

CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us
Locally owned

The Ten Pound Fiddle

URNS 50
**LOOKING BACK ON
FIVE DECADES
OF FOLK**

See Page 11



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JANUARY DEALS

1/2-1/31

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1oz/\$69 2oz/\$99 <small>SMALL BUDS</small>	2.5oz/\$35 <small>PRE-PACKED 1/2 oz GRIP</small>	<small>Save up to \$35</small> B2G1 <small>PRE-PACKED EIGHTHS HOMIEZ (MOONROCKS)</small>	<small>Save up to \$16</small> 3/\$59 <small>PRE-PACKED EIGHTHS PRO GRO (PREMIUM), SOCIETY C, WHITE BOY RICK, GLO FARMS (REGULAR BUD)</small>	<small>Save up to \$61</small> 3/\$89 <small>PRE-PACKED EIGHTHS PRESSURE PACK, SEED JUNKY, PRO GRO (RESERVE OR ABOVE) GLO FARMS (INFUSED), SHAMPINE (INFUSED), JOSH D</small>

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



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EST. 1975

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BRINGING THE BEST OF FOLK, ROOTS & DANCE TO THE GREATER LANSING AREA

\$5 STUDENT TICKETS TO ALL SHOWS! *unless noted



SUNDAY, JAN 12, 2025, 3PM
Kitty Donohoe @ ULC
Michigan Heritage Award Winner and Fiddle Favorite



SATURDAY, JAN 18, 2025
Larry & Joe @ The Robin Theatre
Venezuela Meets North Carolina



FRIDAY, JAN 24, 2025
Dom Flemons @ ULC
The American Songster

21ST MID-WINTER SINGING FESTIVAL @ ULC
Friday 1/31 Community Sing w/ Dan Chouinard
Saturday 2/1 Workshops and Community Sing



FRIDAY, FEB 07, 2025
Guy Davis @ ULC
American Bluesman



FRIDAY, FEB 14, 2025
Jake Blount & Simon Chrisman & Nic Gareiss @ ULC
Three Outstanding Artists: One Delightful Program



SUNDAY, FEB 23, 2025, 3PM
Christine Lavin @ ULC
Afternoon knitting circle (1PM) and concert (3PM)



FRIDAY, FEB 28, 6PM
The Stringrays @ Elderly Instruments
Songs and old-time tunes



SUNDAY, MARCH 02, 2025, 3PM
The Jeremiahs @ ULC
From Ireland: Songs, Jigs, and Reels



FRIDAY, MARCH 07, 2025
Badass Women Band @ ULC
Annie Capps, Annie Bacon, Sara Gibson, Anne Heaton, Carolyn Koebel, Cori Somers and Lansing's Julianna Wilson



FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025
Henhouse Prowlers @ ULC
From Chicago - High Energy Bluegrass



MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025
St. Patty's Day Irish Sing-a-long @ The Robin Theatre
Song Leaders: Sally Potter, Michael McConeghy, Abbey Hoffman



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025
Sara Pajunen wsg Frances Olson @ The Robin Theatre
Finnish Music Virtuosos



FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025
JigJam @ ULC
From Ireland - Celtic Bluegrass



FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025
Sparky & Rhonda Rucker @ ULC
American Troubadours



FRIDAY, APRIL 04, 2025
Tim Eriksen @ The Robin Theatre
Interpreter of Traditional Songs and Sounds

50TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND!
FRI & SAT APRIL 11-12, UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



FRI, APRIL 11 Susan Werner
A Consummate Musician

ALL DAY PARTY

SAT, APRIL 12 * Noon-10PM * \$20 * Students free
Community singing, jams, instrument workshops, ukulele activities, dancing, demonstrations and conversation, featuring:

Sally Rogers	Kitty Donohoe	Dangling Particles
Robert B. Jones	Mark Dvorak	Deacon Earl & Roger Gentry
Joel Mabus	The Ukulele Kings	Super Secret Cult Band
Matt Watroba	The Springtails	and many more...



THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025
Elden Kelly & Andy Wilson @ The Robin Theatre
Good Friends; Great Musicians; CD Release



FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025
Cheryl Wheeler & Kenny White @ ULC
Brilliant Songwriters



FRIDAY, MAY 02, 2025
The Paxton/Spangler Band @ UrbanBeat
Great American Songbook



THURSDAY, MAY 08, 8PM
John Depew @ The Robin Theatre*
Brilliant Songwriter and Mandolin Virtuoso



TUESDAY, MAY 13, 8PM
Martin Carthy and Eliza Carthy @ The Robin Theatre
From England, timeless melodies and spellbinding storytelling



Fiddle Scouts
A FUN, FAMILY-FRIENDLY OPPORTUNITY TO "FIDDLE" AROUND WITH FOLK MUSIC
MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing



Saturday, February 8, 2025, 11am-noon
THE FABULOUS HEFTONES
Lilting and energetic music from the 1920s... songs about birds, flowers, and love just in time for Valentine's Day!



Saturday, April 5, 2025, 11am-noon
JUMP BUNNY STRING BAND
Eclectic fun swinging tunes from the past and present.



CONTRA/SQUARE DANCES: 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS!
January 18 • February 1 • February 15
March 1: Bob Stein's 90th Birthday Bash! English Country Dance 2-5pm, Potluck 5-7pm, Contra/Square 7-10pm
March 15 • April 5 • April 19 • May 3 • May 17 • June 7
Location: Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 7-10 pm, unless noted. Beginner's lesson at 6:30 pm. Sliding scale \$5-25.
Co-sponsored by Ten Pound Fiddle and Looking Glass Music and Art Association

2025 CONCERT VENUES

University Lutheran Church (ULC)
1020 S. Harrison, East Lansing. Easy, free parking.

The Robin Theatre 1105 S. Washington, Lansing's Reo Town

UrbanBeat 1213 Turner Street in Lansing's Old Town

Elderly Instruments 1100 N. Washington, Lansing

Email Updates:



All concerts at 7:30 pm unless noted. For tickets, venue info, performer bios, contra dance info, Fiddle Scouts info and more, visit tenpoundfiddle.org or call 517-337-7744.

Tickets on sale NOW @ tenpoundfiddle.org

CityPULSE

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CAPITAL OFFENSE

IN 2021, GOOGLE AND APPLE PULLED DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST NAVALNY'S APP FROM RUSSIA AT PUTIN'S DEMAND.

I'LL NEVER USE THOSE COMPANIES AGAIN!

OH, WAIT.



MANY CORPORATIONS RESUMED MAKING DONATIONS TO REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO VOTED AGAINST CERTIFYING THE ELECTION.

WE CAN'T LET A LITTLE VIOLENT COUP ATTEMPT STOP US FROM WINNING DEFENSE CONTRACTS!

NO, WE DO NOT HAVE A SENSE OF IRONY.

LOCKHEED MARTIN



IT'S ALMOST AS IF CAPITALISM DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A DARK AUTHORITARIAN FUTURE.

END OF DEMOCRACY

WE ARE TAKING THE MARKET BY STORM!



MANY COMPANIES WILL PROBABLY MAKE A SEAMLESS TRANSITION.

JAN 6 MARTYRS DAY CELEBRATION
SPONSORED BY
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SORENSEN



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PAGE 15

Lansing Symphony pulls Friday's soloist from its own ranks



PAGE 21

Lansing Shuffle adds hand-rolled sushi to its roster



PAGE 23

Beirut Kitchen makes "stoner food" appealing to all

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

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

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

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

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

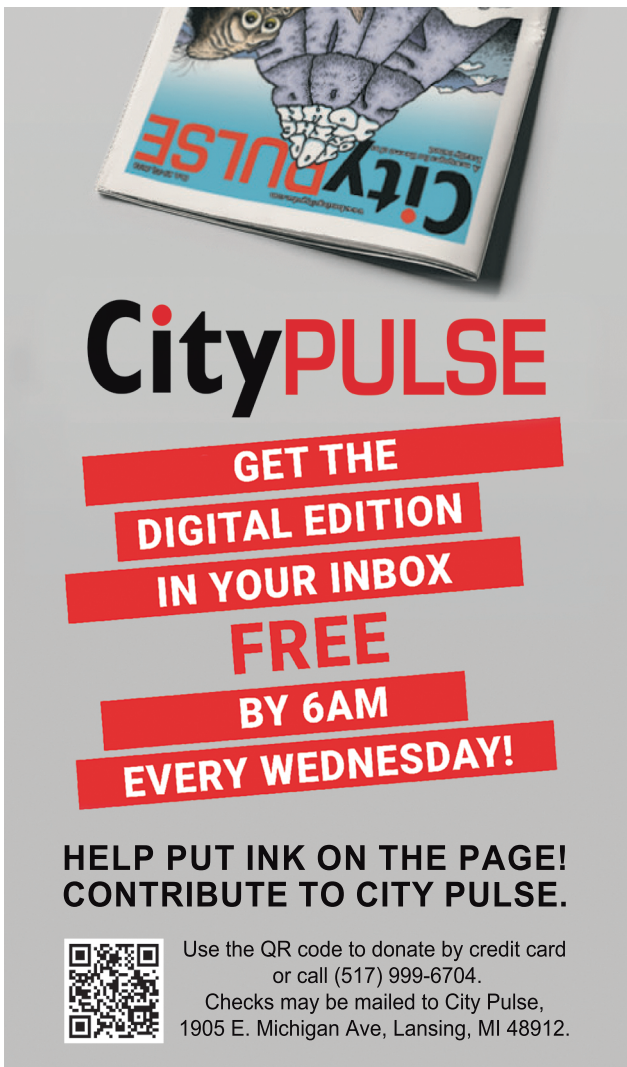
STAFF WRITER • Tyler Schneider
tyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063

SALES EXECUTIVE • Lee Purdy
lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064

Contributors: Dedria Humphries Barker, Bryan Beverly, Taylor Blair, Courtney Bowerman, Rob Breznsky, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Dana DeMink, Lizzy Ferguson, Roxanne Frith, AJ Glaub, Mark Gmazel, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Audrey Matusz, Kyle Melinn, Joan Nelson, Tessa Paneth-Polak, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Vic Rauch, Chelsea Lake Roberts, Chris Silva, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, David Winkelstern

Delivery drivers: Quill Blankenship, Cindy Heistand, Terri Paine, Diane Scofield, Lou Sears

Cover design by Rich Tupica



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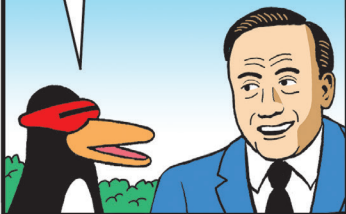
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HELLO! I'M A COLUMNIST FOR A LARGE, INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER-- AND IT IS MY NUANCED AND DELIGHTFULLY CONTRARIAN OPINION THAT **GRAVITY IS IMAGINARY!**

BUT--THAT IS DEMONSTRABLY UNTRUE.



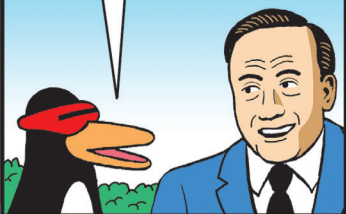
HEY, SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN WRONG **BEFORE**, YOU KNOW! THEY **USED** TO BELIEVE THE MOON WAS MADE OUT OF **CHEESE!**

I--WHAT? NO, THEY DID NOT!



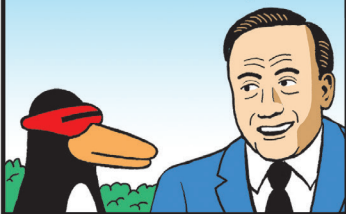
OH, I GET IT! YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER CLOSE-MINDED LIBERAL, THREATENED BY ANY IDEA THAT MIGHT CHALLENGE YOUR RIGID, IDEOLOGICAL WORLD VIEW!

BUT--THE THING YOU SAID--IS WRONG!



SO? I'M AN **OPINION** COLUMNIST! THE NEWSPAPER FOR WHICH I WRITE GIVES ME VAST LEEWAY-- BECAUSE OF THE **OPINIONS!**

I MEAN--HOW CAN YOU "FACT-CHECK" AN **OPINION**?



BUT THAT'S JUST A SMOKESCREEN! YOUR OPINIONS ARE **BASED** ON ALLEGED FACTS!

