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A newspaper for the rest of us
Locally owned



Silver and light Local photographer takes on tintype

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Welcome to 2025. I am unprepared and don't know what I could've done differently. It is just hard to believe everything that has happened since the election. It's a whirlwind, and the hits keep on coming. I know my tears are being swallowed up by the anti-woke crowd, but I couldn't care less about their glee. Nothing should surprise me anymore, and so I will just continue to live and vote for the change I want to see. It is literally all I can do.

I do not doubt that what we see in the coming months will be chaos. I hope the chaos slows the harm that will undoubtedly be unleashed on so many. I distinctly remember the first administration in which Trump displayed himself as such a foul character in every way, and I still can't understand how anyone would choose that. I call you a liar if you said you would accept your child behaving like him. I learned to reject that type of behavior as a child.

I didn't think you could make this stuff up and people would believe it, but here we are, listening to him talk about making Canada the 51st state. I guess it shouldn't be surprising that they think that the billionaires they love so much will somehow make life better for them. Do they understand the billionaire class became billionaires at their exploitation, regardless of how it's spun? Do they think these same billionaires will reward them with wealth, security, or peace of mind? I've been waiting for trickle-down economics to work for about 50 years, and the rich just keep getting richer, the poor are getting poorer, wages are stagnant, and people are working themselves sick. Yeah, the I-told-you-so's will not make up for the destruction they leave in their wake.

My message is this: just because your guy won an election doesn't translate to you being better off. I have no doubt that you'll walk around with your chest puffed out, but it's even more likely that you will find out that he doesn't care about you even a little, so your posturing will be in vain. The only segment of the population that will prosper will be those already wealthy or those willing to sacrifice any of their dignity at the expense of others. Trump and his ilk have never parted with a dollar, even if it meant bankrupting someone who works hard.

With the economy being the reason (that's their claim), many people voted for a billionaire; I wonder how they came to the idea that he, or anyone around him, has their interests at heart. As a small, privately, and truly locally owned business, my goal has always been to provide the type of quality workmanship that you should always expect

to receive. I can say with certainty that nobody locally does what we do, and I'd rather you hire another small, locally owned business than one that has sold out to the corporate greed of big money.

The economic trend lately in many public service industries has been for private equity groups to maximize profits by purchasing companies or businesses, which in a consumer-capitalist society has never benefited the consumer in the long run, as they have to cut costs somewhere to satisfy their shareholders. Eventually, they buy up all of the competition and can charge whatever they want. They tend to market everything they offer using gimmicks, such as buying a furnace and getting a free AC, which is never the case. Still, they certainly can give much cheaper quotes because their goal is quantity over quality.

The end game is not to have any competition, so they can then set the value at whatever they want, which will make many products unaffordable to most people who are already struggling. So, these private equity groups own financing companies that have already set up predatory lending options that will worsen the situation for people with no other financial means. It is already here in Lansing. Many of the companies you've thought were local are not local. Private equity firms own them and want to eliminate companies like mine.

We may all look back one day and say, "Why aren't there any quality contractors out there anymore?" It will be because the right has played the long game and destroyed local businesses. This has happened in so many industries, and it is now happening with the home service industry at a pretty good pace. For example, look up Heartland Home Services, and you'll see they own at least three dozen heating and cooling companies, including ones you've heard of right here, like Vredevoogd and Hager Fox. They still advertise as

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local, but Heartland Home Services has bought out plumbing, heating, and cooling companies from Kentucky, Delaware, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, and several in Michigan.

This is just one private equity firm; there are so many others. Hedlund Plumbing has rebranded as Service Professor after building a reputable business. They are not locally owned, but they are flooding the radio, TV, and social media with ads to get you to call them. I can't compete with the volume, but their tactics are not good for the consumer, and shady tactics and less-than-scrupulous work practices usually follow it. Trump, Elon, and the other billionaires' policies will promote more of this until we are living in a world of the movie Idiocracy.

I hope the rest of the world stands up to defend decency because I feel pretty small. I am witnessing everything I have learned that is not normal anymore: Many perceive lies as truth, intellect as elitist, that history doesn't matter, money determines one's success, etc. I can't keep up. I am only thankful to know that so many of you see things similarly to me.

There was a time when most people could see the good and the bad and distinguish between the two—when people inherently did the right thing. Maybe I am being nostalgic, but I want to see the good in people, but it is getting harder and harder when we as a collective have chosen the likes of a man who has no redeeming qualities. It is as if we have forsaken humanity because he has built an empire and a brand. His tall buildings symbolize American exceptionalism, and I don't mean that in a good way because he is exceptional in all ways I despise. I want to see more people get ahead, get a proper education, understand that the world is full of many walks of life that look nothing like their own, and accept people regardless of their differences.

We are still a young country, but we've grown exponentially during the industrial age. Many who subscribe to old ways of thinking do so because it's hard to accept new ideas, but that just isn't good enough. Their inherited ideas were passed down subconsciously to their children and generations afterward. Brave people spoke out, and we saw the change, but to this day, we still see the vestiges of hate that I hope is gasping for its last collective breath, but I won't hold mine because I can see how stubborn it is. It is up to us who find ourselves amongst those with long-held ideas to continue challenging them and make it known that hate is

not welcome here. I can say with certainty that silence will only make things worse. You can't fix a problem if you don't confront it, and I know from personal experience that hearing a bigoted joke, a racist joke, or a sexist joke and not saying it may not harm me, but it will hurt someone close to me.

For the next four years, I will continue to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. I want the best people to have opportunities to contribute to society. It doesn't mean that just because someone is of a certain race, sex, or orientation, they should be given anything. But others shouldn't exclude them just because their name looks foreign, they dress a certain way, or because of whom they love, etc. I know people in positions of power often overlook an application because the person's name is Jamal, not Steve. They may be equally qualified, but Jamal may not get the call back to prove he is the best fit. DEI is not about giving the position to someone just because said person is Black, a Woman, or identifies as Queer; if you think that is what DEI is, you are not listening, either willfully or ignorantly, or both.

I am sure the next few weeks will be as chaotic as the last few months. My head is on a swivel, and I can barely focus on any one thing, but the economy will impact everyone. I suspect the likes of Joe Rogan, Glen Beck, Steve Bannon, Elon, and others will spin things to fit their narrative through plausible deniability (they've mastered this). They have deceived many by false narratives that keep them comfortably in their bubble, and these people profit from the exploitation. These are the types of people who are bad for the American people, no matter what party you subscribe to. They all sell America out by claiming they are loyal to the ideas and promises of this nation. They have been claiming the sky is falling since Obama took office, yet we have seen progress along the way. Hopefully, they won't burn it down, but they will blame it on Joe if it does.

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2025 looks to be another exciting year for area arts scene



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MSU grad opens guided crafting space in Old Town



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Make the most of seed catalog season

Cover photo by Raymond Holt

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Meet the (Partial) Cast of...
"HOW DID WE GET HERE?"

DISINFORMATION ENABLERS

HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST FOX IS NOT JOURNALISM?

"CONTRARIAN" THOUGHT LEADERS

COLLEGE KIDS PROTESTING FASCISTS ARE THE REAL AUTHORITARIANS!

I CAN HAZ SIX-FIGURE PAYCHECK?

VIRTUOUS VALORIZERS

HARK! A DECENT AND NOBLE TRUMP SUPPORTER IN AN ALL-AMERICAN WAFFLE HUT.

SAVE THE WHITES!

COUP POOH-POOHERS

WE MUST BE EXTREMELY VIGILANT ABOUT THE DANGERS OF...

...ALARMISM!

ZERO-ACCOUNTABILITY DOORMATS

TIME TO FORGIVE AND FORGET IN THE NAME OF UNITY!

REPUBLICAN REVERSALISTS

WE'RE THE REAL VICTIMS HERE!

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HELLO, IT'S ME AGAIN--YOUR ANXIETY! TRYING TO WRITE A CARTOON, I SEE? IT PROBABLY SUCKS, DON'T YOU THINK?

NICE TRY. BUT I THINK I'VE HIT PEAK ANXIETY FOR THE YEAR.

WE SPENT FOUR YEARS IMMERSED IN THE CHAOS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION. AND NOW WE'RE GOING TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN. YOU'RE JUST BACKGROUND NOISE, AT THIS POINT.

SURELY YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE ROOM LEFT? FOR A WAFER-THIN MINT OF SOCIAL UNEASE, PERHAPS?

LOOK, A VENGEFUL, DERANGED LUNATIC IS ABOUT TO TAKE POWER AGAIN, SURROUNDED BY THE ABSOLUTE WORST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD! THE BEST CASE SCENARIO IS THAT DEMOCRACY MIGHT SURVIVE!

SOUNDS PRETTY BAD, WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT.

HE'LL PROBABLY CRASH THE ECONOMY WITH HIS STUPID TARIFFS. HE'S CERTAINLY GOING TO TRY TO GUT THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET. AND IT WILL BE OPEN SEASON ON IMMIGRANTS AND TRANS PEOPLE.

NOW YOU'VE GOT ME WORRIED. THAT'S NOT HOW THIS IS SUPPOSED TO WORK.

AND OF COURSE HE'LL PARDON THE INSURRECTIONISTS. JANUARY 6TH IS GOING TO END UP BEING A NATIONAL HOLIDAY--

SAY, WHO'S YOUR LITTLE FRIEND?

WHAT?

HELLO! I'M YOUR ANXIETY'S ANXIETY!

HUH. I DID NOT SEE THIS COMING.

IT'S ANXIETY ALL THE WAY DOWN, BUDDY.

TOM TOMORROW © 2022 ... www.thismodernworld.com ... twitter.com/tomtommorrow

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Cranes in the air offer downtown hope in 2025

The new year will be one of transition.

Look for a noisy, dusty downtown Lansing as winter moves into spring groundbreaking weather. New Vision Lansing, which city leaders hope will kickstart downtown's revitalization, promises to turn the first shovel of dirt on its 27-story apartment high rise along the Grand River, destined to be mid-Michigan tallest structure. The city will bust up the asphalt of one of its parking lots to launch work on a new city hall. The Ovation Center for Music and Arts will take shape

with the guiding architectural hand of Detroit's acclaimed Albert Kahn Associates. And those are just the bigger projects in the principal shopping district.

Look for demolition as well. Lansing will likely shed itself of its biggest eyesore, the old Walter Neller Building, red-tagged since 2016. Alas, it may well also lose a landmark: old Eastern High School, three years shy of 100. Owner University of Michigan Health-Sparrow gives no sign of relenting on plans to level it for a psy-

chiatric facility.

Those development projects and others will undoubtedly be local history's headlines when we look back on 2025 — a year of rebuilding for our community. What else is on the horizon these coming 12 months? Tyler Schneider prognosticates below in an over view so dominated by development that it proved best to divide his piece into two sections: Development and All the rest.

Happy New Year.

BERL SCHWARTZ

2025: Development is the main course, with plenty of sides

DEVELOPMENT

CATA

In September, the Capital Area Transportation Authority purchased a former Greyhound Bus station, 511 S. Washington Ave., for \$1 million with the intent of renovating it into its new administrative center. CATA plans to start construction as early as spring, with a tentative grand opening date in early 2026.

City Rescue Mission

City Rescue Mission director Mark Chriss expects his team to move into its new \$9.5 million homeless shelter expansion project starting in July. The local Christian nonprofit is renovating an adjacent pair of office buildings at 415 and 421 W. Kalamazoo St. into a single, 37,000-square-foot shelter to double the mission's capacity by accommodating up to 300 single adult guests nightly.

Grand River Assembly plant

In July 2024, the U.S. Energy Department awarded General Motors a \$500 million grant to equip Lansing's Grand River Assembly plant with the capacity to manufacture electronic vehicles. The move, bolstered by additional GM investments, is expected to preserve 650 jobs. However, the project's future could be in jeopardy after President-elect Donald Trump and incoming Vice President JD Vance floated the possibility of pulling back those funds.

Lansing Housing Commission

A \$23 million Lansing Housing Commission project is up in the air after the City Council denied a 5% PI-



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LOT tax incentive request in September. The two-building development includes Riverview 220, featuring seven market-rate apartments and 55 units for low-income residents on South Kalamazoo Street. The second, at Grand Vista Place, would add 55 subsidized units off Grand Avenue.

Macotta Club

Downtown Lansing Inc. announced plans for a 20,000-square-foot, multi-business food hall in the Knapp's Centre called the Macotta Club in April 2023. DLI had planned on opening the 300 S. Washington Sq. property by the end of 2024, but it was postponed to this summer. The price tag has grown from \$4 million

to more than \$8 million. When it opens, the DLI team plans to have six full restaurants operating from their own storefronts. The shared food hall will also feature 10 additional "food concepts," including five food trucks and a full-service bar.

