

Win-Win

East Lansing artist Susan Smith got creative when considering how to support City Pulse. She says:

For years, I have relied on City Pulse for local news – especially Rewind – and for events around town, so I decided to help put ink on the page. Time to stop being a free rider/reader! As I was searching who to call, I noticed a number of eye-catching ads. I am involved in several local art organizations and thought why not support the Pulse and the Lansing Women Artist Collective with an ad – a win win! Placing the ad for our art exhibit at the Okemos library was super easy, and the ad looks terrific. Thank you, City Pulse!



## **Check out the ART!**

Beat the winter blues with a visit to Okemos Library's Event Room to see unique and interesting artwork by members of the Lansing Women Artists Collective, a small group of local women artists who exhibit work in local galleries, theaters, libraries and businesses to make it more accessible to the public for viewing and purchase. The artwork — watercolor, acrylic, collage, fiber, mixed media and photography — will be on display through February.



Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Mon.-Fri.: 9am-8pm; Sat.: 9am-7pm; Sun:12-6pm. Phone: 517.347.2021

LWAC is also displaying artwork at the Robin Theater in REO Town and the Lansing Neighborhood Empowerment Center near Old Town.

Would you like to do the same for your own favorite business or cause? Please contact Berl Schwartz at publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or **517-999-5061** to find out how.

### SPONSORED CONTENT Okemos duo emphasizes storytelling in escape room venture

### By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Rob Garrod and Becca Horste have tackled upward of 100 escape rooms each since they tried their first together in 2017.



**Escapes** 

Okemos

Unlocked

1831 Newman Road,

2:20-8 pm. Thursday

2:20-9:40 pm Friday

11 am-9:40 pm Saturday

Popularized in the United States in the mid-2010s, an escape room involves "locking" two or more participants inside a themed room for a predetermined duration. As they explore the deliberately crafted setting, they'll find a series of puzzles and

clues that 11 am-8 pm Sunday ultimately leads them to the exit. (517) 580-7304 unlockedlansing.com "We got hooked pretty quickly," Garrod said. "After about five escape

rooms, we decided we'd love to start designing some ourselves. In 2019, the couple began looking for

facilities to house an escape-room business, but the pandemic forced them to suspend those efforts until 2021. They signed a lease for a 2,100square-foot space in Okemos in late



For "Castle Quest," the second of three escape rooms created by Escapes Unlocked owners Rob Garrod and Becca Horste, the pair "really took the set design to the next level," Garrod said. "We tried to make it look more realistically like a castle, so people feel like they're really on an adventure."

Unlocked in May 2023 with one hard-level room, "Dream Explorers," which is themed around the subconscious.

December 2023, they opened an intermediate-level room, "Castle Quest," a dungeon-like setting complete with prop swords, scrolls and armor.

2022 and launched Escapes With the debut of a third room geared toward novice escapers and families,"The Case of the Missing Cookie," the pair held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony in November 2024.

While all the rooms can be solved by just two participants, Garrod and are playing, and we tinker with all of Horste said groups of four are them continuously." typically optimal.

Interested patrons can book any of the three rooms online for 2:20 to 8 p.m. Thursday; 2:20 to 9:40 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. to 9:40 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. The business also takes walk-ins during regular business hours and can accommodate other dates and times by request.

Garrod and Horste are also looking to design take-home escape room games, which would allow customers to bring the fun into their own homes. Garrod, a Lansing-area native and amateur competitive Scrabble player, quit his IT job in 2022 to run the place full time. He and Horste spent between five and nine months designing each room.

"The key component when we approach a new room is we really try to build a world in the story for it first. From there, we think about what kind of activities would make sense in that world. We try to figure out what kind of puzzles might fit with those objects and settings because it's important that it all comes together to tell a story," Garrod explained. "We take feedback and our own observations from watching the rooms as people



## **Locally Owned Escape Room**

### **Opening Hours**

**Online Bookings are available:** Thursdays: 2:20pm-8pm Fridays: 2:20pm - 9:40pm Saturdays: 11am - 9:40pm Sundays: 11am - 8pm & Also By Appointment!

### **Escape Room Experiences**

for groups of 2 - 10 people. **Choose from:** The Case of the Missing Cookie (Least Challenging) **Castle Quest (More Challenging)** Dream Explorers (Most Challenging)





### **Contact Info** Phone: 517-580-7304 Email: unlockedlansing@gmail.com www.unlockedlansing.com

Location 1831 Newman Rd, Okemos, MI 48864



### CityPULSE 94 VOL **ISSUE 24**

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Grammy-winning string trio makes Wharton Center debut



East Lansing's Chtoura Mediterranean hopes charcoal grill



Korean grocery store hides top-tier fish and chips shop

Cover photo by Raymond Holt

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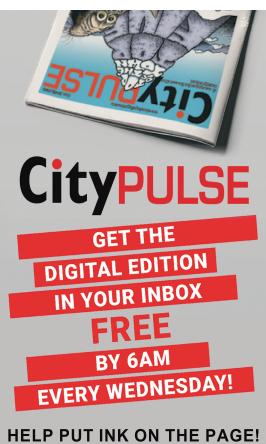
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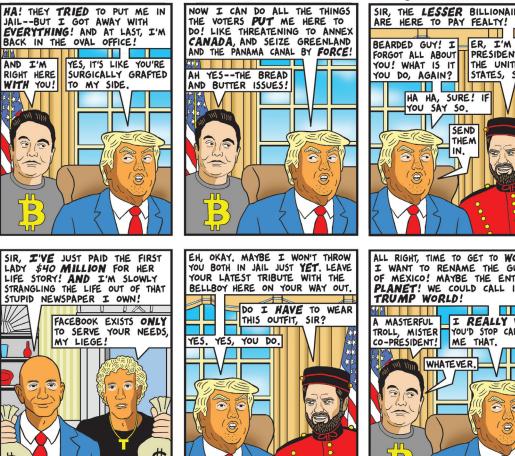
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Use the QR code to donate by credit card or call (517) 999-6704. Checks may be mailed to City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912.

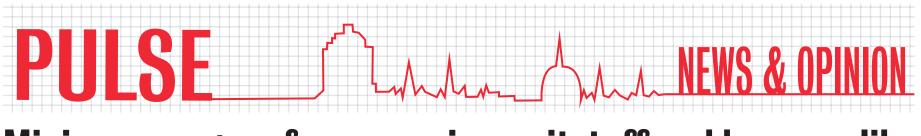
# HA! THEY TRIED TO PUT ME IN JAIL--BUT I GOT AWAY WITH EVERYTHING! AND AT LAST, I'M BACK IN THE OVAL OFFICE!

M



### by TOM TOMORROW





# Minimum wage reform worries waitstaff and bosses alike

Hundreds of servers from across Michigan gathered at the Capitol in September to protest the changes. Lana Face, a 26-year server who works at Buffalo Wild Wings in Delta Township, was among them.

"If we were to eliminate tipped wages, I'm going to be making about half the amount of money I am right now," Face said.

The mother of four said she typically makes somewhere between \$25 to \$30 an hour working fewer than 40 hours a week. She believes serving is the only way she can make a living wage and still have enough time to care for her children.

"If it changes, I don't know where else I'm going to go. There's really no other job out there where I can make this kind of money," she said.

Restaurant servers have traditionally made far less than the minimum wage, but they tend to make up or even surpass the difference after counting their tips.

However, a 4-3 Michigan Supreme Court ruling last summer, will gradually increase waitstaff wages over five years. The changes begin Feb. 21, when restaurant owners are required to increase their hourly payroll for servers from \$4.01 to \$5.99. From there, it will grow 10% each year until it matches the state's standard minimum wage at the end of the — at least \$14.97 an hour.

In response to the pushback, legislators have started taking steps to reverse the decision. On Jan. 14, the House Select Committee on Protecting Michigan Employees and Small Businesses held a public hearing where Face and 32 others spoke for keeping the tipped wage system as is.

Only two spoke for retaining the phase-out plan. Michigan AFL-CIO government affairs director Ryan Sebolt, who is also an Ingham County commissioner, stressed that the change would not end tipping altogether. He noted that California, where servers make a minimum wage of \$16.50 an hour, still leads the country in the average amount of tips at 22.69%. According to a recent study from the tech company, Square, Michiganders tip an average of 16%.

Detroiter Sam Taub was the only serv-



Hundreds of servers gathered at the Capitol in September to protest a state Supreme Court ruling ruling on minimum wage that they fear will lead to less tipping. The change takes effect Feb. 21 unless the Legislature acts.

er who spoke for the proposed changes. Taub, who represents One Fair Wage, a New York-based nonprofit that's become a national advocate for increasing the server minimum wage, cited the inconsistency of the system, under which he said servers often put up with sexual or racial harassment out of fear of losing their tips.

Following the hearing, the committee sent House Bill 4001, which would repeal the Supreme Court's decision and retain the existing tipped wage structure, to the full House late last week. The House is expected to vote on it in the next week or so.

Alac McCann, a restaurant server of 17 years who's spent the last five at the People's Kitchen on Lansing's east side, is concerned that the changes would also harm kitchen staff, who she said may also see their wages go down as restaurateurs try to balance their new payroll structure.

"If everybody in the front of the house is making minimum wage, that's going to eliminate higher wages for the kitchen staff. Our livelihoods are based on tips, but they deserve a fair wage, too," she said.

On a good night, McCann said she pulls in more than \$35 an hour.

"The majority of servers I know wouldn't be in this industry if they were only making minimum wage. The system works well as it is, and if you implement something like this, you could have small restaurants close their doors. That's really scary," McCann said.

One sixth-year Lansing server, who asked City Pulse not to publish her name, echoed McCann's fears that a higher minimum wage would encourage customers to tip far less, or perhaps even forego tips altogether.

"Another thing I think people don't really consider is that we're going to get taxed more because we'd be getting more hourly. I think at least 95% of servers would probably agree with me," she said.

Tate Skiba, general manager at Old Town's MEAT BBQ, anticipates a mass exodus from the industry if Feb. 21 rolls around without any action from the Legislature.

"I think you'll start seeing a lot more quick counter-service places and a lot fewer full-service-style restaurants," he said. "That's going to kill you, because if your payroll goes up 300%, you also can't raise prices too much or you'll lose customers. You have to find ways to shave off the top in other areas."

Michael Krueger, owner of Crunchy's and the Peanut Barrel in downtown East Lansing, doesn't expect the Legislature to alter the plan right away.

"I think it probably is initially going to go into play because I can't imagine that they're going to get anything done before then. Ultimately, before we make any major changes to turn Peanut Barrel into a quick-service restaurant, we'll have to cut down on some staffing and raise some prices to help make up that difference. We're already barely making any money as it is, and to be able to absorb that kind of a cost is just not realistic," Krueger said.

He added that, on slow nights, he'll already make up the difference on his servers' paychecks.

"If they don't make up the difference in tips, we already cover that for them," he said.

"It's going to be a trickle effect. It's definitely going to hurt our economy very badly, especially smaller restaurants," Face said.

Face is preparing for the worst, but hoping for the best.

"If it does go through, we're going to see a trickle effect across our entire economy. Distributors will be impacted, and smaller restaurants, in particular, will have to close," she said. "Right now, I don't have any other option but to be hopeful."

### NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS AND DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

#### Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick E. Lindemann

#### **GARDENS DRAIN**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**, the apportionments for benefits to the lands comprised within the "Gardens Drain Special Assessment District" will be subject to review for one day from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.at the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, located at 707 Buhl, Mason, Michigan 48854, or at such other time and place to which I may adjourn. At the Day of Review, I will have the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities within the drainage district available to review. I will consider proofs and allegations and I will carefully reconsider and review the apportionment of benefits. I will define and equalize the apportionments as is just and equitable. At said Review, the computation of costs for construction, maintenance and improvement of the Drain will also be open for inspection by any interested parties.

