contest, voters selected the downtown CADL main branch as the area's best library. The East Lansing and Delta Township libraries came in second and third.

Libraries were one of the first free public spaces, now called "third spaces," built as community gathering places in the United States, and that proud tradition continues to this day. Third spaces include not only libraries but also book-



Courtesy CADL Caterino Postcard Collection, Forest Park Library and Archives

An ad for the North Lansing Circulating Library in what is now Old Town, the only known remnant from the bookstore. Patrons could rent books for 10 cents a week.

stores, gyms, churches and parks and theaters where people can connect with each other.

At the downtown library you can not only check out books and videos and use computers to research job openings openings, you can also run a check in the Local History Room on the history of the home you lived in.

Lansing's bookstores have a similar history. William Carr opened Lansing's first bookstore in 1857. It lasted for 12 years near the corner of Washington and Michigan avenues in the center of downtown's emerging mercantile marketplace.

It appears a nearby location was later occupied by City Bookstore, operated by A.G. Viel and H.M. Hitchcock. An 1863



Hendrix (left) and Morrison, a Siamese, shared first place for Best Shop Pets. They reside at Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books in Reo Town, which won first for Best Bookstore in the 2024 Top of the Town Contest.

postcard is its only known photograph. The building burned in 1871. The location was later the site of American State Savings Bank Building.

Greater Lansing boasts nine bookstores today, including this year's first-place selection for Best Bookstore (locally owned): REO Town's Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books — which moved up a notch from No. 2 last year. It also won first in the Most Trustworthy Business and Best Shop Pet category for its two house cats, Morrison and Hendrix. It finished second for best "eye candy" for its unique art deco concrete architecture, which bumps up against brutalist architecture.

The second- and third-place Best Bookstore winners launched five decades apart. Lansing's granddaddy used bookstore, the venerable Curious Books in East Lansing, opened in 1969. It came in third. Finishing second was Hooked, which opened two years ago in the Red Cedar District. Hooked also snared a first place as Best Solo Hangout.

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Best Sandwich/Wrap





BAR

Best Bar Food

- 1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
- 2. (tie) The Peanut Barrel & Zoobie's Old Town Tavern

Best Cocktails

- 1. American Fifth Spirits
- 2. Bobcat Bonnie's
- 3. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern

Best Dance Bar

- 1. The Green Door
- 2. The Avenue Cafe
- 3. UrbanBeat

Best Dive Bar

- 1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
- 2. Stober's Bar
- 3. Harry's Place

Best Happy Hour

- 1. Cask & Co. Kitchen & Bar
- 2. Moriarty's Pub
- 3. Crunchy's

Best Jam Night

- 1. Moriarty's Pub
- 2. UrbanBeat

Best Karaoke

- 1. Crunchy's
- 2. The Avenue Cafe
- 3. The Green Door

Best Lansing-Area Brewery

- 1. Lansing Brewing Co.
- 2. Ozone's Brewhouse
- 3. BAD Brewing Co.



Crunchy's — Best Karaoke, Best Spartan Sports Hangout, Best Comedy Night, Best Hangout for Students, Best Trivia Night

Crunchy's, an East Lansing staple since 1982, became known under founder Paul Grattarola for its signature half-pound burger and 270-ounce beer buckets. The longtime MSU watering hole has changed hands twice since then, most recently in 2015, when then-general manager Michael Krueger, his wife, Jessica, and their business partner John Mosholder took the reins. The trio has maintained Crunchy's legacy as a go-to karaoke destination, winning the Top of the Town award in that category every year since 2015. Crunchy's has also won Best Spartan Sports Hangout for seven years running. This year, it added three new titles: Best Trivia Night, Best Comedy Night and Best Hangout for Students. A pair of third-place finishes for Best Burger and Best Happy Hour were the icing on the cake.

Best Lansing-Area Distillery

- 1. American Fifth Spirits
- 2. Sanctuary Spirits
- 3. Red Cedar Spirits

Best LGBTQ-Friendly Bar

- 1. The Avenue Cafe
- 2. Esquire Bar
- 3. UrbanBeat

Best Margarita

- 1. El Azteco Lansing
- 2. Pablo's Mexican Restaurant Eastside
- 3. Cancun Mexican Grill Grand Ledge

Best Mocktails

- 1. Bobcat Bonnie's
- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. The People's Kitchen

Best Neighborhood Bar

- 1. Art's Pub
- 2. Harry's Place
- 3. The Peanut Barrel

Best Pub/Tavern

- 1. Art's Pub
- 2. Stober's Bar
- 3. Moriarty's Pub

Best Spartan Sports Hangout

- 1. Crunchy's
- 2. (tie) The Peanut Barrel & Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

Best Sports Bar

- 1. Nuthouse Sports Grill
- 2. Frank's Press Box
- 3. (tie) The Peanut Barrel & Buffalo Wild Wings

CANNABIS

Best Cannabis Flower – Hybrid

- 1. Pro Gro – Lunar Lemon || Pure Options
- 2. Fruit & Fuel – Greasy Runtz || Pincanna East Lansing
- 3. Blue Runtz || Herbana



Best Cannabis Flower – Indica

- 1. Pro Gro – Moonbow #112 || Pure Options
- 2. Frosted Cherry Cookies || Pincanna East Lansing
- 3. 517 Headband || Premier Cannabis Farms

Best Cannabis Flower – Sativa

- 1. Pro Gro – Lunar Lemon || Pure Options
- 2. Tango Jack || Bazonzoes
- 3. Lemon Gravy || Pincanna East Lansing

Best Cannabis Growing Brand

- 1. Pincanna East Lansing
- 2. Pro Gro
- 3. The Botanical Co.

Best CBD Store/Boutique

- 1. Pure Options Frandor
- 2. Pincanna East Lansing
- 3. Pleasantrees East Lansing

Best Distillate Cartridge

- 1. Pro Gro Distillate Disposable Cartridge || Pure Options
- 2. (tie) Breeze Canna || Bazonzoes & Fruit & Fuel || Pincanna East Lansing

Best Gummy Edible (Cannabis)

- 1. Funky Extracts || Pincanna East Lansing
- 2. Wyld || Bazonzoes
- 3. Choice || JARS Cannabis Lansing

Best Indoor Grow Shop

- 1. Pure Options Frandor
- 2. Pincanna East Lansing
- 3. Indoor Grow Supply

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- Nachos
- Signature Dish
(Meat Mountain)

- Best BBQ
- Best BBQ Sauce
- Best Wings
- Best Caterer/
Catering service

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FROM DAY ONE!



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2015, 2016, 2017, 2018,
2019, 2020, 2021, 2022,
2023 and 2024



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Top of the Town

from page 18

Best Marijuana Provisioning Center

1. Pure Options Frandor
2. Herbana
3. Pure Options Midtown

Best Marijuana Provisioning Center – East Lansing

1. Pincanna East Lansing
2. Pleasantrees East Lansing
3. Ascend Cannabis

Best Non-Gummy Edible (Cannabis)

1. Funky Extracts || Pincanna East Lansing

2. Potpots || Lion Labs
3. Motor City Cannabis || JARS Cannabis
Lansing

Best Non-Solvent Concentrate (Cannabis)

1. Fruit & Fuel || Pincanna East Lansing
2. (tie) Element || Lion Labs
& Pro Gro – Moonbow #112 || Pure Options

Best Solvent Concentrate (Cannabis)

1. (tie) Element || Lion Labs
& Skymint || Skymint
3. Bubblegum Gelato || BAMN

Best Topical

1. Michigan Organic Rub || Pincanna East Lansing
2. RISE Advanced Cream || Lion Labs

DINING

Best Bagels

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Big Apple Bagels
3. New Daily Bagel

Best Bakery

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Bake N' Cakes
3. Sweetie-licious

See Top of the Town, Page 22

Flour Child Bakery — Best Bagels, Best Bakery, Best Café, Best Cupcake, Best Dessert, Best Family-Friendly Restaurant, Best Sandwich/Wrap, Best Vegan/Gluten-Free Dessert, Best Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten-Free Restaurant

Grand Lodge's Flour Child Bakery, a perennial favorite in the Top of the Town contest, earned top-three votes in 14 categories this year, including eight wins. The shop successfully defended its 2023 titles for Best Bakery, Best Bagels, Best Cupcake, Best Dessert and Best Vegan/Gluten Free Dessert. It also won Best Sandwich/Wrap after finishing second last year and picked up first-time wins for Best Family-Friendly Restaurant and Best Café. It capped off its sweep with second-place finishes for Best Salad and Cleanest Public Restroom and third-place finishes for Best Donuts, Best Soup and Best Place to Work. TOTT voters left well over 100 comments with their votes, including 60 on the bagels alone. "Best bakery around, smiling helpful staff every visit, inclusive environment. And it's in the best small town in the Lansing area," one wrote. "My husband eats two of them at least three times per week," another said of the bagels. However, the shortest comment may have put it best: "Drool."



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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.

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- BEDROOM GAMES

- MASSAGE ESSENTIALS

- ROMANTIC GIFTS



Top of the Town

from page 22

Best Mexican (non-chain)

- 1. El Azteco Lansing
- 2. Pablo's Mexican Restaurant Old Town
- 3. El Oasis

Best Nachos

- 1. El Azteco Lansing
- 2. Meat BBQ
- 3. Buddies Pub & Grill

Best New Restaurant

- 1. Bobcat Bonnie's
- 2. Arms & Embers Grill
- 3. Noosh Afghan Cuisine

Best Olive Burger

- 1. Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shop
- 2. Olympic Broil
- 3. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

Best Pancakes

- 1. Sophia's House of Pancakes
- 2. The People's Kitchen
- 3. Anna's House

Best Pho

- 1. (tie) Asia's Finest & Capital City BBQ
- 3. King Phở

Best Pizza

- 1. Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub

- 2. Cugino's
- 3. Art's Pub

Best Prime Rib

- 1. The English Inn
- 2. Airport Tavern
- 3. Lucky's Steakhouse

Best Ramen

- 1. Ruckus Ramen
- 2. Sapporo Ramen & Noodle Bar
- 3. Sushi Moto

Best Ranch Dressing

- 1. Jet's Pizza
- 2. Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center
- 3. Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub

Best Restaurant Beer List

- 1. HopCat
- 2. Lansing Brewing Co.
- 3. EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

Best Restaurant for Seniors

- 1. Coral Gables
- 2. Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
- 3. Bob Evans

Best Restaurant Wine List

- 1. Dusty's Wine Bar
- 2. Bridge Street Social
- 3. Soup Spoon Café

Best Reuben

- 1. Stateside Deli
- 2. Soup Spoon Café
- 3. Log Jam

Best Salad

- 1. Soup Spoon Café
- 2. El Azteco East Lansing
- 3. Flour Child Bakery

Best Sandwich/Wrap

- 1. Flour Child Bakery
- 2. Babe's Corner
- 3. Jersey Giant Subs

Best Seafood Restaurant

- 1. Mitchell's Fish Market
- 2. The Tangy Crab
- 3. The Old Bag of Nails Pub

Best Signature Dish

- 1. Hippie Hash || Fleetwood Diner
- 2. Meat Mountain || Meat BBQ
- 3. Trust Us || The Cosmos

Best Soup

- 1. Soup Spoon Café
- 2. Horrocks Beer Garden
- 3. Flour Child Bakery

Best Steak

- 1. Bowdie's Chophouse
- 2. Texas Roadhouse
- 3. Capital Prime

Best Sub Sandwich

- 1. Jersey Giant Subs
- 2. Babe's Corner
- 3. Mancino's South Cedar

Best Sushi

- 1. Maru Sushi & Grill
- 2. Sushi Moto
- 3. Sansu Sushi and Cocktails

Best Tacos

- 1. El Oasis
- 2. Pancho's Taqueria
- 3. Pablo's Mexican Restaurant Old Town

Best Thai Restaurant

- 1. Taste of Thai
- 2. Bangkok House
- 3. Eato Chef

Best Upscale Dining

- 1. The English Inn
- 2. Bowdie's Chophouse
- 3. EnVie

Best Vegan/Gluten-Free Dessert

- 1. Flour Child Bakery
- 2. Veg Head
- 3. Sweet Encounter Bakery & Café

Best Vegetarian/Vegan Dish

- 1. Veg Head
- 2. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine
- 3. Beggar's Banquet