Michigan Avenue construction

The city aims to complete its \$14 million Michigan Avenue Rehabilitation Project, weather permitting, this fall. Work resumes in March after a winter hiatus. When it's done, the stretch from Pennsylvania Avenue to Detroit Avenue will be four lanes instead of five and feature expanded sidewalks, bike lanes, updated traffic signals and water main and utility

upgrades.

MSU Multicultural Center

Michigan State University's \$38 million Multicultural Center is set to open Monday (Jan. 13) on the northeast corner of North Shaw Lane and Farm Lane. Designed as a space for minority students, the site will offer multi-purpose spaces, offices, a living room and adjacent outdoor amenities. A ribbon-cutting event is planned for Feb. 7.

New Vision Lansing

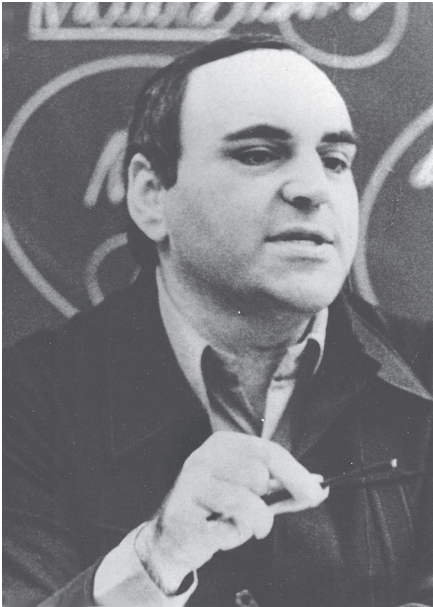
An ambitious \$317 million, five-building, 575-unit housing project from the Gentilozzi family got the green light in 2024. Armed with a \$40 million state grant and recently approved brownfield tax credits, the development team is set to break ground on the 27-story, 292-unit Tower on Grand, 215 S. Grand Ave., this month. Other entries are the 80-unit Capitol Tower, 201 N. Walnut St., 80 more units at 1223 Turner St. in Old Town, 60 units in a repurposed building at 100 S. Washington Square and 25 units in an old office building at 116 W. Ottawa St.

The Ovation

After some delays, construction by Freund and Associates will likely start in March on the city's \$28 million Ovation Center for Music and Arts, an entertainment venue at the corner of Washington Square and Lenawee Street downtown. The Albert Kahn Associates-designed building will feature a concert space with standing-capacity for 2,205, a black-

See Year ahead, Page 7

In Memorium
Hugh P. Spagnuolo
Lansing, MI



Today, we say goodbye to our teacher, cousin, and friend, Hugh Spagnuolo, whose 44-year career at Eastern High School touched nearly every student attending. If you had to write a theme on certain Wednesdays, he started that. If you read a famous paperback each semester, he made that happen. If you saw the school movie and wrote an analysis--that's his inspiration. On the school bus a girl asked, "Is everyone in the world writing a theme this Wednesday?" Yes, they are. Thanks, Mr. Spag.

He did 44 years of endless battle against the mediocre. To "teacher-proof" key grammar lessons, he wrote and printed Eastern's book of grammar worksheets. During the year the textbooks didn't arrive, he altered the original vocabulary of the Edgar Allan Poe stories so that everyone at every grade-level began an exciting year together. His legendary vocabulary lists contained universal concepts, not just spelling.

All this by the force of his intellect and personality. There weren't laws or permissions or money; he made things happen. Did you ever go to Stratford, or Detroit's Institute of Arts, the Hillberry or Riverwalk theaters? Do you remember the 88 works of art in Eastern's hallways? Have you read Canto? Thank you, Mr. Spagnuolo. Were you lucky enough to see a group-reading of The Body of an American, Bertold Brecht, or Carl Sandburg? His Spoon River Anthology won the State Championship in 1968.

A student lucky enough to take his World Lit class will remember Room 326 and the seats on risers, and Rembrandt's "Man in the Golden Helmet." And Pachelbel's Canon in C major. Room 326 became an amphitheater of intellectual challenge. Did you memorize from Canterbury Tales in the original Middle English? Or Robert Frost or Baudelaire? Or the Raven? None of this without Hugh Spagnuolo, who, by the sheer weight of his knowledge and personality elevated an entire school for generations.

A man always shy of praise, yet in 1983 he was personally called by President Ronald Reagan, asking if he would consent to being the National Teacher of the Year to inspire the entire country.

But tragedy haunted the family. The murder of his brother Jerry forever kept him in Lansing for his father and mother. And vision problems ended his brilliant achievements as a painter. And Parkinsons ended his career in 2005. Only once did a friend hear him say: "I think I'm happy now."

Leonard Cohen sings: "Hold me in your heart for a while." But for his cousins and friends and extended family of students, we hold him in our hearts for a lifetime. That's where he still lives, this brilliant, inspiring, remarkable man.

Perhaps no scholar alive knew more about Shakespeare's Hamlet than Hugh Spagnuolo. His analyses of the human condition in Elsinore Castle are legendary. How fitting, then, to use Horatio's goodbye for one of our great souls: "Good night, sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." Amen.

Predeceased by parents Floyd and Mary (Derose) Spagnuolo, brother Jerry. Survived by cousins Marie Fata and Jeannie Cleary, Paula and Judie Mirabelli, Margaret Weeks, Joe Dionise, Virginia DeLuca, Carol Dionise, Joe Derose, Judy and Darrel Swain, Patty Bates, Diane Ignatowski, and friends Mark Hahn, Carol Harding, Mary Leeman.

In lieu of flowers--a contribution to the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

Arrangements are by the Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel. Online condolences may be left for his family at www.EstesLeadley.com.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
2025 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS SCHEDULE
SUMMARY

Township Board 6:00 pm – Town Hall Room January 7, 21 July 8, 22 February 4, 18 August 7, 19 March 4, 18 September 2, 16 April 1, 15 October 7, 21 May 8, 20 November 6, 18 June 3, 17 December 2, 16	Park Commission 4:30 pm – Service Center January 14 July 8 February 11 August 12 March 11 October 14 April 8 November 18 June 10 4:30 pm -Town Hall Room May 13 September 9
Board of Review March 4, 10:00 am – Organizational Meeting Appeals Meetings March 10 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm & 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm March 11 9:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm March 12 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Correction of Clerical Errors & Mutual Mistakes of Fact – 10:00 am July 15 December 9	Brownfield Redevelopment Authority 9:00 am – Town Hall Room January 9 July 10 February 13 August 14 March 13 September 11 April 10 October 9 May 8 November 13 June 12 December 11
Community Resources Commission 6:00 pm – Admin. Conference Room January 8 July 9 February 19 August 13 March 12 September 10 April 9 October 8 May 14 November 12 June 11 December 10	Corridor Improvement Authority 6:00 pm – Central Fire Station January 15 July 16 February 19 August 20 March 20 September 17 April 16 October 15 May 21 November 19 June 18 December 17
Downtown Development Authority 7:30 am – Town Hall Room January 6 July 7 February 3 August 4 March 3 September 8 April 7 October 6 May 5 November 3 June 2 December 1	Economic Development Corporation 7:30 am – Town Hall Room January 9 July 10 February 6 August 7 March 6 September 4 April 3 October 3 May 1 November 6 June 5 December 4
Environmental Commission 7:00 pm – Town Hall Room January 8 July 2 February 5 August 6 March 5 September 3 April 2 October 1 May 7 November 5 June 4 December 3	Land Preservation 6:00 pm – Service Center January 8 August 13 March 12 September 10 April 9 October 8 June 12 November 12
Planning Commission 6:30 pm – Town Hall Room January 13, 27 July 14, 28 February 10, 24 August 11, 25 March 10, 24 September 8, 22 April 14, 28 October 13, 27 May 12 November 17 June 9, 23 December 15	Zoning Board of Appeals 6:30 pm – Town Hall Room January 15 July 16 February 19 August 20 March 19 September 17 April 16 October 15 May 21 November 19 June 18 December 17
Communications Commission 6:00 pm – Town Hall Room January 22 March 26 June 25 September 24 December 17	Joint meetings 6:00 pm – Town Hall Room Boards and Commissions February 11 Board, Local Government, and Schools April 29

CP#25-003

** This calendar reflects scheduled meetings as of the first of the year, 2025. Please note, meetings may be added/ canceled throughout the month with appropriate notice. For an up-to-date calendar, visit www.meridian.mi.us. Prepared by the Meridian Township Clerk's Office, Angela Demas, Township Clerk, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 | 517.853.4300

Year ahead

from page 5

box theater and possibly a rooftop restaurant in 68,000 square feet. The grand opening is targeted for fall 2026. Staff can expect to move into a rehabbed empty building next door this summer, which will also house the Lansing Public Media Center.

Potter Park Zoo

Potter Park Zoo received \$10 million from the state in 2024 to renovate its 1930-built Feline and Primate Building. A bid for designs and proposals will be issued soon, with more extensive plans expected by summer.

Verlinden plant

Groundbreaking should occur in March or April, weather permitting, on restoring the old General Motors Fisher Body Plant site on Lansing's west side. In January, state legislators allocated \$18.9 million from an \$87.5 million pool. Mayor Andy Schor and Lansing Economic Development Corp. president Karl Dorshimer believe the site could likely become a manufacturing hub for electronic vehicle parts. The project represented the largest of 18 recipients of the state's Strategic Site Readiness Program, a grant initiative to help repurpose large sites to attract investment. Also known as the old Verlinden plant — a 57-acre parcel that once featured the longest-operating automobile factory in the country before closing in 2005 — the site was almost completely demolished in 2007. The funds will help remove underground contaminants and address structural issues to prepare the site for redevelopment this year.

Walter J. French

This year, the former Walter J. French Junior High School, 1900 S. Cedar St., will open as a 176,000-square-foot mixed-use facility with 76 affordable rental units for low-income families, a childcare center with capacity for more than 100 children and the new headquarters of the Capital Area Housing Partnership. The \$35 million project, which broke ground in June 2023, was funded by federal funds, the Michigan Economic Development Corp.'s Revitalization and Placemaking Program, the Ingham County Housing Trust Fund and private donations.

Walter Neller Building

A 25,000-square-foot building at 122 S. Grand Ave. that's been red-tagged for safety concerns since 2016 is finally set to come down in March after City Council approved a make-safe-or-demolish order in December.

Owner Granger Developers has indicated having plans for a development but hasn't revealed details.

Wheel District

Work on Harry Hepler's new apartment complex Prudden Wheel Cottages, will continue through 2025 after breaking ground last year. The project will repurpose a 70,000-square-foot factory building at 700 May St., between Oakland Avenue and Saginaw Street, as 133 one-bedroom apartments by 2026 that for up to \$1,195 per month, with no utility fees, thanks to a series of environmentally progressive solar, wind and water collection and storage units on the roof. To secure funding, Hepler persuaded the Lansing City Council to list the area as a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone last year. The designation freezes property taxes for 12 years on property from Saginaw to the south, the CSX Railroad track to the west, Oakland to the north and Pennsylvania Avenue to the east. Another project, consisting of 240 condominiums at the corner of Pennsylvania and Saginaw, should also be done by 2028, he added.

ALL THE REST

Lansing mayor, clerk and City Council elections

Lansing's elected positions will be on the primary and general election ballots. Mayor Andy Schor is expected to pursue a third term, and no challengers have announced, though south Lansing Council member Adam Hussain has been mentioned. The terms of Council President and 2nd Ward representative Jeremy Garza, 4th Ward member Brian Jackson and at-large members Jeffrey Brown and Peter Spadafore are all set to expire. The only at-large challenger who has announced is candidate Julie Vandenboom, who missed being elected to the Charter Commission by a hair. Brown has the biggest target on his back after angering the establishment for his role in unraveling Schor's plan to convert the landmark Masonic Temple building into a new city hall.

Moore's Park Pool

Moore's Park Pool, the historic 1922 city-owned property at 420 Moore's River Drive, ceased operations in 2019 due to structural problems. In 2023, state legislators allocated \$6.2 million to restore it, leading to a bidding process that brought Rhino Recreational Construction onboard to revitalize the site. Work began this summer, and the pool is expected to be reopened by 2026.

Eastern High School

The University of Michigan Board of Regents has yet to act on a plan to tear down UM Health-Sparrow-owned

Eastern High School for a \$97-million, 120-bed psychiatric hospital. Opponents continue to urge preserving as much of the building as possible.

Lansing Art Gallery

The Lansing Art Gallery says it will remain open after having temporarily closed for the month of September due to financial problems. It reports slashing monthly expenses from \$20,000 to \$6,000 after its executive director quit and most staff was laid off. Board President Rachel Beatty said she's effectively assumed temporary executive director duties, while 17 volunteers have joined the team. A 60th anniversary celebration is in the works for this year, which she hopes will bring more attention to the gallery's struggles.

