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December 18-25, 2024

CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us
Locally owned



5th annual Poetry & Lights Issue

See Page 13



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Gabby Gabby

is a big, beautiful torbie who was adopted from us a couple of years ago as a kitten and was recently returned when she suddenly stopped getting along with the other resident cats. The owner wasn't sure if it was the other cats or Gabby, so to be safe, we are looking for a home where she can be the only cat. She is currently on a weight-loss journey, so she will need a family who can convince her to get up and play more or at least eat less!



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Bing Bong

Meet Bing Bong, the 4-year-old bully/boxer with a heart as big as her playful spirit! This sweet and wiggly girl is a bundle of joy who adores making new friends, both human and canine. Bing Bong loves playtime with other dogs and will keep you smiling with her happy, wiggly greetings. She has lived with dogs, cats, and children. She does best with children over 10.



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Rob Roy

is a 10-year-old hound mix with a heart as big as his adorable floppy ears! At 84 pounds, this sweet senior is ready to find a loving home where he can enjoy his golden years in comfort. Rob Roy is looking for a dedicated owner who can help him stay on his pain management plan and support his journey to a healthier weight. In return, he'll reward you with gentle companionship, unconditional love, and plenty of tail wags.



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Schuler Books**

Mike Wazowski

is a 1.5-year-old boxer/bully mix with a sweet personality and a love for life, though he's had a bit of a rocky start. Surrendered by his previous owner due to time constraints, Mike is understandably nervous in his current surroundings. However, we've discovered the key to unlocking his confidence — other dogs! Mike absolutely adores playing with canine friends, and seeing them romp and interact brings out his playful, wonderful side.



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Kato and Mouse**

Luigi

is a big, handsome tabby who came to the shelter with his brother Alfredo when their owner moved and couldn't take them. They're scared and confused right now but are settling in, and we are starting to see the friendly, affectionate boys that they are!



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Rodica's cats**

Miguel

is a sweet, worried little tabby who came to the shelter when his owner could not afford to take care of him. He's only had one home, and he doesn't understand how he ended up with us. He is looking for a quieter home where he can feel safe with an owner who will give him time to settle in. His owner says he's a good boy but tends to hide when people come over. He's trying hard to be brave!



Thanks to pet adoption advertisers, City Pulse donated \$306 to the Ingham County Animal Shelter in 2023 and many thousands more over the last 23 years. Ads are just \$35, and \$6 of that is donated.

Please help City Pulse help the animals find homes.

As a result of your pet sponsorships, City Pulse has donated more than \$10,000 to the Ingham County Animal Shelter.

Ads appear in the third issue of each month. The next deadline is January 10th.



**Please call Berl Schwartz
at (517) 999-5061**

**or email him at
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com.**

CityPULSE

A most vital mission

"Following this election and its implications, very few voices of reason will be left unattacked or free to speak on behalf of at least half of this country. The Pulse is one of the true local voices of non-propaganda, and I praise you and hope you carry on. So much depends on you, my friends." — Mark A. Hahn, teacher and artist, Lansing.

That is what one of our wonderful supporters has to say. With the inauguration of a new administration on the horizon, independent, local journalism will be more critical than ever in the fight to preserve our democracy.

We are four weeks into our holiday campaign. You can still use the envelope from the center of your Nov. 20 edition to donate to City Pulse this season. More than 125 of you have done so to date, and we thank you warmly.



You can also donate by scanning the QR code on this page or online at <https://lansingcitypulse.com/donate>.

Want to make a tax-deductible donation? Please call **(517) 999-6704**.

Thank you so much and Happy Holidays to all!

Your friends at City Pulse



CityPULSE

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**PAGE
11**

Start 2025 off with a bang at local New Year's Eve events



**PAGE
21**

Former downtown sports bar returns in new eastside space



**PAGE
26**

Raving and reminiscing about the Irish Pub

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How to Get in the Holiday Spirit

DON'T THINK TOO HARD ABOUT REVELERS WHO SEEM HAPPIER THAN YOU.

ARE THEY ACTUALLY EXCITED OR JUST COVERING UP THEIR PAIN WITH ALCOHOL?

CURL UP WITH A CUP OF HOT COCOA AND A GOOD BOOK.

MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING
Viktor Frankl

BAKE SOMETHING ELABORATE AND INDULGE YOUR INNER TRADWIFE.

I USED TO DO THIS FOR FUN, BUT NOW I'M FULFILLING MY SACRED WOMANLY DUTIES, I GUESS?

DRINK A BUNCH OF EGGNOG AND TAKE A NICE NAP UNTIL 2036.

IS IT OVER YET?

UH...

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1905 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

OUR TOP STORY THIS HOUR--THE MAN WHO ALLEGEDLY SHOT AN INSURANCE COMPANY C.E.O. ON THE STREET IN COLD BLOOD IS IN CUSTODY!

IT'S CERTAINLY A TRAGIC STORY, BIFF!

THAT IT IS, WANDA! AND IF WE WERE SO INCLINED, WE COULD USE THIS HORRIFIC INCIDENT AS A SPRINGBOARD TO EXAMINE MULTIPLE, SEEMINGLY INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS FACING CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY!

AFTER ALL, THIS IS A STORY IN WHICH THE CASUAL PREVALENCE OF GUN VIOLENCE INTERSECTS WITH OUR COMPLETELY BROKEN HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM--

--ALL WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN INCREASINGLY DYSFUNCTIONAL SOCIOECONOMIC STRUCTURE WHICH PRIORITIZES BILLIONAIRES AND CORPORATE PROFITS OVER BASIC HUMAN NECESSITIES!

I'M KIDDING! OBVIOUSLY WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT ANY OF THAT.

HA! YOU HAD ME WORRIED FOR A MOMENT THERE.

NEXT--CAN WE SOMEHOW BLAME THIS SHOOTING ON VIDEO GAMES?

WE CAN CERTAINLY TRY!

FIRST THESE MESSAGES!

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

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Multi-property landlords dominate tax delinquency list

Christian Nwobu, owner of 23 rental properties in Lansing with delinquent property tax balances, will need to come up with \$102,499 by March 31 to avoid foreclosure.

The number represents what he owes through the 2022 tax year. If it's not paid by then, Ingham County will seize those properties and try to sell them to compensate for the lost tax revenue. Nwobu's dues place him second on a list of the top 10 highest delinquent totals in the county this year.

Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox recently shared that list with City Pulse, along with a larger document, published in last week and this week's print editions, citing every property in danger of foreclosure: 954 properties. Collectively, the top 10 entries owe \$686,205.

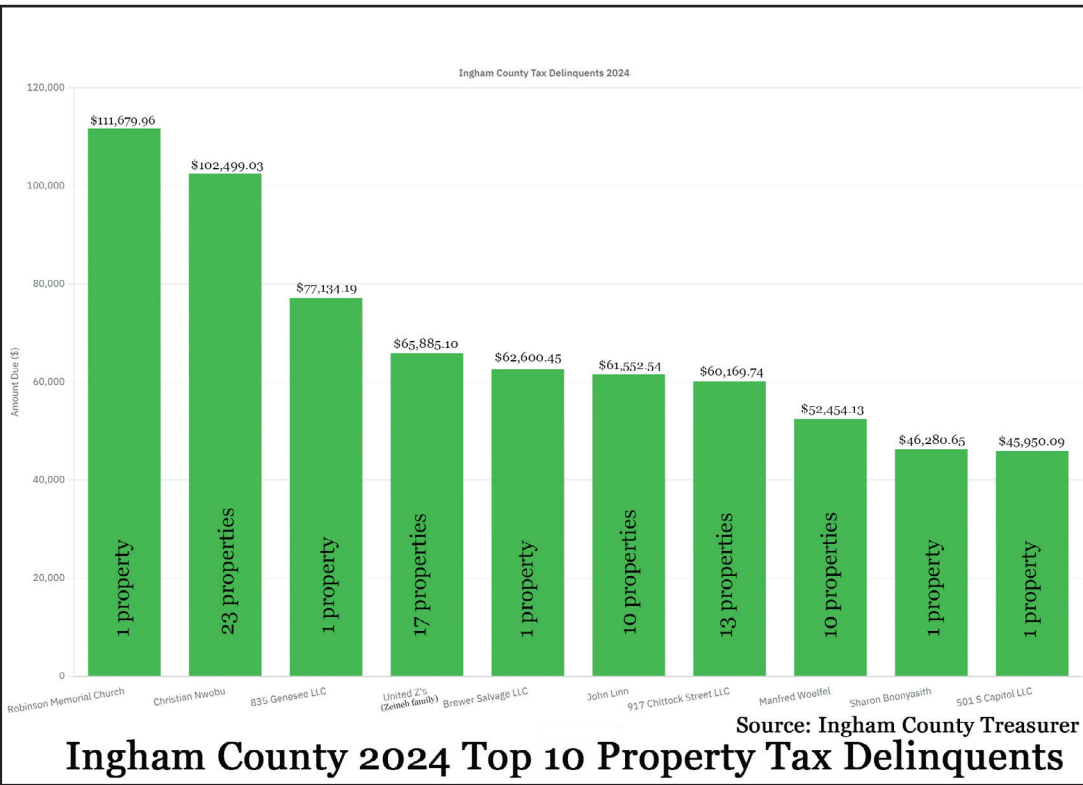
Fox said he expects nine of the 10 will be paid off before the foreclosure process begins April 1. Owners like Nwobu "know what the system is, and the history is that they're going to pay," he said.

But with an 18% interest rate on late payments, he wonders why some choose to wait so long. The interest fees will be used to fund foreclosure prevention programs for residents facing foreclosure on their homes.

"They're probably funding a full-time equivalent in my office to do foreclosure prevention. I'm happy to have the money, but it doesn't make much sense to me as a business model," Fox said.

Until now, the county hadn't produced a top 10 list since 2015 and 2016, when the top 10 entries combined to owe more than \$1 million and \$858,139.17, respectively. While those totals have decreased, so too have the number of delinquent properties.

At less than 1,000, this year's full list has 600 fewer entries than in 2011, when the housing crash was still devastating the market. From then through 2016, the county had 1,300 or more



properties approaching foreclosure annually. Since Fox took over the county treasurer role from his predecessor, Eric Schertzing, in 2022, he said 50 to 60 properties end up in foreclosure per year.

Schertzing, who served as treasurer since 2001, has seen the numbers improving. Still, he seconded Fox's take that many multi-property owners tend to wait until the last minute to pay.

"Nwobu and others play different pieces of the asset game, and I think some of them really do factor it into their business model. Yes, it's costing them something, but they may be waiting to be paid by somebody for a few months' rent, or get another place rented out. The hope is that they'll have a big payday and get caught up," he said.

Nwobu, who owes amounts ranging from \$2,000 to just under \$14,000 on primarily single-family rental properties in Lansing, did not respond to requests for comment. He also manages more than a dozen properties for Manfred Woelfel, an owner residing in Germany who owes \$52,454 on 10 properties. Woelfel was eighth on the list.

"He's not our strongest operator,"

Schertzing said of Nwobu. "But if you walk along the main corridors, there's just a lot of rough properties. Somebody's going to have to own them," Schertzing said.

Other landlords like Nwobu who were also listed in the top 10 include various limited liability companies controlled by members of the Zeineh family, who came in at fourth overall with \$65,885 due on 17 properties in Lansing and Lansing Township. Another, listed seventh, is 917 Chittock Street LLC, which owes \$60,169 on 13 properties. Its agent is Neil Wright.