Best Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free Restaurant

- 1. Flour Child Bakery
- 2. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine
- 3. Veg Head

Best Wings

- 1. Meat BBQ
- 2. Wing Snob
- 3. Eastside Fish Fry & Grill

HANGOUTS

Best Beach

- 1. Lake Michigan
- 2. Grand Haven
- 3. Hawk Island Park

Best Biggby

- 1. Biggby Coffee – 2002 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
- 2. Biggby Coffee – 4756 Marsh Road, Okemos
- 3. Biggby Coffee – 661 N. Cedar St., Mason

Best Bowling Alley

- 1. Spare Time Entertainment Center
- 2. City Limits Mason
- 3. Royal Scot Golf & Bowl

See Top of the Town, Page 24

thrift
witch

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voted
#1
Top of the Town
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CityPULSE

• Best Consignment Shop

• Best Secondhand Shop

voted
TOP 3
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2024
CityPULSE

• Antique Shop

• Clothing Store (Locally Owned)

• Thrift Shop

TOP OF THE TOWN
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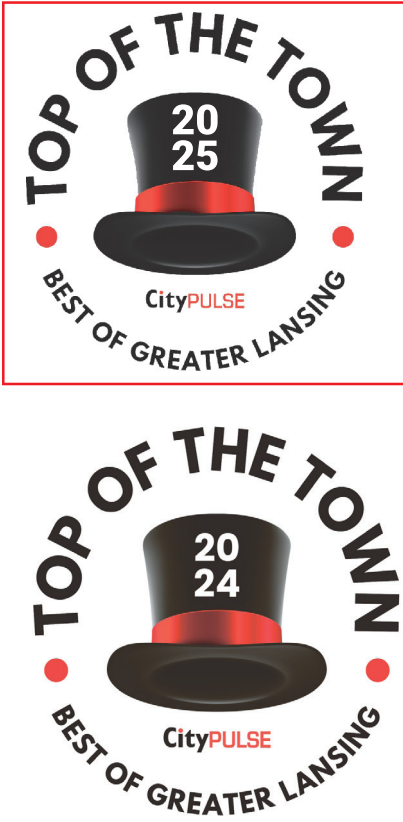
We are proudly employee-owned and celebrate and promote unity in diversity within our community and workplace.

TOP OF THE TOWN
2024
CityPULSE
BEST OF GREATER LANSING

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Coming in 2025: Top of the Town People Contest!



Top of the Town

from page 23

Best Café

- 1. Flour Child Bakery
- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. Strange Matter Coffee Eastside

Best Coffee Shop (non-Bigby)

- 1. Strange Matter Coffee Eastside

- 2. Blue Owl Coffee
- 3. Constellation Cat Cafe

Best Comedy Night

- 1. Crunchy's
- 2. Mac's Bar
- 3. Ozone's Brewhouse

Best Corn Maze

- 1. Bestmaze Corn Maze
- 2. Choice Farm Market

Best Escape Room Venue

- 1. Breakout Escape Rooms Lansing
- 2. Challenges East Lansing Adventure Escape Rooms
- 3. Spare Time Entertainment Center

Best Golf Course

- 1. Eagle Eye Golf Club
- 2. Groesbeck Golf Course
- 3. (tie) Forest Akers East Golf Course & Ledge Meadows Golf Course

Best Hangout for Seniors

- 1. Coral Gables

- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

Best Hangout for Students

- 1. Crunchy's
- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

Best Hangout Solo

- 1. Hooked
- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. The Avenue Cafe

Best Library

- 1. CADL - Downtown Lansing
- 2. East Lansing Public Library
- 3. Delta Township District Library

Best Local Attraction for Kids

- 1. Impression 5 Science Center
- 2. Potter Park Zoo
- 3. Constellation Cat Cafe

Best Movie Theatre

- 1. NCG Cinema Lansing
- 2. Celebration Cinema Lansing
- 3. Sun Theatre

Best Music Venue

- 1. Wharton Center for Performing Arts
- 2. Grewal Hall at 224
- 3. UrbanBeat

Best Nature Center

- 1. Fenner Nature Center
- 2. Woldumar Nature Center
- 3. Harris Nature Center

Best Non-Bar or Restaurant Date

- 1. Horrocks Farm Market
- 2. Old Town Lansing
- 3. Constellation Cat Cafe

Best Patio

- 1. Horrocks Beer Garden
- 2. The Peanut Barrel
- 3. Lansing Shuffle

Best Place to Play Pinball

- 1. Pinball Pete's
- 2. The Avenue Cafe

Best Place to Play Video Games

- 1. Pinball Pete's
- 2. Lansing Shuffle

Best Place to Shoot Pool

- 1. The Avenue Cafe
- 2. Nuthouse Sports Grill
- 3. Mac's Bar

Best Public Park

- 1. Fitzgerald Park
- 2. Hawk Island Park
- 3. Patriarche Park

Best Sober Hangout

- 1. Old Town Lansing
- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. High Caliber Karting and Entertainment

Best Trivia Night

- 1. Crunchy's
- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill

See Top of the Town, Page 25

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Whiskey
Vodka
Gin
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Top of the Town

from page 24

LOCAL ARTS

Best Choral Group

- 1. Riverbend Voices
- 2. MSU Chorale
- 3. (tie) LanSINGout Gay Chorus & Sistrum

Best Country Artist/Band

- 1. Billy Strings
- 2. Cooper Johnson
- 3. Shelby & Jake

Best Cover Band



- 1. Starfarm
- 2. Atomic Annie
- 3. Frog and the Beeftones

Best Folk Artist/Band

- 1. The Wild Honey Collective
- 2. The Dangling Particles
- 3. Abbey Hoffman

Best Hip-Hop Artist/Group

- 1. Ozay Moore
- 2. Sway Boi
- 3. Tony Thompson

Best Jazz Musician/Group

- 1. The Rodney Whitaker Quartet
- 2. Sunny Wilkinson and Ron Newman
- 3. Linda Abar

Best Local Theatre Organization

- 1. Riverwalk Theatre
- 2. Williamston Theatre
- 3. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre

Best Pottery Studio

- 1. Wheel House Studio
- 2. Art Unlimited
- 3. Spinner Pottery

Best Public Art/Sculpture

- 1. Big Penny the Truck-Munching Bridge
- 2. Sparty Statue
- 3. Riverwalk ArtPath

Best Rock Artist/Band

- 1. Starfarm
- 2. Atomic Annie
- 3. Frog and the Beeftones

SERVICE

Best Appliance Repair

- 1. Lane's Appliance Sales and Service

- 2. G & W Appliance
- 3. Babcock's Appliance Services

Best Audiologist/Hearing Firm

- 1. Mid-Michigan Ear, Nose & Throat
- 2. Advanced Audiology DeWitt
- 3. MaryRose Hecksel AuD

Best Auto Body Shop

- 1. Tripp's Collision Lansing
- 2. Driven Collision LLC
- 3. Mason Auto Body Repair Inc.

Best Auto Detailing Service

- 1. KWIK Car Wash & Express Detailing
- 2. Spot-Les
- 3. Showroom Shine

Best Auto Repair Shop

See Top of the Town, Page 26

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING
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Girl Gang

DOMESTIC
Divas

voted
#1

Top of the Town
2024

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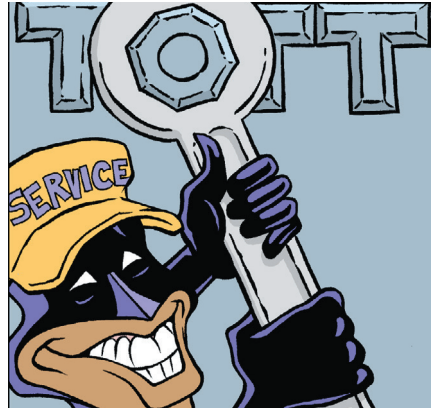
XOXO. *The Divas*

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Riverbend Voices — Best Choral Group

Though Riverbend Voices, the Capital City Music Collective's premier choir, only held its first concert in December 2023, the singers have already taken home their first piece of Top of the Town hardware, winning Best Choral Group in this year's contest. One voter described the group as "great singers coming together to sing incredible choral music," adding that they've "already made a big splash" in their short time together. Members and fans alike will have the opportunity to celebrate the group's newly minted TOTT success at its 2024-'25 season kickoff concert Dec. 8 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The show, titled "Full Circle," is free and open to the public.



Top of the Town

from page 25

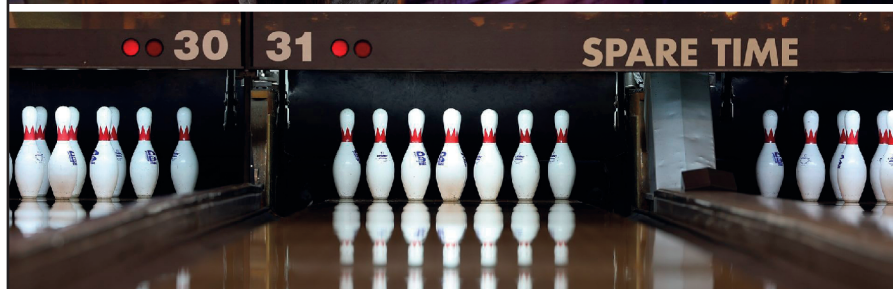
1. Ryan's Auto Care
2. Frankie D's Auto & Truck Repair

3. Righter's Auto Repair
- Best Bank**
1. Dart Bank
2. Eaton Community Bank
3. Fifth Third Bank

Best Barber Shop



Thank you for voting for us!



**3101 E Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI 48912
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Peoples Yoga — Best Yoga Studio

Misty Belous taught yoga for more than 15 years before opening her own studio, Peoples Yoga, in 2019. The Michigan State University alum successfully navigated through the pandemic to earn the studio's first Top of the Town award in 2022, placing third for Best Yoga Studio. Peoples Yoga won the category in 2023 and beat out eight other studios to successfully defend its title in 2024. The REO Town space offers unique courses for a range of experience levels, from introductory and gentle-flow sessions to aerial and chair yoga and even prenatal and arthritis-focused classes. It also provides private sessions and training for new yoga instructors. TOTT voters lauded both its atmosphere and its staff. "Having visited yoga studios across the country and abroad, I can easily report that Peoples has managed to bring together the most insightful, educated, compassionate, diverse and cheerful yoga instructors ever," one wrote.