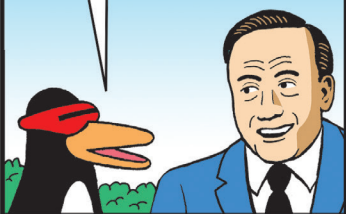
YES, BUT THEY'RE NOT **FACTUAL** FACTS! THEY'RE **OPINION-Y** FACTS! AND HENCE NOT SUBJECT TO ANYTHING SO TEDIOUS AS **CORROBORATION!**



SAY, THE SKY'S A LOVELY SHADE OF **GREEN** TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?

REALLY, JUST STOP.

AREN'T I A **RASCAL?**



Tom TomReW © 2025

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Neva-Lee'sgate: Both sides of a complicated story

Former downtown Lansing business owners Faun Donald and Luke Trusnovec closed their floral shop, Neva Lee's, last March after about 19 months in business on Washington Square.

On Dec. 22, the pair launched a website titled "Downtown Lansing Incompetence," in which they outlined claims that Downtown Lansing Inc. helped spur the failure of their business by not delivering grant dollars that DLI officials had allegedly promised Neva Lee's to help them bring their business to Washington Square.

This week, Downtown Lansing Inc. responded through their attorney, who threatened a libel lawsuit. Meanwhile, DLI executive director Cathleen Edgerly denied their claims in a phone interview with City Pulse.

DLI is overseen by a board nominated by the mayor and approved by the City Council. It's funded by a mix of public and private money to advance businesses in an area bordered by Interstate 496 in downtown to Clinton Street in Old Town.

Donald and Trusnovec have successfully shared their story locally through social media. But what exactly do they claim happened? And how does their recollection differ from that of DLI's staff?

In essence, the pair's assertions hinge on two primary claims.

The first is that DLI approached them about moving from their existing space, at 123 E. Kalamazoo St., and promised \$25,000 in relocation assistance money, but then only provided \$10,000.

The second claim is that DLI staff helped place them in a building that was "hazardous" and not in compliance with city code.

Donald and Trusnovec said they opened their shop in a 600-square-foot space on Kalamazoo in July 2021. They had plans to buy a food truck to start an adjacent mobile coffee shop, they said.

They said they were financially solvent in early 2022 when DLI's community development director, Julie Reinhardt, "recruited" them to relocate to a larger downtown space on Washington Square.



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Luke Trusnovec (left) and Dawn Donald closed their downtown Lansing business in March after what they said was an ill-fated move to Washington Square. They blame Downtown Lansing Inc. for their troubles, which DLI disputes. They are pictured outside their old floral shop last week.

The pair sent City Pulse a screenshot of an April 11, 2022, email from Reinhardt's DLI email address in which Reinhardt appeared to have written the following: "I am looking into getting you \$20k-\$25k in grant money from DLI to make the move possible. We believe in your business and we want it on Washington Square! I will know more in the next couple of weeks on the exact amount but you can count on that range."

Donald and Trusnovec said they accepted the offer and signed a three-year lease on 2,400 square feet at 109 S. Washington in June 2022. They did so with the hope that they could also eventually expand it to include a coffee bar. The space was initially expected to be ready after some summer renovations.

During that period, DLI suggested that Neva Lee's should apply for a \$10,000 Comerica-sponsored small business grant, which they received in late July. According to Donald and Trusnovec, the Comerica grant was the first portion of the \$25,000 they said DLI promised them for relocation.

The pair finally opened their new space in September 2022. Before opening, however, they said they encountered delays because it was allegedly not up to code. They cited plumbing issues, broken and boarded-up windows and carryover trash that was not promptly removed as some of the problems. They said the issues persisted after they opened.

"They put you in these buildings that have poor conditions, under landlords that don't follow their leases and don't maintain the buildings," Donald said. "So, you've got it coming from both sides. They say they're going to give you this funding to move down there. They actively recruited us and approached us, unsolicited, multiple times to move our business there."

Edgerly contested both points. She told City Pulse that Donald and Trusnovec approached DLI about relocating to Washington Square, not vice versa.

Secondly, Edgerly said, the plumbing issues and other code violations had nothing to do with DLI.

"That is between the business and

the landlord. We're not involved in those matters, nor would I have the specifics of them," Edgerly said.

But Donald and Trusnovec claim that DLI should have known what kind of properties they were promoting.

"It all comes back to the people who are in charge of building up downtown, who are putting you into buildings with known issues. There's no monitoring, there's no regulation of these landlords to say that they need to have safe, compliant buildings," Donald said.

Through the start of 2023, Donald and Trusnovec said they struggled to get their new location up and running. In addition to the alleged code violations — which they said their landlord was slow to address — they still believed they were due the \$15,000 they said they were promised to help them relocate.

"We would have been fine where we were. It all started going to crap when we went to the space that they directed us to, based on the fact that they secured this funding and incentivized us with the money to make the move and expand. Our rent, overhead and expenses all went up. We were behind from the get go," Donald said.

Donald and Trusnovec maintain that they continued to reach out to Reinhardt asking when they would see the additional \$15,000 they believed they were owed. They again shared correspondence that appears to corroborate their inquiries.

In December 2022, DLI held a downtown merchants meeting to encourage them to apply for a Small Business Support Funding Grant, a reimbursement-based grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corp., for which the application process opened in January 2023.

After that meeting, they said, Reinhardt had them stay behind to discuss the additional \$15,000, which she allegedly told them they'd have by the end of that holiday season.

Neva Lee's did not receive the \$15,000 by then, but it was awarded at least \$49,000 through the MEDC reimbursement grant in early 2023. Still, the pair say that money did not

See Neva Lee's, Page 10

REWIND

REWIND RESUMES AFTER A TWO-WEEK HOLIDAY HIATUS

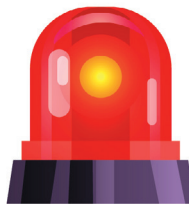
COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Lansing City Council members elected Ryan Kost president and Tamara Carter vice president for 2025 in their first meeting of the year Monday. Kost replaces Jeremy Garza, and Carter replaces Adam Hussain. Kost, who was not even nominated during the first of multiple rounds of voting, received five of the Council's eight votes in

the final round after Hussain nominated him.

Fourteen people in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties died from violent acts in 2024, about 10 fewer than in 2023. Lansing police said it recorded 11 homicides, the same number as 2023. Three more occurred in surrounding townships. Lansing had nine fatal shootings and 56 non-fatal shootings in 2024, compared to nine fatal shootings and 64 non-fatal shootings in 2023. Two city homicides remain unsolved: One was the mass shooting in Rotary Park over the Memorial Day weekend, in which one teen was killed and six youths were injured. The other was the last homicide of 2024, when a 36-year-old man was killed and a 25-year-old man was injured on Dec. 29 in a shooting on the 4900 block of Belle Chase Boulevard, near the Jolly and Dunkel roads intersection. The 25-year-old is expected to make a full recovery. Police said they detained a person of interest, but the investigation remains open. They recovered multiple firearms from the scene.



Longtime Democratic Delta Township Supervisor Ken Fletcher declined to accept another term after winning his reelection bid on Nov. 5, opening up the process for the township board to nominate a replacement by mid-February, including from the board itself. Fletcher, 58, resigned after he was arrested in September for allegedly accosting a minor on the LGBTQ dating app. Police used a decoy posing as a 15-year-old boy to arrange an August meet-up, where officers detained Fletcher. By that point, it was too late to remove Fletcher's name from the ballot, and he won reelection. Township Clerk Mary Clark, the interim supervisor, said his replacement will retain the position through the November 2026

election, when a supervisor will be chosen to serve a partial term ending in 2028.

Barbara Wolf, an assistant professor at MSU's College of Human Medicine and a clinical psychologist with McLaren Health Care, was shot and killed by a motorist in Oxford Township after she had stopped to assist him. Wolf, 71, and her 38-year-old daughter were driving together when they stopped to see if the driver of a car that had crashed into a tree was OK. The driver allegedly ran up to the driver's side of Wolf's car and tried to get inside her vehicle. Wolf tried to drive away, but the stranded motorist began shooting into her car, striking both Wolf and her daughter, who is expected to recover. Malik Webb, a 29-year-old ex-convict from Genesee County, is facing murder, carjacking and weapons charges. He has a history of gun violence and was paroled early last year despite getting convicted of another gun crime while behind bars.



Lansing Police Chief Rob Backus has promoted Eric Pratl, a patrol captain who also has led the community policing unit, to assistant chief. Pratl has also served as a patrol officer, K-9 officer, community police officer and field training officer during



his 21 years of police work. He was on the department's START tactical team for 13 years and has overseen the Police Athletic League since 2018. In 2020, Pratl was promoted to lieutenant and managed patrol and internal affairs before becoming a captain last year. "His experience and vision make him the ideal choice to help guide the Lansing Police Department forward," Backus said in a release. Shawn McNamara, who was a lieutenant, has been promoted to captain.

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners has voted to place a 2-mill increase for public safety on the May 6 special election ballot. Based on a \$200,000 home with a taxable value of \$100,000, the millage would cost homeowners about \$200 a year. Eaton County turned down a larger tax increase in November that would have cost homeowners \$500 for the same value home. If approved, the increase would fund law enforcement, including staffing and resources for the Prosecutor's and Sheriff's offices, including animal control,

county officials said. Eaton County spokesperson Logan Bailey said that the failed operational millage from November, needed to address a financial shortfall in the 2025'26 budget year, contained confusing state-mandated language.



Five Ingham County departments paid the Boston-based Iron Mountain document storage company \$88,477 in 2024 despite not having properly approved contracts. Officials admitted the payments are the most recent example of a longstanding county issue in which departments renew or sign contracts without following county policy. The Ingham County Board of Commissioners changed policy in 2018 to address the issue, but the problem has persisted. The county has been trying for a year, unsuccessfully,

to get Iron Mountain to return county data and documents without paying additional fees. Iron Mountain has faced about a dozen lawsuits in the past 10 years from other businesses or agencies struggling to get their property back at the end of a contract or following Iron Mountain's acquisition of another document storage company.

Adaline Nicole Clough was the first baby born in 2025 at UM Health-Sparrow, arriving at 1:40 a.m. New Year's Day. The third child of Trevor and Natalia Clough of Eagle, she was born at 6 pounds and 9.8 ounces. McLaren Greater Lansing welcomed its first baby at 4:18 p.m., Kenneth Young, born to Chelsea and Kenneth Young of Mason. Hayes Wicker just missed being the first, born to Courtney Burch and Reese Wicker of East Lansing two minutes later.

Civil rights activist Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr. will be the keynote speaker for the 40th Annual Day of Celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., set for Monday, Jan. 20, at 11 a.m. at the Lansing Center. LaFayette, 84, co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in 1960 and led efforts to desegregate lunch counters in Nashville, Tenn. He was a leader of the Selma Voting Rights movement, which paved the way for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He also participated in the Freedom Rides, which protested segregation in interstate bus travel and worked closely with groups that included the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and American Friends Service Committee. Tickets and info are available at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/48354636/2025-mlk-luncheon-lansing-lansing-center-lansingmi>.



CityPULSE

What a difference your support makes

Thanks to a generous donation, we're able to start a City Pulse journalism internship program in 2025. Motivated interns will enable us to extend our coverage, reporting more deeply and broadly in Greater Lansing with fresh voices!



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

Your friends at City Pulse





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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; CIPPLining 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

CP#24-763

Rewind

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Lansing native Earvin “Magic” Johnson was among 19 people who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Biden Saturday. Johnson led Everett High School to a state basketball championship, then attended MSU from 1977-’79, leading the Spartans to an NCAA title. He then won five NBA championships and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Since retiring, Johnson has been a successful entrepreneur whose foundation assists underserved communities. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is considered the nation’s highest civilian honor, presented for contributions to the national interest, world peace, or cultural or other significant matters. The late George Romney, who served three two-year terms as Michigan’s governor, was also honored.

Hugo “Hugh” P. Spagnuolo, an English teacher for 44 years at Lansing Eastern High School, died Dec. 24 at 89. He attended Michigan State and Columbia universities, then started at Eastern in 1961. In 2005, he retired from teaching due to Parkinson’s disease. Mark Hahn, also a retired English teacher from Eastern, told the Lansing State Journal that Spagnuolo kept 22 boxes of letters from students he taught. When President Ronald Reagan called Spagnuolo in 1983 to ask if he would consider being Teacher of the Year, he turned him down to stay close to family, said Hahn. The Funeral Mass was held Dec. 28 at the Catholic Community of St. Jude in DeWitt, followed by the Rite of Committal at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Lansing.