Fox expects all three to pay up. But he has concerns over how that business model could impact tenants.

"These are largely people who have a long history with us, and we know how they operate," Fox said. "My worry always is that, if a furnace breaks in one of the rental houses, or if a roof develops a leak, they won't have the cash left over to deal with it."

Dave Sheets, owner of 115 rental homes in Lansing, doesn't wait until municipal taxes are shifted over to the county to pay, but he often faces a 3% late fee from the city of Lansing. He

echoed Schertzing's theory that owners are in a constant battle with the margins as they await payments from tenants.

"I do pay them late, especially for the summer period. But they're always done by November before the new taxes come out," Sheets said. "I have some revenue coming in from the houses, so I just pay the extra 3% and move on. I've done that for years, to be honest."

Other entries on this year's list don't have the same flexibility. At the top of the list, Robinson Memorial Church of God in Christ owes \$111,679.96 on one vacant plot of land in Perry Robinson Circle, just south of Jolly Road. The church acquired it in 1999 under the leadership of its late pastor, William Lee, who wanted to build a new facility there.

The Lansing City Council granted the site tax-exempt status from 2014 through 2019, but it revoked that determination in 2020, paving the way for the totals to continue to accumulate.

Pastor Michael West said the land "has been an albatross" since he took over the 50-member congregation in 2021. He said the parcel should remain tax exempt because it's used to host church activities. The church had an interested buyer last year, but the deal fell through.

"The fight isn't over yet, but they have the upper hand on us," he said. "I believe the lord is going to work it out for us."

Schertzing, who dealt with a similar situation involving the Tabernacle of David in 2016, said this may be a case where "the property tax foreclosure process can really be your friend."

"The church wants that property to be valuable and ripe for redevelopment. But if it's taxable, the taxes are obviously also high. They can get rid of that liability if they just let it go through foreclosure," Schertzing said.

On the other hand, Schertzing also

Tax

from page 5

said “the vacant property valuation process is problematic.” While the land may theoretically be worth tens of thousands of dollars, it’s equally likely that “nobody comes along and offers \$10,000 for it.” In other words, the church is in a bit of a pickle.

Of the top 10, Fox said he’s most concerned about ninth-place entry Sharon Boonyasith, who owes \$46,280

on her single-family home at 229 S. Detroit St. in Lansing Township. Fox attributes \$31,543 of that to a special assessment made by Lansing Township leadership “for a roof replacement and other repairs.” The home itself is assessed at a value of \$47,600.

Boonyasith is precisely the type of owner Fox said his office tries to prioritize when it comes time to try and help the county’s most vulnerable owners stay in their homes. In her case, however, it could be too late.

Going forward, Fox hopes his office can prevent similar situations from

escalating to that point.

“We concentrate our efforts on the people who aren’t on the list. Those are the individual homeowners who

are making an effort, who need assistance and financial counseling. That’s where we’re spending our time,” he said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**, at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

- 1. A public hearing for Ordinance 1540, a request from Hagan Realty Inc. to conditionally rezone 743, 755, and 765 Grove Street from R-2 (Medium Density Single-Family Residential District) to RM-32 (City Center Multiple-Family Residential District) for the construction of a multi-family residential building with up to 48 bedrooms and associated parking.
- 2. A public hearing for Ordinance 1539, a request from Gunovid, LLC to rezone a vacant parcel immediately adjacent to and to be combined with 16647 Chandler Road from D* (Bath Township - Development) to OIP (Office Industrial Park) to facilitate the construction of a fabrication shop, a Special Use within the OIP zone district.
- 3. A public hearing for a Special Use request from Gunovid, LLC to construct a fabrication shop at 16647 Chandler Rd. Fabrication uses require special use approval by the Planning Commission and City Council in the OIP Office Industrial Park zone district.
- 4. A public hearing for Ordinance 1542, to amend Chapter 20 of the City of East Lansing Code for items related to Historic Preservation including the staff issuance policy.

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

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may also participate virtually via Zoom. Please contact City Clerk Marie E. Wicks at 517.319.6914, mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com, (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) for additional information. Visit the City’s public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> for electronic access information.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City’s website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to council@cityofeastlansing.com

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Council’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6869 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at tverche@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

Dated: December 11, 2024
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#24-765



E. T. MacKenzie Company is soliciting cost proposals from qualified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), which includes Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Women Business Enterprises (WBE), and other entities defined as socially and/or economically disadvantaged.

Contact Information

Company: E. T. MacKenzie Company
Address: 4248 W Saginaw Hwy, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Contact name: Katie Davis
Contact phone: 5176278408
Contact fax: 5176274470
Contact email: kdavis@mackenzieco.com

Project Information

Project name: CSO Subarea 019
Project owner: City of Lansing
Project location: Lansing, Michigan
Project highlights:

Install approx: 12,000FT of 8in san. sewer; 6,200FT of 8in to 24in storm sewer & catch basin leads; 4,200FT of 6in to 12in watermain; 28,600FT of curb & gutter; 27,000SF of sidewalk; 21,000TON of HMA; CIP/Lining of 3,700FT of 8in to 60in sewer; 58 San. Manholes; 36 Drain. Structures; 77 Catch Basins

Project categories:

- N2 Clearing
- B Concrete Pavement
- cnst Construction Staking
- cden Density Inspection and Testing Services
- N94B Drainage-Sewer Inspection
- geot Geotechnical Engineering Services
- H Landscaping
- J Misc. Concrete Items
- N93A Pavements-Cold Milling
- N6 Permanent Signs
- Cb Plant-Mix/Hot Mix Asph/Bituminous Paving
- Fd Pump Stations
- TVB Rd Signs/Markers/Barricade-Broker
- N92C Roadway-Erosion Control Struct.
- I Seeding/Sodding/Turf Establishment

Bid Information

<https://www.mitadbbe.com/print.php?id=7090>
Bid open: 1/14/2025 2:00 pm
Link to bid documents: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/8RnThGOMHO>
Document address: Willow South to Saginaw, Chestnut East to Grand Avenue.
Respond by: 1/13/2025 12:00am

Additional Information

Comments:
Please contact Katie Davis with questions. 517-627-8408
kdavis@mackenzieco.com

CP#24-763

Assad’s fall brings ‘overwhelming happiness’ to Syrian-Americans

As a Syrian-born child of two Palestinian refugees, Bassam Mahmoud’s early life was dictated by a lack of true citizenship.

When his parents were forcibly relocated to Syria in 1948, they weren’t granted Syrian citizen status, even though their eight children were all born and raised there. To carve out his own sense of belonging, Mahmoud moved to the United States in 1986, where he opened Sultan’s Mediterranean Cuisine & Bakery in 1995.

Nearly four decades later, Mahmoud waited anxiously as he followed reports about rebel militia groups pushing into Damascus two weekends ago. By Dec. 8, Bashar Assad had fled to Russia.

Mahmoud, 66, said he was keeping up with the action “on an hourly basis.” He still has family members living there.

“When they reached Damascus, I started to feel the excitement. It was overwhelming happiness, actually,” he said.

East Lansing-based hand surgeon Abdalmajid Katranji, the son of Syrian parents who moved to the United States before he was born, said he felt a “tearful joy” when the news broke.

“My eyes welled up and my wife was crying with me. It was like this disease had finally been ripped out of your body,” he said.

From about 2010 to the present, Katranji, 50, has taken more than a dozen trips to Syria to provide humanitarian aid and relief in partnership with the Syrian American Medical Society and Atlantic Humanitarian Relief. His domestic advocacy includes being a Syrian American Council board member.

Overseas, he said he’s performed hundreds of surgeries in Syria, adding that a “disproportionate” number were the direct result of violence by the Assad regime. At one point, he said he was even added to Assad’s watch list.

See Syria, Page 8



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Bassam Mahmoud, owner of Sultan’s Mediterranean Cuisine & Bakery in East Lansing, was born in Syria. He graduated from pharmacy school in Damascus before moving to the United States in 1986.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Joshua Beaver-Gallagher / Lifetime Roofing located at 1033 Cresenwood Road. The applicant is requesting replacement of decorative diamond pattern roofing with architectural shingles.
2. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Doug Cron located at 231-233 Beal Street. The applicant is requesting removal of the roof wall to restore the roof line.
3. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Doug Cron located at 127 Center Street. The applicant is requesting relocation of the garage to the side yard of the property.

Owners of structures containing more than four (4) dwelling units or other distinct spatial areas owned or leased by different persons are requested to post this notice at the primary entrance to the structure.

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

For more information on the request please contact Alycia Reiten at (517) 319-6941 or areiten@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhdc@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

Dated: December 12, 2024
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#24-768

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A request from Arnulfo Ramirez of Los Tres Amigos - Brookfield LLC for approval of a Special Use Permit located at 1351 E. Grand River Avenue. The applicant requests alteration of the interior spaces for two new restaurants – The Morning Post and D’nulffos, with alcohol service in the existing building and a modified patio. The property is zoned B-2 Retail Sales Business District.

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

Landon Bartley, AICP, Principal Planner
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6930 or lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

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

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

Dated: December 11, 2024
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#24-764

Syria

from page 7

“In terms of just the sheer numbers, the brutality and atrocities that the Assad regime was willing to commit were mammoth. I think a lot of that imagery is finally coming to light as these prisons are being opened up,” Katranji said.

Both Mahmoud and Katranji couldn’t hide the elation they felt knowing that the Syrian people can now experience a life without fear of dictatorial retribution.

However, they also expressed uncertainty over what Syria will look like under a new government.

“While everything looks promising, I fear that there’s a plot. I don’t think these rebels came and conquered these cities in two or three days without planning with somebody,” Mahmoud said. “Who is that somebody? Could it be Israel? America? I don’t know. But they would not do what they did without backing from people who have power and some sort of plan.”

For that reason, Katranji said the

country’s new leaders need to prioritize incremental changes. He cited botched governmental transitions in Iraq and Afghanistan, in which the West played a key role, as examples of why he thinks a gradual transition is a better path.

“It would be naive not to have some sort of trepidation about the next steps. But we have to remember that it takes time. Democracy is an evolution, it’s not an instant product,” he said.

For Mahmoud and Katranji, those questions are softened somewhat by having witnessed some of Assad’s atrocities

“Wherever you went, you saw his picture. You had to talk in whispers. There were no human rights and no clean drinking water,” Mahmoud said.

“The oppression they faced, I don’t think that’s ever going to be wiped from their memories.”

He’s still haunted by stories of political prisoners, including one involving a woman whom prison guards raped.

“They kept the baby in the jail, and he grew up that way. He was interviewed when he was just 7 and said he didn’t even know what birds, the sun or trees

were. Imagine what that does to a child,” Mahmoud said.

Mahmoud added that, as a young man, he was “unnecessarily” jailed for two days after Hafez al-Assad, Bashar Assad’s father, sent men to Mahmoud’s father’s restaurant to search for a worker. Mahmoud told them he’d quit and didn’t know where he lived.

“They took me from my restaurant and put me in jail,” he said. “Still, it was insignificant compared to what happened to others. I was lucky.”

Now that al-Assad has fled Damascus, Mahmoud said, “Syrians are extremely happy, because they finally feel free.”

“I’m 10,000 miles away, but I still see how excited they are. Until now, you couldn’t have your own voice,” he said.

Katranji was unable to visit his family members in Syria during his trips, largely because of Assad’s influence. After Assad fled, he said he was finally able to communicate with them “without having to be selective in what you say.”