1. East Side Barbershop
2. Jude's Barbershop East Lansing
3. Loyalty Barbershop

Best Bicycle Shop

1. Lansing Bike Co-op
2. Denny's Central Park Bicycles
3. SPIN Bicycle Shop

Best Car Wash

1. KWIK Car Wash & Express Detailing
2. Tommy's Express Car Wash
3. Fast Eddie's Car Wash and Oil Change

Best Caterer/Catering Service

1. Meat BBQ
2. Morton's Fine Catering
3. Graze Craze Charcuterie Boards & Boxes

Best Cemetery

1. Mount Hope Cemetery
2. St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
3. Evergreen Cemetery

Best Chiropractic Office

1. Creative Wellness
2. Craft Chiropractic Centers Charlotte
3. DeWitt Chiro

Best Cleaning Service

1. Domestic Divas Cleaning Services
2. Sweet Solutions Cleaning Service
3. 5s Cleaning

Best Credit Union

1. MSUFCU
2. Lake Trust Credit Union
3. CASE Credit Union

Best Curbside Pickup

1. Culver's
2. (tie) Bad Annie's Sweary Goods & Olive Garden

Best Dance Studio

1. The Hive Dance Studio
2. Dance Conservatory
3. Karyns Dance Place

Best Day Spa

1. Douglas J Salon + Med Spa
2. Zoe Life Spa and Salon
3. Onyx Moon

Best Dentist Office

1. Schaefer Dental Group
2. Grand Ledge Family Dentistry
3. Zielinski Dental

Best Estate Sale Company

1. Kellie's Estate Sales
2. Tom & Jerry's Estate Services
3. Sheridan Realty & Auction Co.

Best Facial

1. NECTAR body•face•skin
2. Douglas J Salon + Med Spa
3. Zoe Life Spa and Salon

See Top of the Town, Page 28



- KARAOKE
- SPARTAN SPORTS HANGOUT
- COMEDY NIGHT
- HANGOUT FOR STUDENTS
- TRIVIA NIGHT

- BURGER
- HAPPY HOUR

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- BAR FOOD
- NEIGHBORHOOD BAR
- SPARTAN SPORTS HANGOUT
- SPORTS BAR
- PATIO





Top of the Town

from page 26

Best Financial Planner/Company

1. Grace Braatz-Opper - Modern Woodmen of America
2. Dart Investment Centers
3. Hantz Financial Services Okemos

Best Funeral Home

1. Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes Lansing
2. Pray Funeral Home Inc.
3. Estes-Leadley Funeral Home

Best Gym/Fitness Studio

1. Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club

2. Planet Fitness
3. ALIVE

Best Hair Salon

1. Holiday Lansing
2. Douglas J Salon + Med Spa
3. Rubie's Paradise Salon

Best Heating/Cooling

1. All Star Mechanical
2. Hager Fox Heating & Air Conditioning
3. Applegate Home Comfort

Best Holistic Healing

1. LiveWELL: The Healing Community
2. Creative Wellness
3. Beyond A Dream LLC

Best Home Healthcare Company

1. McLaren Greater Lansing
2. Stoneleigh Residence & Hospice of Lansing
3. Loving Hands Home Care Agency

Best Insurance Agency

1. Rathbun Insurance
2. Auto-Owners Insurance
3. David Chapman Agency

Best Landscape Company

1. Hammond Farms Landscape Supply
2. Snyder's Landscape Design Inc.
3. Puregreen Lawn & Tree Professionals

Best Laser Hair Removal

1. MSU Aesthetic & Laser Treatment Center
2. Milan Laser Hair Removal
3. (tie) Mirkin Electrology & Pinnacle Dermatology Okemos

Best Law Firm

1. Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith
2. Abood Law Firm
3. Grua, Freeman, Tupper & Young

Best Local YouTube Channel

1. Q106
2. Magnet Fishing Lansing
3. Mango the Quirky Cat

Best Massage Studio

1. Creative Wellness
2. Amanda Tollstam LMT
3. Onyx Moon

Best Med Spa

1. NECTAR body•face•skin
2. Douglas J Salon + Med Spa
3. (tie) Aqua Body Lab & Massage & Wellness Store, Med Spa and Center

Best Music Lessons

1. School of Rock
2. Marshall Music Co.
3. MSU Community Music School

Best Nail Salon

1. (tie) Jenny Nails & Polished Nail Salon
3. Polished by Me

Best News Source

1. City Pulse
2. WLNS-TV
3. WKAR Public Media

Best Non-Profit Organization

1. Ele's Place Capital Region
2. (tie) Constellation Cat Cafe & Greater Lansing Food Bank

Best Painter

1. Blue Sky Painting
2. T.L. Hart Inc.
3. Do-Well Remodel

Best Pet Grooming

1. Kelly's Pet Boutique East
2. (tie) Amanda's Grooming & Paw City Pet Care

Best Pet Rescue

1. Capital Area Humane Society
2. Saved by Zade
3. Constellation Cat Cafe

Best Pharmacy (locally owned)

1. Apothecary Shop
2. Ware's Pharmacy
3. MSU Health Care Pharmacy

Best Plumbing Service

1. Michigan Plumbing
2. Vredevoogd Heating & Cooling
3. The Meridian Co.

Best Radio Station

1. WKAR 90.5
2. WQTX 92.1
3. WITL 100.7

Best Residential Remodeling Company

1. McDaniels Kitchen & Bath
2. Community Building Services
3. Custom Built Design & Remodeling

Best Senior Living Community

1. Burcham Hills
2. Red Cedar Lodge
3. Serenity Place Apartments

Best Tanning

1. Pacific Tan Lansing
2. J2 Tanning Grand Ledge
3. Glow by Gracie

Best Tattoo Parlor

1. Splash of Color
2. Ink Therapy Lansing
3. Fish Ladder Tattoo Co.

Best Therapy/Therapist Service

1. Rooted Counseling
2. Origami Rehabilitation
3. LifeStance Therapists & Psychiatrists Lansing

Best Towing Company

1. P.J.'s Towing
2. Northside Towing & Service
3. H&H Mobil Towing

Best Veterinarian Service

1. Miller Animal Clinic
2. Waverly Animal Hospital
3. Evergreen Veterinary Clinic

Best Wedding Services

1. Twiggies
2. Sparrow Bloom
3. All Grand Events + Floral

Best Wifi/Internet Service Provider

1. Metronet Telecom Inc.
2. Xfinity
3. T-Mobile

Best Yoga Studio

1. Peoples Yoga
2. East Lansing Hot Yoga
3. 3 Legged Dog Yoga + Strength Studio

SHOPPING

Best Antique Shop

1. The Mega Mall

See Top of the Town, Page 30

Thank you for voting for us!

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Fine Catering**

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Caterer/Catering Service

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our expectations."



- *Italian*
- *Lasagna*
- *Ranch Dressing*



3420 S Creyts Rd Lansing,
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Top of the Town

from page 28

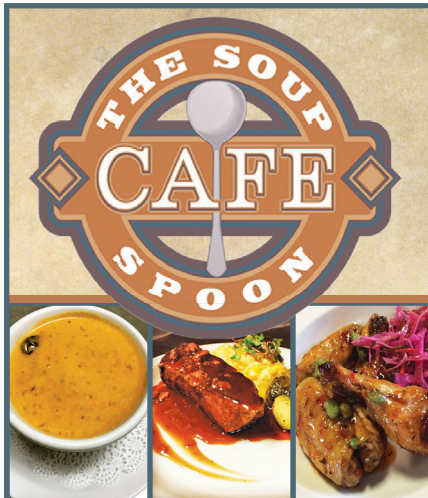
2. Thrift Witch
3. Little Red Schoolhouse

Best Art Gallery

1. Broad Art Museum
2. Absolute Gallery
3. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique

Best Art Supply Store

1. Odd Nodd Art Supply
2. Hobby Lobby
3. Michaels



**THANK YOU
FOR VOTING
FOR US!**



Best Brunch
Best Salad
Best Soup



Best Reuben

1419 E Michigan Ave. Lansing
(517) 316-2377



Grace Boutique of Old Town — Best Clothing Store

Grace Boutique of Old Town has placed in the top three for Best Clothing Store in six of the last eight Top of the Town contests, but this year, it topped Old Town neighbors Curvaceous Lingerie and Thrift Witch by just a handful of votes to win. The shop also tied REO Town's Jean Jean Vintage for third in the Best Jewelry Store category. The awards are a stamp of approval for owner Summer Schriener, who founded the store in Old Town in 2007. Seven years later, the Michigan State University alum moved her store to Old Town's Young's Landing building, where she's been selling women's clothing, handbags, shoes and accessories ever since. One TOTV voter noted that Grace Boutique is "the best place to visit if looking for a special occasion dress or jewelry, or a new outfit or gift."

Best Auto Dealership

1. Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing
2. Williams Subaru
3. Feldman Chevrolet Lansing

Best Beer Selection in a Retail Store

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Mega-Bev
3. (Oades) Big Ten Party Store West

Best Bookstore (locally owned)

1. Deadtime Stories
2. Hooked
3. Curious Book Shop

Best Butcher Shop

1. Monticello's Market & Butcher Block
2. MEAT on the WEST Side
3. Merindorf Meats & More Mason

Best Candy Store

1. Fabiano's Candies
2. Peanut Shop
3. Kean's

Best Cheese Department

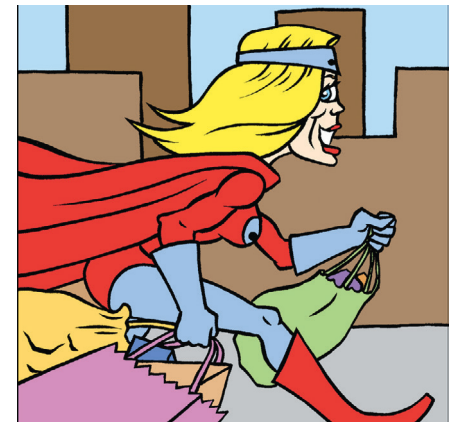
1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. MSU Dairy Store
3. Whole Foods Market

Best Clothing Store (locally owned)

1. Grace Boutique of Old Town
2. Curvaceous Lingerie
3. Thrift Witch

Best Consignment Shop

1. Thrift Witch
2. Kellie's Estate Sales, Auctions & Resale
3. Bella Grande



Best Farmers Market

1. Meridian Township Farmers Market
2. Allen Farmers Market
3. Grand Ledge Farmers Market

Best Florist

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. (tie) Van Atta's Greenhouse and Flower Shop & Where the Wild Things Bloom

Best Furniture Store

1. Pilgrim House Furniture
2. Vintage Junkies
3. Brady's HG

Best Gardening Center

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Van Atta's Greenhouse and Flower Shop
3. Lansing Gardens

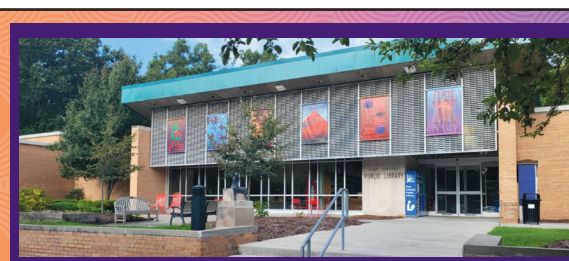
Best Gas Station

1. Costco Gas Station East Lansing
2. BJ's Gas Station
3. Speedway East Michigan Avenue

Best Gift Shop

1. Kean's
2. Bad Annie's Sweary Goods
3. Old Town General Store

See Top of the Town, Page 31



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East Lansing Public Library



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Top of the Town

from page 30

Best Grocery Store (locally owned)

- 1. Horrocks Farm Market
- 2. Westlund's Apple Market
- 3. Eastside Lansing Food Co-op

Best Hardware Store

- 1. Vet's Ace Hardware
- 2. Grand Ledge Ace Hardware
- 3. Great Lakes Ace Hardware

Best Jewelry Store

- 1. Sweet Custom Jewelry
- 2. Becky Beauchine Kulka Diamonds and Fine Jewelry

- 3. (tie) Grace Boutique of Old Town & Jean Jean Vintage LLC

Best Lingerie Store

- 1. Curvaceous Lingerie

Best Liquor Store

- 1. Mega-Bev
- 2. Tom's Party Store and Wine Shop
- 3. (Oades) Big Ten Party Store West

Best Metaphysical Store

- 1. Triple Goddess Bookstore
- 2. Coyote Wisdom Bookstore
- 3. Oracle's Apothecary

Best Musical Instrument Store

- 1. Elderly Instruments
- 2. Marshall Music Co.
- 3. Meridian Winds

Best Organic/Natural Market

- 1. Horrocks Farm Market
- 2. Clean Refillery
- 3. Eastside Lansing Food Co-op

Best Pet Store

- 1. Preuss Pets
- 2. Fur Real Dog Snacks
- 3. Feeders Pet Supply

Best Place to Buy Mums

- 1. Horrocks Farm Market

- 2. Van Atta's Greenhouse and Flower Shop
- 3. River City Farms

Best Quality Dairy

- 1. Quality Dairy, 2233 Cedar St., Holt
- 2. Quality Dairy, 804 Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge
- 3. Quality Dairy, 2400 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Best Record/CD Store

- 1. Flat, Black & Circular
- 2. The Record Lounge
- 3. Westlund's Apple Market

Best Secondhand Shop

- 1. Thrift Witch
- 2. Vintage Junkies
- 3. The Mega Mall

Best Sex Shop

- 1. Deja Vu Love Boutique
- 2. (tie) Cirilla's & Lion's Den

Best Thrift Store

- 1. St Vincent de Paul Society and Thrift Store
- 2. Volunteers of America Thrift Store
- 3. Thrift Witch

Best Tire Store

- 1. Discount Tire

- 2. Costco Wholesale
- 3. Belle Tire

Best Used Car Dealership

- 1. Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing
- 2. Spartan Toyota
- 3. Feldman Chevrolet Lansing

Best Vape Shop

- 1. Wild Bill's Tobacco Lansing
- 2. Puff Puff Tobacco
- 3. Wild Bill's Tobacco Grand Ledge

Best Wine Shop

- 1. Horrocks Farm Market
- 2. Dusty's Cellar
- 3. (tie) Old Town General Store & Vine & Brew

WHATEVER

Best Axe Throwing Venue

- 1. High Caliber Karting and Entertainment
- 2. Spare Time Entertainment Center
- 3. Zap Zone XL

Best Casino

- 1. FireKeepers Casino Hotel
- 2. Soaring Eagle

See Top of the Town, Page 32

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BEST TANNING SALON!