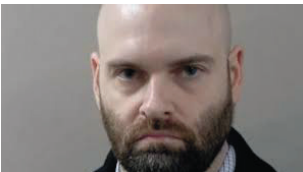
Clinton County District Judge Michael Clarizio announced his retirement after 10 years on the bench and 34 years with Clinton County. In early November, he notified Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s office that he would retire at the end of 2024. Whitmer will appoint a successor for the remaining two years of his term. Clarizio, 63, said he was retiring to spend more time with family following his wife’s cancer diagnosis. He spent 24 years in the Clinton County Prosecutor’s Office before being elected to the district bench in 2014 and reelected in 2020.

The Meridian Township Board of Trustees has appointed Tim Dempsey township manager. He has 20 years of experience in local government, including seven as East Lansing’s deputy city manager. He was also the city’s director of planning, building and development, as well as director of planning and community development. Dempsey had applied to be East Lansing’s city manager in 2023, but officials chose Robert Belleman instead. Dempsey replaces Frank Walsh, who announced his plans to resign last April.



East Lansing appointed Deputy Police Chief Jennifer Brown its second interim police chief since former Chief Kim Johnson resigned during an internal investigation. Brown replaced Chad Price, who asked to return to being deputy chief pending his planned retirement Jan. 27. Brown, who joined ELPD in December 2023, worked for MSU Police and Public Safety for 15 years after a decade in private security. The department is conducting a nationwide search for a permanent police chief. The East Lansing City Council has authorized City Manager Robert Belleman to engage the advisory firm Baker Tilly to assist in the search.

Meridian Township fired a probationary officer amid a Michigan State Police investigation into his alleged possession of child pornography. Alexander Stachura, 38, of Williamston, faces counts of possession of child sexually abusive material and three counts of us-



Rewind

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ing a computer to commit a crime. Court records indicate that the case against Stachura began when his wife found a flash drive with photos of a “a post-pubescent teenage female engaging in sex acts or posing in a sexual manner.” The affidavit said that she contacted the MSP and provided the thumb drive to investigators.



Teresa Woodruff, former MSU interim president, was presented with the National Medal of Science at a ceremony at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. She won the medal for her work in oncofertility, which combines oncology — the study of cancer prevention — and reproductive health and focuses on how young cancer survivors, or those still undergoing treatment, can plan for their “future fertility.” Woodruff received a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in 2011 in an Oval Office ceremony.

Michigan State University alum siblings Dave Porteous, Bill Porteous and Ruth Porteous Hamilton, together with their spouses and children, donated \$1 million toward a project to transform the cafeteria in the Campbell Hall dorm into a living and learning hub called Porteous Grand Hall for students in the Honors College. In doing so, they

honored their parents, William and Mabel, who met at Campbell and fell in love when they worked in the cafeteria there as students from 1937 to '42. Officials broke ground on the Campbell Hall renovation project last May. This new space will allow future Honors College students to collaborate and build lasting connections, the university said.



Bloomberg Philanthropies has selected the MSU Museum to join its Digital Accelerator Program for some 200 nonprofit cultural organizations. The program helps cultural organizations across the U.S. and U.K. to strengthen technology and management practices to improve operations, drive revenue, increase fundraising, engage broader audiences, and deliver dynamic programming, the university said. The MSU Museum will develop a

Digital Surrogates Pipeline, a project that brings objects from the museum's collections to life through digital innovation. This effort will include creating immersive experiences with virtual and augmented reality technologies and placing cultural and scientific objects in new contexts to inspire deeper audience learning and engagement. The museum started an 18-month renovation project last July.

The restrictions the MSU Board of Trustees placed on members Rema Vassar, D-Detroit, and Dennis Denno, D-Lansing, were lifted Dec. 31. Responding to bullying accusations, the trustees voted 6-2 in March to prohibit them from board-related activities and took away their committee assignments. They

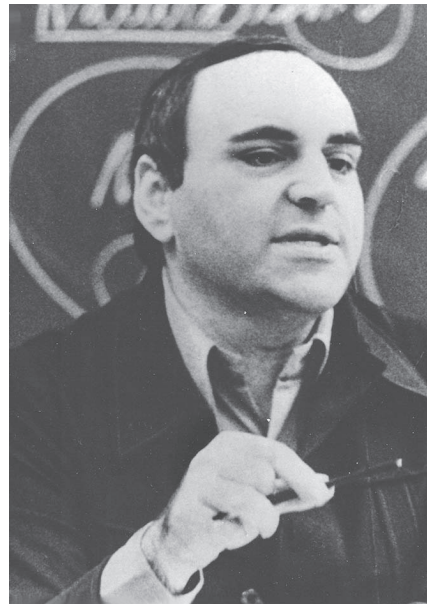
also asked Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to consider removing them, but she has taken no action. MSU Faculty Senate Vice Chair Jack Lipton wrote Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel Dec. 30 requesting she investigate their behavior. Whether the trustees will seek or be granted committee assignments this year is unclear. The board's first meeting is Feb. 7.



A federal judge has ordered Jacob Hawley, who operates several Barrio Taco locations, including one in East Lansing, to pay \$823,325 in back wages and damages to employees after finding the company shortchanged workers. U.S. Judge Paul Maloney issued a summary judgment against Sparty Tacos LLC, TC Tacos LLC, GR Tacos LLC and Hawley after the U.S. Labor Department claimed the restaurants operated an illegal

See Rewind, Page 10

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.

Rewind

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tip pool system “for at least two years;” provided tips to employees who don’t typically receive tips — invalidating a tip credit; failed to pay earned time-and-a-half overtime; and failed to keep “true and accurate records.” He ordered the defendants to “pay full back wages and liquidated damages.” The judgment involved more than 200 employees in East Lansing, Traverse City and Grand Rapids.

A single-engine 1979 Beechcraft A-36 en route from Lansing to White Plains, N.Y., crashed in East Aurora, N.Y., killing pilot Phil Marsh of Lansing. He was the only passenger aboard the plane when it went down in a residential neighborhood, just feet from the home of Buffalo Bills football player Dion Dawkins. The Buffalo Niagara International Airport sent out an alert for a single-engine plane with mechanical issues. Several calls to 911 followed before fire crews arrived to find a “fully involved fire,” East Aurora police said. An investigation into the crash is ongoing.

Police planned to seek warrants for those involved in an incident at the Park Terrace MHC mobile home park in Lansing Township in which occupants of one vehicle fired shots at another vehicle carrying a 26-year-old man, a 25-year-old woman, a 4-year-old boy and a 3-year-old girl. There were no injuries, Lansing Township police said. A 24-year-old man and a 22-year-old woman occupied the second vehicle. That man threatened to “shoot up” the other man’s house in a dispute involving “money owed,” police said.



Neva Lee's

from page 5

count toward that outstanding balance because it wasn’t on the table when Reinhardt allegedly promised them the original funds.

In May 2023, Donald and Trusnovec met with Edgerly to discuss their concerns over the funding. They said they informed her that they were still awaiting the \$15,000. In a letter dated Oct. 19, 2023, Edgerly settled the matter by clarifying that, when taken together, the \$49,000 MEDC reimbursement grant and \$10,000 Comerica grant represented a larger allocation than the \$25,000 “relocation assistance” the pair believed they were still owed.

When asked about it by City Pulse on Monday, Edgerly reiterated that take.

“The two grants that they applied for and that we offered were awarded at the maximum amount,” Edgerly said, adding that “in the history of DLI, as far as I know, there has never been a relocation assistance fund.”

However, Donald and Trusnovec continued to contest that determination. They say other businesses have experienced similar “mismanagement” but are afraid to speak out because they feel that they “need” DLI.

“They’re recruiting us into these buildings so they can get their num-

bers up. It’s a numbers game, so they can pat themselves on the back and say they got one more business in this building,” Donald said. “But what happens afterwards? Where are the regulations of how those landlords are treating these people and the conditions of their buildings?”

Donald and Trusnovec tried to negotiate out of their lease, citing an unsustainable business model prompted by the funding disagreements. However, they found themselves in the midst of a lawsuit that they said cost them around \$12,000 “on an attorney to negotiate our way out of the building.” They couldn’t keep up with the legal expenses and later settled out of court ahead of closing.

Now removed from the downtown scene, they decided now was the time to speak up.

“We’re not down there anymore, so we’re not afraid of DLI. We don’t need them. We just want the other people down there to know that they don’t really need them either,” Donald said.

Edgerly noted that “93 percent” of the businesses DLI “has supported” are operating.

Edgerly expressed regret that Neva Lee’s failed downtown.

However, she said its owners’ claims “do not accurately reflect our values, our work or the lengths that we go to help support all of our downtown Lansing businesses.”

TYLER SCHNEIDER

As 2025 begins, time to ponder Michigan’s Top 5 political questions

Shouldn’t we be taking a break from politics?

Yes. 2024 was exhausting, but we got our break. The world doesn’t stand still, and there are many questions going into the new year.

We’ll discuss city politics with Mayor Andy Schor, et al., later. For now, we have state-level political questions.

First up is whether this new Republican-led state House will work with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and a Democratic-controlled state Senate.

The answer is somewhat obvious.

Yes. They’ll work together, slowly. There will be contention. There will be some deal-making. The House will pass stuff that never gets signed.

Let’s move on to more definitive political questions.

Does John James run for governor? We can talk about Kevin Rinke or Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt or Mike Cox, but the 800-pound gorilla in GOP politics is U.S. Rep. John James, R-Southfield. Republicans have poured four years of money into getting him elected to Washington, D.C., but he’s reportedly interested in a spot where he can make more of an impact.

A James gubernatorial candidacy could put the U.S. House Republican caucus in a bind if he constantly campaigns in Michigan. With its slim majority, every vote counts.

If history is any indication, the Republican gubernatorial field that emerges in 2025 will be substantial, but many dominos will fall depending on whether James pulls the trigger.

Is an independent gubernatorial campaign viable? Possibly the most significant problem Democrats face going into the 2026 election cycle is a credible independent Mike Duggan gubernatorial campaign taking flight.

Let’s be honest: Duggan has always been a Democrat. He’s buddies with President Joe Biden and has rolled in Democratic circles. Sure, being mayor of Detroit is a nonpartisan deal, but being governor has been a partisan position since the founding of the state. (I looked: no independent governor, ever.)

It’s early. Maybe Duggan will change his mind and seek the Democratic nomination. But as it stands, an independent Duggan candidacy draws a lot more Democratic voters than Republican votes. Added up, does that equal

more votes than what a Republican can get?

That’ll be a question asked a lot this year and next.

How long can Whitmer play nice with Trump? While other Democratic governors have attacked incoming President Donald Trump, Whitmer is taking a different approach. She’s using D.C. back channels to reach out to the incoming Republican president to seek a more positive and constructive relationship with him.

Whitmer and Trump didn’t get along during COVID, but apparently she’s burying the hatchet and moving on. “Common ground” were the words she used during her interview on WKAR-TV’s “Off the Record.”

(Sub question: When does Whitmer make her first public trip to New Hampshire, Iowa or South Carolina?)

Will the MSU Board of Trustees PLEASE get along? I’ll sing the MSU Fight Song outside Beaumont Tower if I don’t have to write about more discord among the Michigan State University trustees. The elections of Rebecca Bahar-Cook and Mike Balow give me hope.

New MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz has more of a personal shine than his predecessors, too, and I’m told that’s helping keep the board out of the news.

Can Nessel finally win a political prosecution? Attorney General Dana Nessel swung and missed on the Flint Water Crisis prosecutions. She slowed but didn’t stop the Enbridge pipeline tunnel.

Now, can Nessel finally score a prosecutorial victory against the 2020 Republican electors? You remember those so-called “fake electors” who claim they only tried to present Vice President Mike Pence with an alternate slate of electors from Michigan? Maybe.

Meanwhile, criminal charges remain outstanding against former Speaker Lee Chatfield, his former top aides Robert and Anné Minard and fundraiser Heather Lombardini.

From the outside, the case against the Minards appears the strongest, but if these cases aren’t resolved by 2026, the next AG cannot guarantee that they will continue.