Comments on the apportionment of benefits may be submitted to the Drain Commissioner in writing before the Day of Review at the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl, Mason, Michigan 48854 or <u>drainoffice@ingham.org</u>, or comments may be submitted in writing or verbally at the Day of Review. Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner prior to the Day of Review to ensure consideration.

Additional information, including a map of the Drainage District and the Notice of Letting (containing the number and length of sections, the average width of each section, and if the drain will be closed, the amount and specifications of all tile or pipe required; the location, number, type, and size of culverts or bridges to be installed, if any; and conditions upon which the contract will be awarded), can be found at:

### http://dr.ingham.org

Pursuant to Section 155 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, any owner of land within the "Gardens Drain Special Assessment District" or any city, village, township, district or county feeling aggrieved by the apportionment of benefits made by the Drain Commissioner may appeal the apportionment within ten (10) days after the day of review of apportionments by making an application to the Ingham County Probate Court for the appointment of a Board of Review.

Any drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes. If drain assessments against land are collected by installment, the landowner may pay the assessments in full with any interest to-date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

The area served by the Gardens Drain consists of lands situated in Sections 25 of Delhi Charter Township, T3N, R2W, in Ingham County, Michigan. The following is a description of the parcels of land constituting the "Gardens Drain Special Assessment District":

33-25-05-25-326-009	33-25-05-25-402-027	33-25-05-25-402-055
33-25-05-25-401-004	33-25-05-25-402-028	33-25-05-25-402-056
33-25-05-25-402-001	33-25-05-25-402-029	33-25-05-25-402-057
33-25-05-25-402-002	33-25-05-25-402-030	33-25-05-25-402-058
33-25-05-25-402-003	33-25-05-25-402-031	33-25-05-25-402-059
33-25-05-25-402-004	33-25-05-25-402-032	33-25-05-25-402-060
33-25-05-25-402-005	33-25-05-25-402-033	33-25-05-25-402-061
33-25-05-25-402-006	33-25-05-25-402-034	33-25-05-25-402-062
33-25-05-25-402-007	33-25-05-25-402-035	33-25-05-25-402-063
33-25-05-25-402-008	33-25-05-25-402-036	33-25-05-25-402-064
33-25-05-25-402-009	33-25-05-25-402-037	33-25-05-25-402-065
33-25-05-25-402-010	33-25-05-25-402-038	33-25-05-25-402-066
33-25-05-25-402-011	33-25-05-25-402-039	33-25-05-25-402-067
33-25-05-25-402-012	33-25-05-25-402-040	33-25-05-25-402-068
33-25-05-25-402-013	33-25-05-25-402-041	33-25-05-25-402-069
33-25-05-25-402-014	33-25-05-25-402-042	33-25-05-25-402-070
33-25-05-25-402-015	33-25-05-25-402-043	33-25-05-25-402-071
33-25-05-25-402-016	33-25-05-25-402-044	33-25-05-25-402-072
33-25-05-25-402-017	33-25-05-25-402-045	33-25-05-25-402-073
33-25-05-25-402-018	33-25-05-25-402-046	33-25-05-25-402-074
33-25-05-25-402-019	33-25-05-25-402-047	33-25-05-25-402-075
33-25-05-25-402-020	33-25-05-25-402-048	33-25-05-25-402-076
33-25-05-25-402-021	33-25-05-25-402-049	33-25-05-25-402-077
33-25-05-25-402-022	33-25-05-25-402-050	33-25-05-25-402-078
33-25-05-25-402-023	33-25-05-25-402-051	33-25-05-25-402-079
33-25-05-25-402-024	33-25-05-25-402-052	33-25-05-25-402-080
33-25-05-25-402-025	33-25-05-25-402-053	33-25-05-25-402-081
33-25-05-25-402-026	33-25-05-25-402-054	33-25-05-25-402-082

33-25-05-25-402-083	33-25-05-25-402-098	33-25-05-25-402-200
33-25-05-25-402-084	33-25-05-25-402-099	33-25-05-25-426-005
33-25-05-25-402-085	33-25-05-25-402-100	33-25-05-25-426-006
33-25-05-25-402-086	33-25-05-25-402-101	33-25-05-25-453-004
33-25-05-25-402-087	33-25-05-25-402-102	33-25-05-25-453-005
33-25-05-25-402-088	33-25-05-25-402-103	33-25-05-25-453-006
33-25-05-25-402-089	33-25-05-25-402-104	33-25-05-25-453-007
33-25-05-25-402-090	33-25-05-25-402-105	33-25-05-25-476-008
33-25-05-25-402-091	33-25-05-25-402-106	33-25-05-25-477-001
33-25-05-25-402-092	33-25-05-25-402-107	33-25-05-25-479-002
33-25-05-25-402-093	33-25-05-25-402-108	33-25-05-25-479-003
33-25-05-25-402-094	33-25-05-25-402-109	33-25-05-25-479-013
33-25-05-25-402-095	33-25-05-25-402-110	33-25-05-25-479-022
33-25-05-25-402-096	33-25-05-25-402-111	33-25-05-25-500-ROW
33-25-05-25-402-097	33-25-05-25-402-112	

In addition to the parcels and tracts of land listed above, Delhi Charter Township will be specially assessed at-large for benefits in the construction, maintenance and improvement of the Drain.

**NOW THEREFORE,** all unknown and non-resident persons, owners and persons interested in the above described lands, and you:

Clerk of Ingham County; Chairperson of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners; Managing Director of the Ingham County Road Department; Supervisor and Clerk of Delhi Charter Township;

are hereby notified that at the time and place aforesaid, or at such other time and place thereafter to which said Day of Review may be adjourned, the apportionment for benefits and the lands comprised within the "Gardens Drain Special Assessment District" will be subject to review.

AND YOU AND EACH OF YOU, owners, municipalities and persons interested in the aforesaid lands are hereby cited to appear at the time and place of such reviewing of the apportionments as aforesaid, and be heard with respect to such special assessments and your interests in relation thereto, if you so desire.

#### DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025,** the Ingham County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries for one day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854 or at such other time and place to which I may adjourn. At that time and place, I will hear the proofs and allegations and carefully reconsider and review the description of lands comprising the Gardens Drain Drainage District, and determine whether the addition or deletion of lands will more accurately define the boundaries of the land benefited by the Drain and is just and equitable pursuant to Section 197 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended. The Drain is located and established in Sections 25 of Delhi Charter Township, T.3N.-R.1W.; in Ingham County, Michigan. The lands to be added are located in Section 25 in Delhi Charter Township and are portions of the following parcels:

33-25-05-25-326-009	33-25-05-25-479-013	33-25-05-25-477-001
33-25-05-25-453-006	33-25-05-25-426-006	33-25-05-25-500-ROW
33-25-05-25-479-003	33-25-05-25-476-008	33-25-05-25-453-005
33-25-05-25-426-005	33-25-05-25-479-022	33-25-05-25-479-002
33-25-05-25-453-007	33-25-05-25-453-004	

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED** that persons aggrieved by the decision of the Drain Commissioner to add or delete lands from the Drainage District may seek judicial review in the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days of the decision.

This notice is pursuant to Sections 154 and 197 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Patrick E. Lindemann, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, at (517) 676-8395, or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Dated: January 15, 2025

Patrick E. Lindemann Ingham County Drain Commissioner 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, MI 48854 (517) 676-8395





Los Angeles-based ASM Global, positioned to finalize a contract with the city of Lansing this week to take over management of the Lansing Center, Groesbeck Golf Course and Jack-

son Field from the Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority, could also run the city's new concert venue, Ovation, currently under construction. Officials made the potential cost of the deal public during a LEPFA board meeting. The two potential costs were a \$120,000 yearly contract with \$120,000 in possible incentives or \$150,000 a year with \$150,000 in potential incentives. In either projection, ASM would bring \$500,000 in capital investment and would keep a 20% commission on new partnerships, sponsorships or naming rights.

Several Greater Lansing schools canceled classes for today due to possible snow and cold temperatures, with flash-freezing ice on the roads leading to dangerous driving conditions. Officials said it would be too cold for



road salt to be effective until it warms up slightly into the teens. The National Weather Service said the morning wind chill will be as low as minus-17, with wind gusts as high as 29 mph. Michigan schools typically cancel classes when wind chills are 20 degrees below zero. Nearly all area schools were closed Tuesday. Most schools in the tricounty area were closed today. Lansing Community College campuses were closed but classes were scheduled online. Lansing Catholic and Lansing Christain announced they'd be closed. Officials will make updated information about closings available on their district websites and social media accounts.



The Martin Luther King Jr. 40th annual Day of Celebration Luncheon at the Lansing Center was interrupted by a small electrical fire, resulting in an evacuation until it was extinguished. Lansing

police said no injuries occurred, and the event resumed after a delay. Civil rights activist Bernard LaFayette Jr. was the keynote speaker in a chat with Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II. Meanwhile, MSU's MLK Student Committee held a commemoration and indoor march for about 100 attendees at the IM East facility. MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Jabar Bennett, Psychology Professor Lee June and students Kayla Dunham and Tacora Roach were among the speakers.

The U.S. Transportation Department awarded the city of Lansing a \$1 million grant to develop a plan to build a large



bridge over Interstate 496 that will function as a park or a memorial to the Black community that was destroyed to make way for the freeway in the 1960s. More than 840 homes

and businesses were demolished during the construction, displacing primarily Black families. The city was rejected for the grant money twice before. Mayor Andy Schor said the Local Infrastructure Hub, a group of philanthropic and nonprofit organizations, assisted with the most recent application, and the city could get support from various organizations during the design process.

Seventeen pallets of margarine weighing 42,000 pounds were destroyed after a semi-trailer caught fire on westbound Interstate 69 in DeWitt Township. The driver was traveling from Can-



ada to a wholesale bakery business in Hudsonville when a motorist alerted him that the back of his trailer was on fire, DeWitt Township Fire Chief Dave DeKorte said, and was likely caused by a flaw in the braking system. The driver pulled over and separated the tractor portion of his rig from the trailer. No one was injured.



A Lansing police officer shot and killed a dog after it had bitten him and another officer during an arrest. Officers were on the 400 block of Francis Avenue on the east side to search for a larceny

suspect with an outstanding arrest warrant and found him inside a vehicle. The dog inside the car bit the officers' hands and arms, officials said, and continued to bite their legs after they removed the suspect from the vehicle. The officers were treated for the wounds, and Ingham County Animal Control was notified of the incident.

The Capital Area Transportation Authority has restarted its listening bus program, allowing riders to share constructive feedback about their experiences with CATA's fixed-route service as they travel to and from their destinations. The service will be available on a rotating schedule of routes during 2025, with sessions,

routes and times available at https:// www.cata.org/listeningbus. Those unable to attend an onboard Listening Bus session or customers utilizing any of CATA's paratransit services who would like to provide input about their trips can do so by submitting the online feedback form (https://www.cata.org/story) or by calling (517) 394-1000.







Snowfolk, Jan. 28-Feb. 1

"Frosty the Snowman" may show up for a new downtown Lansing winter promotion showcasing creative snowfolk, but Frosty won't melt away like the fictional character since no real snow can be used in the creations.

"The sky is the limit" for the more than a dozen downtown retailers who will be crafting snowfolks for the streetscape exhibit and will vote for their favorite creation, said Jacki Krumnow, owner of NOW Marketing a show organizer.

Krumnow said shoppers will vote for their favorite creation. "I'm expecting something tie-died from Hippie, for example. The only requirement is nno snow anything but snow," she said. "We want to let creativity flow and let people laugh throughout the week of the promotion," Krumnow said.