TANNING

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TOP 3

Top of the Town
2024

CityPULSE

12



Top of the Town

from page 31

Best Day Trip

- 1. Lake Michigan
- 2. Old Town Lansing
- 3. Saugatuck

Best Facebook Group or Page (local)

- 1. Lansing Foodies



- 2. Not Your Mother's Networking Group
- 3. 517 Living Community

Best High School

- 1. Grand Ledge High School
- 2. Eastern High School
- 3. (tie) East Lansing High School, Haslett High School & Okemos High School

Best Historical Place

- 1. Michigan State Capitol
- 2. Michigan History Center
- 3. Turner-Dodge House

Lansing Facts — Best Instagram Account



Lansing Facts was first launched as a Twitter account in 2017 by Michigan State University alum Craig Terrill. The satirical social media account has since expanded onto Instagram and Facebook, where it now boasts a combined 37,000 followers across all three platforms. This year, Top of the Town voters chose it as the area's Best Instagram Account by a wide margin over Constellation Cat Cafe and Lansing Foodies. It was Lansing Facts' second-ever win in that category and its first since 2020. From reposting an unconfirmed rumor earlier this year that a talent buyer booked emerging pop sensation Chappell Roan to play Mac's Bar for \$100 in 2018 to trying to define just what a "Lanstronaut" is, Lansing Facts' irreverent musings continue to unite chronically online Greater Lansing residents. "This is how I keep up to date," one voter wrote. Might we also suggest checking out City Pulse?

Best Instagram Account (local)

- 1. Lansing Facts
- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. Lansing Foodies

Best Local Art Festival

- 1. East Lansing Art Festival
- 2. A Festival of Oddities
- 3. Old Town ScrapFest

Best Local Event/Festival

- 1. East Lansing Art Festival
- 2. Lansing Pride
- 3. A Festival of Oddities

Best New Business

- 1. Grewal Hall at 224
- 2. Bobcat Bonnie's
- 3. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

Best Outdoor Adventure Venue

- 1. Fitzgerald Park
- 2. Hawk Island Park
- 3. Woldumar Nature Center

Best Place to Cry in Public

- 1. Frandor parking lot
- 2. Pennsylvania Avenue bridge
- 3. Meijer parking lot

Best Place to Find Quiet

- 1. MSU Horticulture Gardens
- 2. Woldumar Nature Center
- 3. Lansing River Trail

Best Place to Work

- 1. Michigan State University
- 2. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 3. Flour Child Bakery

Best Shop Pet

- 1. Morrison and Hendrix || Deadtime Stories
- 2. Poncho || Preuss Pets
- 3. Daley || Young Brothers & Daley

Best Staycation Hotel in Lansing

- 1. The English Inn
- 2. Graduate East Lansing

- 3. Wild Goose Inn

Best Vehicle Ever Made in Lansing

- 1. Olds Cutlass Supreme
- 2. The green knockoff Cybertruck thing
- 3. Olds 442

Best Wifi Spot

- 1. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 2. (tie) CADL – Downtown Lansing & Michigan State University

Category We Didn't Think of

- 1. Best Small Town
- 2. (tie) Best Truck-Munching Bridge & Best LGBTQIA+ Friendly Hangout

Cleanest Public Restroom

- 1. Horrocks Farm Market
- 2. Flour Child Bakery
- 3. Michigan State University

Eye Candy Building

- 1. Michigan State Capitol
- 2. Deadtime Stories
- 3. Broad Art Museum

In Memoriam: Businesses Lost

- 1. DeLuca's Restaurant
- 2. Roma Bakery, Deli & Fine Foods
- 3. Travelers Club International Restaurant and Tuba Museum

Most Trustworthy Business

- 1. Deadtime Stories
- 2. WLNS-TV
- 3. Constellation Cat Cafe

Worst Eyesore

- 1. Garno Trump house on Michigan Avenue
- 2. (tie) Every Gillespie apartment building & vacant spaces on Washington Square

Worst Pothole (Specific Location)

- 1. All of Frandor
- 2. Saginaw Street between Frandor & Chester Road
- 3. All of Kalamazoo Street

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA), Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Water Resources Division (WRD) and the City of Lansing, Michigan.

This is to give notice that HUD under 24 CFR Part 50 has determined that the following proposed action under HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program is located in the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, and HUD will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is at 220 E. Kalamazoo Street in Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan. The extent of the Special Flood Hazard Areas was determined using FEMA National Emergency Flood Hazard Layer Map 26065C0131D effective 8/16/2011 and confirmed through an ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey. The proposed project includes the demolition of the current (vacant) commercial building which is currently partially located within the 100-yr floodplain and the existing parking lot, and the construction of a new 4-story, approximately 20,406SF building containing 63 residential units and approximately 2,130SF of commercial space. The proposed project will provide 28 RAD Project-based Rental Assistance (PBRA) units, 28 project-based Voucher (PBV) units and 7 market rate rental units. The proposed building will be constructed in the western portion of the site, outside of the 100-yr floodplain; however, the northern portion of the proposed paved parking lot and the driveway off will be Cherry Street will be located within the 100-yr floodplain; the remainder will be developed with sidewalk or maintained as landscaped yard

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts within the floodplain. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in a floodplain it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by HUD at the following address on or before November 28, 2024: HUD Office of Recapitalization, Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd, Room 2301, Chicago, IL 60604, Attention: Ladrenna A. Figueroa, Branch Chief or via phone at (312) 913-8290. A full description of the project may be reviewed upon request from the HUD Office of Recapitalization at the address stated above. Comments may also be submitted via email at Ladrenna.A.Figueroa@hud.gov.

Date: November 13, 2024

CP#24-728

Bobcat Bonnie's and Grewal Hall voted best new spots in town

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Bobcat Bonnie's, voted Best New Restaurant in this year's Top of the Town contest, fell just one vote shy of also winning the Best New Business category, placing second to Lansing's midsize music and events venue, Grewal Hall at 224.

Bobcat Bonnie's, a growing Michigan-based restaurant chain founded by Ferndale resident Matt Buskard in 2015, arrived in Lansing in January. Buskard told City Pulse the new space at Lansing's old Union Depot "just fit like a glove." The menu, shared across all locations,

is known for its appetizers, burgers and specialty vegan options. One TOTT voter commented on the addictiveness of the honey-sriracha wings. Another lauded the "atmosphere, people and food."

After some construction delays, Grewal Hall at 224 opened in October 2023 to bolster Lansing's music and entertainment scene with 6,000 square feet of space and a standing-room capacity of 900. In its first year, it's hosted musical acts like Big Gigantic, Black Flag, BFB Da Packman, Danny Brown, Everclear, Soulja Boy, the Verve Pipe and Queensryche; comedians like Ben Bailey, Trae Crowder, Tom Green and Steve Hofstetter; and a slew of local performers, wedding receptions and dance parties.

Downtown Grand Ledge had a strong showing in the new arrival categories, with Arms & Embers Grill taking the silver for Best New Restaurant and Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge earning the bronze for Best New Business.



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

The oversized glass windows at Grewal Hall added a sleek façade to Lansing's downtown landscape when the midsize entertainment venue opened last fall.

Arms & Embers has had three different owners since it first opened in May 2023. In October of that year, Haslett native Jordan Rivas took over and revitalized the cozy dine-in destination with a new menu and original craft cocktails. This summer, Rivas sold the restaurant to husband-and-wife duo Chris Kinne and Oriana Ferrara. The pair launched a new handheld-focused menu in September and plan on rotating it two to four times per year to keep things fresh with seasonal entries.

Ixion Ensemble Theatre artistic director Jeff Croff and his wife, Sanna, founded Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge in Grand Ledge in April 2023. The venture offers more than 500 board games guests can play

for \$5 to \$10 per visit, plus food from Arms & Embers Grill, Michigan-made beverages and frequent special events, including a weekly free play day on Wednesdays and Saturday night specials.

Last but not least, Noosh Afghan Cuisine finished third in the Best New Restaurant category. Founded by Okemos resident Khalid Mahmood and his family in July 2023, the eatery serves Afghan staples like qabli plow, a brown rice dish with sautéed carrots, raisins and marinated lamb that's served with a side of moderately spicy beans; mantu, Afghan beef dumplings served with a savory yogurt sauce; and bollani, a pumpkin- or potato-stuffed flatbread that's similar to a quesadilla.



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Bobcat Bonnie's opened at Lansing's old Union Depot early this year, making use of the 1910 train car as a dining area à la its predecessor, Clara's Lansing Station.

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TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

FLAT, BLACK AND CIRCULAR CHANGES OWNERSHIP



Courtesy photo

Flat, Black and Circular manager Jon Howard posted this selfie on the shop's Facebook page on Oct. 5, announcing he was its new owner. He bought out Dave Bernath, who co-founded the shop in 1977.

Longtime manager takes the reins of beloved record shop

By RICH TUPICA

It's been a banner year for Flat, Black and Circular. Not only has the downtown East Lansing record shop continued its streak of winning Best Record/CD Store in City Pulse's Top of the Town contest, but it also saw an ownership change.

After decades of working at FBC, longtime manager Jon Howard bought out owner and co-founder Dave Bernath. Bernath opened the store in 1977 alongside Dick Rosemont, who moved to New Mexico in 2010. Howard's purchase became official on Oct. 1, 48 years after the store opened in the Campus Town Mall.

At 58, Howard has been married for 28 years and has a 22-year-old daughter. Now he can add business owner to his list of responsibilities. The punk and underground music aficionado chatted with City Pulse about his new venture.

After the sale closed, did walking into the shop the next day feel different?

Jon Howard: Yes! It was kind of like taking the boat out on a little pond versus taking it out on the ocean. At the end of the day, I'm responsible for this being a good business and not blowing it, not losing money or pissing off customers. The buck ends with me.

Looking back, what first got you into music? I know you've played in a few local bands like Hordes and Bloody Butterflies.

It's absolutely in my blood. Both of my parents were musicians, and my sister is a musician. I had records right away. As a little kid, I learned how to handle them. Back when I lived in Oak Park, I'd go to places like Sam's Jams and Off the Record. That was all my allowance money.

You've shot photos at some legendary Detroit punk shows — when did you discover that

scene?

When I was about 15 or 16, I got my friend's ID because he had two or three. They didn't give a crap in Detroit bars. This was like 1982. Before that, I saw a few Cobo Hall shows when I was a little kid — Frank Zappa, Van Halen, Rush. That was around 1980. By 1982, I was seeing bands like Bad Brains, Minor Threat and the Misfits. I'd also seen a few Lansing bands, like the Fix and the Meatmen. I got the punk and post-punk bug right away. I'd go to the Freezer Theater, the Club House, Clutch Cargo's and Paycheck's in Hamtramck. Fortunately, I never got mugged. My car got broken into a couple of times. In the early '80s, that area of Detroit was way rougher.

What year did you graduate from Oak Park High School?