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

“Let’s Boogie!” by Bob Baldori and David Small, returns next week.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

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Photo by Dylan Rogers

Southeast Michigan bluegrass band Wilson Thicket performs on Feb. 8, 2024, at the Robin Theatre in REO Town, one of the Ten Pound Fiddle's go-to venues. The Fiddle doesn't have a brick-and-mortar location but instead rents local spaces based on expected attendance for each show, such as University Lutheran and Edgewood United churches in East Lansing and UrbanBeat in Old Town.

By RICH TUPICA

As the first pluck of a banjo fills the room, and the fiddle conjures a commanding, rustic sound, it becomes clear that a Ten Pound Fiddle event is more than just a concert. The acoustic instruments, masterfully played by seasoned vets and emerging artists alike, dutifully carry echoes of the past, keeping folk traditions alive in front of local audiences.

For the last 50 years, that's what the Ten Pound Fiddle Concert and Dance Series, aka "the Fiddle," has done: offered authentic glimpses into the old days while also aiming a spotlight on the future of folk music. At this point, the Fiddle has become a beloved folk tradition of its own — one that will forever be rooted in Michigan's music heritage.

Simply put by Fiddle booking manager Sally Potter, "Folk music is music that relates the stories of people's lives," and each Fiddle show, held at various venues across Lansing and East Lansing, tells those captivating stories through a diversity of genres, like maritime, Cajun, gospel, country, blues, jazz, big band and beyond. From icons like Tom Paxton and Peter Yarrow to local legends like Jen Sygit and May Erlewine, there's been no lack of talent on Fiddle bills.

Over the last five decades, Potter said more than 50 community members have served on the Fiddle board,

helping to produce more than 1,200 concerts, 500 dances and 50 Fiddle Scout gatherings. To date, tens of thousands have attended Fiddle events and heard the tried-and-true melodies that created the sonic foundation for modern music.

Billy Strings, 32, is a Michigan native who first played the Fiddle a decade ago. Since then, he's become an international superstar. Last year, the fiery guitarist topped Billboard's all-genre Top Album Sales chart with his scorching 2024 bluegrass LP, "Highway Prayers." The last time a bluegrass album hit No. 1 on the chart was the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack in 2002.

Strings' early Fiddle shows remain a standout for many who witnessed his pre-fame performances.

"It's hard to pick one favorite show, but I have to say I have loved Billy Strings since I first saw him," Fiddle President Beth Kelly said. "He's an amazing musician and gives everything he has to every concert."

"He's been to the Fiddle a couple of times," she continued. "The first time, in 2015, he was still pretty

young. His family and friends showed up in numbers since he's from Muir. I'm sure we had to squeeze in as many extra chairs as we could fit. I've been asking our booking agent to have him back every year since. Today, that's just a dream since he's now won a Grammy, played the Grand Ole Opry and has been touring with Willie Nelson."

But no matter how well folk music is tracking on the charts, the Fiddle, a nonprofit organization operated by roughly 60 volunteers and 10 elected board members, has always championed the genre unconditionally. Looking back over the decades of performances, few have more Fiddle memories than troubadour Joel Mabus, 71, who played the second-ever Fiddle concert on Jan. 21, 1975. He was 21 back then.

That 1975 show was held in an inconspicuous room at the Michigan State University Union. It's a space that lingers in Mabus' memories.

"That room isn't there anymore, hasn't been for a long time," Mabus said of Old College Hall, a private room that was nestled behind the Union Grill, an eatery that's also defunct. "Old College Hall had fraternity and sorority paddles bolted onto its walls, all emblazoned with their various Greek letters. The thick, wooden tables had been carved with initials and mes-

For more information on the Ten Pound Fiddle's spring concert and dance schedule, which kicks off Sunday (Jan. 12), visit tenpoundfiddle.org

See Fiddle at 50, Page 12



Photo by Beth Kelly

Musician and Ten Pound Fiddle booking manager Sally Potter leads the Fiddle's annual Holiday Sing on Dec. 8, 2023, at University United Methodist Church in East Lansing.

Fiddle at 50

from page 11



Photo by Beth Kelly

Andy Wilson, a member of local outfits like Steppin' in It, Those Delta Rhythm Kings and the Springtails, serenades the crowd with his accordion on Nov. 1, 2024, at the Hannah Community Center. On April 17, he and guitar virtuoso Elden Kelly will celebrate the release of their debut record with a Fiddle show at the Robin Theatre.

sages from students long dead, I presume. It was cozy, dim and seldom used for anything except random lunchers looking for solitude."

Days before Mabus' gig, the first Fiddle show, held on Jan. 10, 1975, featured local husband-and-wife duo John and Rosy Goacher. The pair belted out traditional English folk songs for more than 100 attendees, which is unsurprising since John Goacher hosted "A British Tradition," a weekly program on WKAR radio. That kickoff season featured another Fiddle regular, Michigan folk fixture Sally Rogers, who — alongside former WKAR "Folk Tradition" DJ Bob Blackman — was the Fiddle's booking manager for years.

The Fiddle quickly found its footing, but a different folk series, Mariah Coffeehouse, held at MSU's McDonel Hall, also helped blaze the local folk trail, according to Mabus.

"I think I was chosen early on (to play the Fiddle) because I had worked up a modest fan base from my appearances as an opening act at Mariah Coffeehouse, the larger folk organization on campus," Mabus said. "Mariah was the brainchild of Jim Fleming, who, as a grad student in 1972, started a series of weekend concerts of folk and blues music. So, when the Ten Pound Fiddle began, it was specifically to counter the offerings of Mariah, which had settled as a one-night-per-week show on Saturdays. That's why the Fiddle would only present shows on Fridays — a tradition rarely broken even to this day."

Folks in the crowd

Local audio technician and musician Bill Bartilson, 61, was just a child when he attended the first year of Fiddle shows. Introduced to the folk scene by his late father, Stan Bartilson, he became a lifer. From 1975 to 1980, he also set up audio and lighting at Fiddle shows, preparing him early on for his life in music.



Photo by Beth Kelly

Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner Tom Paxton performs on Oct. 4, 2024, at University Lutheran Church in East Lansing.

"Folk music transcends generational and political boundaries," Bartilson said. "Most Fiddle folks in the mid-to-late '70s were college-aged or young college graduates. I was part of the next generation, among the youngest of regular attendees. My father was the old guy — a full 30 years older than most of the members. But there was acceptance, cooperation and friendship centered around a love of this music."

With so many shows under his belt, Bartilson said picking just one concert as a standout is hard, but the Fiddle's Residents' Night performances remain unforgettable.

"They were usually the last show before the holidays," he said. "I believe the initial roster was Sally Rogers, Stan Werbin, Karrie Potter and my father. The roster rotated over the years. Each musician would take a turn leading and performing, with others joining and supporting as they desired."

"The other thing I recall vividly," he added, "is that every Friday night was a window into another part of the world."

Folk singers were actual troubadours in the real sense of the word. They brought their culture — often foreign and unusual instruments, new accents and a different style of music — with each coming week. It was educational, and I couldn't wait for the next class."

Over the years, Bartilson has worked many concerts and seen varying degrees of wild crowds. A Fiddle show is an intimate experience unlike most of those other gigs.

"The biggest difference is that listening is the absolute focus of a Fiddle audience," he explained. "Bars and halls are inherently noisy environments. So, if you come to a Fiddle show, prepare for a listening experience where the audience knows when to be quiet — and when to show their appreciation at the end of a song."

As a member of local outfits like Steppin' in It, Those Delta Rhythm Kings, the Springtails and more, Lansing musician Andy Wilson has played dozens of venues across Michigan and beyond. He said the Fiddle has an unrivaled vibe.

"The Fiddle is one of Lansing's true listening rooms," Wilson said. "Playing to a dance floor can be fun, but I prefer to play to a listening audience. Every note I play matters. This atmosphere benefits the performers as well as the music lovers in attendance. The performer's reputation draws in some of the audience at Fiddle shows; others attend every show. This creates a neat social community and a built-in audience."

Wilson said he first learned of the Fiddle as an up-and-coming musician in the mid-'90s. By the late '90s, he was a "resident" performer at the Fiddle. On April 17, he and guitar virtuoso Elden Kelly will celebrate the release of their debut record with a show at the Fiddle.

"I'll be playing a wide array of harmonicas, from the humble 10-hole to the massive 48-chord harmonica," Wilson said. "It will be an instrumental performance, exploring everything from classical to Irish, jazz to world and beyond. It's a fine example of the expanding world of what it means to play folk music. This music requires a captive audience, so we chose the Fiddle for our release."

The show will be hosted at the Robin Theatre in REO Town, one of Fiddle's handful of go-to spaces. The Robin's co-owner, musician Dylan Rogers, has operated the venue since its opening in 2015.

"Sally Potter is a friend and has mentored me over the years," Rogers said. "We met, I believe, around 2012. I

was performing with the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle. We mostly did street performances then. Sally saw us and invited me to bring the band to play a Fiddle show at the old Creole Gallery.”

Over the years, Rogers and Potter kept in touch, and the Robin was chosen to host some Fiddle shows. Today, it hosts six to eight Fiddle events per year.

“I learned a lot from Sally about booking shows,” Rogers said. “Although the Robin hosts a wider array of performances, we specialize in intimate listening-room shows with virtuosic talent on stage. There’s a lot of overlap with the Fiddle’s folk music series, so it makes sense to partner on shows from time to time.”

In that time, Rogers said the partnership has been rewarding on many levels.

“The Fiddle also gets that taking good care of artists goes a long way, and they always make sure to help with meals and housing. It helps give these shows a decidedly ‘non-industry’ vibe. These are exactly the kind of shows I like to host.

“It’s remarkable how many artists say something like, ‘You don’t know how good you have it in Lansing!’ after playing at the Robin or Ten Pound Fiddle,” Rogers added. “It takes a special combination of factors to create something like this, and even many larger markets don’t have something like the Fiddle.”

Booking the talent

While passionate volunteers might lead the Fiddle, the artists are always paid.

“Each season, the Fiddle writes checks totaling more than \$60,000 to musical artists and dance callers,” Potter said. “I love putting together the concert schedule. Each 30-concert season is a puzzle. It’s a matrix that involves catching touring performers when they’ll be in the area and figuring out how to make the concerts’ numbers work mixed with representing the many genres under the folk music umbrella.”

Over 50 years, there have been a few leaner periods, according to Potter. Usually, those dips in attendance are parallel to economic trends. But the Fiddle has always “had a little money in the bank,” and yearly events like the Mid-Winter Singing Festival and the Holiday Sing keep people coming back.

“Fiddle booking agents have always booked performers who make that musical connection with the audience, no matter how many people they’ll draw,” Potter said. “There are concerts that draw 400 people and concerts that draw 50.”

For each of the 50 annual events, Potter explained, the Fiddle rents a local venue that will accommodate the expected crowd. Not having a fixed location makes this possible. For instance, the Fiddle Scouts, a program that introduces children to acoustic music, is held at MSU’s Community Music School in East Lansing. Contra dances are held on the vast wood floor at Central United Methodist Church. Most concerts are held at University Lutheran Church in East Lansing, with several smaller ones at the Robin Theatre, plus a few at Edgewood United Church in East Lansing and UrbanBeat in Old Town.

While not having a brick-and-mortar location comes with a few snags, Potter said the positives far outweigh the negatives. In fact, that’s what’s made the Fiddle a sustainable business model. It’s how the series has brought in the likes of Janis Ian, who sold out the 500-seat Hannah Community Center. In the fall, Holly Near sold 300 tickets at Edgewood Church. If



Photo by Beth Kelly

Fiddle mainstay Joel Mabus, who played the concert series’ second-ever show in January 1975, performs on Jan. 31, 2015, at the Hannah Community Center.

the show is good, people will show up.

“The biggest question people have about the Fiddle is, ‘Where is it?’ On a street map, the Fiddle is hard to find because there’s no one location,” Potter said. “But financially, the Fiddle has survived for 50 years because it doesn’t own a building. The Fiddle doesn’t have a mortgage, utility bills or a paid executive director.”

Kelly, who first got involved with the Fiddle 15 years ago, became a board member in 2012 and by 2017 was elected president. He said the volunteers, community donations and the approximately 300 “members” who attend the shows are the Fiddle’s lifeblood. Different paid memberships are offered at shows and on the Fiddle’s website. Pre-paid memberships not only offer perks such as discounted tickets to members but also make the talent-booking process less stressful.