Ave Maria Radio

Ann Arbor-based Catholic radio giant Ave Maria Radio is awaiting word from the Federal Communications Commission on a controversial application to buy Charlotte-based WLCM-AM, Jon Yinger's Christian Broadcasting System, for \$250,000. The purchase should be finalized early this year, a station manager at WLCM-AM said. Ave Maria Radio vice president Dave Vacheresse said the station would become the network's 11th, with the capacity to reach 550,000 mid-Michigan listeners. When City Pulse broke the news in June that Ave Maria was looking to expand, some former listeners cited concerns that it would only further the spread of a movement known

as "charismatic Catholicism," which one source said includes "speaking in tongues, prophecies and the laying of hands." Another former listener tied the movement to "spiritual abuse, lies and cover-ups." Ave Maria president Mike Jones urged those critics to reach out to him to discuss their concerns.

Accessory Dwelling Units

Lansing's City Council is expected to consider revising the city's zoning code to allow for accessory dwelling units. Also known as "granny flats," an ADU is defined by the city as a single, detached, secondary residence built in a garage or other standalone structure on a single-family property. An October public hearing saw 22 speakers support the proposal, but advocate Joan Nelson said the Council delayed action through early 2025 "because they wanted to make sure all the members had a chance to review the entire plan." Nonetheless, she's optimistic it will be approved.

Jwan Randle suspension

As the year begins, no developments have been made public in the case of Jwan Randle, a logistics chief with the Lansing Fire Department who was suspended in April for alleged credit card fraud and use of a city vehicle and cell phone for personal business. Randle is still listed as an employee on the city website, and city spokesperson Scott Bean declined to provide any updates.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

December 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes, Trustee Strahle and 9 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved reappointment of Board of Review members for two years.
- 2) Approved bills for December, 2024.
- 3) Approved resolution 12-12-2024-01 Resolution to Renew Interim Zoning Ordinance.
- 4) Approved signing Prein and Newhoff Engineering Professional Services Agreement.
- 5) Approved submitting a grant to Lansing Area Economic Partnership for hall repairs.
- 6) Approved access to Treasurer C. Hoppes and Clerk Briggs-Dudley to the ARPA reporting portal.
- 7) Approved to have McKenna add a complaint form to the Eagle Township website.
- 8) Approved reappointment of Phil Hill to the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority Board.
- 9) Approved resolution 12-12-2024-02 Resolution to Establish 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for Eagle Township.
- 10) Approved budget amendments.
- 11) Approved prepayment of Board of Review training for Supervisor Stroud and four Board of Review members.
- 12) Approved engagement of an exterminator for the hall.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is January 16, 2025, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

Prepared by: Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Eagle Township Clerk
Approved by: Troy Stroud, Eagle Township Supervisor

CP#25-001

Former city attorney urges Lansing create a 'transparency officer'

Wanger suggests four changes to the charter

Retired attorney Eugene "Gil" Wanger helped rewrite the Michigan Constitution in 1961.

Now he's taking a crack at Lansing's City Charter.

"Ladies and Gentlemen," the ever-polite Lansing resident wrote the Charter Commission, "Enclosed are four Charter recommendations for your consideration."

"They are based on my observations and experiences over the years as Lansing's Delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention, Chairperson of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, City Attorney of Lansing, an attorney practicing municipal law and a lifelong Lansing resident."

Wanger was just 28 when he led the effort to enshrine Michigan's death-penalty ban.

Now, at 91, he said his charter proposals are ones he "picked up and tucked away" over the decades. Two of them center around increased transparency, while the other pair would implement new operating procedures for the city-owned Board of Water & Light.

The first proposal would establish a new staff member called the city transparency officer, who would be tasked with establishing standards for annual reports "issued by every department, office and agency of the city."

"They can be aggregated into an annual report for the citizens, who will then actually be able to see what their city is doing for the first time in history," Wanger said.

He called on the City Council to establish "mandatory penalties" if de-

partments don't comply with the new standards, while the transparency officer would be charged with enforcing them. Additionally, he wrote, "the appointment, removal, compensation and budget appropriations of the city transparency officer and the above penalties shall not be subject to the approval of or a veto by the mayor."

Brian Jeffries, who chairs the commission elected last year to review the charter and recommend changes, called Wanger's pitch "a great idea." He said the commission "seems to be in general agreement" with it.

"Our charter currently provides that there are supposed to be annual reports from all of our boards and commissions, but it's not being done. It's a transparency issue, and there's no consequence for failing to do this," he said.

Jeffries said he expects the commission to get to Wanger's proposals this month.

Wanger's second proposal would require the city to maintain a publicly accessible file compiling voluntary audit reports from Greater Lansing charity organizations.

"It's just human nature that any leader is going to want to conceal all their mistakes and create the best possible picture they can for the public," Wanger said. "It's easy to carry that too far, and very few charities today tell people how they're actually running things. With this change, citizens can make sure these charities are spending their money in an equitable way."

While participation would be voluntary, Wanger anticipates the file would "create an incentive for charities to participate."

"They don't have to do it, but I figure they'd want to," he said.

Wanger also asked the commission to reinstate a former city policy requiring a registered engineer to oversee the BWL.



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Eugene 'Gil' Wanger led the effort to keep Michigan a no-death-penalty state. Now he's urging transparency reform in Lansing's City Charter.

If they do, Wanger said he assumes they would allow BWL general manager Dick Peffley to retain his role until he's replaced.

"It's not personal. The point is that, after him, they'll have to go back to hiring a registered engineer," Wanger said. "As a general rule, there's no question in my mind that you want someone in that role who understands the scientific principles involved."

Jeffries didn't indicate a firm position on the matter but said it's an issue that's "come up" during discussions on what qualifications they might require for other city positions, including the deputy mayor. At any rate, he added, it's something commissioners will consider.

Finally, Wanger suggested a proac-

tive policy that would permit the BWL to prioritize service to customers living within city limits in the event of a future water or energy shortage.

"Down the road, we don't know what global warming is going to bring. Right now, the BWL operates out of wells, and a lot of them are outside of the city of Lansing. Suppose we get a real problem with the water supply and they have to ration it. In my opinion, if we have limited water, we should prioritize the citizens of Lansing rather than the entire area," he said.

"After all, we own, operate and maintain it. When push comes to shove, the BWL should be able to make a favorable determination for the city," he added.

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Trump changes could increase child trafficking, rights attorney says

By **GABRIEL S. MARTINEZ**
Capital News Service

Potential policy shifts under the incoming Trump administration may have an impact that could make it easier to traffic children, the managing attorney for the Michigan Immigration Rights Center said.

Cutting off funding to the Office of Refugee Resettlement or threatening the ability of older children to get work authorization would put more children at risk and put them in situations where they would be likely to be exploited by traffickers or employers, said Elly Jordan, the center’s Lansing-based lawyer

“We’ve already seen some hints in some of the projected policies that are coming out,” Jordan said. “For example, there’s been threats that would impact trafficked children and attack the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.”

Jordan said the center is strongly arguing against such changes. “It’s incredibly important that children that have made their way to the United States are met with the kind of treatment that will allow them to move safely through the next chapter in their life.”

The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement houses undocumented minors who are in government custody while awaiting court hearings.

Michigan is one of 25 states awarded grants from the refugee resettlement office to operate facilities for minors.

Federal officials did not give numbers of undocumented children being cared for in Michigan, saying it fluctuates frequently. Nor did they say where the children entered the U.S., although some entered at the southern border.

There are nine refugee resettlement facilities across Michigan. Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Lansing, Southfield and Troy have one each, while Kalamazoo and Grand Rapid have two each.

“We do occasionally work with children who are apprehended at the Canadian border,” Jordan said. “I would not want to overstate or understate it, but it’s got to be at least 1000s that we’ve worked with.”

Unaccompanied, undocumented children don’t have a parent or guardian immediately available to care for them and don’t have immigration status allowing them to reside legally in the U.S.

The center, based in Grand Rapids, provides legal resources to immigrants and also has offices in Kalamazoo, Detroit and Ypsilanti.

GAO’s recommendations for facilities that house undocumented children include ensuring that care providers are qualified, providing better oversight and monitoring, and doing better tracking of how the children are treated if they are released into the care of sponsors, who may be foster families or relatives of the child.

Kathryn Larin, the director of GAO’s Education Workforce and Income Security Team, said the legal process begins when an undocumented child crosses the border without a family member and is apprehended by Customs and Border Control or Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.

Larin said undocumented minors must be placed in a transitional facility within 32 hours.

“They don’t want children to be held in immigration detention facilities with adults for any longer than absolutely necessary,” Larin said.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the top three countries of origin with the highest percentage of undocumented children traveling alone are Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. They stay an average 27 days before relocation.

Nationally, the number of unaccompanied children referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement for care has increased over time. The agency cared for about 119,000 unaccompanied children in fiscal year 2023, according to the GAO.

Larin said, “Michigan is fortunate to have transitional facilities that our Department of Health and Human Services does license.”

“We have an extra layer of protection for these kids that’s incredibly critical, and we’re grateful for the states that see that importance and recognize the state’s duty to protect all children and its boundaries,” she said.

Jordan said there’s a misunderstanding among the public that immigrants have access to more public benefits than they actually receive.

“In reality, almost no public benefits are available to most, so that lack of access actually creates more vulnerability for these children,” Jordan said.



Jordan



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.mitadbe.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

A weighty judicial matter: Blankets in the courtroom

Lansing's Judge Ward offers witnesses 'soothing' coverups

Judge Cynthia Ward loses sleep over some of the stories she hears on the bench.

So, she reasoned, those same witnesses must be undergoing significant stress in telling their stories.

Which is why she has introduced weighted blankets to her courtroom.

"When I started reading about their

calm-inducing benefits," said Ward, who was reelected in November to a second term in Lansing's 54A District Court, "I was sure some of the crime victims could benefit from it, particularly victims of domestic violence and sexual assault."



Ward

Ward, who uses one for sleep herself, says it "may help" her with her own general-sleep anxiety.

Some scientific evidence is on her side.

Dr. Adam Perlman, director of Integrative Health and Wellbeing Mayo Clinic Florida, said small clinical trials "have shown that people who use

weighted blankets do report better sleep.

They report less stress and anxiety, and there's even one small study where they reported less pain," according to a Mayo Clinic press release.

Perlman said they act the same way a hug can by giving you a surge of "feel-good hormones" and a decrease of "stress hormones."

Ward said that judges are "always thinking about ways people who access court can fully access it."

That includes being able to "tell your story" as fully and calmly as possible — not easy to do, particularly under often stressful cross-examination, no matter how well one's attorney may have prepared a witness.

"People do not remember everything



City of Lansing

Witnesses may avail themselves of a weighted blanket in Judge Cynthia Ward's Lansing courtroom to help alleviate stress.

under stress," Ward said. "A jury may find them less credible."

It's like not remembering an answer during an exam, she explained, recalling a personal experience in college. "Of course, as I walked to the bus stop after the test, the answer popped into my head."

If a victim is "not calm, they are not really experiencing justice," she added.

Ward tested her theory in court for the first time last week by putting a weighted blanket next to the witness chair. She asked the prosecutor and defense attorney to approach so she could inform them of what she was doing and why.

"The prosecutor thought that's just great. The defense attorney was perhaps a little less enthusiastic," she laughed.

Then an alleged sexual assault victim took the stand. The judge told her to feel free to use the blanket.

"I could see her anxiety," said Ward. "I was right next to the person."

The witness, however, did not avail herself of the blanket.

The next case involved another woman who was an alleged domestic violence victim.

"She went for it immediately and placed it on her lap," Ward said.

Stress balls are more common in courtrooms, including Ward's.

"She started with the weighted blanket," Ward said. "As cross-examination, when you're becoming less calm, she went for the stress balls."

What's the judge's verdict on how the blanket affected the two witnesses' testimony?

"They both got their stories across," she said with appropriate judicial restraint. "They were both compelling witnesses."

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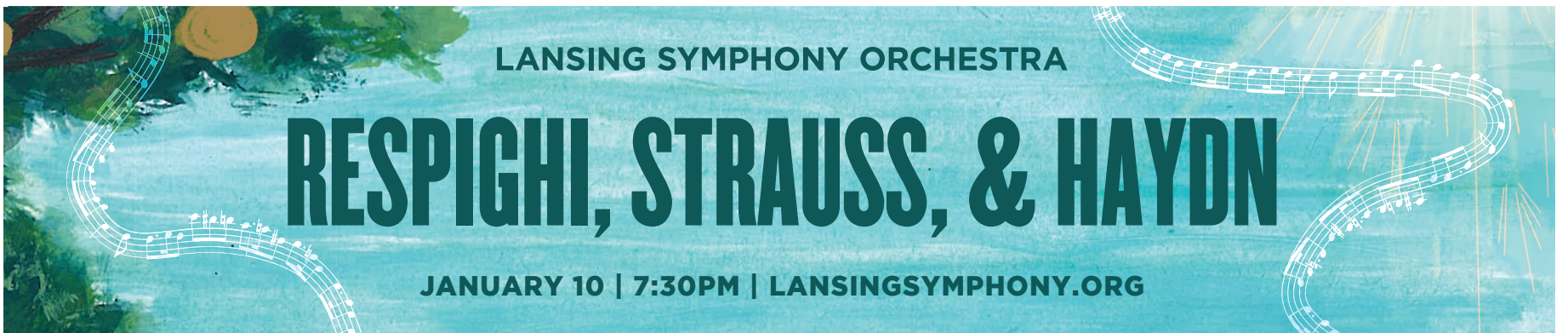
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Community-based organizations look forward to 2025

By JOAN NELSON

Curious about what 2025 will bring to Lansing neighborhoods?