In 1984. That's when I came to Lansing for Michigan State University — first for math and physics and then for psychology. Almost immediately, I stopped at FBC. My first FBC purchases were the first Bad Religion album and the Effigies' "Haunted Town." That was 1982-ish. I immediately loved the place. They had punk records and a big import section.

Did you complete college?

I dropped out because I started working at FBC and other part-time jobs. I got disenchanted with being a student for life. I wanted to be out in the world, not sitting in a lab doing research. I could be milling about talking to people while listening to and selling records. FBC took me on as a weekend drop-in guy around 1985 or '86. I used to hang out there all the time. Whatever money I made from my jobs, I'd spend there. I was literally waiting for them to unpack the import orders. I'd buy them right out of the box.

While you were at MSU, I heard Dave and Dick used to give you small projects to work on at FBC.

Yeah. After class, around 3 o'clock, I'd go in there and make receipts. They'd be pricing stuff, and I'd file it. At the time, they had Rick Savino and other full-timers. I just kind of slid into it. Somewhere around 1986 or 1988, I started officially working there.

In 1990, you moved to Ann Arbor for almost a year — what

drew you back?

Around late 1990 or early 1991, I was coming up every other weekend to work. Another guy was leaving, so they said, "Why don't you take the management spot?" I was also the indie-distributor buyer. I stayed at Dave's for a few months while I got my footing and found an apartment. Things were booming then. This was Nirvana time. It was busy enough for two or three people to work at a time every day. The music biz was exploding.

Dick and Dave are music encyclopedias — what were they into the most?

They were very into funk, New Orleans and jazz. Dave gave me a very big jazz lowdown when I stayed with him for a few months. That's where I first got into Charles Mingus and Ornette Coleman. He was exposing me to everything, like Sun Ra. I'd heard some of that stuff before but wasn't ready for it.

FBC has been around for a while. What was Dick and Dave's secret to success and longevity?

They used to drum into me to price used stuff like you want to move it. The biggest secret is to try to carry more used than new. For new, hunt for the best prices. You also have to keep your ear out for reviews and buzz about new bands. More and more, customers will show me their playlists, so I know to keep an eye out for those artists. It's about being picky about what you stock and having a variety of things to buy, not just the usual Moody Blues records.

Now that you're the sole proprietor of FBC, will customers notice any immediate changes?

Some superficial changes. Some new fixtures. It's going to get a paint job. I'm going to carry a few more eclectic things, like books. There might be a few more random artworks and knick-knack-type things. Just enough to where there are a few new things, but it doesn't change the vibe of FBC. Part of it is that I've worked there for decades. I get tired of looking at the same four walls. We've done this before, where we've put in red accent walls and some new fixtures and posters. I'm just going to do that again — give it a new refresh.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“The Follow-Up” --
there’s a replacement.
by Matt Jones
© 2024 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
- 1. Swedish automaker
 - 5. Long-lasting style
 - 9. Fighting words
 - 14. Experienced
 - 15. WWII opponent
 - 16. Specialized market
 - 17. British elevator that flat-out doesn’t work?
 - 19. Does a vet’s job
 - 20. Greek vowel
 - 21. “___ be here soon”
 - 22. Move briskly
 - 23. Movie star known for silly and bumbling characters?
 - 27. Rubber squeakers, e.g.
 - 30. A in German class
 - 31. Floating out there
 - 32. California’s La ___ Tar Pits
 - 33. Med. insurance option
 - 36. “This event totally reminds me of a traveling carnival”?
 - 41. Musical aptitude
 - 42. “___ Calm and Carry On”
 - 43. Cuba libre garnish
 - 44. Served as
 - 45. 2015 Emily Blunt crime film
 - 48. Two focuses of a Grateful Dead-themed vegan restaurant?
 - 52. Company found at many airports
 - 53. “South Pacific” Tony winner Pinza
 - 54. Rubber duckie’s home
 - 57. ___ Sark (scotch brand)
 - 59. Group that reports on a single Greek

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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27	28	29						30						
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				44					45	46	47			
48	49	50						51						
52								53				54	55	56
57					58			59				60		
61								62				63		
64								65				66		

- DOWN
- 1. Out of trouble
 - 2. Touch upon
 - 3. “Dark Angel” actress Jessica
 - 4. Arthur of “The Golden Girls”
 - 5. Minuscule
 - 6. Napoleon and Peron, for example
 - 7. Rummage (through)
 - 8. Ariz. setting all year
- island?
- 61. “Ignore that last comment”
 - 62. “What’s Hecuba to him, ___ to Hecuba”: Hamlet
 - 63. “Because of the Times” group Kings of ___
 - 64. Cares for
 - 65. General ___ chicken
 - 66. Office furniture
- long
- 9. Contacts
 - 10. Go quietly (around)
 - 11. Snowman accessory
 - 12. “Stop kidding around!”
 - 13. Avian homes
 - 18. Napoleon Dynamite’s uncle
 - 23. Trading card figure
 - 24. Soft ball substance
 - 25. “Mon ___!” (French cry)
 - 26. ___ empty stomach
 - 27. Go out with
 - 28. Accident-preventing org.
 - 29. Equipment
 - 32. Fast jazz subgenre
 - 33. “Aquarius” musical
 - 34. Rogers once married to Tom Cruise
 - 35. Cookie that partnered with Coca-
- Cola
- 37. Furniture retailer with a blue and yellow logo
 - 38. Recognized
 - 39. Get out the message?
 - 40. TV chef Bobby
 - 44. Broken beyond belief
 - 45. Defiant challenge
 - 46. Van Gogh bloomers
 - 47. Nile snapper, for short
 - 48. Implied
 - 49. Egg cell
 - 50. Feel at home
 - 51. Razzes
 - 54. Swing support
 - 55. Unusual crafts
 - 56. Top or bottom bed
 - 58. QB’s gains
 - 59. “This is ___ normal”
 - 60. Long familiar

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com) Answers on page 41

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

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

Nov. 13-19, 2024

ARIES (March 21–April 19): You may be on the verge of the breakthrough I prophesied a while back. Remember? I said you would be searching for the solution to a boring problem, and on the way, you would discover a more interesting and useful problem. That exact scenario is about to happen. I also predict that the coming weeks will be a time when you tame an out-of-control aspect of your life and infuse more wildness into an overly tame part of you. I will speculate on one further stroke of good fortune: You will attract an influence that motivates you to be more passionately pragmatic about one of your key dreams.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): It’s time for some friendly warnings that will, if heeded, enable you to avoid problematic developments. 1. An overhaul in your self-image is looming; your persona requires tinkering. 2. Old boundaries are shifting and, in some places, disappearing. Be brave and draw up new boundaries. 3. Familiar allies may be in a state of flux. Help them find their new centers of gravity. 4. Potential future allies will become actual allies if you are bold in engaging them. 5. Be allergic to easy answers and simplistic solutions. Insist on the wisdom of uncertainty.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): To honor and celebrate your melancholy, I’m turning this horoscope over to Gemini author T. H. White and his superb formulation of the redemptive power of sadness. He wrote: “The best thing for being sad is to learn something. That is the only thing that never fails. You may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics or know your honor trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust and never dream of regretting.”

CANCER (June 21–July 22): A Massachusetts woman named Andrea Martin loves chickens so much that she treats them as family. A few years ago, she took pity on one of her favorites, a young bird named Cecily who had been born with a damaged tendon in one of her legs. Martin arranged to have the limb amputated. Then she made a prosthetic device on a 3-D printer and had it surgically grafted onto Cecily’s body. Success! The \$2,500 cost was well worth it, she testified. I propose we make Martin one of your role models for the coming weeks. May she inspire you to shower blessings on everyone and everything you love. (PS: This will be really good for your own health.)

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Once a year, the city of Seoul in South Korea stages a Space-Out Festival. Competitors do absolutely nothing for 90 minutes. They are not allowed to fall asleep, talk or check their phones. To test how well they are banishing stress, burnout and worries, their heart rates are monitored. The winner is the person who has the slowest and most stable pulse. If there were an event like this in your part of the world sometime soon, Leo, I’d urge you to join in. I expect the winner would be a member of your astrological tribe, as you Leos now have a high potential for revitalizing relaxation. Even if you don’t compete in a Space-Out Festival, I hope you will fully cash in on this excellent chance to recharge your spiritual batteries.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): My favorite Virgos love to learn. They are eager to add to their knowledge. They have a highly honed curiosity that is always percolating, continually drawing them toward new comprehension. On the other hand, some of my favorite Virgos are inefficient at shedding long-held ideas and information that no longer serve them. As a result, their psyches may get plugged up, interfering with their absorption of new input. That’s why I recommend that you Virgos engage in regular purges of your mental debris. Now would be an excellent time for one of

these sessions. PS: The futurist Alvin Toffler said that a key to intelligence is the ability to learn, unlearn and relearn. I invite you to act on that counsel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): I endorse Libran tennis star Serena Williams’ approach to self-evaluation — especially for you right now. She testified, “I’m really exciting. I smile a lot, I win a lot, and I’m really sexy.” I’m convinced you have the right to talk like that in the coming weeks — so convinced that I suggest you use it as a mantra and prayer. When you wake up each morning, say what Williams said. When you’re asking life for a sweet breakthrough or big favor, remind life why it should give you what you want. Feel free to add other brags, too, like “I’m a brilliant thinker, a persuasive negotiator and a crafty communicator.”

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): You are entering a phase when you can acquire more mastery in the arts of self-care and self-sufficiency. I hope you will become more skillful in giving yourself everything that nurtures your emotional and physical health. Have you gathered all you need to know about that subject? Probably not. Most of us haven’t. But the coming weeks will be a favorable time to make this your main research project. By the way, now is also an excellent time to kick your own ass and unbreak your own heart.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): My father was a big fan of the military. As a young man, he served as a lieutenant in the army and for a time considered making that job his career. I’m the opposite of him. I keenly avoided becoming a soldier and have always been passionately anti-war. I bring this subject to your attention because I think now is an excellent time for you to get clearer than ever about how you don’t resemble your parents and don’t want to be like them. Meditate on why your life is better and can get even better by not following their paths and ways. There’s no need to do this with anger and blame. In fact, the healthiest approach is to be lucid, calm and dispassionate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): At age 49, James Patterson retired from his job as an advertising writer. Until then, he had produced a few novels in his spare time. But once free of his 9-to-5 gig, he began churning out books at a rapid pace. Now, at age 77, he has published more than 305 million copies of 200-plus novels, including 67 that have been No. 1 New York Times best-sellers. Would you like to make an almost equally memorable transition, Capricorn? The coming weeks and months will be an excellent time to plan and launch it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): “The Breakfast Club” is an iconic 1985 film about teenagers coming of age. Critics liked it. At the box office, it earned 100 times more than it cost to make. Aquarian director John Hughes wrote the screenplay for the 97-minute movie in two days. I predict that many of you Aquarians will have a similar level of productivity in the coming weeks. You could create lasting improvements and useful goodies in short bursts of intense effort.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Ben & Jerry’s is a wildly successful ice cream maker that sells its products all over the world. Its founders are two Pisceans who met in seventh grade. Over 45 years since they launched their business, they have become renowned for their wide variety of innovative flavors and their political activism. When they first decided to work together, though, their plans were to start a bagel business. They only abandoned that idea when they discovered how expensive bagel-making equipment was. I suspect that you are near a comparable pivot in your life, Pisces: a time to switch from one decent project to an even better one.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, Nov. 13

"A Course of Love" Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucille Olson and Bill Dietrich - Group reads a section of the book each week and discusses the insightful ideas. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - 15-week class. Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

"A Joyful Line" - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Al-Anon Meeting - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. cmialanon.org.

Beginning Ballet for Adults - 6:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. dancesingact.com.

Beginning Tap Dance for Teens & Adults - 7:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. dancesingact.com.

Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Coffee and Conversation - Meet and network with Chamber of Commerce members. 9 a.m. City Hall Community Room, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/coffee_and_conversation.php.