“Our members are one of the most important parts of the Ten Pound Fiddle,” Kelly said. “There are many people who get their memberships every year. They’re the reason we have the Ten Pound Fiddle. They are the Ten Pound Fiddle. It gives us money up front to support the shows and bring in better musicians and bands. It gives us the ability to take some risk in case we lose money on a show here or there.

“It’s really amazing that the Fiddle continues to thrive after 50 years since a lot has changed in a half century,” Kelly added. “I believe the reason we’re still around doesn’t have much to do with money but how the music and musicians connect with the people. A personal connection happens in live music that you don’t get anywhere else. Musicians tell personal stories and connect with the audience. They often ask the Fiddle audience to sing along with them since they know we love to sing. We put on great shows.”

Along with hosting great shows come



Photo by Beth Kelly

Mabus circa 1980 on the back cover of his album “Settin’ the Woods on Fire,” which was recorded live at a Fiddle gig.

great responsibilities, such as accommodating the artists when they arrive. Over the years, volunteer Kate Corby and her husband have invited countless touring performers to stay at their home.

See Fiddle at 50, Page 14



Photo by Beth Kelly

Robert B. Jones Sr., a Detroit native who blends the traditions of legends like Rev. Gary Davis and Woody Guthrie, prepares to take the stage in January 2015 at the Michigan State University Community Music School.



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CityPULSE

Fiddle at 50

from page 13

“Housing performers happened because we had a big house,” Corby said. “It’s close to the various venues, and once the kids were gone, there were as many as four open bedrooms.”

“Not every performer wants a homestay, and some prefer the privacy of a hotel, but I think they’ve chosen a rather rough career with constant travel, and I appreciate their bringing live music to us,” she continued. “I try to pamper them a bit while they’re here. I always ask what foods they’d like, if they’d like some special refreshments to unwind after the show.”

So, what has kept the Fiddle going strong and allowed it to reach this 50-year milestone? Watroba said it’s all about quality control and good people.

“It’s a strong organization that goes deeper than any one person,” he said. “They’ve always had a com-

mitted board of directors and a large and competent volunteer crew willing to learn and do a wide variety of tasks. They haven’t strayed from their commitment to their mission. Plus, they’ve always managed to replace key roles in the organization, when needed, with folks who really get it. It’s about great sound, creative booking, treating artists right and having a strong board and volunteer crew.”

WKAR’s support and promotion of Fiddle concerts can’t be understated, either. Blackman’s show was a long-running staple until his 2011 retirement. Since then, “Folk with Matt Watroba” has kept up the tradition of spinning folk over local airwaves.

Watroba, who’s also a folk musician, said the Fiddle continues to inform his radio show and is also a prized destination for many touring artists.

“I’ve learned about new acts through their calendar,” he said. “The Ten Pound Fiddle has been a critical piece in the puzzle of scheduling Midwest tours for traveling acts. It’s one of the reasons they’ve been able to at-

tract some of the best touring artists in the folk world.”

Kate Peterson, best known in Lansing for her work with her band Nervous but Excited, has played six Fiddle shows since 2009 — two solo and four with her band. In 2013, she stepped up and began helping the Fiddle with its website, graphic design and public relations needs. However, her time as a working musician is what really helps her appreciate what the Fiddle does for artists.

“My band Nervous but Excited once opened for folk legend Utah Phillips in Boston,” Peterson recalled. “After we finished our set, he said, ‘You should keep doing it. There are hundreds of dollars to be made in folk music.’ Hilarious, sad and true! I have such gratitude for the work the Fiddle does to host, promote and support folk musicians. I believe in the limitless healing benefits of live music and the community it builds. Even though I no longer live in Lansing, I know I can always come back home to family in the Fiddle.”

Bob Stein (retired dance caller) on contra dances:

“At the beginning, we were one of only two good dances in the state, and we would get about 200 people coming from all over the region. As people began to enjoy it, they started dances in their communities. Now, there are contra dances in many cities and towns in Michigan. For many years, I called most of the dances.”

Kitty Donohoe (Michigan-based musician and former Fiddle booking manager) on the ‘80s and ‘90s:

“In the late ‘80s and early ‘90s, many Canadian and European bands were coming through, and I loved those. In my second year of booking, I booked the last three concerts: Jean Redpath, Nanci Griffith and Suzanne Vega. It was quite a coup then, and I remember feeling great that I was able to get such artists to come to East Lansing. This is shortly before Nancy and Suzanne hit the big time.” (Donohoe performs Sunday (Jan 12) at University Lutheran Church.)

Julianna Wilson (Fiddle Scouts coordinator and musician) on the Fiddle Scouts:

“Its mission is to introduce young children to live music played mainly on acoustic instruments, with some participatory elements depending on the performers and what they bring. We encourage playfulness and opportunities to move with the music, whether that’s dancing, pretending to be animals or occasionally playing instruments along with the performers. There aren’t many opportunities for children to see people playing fiddle, banjo, guitar, ukulele or harmonica in real life unless they were born to musicians who play these things.”

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'A bit of a beast'

Horn concerto will push soloist, LSO to the limit

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It's always a sweet moment when the orchestral thunderheads recede and honey-gold beams stream through the cracks, courtesy of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's principal horn player, Corbin Wagner.

But Wagner, the featured soloist at Friday's (Jan. 10) Masterworks concert, isn't the kind of blowhard who lights a pipe and talks about his big moments.

"I don't care so much about what I'm playing," he said. "I just care about the orchestra playing as a unit, playing well together. I like every concert. I've worked long enough that playing one more solo isn't a big deal anymore."

Wagner is a nearly 35-year veteran of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and its affiliated ensemble, Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings. He retired from the DSO in 2013, teaches at Michigan State University and enjoys staying in practice with the LSO, where he's served as principal horn for eight years.

"Of course, I'm in a different group of musicians here that often have secondary jobs," Wagner said. "But one thing that's surprising to me is the excellence of the players, compared to all the full-time orchestral players I used to play with in Detroit."

Wagner admitted that opportunities to play Richard Strauss' Horn Concerto No. 2, Friday's featured work, don't come along every day.

"It's a real honor to be asked to do something like that," he said. "It's a big challenge for the orchestra. Strauss loved to write for instruments to your last 5% of strength, bless his heart. They're going to have to work pretty hard to figure out their own notes. It's a bit of a beast."

Word on the street (at least on the Ringstrasse in Vienna) is that the concerto contains some of the most beautiful music ever written for horn.

"The second movement is just gorgeous, lyrical horn playing," Wagner said.

"The last movement is a romp. It flies up and down the instrument. It's very exciting, with a big, beautiful, heroic, show-off ending."

Despite the horn's long history and enthralling, noble tone, Wagner took it up for the most prosaic of reasons. The Philadelphia-area native was already a musical kid, playing piano and taking "lessons from the neighbor lady," when his parents pushed him to take band class. The only instruments left in the band closet were a trombone and a French horn.

Might as well go with the horn, Wagner thought.

"That's how it went," he shrugged. "No glorious start."

The horn is a notoriously finicky instrument, prone to producing "clams" (spectacularly wrong notes) at the worst moments, but Wagner said his piano experience enabled him to "correct" himself as he went along.

"I knew what I should be doing," he said, "so I sounded like I knew what I was doing pretty quick."

At about the same time Wagner completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan in 1979, the brilliant and mercurial horn virtuoso Lowell Greer unexpectedly left the Detroit Symphony.

"He was this maverick horn player, and he got bored with the Detroit Symphony and just kind of left, walked out the door, and they didn't even know he was gone," Wagner said. "They called me, and that's how I got the job." (Greer ended up in Mexico City and went on to an unorthodox career as a player and builder of horns from various historical eras before his death in 2022.)

Like Greer, Wagner embraces the horn in all its forms, all the way back to hunting horns and the fanfares of ancient Roman legions.

Wagner won a national competition playing the natural horn, a shaggy prehistoric beast that has no valves and requires the player to adjust the pitch by controlling suction from the lips and moving a hand in the bell

of the horn. At one Detroit concert, he lined up eight different horns on stage and played them all in succession.

"Lowell Greer inspired me to play on all these varied instruments," Wagner said.

Friday's concert also features a world premiere by LSO composer-in-residence Jared Miller; Ottorino Respighi's "Trittico Botticelliano"; and Joseph Haydn's soaring, elegant Symphony No. 43, "Mercury."

A night of music scaled to a classical-sized orchestra from the days of Haydn and Mozart not only helps balance the orchestra's annual budget, offsetting the bigger blowouts that come in fall and spring, but it also gives music director Timothy Muffitt a chance to showcase some great — and less often heard — music.

Haydn was the musician's musician, a composer of supreme craft and deep humanity, and Muffitt relishes any chance to bring one of his 104 magnificent symphonies to life.

"It's been 250 years since 'Mercury' was written, but this music is still as fresh and engaging as ever," Muffitt said.

However, sticking to a classical-scaled ensemble doesn't stick the orchestra in the 18th century. True to Muffitt's modus operandi, he tucked in a little-known masterpiece by Respighi, inspired by three paintings of Botticelli, to blow the audience away with a piece they probably haven't heard before.

"It's a gem," Muffitt said. "He pulls out ancient music techniques and puts them in this tonally brilliant 20th-century idiom. It just shimmers and glistens and shines."

Respighi and Strauss were 20th-century men, but there's even newer music on the slate Friday.

Anyone who has heard music by LSO



Courtesy photo

Lansing Symphony Orchestra principal horn player Corbin Wager, the featured soloist at Friday's (Jan. 10) Masterworks concert.

composer-in-residence Jared Miller knows he loves to deploy all the bells and whistles. What, no harp, no tuba, no vibraphone? No Chinese water gong? Miller compared the challenge to creating a modern three-course meal for a dinner party with your boss "in a kitchen from the 1700s."

"This is an important dinner, and you don't want to mess it up," Miller said. "I had to find a way."

The result, "Teaser-Feature-Pleaser," is a three-movement romp that takes a fragment from Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1 "and puts it front and center in an ambient and carefully colored slow-motion reorchestration."

"Within these limited means, I envisioned a universe of compelling sounds I could explore," Miller said. He compared the closing movement to a dessert: "fun, comforting and delightfully junky."

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Corbin Wagner, horn
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As Michigan's pot market grows, so do health problems

By CHRIS SILVA

In the five years since Michigan legalized adult-use cannabis, the plant and its effects — positive and negative — have received increasing attention and mainstream acceptance.

As cannabis has emerged from the shadows, more products have entered the market, and with that increase, negative interactions are now being documented for the first time, making the statistics appear overwhelming. One of the most concerning trends is the rise in youth hospital visits due to cannabis intoxication since legalization. Additionally, a new and alarming health issue, cannabis hyperemesis syndrome, has gained attention as cannabis use becomes more widespread, not only in Michigan but across the United States.

Youth hospital visits

From 2020 to 2022, the Michigan Poison and Drug Information Center had 801 occurrences of cannabis ingestion toxicity among children under 5. This marks a nearly 75% increase in unintentional youth cannabis ingestion, while the nationwide increase during the same period was around 60%.

This uptick in unintentional cannabis use is only one aspect of the larger issue. Across Michigan, school administrators are engaged in a battle to keep vapes — both THC and nicotine — from infiltrating school bathrooms and locker rooms.

Despite these challenges, many advocates point to the fact that Michigan's cannabis market is one of the most tightly regulated in the nation. The state's regulations on packaging and marketing of edibles and other THC products aim to reduce confusion with commercially available candies. Since the introduction of both medical and recreational cannabis programs, Michigan has enforced stringent rules, including clear labeling



Courtesy photo

The cannabis landscape has seen an increase in the prevalence of “intoxicating hemp” products like delta-8 THC vape cartridges and edibles, which are often sold at gas stations and head shops and aren't subject to the same regulations as cannabis products in the legal market.

and dosage restrictions.

The Cannabis Regulatory Agency has implemented specific guidelines to ensure products are not appealing to children. These include prohibiting cartoon characters and the word “candy” and ensuring that products are sold in opaque, child-resistant packaging.

Cannabis hyperemesis syndrome

Cannabis hyperemesis syndrome, or CHS, is a recently recognized condition linked to frequent cannabis use. It causes severe abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting and typically affects individuals who use cannabis daily or weekly. CHS'

underlying causes are still not well understood, and there is limited research on the syndrome. While there are few definitive treatments, many who suffer from CHS report finding relief from hot showers during episodes of nausea and cramping. The only known way to permanently stop CHS is complete cessation of cannabis use.