The Jan. 28-Feb. 1 event is being spearheaded by Colton Hughes of Element Message and LANTERN Small Biz, a grassroots initiative to promote and aid entrepreneurship in Lansing. Downtown businesses Grewal

Downtown businesses Grewal Hall, Capital Hippie, Evergreen Apothecary, Ornamaloo, Clover Joy Collective, Unodeuce, Nubian and Syvia's Sudsery are among the participants.

The winning snowfolk will be announced Feb. 1.

**BILL CASTANIER** 

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

#### ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SITE PLAN REVIEW Tuesday, February 4, 2025 7:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Oneida Charter Township Hall, 11041 Oneida Rd., Grand Ledge, Michigan, 48837 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to notify the public of the request for a Site Plan Review for a Medical Office Building for the University of Michigan Health-Sparrow for parcel #030-012-400-070-01, 5677 E. Saginaw Hwy., Grand Ledge, Michigan.

The application and site plan are available for review in the office of the Zoning Administrator Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Anyone having questions or needing assistance during or prior to the hearing can contact the Zoning Administrator, Melissa Goschka at 517-622-8078. Written comments on this proposal will be accepted until Monday, February 3, at 1:00 p.m. Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Oneida Charter Township Clerk's Office.

> Jacqueline Kilgore Oneida Charter Township Clerk CP#25-014

COMBINED NOTICE NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

> Lansing Housing Commission 419 Cherry Lansing, MI 4893 Phone: 517-487-6550 TDD: (800) 545-1833 Ext 919

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Lansing Housing Commission. This is a correction to the Combined Notice: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request for Release of Funds, which was originally published on December 11, 2024, to include the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development contact information. The Lansing Housing Commission will submit the Request for Release of Funds and Certification at the same time as this Correction of Combined Notice is published. The local comment period (15 Days) and HUD's Objection Period (15 Days) will run concurrently.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about **January 22**, **2025**, the Lansing Housing Commission will request the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)** to release Project Based Vouchers under Section 8 (o)(13) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)) as amended, for the following development:

Hillsdale Place Limited Dividend Housing Association LLC Ingham County 40 Units New Construction Twenty (20) Project Based Voucher Assisted Units \$8,650,000 Low Income Housing Tax Credit Equity \$2,102,301 HOME ARP Funds \$11,581,512 Approximate Total Development Cost

The Lansing Housing Commission intends to award twenty (20) units of Project Based Voucher assistance. The proposed development will be located at 1020 W. Hillsdale Lansing, Michigan and will contain 40 newly constructed apartments housed in one, four (4)-story, building. 20 of the 40 units will be Project Based for Permanent Supportive Housing eligible participants. All 40 units will be general occupancy.

#### NOTICE OF FONSI

The Lansing Housing Commission also gives notice that it has been determined that the release of funds for the above development will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 USC 4321). The reasons for the decision not to prepare such a Statement are as follows:

No significant environmental adverse impacts or hazards were identified during the environmental review.

An Environmental Review Record respecting the proposed development has been made by the Lansing Housing Commission, which documents the environmental review of the proposed development and more fully sets forth the reasons why such a Statement is not required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the Lansing Housing Commission, 419 Cherry Street Lansing, MI 48933. The records are available for

ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL LAND USE Tuesday, February 4, 2025 7:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Oneida Charter Township Hall, 11041 Oneida Rd., Grand Ledge, Michigan, 48837 at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to notify the public of the request for a Special Land Use Permit for a Drive Through Pharmacy for the medical office building for parcel #030-012-400-070-01, 5677 E. Saginaw Hwy., Grand Ledge, Michigan.

The application and site plan are available for review in the office of the Zoning Administrator Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Anyone having questions or needing assistance during or prior to the hearing can contact the Zoning Administrator, Melissa Goschka at 517-622-8078. Written comments on this proposal will be accepted until Monday, February 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Oneida Charter Township Clerk's Office.

> Jacqueline Kilgore Oneida Charter Township Clerk CP#25-015

public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please contact Douglas Fleming at (517) 487-6550 or TDD/TTY (800)454-1833 ext. 919 for further information. The record is also available at the Lansing Housing Commission located at 419 Cherry, Lansing, Michigan, 48933 and may be viewed by contacting Douglas Fleming at (517) 487-6977 or TDD/TTY (800) 545-1833 Ext.919 Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 p.m. Friday.

No further environmental review of such development is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of Federal funds.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDING

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration. Such written comments should be received at HUD Address listed below and at the Lansing Housing Commission's address above on or before **February 6, 2025**. All such comments received will be considered, and the Lansing Housing Commission will not request the release of Federal funds or take any administrative action on the proposed project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

#### **RELEASE OF FUNDS**

**Hillsdale Place Limited Dividend Housing Association LLC** will undertake the development described above with PBV rental assistance. The PBV program is authorized by Section 8 (o)(13) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)). The Lansing Housing Commission are certifying to HUD that the Lansing Housing Commission, are consenting to accept the jurisdiction of Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval **Hillsdale Place** may use the PBV assistance, and **HUD** will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

#### **OBJECTIONS RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the Lansing Housing Commission certifications received by February 6, 2025 or a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Lansing Housing Commission; (b) the Lansing Housing Commission had omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) a grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Section 58.76) and shall be addressed to: Michelle King, PIH Representative, Detroit Field Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 477 Michigan Avenue,16th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226. Objections can also be submitted via email at:

**Environmenal-PublicComments@hud.gov** Potential objectors should contact Michelle King via telephone at 313-234-7397 or by email at Michelle.d.king@hud.gov to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Lansing Housing Commission Executive Director 419 Cherry Lansing, MI 48933

# This is journalistic integrity?

Kyle Melinn's article in the Jan. 15, 2025, issue of City Pulse falls short of basic journalistic standards. It seems that Melinn had an "angle" he was aiming for and thus permitted a lot of questionable assertions to stand with no effort to present a more nuanced, balanced and factual story. In the interest of brevity, I'll mention only a few shortcomings in the article.

Melinn glibly notes that "after billions tion of dollars spent against the Republican 200 nominee, Trump still won Michigan, sig Wisconsin and Pennsylvania." He fails over to mention the nearly \$1.5 billion spent in favor of Trump or that \$277 million of that total came from one individual, Elon Musk.

Nor does Melinn mention that Musk basically turned the social media platform X into a megaphone for the Trump campaign or that Fox News served largely the same purpose. And not a peep about the coordinated disinformation campaign waged on Trump's behalf.

Melinn says that "Democrats are yelping about Trump's questionable appointments." We're left to infer that he means cabinet appointments, although that is not specified. But "questionable?" It would be more accurate to describe many of Trump's cabinet nominees as demonstrably unqualified, both in terms of skills and experience as well as in ethics and integrity.

Melinn permitted, without question or comment, James David Dickson to make

this assertion about Trump: "And look at the sacrifices he's made. ... He's going to be making less money than he ever has, and he's having the least amount of fun he's ever had, and he's doing it for service." This patently absurd statement made responding imperative. Melinn failed to present information that would counter Dickson's ridiculously false statement. At a minimum, he could have mentioned the report released in October 2024 by Democrats on the House Oversight Committee detailing how Trump overcharged the Secret Service during

his first term by 300% for accommodations at his hotels, putting millions into his coffers. Melinn might also have mentioned the

report also released last fall, "The intensifying threat of Donald Trump's emoluments" (find it at citizensforethics.org), which notes that Trump never divested from his businesses the first time he was in office. He received millions of dollars from foreign governments, including \$5.5 million from the Chinese government alone. It is a sure bet Trump will not divest during his second term of office either. Making less money than he ever has? Not on your life!

We live in an age of mis- and disinformation. Reliable, accurate, fair, and accountable journalism is needed now more than ever. Sadly, Kyle Melinn's piece does not measure up.

Melany Mack DeWitt

### TOWNSHIP OF AURELIUS oO 1939 S. Aurelius Road Mason, MI 48854

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES SYNOPSIS OF PROCEEDINGS

Members Present: Anderson, Welter, Droscha, Malcangi and Weltz Members Absent: None Others: N. Hicks, C. Hicks, J. Hicks, C. Schantz, S. Jansen, M. Grabow, M. Lam, B. Droscha. Regular meeting December 10, 2024 7 p.m. Approved agenda with additions Received public comment Approved invoices and minutes of November 27 and November 12, 2024 Received zoning report Received planning report Approved removed/added bank signatures as signee Discussion on township parks pole repairs Discussion on deputy clerk role description Approved board appointments Received board reports Received public comment Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Bethany Walter, Clerk

Unabridged minutes available upon request.

and Kroscha David Droscha, Supervisor

CP#25-018

# Bills passed by the House and Senate but may never get to the governor

The state government nerds in town can't wait to see what happens with this one.

If you remember your middle school civics class (or "Schoolhouse Rock"), a bill must pass the House and the Senate before

it goes to the governor for a signature to become law. ("I'm just a bill, yes I'm only a bill.")

But there's a little more to the bill-becomes-a-law story.

Once a bill passes the House and Senate, it returns to the House, where the Clerk's Office does a final proofread and reference check before it's presented to the governor. This process is called the enrollment process.

When the House is in session and the Clerk's Office flags an issue, the House can bring the bill back procedurally, fix the errors through amendments and another round of voting and send it back to the clerk for enrollment and presentation to the governor.

For reasons that aren't entirely clear, the former Democratic Speaker Joe Tate-led House couldn't get all 118 bills that the Senate passed by Dec. 20 to the governor by the time the Legislature formally adjourned Dec. 31.

That's not necessarily catastrophic. The House clerk is still on staff and is expected to continue with the administrative process. Of course, if the bills contain errors, there's no way to fix them. In those cases, the governor will veto or sign the bills with the expectation that the next Legislature will fix them.

What is new territory is for the bills not to be presented to the governor when the next Legislature gavels into session on the second Wednesday of January, as the Constitution requires.

That's what happened a couple of weeks ago.

New Republican House Speaker Matt Hall took office and was told there were still nine bills left over from the previous Legislature that were still in the Clerk's Office waiting to be processed. What would he like to do with them?

The bills include:

• Giving local government and school employee unions more power to negotiate how much an employer pays for their employees' health insurance. Currently, the law sets firm limits on this.

• Allowing state corrections and conservation officers to join the Michigan State Police's pension system.

• Allowing Oakland and Wayne counties' voters to raise a new mileage tax for the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Detroit Historical Society.

• Protecting more assets from poor people with their wages garnished to settle a debt.

Hall asked the clerk to sit on the bills while his new staff's legal eagles figured out what to do.

The answer isn't as clear-cut as you might think.

Our team at MIRS spent an afternoon digging through House journals and found that this happened last in 1980, just before the start of the 1981 session.

At that time, the speaker and the governor going from one session to the next were the same. It was Democratic House Speaker Bobby Crim and Gov. Bill Milliken.

A former staffer from the time, Bruce Timmons, said that while the bills were sent, it was unclear whether they *had* to be sent.

The Constitution and state law aren't clear. For one thing, the Constitution says once a session of the Legislature ends, that's it. It's done until it gavels into session again in the next calendar year.

Also, one Legislature can't mandate that a successor Legislature do anything.

However, one could argue that enrolling and presenting bills to the governor are ministerial functions that complete the process of the prior Legislature.

Meanwhile, the Republicans didn't support any of these bills. If the bills die on the vine, that's quite fine with them.