Code Club - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

DJ Trivia at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Join us for some fun trivia and great food and beer. Prizes for first, second and third-place teams. 7 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

East Lansing Film Festival - Enjoy screenings of "Chicken for Linda!" at 3:30 p.m., "The Teacher Who Promised the Sea" at 6:15 p.m. and "The Diamond Couple" at 8:45 p.m. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. elff.com.

Emilio Pino Bookend Gallery Display - Enjoy Pino's paintings during the month of November. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

Good Neighbor Concert Series - Featuring performances by singer-songwriters Tania Watt and Darcy Wilkin. A portion of proceeds will benefit the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. 6:30 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/TheGoodNeighborConcertSeries.

Holiday Wreath Crafting Workshop - Craft a personalized holiday decoration to beautify your

home! Ages 16+. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Improv Acting for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

It's Elementary - Help the library celebrate its 130th birthday! Design a cupcake creation, make ice cream in a bag and build your own mini piñata. Grades 3-6. Registration req. 2:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

JP Peters at Dublin Square - 9 p.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. facebook.com/dublinsquare.

Lansing Live Open Stage Night - Whether you're experienced or just starting out, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

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. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamc.info.

Mozart's "The Magic Flute" - This beloved opera weaves a tale of courage, wisdom and the triumph of light over darkness. Preview lecture 45 minutes prior to performance. 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Nation Outside Listening Session - Old Town residents are invited to voice concerns about social inequities in their neighborhood. We'll brainstorm how to address each issue. Free dinner provided by Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen. 6 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. trishaw@nationoutside.org.

Read Between the Wines Book Club (Second Wednesday Group) - We'll discuss Kristin Harmel's "The Winemaker's Wife." Glasses of wine \$1 off. Registration req. 5 p.m. Choice Farm Market, 4212 Holt Road, Webberville. 517-655-2883. burgdorfwinery.com/events.

Screening of "Wronged: The Maurice Carter Story" - This documentary brings to light the deep injustices of wrongful conviction and the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit. 5:15 p.m. Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/CooleyInnocenceProject.

Tap II for Teens & Adults - 15-week class. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Walk-in Wednesday - Make a work of art, then take it home! This week's theme is acrylic painting collages. All ages welcome. Children under 7 must attend with a registered adult. 4:30-6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Weaving the Web: Auras - Join us online or in person every Wednesday for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

'Of Equal Place: Isotopes in Motion'

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

"Of Equal Place: Isotopes in Motion," a collaboration between Michigan State University's Wharton Center and Facility for Rare Isotope Beams and national dance company Dance Exchange, will return to the stage for the first time since its 2022 premiere 7:30 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 14) at Wharton's Cobb Great Hall.

The multimedia show fuses physics and art to showcase the research being conducted at FRIB while exploring themes found in both science and dance: stability and instability, measurement, acceleration, fragmentation and navigating mystery. The result is "a pulsating mélange of dance, music, visuals and text," City Pulse staff writer Lawrence Cosentino wrote in 2022, prior to the show's debut.

The show celebrates the contributions of people of color, women and youth to science and the arts. Thursday's performance will feature talent from local organizations and dance studios such as Happendance, Greater Lansing Ballet Co., All of the Above Hip Hop Academy and Everett High School's dance company.

Tickets start at \$25 for adults or \$15 for students and youth and are available at the Wharton Center Ticket Office, online at whartoncenter.com or by calling (517) 432-3000.



Thursday, Nov. 14

Acting 101 for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Adult Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Four-month roller derby training course. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

"A Joyful Line" - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Al-Anon Meeting - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. cmialanon.org.

Al-Anon Meeting - 8 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cmialanon.org.

"A Very Williamston Christmas" - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Beginning Hustle Group Dance Class - Seven-week class. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

Beginning Ukulele Workshop for the Family - Six-week class. Learn a brief history of the instrument and all the basics you need to start playing. Ages 8+. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge

Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Charlotte Community Library Birthday Book Club: "A Farewell to Arms," by Ernest Hemingway - 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Chipmunk Story Time - Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. Stories followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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., Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Don Julian Quartet - This group takes listeners through a genre-bending instrumental journey that includes hints of bluegrass, jazz, Latin, funk and even a bit of baby-boomer rock. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

East Lansing Film Festival - The festival concludes with screenings of documentary short films at 3:30 p.m. and Dutch drama "Sweet Dreams" at 6:15 p.m. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. elff.com.

Emilio Pino Bookend Gallery Display - Enjoy Pino's paintings during the month of November. Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Events

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

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

JP Peters at Dublin Square - 9 p.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. facebook.com/dublinsquare.

Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market Opening Reception - Discover unique Michigan-made gifts, meet talented local artists and enjoy delicious seasonal refreshments. 5-8 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Eastern Kentucky University - 6:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

The Oxymorons - These longtime friends and

musical partners perform an eclectic mix of songs from the '60s and '70s, plus pop hits of the following decades. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Boxing - Exercise program proven to help enhance strength, balance and agility. Free for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapseg.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble for All Ages - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Spirit of Michigan Chorus Rehearsal - We're an inclusive community of women who sing a cappella in the barbershop style. We welcome all levels of musical experience. 6:45 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichigan-chorus.com.

Thursday Night Open Forge - Try your hand at blacksmithing and create your own metal masterpieces! 6-9 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Churchill Road, Leslie. artfiremichigan.com.

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.

"Urinetown" - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Zoom Support Group for Parkinson's - Conversations are informal but informative. 6 p.m. Zoom ID: 998 749 4167. Password: MPF2020. lapseg.org.

Friday, Nov. 15

Adult Holiday Shopping Night - Shop for STEM-focused toys, books and more. Try out products with hands-on demos and enjoy festive drinks, live music and complimentary gift wrapping. 6-8:30 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. impression5.org.

"A Joyful Line" - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Arts Council Grant Chat - Discuss your creative ideas with membership and program manager Taylor Haslett! She can provide information on local grant opportunities and assist you in planning your applications. 11 a.m.-noon. Schuler Chapbook Café, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

Atomic Annie at Mash Bar - 9 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

"A Very Williamston Christmas" - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

The Coffeehouse at All Saints - Monthly showcase of Michigan-based musical and spoken-word

talent. Bring your own snacks/drinks. Free. 7:30 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/TheCoffeehouseAtAllSaints.

"Cosplay" - 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Deer & Elk at Beggar's Banquet - 8 p.m. 218 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. 517-351-4540. beggarsbanquet.com.

Deer Widow's Purse Bingo - Designer purse bingo with a charcuterie meal! Cash bar! 5-9 p.m. Eaton Area Senior Center, 804 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte. facebook.com/eatonareaseniorcenter.

Dixon's Violin - A former technology leader and symphony violinist, Dixon now tours the country playing a five-string electric violin with a looping system he developed to create a one-man symphony. 7 or 9:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Emilio Pino Bookend Gallery Display - Enjoy Pino's paintings during the month of November. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

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Though painfully cynical, Riverwalk's 'Urinetown' is phenomenal all around

By MARY CUSACK

The dystopian musical comedy "Urinetown," running at Riverwalk Theatre Thursday (Nov. 14) through Sunday (Nov. 17), is an intriguing work that's both timely and too late — timely because it tells the story of a society that brings about its own doom but too late to make an impact, however small, on local audiences.

In an imaginary place and time, a decades-long drought has forced society to take measures of extreme austerity. Water is so scarce that people must pay to use public restrooms that are controlled by the megalithic Urine Good Co., which is sanctioned by the corrupt government. The poor masses are cowed into submission with the threat of being sent to the mysterious Urinetown if they don't comply.

Against this backdrop, assistant custodian Bobby Strong (Robert Mueller) becomes an unlikely leader of a rebellion. Strong's father (Aaron Wittbrodt) is sent to Urinetown after relieving himself on the street in desperation. A despondent Bobby meets and falls in love with Hope Cladwell (Kira Elena Billard), who teaches him to follow his heart, leading to an uprising.

Hope is the daughter of Urine Good Co. CEO Caldwell B. Cladwell (James Curtis), and when Bobby discovers this, he takes her hostage to protect the rebels. When Bobby's negotiations with the miserly CEO fail, Hope becomes the unlikely leader of the rebellion.

This would be an entirely different review in 2008, or maybe even six months ago, periods of time when rally cries like "yes, we can" and "when we fight, we win" gave those on the left some hope that this country had a bright future.

This week, though, the cynicism of "Urinetown" cuts deep. This is because the finale leaves no true protagonists.

Creators Mark Holmann and Greg Kotis drafted a plot based on sweeping stereotypes and tropes: Politicians are all corrupt, corporations

only care about profit, and the wealthy are hand-wringing evil geniuses. Stereotypes typically exist because there's some truth behind them, which makes another stereotype particularly biting now: Sometimes people, perhaps well-intentioned but misguided, act against their own best interests. Right now, that seems to be the prevalent theme of "Urinetown."

Having said all that, Riverwalk's pro-

duction is phenomenal all around. Brian Farnham not only directs the play but also did the choreography, which is tight and energetic. Farnham also had a hand in the set design, which is enhanced by husband-and-wife duo Michelle and Tracy Smith's prop design. The set pieces are impressive — grungy, industrial and highly functional — allowing the production team to take full advantage of every inch of the performance space.

Costume designer Amanda Macomber and hair and makeup designer Kayla Henry did a bang-up job of outfitting two ends of the spectrum between the haves and the have-nots. The poor are filthy and clad in creatively combined scraps, while the rich are adorned in regalia that would surely meet the approval of "The Hunger Games" Effie Trinket.

There's no drought of talent among the cast, but a few deserve to be highlighted. Billard has a gorgeous and pure voice, perfect for her role as the good-hearted Hope. Meghan Malusek, one of the Lansing area's prized musical talents, doesn't need to be the lead to



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

The have-nots rise up against their wealthy counterparts in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Urinetown."

be a star as the tough but conflicted Penelope Pennywise. Special kudos goes to Carmen Zavala-Kelly, a delight to watch as Little Becky Two Shoes, who looks to be 10 months pregnant. Not only does she keep up with the choreography despite the artificial baby belly, but she and Luka Pawsek (as Hot Blades Harry) are gleefully menacing as they threaten Hope during "Snuff the Girl."

Creative types and those with open minds like to believe that art has the power to change the world. Riverwalk's "Urinetown" is an outstanding production of a complex cautionary tale. It's unfortunate that more people weren't cautioned by its themes in the 23 years since its premiere.



Review

"Urinetown"

Nov. 14-17
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com

Events

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

Jokes and Jams - Featuring stand-up sets by Detroit's Crystal P. and Lansing's Nick Leydord and Amaru. Our DJ will keep the energy high with live beats throughout the night! 8 p.m. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. venue1111.com/jokesandjams.

Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 3-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingart-gallery.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Mozart's "The Magic Flute" - This beloved opera weaves a tale of courage, wisdom and the triumph of light over darkness. Preview lecture 45 minutes prior to performance. 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

MSU Men's Ice Hockey vs. University of Notre Dame - 7 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

MSU Women's Volleyball vs. University of Michigan - 6 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

Parkinson's Exercise: Movement for Vitality - Free group class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

Peace Education Center Alternative Holiday Sale - Shop for unique, high-quality items from local businesses, nonprofits and fair-trade cooperatives. 5-9 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peaceeducationcenter.org.

"Urinetown" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Saturday, Nov. 16

"A Joyful Line" - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Alternative Christmas Market - Shop for unique gifts while supporting fair-trade organizations and artisans from around the world. Food from Bread Bites and Noosh available for purchase. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. okemospres.org.

Artificial Holiday Swag Workshop - Create your own artificial holiday décor that you'll be able to use for years to come! 2 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Bath. vanattas.com.

Asamu Johnson and the Associates of The Blues - 5-8 p.m. Horrocks Farm Market, 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. shophorrocks.com.

"A Very Williamston Christmas" - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Campfire Program: All About Crows - Join us for an evening around the campfire at Harris Nature Center. We'll make s'mores and learn all about crows! Participants will also enjoy a guided walk along the trails. 7 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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Come celebrate an annual community tradition!