I talked with folks involved in neighborhood organizations and corridor improvement projects to see what changes and initiatives they are planning. I can report to you that energy is high: These community-based outfits serving every side of town have ambitious plans for strengthening neighborhoods and the corridors that run through them.

North side

Old Town Commercial Association is looking at two new housing developments coming to Turner Street, executive director Samantha Benson said. “One of these is part of Gentilozzi’s New Vision, which involves new housing downtown but also includes a seven-story development in Old Town. Five floors of residential units will sit atop two floors of underground parking.” A second development on Turner is in the planning stages and will be announced soon. “Both will bring much needed housing to Old Town.”

Benson also highlighted the fish ladder development coming this year, which will bring a “plug and play venue inside the fish ladder, offering a sort of bandshell for performances of various sorts.”

Cristo Rey Community Center is a 501(c)(3) basic-needs provider serving under-resourced people in Lansing, particularly on the north side, with food access, medical care and mental health services. When I connected with CEO Joe Garcia, he was heading to the ribbon cutting on the organization’s new dental operation. This collaboration with University of Michigan dental school’s residency program will serve the most vulnerable people in the area, especially children and veterans. While Cristo Rey’s longstanding facility is located on High Street, the new dental clinic is at 2800 W. Willow St., at what was St. Vincent’s Catholic Charities. This follows the recent merger of Cristo Rey with Catholic Charities — now called Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton Counties.

Garcia noted that Cristo Rey’s long history of providing medical care in its High Street facility “shined a bright light on the dental needs of the most vulnerable people we serve.” The new dental clinic will have six chairs, and also offer five medical exam rooms.

East side

Allen Neighborhood Center New programs are par for the course for

ANC, but the big news this year is the construction of the Asante Co-op. Being built on the second floor of the complex just west of ANC’s Outreach offices, the co-op is a collaboration with Spartan Housing Co-operative and Refugee Development Center. “When completed in summer 2025, the co-op will house 16 people, half of whom will be young adult refugees and half will be native born people,” ANC executive director Joe Enerson

said. Partnering organizations will provide on-site classes in English as a second language, household budgeting and job training.

Nancy Mahlow, **Eastside Neighborhood Organization’s** president, is looking forward to the completion of the Michigan Avenue Rehabilitation Project this fall (followed by blight

issues being addressed), another ENO Summerfest and additional traffic calming efforts in residential areas. She added that “ENO still strongly advocates for preservation of the west wing of Eastern High School, even while supporting creation of a mental health facility on UM Health Sparrow’s Michigan Avenue campus.”

The **Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority** is looking forward to “deploying all of the façade improvement funds it has secured for completion of the north side of the 2000 block,” President Jon Lum said. This busy block contains Everybody Reads, the Green Door, TheraPLAYoga, etc. Lum noted that his group, along with many Michigan Avenue businesses, is relieved that more than half of the avenue’s reconstruction project has been completed. This leaves the stretch from Horton Street to Pennsylvania Avenue for the coming year, with work expected to run from March until September. Lansing Public Service Director Andy Kilpatrick reported that by fall, “we will be celebrating the revitalization of the core of the Avenue with a new road and sidewalk, 10-to-15-foot street trees and marked cycle tracks and bike lanes.”

West side

The Ingham County Land Bank will be working to sell their nine newly built condos, on Saginaw Street near Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The two-story, one-and-a-half bath, roughly 1,200-square-foot units are energy-efficient; some even have solar panels. The condos range from \$150,000 to \$160,000.

The Land Bank also continues to offer support to the redevelopment in the 900 block of Saginaw of what was



formerly Parks Furniture. A 50-year fixture, the business closed in 2021. “Between our condos, Moneyball and the old Parks Furniture buildings, that area of Saginaw is going to be transformed,” noted Executive Director Roxanne Case.

The Northwest Initiative, led by Peggy Vaughn-Payne, will be focused on integrating a housing component into its ARRO Program (Advocacy, Resources, Re-entry, Outreach). ARRO helps people being released from correctional facilities to reacclimate to the community by, among other things, assisting them in securing essentials such as a driver’s license and social security card. Vaughn-Payne said NWI will also beef up work with younger offenders coming out of Ingham County courts. “These young people have an opportunity to participate in a wholistic, wrap-around program that includes GED classes and assistance in getting into skilled trades training and other LCC programs,” she said.

South side

SWAG, a catalyst for transformation in southwest Lansing, has a busy 2025 planned. Executive director Paul Anderson shared SWAG’s broad agenda:

- Repurposing Pleasant Grove Elementary School into housing, essential services and a community space honoring Malcolm X. The development will address community needs while celebrating the area’s rich history.

- Supporting the South Side Community Coalition’s SNAP-ED program to improve the health of SW Lansing’s most vulnerable residents, particularly children and seniors.

- Supporting the Lansing 360

initiative, working to address gun violence through policy changes and prevention programs.

- In partnership with the South Martin Luther King Corridor Improvement Association, streamlining projects to support small businesses, promote economic growth and enhance the association’s appeal, functionality and safety.

REO Town Commercial Association is the dynamic entity behind many of the area’s events and festivals. Dylan Rogers, the VP and owner of Robin Theater, described RTCA as “a unique all-volunteer force of residents, visitors and people generally enthusiastic about this weird little neighborhood.” The group promotes businesses and business start-ups (e.g., REO Town Marketplace) and celebrates that this is a neighborhood “where people make things.” New on the horizon is the opening this year of the REO Town Clubhouse, 1314 S. Washington Ave., a locally owned, family style, Italian restaurant and bar. He said there will be “a pool hall element” — totally appropriate for this quirky, fun neighborhood.

I am inspired by the energetic folks who work to improve Lansing’s neighborhoods. Every side of town is building — housing, businesses, improved corridors, services and a spirited base of support among people who live and work in our unique, transforming neighborhoods.

Happy New Year!

(Joan Nelson was the founding executive director the Allen Neighborhood Center. Her column appears in the first issue of the month.)



Opinion



Local photographer and videographer Raymond Holt has been taking tintype photographs for six years. He had his own camera custom-made by Arizona-based K.B. Canham Cameras Inc., which specializes in building large-format cameras.

‘Not for the faint of heart’ Raymond Holt brings 19th-century photography technique back to life

By **BILL CASTANIER**

President Abraham Lincoln, abolitionist Frederick Douglass, outlaw Billy the Kid and assassin John Wilkes Booth all sat (or stood) for tintype photographs, but so did hundreds of thousands of Union and Confederate soldiers before heading off to deadly battlefields.

In his 2023 book, “Lansing and the Civil War,” local historian Matthew VanAcker highlights an advertisement in the August 13, 1862, Lansing State Republican for Lansing photographer Phillip Engelhart that reads, “We presume no one will allow their friends to go to war without exchanging pictures with them before they go. It would be folly to think of it.”

The tintype process was patented in 1856, but the Civil War caused its popularity to skyrocket. Tintypes democratized photography and art portraiture — members of the working class could hold in the palm of

their hand a picture of themselves, a friend or a family member. There are numerous accounts of dead Civil War soldiers holding a tintype of a loved one in their hand.

On Civil War battlefields, soldiers would line up for tintypes, taken by traveling photographers who would follow the campaigns in their wagons. After the war, the Wild West provided much fodder for tintype photographers, and their images were often used on wanted posters and as mugshots. Billy the Kid sat for a famous tintype after being captured by his nemesis, Sheriff Pat Garrett.

Several characteristics of tintype photography contributed to its popularity. The images took less time to take and process, they were cheaper to purchase (depending on size, as little as 25 cents), and they were more durable since they were printed on a piece of metal. They were offered in a variety of sizes, with most soldiers choosing one they could hold

Photos by Raymond Holt



Holt said he “couldn’t help but want to capture the partnership” between Carrie Ballou and Ray Priebe, proprietors of That New Place in Williamston.



Julian Van Dyke is a Lansing-based painter, muralist, author and “gentle soul,” Holt said. One of his paintings serves as the backdrop for this portrait.



Michael Jarema is a member of the Capital Base Ball Club of Lansing. The team plays by 1864 rules. He has now had a portrait taken with mid-1800s photography technology, too.



Holt persuaded David Kenyon, longtime photographer for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, to step in front of the camera for a rare portrait.

in the palm of their hand.

Like most photography techniques, the popularity of tintype photography lasted only a few decades, after which it was replaced by carte-de-visite photography and then by Kodak’s “snapshot” photography.

Despite that, itinerant photographers kept the process alive through horse-and-buggy-equipped dark-rooms, which they would pull to county fairs. Tintype photographers would also set up seasonally at Coney Island and other beachfront resorts.

Locally, longtime professional photographer and videographer Raymond Holt, who worked for Michigan State University, Lansing Community College and the state of Michigan before retiring in 2018, has helped carry the photographic process into the

21st century, an era when digital photography allows anyone to capture hundreds of images in seconds.

Holt has built a studio and development lab in the basement of his home and, through trial and error, has “perfected” the process for his own enjoyment and profit. He has also outfitted a trailer he uses to do offsite tintype photography. He does commission work and can be reached at solastintype@gmail.com. Examples of his work, beyond the ones accompanying this story, can be found on Instagram at [instagram.com/solas_tintype](https://www.instagram.com/solas_tintype).

To create a tintype, a plate of metal coated with dark enamel is trimmed to the final size of the photograph. The plate is coated with collodion, a syrupy emulsion of ether and alcohol to which silver nitrate

is added. The coated plate is then placed in a holder, which is inserted into the back of a large camera. The subject remains absolutely still for up to 15 seconds in a sunny studio or just a few seconds outside on a sunny day while the photo is taken. The plate is then returned to the holder and developed in a chemical bath to create a one-of-a-kind photograph of the subject. From start to finish, the entire process takes about 15 minutes.

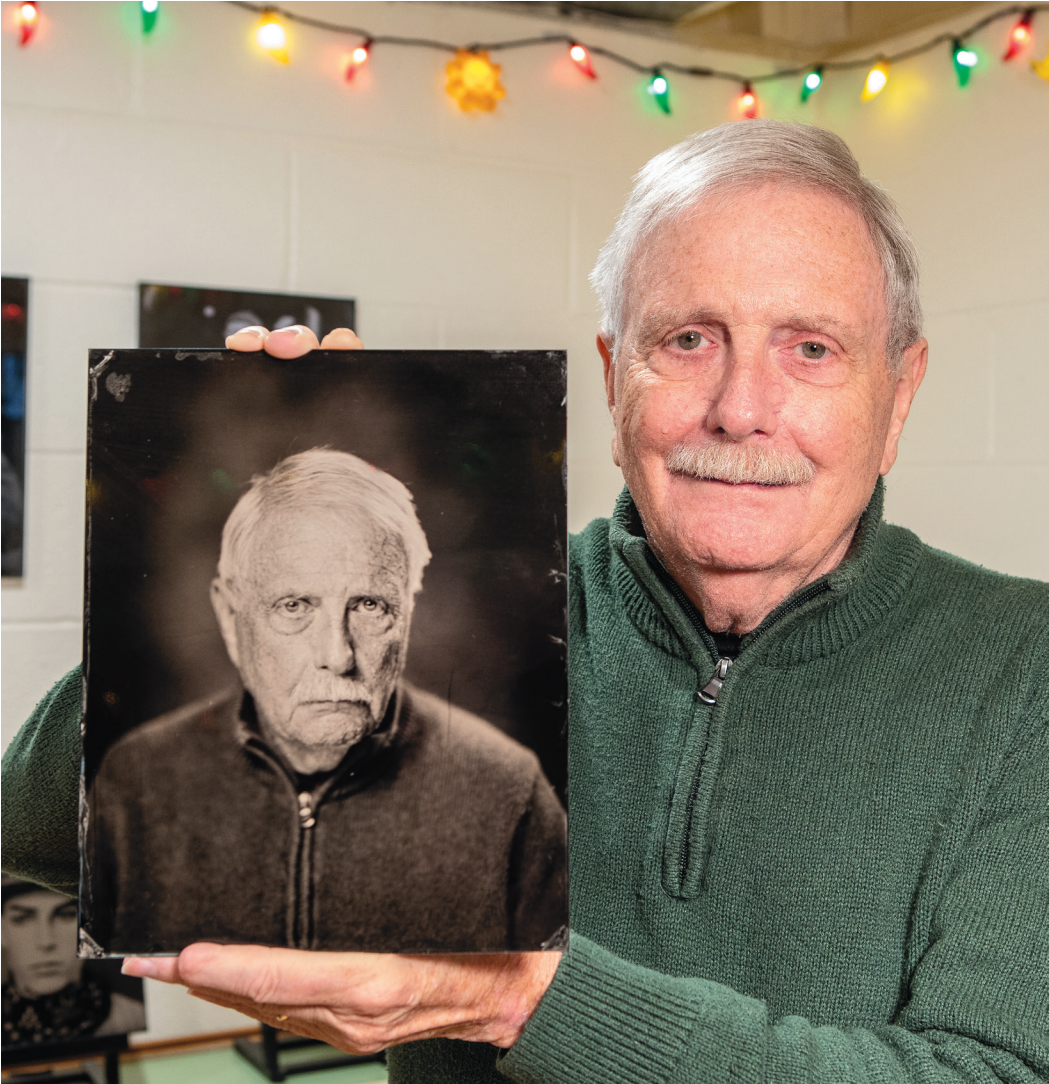
Holt is sometimes still confounded by the process, despite taking tintypes for six years.