There has been ongoing debate among advocates and industry members about CHS' prevalence. Some theorize that further research may uncover a contributing nutrient or additive used in cultivation. Given that cannabis use was largely undocumented due to its illegal status for



many years, it's unclear whether CHS is truly on the rise or if it is simply being reported more frequently now that cannabis is legal.

'Legal weed'

One of the more troubling and confusing aspects of the cannabis landscape today is the increasing prevalence of unregulated “intoxicating hemp” products. These items, often sold at gas stations and head shops, are not subject to the same regulations as cannabis products in the legal market. Many products mimic popular candy brands or employ prohibited imagery, such as cartoon characters, to appeal to younger audiences. Unfortunately, many retailers in gas stations and party stores sell these products to minors, which adds to the public health concerns.

The lack of oversight in this sector allows for the sale of edibles that not only resemble candy but are also often much stronger than products available on the legal market. Additionally, the use of CBD conversion oil, a controversial method for turning legal hemp into “legal” delta-9 THC, is raising alarm. The safety of this conversion process remains questionable, and many industry advocates are concerned about the risks associated with these unregulated products.

Michigan's legal cannabis market has garnered widespread mainstream acceptance. It has also created new challenges. Increased youth intoxication, the emergence of cannabis hyperemesis syndrome, and the growth of unregulated hemp products underscore the need for continued vigilance, research and regulatory oversight to ensure public health and safety.

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CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 206 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances, Section 206.16, Preference for Local Bidders, to remove the upper threshold of \$1,000,000, and further clarify what bidders may have the opportunity to match the lowest qualifying bid from a non-Lansing bidder.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
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CP#25-006

Remembering Jimmy Carter, from his environmentalism to his literature

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Although Jimmy Carter only served one term as president and was much maligned, since his Dec. 29 death at age 100, the nation has been reminded of his lifelong commitment to humanity. Early in his term, Carter made a speech proclaiming that Americans should wear sweaters to save energy in response to the oil crisis.

Wearing a yellow-tan cardigan and sitting in front of a roaring fire, Carter said, “The real problem — our failure to plan for the future or to take energy conservation seriously — started long before this winter, and it will take much longer to solve. I realize that many of you have not believed that we really have an energy problem. But this winter has made all of us realize that we have to act.”

Carter outlined steps toward a national energy policy that would “emphasize conservation” as well as “research on solar energy and other renewable energy sources.”

He said, “All of us must learn to waste less energy. Simply by keeping our thermostats, for instance, at 65 degrees in the daytime and 55 degrees at night, we could save half the current shortage of natural gas.”

During the speech, Carter also promoted solar energy, the efficacy of which we’re still debating nearly 50 years later. It’s easily forgotten that Carter had solar panels installed on the roof of the White House and was featured in a Marvel comic alongside Captain America promoting energy conservation.

Soon, thermostats at home and work were dialed back, and men especially



Photo by Bill Castanier

In October 1977, President Jimmy Carter traveled to Detroit to attend a conference on the needs of the nation’s poor. It was sponsored by the Community Services Administration, which was a program of President Lyndon Johnson’s “war on poverty.”

began to wear sweaters to work in place of suits. An argument can be made that Carter gave a thumbs-up to the casual workplaces of today.

Carter may have also been the first president to be seen in Wrangler jeans and a denim jacket. He was as much at home with world leaders as he was with Elvis Presley, Jimmy Buffett, Bob Dylan and the Allman brothers. He even quoted Dylan in his acceptance speech at the 1976 Democratic National Convention. It would be fitting to call him the first rock ‘n’ roll president. At his inauguration, Aretha Franklin sang “God Bless America.”

I’m also pretty certain he was the only president who lived in public housing

as a child. That might be the reason he became a voice for the poor. In October 1977, he traveled to Detroit to attend a conference on the needs of the nation’s poor. It was sponsored by the Community Services Administration, which was a program of President Lyndon Johnson’s “war on poverty.”

I was working for the Michigan Department of Labor, which oversaw the program statewide, and I was asked to photograph the event. I was amazed at how close I could get to the president. Numerous Detroit luminaries were present, including then-Mayor Coleman Young and members of Detroit’s Common Council. Photos accompany this article.

After his term ended, Carter and his late wife, Rosalynn, dedicated their lives to programs like Habitat for Humanity. Along the way, he became a prolific author, writing 32 books over his lifetime, many of them about the presidency and his failures and successes. Theodore Roosevelt is the only president to surpass Carter’s literary output, with around 45 books. Carter, like Roosevelt, wrote about pretty much everything, from fishing and hunting to family matters.

Carter wrote in a variety of genres, including several memoirs; a children’s book, “The Little Baby Snoogle-Fleejer,” which was illustrated by his daughter, Amy; a book on women’s rights, “A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power”; and a fiction novel, “The Hornet’s Nest,” set in the Revolutionary War-era South. He also authored a coffee-table book showcasing his woodworking skills, “The Craftsmanship of Jimmy Carter.”

He wrote several books about his faith, including his final release, 2018’s “Faith: A Journey for All.” Some of his more interesting books are “A Remarkable Mother,” about his mother, Lillian, and his memories of his outdoorsy upbringing in rural Georgia, and “Christmas in Plains,” about his boyhood Christmases.

Carter was also a voracious reader of everyone from William Faulkner to Dylan Thomas. One little tidbit I learned from the recent news coverage is that he was a fanboy of Erica Jong, author of the semi-erotic 1973 novel “Fear of Flying,” and even wrote a fan letter to her.



Photo by Bill Castanier

During the Detroit conference, Carter sat between Graciela Olivarez, an attorney and civil rights activist, and Lawrence Hall, an unemployed steelworker from Gary, Indiana.



Photo by Bill Castanier

Protesters gathered outside the conference to raise their voices about poverty-related issues.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

MADLANTIS RECORDS DROPS A VHS TAPE



Courtesy photo

Ryan Andrews (right) and Phil Clark have been releasing music on Madlantis Records for more than 20 years. The latest release, Neganance's "12 Songs," is a Christmas grindcore LP issued on an old-fashioned VHS tape. It's also available to stream on Bandcamp and YouTube.

Q&A with Ryan Andrews

From wall-rattling sludge rock to hook-laced punk, Ryan Andrews is one of the most experimental and dynamic artists to call Lansing home. Shoot, he even has a country band. His main outfit, No Skull, keeps the busiest, but Andrews always finds time to issue music from his side projects on his indie label, Madlantis Records. Just released is another heavy-as-hell Christmas-themed album from his band Neganance.

Andrews chatted with City Pulse about this new release, a fresh batch of songs issued on a VHS tape. (Yes, you read that correctly). Read on to find out more about it and what's in the works for 2025. Those without a VCR player can view it on YouTube or stream it for free at neganance.bandcamp.com.

Reflecting on 20-plus years of playing music and releasing albums on Madlantis Records, what do you think of first?

Ryan Andrews: I'm grateful that I've had the chance to make a ton of music with a ton of great folks, and there's been a crowd in the Lansing

area and abroad that I've had the chance to entertain. They've supported all this lo-fi punk rock that we've plopped on records, CDs and cassettes. I feel lucky that for 20 years now, I've had free reign to release any weirdo thing I want. I started Madlantis Records because I thought our first CD looked dumb without a record-label logo on the back. I never thought it would last past that release, let alone more than 20 years.

You just released a new Neganance album on Madlantis — how did this come about?

This release is probably the sixth and last Neganance album. It's called "12 Songs." These songs were written in the fall of 2023 to celebrate 20 years of Madlantis Records and to be our final Christmas grind album from Neganance, our dummy metal-head alter egos.

Most people these days know you from No Skull. Are there any similarities?

Oh, this album is wildly different from the No Skull stuff and very dif-

ferent from the last Neganance music we did. This album is super low-tuned grindcore and slam riffs. It's short songs, but they're epically long compared to previous Neganance songs, which usually range from about 12 to 45 seconds. These new ones come in at around one or two minutes each. The mission of this album was to make each song as heavy as we could, with no frills, no solos and nothing soothing. There's almost no melody, just pure and heavy sludge grind.

What's on the VHS?

The VHS will include 12 new videos, one for each song. It's a chaotic mess of drunk and on-drugs Santas, burning Christmas trees, bong rips and other Christmas vomit that syncs beautifully with the Christmas stupidity Neganance grinds out.

Madlantis Records has been around for just over 20 years now. Do you have a favorite release?

Yeah, 20 years ago, I started Madlantis Records to release the first Red Teeth album, called "Fastest Loser." This will mark the 70th-something release for Madlantis. I think my favorite release right now is the newest No Skull record. The art and tunes all came out great, and they were finished in a timely fashion, which doesn't happen often.

Phil Clark, who played in Bert with you, also helps run Madlantis Records, correct?

Yes, Phil has been a huge part of Madlantis Records since the second release. That was Red Teeth's 2007 album, "Live at the Aztec Room." We make decisions together on most releases, and he does most of the cover layout work for physical releases and internet releases, as well as the bigger portion of the videos we do. Nowadays, Phil lives way up north. The last music project we did together was this Neganance release. I wrote and recorded the music at my studio in Haslett. Then we got together at Troubadour Recording Studios in Lansing — our home studio away from home — with the talented Corey Derushia. We wrote lyrics and recorded Phil completely destroying his voice. Phil made 12 videos, created the packaging and produced the VHS tapes.

Is there anything new on the No Skull horizon?

Last year, we released No Skull's "Fields of None" LP; we also played



some shows as a country group as well as our stoner-rock stuff. Now, we're dipping back into the grunge-and-punk well with an altered lineup. No one has left the band — we just have a slightly rotating lineup depending on what style we're playing live. For 2025, No Skull is writing new material we should be playing live and recording soon. We're plotting a bunch of studio recordings for other material we wrote over the last few years, including our doom-country set.

I know it's a long list, but what bands have you played in over the years? Is there an era you're most fond of?

I've been in 6seed, Cirkus Hed, Vraptr, Spanish Ghost, Valez, King of the Monsters, Red Teeth, Tax, the Ohmophobes, Trash Juice, Bert (later the Legend of Bert), Dr. Device and No Skull. I have a soft spot for every project I've participated in, but No Skull is my favorite. It's the thing I'm currently doing and most proud of musically. I will say, though, that being in Bert with Phil and my brother, Rael, was probably one of the greatest times in my life, band-wise. We had a lot of fun making albums, touring and laughing together. These are memories that I'll remember at the end of my life.

Outside of music, what are you up to these days?

I live the life of a Michigan guy. I have a son in college and a fun and cool wife who teaches middle school and makes me laugh a ton. I read book after book after book. I've ditched all social media and most of the internet. I just work on art and music and read and drink beers. It's a good life.