Friday, Nov. 15th
5-9pm
Saturday, Nov. 16th
10am-4pm

the Peace Education Center's

Alternative Holiday Sale

Peace Education Center Alternative Holiday Sale
5-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16
Edgewood United Church
469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing

The Peace Education Center will hold its annual Alternative Holiday Sale 5 to 9 p.m. Friday (Nov. 15) and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 16) at East Lansing's Edgewood United church. A tradition for more than 50 years, the event highlights local artists, businesses, nonprofits and fair-trade cooperatives as vendors, providing an ethical and community-focused way to shop for holiday gifts. Meals and snacks will also be available for purchase.

Folk musician Reggie Harris will perform 7:30 p.m. Friday, hosted by the Ten Pound Fiddle. Committed to "music as a community-building vehicle," according to his website, Harris shares his perspectives on life, history, education and human rights through his songs. His solo concerts are "filled with haunting melodies, poignant stories and familiar songs where everyone can join in," according to the Fiddle.

Admission to the sale is free, but tickets are required for the concert. To purchase tickets, visit tenpoundfiddle.org. For more information about the sale, visit peaceeducationcenter.org/event/alternative-holiday-sale-2024.

Lansing Community College gets edgy with 'Cosplay'

By DANA DEMINK

When strangers Leslie and Michael meet in the online role-playing game "Zombie Apocalypse," they form a digital partnership, uniting their favorite avatars to fight against zombies and other nefarious enemies. While gamers especially will relate to "Cosplay," running at Lansing Community College's Black Box Theatre 7 p.m. Friday (Nov. 15) and Saturday (Nov. 16), the show's themes of isolation and connection in the digital age are universal.

The play opens with a digital abandoned house, displayed on the scrim. Avatars Mary (Savanna Adams), a blonde starlet with a torn 1950s-style dress, and Jim (Camilla Trudell), a hyper-fit action-hero type with a colorful assortment of weaponry, take shelter in the kitchen of the old house. Through their gaming sessions, we gradually learn that 20-something Leslie (Denisse Huguez) lives with her mom, has recently lost her job and, like many people her age, is looking

for a purpose. Meanwhile, Michael (Shane Curtis), a remote consultant, has some serious baggage that keeps him at a distance from others.

Through the safety of their characters, the two work out an amiable partnership as long as Michael, the more experienced of the two players, is directing the game play. As soon as Leslie demonstrates some unconventional and creative moves of her own, Michael pulls away. The real trouble, however, comes when the two agree to meet up at a cosplay convention dressed as their avatars.

The set is arranged in a proscenium style. The gamers' stations are at opposite ends of the stage at the same level as the audience, while a platform just beyond the gamers transports the audience into a world of zombies, laboratories and post-apocalyptic urban chaos. The set design forces the audience do some

serious neck swiveling as the volley of gamer dialog shifts in either direction. It would be nice if the audience was instead looking down on the gamers, or if their stations were situated closer together. Despite this, and some glitchy technical issues, the performance boasts a few slick combat scenes, especially Mary's flip off the stage, and a perfect "Stranger Things"-esque musical selection arranged by sound designer and director Paige Tufford.

The relative inexperience of the actors generally works to convey the stilted dialog of the script and the ambiguous ending. As a feminist, I find the script to be problematic — especially Leslie's big break coming from modeling for a questionable cosplay photographer. I suppose I understand why they take off their clothes at the end, but it feels gratuitous, like a "Brady Bunch" episode where Alice the housekeeper advises one of the



Photo by Paige Tufford

Camilla Trudell (left) and Savanna Adams as "Zombie Apocalypse" avatars Jim and Mary in Lansing Community College's production of "Cosplay."

kids to get over their stage fright by imagining the audience naked. The best line of the performance was delivered by the guy two seats down, who said, "Is that how they're going to end it, naked and afraid?"

No amount of acting skill can hide an unbaked plot, but the players do an admirable job conveying the vulnerability of human connections, the zombies have a terrific dance routine, and a fun night is had by all.



Review

"Cosplay"

7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15-Saturday, Nov. 16
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
(517) 483-1122
lcc.edu/showinfo

Events

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Comedy at the Creek - We'll have a brand-new batch of 10 hilarious comedians to dish out the laughs. Ages 18+. Doors 6:30 p.m., show 8 p.m. Country Creek Reception Hall, 5859 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. countrycreekreceptionhall.com.

"Cosplay" - 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Dine-in or Carryout German Dinner and Dance - Dinner 5-6:30 p.m., live polka music and dancing to follow. \$15 adults, \$7 children 10 and under. Lansing Liederkrantz, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub.

Emilio Pino Bookend Gallery Display - Enjoy Pino's paintings during the month of November. Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Fraternal Order of Eagles Paint Party - Attendees will paint a colorful "let it snow" pallet with step-by-step guidance. Money raised will benefit the Fraternal Order of Eagles' Alzheimer's fund. 3 p.m. 3022 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing. paintyourpoison.com.

Game Night - Bring your favorite game to share, whether it's a tabletop RPG, a card game, a board game or something else. You're also welcome to bring food and beverages. 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifest-lansing.com.

Global Festival - Look forward to performances, interactive exhibits and other activities designed to transport you to every corner of the world. Free. Noon-4 p.m. MSU International Center, 427 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. cvip.isp.msu.edu/pro

grams/globalfest.

"Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" in Concert - View the film on a giant screen while the Lansing Symphony Orchestra performs John Williams' unforgettable score. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

How-To Holiday - Try your hand at making a variety of custom gifts for \$15 each. Blacksmith a metal ornament, etch wine glasses and pints, build a wooden pirate chest and much more. Noon-6 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. lansingmakersnetwork.org.

Intermediate Ballet for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Lansing Wellness Expo - Health and wellness expert Karyn Calabrese will present, with a Q&A session to follow. Afterward, visitors can shop from a selection of local vendors. Noon-3 p.m. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. venue1111.com/soakyournuts.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 10 am.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Family History Event - Keynote speaker Angie Bush presents on the use of DNA in genealogical research, with additional presentations by genealogist Kris Rzepczynski and librarian Eric Kennedy. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. mimgc.org.

Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org.

Mozart's "The Magic Flute" - This beloved opera weaves a tale of courage, wisdom and the triumph of light over darkness. Preview lecture 45 minutes prior to performance. 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

MSU Men's Ice Hockey vs. Notre Dame University - 8 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Bowling Green State University - 6 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

Peace Education Center Alternative Holiday Sale - Shop for unique, high-quality items from local businesses, nonprofits and fair-trade cooperatives. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peaceedcenter.org.

Salsa Verde - Comprising MSU music students and faculty, Salsa Verde's performances feature songs by legends like Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony and Gloria Estefan, with many original arrangements. Opener Seth Kalina Quartet. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

The Story Behind the Art - Auction of artwork made by people currently and formerly in prison, followed by a discussion panel with formerly incarcerated people. Funds raised will benefit Nation Outside initiatives. 1 p.m. Redeemer Church, 2727 W. Holmes Road, Lansing. 517-329-2525. nationoutside.org.

Swatch & See: Ink Swatching for Art & Writing - We'll swatch fountain pen inks to create personalized swatchbooks. By the end of the workshop, you'll have the knowledge to continue your ink journey. 4:30 p.m. Dear Ollie & Co., 222 S. Washington Square, Lansing. dearollie.com.

See Events, Page 40

Don't judge Peppermint Creek's latest show by its cover

By MARY CUSACK

"What the Constitution Means to Me" isn't a title that evokes a fun night of entertainment, but those who move past the title and give it a shot will find that Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s latest offering is funny, engaging, sometimes heartbreaking and ultimately timely.

Playwright Heidi Schreck created a living, breathing piece of theater, echoing the concept that the United States Constitution is a living, breathing document. The play is based on her experiences as they relate to that document, beginning at age 15 when she won college scholarships by participating in Constitution-themed speech competitions hosted by the American Legion. Over the course of 90 minutes, the play addresses current hot topics in the United States, including immigration, women's right to choose, domestic assault and struc-

tural racism.

If that list sounds heavy, it is. Yet the play is funny, due mostly to Schreck's self-deprecation. The play also shifts narrative and character structure, increasingly personalizing the subject matter. At times Kathleen Egan plays Heidi, at times she plays herself. Peter Johnston plays a Legionnaire who coordinates the speech contest, then switches to Heidi's friend who shares his experiences with toxic masculinity.



Review

"What the Constitution Means to Me"

Nov. 14-17
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
(517) 927-3016
peppermintcreek.org

Director Chad Swan-Badgero has assembled an outstanding cast. While Johnston's role allows a more sedate performance, Egan is effervescent. When playing 15-year-old Heidi, Egan exudes boundless energy, dancing, bouncing foot-to-foot and taking mini victory laps when warranted. When she speaks as the adult Heidi, sharing stories of her abortion or how her grandmother, mother and mother's siblings endured

years of domestic abuse, she holds the audience in rapt attention.

The play relies heavily on audience participation, another effective tool to make a seemingly dull topic fun. It includes a debate about whether the Constitution should be replaced. Enter real-life high school debater Tabitha Clark as Student Debater. Clark goes toe-to-toe with Egan, surpassing her energy and making her points with the rapid-fire delivery of an oratorial pro.

The audience is encouraged to cheer or boo as Egan and Clark make good or bad points, and they both make compelling arguments for either keeping or replacing the Constitution. As the playwright, Schreck remains impartial on this topic, to the point of letting an audience member decide the winner of the debate on behalf of the audience. Every performance can lead to a different outcome.

The play concludes with a short Q&A between Egan and Clark, as themselves. Continuing the active participation aspect, the questions are submitted by prior audiences and range in topic from the Constitution



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Photo by Trumpie Photography

Kathleen Egan (left) as Heidi Schreck and Peter Johnston as the Legionnaire in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of "What the Constitution Means to Me."

to personal hopes and aspirations. As with Riverwalk's production of "Urinetown," this play is an important commentary on contemporary society, but the feelings it creates are very different than those it would have created if viewed even two weeks ago. Then, it might have made us feel proud of how we have utilized the Constitution for progress, albeit slow, in the United States. Now, the play is a crucial reminder of how that same document can be weaponized against those who don't look like the Founding Fathers.

Events

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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., Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Turkey Trails 5K/10K - Event also features a 1-mile race and a kids' fun run for ages 10 and under. 9 a.m. Burchard Park, 200 E. Maple St., Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/TurkeyTrailsLansing.

"Urinetown" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Sunday, Nov. 17

Adult Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Four-month roller derby training course. 7-9 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

"A Joyful Line" - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. Noon-6 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

"A Very Williamston Christmas" - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Copper Chimney Poetry Lounge Series: Isabella Mansfield and Ana Luisa Cardona - An open mic will follow the featured readings. 4 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub.

Euchre - 6 p.m. Esquire Bar, 1250 Turner St., Lansing. 517-487-5338.

FREE Gentle Nidra Yoga Class - Designed for all levels to ease you into deep relaxation and stillness. Noon. Firefly Hot Yoga Barre, 118 S. Washington Square, Lansing. fireflyhotyogabarrefitness.com.

Free Community Medical Clinic - Services offered include basic medical screenings, dental care, vision care, women's health services and health education. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Seventh-day Adventist Church, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy., Lansing. lansingadventist.org.

GLAD Drum Circle - We offer a welcoming space for all, from beginners to advanced drummers. Bring your own drum or borrow one! 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Harmony Sundays - Weekly DJ event featuring Aura the Brave and special guests. 9 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. instagram.com/macsbarmusu.

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

"Let's Talk About Grievances," SALT Presentation by Carol Maynard - An open dialogue about how we create grievances, how we justify them, how long we should keep them and how to let them go. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Mozart's "The Magic Flute" - This beloved opera weaves a tale of courage, wisdom and the triumph of light over darkness. Preview lecture 45 minutes prior to performance. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

Summerlands Sunday Brunch - Noon-4 p.m. Summerlands Brewing Co., 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Unity's Monthly Euchre and Games - Self-serve event. Bring your own board games and organize euchre tables. Potluck snacks. Noon. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

"Urinetown" - 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Monday, Nov. 18

"A Joyful Line" - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Al-Anon Meeting - 8 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. cmialanon.org.