“Making tintypes is cantankerous and not for the faint of heart,” he said. “Each plate has to be pro-

See Photography, Page 15



Bill Castanier poses with his tintype portrait, for which he donned a historically accurate expression.





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CityPULSE



A 150-plus-year-old tintype of Holt's great-grandfather Noah Decatur Holt was the spark that led him to pursue the photography technique.

Photography

from page 13

duced on-site and requires a dark-room of some sort wherever you go. The chemistry is sensitive to temperature and humidity, and it's very easy to accidentally contaminate those chemicals during the process.

"It requires a lot of light, and because the process is more sensitive to the ultraviolet end of the light spectrum, light meters don't really help," he continued. "Once that plate is exposed, there are no changes. Every error or miscalculation is etched in silver."

However, he said the results are worth it for both him and his clients.

"When they watch their image slowly emerge from a cloudy haze, it's really a 'wow' moment, and that experience is something we share," he said.

He had his own tintype camera custom-made by Arizona-based K.B. Canham Cameras Inc., which specializes in building large-format cameras.

Holt said he was inspired to try tintype photography after seeing a tintype of his great-grandfather. He subsequently enrolled in the prestigious Camp Tintype, run by John Coffey, a master tintype photographer based in the Finger Lakes region of New York.

Coffey is credited with reinvigorating interest in tintype photography. In the early 1980s, while working as a studio photographer for bands and choirs, he visited Detroit's Greenfield Village and was fascinated by its tintype studio.

"I said to myself, 'Someday, I'm going to learn how to do that,'" Coffey said. He returned to the village years later, and a curator showed him around. He learned that just before the village was dedicated in 1929, Henry Ford demanded that a tintype studio be built, and he hired Ford



Shortly after their engagement, local couple Nathan and Anna posed for a tintype.



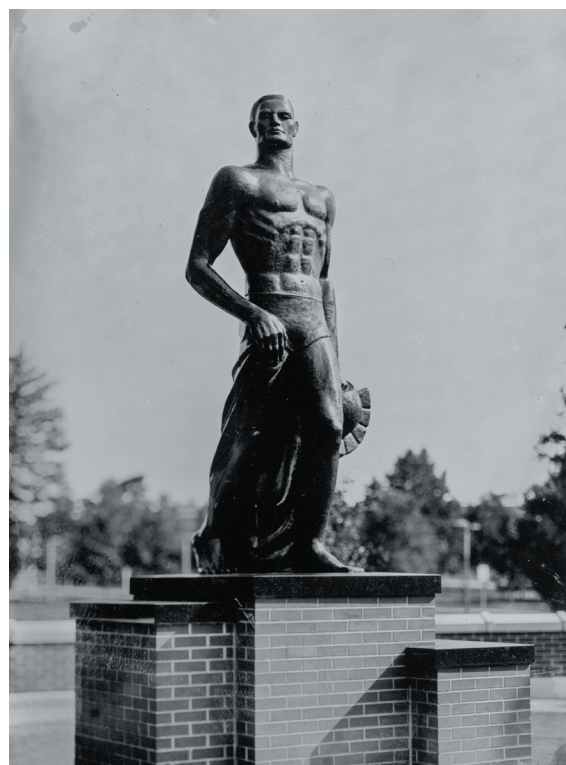
Holt took a tintype of John Coffey, considered by many as the father of the modern tintype revival, while attending one of his seminars at his farm in the Finger Lakes region of New York.

Motor Co. employee Charles Tremear to be the photographer. It was a perfect match since Tremear had been

an itinerant tintype photographer prior to working at Ford.

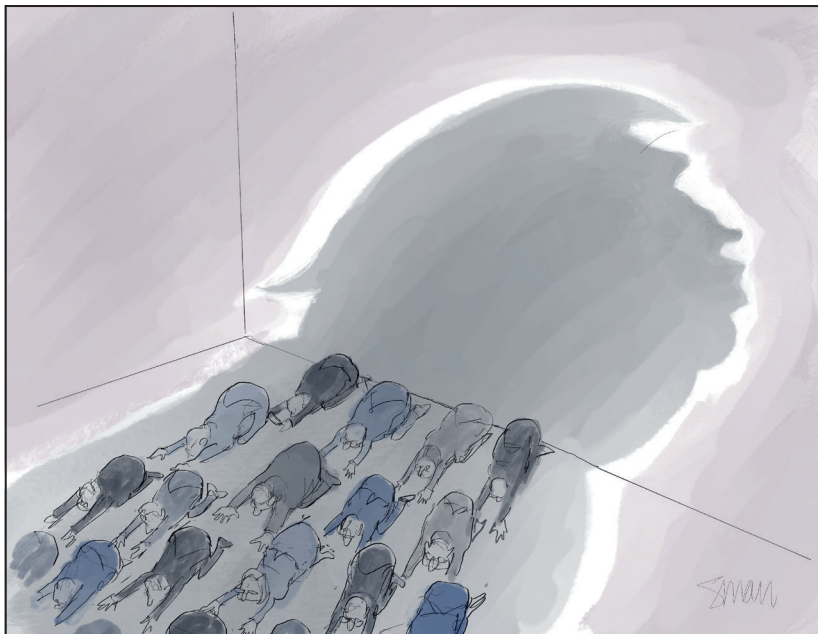
Long story short, Coffey followed in Tremear's footsteps and not only learned the art but went so far as to buy a wagon, outfit it with equipment and travel to Civil War encampments pulled by oxen.

"In the early years, there were only a dozen photographers making tintypes," Coffey said. He became so well known that a New York City gallery hung his photographs, and The New York Times published several articles about his work and his hermit-like life. It was his notability that enabled him to launch a camp where he teaches others the process of tintype photography. Today, he estimates there are thousands of tintype photographers.



"I'm willing to wager this was his first tintype," Holt said of the iconic Spartan statue at Michigan State University.

LET'S BOOGIE! Bob Baldori & David Small



Delusional: Reality check

"CNN: The American public is closely divided on the outlook for Donald Trump's second term, a new CNN poll conducted by SSRS finds, with 52% of adults expressing positive feelings, and 48% responding negatively." CNN conducts a poll and publishes a report that is so absurd it is almost impossible to deconstruct. According to the CNN report, the "American public" is "closely divided" on the outlook for Bozo's second term. This follows a "poll result" CNN published Dec. 11 headlined "Most Americans Approve of How Bozo is Handling His Return to the White House." What??? At their core, these headlines are nothing but propaganda.

There are so many underlying flaws and false presumptions behind these statements it is hard to know where to begin. The first presumption is that CNN or its pollsters can actually and accurately evaluate the "outlook" of the electorate. What, exactly, do they mean by "outlook"?

Digging deeper, we find that the poll is conducted by SSRS, an extremely suspect organization. Its findings amount to nuanced variations of "push" polls. A push poll is an interactive marketing technique in which an organization attempts to manipulate or influence prospective voters views under the guise of conducting an opinion poll. In this case, the pollsters are trying to influence the views of the electorate in general.

Here is one of its "poll" questions: How much confidence do you have in Bozo when it comes to dealing with the economy?

But why isn't the question: How much confidence do you have in a person who has declared bankruptcy six times, been found guilty of 27 fraud counts and banned from doing business in New York because of his corrupt practices, been fined \$25 million for running a fraudulent university and found guilty of numerous other fraudulent business practices?

Isn't that the real question that should be asked? But the pollsters, by asking anodyne questions, come up with totally meaningless results, which are then published as ... fact?

If CNN were a real news organization, and not mainly a propaganda outlet, its reporting would include a much deeper analysis.

For another example, shouldn't a poll question read "Do you approve of Bozo nominating unqualified extremists and billionaires to run the country?"

Isn't that the logical question — which is based on real world fact — that a responsible investigative reporter or an unbiased pollster would ask?

(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.)

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We're all done with 2024. You don't need a calendar to tell us that.

I know. We're done thinking about it. But I'm paid to write politics, so hang with me. We'll be finished soon enough.

Remember when Joe Biden dropped out? That was six months ago. It seems like six years ago.

Up until June, the president was fine. We weren't supposed to believe our eyeballs. We saw him fall off a bicycle, avoid media questions and wander off stages.

Our attention spans may be getting shorter. The world may be spinning. But people aren't blind to the obvious.

The obvious is what is in front of us, not hypothetical.

You can tell the public, "Abortion is on the ballot." You can say that IF Trump wins the White House and IF he goes back on his word and IF the Republicans get 60 pro-life extremists in the U.S. Senate, THEN there will be a nationwide abortion ban.

You can blow a bunch of money pounding this fear. You can get pop culture's biggest icons parroting it. You can get millions to blow up social media, shaming anyone who doesn't believe it.

But that's a lot of "ifs" before you get to the "then."

What's obvious? What's in front of us right now?

Abortion was 2022. We've long since moved on.

In 2024, we've moved on from Jan. 6. We've moved on from COVID. We've moved on from X. (Remember when that was Twitter?)

We had a major-party presidential nominee repeat an unverified social media rumor that people in Springfield, Ohio, were eating dogs and cats — during a nationally televised debate, no less.

Yet, in 2024, that's what we all do, to some extent. We pick up something from somewhere. It tracks with what we think makes sense. So, we repeat it.

In our limited understanding of the world, it makes sense.

Haiti is poor, right? Haitians in small-town America must be poor, too. Don't they do voodoo? Sacrifice dogs and cats? Someone can't find their pet? It must have been dinner for

these poor people!

Sounds completely shocking and disturbing. It sounds *maaaaaybe* plausible in a motion picture kinda way. Besides, someone read it somewhere.

Oh! You mean it's not true? Did fake news tell you that? No? Is everybody saying it's not true now?

Oops! Sorry about that. Let's move on. Don't hold me accountable for that. After all, someone else read it somewhere.

But where is "somewhere?"

Somewhere in 2024 isn't any reputable media. It's not CNN. It's not your local TV news. Maybe 20 people have two-day-old news thrown on their front porch these days.

People have moved on from that. TV news channels are running to specific demographics. Gotta lock in that particular market share. That niche.

What's coming across on Apple News? Don't wanna pay for that article? Google it. Someone has it free somewhere. Maybe someone is talking about it on Facebook if you're 45 and older, Twitter if you're 35 and older, and TikTok if you're 25 and older.

Do you disagree with how the information is spun? Click on another hot link. Go to Rumble. Go to Truth Social. Or Substack. Or Bluesky. Or Reddit. Or Mastodon. Or Instagram.

Everyone has a corner of the universe. In 2024, we had so many ways to communicate with so many different people.

Yet, we've never been so tribalized. We've never been so isolated. We've never been so stuck inside our heads.

At some point, we'll be done with it all. Overwhelmed by the options, choices, and different pieces of swirling information (accurate or not), people will throw up their hands and say, "F&*% it! I'm done."

"Done hearing about we gotta 'Fight! Fight! Fight.' Done with all the political emails and texts asking for money. Done with the partisan bull crap.

"We're done. Done. Done. Can't we elect someone who just gets stuff done and QUIT BOTHERING ME?"

Maybe.

For now, we can all say one thing definitively: We're done with 2024.

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



POLITICS

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Notable events to keep arts aficionados busy in 2025

By NICOLE NOECHEL

While the first week of the year starts off slow, allowing everyone to unwind after the busy holiday season, happenings will begin picking up quickly in the following weeks and may fly past your radar as the list grows. To keep readers from missing out on any notable happenings, City Pulse has put together a list of upcoming arts events for enthusiasts of every discipline. From annual festivals to visits by nationally renowned artists, 2025 looks to be another exciting year for the area's arts scene.