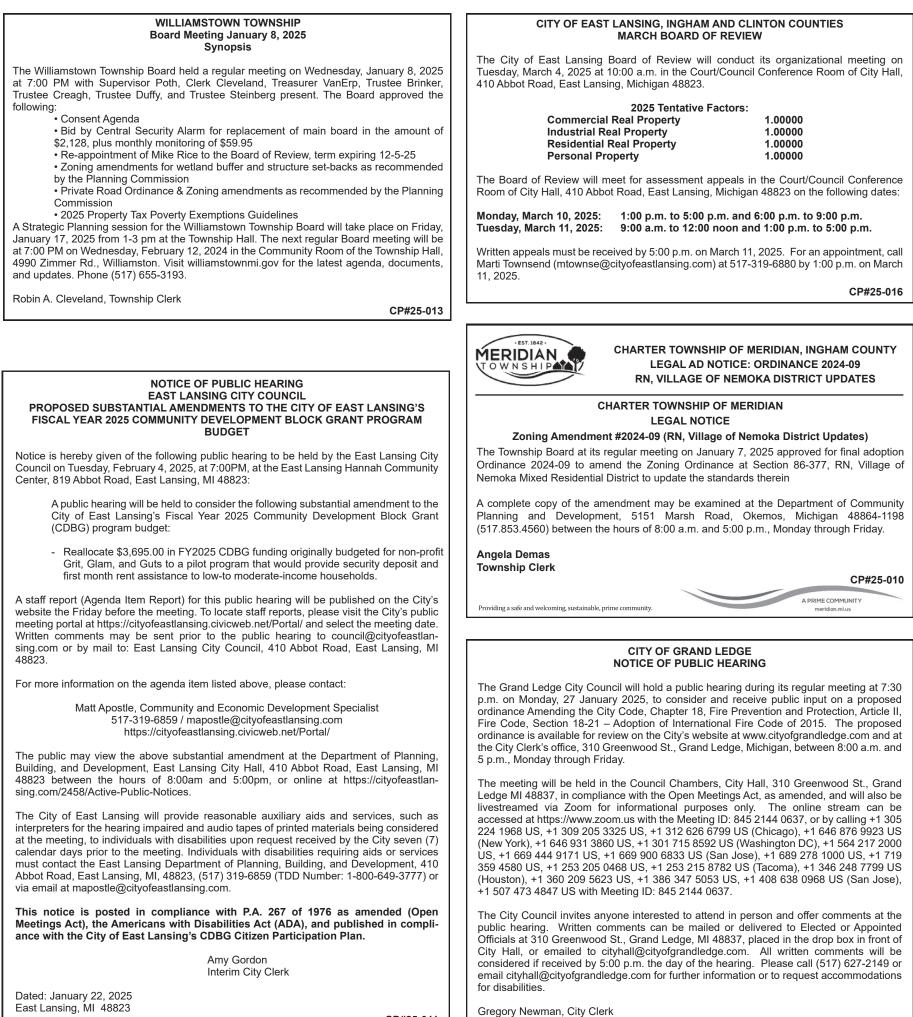
Democrats and the labor unions who pushed for the pension and public employee health care bills are hopping mad. They feel like Hall is playing games.

But Republicans bring up a good point. Had the Dems just passed bills at a pace the clerk could keep up with, they wouldn't be in this mess.

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



CP#25-012



CP#25-011

10



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Jean Jean Vintage owner Emily Duffelmeyer started her shop online in 2010 and opened her own brick-and-mortar location in REO Town in 2018.

# From statups to staples Greater Lansing's Guide to Small Business Success

### **By TYLER SCHNEIDER**

With "a shoebox full of vintage jewelry and a pocket camera," Emily Duffelmeyer embarked on a slow but steady path to growth success.

Duffelmeyer, owner of Jean Jean Vintage in REO Town, founded her jewelry shop as an online-only retailer in 2010. By 2018, her success allowed her to open her own Lansing storefront at 1136 S. Washington Ave.

Building a strong foundation and consistent revenue stream before shifting to a full-time physical business was key to her. Also, she encourages new business owners to trust their own instincts.

"Before you start, you need to define what success looks like for you," Duffelmeyer said. "The culture tells us that you need to be faster and do more and more all the time. That kind of thinking promotes a relentless pace.

"You have to tune out all of that noise, have a strong and steadfast idea of your vision — and stick with it," she added. "Otherwise, you'll get pulled in 50 different directions and end up doing more of what people tell you should do instead of what works for you."

Entrepreneur Jero Garza, a newer face in the Lansing business scene, recently started on a similar, incremental path to opening a shop. Garza said he spent about four years preparing and planning before he was ready to launch Daydream Tattoo in Lansing last February.

"It wasn't something where I was going to fly by the seat of my pants," Garza, 39, said. "I needed to lock down how I would financially acquire everything that I needed, whether or not I wanted to have a business partner and which location would serve us best."

At the time, Garza was a 12-year industry veteran who spent much of his tenure traveling around the country on the tattoo convention circuit. While his connections there bolstered his industry-specific expertise, he knew that opening his own shop would require him to develop an entirely different skill set.

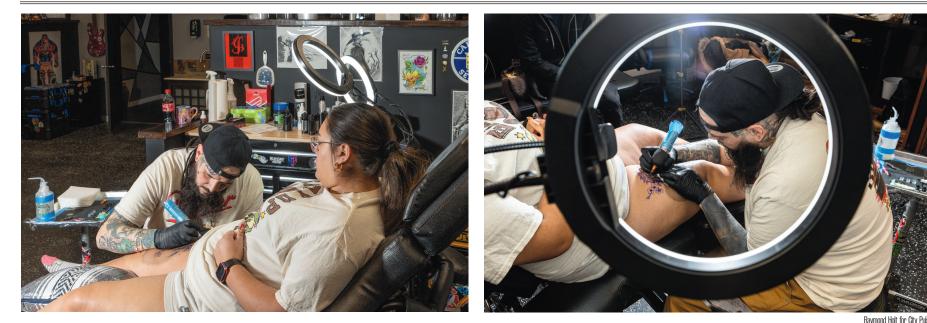
"Because I took the time I needed to get it right, it's been smooth sailing lately," he said.

As he approaches his first anniversary, Garza has

managed to avoid the pitfalls of establishing oneself in an insular and often oversaturated industry. In just a few weeks, he'll already have surpassed the roughly 20% of businesses that fold within their first year, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nearly 50 percent won't make it past five years.

As an example of how time takes its toll, City Pulse reviewed how many retail businesses are still open that appeared in our New in Town feature in 2023 and '24. Eight out of 83 did not survive two years nearly 10%. If Greater Lansing is typical, many more of them will go under in the next three years.

To avoid that fate, Garza and other Greater Lansing business owners will have to wear many hats but that doesn't mean they'll have to do it all alone. Throughout the capital region, organizations like the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, or LEAP, and the Small Business Development Center at Lansing Community College offer dozens of resources to help business owners, new and old, navigate the ins and outs of their



Daydream Tattoo owner Jero Garza tattoos Susie Sandoval. Come February, he and his staff will celebrate their first year in business.

### <u>Guide</u>

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respective journeys.

"Most people who start a business are really good at their craft, but they're not accountants, lawyers or engineers," said Harrison Leffel-Jones, LEAP's vice president of small business and innovation. "Part of our purpose is to bring those experts in to tell them, for example, as they're scaling to their next phase, that it might make sense not to be an LLC anymore. We're here to connect you with those who can help guide you as you take your next big step."

Darryl Horton, the senior consultant at LCC's small business center, is one of those experts.

Horton specializes in connecting prospective new business owners with the proper loans and vital financial knowhow they'll need to succeed.

"People who come to us are typically already struggling, and finances are usually the core of their issues," Horton said. "Our goal is to put you on solid ground before you launch. If you're likely to struggle financially, we tell our clients they shouldn't push the go button just yet."

A business owner could very well offer the best possible product, Horton explained, but it's the drier aspects of the trade, like not knowing which loans and grants they should apply for, that can sink an otherwise promising ship.

Similarly, Chamber vice president Steve Japinga said it's easy for first-time owners to get lost in a complex web of municipal and statewide regulations.

"I get a ton of calls regarding zoning, permitting, signing ordinances and other things you don't usually think about as often when you're starting out," Japinga said. "We often run into business owners who are having trouble getting a hold of whoev-

er deals with the regulations they're trying to navigate in their city or township. We help make those connections so they don't have to cold call or track them down themselves."

The Chamber, LEAP and the small business center are among dozens of frequent collaborators in the shared effort to foster a healthy local business landscape. One initiative is Elevate, a LEAP program established in 2022 through a partnership with the PNC Foundation to promote Black-owned small businesses.

### **Utilizing local resources**

Deanna Brown, owner of the south Lansing-based bakery Everything Is Cheesecake, joined the first Elevate cohort shortly after opening her doors in 2022. She said the program helped equip her with the tools to manage her inventory better, identify her niche and communicate effectively with her customer base.

While she benefited greatly from the program, Brown noted that her learning curve constantly evolves.

"There are so many different things that can and will change for you," Brown said. "Your bills could go up or down, employees come and go, and you have to be financially prepared for these possibilities. I don't quite think I was early on, and I had to dip into my own savings and make adjust-

ments in my personal life to keep going."

So far, her efforts have been fruitful. However, Brown added that she hopes to meet an experienced mentor she can turn to when new, unforeseen challenges arise.

"With the help of a good mentor, you can keep yourself from making a lot of mistakes and benefit from their guidance to effectively grow and scale," she said. "To this day, I've been searching high and low for one."

Similarly, Leffel-Jones noted that business owners within a particular neighborhood or an overlapping customer base can form a collective support group.

"Being an entrepreneur can be a very lonely enterprise, and there are a lot of owners out there who have been floating in the ether and doing it all on their own for years," Leffel-Jones said. "I like to tell new business owners to get as involved as they can and try to meet like-minded

Steve Japinga try to meet like-minded folks who can count on and ings grow alongside each other."

### **Experienced entrepreneurs**

Lauren Palmer, owner of Curvaceous

Lingerie in Old Town, started as an employee at the Wedding Bell bridal salon in Okemos in 2012. Today, she is a seasoned entrepreneurial vet.

"I actually opened it as a sort of ministore inside the bridal shop," Palmer said. "I was lucky because it allowed me to work the wedding side and build my business at the same time, which cut the overhead significantly."

That experience helped Palmer test the waters before taking the plunge on her brick-and-mortar location in 2014. While she initially intended to stock lingerie exclusively, she said her first few years in the bridal shop proved that standard, everyday bras would be a primary business driver.

"When I opened, I had like two styles of bras, but it quickly became more and more evident that bras were what people wanted," she recalled. "Our model slowly morphed to the point where bras make up 75 percent of our business."

By staying attentive to the needs and wants of her early customer base, Palmer could adjust her inventory accordingly and achieve the sales numbers she needed to expand into her own space and become a success story.

Meanwhile, over in REO Town, Robin Theatre co-founder Dylan Rogers said his key to success has been balancing life and work duties while always being consistent.

"We have a tendency to glorify hustle culture in this country, but the line between burned out and just busy enough is easy to cross," said Rogers, who opened The Robin in 2015. "I find it helpful to block time off on my calendar to rest and recuperate because it's a lot easier to find inspiration when you're not in the middle of a busy work



Harrison Leffel-Jones



### Guide

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schedule.

"That said, there's a difference between rest and being flaky with your hours of operation," Rogers added. "Consistency is important, so try to block off time in advance and communicate your availability."

Above all else, Rogers said small business owners must remember one important fact: they are not alone.

"I learned a lot from people who have walked similar paths, including Sally Potter at Ten Pound Fiddle, Meegan Holland at The Creole, Rhea (Van Atta) and Ben (Hassenger) at Old Town General Store and numerous artist-mentors over the years," he said, adding that he's more than willing to pay it forward if someone reaches out to him.

### Being a local fixture ...

As a third-generation owner of Kean's variety store in Mason, Teresa Wren has had a far less common journey. Some of her earliest memories include watching her father and grandfather returning from trade shows. As she grew up, it became clear that she'd be the heir to the now 96-year-old business.

Wren said she attributes Kean's longevity to her family's willingness to adapt to the changing times. Her grandfather initially operated it as a dime store before her father pivoted to collectibles. After taking the reins in 2000, Wren opted for greater variety. Today, she carries "anything and everything." Her inventory spans toys, candy, fabrics, boutique clothing, furniture, greeting cards and more.