For more information, visit madlantisrecords.com.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“The Best of 2024”--
let’s look back, one
more time.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. It comes to mind
5. Presidential
nickname
8. About to run out
11. Sonnet division
13. Reaction to some
memes
14. Additional
15. Rodeos and
Axioms, e.g.
16. Miranda July
novel that made The
New Yorker’s “The
Essential Reads 2024”
list
18. Netflix “true story”
miniseries that was
#2 on The Guardian’s
“50 Best TV Shows of
2024”
20. Quaff made with
honey
21. Build up
25. Jason who’s one
half of Jay & Silent
Bob
28. Screw up
30. Andean wool
source
31. Wood-chopping
tools
32. Iconic toy store
____ Schwarz
33. Onetime office
note-takers
34. Dinghy propeller
35. Poker-themed
roguelike deck-builder
nominated for The
Game Awards’ 2024
Game of the Year
37. “____ Been
Everywhere”
38. Marvel mutant
with cold powers
40. “____ Meninas”
(Velazquez painting)
41. “Slumdog
Millionaire” actor

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58					59			60				
61					62			63				

- Kapoor
42. Reserved
43. Attached
document, sometimes
44. Super Bowl XLIV
MVP Drew
45. Tailless breed
47. Growing business?
49. Country
crossover album that
made many “Best of
2024” lists
54. Character paired
with Wolverine in a
2024 title, the highest-
grossing R-rated film
ever
57. ____ del Fuego
58. Where eye color
comes from
59. Penn who’s not
opposite Teller
60. Pants length
measurement
61. ____ see ew
62. Greek letter found
within other Greek
letters
63. “Don’t change
that,” to an editor

- DOWN
1. “____ little too late
for that”
2. Paint badly
3. Organic catalysts
4. Sky blue shades
5. Permanent “QI”
panelist Davies
6. Not as shy
7. “Grey’s Anatomy”
star Pompeo
8. “Skip To My ____”
9. Hockey star Bobby
10. “Isle of Dogs”
director Anderson
11. Member of the fam
12. Out sailing
14. Personnel concern
17. Was defeated by
19. Best possible
22. FroglIKE, to
biologists
23. Film appropriate
for all ages
24. Art studio props
25. “Little Red Book”
ideology
26. Bet at Churchill
Downs
27. “____ American

- Band” (1973 Grand
Funk Railroad album)
29. Author Dahl
32. Season ticket
holder
33. School elders, for
short
35. Half a
stereotypical
interrogation team
36. Confection that
gets pulled
39. Shared albums
around the 2000s?
41. Seat adjunct
43. JFK’s craft in WWII
44. Zombie chant
46. Got up
48. Play’s opener
50. Mexican
earthenware vessel
51. Elm, palm, or
maple
52. Part of QED
53. L.A. football player
54. Part of a party
spread
55. Period of history
56. Financial help

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SUDOKU

Beginner

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

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. 8-14, 2025

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Aries poet Charles Baudelaire said that if you want to fully activate your personal genius, you will reclaim and restore the intelligence you had as a child. You will empower it anew with all the capacities you have developed as an adult. I believe this is sensational advice for you in 2025. In my understanding of the astrological omens, you will have an extraordinary potential to use your mature faculties to beautifully express the wise innocence and lucid perceptions you were blessed with when you were young.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): In many Asian myths, birds and snakes are depicted as adversaries. Their conflict symbolizes humanity’s problems in coordinating the concerns of Earth and heaven. Desire may be at odds with morality. Unconscious motivations can be opposed to good intentions. Pride, self-interest and ambition might seem incompatible with spiritual aspirations, high-minded ideals and the quest to transcend suffering. But here’s the good news for you, Taurus: In 2025, I suspect that birds and snakes will cooperate rather harmoniously. You and they will have stirring, provocative adventures together.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Using a fork to eat food was slow to gain acceptance in the Western world. Upper-class Europeans began to make it a habit in the 11th century, but most common folk regarded it as a pretentious irrelevancy for hundreds of years. Grabbing grub with the fingers was perfectly acceptable. I suspect this scenario might serve as an apt metaphor for you in 2025. You are primed to be an early adapter who launches trends. You will be the first to try novel approaches and experiment with variations in how things have always been done. Enjoy your special capacity, Gemini. Be bold in generating innovations.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Psychologist Abraham Maslow defined “peak experiences” as “rare, exciting, oceanic, deeply moving, exhilarating, elevating experiences that generate an advanced form of perceiving reality and are even mystic and magical in their effect upon the experimenter.” The moment of falling in love is one example. Another may happen when a creative artist makes an inspiring breakthrough in their work. These transcendent interludes may also come from dreamwork, exciting teachings, walks in nature and responsible drug use. (Read more here: tinyurl.com/PeakInterludes.) I bring these ideas to your attention, Cancerian, because I believe the months ahead will be prime time for you to cultivate and attract peak experiences.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): According to my analysis of the astrological omens, your life in 2025 will be pretty free of grueling karmic necessity. You will be granted exemptions from cosmic compulsion. You won’t be stymied by the oppressive inertia of the past. To state this happy turn of events more positively, you will have clearance to move and groove with daring expansiveness. Obligations and duties won’t disappear, but they’re more likely to be interesting than boring and arduous. Special dispensations and kind favors will flow more abundantly than they have in a long time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): One of my most enjoyable goals in life has been to expunge my “isms.” I’m pleased that I have made dramatic progress in liquidating much of the perverse cultural conditioning that was imprinted on me as I was growing up. I’ve largely liberated myself from racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heteronormativity and even egotism. How are you doing with that stuff, Virgo? The coming months will be a favorable time to work on this honorable task. What habits of mind and feeling have you absorbed from the world that are not in sync with your highest ideals?

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Here’s one of my predictions for you in 2025, Libra: You will reach the outer limits of your domain and then push on to explore beyond those limits. Here’s another

prediction: You will realize with a pleasant shock that some old expectations about your destiny are too small, and soon, you will be expanding those expectations. Can you handle one further mind-opening, soul-stretching prophecy? You will demolish at least one mental block, break at least one taboo and dismantle an old wall that has interfered with your ability to give and receive love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): If you’re not married and would like to be, 2025 might be your best chance in years to find wedded bliss. If an existing intimate bond is less than optimal, the coming months will bring inspiration and breakthroughs to improve it. Let’s think even bigger and stronger, Scorpio, and speculate that you could be on the verge of all kinds of enhanced synergetic connections. I bet business and artistic partnerships will thrive if you decide you want them to. Links to valuable resources will be extra available if you work to refine your skills at collaboration and togetherness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): I wonder how you will feel about the fact that I’m declaring 2025 to be the Year of the Muses for you Sagittarians. Will you be happy that I expect you to be flooded with provocative clues from inspiring influences? Or will you regard the influx of teachings and revelations as chaotic, confusing or inconvenient? In the hope you adopt my view, I urge you to expand your understanding of the nature of muses. They may be intriguing people; they might also take the form of voices in your head, ancestral mentors, beloved animals, famous creators or spirit guides.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Astrologers in ancient China had the appalling view that more than two-thirds of all omens are negative, threatening or scary. I haven’t seen formal research into the biases of modern Western stargazers, but my anecdotal evidence suggests they tend to be equally pessimistic. I regard this as an unjustified travesty. My studies have shown that there is no such thing as an inherently ominous astrological configuration. All portents are revelations about how to successfully wrangle with our problems, perpetrate liberation, ameliorate suffering, find redemption and perform ingenious tweaks that liberate us from our mind-forged manacles. They always have the potential to help us discover the deeper meanings beneath our experiences. Everything I just said is essential for you to keep in mind during 2025.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Over the years, a few people who don’t know me well have accused me of “thinking too much” or “overthinking.” They are wrong. While I aspire to always be open to constructive criticism, I am sure that I don’t think too much. Not all my thoughts are magnificent, original and high-quality, of course; some are generated by fear and habit. However, I meticulously monitor the flow of all my thoughts and am skilled at knowing which ones I should question or not take seriously. The popular adage “don’t believe everything you think” is one of my axioms. In 2025, I invite you Aquarians to adopt my approach. Go right ahead and think as much as you want, even as you heighten your awareness of which of your thoughts are excellent and which are not.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): I’m pleased, bordering on gleeful, that your homecoming is well underway. All the signs suggest that as 2025 unfolds, you will ripen the processes of deepening your roots and building a stronger foundation. As a result, I expect and predict that your levels of domestic bliss will reach unprecedented heights. You may even create a deeply fulfilled sense of loving yourself exactly as you are and feeling like you truly belong to the world you are surrounded by. Dear Pisces, I dare you to cultivate more peace of mind than you have ever managed to arouse. I double-dare you to update traditions whose emotional potency has waned.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, 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.

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.

Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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. mmphtoclub.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 email histedc@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.

Kitty Donohoe

3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12
University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing



Michigan Emmy-winning songwriter Kitty Donohoe, based in Ann Arbor, will travel to East Lansing to perform 3 p.m. Sunday (Jan. 12) at University Lutheran Church, hosted by the Ten Pound Fiddle.

Donohoe, who celebrated 50 years as a musician in May and was the Fiddle's booking manager in the '80s, describes her music as "folky, Irish-y and Canadian-ish," backing herself on guitar, cittern and piano. She's working on releasing her 8th recording, "A Murder of Crows," a collection of instrumental music featuring both original compositions and interpretations of traditional songs, before embarking on a full-length album to be released later in the year.

Donohoe has opened for a variety of artists, from Doc Watson to David Bromberg and Bruce Cockburn to Cheryl Wheeler. On top of the Michigan Emmy for her song "There Are No Words," which she wrote in the wake of September 11, 2001, and performed live at the dedication of the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in 2008, she was the recipient of a 2024 Michigan Heritage Award and a 2024 Folk Alliance Region Midwest Lantern Bearer Award.

Apart from her musical career, Donohoe is also the author of two children's books, "Henny and Benny Bunyan and the Maple Syrup Adventure" and "Bunyan and Banjoes," as well as a leader of tours to Ireland and Scotland.

Tickets for Sunday's show are \$20 for the public, \$18 for Fiddle members and \$5 for students. They're available online at tenpoundfiddle.org or at the box office beginning at 2 p.m. the day of the show. For more information on Donohoe, visit kittydonohoe.com.

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.

Anthony Stanco Ensemble - Anthony Stanco leads a quintet featuring MSU jazz Professors Rodney Whitaker, Xavier Davis and Randy Napoleon. This performance promises to transport audiences to the golden era of bebop, blues and swing! Doors 5 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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.

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.

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. Caregivers are also welcome to attend. Sessions will be held

via phone. 11 a.m. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Grand Ledge Community Read - Join community members in reading and discussing "Firekeeper's Daughter," by Angeline Boulley. 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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

The Mike Geeter & Friends Comedy Show, with Bob Phillips & Alexa Stanton - Doors 7 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

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

Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven - A four-course dinner featuring a few of our favorite classic Julia Child recipes! Doors 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. eatredhaven.com.

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.

Sistrum LANSING WOMEN'S CHORUS
WINTER CONCERT

KEEP MARCHING

FEATURING DR. ANDREA RAMSEY'S "SUFFRAGE CANTATA"
AND VOICES OF THE REVOLUTION

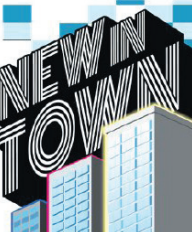
JANUARY 17, 7PM | JANUARY 18, 3PM
DEWITT HIGH SCHOOL

SISTRUM.ORG

Kin Thai owners launch second Lansing Shuffle eatery

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

When Pan Yang’s youngest son, Teddy, was a baby, he struggled to pronounce the name of his older sister, Charlotte.



Lalafish

325 Riverfront Drive,
Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday
(517) 334-0878
lalafish.com

As Yang recalls, it came out something like “Lala.” The nickname stuck.

Yang and her husband, Yace Hang, are the owners of Kin Thai at Lansing Shuffle. When the couple were given the green light to open a second restaurant at the food hall, they decided to name it after that memory.

Lalafish, a hand-rolled sushi concept, was born.

Yang smiled when she told the story of how Lalafish got its name. Originally, Charlotte was a picky eater, but she’s come around to enjoy sushi, her mother said.

“I honestly didn’t think that this day would come, and here we are,” Yang said with a grin.

They soft-opened the restaurant in November but will hold an official grand opening from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 18. The first 25 customers will receive free drinks and appetizers, while all customers will be entered into a multi-prize raffle.

At present, the limited menu features six sushi rolls: more traditional entries like California, Philly, spicy tuna and shrimp crunch rolls, plus a crunchy sweet potato roll, which includes tempura sweet potato, avocado, spring mix and eel sauce, and the Snowday roll, which is filled with shrimp tempura, cucumber, avocado and topped with kewpie mayo and crab mix. The eatery also serves sushi bowls and sichimi fries, crinkle-cut french fries with curry mayo.

Yang said she and her husband are still deciding on how large the final menu will be.

“For the soft opening, we were just focusing on the more popular types of items that you’ll get when you go to a tra-

ditional sushi restaurant, so right now, our menu is kind of small,” she said. “But we want to do more, and we’d like to add more things like appetizers and other fun, small bites going forward.”

Yang, who was born and raised in Lansing, moved to Grand Rapids with her husband for about 10 years before returning to the area around five years ago. The pair operates Rak Thai and Juju Bird at Grand Rapids’ Downtown Market in addition to their Lansing Shuffle eateries.

For the couple, food service is a family affair. Their four children — Teddy, 10; Charlotte, 12; Max, 14; and Alex, 16 — help out in the kitchen alongside other family members, though Yang notes that she’s looking to hire additional help at Lalafish.

“A passion for food is something I picked up when I got married,” Yang said. “We’re all foodies in this family, and feeding good food to people is something that always brightens our day. We love cooking, we love hosting, and I would say it’s just who we’ve become.”



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Pan Yang shows off a freshly made sushi bowl in front of her new Lansing Shuffle restaurant, Lalafish. She and her husband, Yace Hang, own another Shuffle eatery, Kin Thai, as well as two restaurants at Grand Rapids’ Downtown Market.