Literature

Poets Cindy Hunter Morgan, an assistant professor of creative writing at Michigan State University, and Anita Skeen, a professor emerita in MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, will kick off an exciting calendar of upcoming literary events on Jan. 12 at the Lansing Poetry Club's Copper Chimney Poetry Lounge series, which takes place at East Lansing's University United Methodist Church. The following week, on Jan. 20, the Poetry Room will host writer, educator and nationally touring performance poet Ephraim Nehemiah, with additional readings by Poetry Room founder Masaki Takahashi and local poets Lisa Sarno, Claire Donohoe, Korey Deans, Maddy Smith and Suban Nur Cooley.

The annual A Rally of Writers conference returns April 12 at Lansing Community College's West Campus, offering an Authors Alley where attendees can meet and network with Michigan writers as well as a slew of workshops on writing-themed topics. The keynote speaker will be Lansing novelist Erin Bartels, a two-time Michigan Notable Book award winner.

Speaking of Michigan Notable Book awards, the Library of Michigan will hold its 2025 Night for Notables on April 26 to honor this year's winners, which should be announced in the coming weeks.

Film

The Capital City Film Festival will once again take over venues across Lansing from April 2 through 12 to showcase independent films of varying lengths and countries of origin. Beyond film, the festi-



Photo by Scott Jackson

Sphinx Virtuosi, a self-conducted chamber orchestra that blends classical music with soul, bluegrass, jazz, blues and elements of rag, will travel from Detroit to perform at the Wharton Center on Feb. 22.

val typically offers a range of arts-focused events, from concerts, dance performances and poetry readings to visual art displays, workshops and straight-up parties. To sign up to volunteer at the festival or receive updates on details as they're announced, visit capitalcityfilmfest.com.

For those who can't wait until April, the Lake Michigan Film Festival returns Feb. 27 through March 2 at the Meridian Mall's Studio C! theater, showcasing flicks made in Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois. Keep an eye on the website, elff.com/festival, for more information.

Theater

Broadway fans may already have tickets for the upcoming productions at the Wharton Center, including "Shucked" Jan. 21 through 26, "MJ" Feb. 11 through 16, "Life of Pi" March 11 through 16, "Chicago" April 8 through 13, "Hamilton" May 21 through June 1 and "The Book of Mormon" June 19 through 22.

Those closer to Owosso can look forward to the musical "Into the Woods" Feb. 28 through March 9 and the comedic play "The Cottage," which opened on Broadway in 2023, April 25 through May 4 at the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts.

Other well-known shows to keep on your radar include "9 to 5," featuring music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, Feb. 15 through 23 at MSU's Fairchild Theatre; "Crime and Punishment" Feb. 21 through 23, Feb. 28 and March 1 at LCC's Black Box Theatre; and "The SpongeBob Musical" May 29 through June 1 and June 5 through 8 at Riverwalk Theatre.

There are many more noteworthy

shows we don't have space to mention here — details can be found on local theater companies' websites and social media pages.

Visual Art

The MSU Broad Art Museum will welcome four new exhibitions in the first half of 2025: "Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty," opening Jan. 18; "Echoes of War," a collection of antiwar paintings by the late Lebanese-born artist Nabil Kanso, opening Feb. 15; the 2025 Master of Fine Arts exhibition, opening March 8; and "un-becoming," a series of feminist paintings and sculptures by Syrian-born artist Diana Al-Hadid, opening June 7.

Additionally, MSU Federal Credit Union will host its annual Student Art Exhibit Jan. 26 through March 2 at its Headquarters 1 Building in East Lansing. Students from 20 area high schools will exhibit work in an array of media, from drawings and paintings to photography and sculptures. The public is invited to vote for their favorites in a people's choice contest, running through Feb. 21.

Other local galleries, coffee shops, libraries, churches and general gathering spaces will most certainly host exhibitions that are yet to be announced. Keep up with City Pulse's weekly Out on the Town calendar for updates.

Music

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra kicks off 2025's calendar of musical events Jan. 10 at the Wharton Center with its third Masterworks concert of

the season, featuring selections by Respighi, Strauss and Haydn. Fans can also catch the symphony performing the music of Queen on Feb. 8; Spanish and Spanish-influenced music on April 4; songs by diva legends such as Alicia Keys, Whitney Houston and Diana Ross April 17; and works by Beethoven, Dvorak and composer-in-residence Jared Miller on May 9, all at Wharton.

Wharton will also host many non-LSO musical events in the coming months, including New York-based singer-songwriter and composer Gabriel Kahane on Jan. 18, Grammy- and Emmy-winning multi-genre string trio Time for Three on Jan. 29, modern jazz ensemble Upendo on Feb. 5, Detroit chamber orchestra Sphinx Virtuosi on Feb. 22, a trio of Jazz at Lincoln Center musicians performing music from New Orleans on March 25 and New York-based jazz manouche vocalist Tatiana Eva-Marie on April 3, just to name a few.

The MSU College of Music has much to offer, from student, staff and alumni performances to visiting musicians and ensembles, some of which will also present workshops for students. The fun begins Jan. 15 with a concert by flutist Richard Sherman and harpist Juan Riveros at Cook Recital Hall.

Finally, for information on what the Ten Pound Fiddle has in store for the rest of its 50th season, including its annual Mid-Winter Singing Festival Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, make sure to check out next week's (Jan. 8) cover story.

Riverwalk's 'Lustful Youth' fine-tunes the art of sexy slapstick

By **DANA DEMINK**

After kicking off its 36th season with "Angels in America," Riverwalk Theatre took things in a lighter direction, following up with the comedies "Pickleball" and "Urinetown." It continues its humorous streak with its January production, "Lustful Youth," a farce written by unpublished Wisconsin playwright Mike Eserkalm.

Eserkalm's plays are free to read and produce, with the stipulation that he be credited for the work. His website, eserkalm.com, says he's open to communication with groups that want to produce his plays. First-time Riverwalk director Kait Wilson's collaborative relationship with the playwright goes back to 2010.

"I met Mike when I joined his improv club, ComedyCity, in De Pere, Wisconsin. We worked together on sketch comedy vignettes and original plays and musicals," Wilson said. "I saw a production of 'Lustful Youth' a year or two ago that Mike directed with a community theater group in Wisconsin, and he suggested I bring the production to Lansing."

Wilson said she and Eserkalm have been in contact throughout the process of staging the show at Riverwalk.

"He's been great for bouncing ideas off of and getting some good insight on the play and directing," she said. "He told me getting the right cast is the hardest part of directing, and I managed to get an amazingly talented cast that brings their characters to life in the most hilarious ways."

It seems the admiration between the cast and director is mutual. Quinn Kelly, who plays Carl and Jake II, said, "There is absolutely a feeling of unlimited creativity. Looking into this show, I noticed it hasn't been done that many times, so it feels very much like I'm building this character from my brain, Kait's brain and the script."

Wilson noted that the script has undergone some changes to make it more familiar to local audiences.

"Eserkalm has been very easy to work with and has been great with any adjustments we've had to make," she said. "For example, the show

makes fun of corporate sponsors when the protagonist, Walt, needs to write sponsors into his script. Eserkalm gave permission to change the names of some of the sponsors to local sponsors, and we were able to name-drop Quality Dairy and Red Cedar Spirits."

The show, a fast-paced farce written for six actors, is a "meta-comedy." When Walt, a television statistician, is forced to write an evening soap opera, he calls upon his imaginary friend to help him piece something together. Walt ends up writing himself into the script as he travels in and out his "out-of-control romp" known as "Lustful Youth."

Popularized in 15th-century France, the term "farce," from the French word for "stuffing," was used to describe impromptu bits of buffoonery that actors inserted into the texts of religious plays — comic relief if you will. By the 16th century, independent farces became popular around Europe, with the works of Molière and Shakespeare as notable examples.

The Three Stooges are an example of modern farce. Comedic farces are known for their improbable plots, bawdy humor, stock characters and extravagant wordplay. Essential to the success of a farce is impeccable timing

and the use of physical elements such as door slamming and slapstick violence.

"I'm calling this show a 'sexy farce' since most of the physical elements are romantic in nature," Wilson said. "We brought in Shannon Bowen as intimacy scene support to make sure the actors felt comfortable with kissing and physical intimacy. We also brought in Connor Kelly as a fight coordinator."

"The script has lots of slapping written in it, but Connor added other moments of staged violence to really amp up the slapstick. This farce has lots of door slamming as well, and the actors had to get comfortable with the physicality of the doors as part of their blocking," she continued.

"During one rehearsal, we ended up breaking one of the doors, so we've made sure the set is durable and reinforced!"



Photo by Ariniko O'Meara

The cast of "Lustful Youth," running at Riverwalk Theatre Jan. 9 through 12 and 16 through 19. From left: TJ Kelly, Rachael Steffens, Keara Hayes, Quinn Kelly, Lewis Elson and Allison Meyer.

She noted that with farce, the stakes, "no matter how ridiculous," are higher.

"In farce, the actions and reactions need to be amped up in order to give the proper level of absurdity," she said. "Nothing is casual; everything needs to be energetic and lively. Physical moments are treated like dance choreography to make sure the timing is right and the energy is big."

Lewis Elson, who plays Tony and Jake I, said that in order to keep the timing and energy right, "tonal modulation is crucial."

"It's easy to get carried away in

a comedic role, but maintaining a dynamic range keeps the audience engaged," he said. "Given our multi-character roles, versatility in voice, posture and personality is essential to create a lively and energetic performance."

The cast has it all down pat, according to TJ Kelly, who plays Walt.

"I'm very lucky to be sharing the stage with such extremely talented actors who are willing to work to find the funniest moments," he said. "Springboarding off each other has been delightful, and the energy at rehearsals is so uplifting."

January and early February theater productions:

"Lustful Youth"

Jan. 9-12 and 16-19

7 p.m. Thursday

8 p.m. Friday-Saturday

2 p.m. Sunday

Riverwalk Theatre

228 Museum Drive, Lansing

riverwalktheatre.com

"Shucked"

Jan. 21-26

7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

2 p.m. Saturday

1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday

Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

whartoncenter.com

"She Kills Monsters"

Ixion Ensemble Theatre

Jan. 24-26 and Jan. 31-Feb. 2

7 p.m. Friday-Saturday

3 p.m. Sunday

Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood

2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing

our.show/shekillsmonstersixion

"Little Shop of Horrors" (Broadway version)

Jan. 31-Feb. 2 and Feb. 7-9

7 p.m. Friday

3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Hannah Community Center

819 Abbot Road, East Lansing

allofuxexpress.org

"Goodnight Moon" and "The Runaway Bunny"

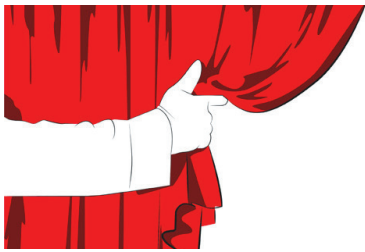
1:30 and 4 p.m. Feb. 2

Wharton Center Pasant Theatre

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

whartoncenter.com

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

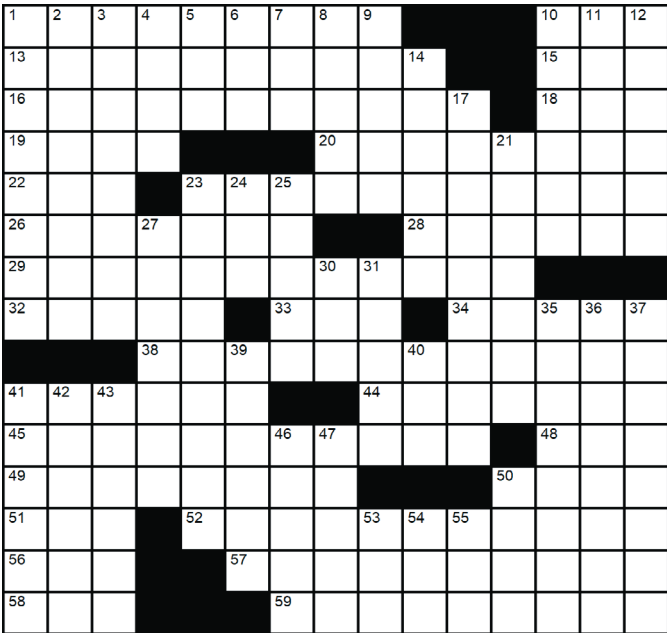


Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Oxen Free” -- a themeless challenge to wind down the year.
by Matt Jones
© 2024 Matt Jones