Beginning Salsa Group Dance Class - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

Bingo Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Free to play, with fun prizes every game! 8-9:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Cultural Food of the Anishinaabeg - In celebration of Native American Heritage Month,

learn about and sample some of the foods important to Native Americans in the Great Lakes region. Ages 16+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Emilio Pino Bookend Gallery Display - Enjoy Pino's paintings during the month of November. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

"The Four Agreements" Zoom Book Study, with Kathi Frederick - 1:30 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Improv Acting for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz/Ballet II for Kids - 15-week class. Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Open Mic Night, hosted by Kathy Ford - 6:30-9:30 p.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-901-5001. onenorthdining.com.

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

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'A Beautiful Day in November ...' is joyful and bizarre

By **CHELSEA LAKR ROBERTS**

"A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes" is the strangest play I've seen in a long time. Described as a Thanksgiving play narrated by sports announcers, I was ready for a fun, long and slightly tortured metaphor whereby green beans fly and tensions run high. I looked forward to sports commentators sending up what I consider to be a very stressful holiday, and I was interested in what types of gender dynamics might be explored in the script.



Review

"A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes"

Nov. 13-17
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

I knew I was in for a very different ride the minute the play started and the three sisters came on stage, miming the setup of a large kitchen table. Their bodies were interchangeable as props and actors, and the sports commentators were necessary to help understand the action, even as they traded fast, furious and hilarious quips in their own private universe.

I couldn't hear the people on stage very well most of the time, but I was impressed by their physicality. Whirling around the stage in the midst of family members who moved like a big audience, like a marching band, like a line of cheerleaders, I began to absorb some of the themes that the script was communicating, perhaps.

I'll take a stab: The drama of family is just as physically demanding as a professional football game. The drama of family is worth our attention and time, especially because it's women's work. The family unit can feel all-encompassing, like a mass culture, like a rising tide. The sense of belonging and the sense of excommunication is both entrenched and highly produced, both constructed and deeply



Photo by Cayla Hadaway/courtesy MSU Dept. of Theatre

From left: Brooke Cousins, Rileigh Belle Wine and Lyric Williams as sisters Cheery Pie, Cheesecake and Trifle in MSU's production of "A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes."

natural.

That was all good. But really, I found the script to be unforgiving, and maybe even unforgivable. The second-to-last scene challenged me. And I don't mean challenged like, "I can't hear well," I mean challenged like, "What am I supposed to do right now? What

should I think? How should I feel? Is this supposed to be funny or tragic? What kind of sense am I supposed to make of this?"

My companion and I left after the final bow and immediately started arguing about it. Bravo. Also, what the heck?

Events

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Rest with Music: Phoebe Holmes - Take a break from your busy day 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 for All Ages - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Yoga for Parkinson's - Free group class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lpsg.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

“A Course in Miracles,” with Lisa Schmidt - Group reads a passage from the book and discusses its meaning and how to apply it to real-life situations. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting 101 for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.


Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

“A Joyful Line” - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

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Al-Anon Meeting - 9 a.m. Alano Club South, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cmialanon.org.

Al-Anon Meeting - 7 p.m. St. Jude Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. cmialanon.org.

Beginning American-Style Rhumba Group Dance Class - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

Emilio Pino Bookend Gallery Display - Enjoy Pino's paintings during the month of November. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Intermediate Ballet for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Tuesdays - Weekly series showcasing the best and brightest mid-Michigan jazz musicians. 7 p.m. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/jazztuesdaysat-moriarty.

Let it Snow Paint Party - Paint a “let it snow” porch greeter with step-by-step instructions. Arrive early for dinner or eat while we paint! 6:30 p.m. Twilliger's Tavern, 116 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. paintyourpoison.com.

Level I Dance for Kids - 15-week class. Ages 5-8. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.



Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Samford University - 8 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

Parkinson's Exercise - Free group class for people with Parkinson's, led by exercise professionals. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lpsg.org.


Parkinson's Support Group: Education - Monthly educational session for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers or friends. This month's topic is driving skills assessments. 3 p.m. Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. lpsg.org.

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




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Wanda Degen mountain dulcimer workshops
11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 16
Elderly Instruments
1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing



For those interested in picking up the mountain dulcimer or expanding their knowledge of the instrument, musician and educator Wanda Degen will lead three workshops 11 a.m. to noon, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 3 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 16) at Elderly Instruments, where she taught music lessons for more than 45 years.

The first workshop will be an introduction to the mountain dulcimer for beginners. Topics covered will include how to tune the dulcimer, strumming techniques and the unique setup of its fretboard. Participants will learn simple songs both by ear and with tablature.

The second workshop, “Sweet Sounds for the Holidays,” is recommended for intermediate players. Participants will learn to play 15 holiday songs in four different tunings and three different keys. The arrangements include some fingerpicking, some flatpicking and some traditional strumming.

The final workshop will be a mountain dulcimer sampler, recommended for intermediate players. Participants will play a sampling of tunes from the Appalachian, Celtic and folk repertoires.

Degen describes herself as a “handout-heavy” instructor, and all attendees will leave with plenty of material to continue exploring and learning from.

To register for each of the workshops, visit elderly.com/events or call (517) 372-7880.

Summerlands Karaoke Night - Family-friendly until 9:30 p.m. Enjoy food and beverages, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic. 7:30-11 p.m. Summerlands Brewing Co., 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Toastmaster Meeting - We welcome guests who wish to learn and practice public speaking and leadership skills. 6:30 p.m. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. capitalcitytoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org.

Trivia at Lansing Shuffle - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. lansingshuffle.com.

Walk with Ease - Walking exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. Group will meet Tuesdays through Dec. 17. 1-2 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

YA Book Club - Each participant reads the same book beforehand and comes to the meeting ready to chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 8-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

“A Course of Love” Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucille Olson and Bill Dietrich - Group reads a section of the book each week and discusses the insightful ideas. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - 15-week class. Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

“A Joyful Line” - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Al-Anon Meeting - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. cmialanon.org.

Amythyst Kiah - Fresh from opening for Brandi Carlile, playing the Grand Ole Opry and receiving a Grammy nomination, singer-songwriter Amythyst Kiah returns to East Lansing for an intimate solo show. 7:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 35

S	A	A	B		P	E	R	M		I	T	S	O	N		
A	B	L	E		A	X	I	S		N	I	C	H	E		
F	U	B	A	R	L	I	F	T		S	P	A	Y	S		
E	T	A			I	T	L	L				T	R	O	T	
					S	C	R	E	E	N	D	O	O	F	U	S
D	O	G	T	O	Y	S			E	I	N	E				
A	S	E	A				B	R	E	A			H	M	O	
T	H	A	T	I	S	S	O	F	U	N	F	A	I	R		
E	A	R			K	E	E	P					L	I	M	E
					B	E	E	N		S	I	C	A	R	I	O
T	O	F	U	A	N	D	J	E	R	R	Y					
A	V	I	S				E	Z	I	O			T	U	B	
C	U	T	T	Y			N	E	W	S	C	O	R	F	U	
I	L	I	E	D			O	R	H	E			L	E	O	N
T	E	N	D	S			T	S	O	S			D	E	S	K

SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 35

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

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Fleetwood's Hippy Hash tastes like home

By LIZY FERGUSON

Lansing's signature foods are all over the place. But from the tried-and-true olive burger to the controversial topopo salad to Meat BBQ's aptly named Meat Mountain, a contender for Best Signature Dish in the 2024 Top of the Town contest, one unifying thread is this: Lansing residents really enjoy a tasty pile of diverse flavors and textures, where each bite is a different experience than the last. Nothing exemplifies this more than the winner of Best Signature Dish, Fleetwood Diner's Hippy Hash.

I must have had at least 50 Hippy Hashes over the years. In-



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troduced to the dish by my first boyfriend, I've had it for dinner on a first date, for breakfast after many a night at the bars, for lunch after pulling an all-nighter to turn in an eight-page paper I didn't start until the last minute and so many times in between.

To the uninitiated, Hippy Hash is a pile of hash browns topped with sauteed mushrooms, broccoli, tomato, green peppers and onion, as well as a generous sprinkling of feta cheese. On the side you get two eggs, any style, and a choice of toast.

The beauty of this dish is in the customizations. You can have your Hippy Hash without

protein, but there are a wide variety of add-ons available in this department, from gyro meat to turkey sausage to the regular breakfast meats. My original configuration of choice included gyro meat, but over time I've come to really appreciate the tempeh, a loaf made from fermented soybeans that the kitchen staff cubes up like ham and sautés with the veggies. It may not sound delicious, but it has a nutty, rich flavor and a satisfying texture. My stomach can be a little sensitive in the morning, and this option makes the whole affair less greasy.

The next choice to make is egg preparation. I prefer mine over medium, and this leads immediately to another choice: leave the eggs on the side or put them on top of the hash and break the yolk so it makes a sort of gravy with the condiments? I'm in the latter camp. As for sauces, I go with Louisiana hot and a holdover from my gyro days, tzatziki, which you have to ask for. It adds a creamy component to complement the hot sauce



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

The beauty of Fleetwood Diner's Hippy Hash is in the customizations, with ample protein, egg, toast and condiment options.

and tastes perfect with the feta.

The final choice is the toast. I usually splurge and pay the extra 49 cents for an English muffin, which is always crispy at the edges and, spread with strawberry jam, provides a sweet counterpoint to all that savoriness. Hippy Hash is a dish signature to Fleetwood, but it can be made even more deliciously signature to oneself.

Leave that pie crust in the dust

By ARI LEVAUX

I love pumpkin pie, but I hate making crust. This quirky aversion has led me to a delicious work-around I can't wait to show you. But first, a reminder that pumpkin is just one type of winter squash, and there are many types that make great pie. When I say "pumpkin," I mean pie squash. In fact, the "pumpkin" in most cans of pumpkin pie filling is actually a variety of butternut squash called Dickinson.

At the alleged first Thanksgiving feast, nobody — immigrant or local alike — had access to flour, butter or an oven. But squash was a staple for the Wampanoag tribe that dined with the Pilgrims. At that first supper of our nation, some historians

speculate that a proto-pie, baked in an earthen pit, may have consisted of a hollowed-out pumpkin filled with a honey-sweetened egg custard.

I know from experience, however, that if you fill a whole pumpkin

with custard and bake it, by the time the custard cooks and expands, the container will be too soft to hold the filling. But half a squash, filled with custard and baked like a pie, cooks in harmony with the filling.

It's a beautiful, decadent combination. The baked flesh pulls cleanly from the hard skin and has its own custard-like texture. You're welcome to try it — just don't call it a crust.



Photo by Ari LeVaux

For those who detest making pie crusts, try baking your pumpkin pies inside the pumpkin itself.



Pumpkin pie filling

Four eggs
1 cup heavy cream
1 1/2 cups milk
1/4 tsp salt
2 teaspoons vanilla
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
1/3 cup sugar
2 cups pumpkin flesh

Blend all the ingredients together for about 30 seconds, until completely homogenized. Serve at room temperature.

Pumpkin flesh "crust"

One pie pumpkin or other suitable squash
1/4 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
Cut a pumpkin around the equator into two equal-sized bowls. With a strong spoon, scrape out the loose, stringy flesh and seeds from both halves, so the meat is clean and ready to eat. (Save the seeds and bake them, with salt and a little oil, along with the pies.) Use a vegetable peeler to trim and tidy the rim. The bottom half of a pie pumpkin sits comfortably

on a flat surface and makes a better pie holder than the upper part, so I prefer to bake the upper part unfilled for use in the next batch of pumpkin pie filling.

Sprinkle the bottom half with pie spices, pour in the custard up to the rim and place in a baking dish or on a cookie sheet. Bake for about an hour at 400 degrees, keeping an eye on the custard. It will swell and probably start to crack. When the top starts to brown and the custard moves more like a solid than a liquid, remove from the oven and cool.

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