“It’s such a change from having to speak in code. We were freely saying congratulations. It was so cathartic. It’s impossible to explain,” he said.

Mahmoud hopes his relatives in Syria can gain full citizenship under a new government. Still, he said he’s closely watching how that process unfolds.



Shutterstock

“Right now, I am the happiest man on Earth. But because I am Syrian, I also don’t know what’s going to happen next. So, that happiness is mixed with fear,” he said.

Katranji’s view was more optimistic. He took a moment to recognize the collective efforts that made the moment possible.

“This outcome in Syria is not on the back of one person, group or organization, but a myriad of people who started crying for freedom. Each one of them added their own little piece of the one-million-piece puzzle to finally get to the picture that we get to enjoy today,” he said.

Many never lived to see their dream come to fruition, he added.

“It’s so bittersweet, in that sense, to know that all their sacrifices led to this moment of joy. I only pray that, when they look down from heaven, they’re celebrating with us,” he said.

TYLER SCHNEIDER

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2024

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CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

AT 6:30 PM

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: REZONING #24013 (FEDEWA HOLDINGS)

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE

Rezoning #25001 (Fedewa Holdings)
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in a rezoning request. Fedewa Holdings is requesting to rezone an approximately 4.28-acre parcel located on Dobie Road from RAA (Single Family-Low Density) to RD (Multiple Family, maximum 8 dwelling unit per acre) subject to a conditional rezoning agreement.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing in the Department of Community Planning and Development office (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, 48864), Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, or on the Township website at the following location: www.meridian.mi.us/businesses/development-projects. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to shorkey@meridian.mi.us.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk


CP#24-766

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.


REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS


COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES




The Lansing City Council voted 7-1 to approve brown-field tax financing for the five-building New Vision Lansing project for downtown and Old Town, including the city's tallest skyscraper. The tax credits are expected to total millions in reimbursements for developers over 30 years, with at least \$15 million benefiting the city. The cost estimate for the project is more than \$300 million, including the tax plan, private investment and \$40 million from the state. The project includes 575 housing units.



The Michigan attorney general released a 345-page report with allegations of sexual abuse and other sexual misconduct in the Lansing Diocese since 1950. It lists 48 priests, three religious brothers, an apparent former religious brother and four deacons. The information comes from a search warrant executed against the diocese in 2018 and an attorney general-operated tipline. The document includes information from the tip line, victim interviews, police investigations, open-source media, paper and computer documents taken from the diocese and reports of allegations they disclosed.



A review committee including city staff has recommended the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority be released from running the Lansing Center, Jackson Field and Groesbeck Golf Course so Los Angeles-based ASM Global can assume responsibility. LEPFA has relied on city subsidies for years. The new management team is expected to be in place by July 2025, when the next budget year for the three facilities begins. The LEPFA board will vote Jan. 21. The move could potentially subsidies that amounted to \$1.5 million last year. LEPFA would continue to oversee the properties no matter which management group the city chooses, but its role would be reduced.



Unionized nurses and healthcare professionals voted to authorize a strike against University of Michigan Health-Sparrow, with 98.7% of about 2,000 members in favor if the Michigan Nurses Association deems it necessary. They have been working without a contract since Oct. 30. The association said, "In more than 300 hours of negotiations since August, the employer has failed to offer competitive wages,

health care without concessions, and measures to keep caregivers, patients and visitors safe." Negotiations are scheduled to continue through Thursday (Dec. 19).



The MSU Board of Trustees voted 8-0 to approve a \$28 million, three-phase plan for Spartan Stadium renovations. The plan includes replacing the videoboards and renovating the West Tower by the 2025 season, paid for by internal loans, repaid by revenue from naming rights, sponsorships and donations. Other modernization includes improving the concourse, concessions and toilets and making repairs and upgrades, but there was no timeline assigned.



Three Lansing men were arrested after allegedly attempting to evade police in a stolen vehicle on I-96 in Brighton. A Livingston County Sherriff's Office deputy spotted a 2016 Nissan Maxima reported stolen in East Lansing while patrolling on east I-96 near Grand River Avenue. Each possessed a handgun at the time of their arrest and were taken into custody without incident. Stop sticks were deployed on I-96 near Mason Road to stop the driver. The vehicle crashed into a concrete support and was halted after it attempted to avoid the sticks by going through a ditch. Charges will be requested on the 24-year-old driver for fleeing and eluding, possession of a stolen vehicle, carrying a concealed weapon and operating while intoxicated. The 19- and 20-year-old passengers will see requested charges of carrying a concealed weapon.

Sheri Lynn Schoenfield, 62, of Fowler-ville was killed when she was struck by a vehicle on Elm Road in Leroy Township after she had stopped abruptly to avoid hitting a deer. Police said she was driving north between Holt and Van Ordan roads when she stopped and got out of her van to re-secure her cargo. Then a 44-year-old Web-berville woman's car struck her while trying to drive around the stopped van. The driver of the vehicle that struck the woman and a child traveling with her were treated for non-life-threat-ening injuries.



Haylie Kluzack
If you shop at Capital City Mar-ket in downtown Lansing, it's like-ly you've seen the work of the artist and sign painter Haylie Kluzack. Kluzack has been hand-paint-ing "market" signs for the Mei-er concept store for three years. She paints seasonal end caps (the shelving at the end of a row) with thematic art fitting of the season. For example, a marshmallow roast was the summer approach for outdoor bonfires. The artist also participated in the downtown Lansing holiday window painting conducted by 11 artists who painted thematic Christmas-card like windows. Kluzack painted her window on the former Cooley Law Library af-ter her workday, the first window painting she ever took on.

"It was interesting. It was get-ting colder, which created some technical problems in applying layers of paint. Dry time was lon-ger, and I had to wait for the paint to dry," she said. Kluzack had worked on murals at Dwight Rich School for the Arts and the Gier Community Center gymnasium. Kluzack said her job at the Mar-ket Place came about in a seren-dipitous way after her postings of her artwork became noticed on Facebook. She said all the Mar-ket Place stores have artists in residence who paint signs and artwork that grabs customers. In the history of retailing car dealers, butchers and grocery stores em-ployed sign painters, sometimes itinerant, who created personal-ized signs.

The artist said she has had little formal training except for classes at East Lansing High School and some graphic design classes at Lansing Community College.

BILL CASTANIER

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

LET'S BOOGIE! Bob Baldori & David Small



Kash: don't call the police. We are the police

Kashyap Pramod Vinod Patel was a protégé of the deplorable Devin Nunes and purportedly authored the "Nunes memo." Nunes! Yet another breathtakingly dumb sycophant who has spent a career sniffing up Bozo's back side. What a team! Both glaring confirmation of the Peter Principle: "In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to their level of incompetence." In that regard, both are over-achieving.

Nunes once chaired the House Intelligence Committee! How is that for an ironic misnomer? And Patel was the "brain" behind the notorious memo.

Nunes — supporter of the Muslim ban, a reefer-madness nutcase, predicting COVID would be "over by Easter." Whenever something scurrilous or underhanded was happening, Nunes was in the thick of it. And Patel was right there, backing him up.

Patel offers more confirmation of the Peter Principle and is now being considered for a position he is woefully ill-equipped to handle and where he will be a serious danger to the U.S. and its citizens: FBI director.

Among Patel's many discredits, he has spouted a host of bizarre conspiracy theories. These include "the deep state conspiracy theory, false claims about 2020 election fraud, QAnon, COVID-19 vaccines, and false claims that the FBI instigated the Jan. 6 Capitol attack.

Interestingly, former Attorney General William Barr, an oleaginous and outrageous criminal in his own right, stated in his memoir that Patel would become FBI director only "over his dead body".

Barr went on to succinctly eliminate Patel from serious consideration with sound reasoning, saying that "... all leadership positions in the bureau have always been FBI agents. They've all gone through the same agent training and have broad experience in the field and at headquarters. Someone with no background as an agent would never be able to command the respect necessary to run the day-to-day operations of the Bureau. Furthermore, Patel had virtually no experience that would qualify him to serve at the highest level of the world's pre-eminent law enforcement agency."

And further: "The very idea of moving Patel into a role like this showed a shocking detachment from reality."

There you have it, from the horse's ... mouth.

And so it goes in the delusional, dystopian and dysfunctional alternative facts world of the incompetent sociopath.

(The Boogie Kings is an e-newsletter written by Bob Baldori, with art by David Small. The Boogie Kings Newsletter is published several times a week. To subscribe, go to theboogiekings.substack.com.)

Gridlock over tipped wages reflects no-compromise reality

Michigan House Republicans walked off the floor in the middle of lame duck last week in protest over something that's not remotely partisan.

Restoring the tipped wage for waitstaff at restaurants? That's not in the Michigan Republican Party platform. Give it a look, maybe I missed it.

Yet, the entire Republican caucus stood outside their leader's office wearing these red buttons reading "Save MI Tips."

There's a long, tortured history of why we are where we are today — why restaurant waitstaff are on the verge of making a \$15 minimum wage. Why restaurants are planning on the state's tipping culture to disappear. Why professional servers are re-evaluating ... everything.

The history doesn't matter anymore. What matters is that Michigan's waitstaffers make \$3.93 an hour but get to keep those tips we give them (unless they have some sharing arrangement with the cooks and the hosts, etc.).

If the Legislature does nothing, it will go up to \$5.99 an hour on Feb. 21, to \$7.97 an hour on Feb. 21, 2026, and up and up every year until 2030 when they'll make the same \$15-an-hour as a McDonald's worker.

It all sounds great except that the expectation is the restaurants will need to jack up their food prices to pay these salaries. Higher food prices=lower tips. Lower tips=lower take-home pay for the waitstaff.

That's what the waitstaff believe, anyway. They crammed a pretty large conference room last week inside the Capitol's new Heritage Hall with darned near 500 pretty pissed-off servers.

They like the current system. They didn't ask to be bumped up to minimum wage. If they wanted \$15 an hour, they'd be at Wendy's.

Shoot, the expected tip these days is 15% minimum, and 20% is getting more common. The high end is 22% or 25%. The waitstaff at the Capitol demonstration said they're satisfied.

Organized labor is four-square in support of gradually eliminating the "tipped minimum wage." For them, it's about fairness.

Is it fair that a worker only makes \$4 an hour if nobody stops by to eat? (The law says a restaurant must make

up whatever an employee doesn't make in tips up to the minimum wage, FYI).

Still, the union's political allies at the Detroit nonprofit Mothering Justice pushed for this change to advance the wages for Michigan workers. They've stuck with them since 2014, at least. They're not going to abandon them now. (After all, do restaurant owners really square up with their waitstaff on a slow day?)

It's possible a political deal could be struck somewhere here.

What if Republicans agreed to a higher minimum wage in exchange for capping the tipped wage at a certain level?

What if Republicans agreed to sign off on another union priority in exchange for capping the tipped wage at a certain level?

I'm not a legislator, but those seem like a fair place to start.

Get the Republicans back in the chamber. Negotiate some type of compromise. Move on to other issues.

But that's the issue with today's political climate. Compromise is a dirty word. Republicans are supposed to fight, fight, fight with Democrats and vice versa.

The tipped wage reflects more proposed policy in 2024 that isn't partisan but has become partisan for partisan gain — like getting rid of flavored vapes or requiring serial numbers on guns spit out from a 3D printer.

The easy thing to do is shut everything down. Leave the chamber. End session. Blame it on partisanship. Use it as a talking point for the next election.