"We all did things a little bit differently, but one constant between my father, grandfather and I is that we never let ourselves get too comfortable with what we might think is going to sell," she said. "Our success comes from the fact that we never let anything just sit around. Your inventory isn't going to sell itself, so you have to be creative



Curvaceous Lingerie owner Lauren Palmer started her business at Wedding Bell bridal salon in Okemos, where she used to work, in 2010. Today, she runs a brick-and-mortar location in Old Town.

and constantly look for ways to make your space new and fresh. That goes for products, layout, events and everything in between."

Another factor was an emphasis on the environment and overall vibe surrounding the shopping experience.

"Customers don't want to just walk into a plain old store — they want it to be an experience," Wren said. "They want something beautiful, creative and different. One way we do that is to give them spaces to eat, drink, sit and relax before they get back to shopping."

### ... and becoming a local fixture

For entrepreneurs looking to start the next century-old business, Leffel-Jones recommends implementing what he calls the "100 benchmark."

"Who are the first 100 people that will buy your product? To find out, we recommend people in the idea stage to set up a website to introduce their product and directly ask who would be willing to buy it," he said. "If you get more than 100 people who like your concept, that gives you an early sense of what you're getting into, even if only a quarter of them end up purchasing it."

Leffel-Jones also urged potential business owners to stay grounded in their expectations. Some businesses will inevitably flounder, but he said many owners who experience failure will eventually return with a new concept and a greater chance to stand the test of time.

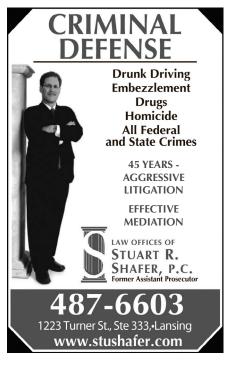
"Maybe it's not the business idea you start with that ends up making it, but what are the skill sets and things you can learn along the way that might help you with your next venture? Being an owner-operator can be amazing, but it also becomes your life," Leffel-Jones said. "Many people we work with end up not running a business full time, but if you're ready to dive back in, you need to decide for yourself if you're ready for that lifestyle."

When it comes to the lifestyle, Garza said he is all in. Through creative outreach efforts like fundraisers with the Potter Park Zoo, offering discounts for customers who contribute to their annual Toys for Tots collection bin, and even handing out free shirts to local service workers, he's found an equilibrium that seems to work.

"The first six months were all about adjusting and fine-tuning everything," Garza said. "Now, we have more traction and momentum than ever. If you stick with it, it becomes a machine that runs itself."

Before setting off for his next appointment, Garza offered some final tidbits of advice for anyone who dreams of someday becoming their own boss.

"Never stop looking ahead, be prepared for slow times, make sure you've got a good chunk of savings that you can reinvest," he said. "Find the best location with ample parking and ease of access. You want the most direct, straightest line in all those areas. That said, the customer experience will always be number one. Anybody can tattoo someone, but if they have a memorable interaction, it'll become an experience they'll look forward to and keep coming back for."





# ARTS & CULTURE ART • BOOKS • FILM • M A constant communion Time for Three brings passion, artistry to Wharton Center

### **By LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

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A live concert by string trio Time for Three is more than an evening of music. Watching and listening to Charles Yang (violin/vocals), Nicolas Kendall (violin/vocals) and Ranaan Meyer (double bass/vocals) play together is like witnessing a fusion of three souls, a constant communion.

"As soon as we start playing, we just lean into one another's sound and spin this energy between the three of us out into, and with, the audience," Kendall said.

All three musicians are virtuosi, and eclectic ones at that. They play pop songs, classical concertos, jazz grooves, bluegrass, pretty much anything - except what you expect them to play.

"The way we shape our sound, the way we phrase, is exactly the way we would play a Brahms sonata, a Beethoven quartet or Haydn," Kendall explained. "But we are not a classical band at all."

Composers write music for the three of them as if they were one person. One of the two classical Grammys they won in 2023 was for best instrumental solo, despite their three heads and six legs.

The trio's breakout radio hit, "Vertigo," written for them by genre-crossing composer Steve Hackman, surfs on dark ripples of emotional trauma. On

the recording, a throbbing synthesizer pushes Yang to bare his soul in a gentle, yearning voice. When they perform "Vertigo" live, all three players take flight, plucking and

bowing their hearts out, exposing every nerve of the song while supporting Yang with an almost therapeutic cushion of vocal harmony.

Their mutual love and support are a wonder to behold.

"No matter how crazy our musical lives are or how many other things we're doing, there's such a generosity of spirit between Ranaan, Charles and myself," Kendall said.

The trio's self-composed pop song "Deanna" begins with wordless singing



Photo by Lauren Desberg, courtesy Wharton Center

Time for Three (from left: Nicolas Kendall, Charles Yang and Ranaan Meyer) will bring high energy and tight rapport to the Wharton Center on Jan. 29.

and melts into high-register violin and low cello sighs, revealing hidden wavelengths of emotion that vibrate above and below the "visible" ones in the lyrics.

"There's a singer-songwriter quality to some of our songs," Kendall said. "We'll do our own arrangements and covers of some of the most famous pop songs out there."

The signature achievement of the

group's career so far is "Contact," a brilliant and moving concerto written for them by composer Kevin Puts (a native of Alma) that won a Grammy for best contemporary classical composition.

"Contact" goes for the jugular from the first note, with a simple, keening signal that Kendall admitted is a "real earworm," a pleading signal from the human race to the vast universe that gave it birth.

Puts wanted the music to tap directly into the trio's boundless energy, leaving room for spontaneous creation at each performance.

The concerto has profound moments of mystery, wonder and doubt, ending in an ecstatic spiral of energy propelled by the electromagnetic affinity among the three soloists at its nucleus.

"It's a tailor-made suit just for us," Kendall said. "He spent a lot of time figuring us out, what our strengths are - not just on our instruments but the X factor when people come hear us live."

The "signal" theme took on more significance when the pandemic shut down planned premieres of the concerto with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony.

"We had a chance to go even deeper with it," Kendall said. "We weren't able to be in contact with each other. As a whole world, we were feeling so apart and distant, when we feel like there's such a common bond."

They began to shape "a simple threepart harmony that could be like a message sent out into space for future generations to learn about what's happening right now, but it's also about optimism for the future. It's a piece of genius, and it's part of our main repertoire now."

None of them envisioned a Grammy-winning masterpiece on the prestigious Deutsche Grammophon label in 2009, when Kendall, Meyer and violinist Zachary DePue were studying at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

As legend has it, Meyer and DePue were playing in the Philadelphia Orchestra one night when a storm killed the lights, so they started jamming on folk tunes in the dark. While taking their classical training seriously, Meyer was also into jazz, and the other two loved bluegrass music.

When DePue left the group in 2015 to become concertmaster of the Indianapolis Symphony, Yang took his place. Yang's lemony-sweet vocals, formidable violin chops and stage charisma pushed the group further into the stratosphere.

"We never thought that two violins and a double bass, mixed with three vocals, would be our career," Kendall said.

The combination looked unlikely on paper, but the trio's tireless energy, transcendent rapport and eagerness to play new music from multiple genres dovetailed perfectly with the changes rippling through the post-pandemic classical music industry.

As venues like the Wharton Center and orchestras across the nation push to broaden their classical audiences and diversify their musical offerings, Kendall's new problem is tearing himself away from countless emails and other demands and getting back to playing music.

"Winning two Grammys - that recognition has helped us raise the flag," Kendall said. "We don't feel as if we're swimming upstream as far as the industry is concerned. The people who are booking or making artistic decisions with orchestras, they get it. The industry has shown that it needs to be more progressive, more open to the world."

The challenge now, Kendall said, is to persuade people who are unfamiliar with classical music to give Time for Three a try and to persuade classical music lovers to relax and experience a thrilling and different take on some familiar instruments.

"The thing that's hard is that audiences still don't know exactly what to expect from us," Kendall said. "The way you feel us, the way we craft our sound in a live situation, it just doesn't come across in any recorded medium."

**Time for Three** 7:30 p.m. Jan. 29 Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing (517) 432-2000 whartoncenter.com

# **2025:** The toughest year yet for Michigan's cannabis industry

**By CHRIS SILVA** 

Last year was nothing short of a rollercoaster for Michigan's 5-year-old legal cannabis industry, but 2025 is shaping up to be even more turbulent. Industry insiders are bracing for volatility that could wipe out 20 to 30% of producers. The state's legal market brought in more than \$3 billion in sales in 2024, with the average price of an ounce dipping just below \$70 by year's end. But as we move into 2025, the pressure is mounting, and the turmoil is far from over.

Cannabis producers and retailers are already feeling the heat, scrambling to stay afloat in a market that's been in a constant state of upheaval. The race to the bottom on pricing has reached crisis levels, forcing operators to slash costs wherever they can. We've seen a wave of layoffs in the past month, with cannabis companies across the state cutting their sales and marketing teams or shutting down entirely. Smaller operators are being hit especially hard, wearing multiple hats as they try to outlast the storm. It's a fight for survival as businesses pivot, cut corners and do whatever they can to stay competitive.

The winter months typically bring a lull in cannabis sales, and this year is no exception. Post-holiday blues and cold Michigan winters tend to keep people inside, slowing foot traffic to dispensaries. But the challenges in Michigan are even more pronounced for operators who are managing businesses in other states. In fact, we've already seen some out-of-state players like LivWell and Curaleaf decide to exit the Michigan market, choosing instead to focus on states with less competition and greater market potential.

Michigan's generous licensing system has allowed a large number of businesses to enter the market. However, many industry insiders believe this open-door approach has contributed to oversupply, with too many producers fighting for market share. In some cases, producers have exploited loopholes, moving their operations between different licenses in ways that skirt state regulations. It's a bit like the use of



burner phones in "The Wire" and has only added to the chaos in Michigan's already struggling cannabis industry.

That said, there's still hope for the future. Some are optimistic that 2025 could finally bring the federal cannabis reform that the industry has been waiting for. If the Trump administration can make good on promises of reform

See Lansterdam, Page 16

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### Lansterdam

### from page 15

— especially around tax issues like Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code, which prohibits companies from deducting or receiving tax credits for otherwise typical business expenses related to the "trafficking" of Schedule I or II substances — there's potential for a significant shift. A change in tax policy could free up much-needed capital for retailers, increasing their bottom lines and boosting the wholesale price





eboonstudio/Shutterstock

As cultivators drop out of Michigan's highly competitive cannabis market, industry insiders hope that oversupply will decrease and wholesale prices of cannabis will rise, bringing healthier sales margins for producers and retailers and more reliable access to quality products for consumers.

of cannabis. This could help to stabilize the market in the long run.

There's also hope that as more producers drop out of the market and the supply shrinks, prices could begin rising back up. By this time next year, we might see a more stable market, with healthier margins for producers and retailers and more reliable access to quality products for consumers.

As we move forward in 2025, keep your eyes peeled for great deals on all

sorts of cannabis products. But don't be surprised if your favorite vape cartridge, edible or flower brand disappears from shelves — this industry is like the Wild West, and it's going to get wilder before it gets better.



# Jeff Vande Zande scares himself with new gothic horror novel

### **By BILL CASTANIER**

A word of warning: Don't start reading Jeff Vande Zande's new gothic horror novel before going to bed. You'll stay up late trying to uncover what happens next, and you'll end up with nightmares.

Vande Zande, a writing and film professor at Delta College in University Center, borrowed the book's scary title, "The Dance of Rotten Sticks," from a piece by the late poet Theodore Roethke, who grew up in nearby Saginaw and set much of his Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning poetry there.