Events

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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.

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. 10

Date Night for Couples - Eight-week salsa and West Coast swing dance class for couples. 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.

Divination Roundtable - Learn a new divination method, get a reading and compare notes with others in your field. All readings free, all systems of divination welcome. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.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.

The Future of Comedy Show - Featuring nationally touring headliner Mike Ball and FOCs regulars Dave Wellfare, Kate Brindle and Ronnie Rohrbeck. Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. Spare Time Entertainment

Center, 3101 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. mikeball-dotcom.com/focs.

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

Lansing Parks and Recreation Travelogue: Helsinki to Barcelona - Fathi and Karen Saad take us on a journey to Helsinki and Tallinn, Estonia, then head south to Barcelona, Spain, to showcase the architecture of Gaudi, Montserrat monastery and other vibrant sights. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4233. lansingmi.gov/985/Travelogue.

LSO Masterworks 03: Respighi, Strauss & Haydn - Experience an uplifting voyage through epochs of human and musical ascension with horn virtuoso Corbin Wagner. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

“Lustful Youth” - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Parkour for Littles at ALIVE - You and your little one will learn to safely maneuver obstacles using the whole body. Build strength, balance, focus and problem-solving skills after listening to related stories. Ages 3-6. 10 a.m. 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. myalive.com.

Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven - A four-course vegan tasting! Doors 6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. eatredhaven.com.

Sensory-Friendly Night at Harris Nature Center - Our friendly staff will have the building open, and exhibits will be altered to reduce sounds and lighting. A quiet room and sensory kits will be available. Free. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Tad and the Fat Katz - Join us for an electrifying night of blues and classic rock with Tad and The Fat Katz, mid-Michigan’s premier cover band! Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Wacousta-DeWitt Lodge Fundraiser Fish Fry - Served takeout style, with seating available. \$15 cash or check, \$15.50 card. There will be a bake sale on

the main floor. Early tickets will be available for our sit-down Valentine’s Day dinner. 4:30-6:30 p.m. 9030 Herbison Road, Grand Ledge. wacousta.net/wacousta-fish-suppers.

Saturday, Jan. 11

The Collective Presents Motown - The Collective is a band of experienced Lansing musicians who share a love of the Motown sound and R&B. Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Inebriated Insights - A night of intoxicated witchcraft! Variety of tarot cards, oracle cards, bone readings, astrology, runes, reiki and more. 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

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

“Lustful Youth” - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Messy Canvas Craft for Adults - Make a messy masterpiece with paper, Mod Podge, paint and other craft supplies. Registration req. 11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Reverberator - A daylong festival of experimental sounds performed live by local artists. Lineup: Rooster Throat, bioPrism, Obsrvr, Platypus Focus, Anthony Marasco, AJ Glaub, Stephanie E. Vasko, Worm Moon, J.Plantana, Carter Crosby and others TBA. 1-6 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Sassietty at Sir Pizza Grand Café - Sassietty, a talented four-piece band with two women and two men, performs a variety of blues, pop and rock at Sir Pizza in Old Town from 7-10:30 p.m. No cover. 201 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-484-4825. facebook.com/sassietty.band.

See Events, Page 22

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

I	D	E	A		A	B	E		L	O	W				
S	T	A	N	Z	A		L	O	L	M	O	R	E		
I	S	U	Z	U	S		A	L	L	F	O	U	R	S	
B	A	B	Y	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R				
			M	E	A	D		E	N	L	A	R	G	E	
M	E	W	E	S		E	R		R		L	L	A	M	A
A	X	E	S		F	A	O		S	T	E	N	O	S	
O	A	R		B	A	L	A	T	R	O		I	V	E	
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S	T	A	I	D		P	D	F		B	R	E	E	S	
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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

Events

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Sunday, Jan. 12

Artful Accounting: Taxes Made Easier for Creative Entrepreneurs - Created specifically for self-employed artists, this workshop will help you prepare to tackle your taxes in whatever way works best for you. 10:30 a.m. Virtual — register at bit.ly/Smartworkshop.

Capital Pro Wrestling - 3 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. 517-894-4589. american-luchalibre.com.

Copper Chimney Lounge Poetry Series: Cindy Hunter Morgan & Anita Skeen - 4 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub.

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/macsbarmsu.

Ingham Festival Chorale Rehearsal - Ingham Festival Chorale invites you to sing. Weekly rehearsals begin Jan. 12. Membership fee is \$60 and includes all music. No audition necessary. 2-3:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/inghamfestivalchoralemi.

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

Kitty Donohoe - 3 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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

MSU Wrestling vs. University of Maryland - 1 p.m. Jenison Field House, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/wrestling.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. University of Washington - 2 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

Peace Education Center Write for Rights Event - Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign aims to help secure the release of political prisoners around the world. Sign cards of support for political prisoners and letters to government leaders asking for their release. 4-6 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peaceedcenter.org.

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

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

Unity's Second Principle, "The Divinity Within," with Donnette Pinkerton - Delve into Unity's Five Basic Principles, one week at a time. On Jan. 12, Donnette will discuss the Second Principle, The Divinity Within. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Monday, Jan. 13

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/summerlands-brewing.

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.

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.

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.

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. 14

"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.

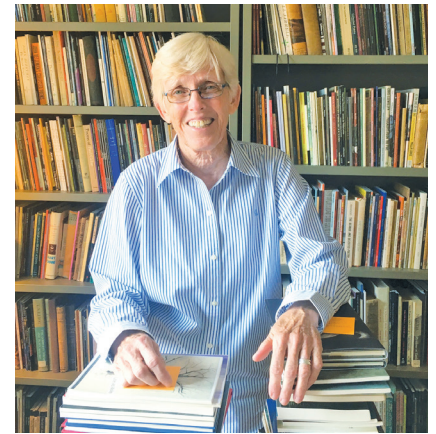
Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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 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.

Five-Course Seafood Dinner Pairing - Chef Moyer will introduce five new seafood dishes that will be paired nicely with five flight-glass pours of select craft beers. Tickets required. 7 p.m. Looking



Copper Chimney Lounge Poetry Series: Cindy Hunter Morgan and Anita Skeen

4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12

University United Methodist Church
1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing

Local poets Cindy Hunter Morgan and Anita Skeen will be the featured readers at the Lansing Poetry Club's first Copper Chimney Lounge Poetry Series event of the year, beginning 4 p.m. Sunday (Jan. 12) at East Lansing's University United Methodist Church.

Hunter Morgan, an assistant professor of creative writing at Michigan State University, is the author of two chapbooks: "The Sultan, The Skater, The Bicycle Maker" and "Apple Season." Her 2017 poetry collection, "Harborless," was a 2018 Michigan Notable Book and the winner of the 2017 Moveen Prize in poetry. Her most recent release is 2022's "Far Company."

Skeen is a professor emerita in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at MSU and founding director of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities' Center for Poetry. She's published six volumes of poetry: "Each Hand a Map," "Portraits," "Outside the Frame," "The Resurrection of the Animals," "Never the Whole Story" and "When We Say Shelter," which was co-written by poet Jane Taylor. She's also released two collaborations with local artist Laura DeLind, "The Unauthorized Audubon" and "Even the Least of These."

Following their readings, Hunter Morgan and Skeen will sell and autograph copies of their books. There will also be an open mic, which attendees are invited to sign up for when they arrive at the event. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. For more information, visit facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub or email LansingPoetryClubPresidentRuelaineStokes@gmail.com.

Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. lookingglassbrewingcompany.com.

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.

Matter of Balance - Eight-session workshop designed to improve balance, flexibility and strength, helping seniors reduce fall risks and become more active. 9:30 a.m. Delta Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

"Minecraft" Mania - We'll have our "Minecraft" server set up and laptops ready to go. No experience needed — all levels of players/builders welcome. Ages 8-12. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

On the Same Page 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 7-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Wednesday, Jan. 15

"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.

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

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

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

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

Capital Area Modelers Society Build Night - Work on your latest project, share tips and get to know fellow modelers. 6:30 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. capitalareamodelerssociety.org.



As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Beirut Kitchen's batata sandwich hits the spot

By LIZY FERGUSON

The food I'd choose to eat prior to a visit to the gym and what I'd pick after a workout vary wildly from one another. Beforehand, I'm generally inclined toward a menu's more nutrient-dense options. Afterward, I act from animal impulse, going for whatever sounds the most satisfying. The latter was the situation I found myself in while ordering dinner from Beirut Kitchen, and I went way off book.

Located in Lansing Shuffle, Beirut Kitchen offers Middle Eastern staples like shawarma and falafel, as well as some less-expected options such as gyro sandwiches and borch soup, which seems to be a relative of

the classic Russian beet soup, borscht. It also has options that seem perfectly designed to be enjoyed after a few cocktails, like the Golden Sojuk Bowl, french fries topped with ground beef, coleslaw, tahini, garlic sauce and melted cheese. And then there's what I ordered: the batata sandwich.

A long tube of toasty pita encases french fries, coleslaw, garlic sauce, pickles and ketchup. It sounds like stoner food, and mine tasted as good as if I had just smoked. The richness of the fried potatoes bounced off the creaminess of coleslaw and the bright, tangy notes of pickle and ketchup. The pickles weren't dill-soaked cucumbers — I'm pretty sure they were turnips, adding, along with the delectable gar-



Batata sandwich with side Greek salad
\$14.99
Beirut Kitchen
325 Riverfront Drive,
Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday
(517) 481-3568
bklansing.com



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Whether you're fresh off a trip to the gym, just drank two beers and smoked a blunt or need to run out to grab a quick lunch between Zoom meetings, Beirut Kitchen's batata sandwich, a toasty pita wrap encasing french fries, coleslaw, garlic sauce, pickles and ketchup, will satisfy.

lic sauce, a distinct Middle Eastern element. Each bite was better than the last and comforting in the way only carbs wrapped in carbs can be.

It sounded like it might be too heavy, but it was just decadent enough and was nicely balanced by the side Greek salad I chose, which was standard and tasty. The real revelation came when I switched from dipping my sandwich in the provided ranch to the extra Greek-style vinaigrette I didn't need for my salad. The red wine vinegar and oregano added even more tasty elements to this already excellent sandwich.

Whether you're fresh off a trip to the gym, just drank two beers and smoked a blunt or need to run out to grab a quick lunch between Zoom meetings, the batata sandwich will satisfy but also leave you daydreaming about when you'll get one next. I plan on ordering some hummus for dipping next time.

TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BUBBLE TEA

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

- 1. Bento Kitchen Cravings**

Casual spot serving traditional Korean and Korean-fusion eats, plus bubble teas

310 N. Clippert St., Suite 6, Lansing

(517) 580-8103

bentokitchencravings.com/home

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday

11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Noon-8 p.m. Sunday
- 2. Ding Tea**

Bubble tea shop offering milk teas and coffees in a variety of flavors

970 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing

(517) 580-7077

- facebook.com/DingTeaEL
- Noon-9 p.m. daily
- 3. Feng Cha**

Relaxed teahouse serving a wide selection of milk teas

3214 E. Michigan Ave., Suite E, Lansing

(517) 721-1031

fengchausa.com

11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. daily
- 4. Koala Bakery & Cafe**

Cozy teahouse dishing up Asian-fusion fare and desserts alongside bubble teas

2843 E. Grand River Ave., Suite 166, East Lansing

(517) 763-2162

koalabakeryandcafe.com

11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

11:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
- 5. YumYum Bento**

Modern restaurant offering Japanese, Korean and Thai specialties, plus bubble teas

1017 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

(517) 333-3338

yumyumbentos.com

11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday

4-8 p.m. Saturday

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 24-1331-DE, Estate of James Andrew McKenzie, Date of Birth: 02-20-1951. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, James Andrew McKenzie, died 09-30-2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jean Turner, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, Jan. 8, 2025. Attorney: Donald J. Baranski, P-41101, 1699 Lansing Rd, Ste. 1, Charlotte MI 48813, 517-663-6311. Rep.: Jean Turner, 2099 Lac Dumont C-2, Haslett MI 48840, 517-721-9182.

CP#25-005

H&H Mobil Abandoned Auto Auction
Viewing 1/16/25 By Appointment
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Lansing, MI 48912
Call 517-332-6335
Bids must be submitted by 8 am 1/20/25
at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823
For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

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