The hard thing to do is talk, to communicate, to compromise on something, improve a situation a little bit for everyone.

It's been done. I've seen it many, many, many times.

But in 2023 and 2024, it hasn't been. Not one thing needing bipartisan collaboration with legislative leaders and the governor has passed this term. Not once.

Unless something changes, we won't see it in lame duck or on this issue, either.

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



POLITICS

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Gear up for the ball drop

Area New Year's Eve activities to put on your radar

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

It's somehow the end of the year once again, and though there won't be any fireworks, you can still start 2025 off with a bang. Whether you're looking to spend New Year's Eve gaming, dancing, feasting or simply sipping champagne, the following list of Dec. 31 events has you covered. Some begin earlier in the day, leaving room to attend multiple festivities if your heart desires.

Spare Time Entertainment Center New Year's Eve parties

1-5 p.m. (families)

7 p.m.-1 a.m. (adults)

3101 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing

Spare Time Entertainment Center will offer ticketed celebrations from 1 to 5 p.m. for families and 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. for adults. The former will include unlimited bowling, a \$25 arcade card, two slices of pizza and bottomless soda. The adults-only portion will feature a buffet; music by Midwest Dueling Pianos and other live entertainment; unlimited VR games, bowling, arcade games, mini golf and more; and a champagne toast with a souvenir flute at midnight. Each guest will receive three drink tickets and unlimited soft drinks. Access to axe throwing and the Escapology escape rooms can be added on for an additional fee. Tickets are available at eventbrite.com/o/spare-time-entertainment-center-85421654013.

Festival of Trees

1-7 p.m.

Turner-Dodge House

100 E. North St., Lansing

If you haven't yet had a chance to check out the Turner-Dodge House's Festival of Trees, the annual holiday display runs through New Year's Eve. All three floors of the historic mansion have been decorated with trees designed by local businesses, orga-



Metro Creative Connection

Whether you're looking to spend New Year's Eve dancing, feasting, gaming or simply sipping champagne, local events have you covered.

nizations and individuals. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the restoration and preservation of the house.

Contra and square dance

6:30 p.m.-12:15 a.m.

Central United Methodist Church

215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

This special edition of the Ten Pound Fiddle's biweekly contra and square dance series will feature a potluck to start the evening, followed by the standard new dancer lesson. The dance party will begin at 8 p.m. and continue until midnight, with a break around 9:45 p.m. for dessert. String band Banjo Tramps will provide the music. For the best experience, attendees should wear loose clothes and comfortable shoes.

Super Fancy New Year's Eve under the Big Top

7-10 p.m.

Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale

1101 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

If you're not finished with your holiday food binge, REO Town's Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale will hold a six-course dinner inspired by carnival and circus cuisine beginning at

7 p.m. The evening will be hosted by entertainers Jean Baguette and Lady Marmalade, who promise to amuse, mystify and occasionally bewilder the crowd. The event is expected to end by 10 p.m., though Sleepwalker will be open until midnight. For tickets, visit square.link/u/RpytncUP.

Lansing Brewing Co. New Year's Eve party

8 p.m.-1 a.m.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

DJ Face will throw down the tracks at Lansing Brewing Co.'s no-cover New Year's Eve Party, running from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Guests are encouraged to dress to impress. Stay tuned for more information on themed drinks and food specials at lansingbrewingcompany.com.

TGIF New Year's dance party

8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Eagle Eye Banquet Center

15500 Chandler Road, Bath

TGIF Dance Party will host a rare Tuesday evening event, featuring a dinner buffet, music by Patrick Johnson of Shamrock DJ Service, a cash bar and a champagne toast at midnight. Noisemakers, party hats,

coffee and water will be provided. Formal attire is encouraged.

Starfarm '80s party

Doors 8 p.m., show 9 p.m.

Grewal Hall at 224

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing

At Grewal Hall, '80s cover band Starfarm will transport audiences back in time before returning to the present to ring in the new year. The group's song list includes a myriad of nostalgic hits by artists such as Madonna, Bon Jovi, Michael Jackson, Blondie, Prince and beyond. A portion of ticket proceeds will be donated to Ele's Place Capital Region, a nonprofit healing center for grieving children, teens and families. Tickets are available at hall224.com.

Zap Zone XL New Year's Eve party

9 p.m.-1 a.m.

5220 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing

Zap Zone XL's New Year's Eve celebration will offer a gourmet buffet, unlimited soft drinks and a midnight balloon drop on top of activities like bowling, arcade games, laser tag, mini golf and bumper cars, depending on which of four ticket packages guests choose. To purchase tickets, visit zapzonexl.com/nye. Attendees under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Afro Beat in Town New Year's Eve party

9:30 p.m.-2 a.m.

Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine

1312 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing

Afro Beat in Town, an event group that hosts African dance parties throughout the area, will celebrate New Year's Eve from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine. DJ Dalavey will be spinning music from genres such as Afrobeat, amapiano, reggae, Afro Congo and bongo. Tickets are available at newyearspartydec31.eventbrite.com.

Test your Great Lakes knowledge

Environmental writer changes tack with fact-or-fake book

By BILL CASTANIER

In his latest book, “The Great Lakes: Fact or Fake,” environmental writer Dave Dempsey answers 41 questions about the Great Lakes; along the way, he dispels longstanding myths and reinforces facts about pollution, invasive species and Dracula while answering the question, “Can we drink our toilet water?”

Dempsey, who has written numerous academic titles about the Great Lakes, decided to change tack with this book.

“My previous books were policy heavy and well researched, but I’m not sure how many people read them,” he said from his home in Traverse City. “This time, I decided to go with bite-sized information that was fun and educational.”

The book is stocking stuffer sized and available for about \$16 on Amazon. It contains some clever depictions of the facts and fakes, illustrated by Heather

Lee Shaw.

Dempsey is considered one of the foremost experts on Great Lakes conservation. He’s worked in environmental policy for more than 40 years, holding positions with former Gov. Jim Blanchard, the International Joint Commission, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and several nonprofits. Today, he’s a policy advisor at FLOW, a Traverse City-based law and policy center dedicated to the protection of the Great Lakes.

The approach Dempsey takes in “The Great Lakes: Fact or Fake” is fun, simple and can be digested in short reads. He designed the book to

be enjoyed by a broad demographic, from middle schoolers to adults. It offers some titillating stories that teach lessons about the Great Lakes and the environment without burdening you with onerous scientific details.

Readers will learn whether Lake Superior is the largest freshwater body in the world, the history of the only king in the United States and his demise, whether we’ll ever run out of water and how we can possibly consume the equivalent of a credit card of plastic every week. Everyone will love the discussion about whether there

are whales and sharks in the Great Lakes and will likely be surprised by the fact-or-fake outcome.

In his segment on “Dracula,” or the monstrous sea lamprey, Dempsey tells how Canada and the United States developed techniques to curtail the parasitic fish’s invasion, which began as early as the 1900s. Ironically, we also learn that lamprey is a delicacy in England due to its scarcity. Queen Elizabeth II had lampreys sent across the sea and baked into pies three times during her reign — for the 50th and 60th anniversaries of her ascendancy to the throne and her 90th birthday.

In another segment, the author details the fight to block Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes while providing a little history about how Abraham



Courtesy photo

Environmental writer Dave Dempsey, who has authored numerous academic titles about the Great Lakes, has taken a more accessible and entertaining approach with his most recent book, “The Great Lakes: Fact or Fake.”

Lincoln’s support of the Illinois and Michigan Canal led to the creation of a pathway for the critters, which pose a threat to Great Lakes fisheries and ecosystems.

Dempsey also reminds readers of the battle between environmentalists and homemakers over the use of phosphates in detergents. We learn that laundry detergent manufacturers pitted housewives against efforts to reduce the use of phosphates. Michigan passed a law in 1982 requiring low-phosphate detergents, and the amount of algae blooms in the Great Lakes plummeted.

One last fact or fake that’s quite scary: Did you know the fish of the Great Lakes are on Prozac? No wonder I never catch any.

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Photo by Leandro Martins

Santa's sleigh stands by as Kris Kringle works his way down the chimney at 776 Pebblebrook Lane in East Lansing's White Hills neighborhood.

Keep an eye on that candle

City Pulse's 5th Annual Poetry & Lights Issue

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

My father did not like candles. When I was a kid, we brought out a couple of sugary angel candles every December. They were cheap plastic cylinders, but they were mesmerizing. There was something about a lit candle, even in a brightly lit room with a TV on, playing “Columbo,” that made everything special, that somehow made the night sacred.

Dad watched them, too — like a hawk. To hell with the angels. Visions of fire remediation and insurance claims were dancing in his head. He didn't even like the idea of putting strings of electric lights on the Christmas tree. Back then, before LED lights, those bulbs got hot. Come Jan. 1, when the tree was bone dry, who knows what catastrophe might engulf the household as it slept?

But other people's lights were fair game. Every year, Dad drove us around to look at the lights in our neighborhood. Sometimes we made the trip from working-class northwest Detroit to Grosse Pointe or Birmingham to see what kind of extravaganzas the rich people were laying out. (This was before the swarming bug lights and inflatable abominations of today.) Elaborate or simple, elegant or tasteless, it all looked magical to me.

When the year gets darker, colorful lights are a comfort, a delight and even a source of inspiration — especially if you are a poet. Welcome to City Pulse's 5th Annual Poetry & Lights issue, showcasing work



Photo by Leandro Martins

Abby Read, who turned 7 this week, and Santa at Holt Veteran Hospital. “She said she gets extra presents because it is close to her birthday,” her father, Jessie Read, said. “She asked for one of Santa's girl elves to watch over her for Melanie Martinez clothing and albums.”

by leading local poets, juxtaposed with images of holiday lights around town, all taken by Leandro Martins — with many, many equally wonderful images left on the cutting-room floor.

The tradition began in 2020, at the height of the pandemic, with the idea of lighting a candle in a dark time. We hoped that connecting our readers with the meditations and memories of local poets would help

them cope with pandemic isolation, and it did. The response was so enthusiastic we made it a December tradition.

This year's participating poets run the gamut from celebration and appreciation to what is bright in their lives to melancholy, grieving and an aching consciousness of what's been lost. They share memories of lost parents and delight in the promise of children. Some offer up a burning flame; others a fragile flicker.

Since the first Poetry and Lights issue in 2020, it has become clear that the theme of light in darkness fits any era, any form of worship and any winter holiday, beginning with the most obvious image, the Winter Solstice, the darkest and longest night of the year. This year's poets were given the simple prompt “shine a light,” with license to interpret it in any way they saw fit. The qualifier “in a dark time” hardly seems necessary by now. Are these uniquely dark times? Maybe. Is darkness itself unique to our time? Of course not. I think of my own grade school days in the 1960s, when we were herded into fallout shelters in fear of all-out nuclear war. I thought of my Dad, that inveterate hater of candles, who was felled by a shell in Belgium in a catastrophic war that engulfed much of the world, and lost his leg as a consequence. Go back into the human past as far as you please, and you'll find no end of plagues, famines, wars and other privations and disasters. There will always be darkness to fight off, using whatever light is available. Just be careful with that candle.

Rising Beyond the Mountain

Poverty and Ignorance—
Earmarked for destruction

Now sought to enslave and dominate
through corruption

Forced back to where many
fought to escape

Striving to be seen:
Not for the color of their sheen
Not for who they choose to love or be,
But for the size of their hearts
for all to see

They will not be erased!
They will rise from despair
They will fight without fighting
And show that they care

Use Knowledge and Wisdom!