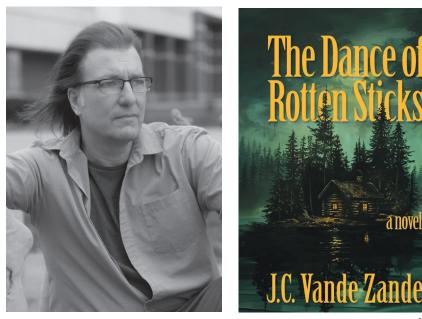
The line "wake me, witch, we'll do the dance of rotten sticks" should clue readers in on where Vande Zande's otherwise quotidian book is going to end up.

Isaac Fletcher, a single father whose wife died in a bizarre automobile accident, struggles with raising his three young children as he gradually descends into alcoholism. The family takes a trip to a mysterious fictional island for a vacation they hope will help them recover emotionally from their loss.

This is the point where readers will yell, "Don't go!" because you know for sure there will be a macabre, violent ending complete with witches, potions, poisons and terror. When the family gets to the island, eerie things begin to happen, and the children start to have strange dreams and apparitions.

"I kept trying my best not to write it. I'm not a reader of horror, and I looked snobbishly down my nose at the genre," the author said. "Several times while reading the book, I scared myself and had to quit writing. The book also caused me to quit drinking entirely. As Isaac was dealing with drinking, I was confronting it myself."

When Vande Zande began writing, he knew he wanted a portion of the book to take place on an island, which had to



"I kept trying my best not to write it," Midland author Jeff Vande Zande said of his new gothic horror novel, "The Dance of Rotten Sticks." "I'm not a reader of horror, and I looked snobbishly down my nose at the genre." However, the author ended up enjoying the experience so much that he's 40,000 words into a sequel, which is set in northern Michigan's Pigeon River State Forest.

have an abandoned orphanage, and he wanted to incorporate the monstrous sea lamprey and fly fishing. It almost goes without saying that there's no cell phone coverage.

"I thought it was important to get the family back to nature," the author said.

He enjoyed the experience of writing a horror novel so much that he's 40,000 words into a sequel, which is set in northern Michigan's Pigeon River State Forest.

### Other book news:

Amos Paul Kennedy Jr., one of the nation's leading artistic letterpress printers and a Michigan Notable Book award winner for his 2024 book, "Citizen Printer," will visit Michigan State University at the end of the month for an artist residency sponsored by the Arts Living-Learning Community, the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities and the Department of Art, Art History and Design.

The printer will lecture on his work at 6 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 28) at South Kedzie Hall. He'll participate in a demonstration of letterpress printing with Arie Koelewyn, proprietor of the Paper Airplane Press, at 6 p.m. Jan. 29 at the RCAH Art Center in Snyder Hall. Both events are free and open to the public.

The public is also invited to a pop-up exhibition of Kennedy's work from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 28) at the Main Library and a reception for "Type, Set, Press," a group exhibition of letterpress work, from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 31 at (SCENE) Metrospace in downtown East Lansing.

Kennedy's book, which features more than 800 reproductions of his printing work, will be available for purchase at the events.

Chloe Crawford, a professor in the Department of Art, Art History and Design, noted that despite letterpress printing being an almost extinct art form, it's the foundation for basic design.

"It's a very process-based art form," she said.



Courtesv photo

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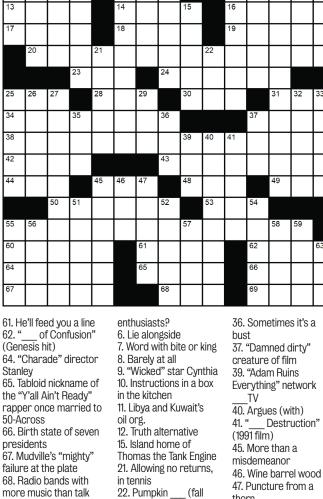
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By Matt Jones

### Jonesin' Crossword

"Zero Stars!" -- that's my rating. by Matt Jones © 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS 1. "Le Freak" disco group !" ("I've had 5. "No enough," in Spanish) 8. New Testament king/ villain 13. Kind of exhaust 14. Japanese sashes 16. South American masa dish that's doughy when undercooked 17. "Mad Men" award 18. Taverna liqueur that tastes like anise 19. Utensil with small holes 20. Words chosen to be ignored, maybe 23. Manufacturer of bar code scanners and ATMs 24. Large blob 25. Negative decisions 28. Reminder of a debt 30. Monarch in Spain, but not the U.S. 31. Scummy pair? 34. Latin Grammvnominated Mexican musician Paz 37. Mango bowl 38. Like those who don't get called back 42. 2006-07 NBA MVP Nowitzki 43. Cross 44. Mo. for National Moldy Cheese Day 45. Vainglorious one 48 " with caution" 49. Agcy. created by Bush 50. "Toxic" singer Britney 53. Acquired 55. "Thanks for being thoughtful" 60. "Love Boat" guest who once said "Many people think I am an idiot. I think I am a genius"



more music than talk 69. Totally insane, beverage) like some choices or opinions 26. Corrupt, DOWN 1. Agency founded to 27. Makeup of help fight malaria, for short 2. Streaming service with "This Fool" and "Tell Me Lies' 3. Comedian and "Love Island" narrator Stirling 4. Bozo, e.g.

5. Clear choice for car

"Hamlet"

fluid

(fall thorn 51. Gravylike soup 25. Fresh hairstyle 52. Extinguish, with "out" 54. Windbreaker sycophantic courtier in material 55. "Jailbreak" and "Highway to Hell" band questionable attendance 56. "Stop doing that!" records, maybe 57. Judge 29. Aduba who played 58. The only U.S. Shirley Chisholm in location that will ever "Mrs. America" 32. Low-lying wetland have a royal palace 59. Minute, hand, or 33. Building plots 35. Expensive printer rod, e.g. 63. El jefe's #2

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### SUDOKU

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

### **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 Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Author Anais Nin wrote, "Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage." I bring this to your attention because you Aries folks now have a mandate to expand your life through courageous acts, thoughts and feelings. I suggest we make the Arctic fox your power symbol. This intrepid creature undertakes epic migrations, journeying more than 2,000 miles across sea ice, using starlight and magnetic fields to navigate. Let's dare to speculate that you have something in common with it; let's propose that you are equipped with an inner guidance system that gives you an intuitive sense of how to maneuver in unfamiliar territory. PS: Nin has another tip: "We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus archeologist Howard Carter made a spectacular discovery in 1922: the intact tomb of the Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun, more than 3,300 years after his death. It was filled with more than 5,000 artifacts and became a global sensation. To this day, it remains the most famous find from ancient Egypt. A short time before he succeeded at his five-year quest, Carter nearly gave up. But then his sponsor agreed to provide funds for a few more months, and he continued. In this spirit, Taurus, I urge you to keep pushing to fulfill your own dream. Renew your faith. Boost your devotion. Remember why you feel so strongly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The James Webb Space Telescope is the largest telescope in space. Recently, it discovered hundreds of galaxies that no humans had ever before beheld. They are very old, too - far more ancient than our own Milky Way galaxy. I propose we make this marvelous perception-enhancing tool a symbol of power for you. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you now have a robust potential to see things that have always been invisible, secret or off-limits to you. Some of these wonders could motivate you to reinterpret your life story and reshape your future plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): One theory says that humans evolved to be afraid of reptiles because our early ancestors were frequently threatened by them. Among the most commonly feared creatures in modern culture are snakes. And yet, as anyone knows if they've studied mythology, snakes have also been symbols of fertility and healing in many cultures. Because they periodically shed their skin, they also represent regeneration and rebirth. I'm hoping you don't harbor an instinctual aversion to snakes, Cancerian. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to call on and benefit from their iconic powers.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In the coming months, be extra creative as you enhance your network of connections and support. Encourage your allies to provide you with tips about opportunities and possibilities that you would not otherwise know about. Ask them to serve as links to novel resources that will nurture your long-term dreams. Here's an idea to energize your efforts: Get a vivid sense of how trees use vast underground fungal webs to communicate with each other. (Learn more here: bit.ly/TheWoodWideWeb.) Knowing about this natural magic may impregnate your subconscious mind with evocative suggestions about how to be ingenious in weaving the kind of community you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I love my job as a horoscope writer. What could be more fun than analyzing cosmic signs to generate inspirational counsel for my readers? It's a big responsibility, though. I am intensely aware of how crucial it is that I craft my messages with utmost care and compassion. Having been scarred as a young adult by reckless, fear-mongering fortune tellers, I'm rigorous about nurturing your free will, not undermining it. I want you to be uplifted, not confused or demoralized as was. With these thoughts in mind, I invite you to take a vigorous inventory of the effects that your work and play have on the world. Are they aligned

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

### Jan. 22-28, 2025

with your intentions? Are your ambitions moored in impeccable integrity?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Why are diamonds considered so valuable? I'm skeptical. Highgrade diamonds are not as rare as public perception would lead us to believe. Yes, they are extraordinarily hard and scratch-resistant, but is that a reason to regard them as a sublime treasure? I acknowledge they are pretty in a bland way. But other gems are more intriguingly beautiful. Maybe the most important reason they are so prized is that diamond sellers have done effective marketing campaigns to promote them as symbols of love and luxury. All this is a prelude to my main message: Now is an excellent time to think and feel deeply about what is truly beautiful to you — and take steps to bring more of it into your life. For you Libras, beauty is an essential ingredient in your life's purpose.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The way that ancient Romans made concrete was more ingenious than modern methods. Their manufacturing materials included "lime clasts," which gave the concrete self-healing qualities. When cracks arose, they fixed themselves. That's why Roman aqueducts built 2,000 years ago can still convey water today. Metaphorically speaking, I hope you will work on building similar structures in the coming weeks. It's time to create strong foundations that will last for a very long time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do you harbor a yearning to learn a new language, skill or trick? The coming weeks will be a favorable phase to get serious about doing it. Have you fantasized about embarking on an adventure that would expand your understanding of how the world works? The time is right. Have you wished you could attract an inspirational prod to unleash more creativity and experiment freely? The astrological omens suggest that inspirational prod is imminent. Have you wondered whether you could enhance and fine-tune your receptivity — and thereby open up surprising sources of fresh teaching? Do it now!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Bristlecone pine trees grow very slowly, but they are hardy and long-lived. Their wood is so dense and strong that it's virtually immune to disease, insects and erosion. They grow in places that are inhospitable for many other trees, flourishing in cold, windy environments where the soil is not particularly rich in nutrients. For the bristlecone pine, apparent obstacles stimulate their resilience. don't want to exaggerate the ways they remind me of you Capricorns, but you and they certainly have affinities. I believe these shared qualities will be especially useful for you in the coming weeks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In old Hawaii, it was forbidde for ordinary people to touch objects that belonged to the chiefs or to anyone with spiritual powers. Other taboos: walking across the shadow of an important person and wearing red and yellow feathers. Our modern taboos are different but often equally rigid. For example, you are probably hesitant to ask people how much money they make or what their relationship status is. What are other taboos you observe? I won't outrightly advise you to brazenly break them, but now is a good time to reevaluate them - and consider changing your relationship with them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): As winter progresses, each day is longer and each night shorter. Most humans feel an undercurrent of joy that the amount of light in the world is growing. But as an astrologer who appreciates cycles, I like to honor the beauty and powers of darkness. That's where everything new gets born! It's where the future comes from! In ancient Hawaiian religion, the word "kumulipo" meant "beginning in deep darkness." It was also the name of a prayer describing the creation of the world. In the coming weeks, I believe you will be wise to tap into the rich offerings of darkness

Answers on page 22

Advanced

# OUT on TOWN the TOWN Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

### Wednesday, Jan. 22

**"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. unitvlansing.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.