ACROSS
1. Online “where is this?” game with notables called Rainbolt and Blinky
10. “Sk8er _____” (2002 single)
13. Takes a sudden lead
15. 911 responder
16. Misrepresented a public campaign as fully authentic
18. Mauna _____
19. Nijinsky negative
20. Barney Gumble quote after abstaining from (and then drinking) alcohol, prepping for a space mission
22. Channel with a “Noir Alley” feature
23. Like elements past #92 (all unstable and prone to decay into other elements)
26. Places to check out?
28. Company that sometimes outranks Microsoft and Apple as the world’s most valuable
29. It may contain a radio and non-perishables
32. Otherworldly
33. _____ Lingus (Ryanair competitor)
34. They make feudal attempts?
38. Singer and then some
41. Elite squads
44. Butt: var.
45. TV spots for Fred Meyer (as opposed to, say, Wal-Mart)



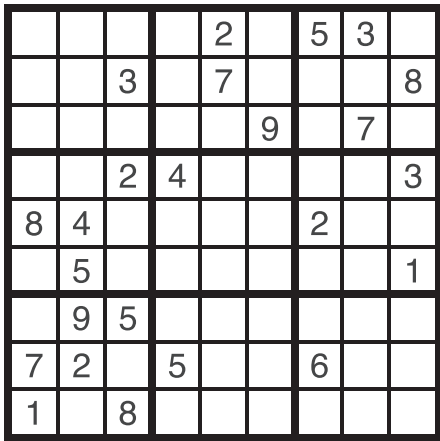
48. Not-so-peaceful feeling
49. Phone tree start
50. Bioengineered foods, briefly
51. Boston’s Bobby
52. Places of protection
56. Lil _____ Howery (actor in 2025’s “Dog Man”)
57. Go from the ocean back to clouds, maybe
58. “Madden NFL 25” stats
59. Like insects
DOWN
1. Singer-songwriter Phillips (namesake of a “Buffalo” band)
2. Start of a happy-go-lucky saying
3. Fictional month in a 1977 Dr. Seuss title
4. Goldfinger portrayer Frobe
5. Org. associated with Bob Hope for 50 years
6. Put away
7. _____ mai (dumplings)
8. Canary’s European cousin
9. Rapid transits?
10. Show compassion
11. Subtitle of 1978’s “Damien”
12. Lake at the head of the Mississippi
14. Prove false
17. They give it a whirl
21. Skiers’ leg coverings
23. Strict parents (as popularized by a 2011 book)
24. “The Pioneer Woman” host
25. “Simple!”
27. The world’s third most populous island
30. Animator’s unit
31. Northern California town that used to have a palindromic bakery
35. Setting up traffic lights again, maybe
36. Norwegian Sea islanders (if you spell it with the ligature)
37. About to burn out
39. Looms
40. Lasso or Leo
41. Military building
42. Became weepy, with “up”
43. Some 2010s Gen Z fashion denizens (inspired by anime and mall goth)
46. One-third of “Six”?
47. Susan who lent her surname to nominees who finally win
50. “Whose Line” regular Proops
53. _____ screen (lab test for poisons)
54. Cornhusker’s sch.
55. Edmondson of “The Young Ones,” familiarly

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Answers on page 21

SUDOKU

Advanced



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

Jan. 2-7, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): There are experiences, people and places that can either be good or bad for you. Which way they tilt at any particular time may depend on your mood or their mood or forces beyond your immediate control. An example for me is social media. Sometimes, it's a mediocre drug that dulls my sensibilities and aggravates my fears. On other occasions, it brings rich new connections and teaches me lessons I'm thrilled to learn. What about you, Aries? In my astrological view, 2025 will be a time when you will be wise to reevaluate and redefine your relationships with these paradoxical resources. If there are some whose influence is far more likely to be bad than good, consider ending your bond. For those that are equally bad and good, do what you can do to enhance the goodness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus supermodel Linda Evangelista has supreme levels of self-esteem. At the height of her career, she bragged that she got out of bed each morning with the intention of earning no less than \$10,000 in the coming day. I'm not advocating that you be equally as audacious in your expectations during 2025, dear Taurus. But it's reasonable for you to adopt at least a measure of Evangelista's financial confidence. According to my analysis of your destiny, cosmic rhythms will be conspiring to open up economic opportunities for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In 2025, dear Gemini, I invite you to make ample use of at least five of the following 11 tactics: 1. Shatter the molds. 2. Defy the conventions. 3. Challenge the norms. 4. Redefine the boundaries. 5. Disrupt the status quo. 6. Defy old rules and create new ones. 7. Go against the flow and against the grain. 8. Bushwhack through frontiers. 9. Dance to unfamiliar rhythms. 10. Search for curious treasures. 11. Change the way you change.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Good advice for the first half of 2025: 1. Lose your respect for tangled complications that have begun to rot. 2. Keep some of your necessary protective defenses, yes, but shed those that no longer serve you and are weighing you down. 3. Bury a broken-down dream to make room in your heart for a sweet new dream. 4. Scour away as much resentment as you can. 5. Sneak away from people and situations that are far too demanding. 6. Discard as much as you can of what's inessential, unhelpful and defunct. 7. Don't make a radical break for freedom yet, but begin plotting to do so by your birthday.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The coming months will be an excellent time to dream up bigger, better, more original sins and seek out wilder, wetter, more interesting problems. You should experiment with being naughty and even sweetly wicked as you uplift your spirit and deepen your love for life. You are being invited by your future self to experiment with daring departures from tradition that bring you exciting challenges. Dear Leo, my wish for you in 2025 is that you will be cheerfully courageous (not belligerently courageous) as you become both smarter and wiser than you have ever been before.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Aztecs were originally known as the Mexihcah people. Before they forged an empire, they were semi-nomadic tribes. But even then, early on, they were guided by a prophecy that they would eventually settle permanently in a place where they would find an eagle roosting on a cactus, holding a snake in its talons. In 1325, wanderers spied this precise scenario on a small island in Lake Texcoco. Soon, they began to construct the city of Tenochtitlán, the capital of their future kingdom. I bring this true myth to your attention, Virgo, because I want to invite you to formulate a similar prophecy in 2025 — and then fulfill it. Your personal empire is primed for expansion and consolidation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): As 2025 unfolds, your burdens will grow lighter, and your duties will become more interesting. Joyless missions and

trivial hopes will be increasingly irrelevant and easy to relinquish, opening up opportunities for fresh assignments that motivate you to play more and to work smarter rather than harder. During the coming months, dear Libra, I predict you will be basking in extra good karma and tapping into more fertile mojo than you have in a long time. Would you like more freedom than ever before? It's yours for the plucking.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Painter P.K. Mahanandia is well known because of his fine art. He is even more famous for an amazing adventure he had in the name of love. It's a long story, but his wife was living in her native Sweden, and he was stuck in his native India. Mahanandia was still at an early stage of his career and couldn't afford to fly by plane. Instead, he bought a used bicycle and headed west, covering about 27 miles per day. He pedaled through Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey until he arrived in Europe 127 days later. He had raised money by drawing portraits of people he met along the way, so he had enough to travel by train the rest of the way to Sweden. I'm thinking you may have an epic romantic adventure yourself in 2025, Scorpio — maybe not quite as extreme, but very interesting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): To symbolize your destiny in 2025, I drew a tarot card. It was the nine of cups. Here's my four-part interpretation: 1. Sometime soon, you should identify your top desires and ruminate about how to express them in the most beautiful and fulfilling ways possible. 2. Take a vow that you will shed half-hearted, insecure approaches for bringing them to fruition. 3. Be uninhibited about seeking not just a partial but a complete version of each fulfillment. 4. Figure out which allies you will need in your life to manifest the happiest and most meaningful outcomes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're the most pragmatic sign of the zodiac and are the most highly skilled at getting constructive things done. It's also true that you thrive on organizing the chaotic details of our messy world into smooth-functioning systems. But I periodically need to remind you that these superpowers of yours require you to nurture a vigorous and rigorous imagination. All of what you ultimately accomplish originates in the fantasy realm. This will be especially crucial for you to keep in mind during 2025.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The “Mona Lisa” is a world-famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci. Beneath its visible surface is evidence that the artist reworked it extensively. There are at least three earlier versions with different facial features. In one, the figure has eyebrows and is wearing hairpins and a headdress. These details were scrubbed out of the image that now hangs in the Louvre Museum in Paris. I bring this to your attention, Aquarius, because I suspect you have been engaged in a comparable process as you have worked on your labor of love. In my reckoning, you're finished with your false starts, practice runs and dress rehearsals. In the coming months, you can make excellent progress toward ripening and culminating your creation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Ancient Greek literature references a drug called nepenthe. Anyone who ingested it would forget memories that stirred pain and sorrow. Many of us modern people might consider taking such medicine if it were available. But let's imagine a very different potion: one that arouses vivid memories of all the wonderful experiences we have been blessed with. If there were such a thing, I would recommend that you sample it frequently in the months to come. That's because your relationship with the good parts of your past will be especially useful and inspirational. In fact, drawing on their power will be instrumental in helping you create your best possible future.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Thursday, Jan. 2

Adult Winter Reading Challenge - Read books from at least 5 of the 15 categories by Feb. 28 to be entered into a grand prize drawing. Stop in to register. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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.

Capital Area Modelers Society Meeting - Learn about building scale models, display what you're working on and get to know others interested in the hobby. 6:30 p.m. Judson Baptist Church, 531 Glendale Ave., Lansing. capitalareamodelerssociety.wordpress.com.

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.

Let's Dance! Intro to Square & Contra Dance - Learn the basics of square or contra dance at this free workshop! Dances will alternate. Ages 7+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

MSU Men's Ice Hockey vs. University of Wisconsin - 6:30 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

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

Switch Gaming: "Mario Kart" - Join us for an afternoon of fun and friendly Switch gaming. Feel free to bring your Switch to play between turns. All skill levels welcome. Ages 8-12. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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.

Friday, Jan. 3

Country Stitches' Quilt-A-Thon - Sign up to help finish quilts! No sewing experience needed — if you can tie a knot, you can help. Quilts will be donated to a variety of local charities. 10:15 a.m.-4 p.m. 2200 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. countrystitchesmi.as.me.

Craft Club Jr. - Make no-sew bookworms! Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Euchre with the Kiwanis Club and Unity - Optional potluck at 6:30 p.m., euchre at 7. Tournament with cash prizes. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Mark Weaks at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 8 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.

Saturday, Jan. 4

Country Stitches' Quilt-A-Thon - Sign up to help finish quilts! No sewing experience needed — if you can tie a knot, you can help. Quilts will be donated to a variety of local charities. 10:15 a.m.-4 p.m. 2200 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. countrystitchesmi.as.me.

Family Day: BELONG - These art materials belong together! Imagine new possibilities with us as we build illuminated sculptures inspired by "COMPLEX DREAMS." 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Four More Shapes, wsg Kennedy Perez - Four More Shapes is a Michigan-based indie band whose members share an affinity for the boundlessness of art music and the timeless structure of a pop ditty. Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m. Urban-Beat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

New Year's Psychic & Holistic Fair - Get an aura photo, have a private session with a psychic or medium, experience a reiki session or massage, and shop for crystals and holistic products. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Okemos Event Center, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos. rywevents.com.

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.

Quilt-A-Thon

10:15 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3-

Saturday, Jan. 4

Country Stitches

2200 Coolidge Road, East Lansing

Sewing and quilting shop Country Stitches seeks volunteers for its annual Quilt-A-Thon, running 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday (Jan. 3) and Saturday (Jan. 4) at its East Lansing location on Coolidge Road. Participants will help finish quilts that will be donated to charities in the Lansing and Jackson areas, including City Rescue Mission of Lansing, End Violent Encounters, Homeless Angels, the Ingham County Health Department, Jackson Friendly Home, John George Home, Loaves & Fishes, Mason Community Services, Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan, Shared Pregnancy Women's Center and several others. No quilting or sewing experience is necessary — Country Stitches notes that if you can tie a knot, you can help. Participants are encouraged to bring scissors and a lunch. To sign up, call (517) 351-2416, email countrystitchesquiltshop@gmail.com or visit countrystitchesmi.as.me.



Sunday, Jan. 5

"A Course in Miracles" Study Group, with Dan and Carol Maynard - Noon. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Bottle and Can Collection for Eastern Ingham Farmers Market - We collect your Michigan-returnable bottles and cans from your trunk while you stay warm in your vehicle. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

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

First Start Sunday - Monthly blacksmithing workshop for beginners, featuring a shop tour, lessons on safety and technique, and a take-home project. 1-4 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Churchill Road, Leslie. artfiremichigan.com.

See Events, Page 20

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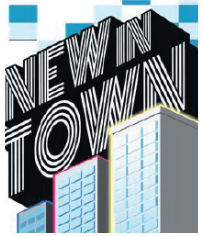
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Unleash your creativity at Old Town's Craft Bar

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Maddie Fox's eye for creative business concepts was heavily influenced by her time studying marketing under professors Karl Gude and Ross Chowles at Michigan State University.



The Craft Bar

513 E. César E. Chávez Ave.,
Lansing
11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily
(517) 702-8350
thecraftbar.shop

After graduating in 2021, Fox channeled their lessons as she considered opening her own business. Her brainstorming efforts, alongside a life-long passion for arts and crafts, yielded the idea of a community crafting space in her home neighborhood of Old Town.

She discussed her vision with local

entrepreneur Rob Iafano, who jumped on board to help make it a reality. The pair opened the Craft Bar on Dec. 11 in a 1,200-square-foot space that previously housed Metro Melik 517 until it closed in August.

Since then, Fox has been busy seven days per week helping patrons create custom candles. She plans to gradually add other crafts to the mix in 2025, including soap and fragrance making and painting. "It's going to keep developing," she said. "There will be more and more crafts being introduced as the months go on, and there will always be new, fresh workshops to come to."

Customers can pre-register for crafting sessions through the shop's website, though it also accepts walk-ins. Every so often, Fox said she plans to host special workshops with limited space.

"We'll have occasional crafts where it's just one night, and you have to sign up to get your seat," she said. "Those are a little

bit more exclusive. But for the most part, you'll be able to do most of our crafts on a daily basis."

The Grand Rapids-area native said she isn't aware of any Michigan businesses with a similar concept. It felt right to launch it in Old Town, which she called "Lansing's art district."

"We didn't want to offer just one thing, like candle making, where people will do it once and get bored of it. We wanted something where families could continue to come here throughout the year so that they can have something fun to do with their friends, or for a date night," she said. "We also wanted to make sure that all kinds of people could come here. So, if you have an elderly person in your life and you need to find something fun to do with them, it works for that. It also works for kids."

At MSU, Fox said Gude and Chowles showed her that "everyone can be creative." That motto motivates her to help



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Maddie Fox combines base scents to prepare for a candle-making session at her new Old Town business, the Craft Bar.

area residents find their own artistic niches.

"Creativity is a muscle, just like anything else, and Gude really demonstrated in his class that that concept is true," she said. "Anyone can do the stuff we have here, and we'll help them step by step."

Events

from page 19

GLAD Drum Circle - Free, family-friendly event for all experience levels. Bring your own percussion instruments or borrow one! 2-4 p.m. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

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

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

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.

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

Tarot-Reading Class for Beginners - Learn the meanings of the cards and various spreads to get you started. Course fee includes deck and hand-outs. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Okemos Event Center, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/rock-your-world-events-19899402525.

White Stone Ceremony - A Unity spiritual ritual that helps people discover their divine potential and express their soul's calling. The ceremony is based on Revelation 2:17 from the Bible, which describes a white stone with a new name written on it that's only known to the recipient. 10:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Monday, Jan. 6

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

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

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

Crafty Story Time - Preschool-aged children and their caregivers can enjoy fun activities, stories and a craft. 11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Fiber Circle - Knitters, crocheters and stitchers of all ages and skill levels welcome. Although formal instruction isn't provided, attendees assist each other with techniques and skills. 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court through April. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

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

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

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

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.

"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, Jan. 7

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

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

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

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

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

Beginning Cha-Cha Group Dance Class - Eight-week class. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. uofmhealthsparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Beginning West Coast Swing Group Dance Class - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. uofmhealthsparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

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

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

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

Michigan Agri-Business Association Winter Convention and Trade Show - Together with industry colleagues we'll celebrate achievements, focus on the year ahead, and deliver critical training and recertification opportunities for you! 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. maba.swoogo.com/2025winterconference.

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

Preteen Reads Book Club - Each participant reads the same book beforehand and comes to the meeting ready to chat, eat snacks and have

book-related fun. Grades 4-6. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Salsa & Merengue for Adults - No experience needed —our instructors will guide you through each step, ensuring you have a great time while learning new skills. 8 p.m. Platinum Dance Academy, 1561 Haslett Road, Haslett. ballroom-dance-lansing.com.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 8

"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.

Adult Bingo - Win books and other prizes. Refreshments will be provided. Registration req. 2:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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 Salsa Group Dance Class - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. uofmhealthsparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

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

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

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Events

from page 20

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

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court through April. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

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. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Michigan Agri-Business Association Winter Convention and Trade Show - Together with industry colleagues we'll celebrate achievements, focus on the year ahead, and deliver critical training and recertification opportunities for you! 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. maba.swoogo.com/2025winterconference.

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

Mid-Michigan Photography Club Annual Clinic and Open House - Club members will present on topics including exposure basics, processing and composition. This is a great chance to meet and network with other photographers. 6 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing.

mmphotoclub.net.

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.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers - Six-week workshop for caregivers. Learn how to reduce stress, communicate effectively, set goals, problem solve and more! 6 p.m. Virtual — to register, call 517-887-1465 or emailhistedc@tcoa.org.

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.

Weaving the Web: Purification - 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.

Thursday, Jan. 9

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.

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.

Charlotte Community Library Birthday Book Club: "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," by Betty Smith - 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Four More Shapes, wsg Kennedy Perez

Saturday, Jan. 4
Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m.
UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing

Lowell-based indie-folk-rock band Four More Shapes returns to UrbanBeat Saturday evening (Jan. 4), with an opening set by Grand Rapids singer-songwriter Kennedy Perez. Founded in early 2023, the members of Four More Shapes — drummer/vocalist Cole Smith, bassist/vocalist Clementia Kelly, rhythm guitarist/vocalist Gavin McDonnell and lead guitarist Alex Hallandal — “share an affinity for the boundlessness of art music and the timeless structure of a pop ditty,” according to the band’s website. The group issued its first single, “Cocoon,” in February and followed up with two more tracks in October and December, which are available to stream at fourmoresshapes.bandcamp.com. Perez released her debut single, “Sonder Summer,” on Spotify in October. Tickets for Saturday’s show are \$10 and are available at urbanbeatevents.com.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: TEXT AMENDMENT #2024-09
RN, VILLAGE OF NEMOKA DISTRICT UPDATES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE

Zoning Amendment #2024-09 (RN, Village of Nemoka District Updates)

The Township Board at its regular meeting on December 17, 2024 approved for introduction and subsequent adoption Ordinance 2024-09, an Ordinance amending the code of the charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County at Chapter 86, Zoning, Section 86-377, RN, Village of Nemoka Mixed Residential District to update the standards therein.

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

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-002

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meridian.mi.us

CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 18

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SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 18

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Joe's on Jolly's 'adult' grilled cheese is a grown-up's guilty pleasure

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

Maybe it's because I love grilled cheese, but I always thought this classic sandwich was for everyone, not just kids. However, on my recent visit to Joe's on Jolly, my curiosity was piqued by an adult grilled cheese. Since when has there been an "adult" version?

First things first: Joe's on Jolly is a fairly new eatery on Jolly Road in Okemos that's best described as a cross between Applebee's and Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen. It has a very comfortable sports bar atmosphere, with plenty of TVs screening the latest games and a wide selection of cocktails, burgers, sandwiches, tacos and other comfort foods on the menu. However, unlike most other bars, Joe's has a scratch kitchen, meaning everything it

serves is made in-house using the freshest ingredients from Michigan vendors whenever possible.

Although I almost ordered one of the wraps, I couldn't resist the temptation of figuring out what makes the grilled cheese so "adult." Because it was my first time at the restaurant, I decided to go all the way and order it with a side of truffle fries.

According to the menu, the sandwich contains bacon, tomato and a trio of signature-blend cheeses between two slices of artisanal bread. Since I don't like bacon, I requested it to be left off — why you'd add meat

to a traditionally vegetarian sandwich is beyond me — and I don't think that took anything away from the experience. The bread was perfectly toasted on both sides, the cheese was deliciously melty, and the tomato gave it a little

something extra.

The truffle fries weren't much different than regular fries — they were simply coated in a blend of white truffle oil and sprinkles of parmesan cheese. They were hot, crispy and had an extra kick of flavor that livened up what can be a basic side. Still, if I'm being honest, I prefer regular fries because you don't need that much flavor if you're going to wind up dunking them in ketchup anyway.

I guess an "adult" grilled cheese just means you get more ingredients in the sandwich. Other restaurants seem to be hopping on the trend with their own versions. Does this imply that wanting a plain grilled cheese is somehow childish? Of course

not. People should enjoy grilled cheese however way they want. However, I have to say that Joe's on Jolly's adult version is pretty darn delicious, and fellow cheese lovers should give it a try — with or without the bacon.



Adult grilled cheese

\$14

Joe's on Jolly

2360 Jolly Road, Okemos

11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

(517) 246-5637

joesonjolly.com



Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

Joe's on Jolly's adult grilled cheese, an elevated take on the classic sandwich, contains bacon, tomato and a trio of cheeses between two slices of artisanal bread.

It's back: that seedy feeling

By ARI LEVAUX

My first seed catalog of 2025 arrived in late November. The timing couldn't have been better. Thanksgiving sticks a fork into the growing season and ushers in a quiet time of rest, contemplation, hot beverages and heavy reading.

Gardening is a thoughtful pursuit, and seed catalogs are a way to garden in your mind during the winter. The tantalizing descriptions and flattering depictions of diverse plants can offer dreams where reality falls short and inspire ambitious plans, some of them realistic.

There's a seed catalog to match every gardener these days, from latte-sipping community garden plot workers to leather-handed cowgirls. There's the whimsical nostalgia of the Fedco catalog, with its line-drawn illustrations of a garden world populated by sunbathing onions and gnomes hiding behind lovage plants. Many market growers prefer the no-nonsense approach of



Photo by Ari LeVaux

Seed catalogs are a way to garden in your mind during the winter. The tantalizing descriptions and flattering depictions of diverse plants can offer dreams where reality falls short.



Johnny's Selected Seeds, which is streamlined and farmer-oriented, with the fastest delivery in the business.

If those two catalogs mated, their spawn would resemble the Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds catalog that arrived in November. It has that old-timey feel of

See Flash, Page 23

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BRUNCH

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2024 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Anna's House

Casual restaurant serving creative breakfast and lunch options, including vegan and gluten-free dishes
1753 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
(517) 253-7609
annashouseus.com
7 a.m.-3 p.m. daily

2. Art's Pub

Mellow gameday hangout offering a wide menu of pub grub and breakfast options
809 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 977-1033
artspublansing.com

7 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

3. Bobcat Bonnie's

Relaxed restaurant and bar serving elevated pub fare, including vegetarian and vegan options, plus brunch
637 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 657-7522
bobcatbonnies.com

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday

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

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

4. The People's Kitchen

Restaurant and bar serving creative comfort food and craft cocktails for any time of day
2722 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 507-5730
eatpeoples.com

9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

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5. Soup Spoon Café

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Flash

from page 22

Fedco mixed with the budding entrepreneurship of Johnny's, and it adds a mission to discover and share as many heirloom plant varieties and traits as it can.

The Baker Creek catalog includes an ad for its larger and more comprehensive cousin, the Whole Seed Catalog. It's like a normal seed catalog on plant-based steroids, with information on more than 1,200 varieties of heirloom seeds, along with historical notes, cultivation tips and many seeds for thought. I picked up a copy at Barnes & Noble.

Jere Gettle founded Baker Creek Seeds in the Missouri Ozarks in 1998. He has an elfin look, like a character from the Fedco catalog, and is partial to plants that attract pollinators.

I asked him about some out-of-stock Peruvian maíz morado corn, which grows more than 8 feet tall and produces long ears of shiny black kernels. It will be in stock by mid-January, Gettle assured me.

I will be placing my Inca corn order then, as well as some others. Everyone in my family has marked a few pages, flagging items such as dragon tongue beans, muncher cucumbers, Minnesota midget melons and today's featured seed, King Tut purple peas.

The origin of King Tut purple peas is hotly debated, with candidates in the United Kingdom, Egypt and Everett, Washington. Two things everyone can agree on are that this purple pea has been around for a long time and is delicious. The pods are edible if you want the extra anthocyanins, but they're not fleshy and juicy like a snap pea pod. The peas themselves are gargantuan green spheres that seem to burst from the pods and are

the real treasures here. Whether you want to make a thick pea soup or just infuse some green into whatever you're cooking, these verdant orbs work well with almost any dish.

My farmer friend Patti once taught me a cool trick for using peas to gauge how ready the garden is for planting. She sows peas as soon as the ground thaws. Every few days, she plants a few more and keeps planting them until they start to sprout and grow. That's her green light to begin planting a bunch of other seeds and seedlings.

Be they for pink celery, yellow tomatillos, red melon, green spinach or blue kale, an order of seeds is like a box of Lucky Charms but with more fiber. Seeds offer colorful winter dreams — and the possibility that they might even come true.

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Thank you so much and a very happy New Year to all of you!

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