Be Those:
Who choose to see beyond the mountain
Who choose not to hide
Who choose to climb the mountain
Who choose to conquer it for all

Poverty and Ignorance earmarked for destruction!

— CRUZ VILLARREAL

Cruz Villarreal is a local published poet with a creative writing degree from Lansing Community College. A selection of his poems and other writings can be found at <https://cruzpoet.openlcc.net>.

Photo by Leandro Martins
Winter Wonderland, Williamston



Photo by Leandro Martins
Winter Wonderland, Williamston



Photo by Leandro Martins
Winter Wonderland, Williamston

★ ★ ★

Seasonal

It's you in
hands and

your back
in darkest

from the
you always

In this im
was the s

Joanne G
Her work
Livina Pre
bury Liter
active inc
hopes you
ken word



This Little Light

For weeks, my 8-year-old daughter prepares for her solo in the Christmas pageant— not as Mary, Joseph, or Baby Jesus not even as one of the three wise men like years past.

Her Sunday School teacher chooses her to sing “This Little Light of Mine.” She glows with joy. This year, she will stand in the front—

ahead of the homemade cardboard crowns ahead of floral bathrobes transformed into wisemen’s robes before Mary and Joseph in bedsheet holy garments

gazing down at a Baby Alive doll playing Jesus. Soon it will be just my daughter and the spotlight. Sunlight pierces through stained glass

bathing my daughter in a kaleidoscope of colors her face a mosaic of rising fear. As the pageant begins, so do her tears.

“I don’t want to sing, she whimpers. “I’m scared.” Mrs. Wilson, the Sunday School teacher

gently smooths her hair and whispers “You’ll be great. You have the voice of an angel.” The window casts diffracted light,

paints red, yellow, and green across my hands as they find her shoulder. I wrap her in a mother’s embrace.

“Show everyone your light,” I whisper. “Because it’s not a flickering candle or a distant star’s glimmer.

Make your light bright like the sun— first a single ray, then expanding until every corner of this sanctuary

is wrapped in its warmth and glory.” Nudging her toward the altar, I say, “Now, let your light shine.”

— LISA BOND BREWER

Lisa Bond Brewer is a poet and storyteller whose work has appeared in *Essence Magazine*, *Timbuktu*, *Literary Mama*, and the *Washington Square Review*. The Chief Communications Officer for UST HealthProof holds degrees from Michigan State University and Central State University (Ohio), is married to her college sweetheart with three daughters and two grandchildren. She enjoys traveling, creative writing and reading.

I memory served up by algorithm
n the long red sweater
d face glowing in firelight
k to the tall pines whispering
st of night your eyes shine
flare of a log just carefully placed
ways so good at catching a spark
mage the light of your spirit
seasoning the holidays needed

For Roxanne Frith

— JOANNE GRAM

Joanne Gram is a renegade poet with an MPA from WMU. She appears in publications from Of Rust and Glass, The Glass, Elsker Literary, Tulip Tree Review, Haight Ashbury, Peninsula Arts, and others. Joanne is locally active in the Lansing Poetry Club and Write Hear. She will get to know her from both written and spoken presentations.



Photo by Leandro Martins

Four friends, Jenny Barnstable, Stephanie Dunckel, Heidi Smith and Karen Hunt) visit Christmas Wonderland at Wamhoff Farms, on Burkley Road in Williamston.



Photo by Leandro Martins
620 N. Watkins St., Perry.



Photo by Leandro Martins
Holt Veterans Hospital

Homes We Were Born To

Welcome back Samia
to where you first took off into colors,
forms, poetry on paper and canvas.
This retrospective is your embrace.

Lilacs start the journey then and now,
Midwestern, the way we all make space
come together then disperse.
Vibrations of the sun.

I remember climbing my lilac bush,
like your gnarled ancient olive tree,
up to the flat roof
black tarred territory.
Looking down the alley,
such a big part of my world.

Rounded roofs like piano notes,
shapes that remain
forever, your geography.
Alleys that lead to home.

Now families in suburbia,
refugees from the city,
just 10 miles from here,
just half a world away from here.
War zones, at the same time.

Here, urban renewal of the 60's, 70's,
that's what they called it,
take over of our cities.
Disinvest, redline, rubble,
the after life of a taken town
where 17 fires burn on Devil's Night.
Deserted houses full of cast off needles
turn the night sky red,
temperatures melt the roofs.

My home, still there, has a childcare sign,
grass fills up the spaces where homes

lived, ghosts still gather on the porches,
widows ready to buy a piece of wood
worth nothing but a dime and a child's
smile.

For you, an arrival, a precious gift.
Vibrations multiply,
divide into wings,
angels, butterflies,
your children born on canvas.

We are both trying to return,
cutting the world into shapes,
displaced,
but always remembered.

At night, we are home
in our dreams,
lamps are brightly lit,
the old people call to us,
Come sit.
Come sit.

—MAUREEN HART

Written in response to the MSU Broad Art Museum's fall retrospective of the abstract art of Samia Halaby, Palestinian-American abstract artist and activist who studied at MSU in the 1960s. November/December, 2024
Maureen Hart writes: I grew up on the eastside of Saginaw, Michigan, where my life was changed forever by moving to a new town's suburban house. The books "The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East" by Sandy Tolan and President Jimmy Carter's "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid," read long in my past, gave me some background to help in my understanding of Samia Halaby's art and my own experience. I am one of the winners of the 2022 Ritzenhein Emerging Poet Awards and published in a number of local and Michigan anthologies.

Light Leads the Way

What peace we gather
in this season to recall
a moment, a mission, a mystery

when light leads the way

Despite overwhelming darkness
riddled with disillusionment

Light leads the way

soothes broken hearts
heals deep sorrows
reconnects sister and brother
welcomes the weary
speaks words to encourage
shares a warm smile
provides respite for a caregiver
visits the sick
invites the lonely
houses a transient teen
packs meals for the hungry
hosts a warming center
And rings salvation bells late into cold, wintry nights

Light leads the way

to a manger
where a babe slept peacefully
while all anticipated
for centuries
His light
as the light
of the world

reminding us
to share our light
as a city on a hill
to honor one another
serve one another
declare love one to another

majestically glorifying
God the Father
who summoned light
to illuminate all creation

Light leads the way.

“This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine.”

— ROBIN PIZZO

Robin Pizzo is the Director of Education at WKAR, mid-Michigan’s local PBS and NPR station. After raising four children with her husband of 26 years, she is now embracing life as an empty nester by writing and reading every day. Her poetry collection, *Disparities*, was published in 2023, and her short story collection, *D-Nice*, is set to be released in late 2025 by Wayne State University Press.



Photo by Leandro Martins
235 Kipling Blvd., Lansing



Photo by Leandro Martins
2100 Moores River Drive, Lansing

When

it happens, you are never prepared: the red Camaro rockets through the stop sign, the hand slips under the table to fondle your leg, the letter from the student arrives saying she has fallen in love. With you. Your sister-in-law calls to announce that you need to *come now*, your mother has little time left. On the plane you imagine how it will be when you walk in the door, how she will smile and say your name. You arrive. She says nothing. You have six days before she is gone. To prepare. For your father, sitting with his face in his hands, for days. For your brother, disappearing into denial. Years later when he tries to vanish from his pain, when you show up at the hospital to talk him back into life, you remember the first dream where your mother visited after her death, where she told you, *Take care of your brother*. She turned off the light, then left. What did she mean? You walk into your brother's room, still dark. You turn on the light.

— ANITA SKEEN
4/12/24

Anita Skeen is currently Professor Emerita in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University, where she was the Founding Director of The RCAH Center for Poetry at MSU and is the Series Editor for Wheelbarrow Books. She taught students in kindergarten through high school, in college programs, in senior citizens' centers, libraries, and at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico for over 40 years. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Friends of Theodore Roethke Foundation in Saginaw, Michigan. She is the author of eight volumes of poetry and she currently involved in writing and visual art projects with poets Jane Taylor and Cindy Hunter Morgan.



Photo by Leandro Martins

Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., in Lansing's Old Town

Looking for Christmas

I am looking for Christmas but keep getting lost.

One minute, I am sitting in a large blue armchair drinking tea in front of a fire happy to be alive . . .

The next, I unfold a newspaper and see myself in a crowd of people sitting against a subway wall underneath the city of Kiev.

Sirens are ringing.
No one has slept for days.
The drones and the missiles keep falling.

A Ukrainian soldier writes to me on Facebook posts video of ruined buildings and fire gives the casualty count.

I don't know what to say except: Sorry.

In my jewelry box, there is a black button with white letters spelling: G A Z A.
I see broken hospitals, broken homes.

The dead. The dead. The dead. And the wounded.

I want my hands to form an army of ambulances, a cavalry of construction workers ready to rebuild all.

I want to cast an invisible cloak of protection over our beautiful wounded world, put the leaders in detention

Make them attend conflict resolution seminars draw up plans to share the resources stop the wars.

I am looking for Christmas.

— RUELAIN STOKES, 12/8/24

Ruelaine Stokes serves as the current Lansing Poet Laureate (2024-2026), as well as the president of the Lansing Poetry Club. A teacher and arts organizer, she performs individually and with the spoken word group, *Voices of the Revolution*. She is the author of *Jar of Plenty* (2021). In collaboration with former Lansing Poet Laureate Laura Apol, she co-edited the book, *My Secret Lansing*, a collection of poetry and prose about hidden treasures in the Greater Lansing Area (2023).

Why We Light the Candle

for Irene McKinney

Not ten minutes after I wrote our friend Jane telling her of your passing, she wrote back a brief note: *Thanks for letting me know.*

I'm lighting a candle now. She's in Oklahoma, headlamp of the sun rolling along the plains. In Michigan, it's February, there should be snow

but the day is bright as July, not a storm in sight. Still, I strike a match to the Frasier fir candle beside my chair. The flame sputters,

chipmunk chatter. It's Christmas, the tree Daddy and I cut each December. We lugged it home, cloaked it with light

and ornament, tinsel shivering like the rain. It stood, a midnight radiance, something more than *tree*, now *grandmother*, *tricycle*, *cinnamon*. I didn't figure how lighting this candle would return me to those West Virginia hills,

where you are now, or were before your feral self slipped loose the skin of pain.

How many times do we, in grief, strike flint to wick to light the path ahead, to light

our own diminished cosmos? Just a small snap of flame

to dispel the lowering gloom, one flicker in the catacombs of loss. Words you gave us beam like carbide lanterns: *Talbot Churchyard*, *bones* and *plots*, *how tiny what I loved was*, *the unknown buried in the known*. A simple word, an ordinary tree.

How particulars attach, go luminous. What you leave us: the bloom of your voice, the deep vowels of the church organ, their release.

— ANITA SKEEN

[for Anita's bio, see her poem "When"]



Photo by Leandro Martins
Potter Park Zoo

Saving stars

Winter came sudden this year,
dark and cold. It feels somehow
final, like the world's last
night. But it might just be
my own. It might be that I
am unable to tell the difference.

At Thanksgiving dinner we looked out
at the yard, covered in oak leaves, said
to be toxic. A raccoon wandered in circles,
slow and clumsy. Old? Sick? Dying?
We put out food and warm water. The animal
seemed half blind, past noticing. There was nothing
left to offer but our wishes for an easy death.