**Bookend Gallery: "Eras of Women in U.S. History"** - The Quilting Divas have created a bold display that details the various eras of the fight for women's rights in the U.S., starting in 1849. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/ our-locations/haslett.

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.

**CharLit Adult Book Club** - For the month of January, we'll read "Unshrinking: How to Face Fatphobia," by Kate Manne. 6 p.m. at Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**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.

**Covert Ensemble** - The Covert Ensemble, featuring guest saxophonists Dave Camwell and Kateřina Pavlíková and pianist Tingting Yao, perform three specially commissioned works and Pavlíková's own arrangement of "Dance of the Comedians," by Bedrich Smetana. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

**Diabetes PATH** - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1 p.m. Delta Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@ tcoa.org.

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

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat<sup>9</sup> This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

### Financial Literacy Workshop: Build & Protect

Your Credit - This workshop will address credit myths, explain the importance of credit reports, demystify credit scores and provide strategies to build and protect your credit. Registration req. 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.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, hosted by Starlight Entertainment - 7:30-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.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. urbanbeate-vents.com.

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.

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

**Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven** - Take a culinary journey through Spain with a four-course dinner celebrating the country's rich flavors and traditions. Doors 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. eatredhaven.com.

**"Shucked"** - Witness the Tony-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat-out hilarious." This corn-fed, corn-bred show is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theater. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

**Walk with Ease** - Free exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. 11:15 a.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Weaving the Web: Myth - 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. 23

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

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

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

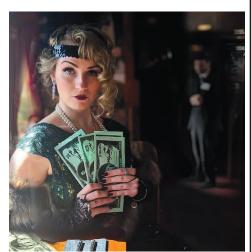
Al-Anon Meeting - 8 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cmialanon.org.

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

### Death of a Gangster: A 1920s Mafia Marriage Murder Mystery Saturday, Jan. 25

Doors 6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat 1213 Turner St., Lansing

The Murder Mystery Co., a Grand Rapids-based theater company that offers more than 7,500 shows per year nationwide across 24 troupes and more than 3,000 actors, invites Lansing-area residents to its mafia-themed mur-



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.

der-mystery event Saturday evening (Jan. 25) at UrbanBeat in Old Town. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with a dinner buffet at 7 p.m. The buffet will include lasagna, pasta primavera, a seasonal vegetable, salad, rolls and dessert. Each guest will receive one free soft drink, and a cash bar will be available for those who would

like something stronger. At 7:30 p.m., the show begins. The premise is that participants have been invited to a speakeasy for a wedding between two mafia families. At the wedding, someone is murdered. Costumed actors will guide participants through the rules of the game and assign everyone a suspect role. Then, the suspects will work together to unravel the mystery, following clues to uncover who committed the crime.

Guests are encouraged to wear 1920s-era clothing, including flapper dresses, feather boas, zoot suits and fedoras. Traditional wedding attire is also welcome. Tickets are \$59 and are available at urbanbeatevents.com. For more information on the Murder Mystery Co., visit murdermysteryco.com.

### 0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

Bookend Gallery: "Eras of Women in U.S. History" - The Quilting Divas have created a bold display that details the various eras of the fight for women's rights in the U.S., starting in 1849. Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

**College Night at Lansing Shuffle** - Free shuffleboard with student ID, half off well drinks, \$5 pitchers. 7-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansing-shuffle.com.

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

**Executive Welcome** - Welcome six new Lansing executives leading our region forward. Part networking reception, part introductions and part Q&A, the Executive Welcome highlights the vision and passion these leaders bring to our community. 8:30 a.m. Copper Moon, 1247 Center St., Lansing. Register at members.lansingchamber.org/event-calendar.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat? This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano, and Marc Embree, bass-baritone - Join us for Liederabend, an "evening of song" showcasing a variety of quintessential German art songs. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

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. Iadiessilverblades.org.

**LSO at The Robin Theatre** - Join LSO musicians for a unique, intimate concert of contemporary chamber music. 7:30 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

**Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven** - Take a culinary journey through Spain with a four-course dinner celebrating the country's rich flavors and traditions. 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.

## Hannah Plaza welcomes new Mediterranean restaurant in former Sultan's space

### **By TYLER SCHNEIDER**

Nader Chawish, 34, was making his daily trek to the Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing when he stumbled upon an empty property that seemed

too good to be true.

Chawish passed the

vacant space, a cor-



Chtoura Mediterranean Grill

4790 Hagadorn Road, Suite 164, East Lansing 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday (517) 721-1248 instagram.com/chtouragrill

4,000-squarefoot spot previously housed Sultan's Mediterranean Cuisine, which moved to a location off Grand River Avenue in 2020.

"It's all about

rant there. The

the location, and that, in particular, is what brought me here. I kept seeing that it was empty, and I knew it was a very good location," Chawish said, adding that the building's ownership group, Eyde Development, was crucial in helping him realize his vision for the space.

Chawish named the eatery Chtoura Mediterranean Grill, a reference to the Lebanese city where his mother, Noha El-Kasti, grew up. With 27 years of restaurant experience, El-Kasti joined the team to lead Chtoura's kitchen staff.

"I wanted to do this for my mom, and I felt like it was the right time to open a restaurant with her," Chawish said. "One thing that sets her cooking apart is that we cook on charcoal, which makes the food taste so much better. We wanted to make that one of our signatures here."

After nearly a year of renovations, Chawish and his staff soft-opened the new eatery on Dec. 16. The space can seat up to 120 guests and features a modern aesthetic highlighted by a waterfall in the entryway, contemporary wall art and plenty of natural light.

Chawish was already an experienced businessman when he made the decision to open Chtoura. He's owned his own trucking company, NC Transportation LLC, for more than a decade and operated Gusto Gelato in the Meridian Mall before its closure in 2011.

Chtoura's menu includes standard Mediterranean fare like kabobs, shawarma and falafel as well as more unique items such as kibbeh, a dish made from spiced ground meat and bulgur wheat that's particularly popular in Lebanon and Svria, and sujuk, a spiced sausage that originated in Turkey. The restaurant also offers fresh juices, fruit cocktails, baklava, savory pies and even a shawarma pizza.

Chawish said the most popular dish thus far has been the "mix grill," a sampler comprising beef, chicken and lamb kabobs served over rice with a side of hummus, soup, salad or fries.

Customers can expect generous portions, which Chawish credits to his cultural heritage. After he and his team settle into the new space, he said he'll likely add some items to the menu. He plans



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

When Nader Chawish stumbled across a vacant space in East Lansing's Hannah Plaza on the way to his daily workout, he saw it as the perfect opportunity to establish a restaurant. After nearly a year of renovations, he opened Chtoura Mediterranean Grill in December.

> on holding a formal grand opening event once the weather warms up in the spring.

> "I think we're doing really well so far. It's been getting busier and busier as the word of mouth has spread," Chawish said. "We're excited to continue to grow and hopefully become a staple in this community."

Events

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"Shucked" - Witness the Tony-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat-out hilarious." This corn-fed, corn-bred show is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theater. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

"Work It Out Wombats": Create, Test, Improve - Join us for some problem-solving fun with the Work It Out Wombats. Over the three-week program, we'll do hands-on activities, watch "Wombats" videos and listen to stories to learn computational thinking skills. Ages 4-6. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

### Friday, Jan. 24

Billy Joe Hunt at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 7:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Bookend Gallery: "Eras of Women in U.S. History" The Quilting Divas have created a bold display that details the various eras of the fight for women's rights in the U.S., starting in 1849. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/ about/our-locations/haslett.

Broad Art Museum Winter Opening Party - Explore our newest exhibitions while enjoying food, music, special guests, art-making activities and more. All ages welcome. Registration encouraged. 6-8 p.m. 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum. msu.edu.

Business of Sports Summit - MSU students interested in sports careers can participate in networking sessions, panel discussions and workshops aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed for success. 8 am.-3 p.m. Minskoff Pavilion, 645 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. eventbrite. com/e/business-of-sports-summit-2025-tickets-1114890771309.

Celebrating the End of Prohibition Party - Attendees must sign up online to get the password for entry. Enjoy live music by The Springtails; moonshine seltzer cocktails: craft beer, cider and wine on tap; and upscale hors d' oeuvres. '20s attire is encouraged. 6-9 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. lookingglassbrewingcompany.com.

Country Night at Lansing Shuffle - Enjoy line dance instruction from 8-9 p.m., followed by modern country music playing until midnight! We'll have drink specials all night. No cover! 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com

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

Dueling Piano Show at "The Creek" - Join us for another unforgettable night of music and entertainment by Main Street Dueling Pianos! Doors 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. Country Creek Reception Hall, 5859 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. countrycreekrecep tionhall.com.

Echoes and Innovations - A quartet of MSU student musicians — saxophonist Jackson Hacias, bassist Jonathan Hilliard, pianist Kevin Eisenberg and drummer Chris Corey — perform jazz standards as well as three original compositions by Hacias. 5:30 p.m. Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. frib.msu.edu/events.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat? This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

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

Lansing Parks and Recreation Travelogue - Dorothy Hughes Engelman's journey started in 1966 with Dutch exchange student Annie, leading to a 58-year sistership. In April, Dorothy visited the Netherlands to see Annie's home, then traveled to Italy and various locations in Ireland. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. lansingmi.gov/985/Travelogue.

"Minecraft" Club - Join other kids and play Minecraft on the Library's private server. Laptops will be provided. Grades 3+. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

MSU Men's Ice Hockey vs. University of Minnesota · 7 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-icehockey

MSU Wrestling vs. Indiana University - 7 p.m. Jenison Field House, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/wrestling.

Parkour for Littles at AL!VE - 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 re-lated stories. Ages 3-6. 10 a.m. 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, mvalive.com.

Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven - A four-course dinner featuring a few of Julia Child's iconic French recipes! Doors 6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos, eatredhaven.com.

"Shucked" - Witness the Tony-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat-out hilarious." This corn-fed, corn-bred show is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theater. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

The UrbanBeat Walter Blanding Series - Explore saxophonist, educator and composer Walter Blanding's diverse artistic journey through enlightening discussions and captivating performances with special guest artists. Doors 5 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

### Saturday, Jan. 25

A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice - In this annual gala event, graduate students from the MSU vocal arts program pour their hearts into arias and scenes from a variety of classic and modern operas, 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu. edu

Afro Beat in Town - Join DJ Dalavey for good vibes and great music. Dance to Afrobeat, amapiano, Afrocongo, bongo, reggae and dancehall. Ages 21+. 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Urban-Beat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Bookend Gallery: "Eras of Women in U.S. History" - The Quilting Divas have created a bold display that details the various eras of the fight for women's rights in the U.S., starting in 1849. Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/ haslett.

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.

### **Events**

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"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat?

This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

In-Person Pop-up Unemployment Office - Meetings are by appointment. Please call 517-543-8859 or stop by the library to reserve your spot. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Love Effect at the Irish Pub - 8 p.m. 1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. 517-253-8713. facebook.com/Irish-PubLansing.

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

Death of a Gangster: A 1920s Mafia Marriage Murder Mystery - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

"Shucked" - Witness the Tony-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat-out hilarious." This corn-fed, corn-bred show is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theater. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

"What I Did for Love" - Ruhala Performing Arts Center's new music revue, "What I Did for Love," features Broadway songs and dances that highlight the complexities of relationships. A cast of 14 share their unique renditions of these classic songs with live accompaniment. 7 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

### Sunday, Jan. 26

**18th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit VIP Reception** - Parents, students, teachers and art lovers are invited to a VIP Reception to kick off the MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit. Browse the art, enjoy food and refreshments and hear from an engaging guest speaker. 1 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

Black Botany: Resilience and Adaptations Tour - Explore the resilient relationships between plants and people in the African diaspora. Join Angelica Bajos of MSU's Beal Botanical Garden for a botanical deep dive into Esmaa Mohamoud's "Complex Dreams" exhibition. 1 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 647 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Black Botany: Resilience and Adaptations Workshop - Join MSU's Beal Botanical Garden and the Allen Neighborhood Center's Kelsi Smith for DIY tea blends and conversations about the resilience of people and plants in the African diaspora. 2 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Family Brunch & Lunch at Lansing Shuffle - Featuring free shuffleboard for kids, video game tournaments, cornhole, giant Jenga and two for \$10 mimosas. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

**"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty"** - What do you know about the food you eat? This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**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 - The chorale invites you to sing. 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.