Do you feel it too?
We are moving forward in the dark
with our tiny candles cupped in cold hands
against the wind. We are burning
twists of hay, like homesteaders,
in the endless labor of staying alive.

We are trying not to dwell
on the entropy: planetary
or only personal. Eventually,
all our stars are going out.
There is nothing we can do about that.

But on this winter afternoon,
I am setting out my own stars, bright
spots like the yellow maple leaves
on the tannic oak lawn.
Will you join me there? I'll begin.

— CHERYL CAESAR

Cheryl Caesar is a writer, teacher of writing and visual artist living in Lansing. She has published a chapbook of protest poetry, *Flatman*, with Thurston Howl Publications. In summer 2023, her piece “Silver Balls in the City” won first prize for prose in the My Secret Lansing writing contest, and appears in the subsequent anthology. Her micro-memoir “Poor Little Sausage Puppets” won first prize for creative nonfiction in the East Lansing Public Library writing contest in spring 2024. Cheryl serves as president of the Michigan College English Association.

Photo by Leandro Martins

Erica and Roger Minton of Bath



Photo by Leandro Martins
1060 Whitman Drive, East Lansing

Winter Solstice

8 witches' holidays
Two equinoxes provide balance.
Four forgotten cross holidays mark the exponential movement of
light and dark.
Summer Solstice frolics among the burgeoning.
Birth, Life, Death, Rebirth
Maiden, Mother, Crone
Play out around us in quarters.
Winter Solstice begins our gestation
dark nights made holy.
We give birth to ourselves.
It is the flint in all of us, inspiration
our moment of exhalation
blowing the embers into blazing red
sparking the fire.
Ancient knowledge that the sun
will be slightly higher in the sky
the next morning.

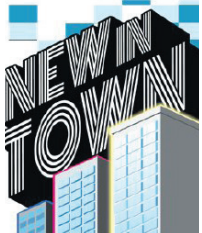
— TARI MUÑIZ

Tari Muñoz is long-time Lansing Lesbian Latina poet, performer, and producer. Her poetry and essays cover the span of topics from gardening to radical justice. Her work has been published in *Sinister Wisdom* and other obscure feminist presses that bring her joy. She is the founder of *2 Broads* and a *Butch* productions and *Voices of the Revolution*. Tari's superhero name is Big Mama.

Owners hope third time is the charm for Edmund's Pastime

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Edmund Babski was a mid-1900s boxer from Pittsburgh who, according to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, died in July 1950 from pneumonia induced by fractured ribs after allegedly being hit by a car earlier that year.



Edmund's Pastime

2101 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-
Tuesday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Wednesday
11 a.m.-midnight Thursday-
Friday
9 a.m.-midnight Saturday
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday
(517) 721-1041
edmundspastime.com

Woods Lounge and Dublin Hall in Grand Rapids, plus Thunderbird in Kalamazoo.

"The story, as I can best tell it, is that he threw a fight one time, and I think

he paid for it with his life," Schofield explained, referring to Babski's alleged hit-and-run incident. "But he also had a little diner-type restaurant back in Pittsburgh. We kind of took that and ran with it."

Originally situated downtown on Washington Square, Edmund's Pastime closed in 2014. It returned for a brief stint in 2019 before shuttering again due to the pandemic. Elliott and Schofield have been discussing reviving the concept for the past few years.

On Nov. 12, Edmund's Pastime opened to the public for a third time in a much larger eastside space formerly home to Arcadia Smokehouse. This time around, Schofield said, they've revamped the menu to include Italian offerings like pizza, pasta, house-made meatballs and sub sandwiches, as well as a Sunday breakfast service.

"When people mention Edmund's Pastime, they'll think tater tots and totchos," Schofield said of the popular tater-tot nachos the restaurant was known for during its first two runs. "Those might still rear their ugly head, but we're still deciding on that. This time, we went with a new menu that we thought would be economical but also allows us to make great food

from scratch."

The revised menu also includes burgers, salads, chicken wings and robust bar offerings like pitchers and specialty cocktails. It will continue to see some tweaks going forward, Schofield said.

The new space, which Schofield said is "about three times the size" of the previous one, includes a banquet room that can be rented out for private parties and events. The bar has already booked some live music on Friday and Saturday evenings.

"We've had three entertainers so far and have had really good reception for all of them. We also want to have things like book and motorcycle clubs, plus post-basketball-game get-togethers and other group events," Schofield said. "For those, we're not charging these astronomical room fees that you see around town. We're charging \$25 to \$100 to cover our costs, and that's it."

In perhaps another nod to Babski, who was a prizefighter before boxing took a backseat to major national sports leagues like the NFL, NBA and MLB, Elliott and Schofield plan to showcase a range of sports matches on the bar's TVs.

"It's not just your run-of-the-mill



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Edmund's Pastime's new space on Michigan Avenue offers a comfortable environment to enjoy a variety of sports games, live entertainment, food and drinks. A private room can also be rented out for a fee ranging from \$25 to \$100, co-owner Chuck Schofield said.

Michigan sports bar setup," Schofield said. "For one, the World Cup is coming, so we want to make sure all the soccer fans know that we're going to be here for that. We're also going to carry all the Olympic sports when they're on, plus others like golf and Formula 1 racing. We're really excited about having that kind of a theme to pair with our great food."

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1800 N Grand River Ave Lansing, MI

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Reverse Routes”--
if you switched
them...
by Matt Jones
© 2024 Matt Jones

ACROSS

1. “___: The Hands
of Fate” (“MST3K”
classic)
6. Helpers, briefly
11. Relay section
14. Dangly throat
thing
15. Antique photo
tone
16. “___ just figured
it out”
17. Portable brain?
19. Outburst
20. Bigger than big
21. 1967 spelled-out
#1 hit
23. Jackie’s second
married name
25. Microscopic
26. Arouse, as
curiosity
29. Little kid
30. Progressive
character
31. Color in the
Atlético Madrid logo
32. Haunted house
noise
33. Spock’s home
planet
36. “Annabel Lee”
poet
37. Keep up
39. Raw mineral
40. Certain ticket
buyers
42. 1,000-plus-year
realm, for short
43. “Hook” sidekick
44. ___ de parfum
45. Feeder user
46. “People tell me
...”
47. H.S. exams
49. Glow
51. Wedding cake
specification

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17						18						19		
20								21			22			
				23			24				25			
26	27	28				29				30				
31					32				33			34	35	
36				37				38				39		
40			41				42				43			
			44				45			46				
47	48					49				50				
51					52				53			54	55	56
57					58			59						
60					61					62				
63					64					65				

53. Bagel varieties
57. Live mascot of
the Bulldogs
58. Dub some DJ
turntablism over a
Pixar movie?
60. “I finally made it
through ___ school”
 (“Like a Surgeon”
 opener)
61. Actress Watts
62. Catherine who
played Moira Rose
63. “___ XING”
64. Eye-related
65. “Grand”
mountain

DOWN

1. G.H. ___ (name on
champagne bottles)
2. Converse
competitor
3. “Sister Act” group
4. Someone wise
beyond their years,
it’s said
5. Nicole Kidman’s
role in “Moulin

- Rouge!”
6. Hazardous
fireproofing material
7. Sun. lecture
8. Budget airline that
filed for bankruptcy
in late 2024
9. Fork points
10. Sinks under
pressure
11. Your future?
12. Boot out
13. California art
museum, with “the”
18. Eggs in a lab
22. Dispensary unit
24. Placated
26. Largest of the
Three Bears
27. Polo shirt
producer
28. Line up for first
dibs using the plus
sign?
30. A good time
(hopefully had by all)
32. City transit
33. “La ___ en rose”
34. Measure of

- coverage
35. ___-do-well
37. “Rugrats” father
38. Skilled at
sculpture, perhaps
41. “The ___ of Us”
43. Encase, as a
sword
45. Bird in a Monty
Python sketch
46. Summer
complaint
47. Baffle
48. “Shucks, stop it!”
49. Quickly review
50. Agcy. spawned
by the Manhattan
Project
52. “Money ___
object”
54. Medieval defense
feature
55. Word on Dutch
coins
56. Bridge section
59. “What ___, made
of money?”

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Dec. 18-25, 2024

ARIES (March 21–April 19): If you worked eight hours per day, seven days per week, it would take you 300 years to count to the number 1 billion. I don’t recommend you try that. I also discourage you from pursuing any other trivial tasks that have zero power to advance your long-term dreams. In a similar spirit, I will ask you to phase out minor longings that distract you from your major longings. Please, Aries, I also beg you to shed frivolous obsessions that waste energy you should instead devote to passionate fascinations. The counsel I’m offering here is always applicable, of course, but you especially need to heed it in the coming months.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): In 1951, minister and author Norman Vincent Peale was working on a new book. As he wrote, he would regularly read passages to his wife, Ruth. She liked it a lot, but he was far less confident in its worth. After a while, he got so discouraged that he threw the manuscript in the trash. Unbeknownst to him, Ruth retrieved it and stealthily showed it to her husband’s publisher, who loved it. The book went on to sell five million copies. Its title? “The Power of Positive Thinking.” I hope that in 2025, you will benefit from at least one equivalent to Ruth in your life, Taurus. Two or three would be even better. You need big boosters and fervent supporters. If you don’t have any, go round them up.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): I love how colorfully the creek next to my house expresses itself. As high tide approaches, it flows south. When low tide is on its way, it flows north. The variety of its colors is infinite, with every shade and blend of green, gray, blue and brown. It’s never the same shape. Its curves and width are constantly shifting. Among the birds that enhance its beauty are mallards, sandpipers, herons, grebes, egrets and cormorants. This magnificent body of water has been a fascinating and delightful teacher for me. One of my wishes for you in 2025, Gemini, is that you will commune regularly with equally inspiring phenomena. Extra beauty should be on your agenda!

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Just 81 billionaires have commandeered half of the world’s wealth. Even worse, those greedy hoarders are usually taxed the least. That’s hard to believe! How is it even possible that such a travesty has come to pass? I also wonder if many of us non-billionaires have milder versions of these proclivities. Are there a few parts of me that get most of the goodies that my life provides, while other parts of me get scant attention and nourishment? The answer is yes. For example, the part of me that loves to be creative receives much of my enthusiasm, while the part of me that enjoys socializing gets little juice. How about you, Cancerian? I suggest you explore this theme in the coming weeks and months. Take steps to achieve greater parity between the parts of you that get all they need and the parts of you that don’t.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Anthropologist Robin Dunbar theorizes that most of us have limits to our social connections. Typically, our closest circle includes five loved ones. We may also have 15 good friends, 50 fond allies, 150 meaningful contacts and 1,500 people we know. If you are interested in expanding any of these spheres, Leo, the coming months will be an excellent time to do so. In addition, or as an alternative, you might choose to focus on deepening the relationships you have with existing companions and confederates.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” was the best-selling novel of the 19th century. It was written by a Virgo, Harriet Beecher Stowe. Her story about the enslavement of African Americans in the U.S. was not only popular; it awakened many people to the intimate horrors of the calamity and ultimately played a key role in energizing the abolitionist movement. I believe you are potentially capable of achieving your own version of that success in the coming months.

You could generate accomplishments that are personally gratifying even as they perform a service for the world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will be teased with an abundance of invitations to grow in 2025. You will be encouraged to add to your current skills and expertise. You will be nudged to expand your understanding of what exactly you are doing here on planet Earth. That’s not all, Libra! You will be pushed to dissolve shrunken expectations, transcend limitations and learn many new lessons. Here’s my question: Will you respond with a full heart and open mind to all these possibilities, or will you sometimes neglect and avoid them? I dare you to embrace every challenge that interests you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Scorpio-born Rudolf Karel was a 20th-century Czech composer who created 17 major works, including symphonies and operas. His work was interrupted when Nazi Germany invaded and occupied his homeland. He joined the Czech resistance, but he was eventually arrested and confined to Pankrác prison. There, he managed to compose a fairytale opera, “Three Hairs of the Wise Old Man.” No musical instruments were available in jail, of course, so he worked entirely in his imagination and wrote down the score using toilet paper and charcoal. I firmly believe you will not be incarcerated like Karel in the coming months, Scorpio. But you may have to be extra resourceful and resilient as you find ways to carry out your best work. I have faith that you can do it!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): What is the perfect gift I could offer you this holiday season? I have decided on a large black box with nothing inside. There would be a gold ribbon around it bearing the words “The Fruitful Treasure of Pregnant Emptiness.” With this mysterious blessing, I would be fondly urging you to purge your soul of expectations and assumptions as you cruise into 2025. I would be giving you the message, “May you nurture a freewheeling voracity for novel adventures and fresh experiences.”

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): One of my paramount wishes for you in 2025 is that you will deepen your devotion to taking good care of yourself. You will study and learn more about the sweet secrets to keeping yourself in prime mental and physical health. I’m not suggesting you have been remiss about this sacred work in the past. But I am saying that this will be a favorable time to boost your knowledge to new heights about what precisely keeps your body and emotions in top shape. The creative repertoire of self-care that you cultivate in the coming months will serve you well for the rest of your long life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): To fulfill your life mission, to do what you came here to Earth to do, you must carry out many tasks. One of the most important is to offer your love with hearty ingenuity. What are the best ways to do that? Where should you direct your generous care and compassion? And which recipients of your blessings are likely to reciprocate in ways that are meaningful to you? While Jupiter is cruising through Gemini, as it will be until June 2025, life will send you rich and useful answers to these questions. Be alert!

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Mysteries of the past will be extra responsive to your investigations in 2025. Persistent riddles from your life’s earlier years may be solvable. I encourage you to be aggressive in collecting previously inaccessible legacies. Track down missing heirlooms and family secrets. Assume that ancestors and dead relatives have more to offer you than ever before. If you have been curious about your genealogy, the coming months will be a good time to explore it. I wish you happy hunting as you search for the blessings of yesteryear — and figure out how to use them in the present.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy’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.

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com) Answers on page 25

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. 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, Dec. 18

“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 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.

Blue Christmas Worship Service - A contemplative service for those experiencing grief and loneliness during the Christmas season. All are welcome. 6:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. ulcel.org.

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.

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

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.

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. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.

People of the Advent Story: The Women, Joseph, the Shepherds - Three-part study series for adults. Each session begins with soup, salad and bread, followed by discussion. 6 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 Meridian Road, Williamston. stkatherines.org.

“Suddenly Art” Exhibition - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. 3-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt.

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.

Twilight on the Trails - Participants will check in outside the Meridian Service Center before strolling through decorated trails at Nancy Moore Park. After the walk, enjoy complimentary hot chocolate! 5:45-7:45 p.m. 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Wheel of the Year: Yule and Acceptance - 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.

Zoo Nights, with Lights - Savor bites from local restaurants and sip on drinks from local beverage companies while basking in the warm glow of our holiday light display. Ages 21+. 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Thursday, Dec. 19

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.

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.

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

“A Very Williamston Christmas” - 2 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.

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

Bridge Street Merchants Night Owl Shopping - A variety of stores will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. with sales, specials and snacks! Bridge Street, downtown Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com.

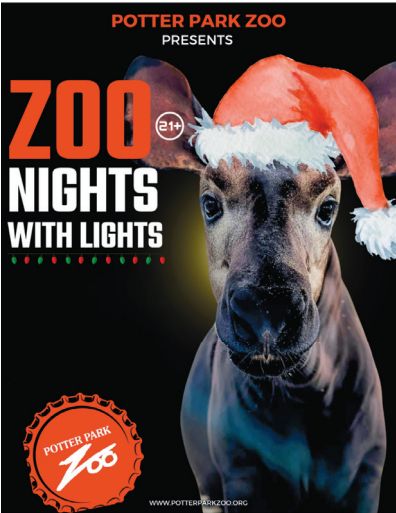
Crafty Vibes - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse

Zoo Nights, with Lights

5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18
Potter Park Zoo
1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

Potter Park Zoo will host a special holiday-themed Zoo Nights event 5 to 8 p.m. tonight (Dec. 13) for ages 21 and older. The happy-hour-style event will offer food and drinks from several local eateries and beverage companies, including Pizza House, Texas Roadhouse, Saddleback BBQ, Ellison Brewery and Spirits, Dan Henry Distributing, Sierra Rose Cellars, Red Cedar Spirits and Fenn Valley Vineyards. Holiday music will play over the loudspeakers as guests stroll throughout the zoo, viewing the animal enclosures and the annual holiday light display.

Standard admission is \$25 and includes three drink tickets. Additional drink tickets will be available for purchase. A designated driver ticket is also available for \$15 and includes two tickets for non-alcoholic beverages. Samples from each food vendor are included with both ticket options. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit potterparkzoo.org.



yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Holiday Showcase - The Dangling Particles headline with their signature blend of indie folk, Americana, jazz and pop. The Keynote Sisters open with heartfelt Americana, folk and pop. Eleven-year-old Anara Pearl rounds out the evening with folk-pop covers and originals. 6:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Old Town. urbanbeat-events.com.

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.

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.

Nation Outside Chapter Meeting - We'll discuss barriers that community members face and explore potential solutions. Additionally, we'll highlight upcoming events and initiatives. 5 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. For more information, email trishaw@nationoutside.org.

Rank MI Vote Town Hall - A presentation of the problems with our voting system and our plan for the solution: ranked-choice voting. You may ask all your democracy reform questions. 7 p.m. Schmidt Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. rankmivote.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.

“Suddenly Art” Exhibition - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. 3-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt.

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.

Wonderland of Lights - Experience the zoo in a whole new light! Stroll along illuminated paths, enjoy festive music and soak in the magic of the holiday season! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Twilight on the Trails - Participants will check in outside the Meridian Service Center before strolling through decorated trails at Nancy Moore Park. After the walk, enjoy complimentary hot chocolate! 5:45-7:45 p.m. 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Friday, Dec. 20

“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.

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

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



Dangling Particles Holiday Showcase
Thursday, Dec. 19
Doors 5 p.m., show 6:30 p.m.
UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing

Lansing “jazzy indie-folk” band the Dangling Particles will host a holiday musical showcase Thursday evening (Dec. 19) at UrbanBeat in Old Town, featuring additional performances by Lake Orion-based Americana, folk and pop duo the Keynote Sisters and 11-year-old singer-songwriter Anara Pearl, daughter of Dangling Particles vocalist and guitarist Austin Kaufmann. Each performance will include a combination of “original songs, a few fun covers, a number of holiday tunes and plenty of singalongs,” according to the Dangling Particles’ website. General admission tickets are \$15 in advance at urbanbeatevents.com or \$20 at the door, while student tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information, visit thedanglingparticles.com.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, INGHAM COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent’s Estate, Case No. 21-1075-DE. Estate of Janice Gwen Dugger – Date of Birth: 05/01/1963. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Janice Gwen Dugger, died 04/10/2019. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Tracy Beachnau, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 12/18/2024. Personal representative: Tracy Beachnau, 1714 Beal Ave., Lansing, MI 48910, 517-749-2801.

CP#24-770

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent’s Estate, Case No. 22-428-DE. Honorable Shauna Dunnings. Estate of Oscar Bernard Stallworth, Jr. – Date of Birth: 07/18/1970. To all creditors: The decedent, Oscar Bernard Stallworth, Jr., died 11/07/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Ahkilah Stallworth, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 12/18/2024. Attorney: Kimberly L. Savage, P68267, 1483 Haslett Rd, Haslett, MI 48840, 517-515-5000. Personal representative: Ahkilah Stallworth, 3918 Hillborn Lane, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-391-0800.

CP#24-769

H&H Mobil Abandoned Auto Auction
Viewing 12/19/24 By Appointment
2818 E. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48912
Call 517-332-6335
Bids must be submitted by 8 am 12/23/24
at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823
For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

CP#24-761

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Qualifications for Real Estate Professional Services to list and sell residential properties. The Request for Qualification Packet is available December 18, 2025 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, MI, 48906, Mon-Fri 8:00am to 4:00pm or at www.landbank.org/contractors. Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 10am on January 22, 2025. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFQ#: Real Estate – Res 2025-28.

CP#24-767

Events

from page 23

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.

Holiday Nights of Lights - Experience the magic as you drive through Frances Park and delight in beautiful holiday scenes adorned with stunning lights. Free. 6-9 p.m. 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. lansingmi.gov/967/Holiday-Nights-of-Lights.

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

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.

“Minecraft” Club - Play on the library’s private server! Laptops provided. Grades 3 and up. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Self-Care As a Spiritual Practice, with HG Wyn-dell - In this three-week discussion series, we’ll explore the practical applications of sacred tending when it’s focused on the health and well-being of the self. 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

“Suddenly Art” Exhibition - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. 3-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt.

The UrbanBeat Walter Blanding Series: Holiday Event - Join us for a special holiday concert with saxophonist Walter Blanding and friends! Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

The Wild Honey Collective at Mash Bar - 9 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mash-bar.net.

Wonderland of Lights - Experience the zoo in a whole new light! Stroll along illuminated paths, enjoy festive music and soak in the magic of the holiday season! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Saturday, Dec. 21

2024 Yule Ritual - Celebrate the best of 2024, leave the worst behind to be transformed by the flames of the Yule log, and get a glimpse of things to come before receiving your Yule gift from Santa. Ritual will be followed by a shared feast and raffle. 4-9 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

5th Annual Christmas Wish Giveaway - Community members in need are invited to shop for toys, books, winter clothing, gift sets, gift cards and more, all for free. 1-3 p.m. Lillian’s Boutique, 5742 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. againstalloddsfoundation.com.

“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.

“A Very Williamston Christmas” - 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Candlelight Holiday Special - Enjoy winter- and holiday-themed music performed by the Listeso String Quartet under the gentle glow of candlelight. 8:45 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. feverup.com/en/lansing.

Holiday Centerpiece Workshop - Create a centerpiece for your holiday dining table or to give as a hostess gift. We’ll supply evergreen stems, candles, pinecones, ribbon and much more! Registration req. 2 p.m. Van Atta’s Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Bath. vanattas.com.

Holiday Nights of Lights - Experience the magic as you drive through Frances Park and delight in beautiful holiday scenes adorned with stunning lights. Free. 6-9 p.m. 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. lansingmi.gov/967/Holiday-Nights-of-Lights.

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. ruhalacentre.com.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 10 am.-2 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/Farmers-Market.

Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org.

MSU Men’s Basketball vs. Florida Atlantic University - 2 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

“Suddenly Art” Exhibition - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. Noon-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt.

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. weaversoftheweb.org.

Time2Play - Don’t miss Time2Play’s special holiday show at UrbanBeat! Enjoy a mix of rock, pop, blues and country while supporting local nonprofits like MICA. Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Wonderland of Lights - Experience the zoo in a whole new light! Stroll along illuminated paths, enjoy festive music and soak in the magic of the holiday season! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Sunday, Dec. 22

“A Joyful Line” - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her 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.

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.

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.

See Events, Page 25

Events

from page 24

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/macsbarmsu](#).

Holiday Centerpiece Workshop - Create a centerpiece for your holiday dining table or to give as a hostess gift. We’ll supply evergreen stems, candles, pinecones, ribbon and much more! Registration req. 2 p.m. Van Atta’s Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Bath. [vanattas.com](#).

Holiday Nights of Lights - Experience the magic as you drive through Frances Park and delight in beautiful holiday scenes adorned with stunning lights. Free. 6-9 p.m. 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. [lansingmi.gov/967/Holiday-Nights-of-Lights](#).

JUGGLERS AND WOULD-BE JUGGLERS - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. [mike-marhanka@gmail.com](#).

“Make a Yule Goat,” with Donnette Pinkerton - Experience a Yule tradition by crafting a goat out of hay! 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. [unitylansing.org](#).

Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship - Rich communal silence that invites thinking deeply, developing spiritually, loving fully, speaking our truths. 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. [redcedarfriends.org](#).

“Suddenly Art” Exhibition - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. Noon-9 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. [facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt](#).

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

Wonderland of Lights - Experience the zoo in a whole new light! Stroll along illuminated paths, enjoy festive music and soak in the magic of the holiday season! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. [potterparkzoo.org](#).

Monday, Dec. 23

“A Joyful Line” - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her 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.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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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](#).

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 Untethered Soul” Book Study, with Kathi Frederick - “The Untethered Soul” embraces non-judgment, allowing ourselves and others to be as we are without imposing expectations or labels. 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. [unitylansing.org](#).

Tuesday, Dec. 24

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](#).

Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service - Traditional Christmas Eve candle-lighting service with carols, candles and community. 7 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. [unitylansing.org](#).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - Special music at 6 p.m., followed by candlelight worship at 6:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. [ulcel.org](#).

“Suddenly Art” Exhibition - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. Noon-4 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. [facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt](#).

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Al-Anon Meeting - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cmialanon.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. [lamcsangha.wordpress.com](#).

Thursday, Dec. 26

“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 Presby-

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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5th annual Christmas Wish Giveaway

1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21

Lansing Mall

5742 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

The Against All Odds Foundation, a local nonprofit that provides support for breast cancer survivors and members of underserved communities, will hold its 5th annual Christmas Wish Giveaway 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 21) outside its free boutique, Lillian’s, at the Lansing Mall. Community members in need are invited to shop for toys, books, winter clothing, gift sets, gift cards and more, all for free. Pre-registration is closed, but walk-ups are welcome. For more information, visit [againstaalldsfoundation.com](#).

terian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [cmialanon.org](#).

“A Very Williamston Christmas” - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](#).

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. [weaversoftheweb.org](#).

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

“Suddenly Art” Exhibition - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. 3-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. [facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt](#).

Thursday Night Open Forge - Try your hand at blacksmithing and create your own metal masterpiece! 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](#).

Friday, Dec. 27

“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](#).

“A Very Williamston Christmas” - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](#).

Book Launch Celebration: “The Resurrectionist” - Meet A. Rae Dunlap, local author of a dazzling dark-academia novel that follows a medical student lured into the illicit underworld of body snatching. 7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave.,

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

Board Meeting December 11, 2024

Synopsis

The Williamstown Township Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM with Supervisor Poeth, Clerk Cleveland, Treasurer VanErp, Trustee Brinker, Trustee Creagh, and Trustee Steinberg present. The Board approved the following:

- Consent Agenda
- Budget Amendments
- Appointment of Aaron Porter to the Planning Commission (term expires 9-2027)
- Resolution #135-2024 supporting Foster Swift’s appeal against MPSC’s 10-10-24 order on implementation/expansion of PA 233 (local control)
- Re-appointment of Gerald Eidt, Brian Johnston, & Mike Rice to the Board of Review, and re-appointment of Lisa Fletcher as alternate to the Board of Review with terms expiring 12-15-26
- Contract with Maner Costerisan for limited ongoing accounting services

The next regular Board meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, January 8, 2024 in the Community Room of the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Visit [williamstownmi.gov](#) for the latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193. Robin A. Cleveland, Township Clerk

CP#24-771

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

For many years, Lansing's old Irish Pub was the traditional gathering spot for Sexton High School graduates in the days leading up to Christmas. The place was like us — a bit gritty, deeply connected to the west side and possibly best examined in dim

lighting. The pub closed in 2013 and sat vacant for more than a decade, a reminder of so many fun times that also made me sad. The big building at a prime intersection had seemingly been forgotten.

After being completely renovated and reopening in July, the pub is virtually unrecognizable. It's clean, bright and has a private room for parties. It's a bit off the beaten path but not too far from downtown that you can't go there for lunch. Some colleagues, Mr. She Ate and I did just that, braving temperatures that had quickly plummeted for a cozy pub lunch.

We started with the scotch egg (\$8.50), a hard-boiled egg halved lengthwise, wrapped in sausage and breadcrumbs, and deep fried. It's one of my favorite treats and an automatic order when I see it on a menu. This version was a little bit crunchier than I'm used to, but it hit all the flavor and texture notes that I was looking for, and we were off to a good start.

My entrée choice was the fish tacos (\$16), three tacos stuffed with fried haddock filets, shredded red cabbage, radish, scallion, avocado and creamy sriracha. I loved the crunchiness of the veggies in contrast to the spicy sauce and crispy fish, and I inhaled two of them before coming up for air and some fries, which were salty enough for this perpetual worshiper of Maldon.

Mr. She Ate had a burger, which prompted him to engage my colleague in a full conversation about how his patty was properly cooked according to his directions and how this frequently doesn't happen at similarly situated establishments where they just cook the hell out of it.

Service was attentive, but the food was surprisingly (and concerningly, for those of us who had afternoon hearings) slow. It was a bit of a mad dash to get back to the office, but I returned for lunch the following week, so obviously the infraction wasn't that serious.

On this visit, Mr. She Ate and I started with the rarebit (\$13), the pub's version of the confusingly named but well-known Welsh rarebit. While the name gives little insight into the composition of the dish, it's melted cheese on bread or toast. It could also be called cheese bread, which is what we dubbed it when giving our children the leftovers. It was covered in garlic and pleasantly broiled cheese, but it needed a dipping sauce. I was happy when my salad was brought to the table so I could dunk the bread into the dressing before taking a bite.

We also each had a cup of chicken noodle soup (\$6), which Mr. She Ate appropriately described as "fresh from the can." You can safely skip this one. I moved on

Revamped Irish Pub is better than ever

and her family were displaced from St. Joe Street during the Interstate 496 project when she was in grade school and settled just blocks from Sexton. My better half grew up in the Old Oakland

neighborhood, and much of both of our families still reside in the area. Both of us have many memories of the old Irish Pub, all the way back to when Brian Riley was the owner back in the mid-'90s. Later, when we got married, our first home was but two blocks from the pub, and we'd venture over for lunch, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and to attend fundraiser dinners.

Sadly, the Irish Pub went dark in 2013, and many westside neighbors waited for more than a decade to see the corner of Saginaw Street and Verlinden Avenue come back to life. The new owners have completely renovated the interior with a new floor plan and an updated aesthetic that extends well beyond just a new coat of paint. The centralized bar offers an open sightline throughout the pub, with a separate entrance and counter for takeout orders. The most popular addition is the expansive outdoor space, which welcomed customers during the summer.

My first visit was on a Sunday evening when the Lions weren't playing, and the bar staff said that was impacting how busy it was. The second visit was on a random Tuesday night. The parking lot was packed, and most tables were occupied, as was the majority of the seating around the bar. The pub has some of the friendliest, most attentive barkeepers I've encountered of late, and the rest of the wait-

staff hustles around with smiles and cheerful greetings for all.

What's good

The Jalive burger (\$14) turns up the heat on a local favorite. A nicely cooked beef patty is topped with a house-made olive-and-jalapeno sauce, white cheddar, lettuce and tomato. It definitely has a kick — I can't remember the last time my mouth was that hot. The olive sauce itself is flavorful, but my burger came with a large chunk of raw jalapeno that I certainly wasn't prepared for. The accompanying onion rings are large and crispy but not among my favorites in the area.

The meat lovers' pizza (\$18.50) is topped with gooey cheese, pepperoni, bacon and traditional Irish banger sausage, which is a welcome Irish twist. The star of this show, though, is the crust, which is puffy on the inside, crispy on the outside and coated in a delectable garlic butter.

The Brussels sprouts (\$4.50) are perfectly charred, flavored with garlic and rich olive oil. They're on point but lack some of the bells and whistles offered at other establishments, such as bacon bits or a nice balsamic glaze.

What's really good

The fish on the haddock sandwich (\$14) is crusted in house-made black-and-tan batter and hugged by super-soft brioche bread. The massive filet is flaky and cooked properly, and my only complaint is the limited amount of the tasty house-made tartar sauce. I wish I'd ordered two so I could have had another for lunch the next day.

Pot pie is a traditional Irish dish, and I've en-

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Courtesy photo

The Irish Pub offers a selection of dishes inspired by United Kingdom cuisine, like its take on Welsh rarebit, which consists of breadsticks covered with garlic and melted cheese.



Beverly

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

My westside roots run deep. I attended Verlinden Elementary and Sexton High School. My mother

She Ate

from page 26

to the O’Cobb salad (\$14), basing that choice on the fact that this one was slightly different than usual, with corned beef and turkey, hard-boiled egg, shredded white cheddar, tomato, red onion, sliced avocado and fresh greens. I would order this again, but I would ask for half the cheese, the addition of croutons and grilled chicken instead of the lunch meat. The homemade ranch was possibly the best part of the meal, and as I ate and reflected on the deep affection Michiganders hold for ranch dressing, I realized that it’s simply our preferred method of adding umami to a meal.

Mr. She Ate chose the Rachel (\$14), a turkey Reuben. If there’s one thing that both of us can agree on, it’s that a Reuben is a nearly perfect sandwich, from the crispy grilled bread to the tangy coleslaw to the creamy Thousand Island dressing. This one checked all those boxes, and while there was nothing to distinguish it from the turkey Reuben I’d had the week prior, that wasn’t what I was looking for. I wanted the classic flavors, and when paired with the pub’s fries, I had a winning lunch.

The pub hosts karaoke, which was one of my favorite pre-holiday rituals during those Sexton gatherings. It has live music, pizza and a kids’ menu. This time of year always makes me feel a bit nostalgic for the holiday

He Ate


from page 26

joyed chicken, fish and beef pies while traveling abroad, including on a trip to Dublin in 2005. The Irish Pub’s beef pot pie (\$12) measures up to those found on the Emerald Isle and is a perfectly balanced trifecta of fluffy mashed potatoes, buttery pastry and hearty chunks of beef in a brown gravy. It’s reminiscent of shepherd’s pie but deconstructed in an unpretentious way. For the takeout version, each ingredient is served independently, so you can combine them to your liking.

Best bite

The crab soup (\$6-\$8) is special. Its creamy decadence is contrasted by chopped carrots, celery and red bell peppers, all swimming in a hearty broth that’s thicker than a bisque but thinner than a chowder. Substantial chunks of lump crab meat crowd the bowl with yumminess. This soup is hot, tasty and comforting — a perfect answer for these cold winter days.

seasons of years past, and it couldn’t be more fitting that the Irish Pub has come roaring back to life and is once again hitting its stride.



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