**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.

Reimagining the Exploration of Fundamental Interactions with Al: Public Zoom Talk with Physicist Benjamin Nachman - 1 p.m. Virtual — to register, visit frib.msu.edu/events.

**"Shucked"** - Witness the Tony-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat-out

hilarious." This corn-fed, corn-bred show is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theater. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

Unity's Fourth Principle, "Prayer Works," with Donnette Pinkerton - Delve into Unity's five basic principles, one week at a time. On Jan. 26, Donnette will discuss the fourth principle, Prayer Works. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Violin, Oboe & Piano Trio - The LSO's Chamber Series is designed to showcase the artistry of symphony musicians in a special setting and introduce audiences to classical programming. 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

"What I Did for Love" - Ruhala Performing Arts Center's new music revue, "What I Did for Love," features Broadway songs and dances that highlight the complexities of relationships. A cast of 14 share their unique renditions of these classic songs with live accompaniment. 4 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com. Xochitlo Conuco Ancestors Garden Mural - Artist Theresa Rosado invites the public for a drop-in session to paint portions of her 30-foot ethnographic teaching mural. No registration is required, all ages are welcome. 1-5 p.m. Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center, 204 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/casaderosado.

### Monday, Jan. 27

**18th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit** - Artists from mid-Michigan high schools showcase their work, hoping to earn votes from the public and a group of judges. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

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

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

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## **Events**

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Bookend Gallery: "Eras of Women in U.S. History" - The Quilting Divas have created a bold display that details the various eras of the fight for women's rights in the U.S., starting in 1849. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

**Clay Play** - Create with clay! We'll have several different kinds on hand, from Play-Doh to Sculpty-type clays for older kids. Some clays can be oven-baked to make miniature creations! Ages 3+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Department of Public Works Meeting - 5:30 p.m. City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. 517-651-5374. laingsburg.us.

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.

Happy Birthday, Mozart! - Celebrate Mozart's 269th birthday with a concert showcasing his timeless compositions. Enjoy birthday cookies afterward to cap the evening. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music. msu.edu.

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" Zoom 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. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

18th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Artists from

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mid-Michigan high schools showcase their work, hoping to earn votes from the public and a group of judges. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

"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.

Bookend Gallery: "Eras of Women in U.S. History" - The Quilting Divas have created a bold display that details the various eras of the fight for women's rights in the U.S., starting in 1849. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/ our-locations/haslett.

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

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

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

**One More Chapter 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 2-4. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

The Poetry Room Open Mic - Whethe-r you're a seasoned poet or stepping onto the stage for the first time, this event is your platform to share your words, thoughts and emotions with a support-ive audience. 7 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/The517Po-etryRoom.

**Snowfolk Showcase** - Stroll through South Washington Square in downtown Lansing from Jan. 28

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### **Real Lansing FC futsal fundraiser tournament** 3-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25

Don Johnson Fieldhouse 400 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

Real Lansing FC, a community-driven, no-cost soccer club for Lansing School District students, invites local soccer players and supporters to its futsal fundraiser tournament, running 3 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 25) at Don Johnson Fieldhouse.

Teams of four players will compete in matches with nine-minute halves. Games will start every 25 minutes. Teams will receive three points for a win and one point for a tie, with the highest-scoring teams advancing to the semi-final and final rounds.

The tournament is open to participants ages 16 and older. Teams must register by Saturday at reallansingfc.org/futsal-fundraiser. A fee of \$150 will be due at the tournament, with all proceeds supporting Real Lansing FC's mission to provide free soccer programs and academic support to students.

There will be an afterparty immediately following the tournament at the Outfield Lofts at Jackson Field. For more information, contact Real Lansing FC President Paul Chatfield at president@reallansingfc.com.

through Feb. 1 to marvel at one-of-a-kind snowfolk creations that represent local businesses! Cast your vote for the most creative snowfolk to win fabulous downtown Lansing prizes! For more information, visit facebook.com/element.massage. lansing.

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

**Trombone Choir** - Presenting a variety of original works and transcriptions for trombone ensembles under the direction of newly appointed Associate Professor of trombone Kenneth Thompkins. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

### Wednesday, Jan. 29

**18th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit** - Artists from mid-Michigan high schools showcase their work, hoping to earn votes from the public and a group of judges. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

"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.

Anti-Inauguration Light Brigade Event - Members of Indivisible Michigan 7 (in Michigan's 7th congressional district) will gather on the pedestrian bridge over Grand River near North Fairview to share a message of solidarity. Our democracy is under threat, but we will not yield to fascism. 5:45-6:45 p.m. For more information, email indivisiblemichigan7@gmail.com.

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.

Bookend Gallery: "Eras of Women in U.S. History" -The Quilting Divas have created a bold display that details the various eras of the fight for women's rights in the U.S., starting in 1849. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/ about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

**Diabetes PATH** - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1 p.m. Delta Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@ tcoa.org.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat? This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, hosted by Starlight Entertainment - 7:30-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.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.

Meridian Historical Village Speaker Series - Bill Krieger, president of VeteransArchives.org, discusses the importance of preserving the history of our nation's heroes in their words and voices. 2 p.m. Village Chapel, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.



# FOOD & DRINK A gold star for Golden Fish & Chips

**Fish and chips** 

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Golden Fish & Chips

2305 W. Grand River Ave..

Noon-7 p.m. Monday

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### **By LIZY FERGUSON**

I broke my toe last week, plus it's freezing, and by the time you're reading

this, Trump will have taken office. So, on Sunday, I was in desperate need of some comfort food. I could have just stayed in and ordered DoorDash; however, looking for a glimpse of the outside world after a week of convalescence, I decided to take myself to the establishment at the top of my to-eatin-2025 list: Okemos' Okemos (inside Lotte Market) Golden Fish & Chips.

Tucked inside Lotte Market, a small Korean grocery next to Playmakers, Golden Fish & Chips offers a variety of Korean including staples, bulgogi, kimbap and

tteokbokki, in addition to chicken wings, ramen and more. Being a chicken wing



### TOP 5 BUFFETS

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

### **1. Asian Buffet**

Relaxed, family-owned buffet with a large selection of Asian bites 4920 Marsh Road, Okemos (517) 381-8388 facebook.com/AsianBuffetinOkemos 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday 2. Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet

Unpretentious eatery boasting more than 250 American, Asian and Italian items in its buffet, plus hibachi dishes 5837 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing (517) 886-9999

fiend, it was difficult not to stray, but I was there on a mission to try the eponymous fish and chips.

I placed my order in the restaurant's adorable seating area, then browsed the aisles of the grocery store, learning about all the possible flavors of prepackaged ramen while I waited. When my food arrived, my first impression was just how

picture-perfect the fish was. After taking a bite, my second impression was that it tasted as good as it looked.

Crispy, lightas-air breading crunched open to reveal perfectly tender, moist, snowywhite cod, piping hot out of the fryer. I combined bites of it with the accompa-

nying house-made coleslaw and the side of kimchi I added. The creaminess of the

#### hibachigrilllansing.com

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

### **One North Kitchen & Bar**

Casual restaurant offering a scratch-kitchen menu, craft beer, cocktails and a Sunday brunch buffet 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing (517) 901-5001 onenorthdining.com 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday

11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday

### **University Club of MSU**

Private social and recreation club serving lunch, dinner and a Sunday brunch buffet 3435 Forest Road, Lansing (517) 353-5111 universityclubofmsu.org 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 5-8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday 5-8 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sunday World Buffet & Grill

All-you-can-eat buffet featuring familiar Asian and American dishes 5002 W. Saginaw Hwy., Suite 3, Lansing (517) 327-6688 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

coleslaw and rich, savory flavor of the breading paired perfectly with the acidic, spicy cabbage - so much so that I ended up using the tartar sauce for my fries, which were similarly golden, crispy and craveable. From now on, I'll be asking for tartar sauce for my fries whenever it seems like it might be an option.

All the flavors, textures and possible combinations therein made

for an interactive and extremely satisfying meal – and some of the best fish and chips I've had. I want to go back and get a side of fried cod with an order of tteokbokki so I can bathe the fish in that thick, sweet and spicy sauce. Maybe it's too dec-



**DINING OUT IN GREATER LANS** 

Golden Fish & Chips' picture-perfect fried cod tastes just as good as it looks.

> adent, but it sounds to me like the perfect combo for the sub-zero weather we've been having. Now that I've awoken to the joys of combining fried food with Korean flavors, I don't think there's any turning back.



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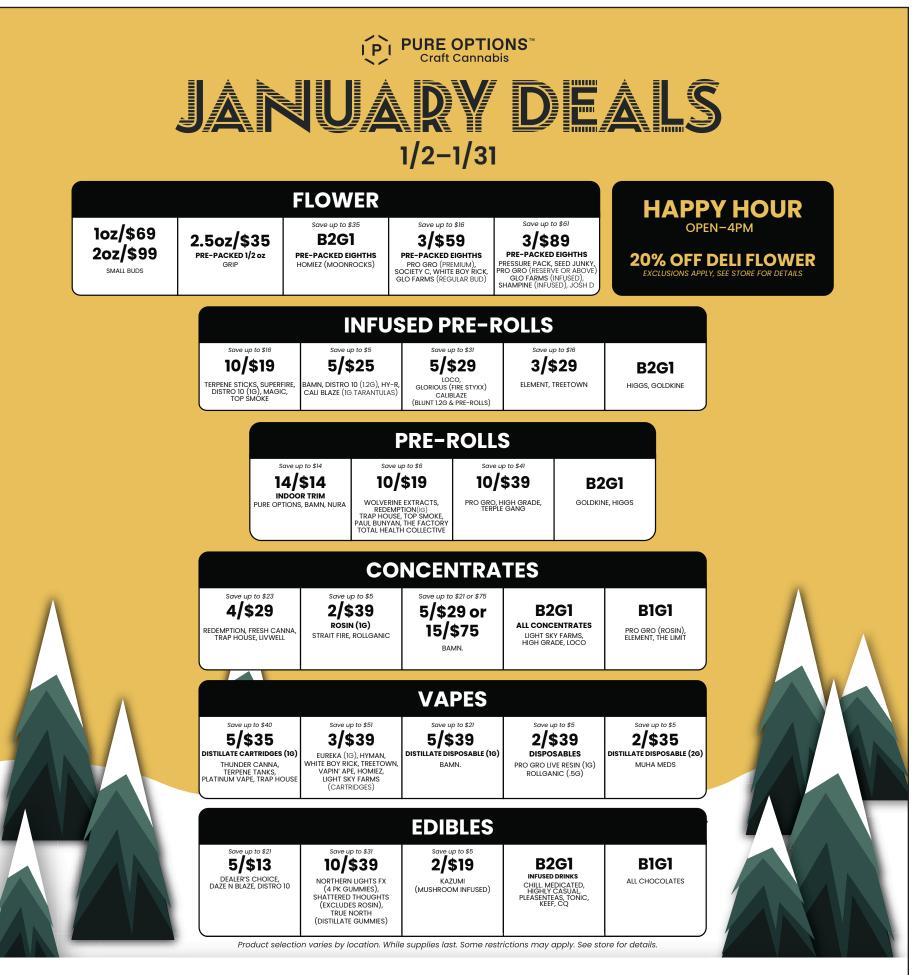
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WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD.