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February 19-25, 2025

CityPULSE

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Willye Bryan keeps the faith — and keeps it real

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What can I possibly say that others haven't already said?

I could go on about the Eric Adams corruption, which is just the latest evidence that this administration is not about law and order, but the outlets have that covered. It doesn't seem to me that Orange Lucifer's voting base cares about anything at this point except to dig their heels in deeper.

Look, it sucks to be wrong, but I have had to admit I was wrong before many times. Making mistakes isn't the issue here; it is more about seeing people have the cognitive ability to acknowledge when something is wrong, particularly when it doesn't affect you personally. Let's not act like the government they are currently gutting wasn't decided on by the people: You, me, and everyone else who votes. Obviously, it is flawed, just like me, you, and everyone else breathing the air on this planet. People on both sides of the aisle have contributed to government dysfunction.

I suppose I can understand the willingness of many to go along with what is happening now, if I didn't think they weren't trying to accumulate more wealth by consolidating power to protect themselves from prosecution. If you aren't doing anything wrong, why would it be necessary to eliminate the checks and balances? Why remove press members because they aren't loyal to every whimsical executive order, like the name of a body of water like the Gulf of Mexico that has been called such for centuries on every map.

The press's job isn't to be loyal; we should want dissenting opinions for no other reason but to ensure officials and other media tell the truth. Do I think Breitbart tells the truth? No, but occasionally they do, and if they get something right, I want them to tell the story. However, if all you listen to is Fox News, I assure you that you are not getting the truth. People all over this country have good reasons not to trust the government, and there are a lot of people who are working two or three jobs and would like to be able to afford necessities, which is undoubtedly a failure. I would love nothing more than to have a government that makes everyone happy, but I'm not willing to let someone who embodies the qualities I was taught to reject as a child to be the moral compass of this nation.

Power, greed, and corruption are synonymous with his name. Ruthlessness, pettiness, impetuosity, recklessness, etc., are not qualities we should desire to fix what is wrong in government. These are the types of character traits that will further alienate us from each other. That is a fact. We all have someone in our family with these traits, and they are usually the ones who will make family outings difficult and drive wedges between otherwise civil interactions.

We have forged relationships worldwide with other governments to try to have diplomatic relationships that promote human rights. They may not be perfect, either, but we have an obligation to maintain these relationships if we genuinely care about the future. We cannot go alone, and we certainly shouldn't want to partner ourselves with Putin.

You cannot go alone here either. With this administration's continued assaults on the programs that people need, we will see more people suffering than we already have. Our representatives approved these programs legally. They weren't approved by some rogue evil overlord hiding in the shadows, pulling strings, and shrieking with gleeful laughter.

Think about this, have you dismissed the Nazi salute by the builder of Swasticators (Elon Musk)? If not, why? Shouldn't that be important? Have you considered his conflict of interest with his financial ties to government

contracts and subsidies? Why not? The guy may not need to steal our information or dollars; he has 400 billion. But that wealth isn't accumulated without hiding in the shadows, shrieking in gleeful laughter while he exploits people for personal gain. He is only in it for attention, power, and greed. He has had his hand out from the start. Why do you think he started in California before moving to Texas? Handouts.

This guy doesn't deserve your loyalty, and I would argue that his actions sympathizing with Nazi ideology should exclude him from having anything to do with our government. You (Trump supporters) like him because you want him to do the work that you think needs to be done, and until Orange Lucifer turns on him, you'll just go along with it unless he does something that affects you personally. I hope that some of you will recognize that they are not who you portray them as.

When I say that no president has ever used their position of power like this before, many of you would claim that that is the problem, that someone should have already done this a long time ago, and if they had, maybe we wouldn't be in this position now. But I would caution you to think about that. If these two and their cronies have their way, you won't recognize this country anymore. And unless you are already wealthy, you will find yourself in a society filled with more homelessness, more poverty, and more crime while the rich sit in their ivory towers shrieking in laughter.

They have the cheat codes. They are not common. They are the opposite of America's ideals, even with our flaws. The rest of the civilized world looks at us and thinks we have lost our minds. Some may fear us, but we are not respected. I would rather be respected than feared. But I will also say this: we may be feared, but we are feared only because of our instability because, if it comes down to it, we will be on our own instead of having allies alongside us. America alone: who could have thought that would ever happen?

I leave you with an edited quote from the movie *The Princess Bride*.

Boo, boo, boo. He's the king of refuse. Bow down to him if you want; bow down to him. Bow to the king of slime, the king of filth, the king of putrescence. Boo, boo, rubbish, filth, slime, muck, boo, boo, boo.

To those who have heard the horrific story of Sam Nordquist, my heart breaks with you. If you haven't heard about him, please search. His story should be on every news channel. The rhetoric of the right and the dehumanizing of trans people caused this.

I welcome all emails at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

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City PULSE

Celebration amid uncertainty: MSU opens multicultural center



Now more than ever

When a new space opens up that significantly impacts Greater Lansing, City Pulse is there to not only report on the story, but the story behind the story. MSU's new Multicultural Center is part of the university's mission to be welcoming, safe and inclusive. But what will that mean in light of the federal crackdown on diversity, equity, and inclusion programs?

We can continue to report on these stories only with your support. We need your donations now more than ever before as we chronicle the fight for justice.

Please donate using the QR code, by visiting lansingcitypulse.com/donate, mailing your check to 1905 E. Michigan, Lansing, MI 48912 or calling 517-999-6704. Thank you!



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Despite weather, anti-Trump protesters return to Capitol

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LSO director Tim Muffitt to step down in '26 after 20 years

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Whitmer's proposed marijuana tax increase faces backlash

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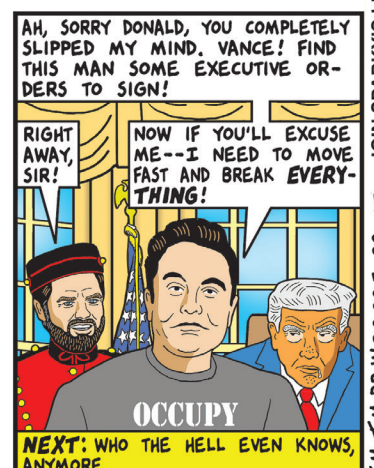
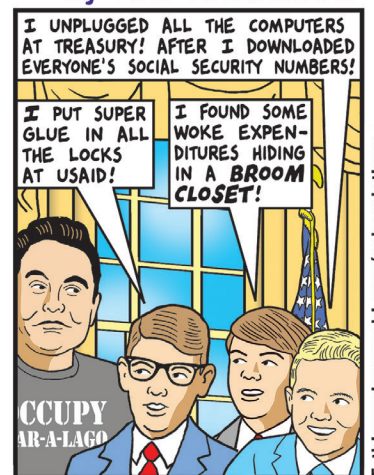
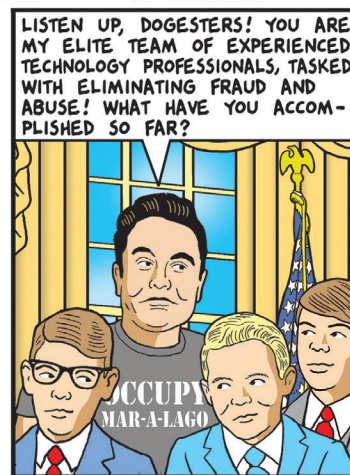
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**THE RAPID
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OF AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY**



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Despite odds, coalition keeps fighting for old Eastern High School

Preservationists argue for compromise as UM-Sparrow remains firm on demolition

"It's still there," Andrew Muylle, an Eastside resident and 2013 Eastern High School alumnus, said. "The windows are boarded, but it's still there, and we want to do everything we can."

Muylle was one of about 20 people who showed up in Old Town last Thursday night, despite fresh snow and temperatures in the teens, to continue their uphill fight against the University of Michigan Health-Sparrow's plan to tear down old Eastern.

There was an air of resilience as Muylle and other leaders of The Coalition to Preserve Eastern High School and Promote Mental Health spoke. Despite setbacks and a relationship with UM-Sparrow as cold as the icicles along Cesar Chavez Avenue, an increasing sense of urgency was motivating them.

The coalition has been fighting since June 2024, when UM-Sparrow confirmed plans to build a psychiatric hospital on the site of the 97-year-old building. The coalition supports the new facility, but members disagree that building the hospital necessitates destroying the entire school, which closed in 2019. University of Michigan Health acquired Sparrow Health System in 2023 and with it old Eastern, which Sparrow purchased from the Lansing School District in 2015. Sparrow never specified plans for the building, but it indicated a desire to reuse it, community members have said.

While an initial meeting with health system representatives seemed promising, UM-Sparrow executive Margaret Dimond refused in August to continue negotiations, citing bad faith by Save Eastern advocates, which they insist wasn't the case. And despite a 5-0 resolution in July by the Lansing Historic District Commission to urge preservation, the City Council declined in August to study whether to declare the site a historic district.

Even with those roadblocks and the lack of support for their cause from Lansing's



Photo by Raymond Holt

About 20 people who are fighting University of Michigan Health-Sparrow's plan to demolish old Eastern High School gather in Old Town. Speaking is 2013 graduate Andrew Muylle.

power structure, the coalition is calling on Mayor Andy Schor and the University of Michigan board to stop the demolition. The Board of Regents has yet to approve the plan. It meets Thursday (Feb. 20) but Eastern's fate is not on the agenda.

One of the coalition members who attended last week's meeting, Jennifer Grau, said she once delivered a presentation to Sparrow employees on the health system's history of conflict and compromise with eastside residents, which she is. They liked it so much they asked her to record it for Sparrow's archives.

Now, she feels hurt by UM-Sparrow's silence.

"It's not that these differences were insignificant," she said in an interview. "At the time, they were impediments that looked like the project was not going to be resolvable in a win-win way."

Grau referenced the then-controversial Sparrow Professional Building, completed in 1997, as one such difference. The planned 10-story building would have obstructed the eastside's iconic view. Through collaboration with the Eastside Neighborhood Organization, Sparrow agreed to change the building from 10 to seven stories, set it further back on the lot and make the skybridge windowed so as to preserve the Capitol view. A parking garage was also built to direct traffic away from what was

then a neighboring elementary school.

"We have a lot of history and knowledge of doing that," Grau said. "And to be dismissed, and to ignore that history because they are a new owner of this institution, is frankly disrespectful."

After "three major expansions of this hospital, and hard work through the '60s through the '90s, of relationship-building," Grau said, UM-Sparrow no longer seems interested in collaboration. But the coalition journeys on.

The preservationists agree that the old high school is not suited to the needs of a psychiatric hospital, as UM-Sparrow has contended. They aim to preserve the west wing, which is visible from Pennsylvania Avenue, and the Jon Young auditorium, both of which they argue are culturally and architecturally significant. They concede the rest to be bulldozed.

Muylle, the main speaker at Thursday's meeting, stressed the psychiatric facility's importance. He was careful to note that Eastern's west wing and auditorium do not overlap with the planned facility's footprint, rendering unnecessary the destruction of a historic building.

This focus comes in response to dissenters on internet forums such as Reddit, who have argued that the need for psychiatric care outweighs the old high school's value. Some have called the coalition NIMBYs,

accusing them of opposing development in their community.

"We don't want to stand in the way of progress," said Muylle after the meeting. "We want to be part of it by collaborating to find a path to tandem preservation and construction."

Becky Stimson, a 1972 Eastern alumnus and another speaker at Thursday's meeting, believes that characterization is deliberate on the part of UM-Sparrow.

"They continually represent us as being against mental healthcare," said Stimson. "We have never said that this is an either-or situation. That is their narrative."

Grau contended that the coalition might be more sympathetic if UM-Sparrow explained why Eastern's destruction was necessary. Instead, UM-Sparrow has been unwilling to explain what they intend to do with the property, including where the west wing and auditorium now stand.

"They may have a very good reason why it must be that way," Grau said in an interview. "And if they were to share that very good reason with the community, we might be understanding."

A statement from UM-Sparrow to City Pulse last week did not directly provide a reason, but it noted that "several things" were necessary to build the best possible behavioral health facility, including "proximity to the Sparrow Emergency Department, enough acreage for a calming outdoor clinical environment and an internal layout that meets regulatory requirements for clinical services and supports the safety of patients and care teams, as well as the needs of patients." While the planned build site does not overlap with the west wing or auditorium, the buildings may conflict with the necessary acreage or regulatory requirements.

The statement also noted that UM-Sparrow is "working with Eastern alumni leaders to ensure we meaningfully honor the history and value of the school by preserving specific artifacts and establishing a garden area" to reflect the location's history.

But the preservationists argue that it is the architecture itself, not the artifacts, that are in dire need of preservation. Keepsakes are not enough, says Muylle, because the group is motivated by more than senti-

New grassroots group leads President's Day protest at Capitol

Bad weather doesn't deter anti-Trump demonstration, despite cancellation

When Branden Pecor of Grand Rapids braved a winter storm and subzero windchills on Monday to protest outside the Michigan Capitol, she did not realize the event had been canceled.

Luckily for her, hundreds of other attendees had not heard either. That, or they came anyway.

"I'm afraid of the stuff that's going on right now," Pecor said. "I have kids, I'm worried about our planet, I'm worried about all the people and the places that have their funding cut, that are losing their jobs. I'm just afraid."

Pecor and the others protested in Lansing Monday as part of a coordinated, nationwide "Not My President's Day" protest. The protest was organized by the 50501 Movement, which first came together to organize a series of coordinated protests on Feb. 5.

The grassroots organizing that united 50501 Michigan was needed again when 50501 withdrew from the protest five days earlier, citing weather and security concerns. A new group, MI Resist, gathered to organize the event.

"I think the message that there would be a protest circulated further than the cancellation," said one protester.

Eric, a protester who declined to give a last name, said the protest "was canceled a couple of times." But he decided to come anyway when he heard about MI Resist taking the reins.

Eric cited a similar fear to Pecor's as motivating his protest. "I'm here because I'm terrified about what's going on," he said. "If there's somewhere I can make my voice heard, and support

others doing the same, that's where I'll be."

Like the original 50501 protest, demonstrators held signs protesting a variety of issues, including transgender rights, women's healthcare and the Trump administration's sweeping budget cuts. But opposition to Elon Musk and his so-called Department of Government Efficiency were common threads.

"One of the most alarming developments is the administration's aggressive consolidation of power, spearheaded by Elon Musk," said MI Resist member Kimberly Bogan in a speech on the Capitol steps. "A billionaire who openly supported the administration's campaign with unprecedented financial contributions appears to have effectively bought his way into the highest level of our government."

Bogan's comments come on the heels of sweeping budget cuts across the federal government spearheaded by Elon Musk. These cuts include freezing all U.S. Agency for International Development foreign aid programs and shutting down the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Federal judges have temporarily ordered the funding restored, but protesters and speakers called the budget cuts an abuse of power.

Another speaker was Melik Brown, better known in Greater Lansing as Metro Melik, a deejay, community ac-



Leo Kaplan/City Pulse

Demonstrators showed in the Capitol's front yard to protest Trump administration initiatives even though the original organizer canceled the President's Day event.

tivist and former owner of Metro Melik 517. Brown's impassioned speech argued for resilience.

"I have never been more nervous about the future than now," said Brown. "I lived through Reaganomics, I lived through the Cold War. I thought at least then we'd all be annihilated and I wouldn't have to worry. But now, they are allowing us to stay alive, but under impoverished conditions."

"If you feel uncomfortable, that's their plan," he continued. "But what they didn't plan for is strength in numbers. They probably did not plan, as I was receiving text messages that this event was canceled and that we were going to show up anyway," Brown said.

Another speaker, Susan Harris, told protesters to band together in solidarity. "Don't get distracted by methods differ-

ent from yours," she said.

In the frigid weather, organizers gave out hats, gloves and hand warmers to protesters. A warming station was also set up at The Fledge, an eastside community and advocacy center focused on radical inclusivity. Organizers also handed out QR code invitations to a Signal group called MI Resist Lansing, where organizers connected attendees with organizing efforts in their areas.

MI Resist also plans to help organize Feb. 28 and March 15 economic blackouts, a nationwide boycott of spending on major corporations. The dates were listed on a flyer organizers handed out.

"People could stop by, get warm and get supplies, like food and clothing," said Jerry Norris, The Fledge's founder and CEO. Your Mom, a Greater Lansing Area mutual aid directory, collected and distributed supplies.

The coordinated protest also had a footprint in the Upper Peninsula and Metro Detroit, according to WLNS and Yahoo News. Thousands also protested in the U.S. Capitol in tandem with the state protests.

As opposition to the Trump administration continues, nationwide organization efforts continue to be circulated through local communities. Whether 50501 Michigan or MI Resist specifically will last remains to be seen, but many see this type of decentralized, grassroots organizing as a legitimate way forward.

— LEO V. KAPLAN

Eastern

from page 5

mentality.

"A lot of members didn't even go to Eastern," said Muylle. "This is about the sense of place, landscape, and identity for Lansing."

They have made a website, www.easternfacts.com, aiming to present their side of the story. Among other things, the site places a video from UM-Sparrow depicting Eastern in disrepair alongside another video showing better-preserved parts of the school. The coalition is particularly adamant that UM-Sparrow deliberately

showed two decommissioned boilers, while failing to show the newer replacements in the same room. They argue this portrayal is dishonest and exaggerates the building's dilapidation.

UM-Sparrow's statement describes the building as "dilapidated and dangerous, with extensive water damage and numerous health and safety hazards." It also notes "prevalent" asbestos and mold that UM-Sparrow is removing, though asbestos must be removed whether the building is demolished or remodeled.

The coalition has also created a petition on change.org. In two weeks, it has received nearly 500 e-signatures.

UM-Sparrow also noted that the project requires final approval from the U of M regents. Bill Castanier, a coalition member and president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, spoke at a board meeting in October, but his Save Eastern message provoked no public response. However, one regent upbraided him afterward for standing in the way of progress.

Stimson said she expects UM-Sparrow to make a move in April. Until then, she and other coalition members will meet, send mail to regents and picket outside of Eastern.

"You can't slow down," said Stimson.

— LEO V. KAPLAN

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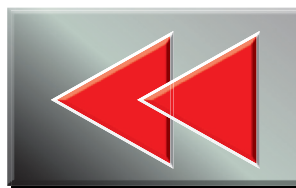
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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Adrian Wilkerson, 36, of Lansing, was charged Tuesday with open murder in the shooting death of Christopher Bonilla Sr., 45, also of Lansing. The shooting took place Sunday during a confrontation in the Centerfolds nightclub at 5910 S. Penn-

sylvania Ave. Police performed lifesaving measures on Bonilla before he died of his injuries at U-M Sparrow Hospital. Wilkerson was ordered held without bond at his arraignment and will face a probable cause conference Feb. 27. Courts convicted him of felonies for carrying a concealed weapon in 2007 and 2008 and for witness retaliation in 2018.

John Polderman, the court-appointed receiver of the former Sycamore Townhomes, has filed a motion with the Federal District Court asking its permission to borrow about \$15 million to rehabilitate the complex. Arbor Realty, the mortgage holder, proposed an



18-month timeline to renovate the property, plus 18 to 24 months to lease the property to fully operational status. Management would vacate the complex before the start of the renovation and offer tenants relocation services. Both the title owner, Woodside Meadows Apartments LLC, and the city will have an opportunity to file a response to the receiver's motion and brief. "I applaud these actions taken by the receiver," said Mayor Andy Schor. "I am confident that the court will carefully and quickly consider this latest proposed plan and do what's right for the residents."



Lansing School District Superintendent Ben Shuldiner declared he's "not actively searching for a new position" after he was named one of the top six candidates for superintendent of the Clark County School District in Las Vegas. "I am so proud of the work we are doing here and know that there is much more to be done," wrote Shuldiner, Lansing's superintendent since July 2021. "However, the Clark County School District opportunity, when presented to me, was a ring I felt I had to throw my hat into." The first round of interviews for the six remaining candidates will next week, followed by a second round March 10 and 11. The district is the fifth-largest in the nation, with more than 300,000 students in almost 400 schools.

Waverly Community Schools Board of Education passed a resolution this month "affirming commitment to a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment for all students regardless of immigration status," reported the Lansing State Journal. Waverly joined the Lansing School District in pushing back against President Donald Trump's executive order allowing immigration officers on school property. Ingham Intermediate School District Superintendent Jason Mel-



lema said the resolution does not change any policies. Law enforcement officials are not allowed unrestricted access to school property for student safety and security, and once on school property, their presence is subject to the superintendent's discretion. Only officers with a valid warrant can detain students.



MSU agreed to pay Former Broad College of Business Dean Sanjay Gupta roughly \$422,000 in legal fees and named him "Dean Emeritus" and co-chairman of its new Green and White Council the day after dropped his lawsuit against the university and agreed not to sue again. Public records obtained by the Lansing State Journal from MSU through the Freedom of Information Act show that under the terms of the settlement, Gupta will earn a salary of \$640,000, including almost \$70,000 for his role with the Green and White Council, under a five-year contract. He also is eligible for an annual bonus of \$75,000. MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz also named MSU alumnus Matt Elliott, a former Bank of America executive to the council. "The Green and White Council will refine our efforts to meet current workforce demands and anticipate emerging industry needs to help shape our state's future economy," Guskiewicz said.

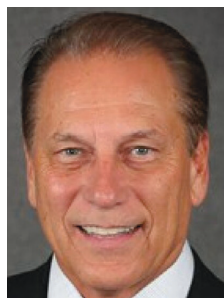
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has appointed Patti Tremblay, a member of her executive team and the outgoing director of legislative affairs in the Governor's Office, to the Ingham County Circuit Court bench. She will serve

part of the term vacated by Judge Joyce Draganchuk, who retired in December and will officially take the bench on March 3. Her term will expire on Jan. 1, 2027. Tremblay has served as a deputy legal counsel



and deputy director of legislative affairs in Whitmer's office and worked in the Michigan House of Representatives for nearly two decades. She has a bachelor's degree from MSU and a law degree from its College of Law.

MSU men's basketball coach Tom Izzo won his 354th Big Ten game to become the winningest coach in conference history as the Spartans beat the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois Saturday, 79-65. In his 30th year as



head coach, Izzo surpassed the late Bobby Knight's total of 353 victories achieved at the University of Indiana between 1971 and 2000. Izzo's first Big Ten victory came against Knight's Hoosiers in 1996. Izzo, 70, is now 354-173 in Big Ten play in 30 seasons. He has won 727 of 1,027 games overall since replacing Jud Heathcote in 1995 after serving as his assistant from 1983 to 95.



BWL public art contest

Public art was once defined by graffiti under bridges and classical sculptures in gardens, then cities like Philadelphia and Detroit rebranded public graffiti as art, thanks to folks like Banksy, Haring and thousands of lesser known but accomplished artists with single names like XSM and QZAR.

In less than a decade, Greater Lansing has taken big steps in funding and promoting public art. Just open your eyes and look around you at amazing artwork that dots the area.

One successful partnership in promoting public art has been between the Board of Water & Light and the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, which every three years has held a competition for a public art installation at the BWL's Central Substation in REO Town.

Currently, the bold "tres cuervos" (three crows) art installation by Theresa Rosado graces the Washington Avenue entrance into REO Town. There have been four installations since the REO Town began.

The Arts Council and the BWL recently opened the 2025 call for artists' proposals for the next installation. The winning artist is awarded a licensing fee of \$1,000 for the one-time use, with all installation fees covered by the board. The artist retains the rights to the artwork.

The deadline for submitting the art proposal is March 25. Artists must be from Ingham, Eaton or Clinton counties.

The art can be of new or existing art; it must be two dimensional and can include digital art or photography.

According to the Arts Council, judging criteria include that the art must be prominent, appropriate, colorful and vibrant. There is to be no nudity or propaganda.

Interested artists must show a competence in creating two-dimensional art works that are innovative and highly visual. The winning piece of art is installed 18-by-45 feet or billboard size.

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.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
FY2025, 7/1/2025 – 6/30/26
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing’s FY 2025 Annual Action Plan which covers the time period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS
FROM: LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PLACE: Neighborhood Empowerment Center
600 W. Maple Street
Lansing, MI 48906
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
DATE: Tuesday, March 4, 2025

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY’S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2025 (7/1/2025- 6/30/2026)

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2025 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2025 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity

**FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2025 (7/1/25– 6/30/26)
CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of Lansing’s Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods.

- a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction, and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentrating poverty.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, street outreach and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low- and moderate-income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, spon-

soring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.

- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs, and citizens’ awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- k. Improve the city’s transportation, public facilities, and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
- l. Protect and improve the city’s physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing, and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
- m. Promote fair housing objectives.
- n. Provide affordable housing and economic development that benefits low- and moderate-income people in the context of mixed-use development along transit corridors.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation

Loans and grants for rehabilitation and Emergency Repair of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and rehabilitation in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies, as well as lead hazard reduction, emergency housing rehabilitation, technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, ADA ramps, and hazard remediation.

Proposed funding amount: \$1,457,614

Rental Unit Rehabilitation

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures.

Proposed funding amount: \$533,497

Blight Removal

Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation, and clearance of dilapidated and blighted structures. Funds may also be used to acquire and clear properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$1,000

Public Services (limited to 15%)

Includes services for low- and moderate-income individuals such as: education, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 203,158 (15% of CDBG)

Economic Development and Business Technical Assistance

Loans, technical assistance, and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, and façade improvement loans/grants. Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents.

Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing.

CP#25-053, From page 8

Proposed funding amount: \$ 30,000

CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)

Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs.

Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.

Proposed funding amount: \$406,317

TOTAL CDBG = \$2,631,586 Includes FY25 allocation estimate of \$2,031,586 plus an estimated \$500,000 in unspent funds and an estimated \$100,000 of Program Income

HOME

Down Payment Assistance

Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$10,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$100,000

Homeowner Housing Construction and Rehabilitation (ADR)

Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs.

HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$397,543

CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)

Reserved for housing developed, sponsored, or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the city.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 101,258.31

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating (limited to 5%)

Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDO's utilizing the City's HOME funds to produce affordable housing in the community.

Proposed funding amount: \$33,753

HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)

Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.

Proposed funding amount: \$67,506

TOTAL HOME = \$700,060.31 includes estimated allocation of \$675,060.31 and estimated \$25,000 in Program Income.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)

Street Outreach

Street Outreach activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$5,460

Homeless Prevention

Homeless Prevention activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$60,055

Administrative Activities (limited to 7.5%)

Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program.

Proposed funding amount: \$12,738

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Funds will be provided for HMIS and comparable database costs.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 5,460

Shelter Operation

Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities, and furnishings in shelter facilities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 98,271

TOTAL ESG: \$181,593

SUMMARY

Fifty-One Year Community Development Resources

Program	Annual Action Plan
CDBG Entitlement Grant:	\$2,031,586
Previous Year (PY)	\$500,000
Program Income (PI)	\$100,000
HOME Program Funds	\$675,060.31
Program Income (PI)	\$25,000
ESG Program Funds:	\$181,984
TOTAL	\$3,513,630.31

Administrative, management and operation costs for the above programs include the administration, management, and operations of the eligible activities, **as well as other federal and state community development programs in which the city is now or may be participating.**

CP#25-053

LET'S BOOGIE! Bob Baldori & David Small

MITCH THE BITCH

Has anyone been more destructive to the U.S. than the senator from Kentucky? If anyone besides Bozo himself can be held personally responsible for the total dismantling of the U.S. experiment in democracy, it would have to be Mitch. The first perplexing issue is McConnell's complete lack of integrity. Mitch is on record operating as essentially two different people that taken together are a reprehensible, unscrupulous whole.

First there is the Mitch that superficially appears to have some respect for the institutions of government. He appeared to be visibly moved by the destruction of the Capitol by the MAGA mob on Jan 6. In fact, his statements had a faint ring of sincerity. For example:

"It was a violent insurrection for the purpose of trying to prevent the peaceful transfer of power after a legitimately certified election from one administration to the next."

Mitch deemed Bozo "practically and morally responsible" for Jan. 6. He described Jan. 6 as a "failed insurrection" that "tried to disrupt our democracy."

Yet, the Bitch blocked Bozo's impeachment and vowed to vote for Bozo for president. How can you possibly reconcile that in the same person? But in addition to being the singular outstanding enabler of an incompetent sociopath, Mitch is leaving a despicable trail of partisan and destructive acts in his wake. Merrick Garland? Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett?

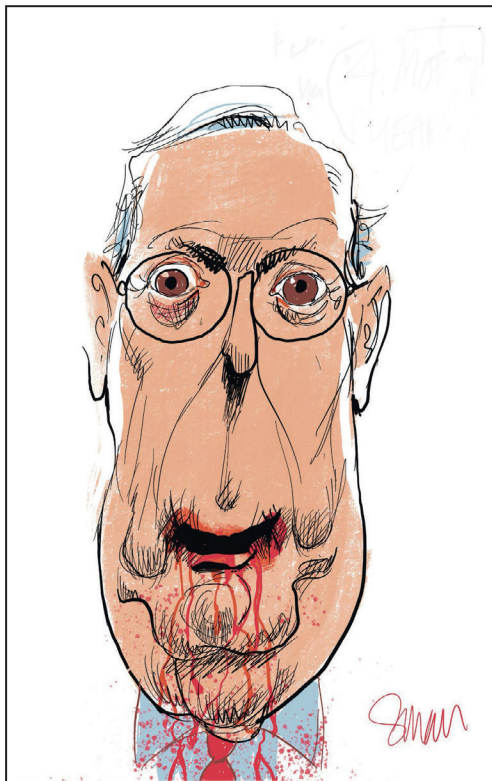
As well as his well-documented scorched earth and overtly racist treatment of the presidency of Barack Obama?

According to Purdue University political scientist Bert A. Rockman, "...pure party line voting has been evident now for some time ... but rarely has the tactic of 'oppositionism' been so boldly stated as McConnell did." A number of political scientists, historians and legal scholars have characterized McConnell's obstructionism and constitutional hardball as contributors to democratic erosion in the United States.

McConnell's record includes his relentless opposition to every single one of Obama's policies, including a vicious campaign to repeal the Affordable Care Act. With respect to his manipulation of Supreme Court nominations, McConnell is on record: "...one of my proudest moments."

One has to wonder how proud Mitch is that he enabled the total evisceration of the entire American political system with his acts of cowardice and duplicity as well as obeisance to a convicted felon and rapist.

It's a cliché of course. But how does the old crow sleep at night?



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

A Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, March 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, March 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#25-060

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A request from Matt Levitt on behalf of Meijer, Inc. for approval of a Special Use Permit located at 100 W. Lake Lansing Road. The applicant request is to construct a 5,751 square-foot gas station with six gas pump islands and 12 pumps. The property is zoned B-2 Retail Sales Business District.
2. A request from Hassan Beydoun of Decora, Inc. on behalf of Pizza Wala's for approval of a Special Use Permit located at 523 E. Grand River Avenue. The applicant request is to allow alcohol service. The property is zoned B-3 City Center Commercial.
3. A public hearing to consider Ordinance 1543 for minor zoning amendments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amy Gordon
Interim City Clerk

CP#25-054

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

Michigan's highway funding becomes the white whale of public policy

When Stevens T. Mason was the boy governor of Michigan in 1837, transportation was the big issue — besides whether we or Ohio would get Toledo.

Mason wanted three railroads stretching across Michigan, but all three didn't happen because the state didn't have the money to pay for a public works project that large.

And so here we are, nearly 200 years later, and the perennial issue of our time is still transportation. The roads are falling apart faster than we can fix them. Freeze. Thaw. We've heard it all before.

The debate over getting a dedicated, long-term funding stream has scared away governors and lawmakers alike.

As was the case in Mason's time, the state doesn't have the money.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the state House are hopping back on the boat in 2025 in search of Michigan's white whale of public policy — the seemingly mythical long-term road funding solution.

The road-building lobby says if Michigan dropped nearly \$4 billion more into the roads every year, the streets would get to the point where they didn't suck.

The governor and the state House are willing to consider finding \$3 billion in funding. They both have plans for how to get there.

According to the Citizens Research Council, the House plan includes \$2 billion in unspecified budget cuts. The governor's plan's numbers don't add up, either. The Council says it's about \$500 million short.

Neither plan is fully baked, which is an issue. The more significant problem is that Whitmer and Republican House Speaker Matt Hall struggle to find much consensus on anything.

They agree that the roughly \$1 billion in sales tax money collected at the pump should go to roads instead of schools, local governments, and other expenses. But how do you back-fill that money once you take it away?

Nobody is answering that question sincerely. Nobody wants to show their cards publicly.

Don't we have a bunch of federal money left over from COVID? According to the Council folks, no.

The governor is introducing a benign, no-frills budget for the next fiscal year. If the House and Senate adopted it without changes, the state would have \$761 million left over. That's a lot of money, but it's not \$3 billion.

The governor suggested somehow taxing Amazon, Meta and other high-tech companies \$1.6 billion. Nobody knows whether that's a service delivery fee, an added sales tax or something else.

Whitmer also wants to create a new wholesale marijuana tax to raise \$470 million. "Pot for Potholes!"

Republicans are a hard no on that. They'd rather end the refundable Michigan Business Tax credits that this state's big industries have collected since around 2009 as an annual birthday present. General Motors, Ford, etc., threatened to leave the state or go out of business without these extra payments.

Former Gov. Jennifer Granholm panicked back in the day and delivered these massive annual payments. What happens if the House pushes the state to renege on its deal with these big industries?

Could the state be looking at \$1 billion extra? Maybe. If they don't get sued. They're not getting \$3 billion a year for roads, though, that's for sure.

So maybe the state looks at setting aside less than \$3 billion?

We've seen that movie before, though, haven't we? In 2015, Gov. Rick Snyder and the Republican legislators threw out their shoulders patting themselves on the back for a deal that didn't complete the job.

They called their gas tax increase a good "first step."

We haven't even talked about the Democratic-led Senate and what they're going to do.

That's because they haven't shown the zeal to do anything. That's not good. They need to be on board.

For now, they're on the shore with the rest of us, watching Whitmer and Hall sail away, realizing they're more likely to shoot a hole in their boat than bag the whale.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Williamstown Township March 2025 Board of Review Notice

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 11:00 am (Organizational Meeting)
The Williamstown Township Board of Review for 2025 will be hearing assessment appeals at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd, Williamston, MI on the following dates by appointment:

Monday, March 10, 2025
9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm, & 6:00-9:00 pm (Assessment Appeals)

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Assessment Appeals)
Contact Kerri Danstrom at 655-3193 for an appointment.

Residents unable to attend may protest by letter, *provided protest letter is received at the Williamstown Township office by 4:00 pm Tuesday, March 11, 2025.*
Board of Review Members: Brian Johnston-Chairperson, Gerald Eidt, Mike Rice, and Lisa Fletcher, alternate.

Williamstown TWP Tentative Ratios 2025

Agriculture	Commercial	Industrial	Residential
50.25	46.72	49.68	46.88

The Williamstown Township Board of Review will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five a (5) day notice to the Williamstown Township Board of Review. Individuals with disabilities requiring these services should contact the Township Clerk at (517) 655-3193 or clerk@williamstowntownship.com to request assistance.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Clerk, Williamstown Township
clerk@williamstowntownship.com

CP#25-051

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING, CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

All citizens are advised that CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has prepared an application for State of Michigan financial assistance for fiscal 2026 as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended, as follows:

State Operating Assistance	\$ 17,150,294
FTA/State Urban Capital Program (Section 5307)	\$ 10,124,606
State Specialized Services	\$ 40,000
FTA Rural Operating Assistance (Section 5311)	\$ 1,286,889
FTA/State Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339)	\$ 1,625,749
FTA/State Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310)	\$ 227,681
TOTAL	\$ 30,455,219

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. Capital projects to be funded include the purchase of large and small buses, paratransit vehicles for transporting customers, support vehicles, preventive maintenance, technology systems, planning, maintenance equipment, bus replacement parts, safety and security equipment, customer enhancements and facility improvements. This notice meets the Federal Transit Administration 5307 public notification requirement. The above program will be the final program, unless amended.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service are provided without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI program and the procedure for filing a complaint, contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1100. You may also complete the CATA Title VI complaint form online at cata.org, email titlevi@cata.org or visit our administrative offices at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

The proposed application is on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (Feb. 16, 2025 – March 18, 2025), Monday-Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5 p.m. March 18, 2025. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, FY 2026 Grant Application, Attn: Planning and Development Department, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910, or via email to marketing@cata.org.

CP#25-063

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

‘A good time to pass it on’ LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt to step down in spring 2026

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Timothy Muffitt will retire from his role as music director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra in spring 2026, the end of his 20th season as maestro, the orchestra announced in an email to board members and season subscribers today (Feb. 19).

Muffitt's contract has been extended one year, through the end of spring 2026. After that, he will serve as the orchestra's interim artistic director until a new music director is appointed. The orchestra is organizing a search committee and will solicit applications for Muffitt's successor later this year.

Muffitt said the approach of his 20th year in Lansing played a part in the decision. He was music director of the Baton Rouge Symphony in Louisiana for 21 years, almost the same duration.

“There are times when change is good, for the organization and the people it serves, and it just feels like it's coming up on that time,” he said.

In his tenure as maestro, Muffitt's steadfast love of music making brought the orchestra to new musical heights, attracted world-class star soloists and introduced many new works, including new commissions and world premieres, while tackling the biggest blockbusters of the traditional repertoire, from Carl Orff's “Carmina Burana” to Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony.

He spearheaded a composer-in-residence program, launched a wildly successful new chamber music series, threw himself into Pops extravaganzas of all kinds and set an egoless tone of mutual respect with the musicians and the audience.

“He's a great teacher and advocate for the music,” LSO executive director Courtney Millbrook said. “I see that in his interactions with everybody, whether they're an accomplished musician or somebody who's new to the concertgoing experience. He's so passionate about the music that it's hard not to jump on board and follow him.”

Since Millbrook came on board in 2009, she and Muffitt have worked closely together to strengthen the or-



Photo by Dave Trumpie/Trumpie Photography

Music director Timothy Muffitt will spend one more season with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, after which he'll serve as interim artistic director until a successor is appointed.

chestra's artistic and financial standing, each having the other's back when times were tough or when the orchestra was taking a chance on something new. Last week, she resorted to a phrase longtime spouses use after one of them has passed on.

“We always knew one of us was going to have to leave first,” she sighed.

For a regional orchestra that puts on only five or six major concerts a year, Muffitt figures that it takes about 10 years to cycle through most of the major works in the classical repertoire, leaving room for new music.

“For our orchestra, about a 10-year cycle felt right, and so that means I've hit much of the standard repertoire twice,” he said. “Not that there's anything wrong with that, but I think that's part of the equation.”

Asked to single out something he's most proud of, Muffitt could have touted the orchestra's ability to draw-world class guest soloists like pianists

Jeremy Denk and Christopher O'Riley, Broadway star Audra McDonald, harpist Yolanda Kondonassis, guitarist Sharon Isbin and an upcoming May 9 appearance by British virtuoso Benjamin Grosvenor. Nationally and beyond, the classical world knows and appreciates Muffitt's high level of music making.

But Muffitt prefers to focus on local pride. He called his tenure in Lansing “a decades-long celebration of our state, a place that puts a high priority on the arts, on music for everyone.”

In December, Muffitt reveled in a roof-rattling Holiday Pops gospel blowout with more than 100 voices from LaVonté Heard's Transcendence Performing Arts Center.

“The biggest thing, for me, has been shining a spotlight on the extraordinary musical talent we have here in mid-Michigan,” Muffitt said. “I just had another great experience like that.” On Feb. 8, the Pops series soared into

the Freddie Mercury-verse with an evening of music by Queen, featuring the DeWitt High School Chamber Choir.

Muffitt had a blast leading a rehearsal at the high school a couple of weeks ago.

“I was so impressed with them and the work the director, Meghan Eldred, is doing,” he said. “Those kids aren't all going to go into music, but they'll come out of the experience with an amazing tool kit of ethics, values, teamwork and an appreciation for art, for expression.”

Muffitt is also proud of welcoming back many Lansing-area musicians who went on to become big stars in the national scene. The high quality of players in the LSO, and Muffitt's reputation, gave them a place to do their stuff at their accustomed level while basking in hometown pride — a rare and emotional mix.

“These are people who have gone on to have extraordinary careers but got their start in public education in the area,” Muffitt said.

A partial list would include David Cooper, former principal horn of the Chicago Symphony, current associate principal horn of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and a graduate of Grand Ledge High School; Grammy-winning violinist and Harlem String Quartet stalwart Melissa White, a graduate of Gardner Elementary and Everett High School; Cleveland Orchestra cellist Tanya Ell, a graduate of Okemos High School; and many more.

“Just down the line, every year, it wasn't even hard to find people who have gone to extraordinary careers, that got their start right here,” Muffitt said.

He's also featured the orchestra's principal players in solo turns, often playing newly commissioned works.

With the uncertainties of the pandemic mostly in the rearview mirror, Muffitt feels that the orchestra is “highly efficient” for its size and is ready to hand off to someone else.

“The organization is very stable right

See Timothy Muffitt, Page 13

Timothy Muffitt

from page 17

now,” he said.

Millbrook reported that ticket sales “have rebounded really, really well post-pandemic.”

LSO at the Robin, a series of intimate chamber concerts featuring all-new music by living composers, continues to sell out in its fourth year.

“The number of events and the kinds of events we’re doing are manageable for our staff size and budget,” Muffitt said. “We have a really strong foundation, financially and artistically. The breadth of our engagement with the community is very strong, and this would be a good time to pass it on to someone else.”

In retirement, Muffitt will have time to mount some of the bigger, more time-consuming projects he’s only tackled intermittently in the past, such as conducting operas and guest conducting in high-profile cities like San Francisco.

“It will give me a chance to say ‘yes’ to projects I couldn’t say ‘yes’ to before, especially ones that take a lot of the calendar,” he said. Last summer, at the Chautauqua Festival in southwest New York, Muffitt joined forces with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for an epic performance of Marsalis’ suite “All Rise.”

“I have a lot of interest in new music, exploring possibilities there,” he said. Muffitt will continue as artistic director of the School of Music at the Chautauqua Institution.

Stepping down from the podium in Lansing will also give Muffitt and his wife, Elise, “a chance to take some of the road trips we’ve talked about, to increase flexibility in all areas of life.” That includes an avid interest in photography.

But Muffitt won’t be completely off the hook. The orchestra will use him as an active adviser after he steps down from the podium in spring 2026.

“People see him conduct, but he does a lot more than that,” Millbrook said. Muffitt oversees the choice of repertoire that goes into all the LSO’s concert series, not just the Masterworks.

“I’ll be working in the background in the season that follows my last,” Muffitt affirmed. “In my career, I’ve seen a lot of orchestras experience kind of a hiccup in the search year if that artistic continuity doesn’t continue.”

Muffitt will play no role in the selection of his successor, but Millbrook said the maestro will be a “great re-

source to candidates who are applying to the position.”

The search for a new music director will begin in early spring or summer with a call for applications and the formation of a search committee. The committee will sift through the applications and choose four finalists, each of whom will guest conduct a concert during the 2026-‘27 season.

“There’s a pretty prescribed process for it,” Millbrook said. “When we get to that finalist stage, the concerts, that’s when we’ll really rely on community input, along with the musicians and the board. Our orchestra is amazing and we have a great reputation, so I think we’ll get some really fantastic people interested. It’s going to be a really busy couple of years here.”



Courtesy photo

After stepping down from the LSO, Muffitt will continue as artistic director of the School of Music and conductor of the Music School Festival Orchestra at the Chautauqua Institution in southwest New York.



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MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

'Path' is a 'collective biography' of being Black at MSU

By **BILL CASTANIER**

The history of Black students at MSU has been mostly obscured over the last 150 years by gridiron tales and feats of Black athletes.

Pero Dagbovie, MSU Distinguished Professor and vice provost for graduate studies and dean of the Graduate School, retells some of those stories with interesting twists. But he goes well beyond into much broader and complex issues in his new book, "Forever in the Path: The Black Experience at Michigan State University."

Dagbovie is perfectly positioned to write this book, having spent most of his 35-year academic career at Michigan State University, first as an undergraduate and then as a graduate student and finally as a history professor.

His book is a sweeping look at more than 150 years of the Black experience at MSU set against the complexities of the late 19th century and the

entirety of the 20th century.

Dagbovie recently spoke to City Pulse about his new book, which is 682 pages and costs \$49.95. It is published by MSU Press.

"I've been thinking about writing this book for some time, but during the pandemic I began seriously working on it," he said.

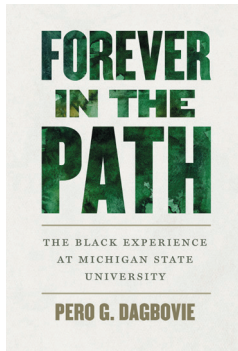
"The biggest challenge was organizing it. It's such a comprehensive study covering a vast period of time," as Dagbovie described the process.

"I divided the book into 40 edible chapters that represent the large scope of change that was taking place in the nation," he said. Chapter titles range from "Recognizably Absent," and "Booker T. Washington and M.A.C." to "Of Football Fame," and "Fair Housing is a Must."

The book is filled with stories of individuals like Myrtle Bessie Craig and William Thompson, two of the earliest Black students to study at Michigan Agricultural Col-

lege in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

"I enjoy telling people's personal stories



Pero G. Dagbovie "Forever in the Path" Book Launch

6-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24
Green Room, Main Library
Michigan State University
East Lansing

and tracking people down," he said.

He calls his book "a collective biography."

How did he do it?

"I scoured The State News and the Lansing State Journal. They did a great job in covering the Black struggle and the civil rights movement," Dagbovie said.

He also spent ample time in the MSU Archives perusing records, especially those of President John Hannah, president for nearly 30 years (1941-1969) and was at the helm when some of the most significant civil rights and Black power movements were taking place on campus.

Generally, Dagbovie paints Hannah as "progressive, shrewd and strategic" when it comes to civil rights.

As the chairman of the National Civil Rights Commission, Dagbovie said, "Hannah did a lot of things behind the scenes." However, Dagbovie does consider in his book the enigma of Hannah when it comes to open housing in East Lansing. "Hannah was molded by his background but also adjusted to the changing student body. I strove in the chapters (on Hannah) to be very balanced," he said.

"When Black students protested, Hannah often reacted positively to make changes," Dagbovie said.

Former State News staffers will also find Dagbovie's research and analysis of the coverage of Blacks on campus compelling. It is not always complimentary but recognizes the evolution of the Black experience. As an example, he points out that The State News was bereft in the hiring Black reporters.

The chapter on "Trailblazing Educators" considers some of the earliest Black professors on campus, including David Dickson, a biblical scholar, who was hired in 1948 and was the first Black professor, and William H. Pipes, hired in 1956 as an English professor. He also considers the difficulty they faced finding housing in East Lansing. Hannah even assisted Dick-



Pero Dagbovie

son in buying an East Lansing house.

Dagbovie also draws extensively on the role of Professor Robert Green, a campus fire brand in the 1960s.

Dagbovie is an energetic researcher who relies heavily on his own work. For example, he is one of the first researchers to dig into the extensive archival records of the Grapevine Journal, the largest campus-based Black newspaper, the records of Grapevine editor W. Kim Herron.


In retelling some of the Michigan Agricultural College and Michigan State College glory days of Black athletes on the gridiron, basketball court and track, Dagbovie reminds us the journey was not always straightforward.

He tells the stories of Black football players and track athletes who were "benched" when MAC and MSC would play southern schools.

Dagbovie chose the book's title carefully borrowing from the "Black National Anthem" "Lift Every Song and Pray," the lyric "Keep us forever in the path, we pray."

He writes that the 1900 song by James Weldon Johnson "represents the black experience

"I employ the title of the book in the spirit of Johnson and also as a way to highlight that the pathfinders established a path and legacy for others."



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
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MARCH 4, 10, 11 AND 12, 2025

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
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(517) 853-4400
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Charter Township of Meridian Board of Review will conduct its organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

2025 Tentative Factors:	
Commercial Real Property	1.00000
Industrial Real Property	1.00000
Residential Real Property	1.00000
Personal Property	1.00000

The Board of Review will meet for assessment appeals at the Township Municipal Building on the following days:

Monday, March 10, 2025: 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 11, 2025: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 12, 2025: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

For an appointment to appear before the Board of Review, call (517)853-4400 by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Written appeals will be accepted if received by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Appeals must be in office by this time, post marks are not accepted.

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Courtesy photo

In 2021, Willye Bryan revisited Freedom Village in rural Mississippi, where she worked with civil rights icon Fannie Lou Hamer in 1970 to build 21 homes for sharecroppers who were displaced from their homes for registering to vote.

The art of repair

Willye Bryan's life and work, from mayflies to Martin Luther King

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Willye Bryan moves through the world, in dark days and bright days, through storm and calm, with a quiet sense of purpose.

Bryan is an elder at Lansing's First Presbyterian Church, a retired entomologist and a lifelong civil rights activist.

She is fascinated by mayflies, which only see the sun for one day of adult life, but she has devoted her life to a much longer game — the quest for justice and equity.

Most recently, she is the founder of the Justice League of Greater Lansing, a Lansing-based, grassroots organization that is building a reparations fund to help repair historic racial disparities in wealth, educational opportunity and economic advancement.

If reparations are a pipe dream, pass the pipe. Bryan and her colleagues have already turned it into reality.

In just three years, the League has

built an endowment of \$450,000 in pledges, mainly from local churches, owing largely to Bryan's persistence, patience and power of persuasion.

"I would take Willye over a million-man army any day of the week," Justice League President Prince Solace said.

Solace called Bryan a master of the "art of repair."

"It's done with courage and out of love, but there's also some firmness in there," Solace said.

Last August, scholarships of \$5,000 each were awarded to 10 students in greater Lansing — the early fruit of a tree Bryan hopes will grow strong and tall, whichever way the cultural and political winds blow.

Bringing the Justice League into reality is the third (or fourth, or fifth) act in a life with plenty of twists, but a consistent clarity of purpose.

"I've wanted to be a change agent since I was a kid," she said. "I wanted



Courtesy photo

Bryan hangs in the library at First Presbyterian Church Prince Solace. The two have become close friends and powerful intergenerational allies. "I would take Willye over a million-man army any day of the week," Solace said.

to see equality. This is kind of a culmination of that drive to see that change happen."

Highways and houses

Vicious cycles of civil rights progress and backlash hold no terror for Bryan. She grew up in segregated Mississippi and has seen it all before.

Bryan, 80, was born and grew up in Leland, Mississippi, a small Mississippi Delta town on Highway 61, celebrated in song as the "blues highway" by musical greats like Honeyboy Edwards and Big Joe Williams. When she was 10 years old, her family moved to Chicago as part of the Great Migration of African-Americans from the South to the North, East and West to escape segregation and Jim Crow oppression.

Chicago schools weren't segregated, but newly arrived students from the South were often assumed to be behind

See Willye Bryan, Page 16

Willye Bryan

from page 15

and held back a grade. Bryan should have entered sixth grade, but was kicked back to fifth grade.

It was a blessing in disguise.

“Heck, I already had fifth grade,” she said. “Boom, boom, boom, I could do it with my eyes closed.”

She finished her assigned work quickly and looked for something else to do. She picked up a book on entomology and discovered a family of insects called Ephemeroidea — the mayflies.

“I was so fascinated at their life cycle,” she said. “I had not read anything like it before. Their immature stages are long-lived, leading up to only one day of adulthood. That hooked me.”

She wanted to go for a career in entomology, but that was too far out for her high school counselor, who advised her to get a degree in education.

When Bryan’s family moved back to Mississippi, she enrolled in Alcorn State University, the first historically Black land-grant college.

Recalling her counselor’s advice, she majored in social sciences and education but still nurtured a desire to go into entomology.

Teaching in Bolivar County, Mississippi, in the 1960s was no cakewalk. Although the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the public schools were still largely segregated.

She stuck it out for four years. “I just left,” she said. “The school system was too depressing. All of the administrators in the district and the state were white. I was fighting all the time. It was really disheartening work.”

She found more rewarding work in rural Mississippi, where she helped establish and incorporate Freedom Village, a new community built to house sharecroppers who were fired and displaced from their homes for registering to vote.

“The landowner said, ‘If you go and vote, you have no place to live tonight,’” Bryan said. “They voted anyway. We built 20 homes for those folks.”

Last month, Bryan took part in panel discussion on the film “Fannie Lou Hamer’s America,” as part of MSU’s commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Hamer is a revered pioneer of the civil rights movement, founder of the Freedom Democratic Party in Mississippi and organizer of Freedom Summer, a 1964 push to register Black voters. She was also a board member of Freedom Village.

“I knew Fannie Lou and worked with her,” Bryan said.

“Many times, I would sit on her porch and listen to her stories and the ideas she had for a better America. She had an extraordinary grasp of the political landscape.”

Hamer was already a civil rights icon. “I was in awe of her when we first met, but she had a way of making you feel like an old friend,” Bryan said. “I was the young one, ready to learn from her counsel, and she always made me feel at ease.”

One afternoon, Bryan drove to Hamer’s house, which was about 50 miles from the office, and found her at the laundromat.

“She had been there most of the day, because she always washed her clothing first on one side, and then she turned them inside out and washed them again,” Bryan recalled. “I stood watching in awe of the patience it took to do that, especially with all things she was involved in. I thought it was an amazing care and love she showed her family.”

At Freedom Village, Bryan coordinated basic education and GED programs to participants, many of whom were illiterate — “the kinds of needs that would literally introduce them into regular society, not just share-cropping,” Bryan said.

In 2021, Bryan revisited Freedom Village nearly half a century since she helped build it.

She spotted a group of people in a park, stopped the car, rolled down the window and asked if they knew the name Clay Miller, one of the village’s original residents.

“My name is Clay Miller,” a man said. “Clay Miller, Jr.” “It was fantastic to run into descendants of the people we built those houses for,” Bryan said.

Purpose on the planet

After working at Freedom Village, Bryan charted a new course for herself, pursuing professional excellence while maintaining her zeal for civil rights.



Courtesy photo

Besides building housing for displaced sharecroppers in Mississippi, Bryan helped organize basic education and GED classes to help them rise from poverty. She is pictured here with local residents during her 2021 return visit to Freedom Village.

“At the end of the time I worked with that project, I decided that I would retrain myself,” she said.

She got a master’s degree in entomology and went to work for the U.S. Agriculture Department’s Agricultural Research Service in Stoneville, Mississippi.

After thousands of long hours working as a research technician by day and studying by night, she got the degree and the research skills she needed.

The insect world is full of parasitoids (parasites who kill the insects they feed on) with life cycles every bit as fascinating as mayflies, if more horrifying.

In one project, Bryan researched the feasibility of unleashing a parasitic wasp (*trichogramma petiosum*, for the record) onto fields near Shaw, Mississippi, to control a plague of noctuid moths, or cutworms, that destroy billions of dollars in crops, orchards and gardens each year.

“I consider myself a researcher. That was always tops for me,” she said. “It was very satisfying to be a professional, interacting with professionals across the country.”

She couldn’t ignore the fact that the Agriculture Department’s Jamie Whitten Research Center, where she worked, was a nearly all-white institution in the heart of the Mississippi delta, which was more than 60 percent

Black.

“When I went to work there, there were two African-American technicians, and that was it, except for two janitors,” she said.

She started doing outreach to nearby Black schools to attract Black student workers in summer.

In the early 1970s, she suggested to the director that they do a Black History event and reach out more to the community.

“His response was, ‘Why would we do that?’” Bryan recalled.

“Black people don’t even know what goes on here, and these are your neighbors, the people you share the space with,” she told him.

A key Bryan tactic is to talk to you as if you are better than you realize, leaving you no choice but to live up to it. What makes it work is that she sincerely believes you are better than you realize.

She gave her boss a few days to ruminate and went back to his office, drawing upon the logic, patience and persuasive power she now deploys in the service of promoting reparations to Lansing area churches, businesses and donors.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

In 2022, Bryan, who founded the Justice League of Greater Lansing, and League President Prince Jerold Solace (left) formed the nucleus of a faith-based group building a reparations endowment for Lansing-area African Americans in the key areas of education, business and housing. To date, the League has raised \$450,000, with Lansing First Presbyterian Church (Pastor Stanley Jenkins, right) pledging \$100,000.

“You understand how important it is that you have respectful interaction with the community you share,” she told him.

He gave in, agreed to the idea and left Bryan in charge.

Bryan ran with the ball and invited a stellar series of guest speakers, including President Bill Clinton’s secretary of agriculture, Mike Espy, the first African American and the first person from the Deep South to hold the position. Another guest speaker was Bennie Thompson, a U.S. representative from Mississippi’s 2nd Congressional District, the first Democrat and the first African American to chair the House Homeland Security Committee.

“It just grew, and, I tell you, those programs continue to this day,” Bryan said. “It’s a popular event. Folks from D.C. come to it.”

Now Bryan had her cake — a career investigating bugs — and got to eat it, too, opening the profession to more Black researchers and scientists.

“Having that balance, keeping community activism alive and well in my life, and having my professional career, is wonderful,” she said. “It’s like a purpose on the planet kind of thing.”

A compelling mission

At a research conference in the 1980s, Bryan met a colleague, Gloria McCutcheon, who encouraged her to stick with her career, even though Bryan said McCutcheon was “the only other African American woman I knew in the field of entomology.”

In 1991, Bryan decided to go for a Ph.D. in entomology.

McCutcheon told her about a unique fellowship at Virginia Tech that would allow her to spend six months of the year working in Stoneville and six months studying in Blacksburg.

By 1996, Bryan was almost finished with her doctoral work and married her partner, Michael, also an entomologist, who lived in Michigan and worked for the USDA.

But now her life was going in too many directions at once. The stress of working, studying for her Ph.D., taking care of ill family members and sustaining a commuter marriage for four years led her to take early retirement in 1997 to move to Niles, Michigan.

A new life in a new location gave her a fresh sense of focus. She worked in private industry for a while, and then settled in as manager of the Pesticides Alternatives Laboratory at MSU, where researchers look for ways to control insect pests in tree fruits without using pesticides.

Prince Jerrold Solace met Bryan when both of them attended a meeting at the Library of Michigan on the history of the Black neighborhood wiped out by Interstate 496.

They shared a common interest in Black history, especially local history, and a passion for community service. Solace told Bryan about his 13 years as coordinator of the Lansing Black College tour.

Three years later, to his surprise, Solace got a phone call from Bryan, asking him to join a new, faith-based reparations project. Despite their fleeting encounter, she remembered his energy and seriousness and wanted him on board. The pair formed an intergenerational bond and potent advocacy team that became the heart of the Justice League.

“I was out of work at the time, and this was volunteer work, but I said yes, because it was just so compelling a mission,” Solace said. “I really trusted Willye’s leadership.”

They often describe their meeting and collaboration as “providential,” and not with tongue in cheek.

But neither of them had any illusions about the uphill push they were facing.

“I knew, going in, that the community needed a lot of education,” Bryan said. “Just the word ‘reparations’ gets many folks apprehensive.”

She often calls Justice League events “informational meetings,” downplaying the potential emotional charge and, like the scientist she is, patiently going through the math.

“We don’t start with demanding reparations,” Bryan said. “We talk about the inequities that plague our communities. People can see what’s around them, but many times, they don’t know how we got here. That’s where we come in.”

In the United States, racial disparities in every basic indicator of quality of life are persistent, pervasive and well known. The average Black household earns about half as much as the average white household and owns only about 15% to 20% as much wealth, according to an October 2021 report from the Federal Reserve, and the gap has “widened notably over the past few decades.” The



Courtesy photo

Congregants gathered at Lansing First Presbyterian Church to present the first installment of a \$100,000 pledge to the Justice League Feb. 4, 2024. Bryan, in black, is standing left of the check.

Centers for Disease Control reports a breathtaking range of disparities in health outcomes. The difference in standardized test scores between Black and white students, while narrowing, is still equivalent to about two years of schooling, according to a 2022 report from Stanford University.

In meeting after meeting, Bryan traced the long, heavy, yet often invisible (to white people, anyway) chains of cause and effect that have rigged the game of success against African Americans to the present day, from slavery to Jim Crow and segregation to redlining, banking discrimination, misguided urban renewal and other injustices.

At one presentation, a member of the audience told Bryan she had just sold a home, inherited from her parents, for \$500,000.

“She understood that many of her Black counterparts did not enjoy that generational wealth,” Bryan said.

But Bryan is always careful not to make it a blame and shame game.

“We make it clear that this was a dynamic that was already put in place and it’s not possible to catch up on your own,” she said.

At the crux of the Justice League’s faith-based approach is the sad fact that churches have long profited from this cruel calculus. “Some of them have 10, 15-million-dollar endowments that have accumulated because of their complicity with slavery, Jim Crow laws and the rest,” Bryan said. “What better place to go, to talk about correcting sinful action, than to the church?”

The churches have been listening.

“They’ve been looking for a way to remedy this,” Bryan said. “We have eight pledged churches — and I just talked to the ninth, who already pledged \$70,000.”

First Presbyterian Senior Minister Stanley Jenkins has

enjoyed a front row seat to this awakening.

“Step by step, Willye scheduled a bunch of events where people could come together, people from the community, not just our church,” Jenkins said. “She’s helped transform a white congregation into an outward-looking community seeking racial justice, equity and healing.”

On Feb. 9, First Presbyterian presented the League with a check for \$22,000, bringing the church’s total payments up to 80 percent of the \$100,000 pledge it made in 2022.

Jenkins loves to watch Bryan win over skeptics at meetings with white churches and community events at the downtown library, the Socialight Bookstore at the Lansing Mall and dozens of other places.

“Sometimes you can see it in the frowns on their faces or the eyebrows going like this,” Jenkins said, wrinkling his brow. “Willye is very good at connecting the dots, to show that the racial wealth gap is a direct result of slavery and specific policies.”

In Solace’s view, Bryan’s patience, persuasiveness and respect for skeptics and opponents come from a clearly identifiable source.

“At her core, she’s an educator,” Solace said. “An educator goes the extra mile to help people comprehend the most complex thoughts or concepts, and that’s what she does. She works with the person in front of her and leads them to a reckoning with themselves.”

Erecting the pillars

Not long ago, Bryan, Solace and the Justice League’s 50-odd volunteer members envisioned an ambitious endgame in which state and federal government would embrace the reparations model they’ve pioneered in Lansing.

The results of the recent election, and the accompanying wave of backlash against any acknowledgment that present inequalities are the fruit of past injustices, haven’t shaken their resolve one bit.

On the morning of Nov. 6, 2024, a donor called Bryan and transferred her stock to the Justice League.

“I was excited that someone woke up after the election and decided to pay reparations,” Bryan said. “Hopefully, that’s a good omen.”

Like Bryan, Solace is keeping his eyes forward, and he likes what he sees.

When things get tough and he needs a boost, he untucks a letter Bryan wrote to him in 2022. “You energize and lead the ideals of the Justice League in a way that gives me great peace,” she wrote. “I’m really elated you said yes to my request a year ago.”

A postscript reads: “I’m sharing because I want you to feel appreciated.”

Solace has absorbed Bryan’s lifelong faith and persistence and added his own youthful energy to the mix.

“We were born to do this,” Solace said. “Despite the national narrative of prolonging or suppressing the subject of reparations, we’ve experienced growing momentum in the past two and a half years. More and more communities are showing interest in the model Willye has developed.”

Groups based in Kalamazoo and New Orleans have contacted the League “to duplicate the model in the history and context of their community,” Solace said.

“It has been a wonderful undertaking for me, to bring the idea to the community and have it received as it has been,” Bryan said.



The legendary Mississippi civil rights worker Fannie Lou Hamer

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Whitmer's proposed cannabis tax hike sparks fury

Industry fears collapse amid market turmoil

By CHRIS SILVA

Michigan's cannabis industry, already reeling from oversupply and plummeting prices, is facing a new threat: Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposed 32% wholesale tax on recreational marijuana. The tax, part of her ambitious budget plan to fund road repairs, has ignited a firestorm of backlash from operators who say the move could decimate an already fragile market.

Whitmer's proposal aims to generate an additional \$470 million for infrastructure, but industry leaders argue the timing couldn't be worse. Cannabis sales in Michigan dipped for the first time in years last month, while production capacity remains alarmingly high. This oversupply has driven prices to unsustainable lows, forcing many businesses to shutter. For those still standing, the proposed tax feels like a death knell.

"This is a betrayal," Matt Imig, owner of Lansing-based M&M Agriculture, said, echoing a sentiment shared across the industry. Whitmer, once hailed as a staunch ally of cannabis reform, now faces accusations of abandoning the very community that helped propel her political career. Social media groups and email chains are flooded with angry posts from operators and activists — many of them Democrats — who feel blindsided by the move.

The proposed tax would require wholesalers to remit payments monthly, a change that could upend



Courtesy photo

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has proposed a 32% wholesale tax on recreational marijuana, part of her ambitious budget plan to fund road repairs.

the industry's financial dynamics. Smaller retailers, already operating on razor-thin margins, rely on 30- to 90-day credit terms to manage cash flow. A shift to cash-on-delivery terms, or paying for product as soon as its delivered, would leave many unable to stock inventory, effectively pushing them out of the market. Add in the federal government's crippling 280E tax provision, which denies cannabis businesses standard deductions, and the financial strain becomes unbearable.

But the tax hike isn't the only challenge Michigan's cannabis operators are grappling with. The rise of intoxicating hemp-derived products — sold without the same regulatory burdens — has created an uneven playing field. These products, often marketed as legal alternatives to cannabis, are cutting into the market share of li-

censed operators who face hefty compliance costs. Despite repeated calls for action, the state's Cannabis Regulatory Agency has been criticized for its inconsistent enforcement, cracking down on minor infractions while turning a blind eye to widespread practices like the illegal importation of THCA concentrate from other states or the use of MCT oil to thin out distillate, which was banned by the CRA in June but is still thought to be occurring in much of the supply.

"The CRA is heavy-handed on the small stuff but lets the big issues slide," cannabis advocate Thomas Lavigne said in an email. "It's infuriating."

Whitmer's tax proposal has also raised concerns about the future of equity in the industry. Smaller operators and social equity applicants — business owners from communities

Lansterdam in Review: Cannabis wholesale tax increase

that have been disproportionately affected by the prohibition of cannabis — would be hit hardest by the tax hike. Meanwhile, deep-pocketed multi-state operators could weather the storm, consolidating their dominance in a market that was built on the backs of caregivers and small businesses.

Michigan isn't alone in targeting cannabis as a cash cow. States like California, Ohio, Maine and Maryland are also eyeing higher excise taxes to bolster their budgets. But Michigan's market, with its glut of operators and fierce competition, is uniquely vulnerable. In California, for example, the oversupply and regulatory maze mirror Michigan's challenges, but the sheer number of operators here makes the impact of a tax hike far more severe.

The federal landscape offers little relief. While the Biden administration has taken steps toward rescheduling cannabis, recent moves by Republican lawmakers threaten to maintain the 280E tax burden even if rescheduling occurs.

For Michigan's cannabis community, the message is clear: The fight isn't over. What began as a bipartisan effort to legalize and regulate cannabis has morphed into a bipartisan assault on the industry's survival. Patients, caregivers and advocates who banded together to end prohibition now find themselves battling new threats from all sides.

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Willye Bryan

from page 17

A proud moment arrived in August 2024, when the Justice League allocated reparations, for the first time, to "ten descendants of enslaved Africa-Americans from the greater Lansing region" in the form of \$5,000 scholarships.

"We have three students at MSU, two at Howard University and one each at LCC, the University of Michigan, the Chicago Arts Institute, Siena Heights and Central Michigan University," Bryan said.

But the short-term success hasn't taken Bryan's eye from the long game.

"I fashioned the program, took it to groups that could change things, and it worked," she said. "Now we have to continue to grow it. It's the same with many projects I've worked at. It needs to have a

life of its own."

The next step is to tackle housing inequality. A new community partner, the East Side Action Community Center in the Potter-Walsh neighborhood, led by pastor Stanley Parker, has joined the League to get things started.

"Dr. Parker has united community partners to get funding for a house to be built for an African-American senior," Solace said. The Justice League will join the Ingham County Trust Fund, the Capitol Region Community Foundation and other community agencies and nonprofits to get the house built by early spring.

"That's two of our three pillars, within a short time — first education, then housing," Solace said. "Now, in 2025, we'll start fleshing out the business and entrepreneurial arm of things."

Byran's goal for the League is growth, not mere survival. The nonprofit is still all-volunteer, but she hopes to grow it to

the point where the director will be paid.

"We are establishing an endowment fund that will last in perpetuity," she said.

As practitioners of the "art of repair" meet with indifference and even hostility from Washington, Bryan sees local action as the only solid path to progress.

"I expect that as we continue to see the horrible rollback of social justice gains that have been accomplished over the last 60 years, we will see equal pushback from the segment of the populace that do think for themselves," she said. "I hold out hope that there are enough good people out there who will continue to do the right thing."

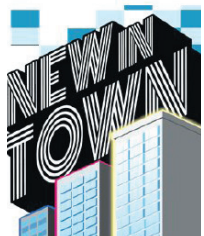
Her own plans for the future are simple and unwavering.

"I will continue to work tirelessly to see the establishment of what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called the Beloved Community — in my lifetime," she said.

New Château Coffee Co. spot caters to university students

By LEO V. KAPLAN

After finishing his master's degree in marketing research at Michigan State University, Tarek Chawich expected to follow in his peers' footsteps: moving to



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Okemos
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California and working for a big corporation. But a flash of inspiration changed his course when he saw the building that would become the first Château Coffee Co. location.

"I saw the vision of it, and I took the leap," Chawich said. "I didn't want to be 60 years old and realize that I regretted not doing it."

Three years after the original location opened, Chawich opened a second location in Okemos on Jan. 26.

A first-time visitor could hardly guess that the location is new; at lunchtime, the cafe bustles with customers. The offerings are similar to Château's west-side location — coffee flights, breakfast sandwiches and baklava — but the natural lighting and spacious dining room draw in university students, who take advantage of the plentiful wall outlets.

"The menu is roughly the same, but there's a different atmosphere," Chawich said. "There are more students here. People are on their laptops."

He said his choice to open an Okemos location was inspired by customers who drove to the original location from the east side. But the idea was solidified when he visited the building itself.

"Once I walked in, I saw this vision," he said. "I just knew this would be the perfect place." He was particularly inspired by a small, windowed nook behind what is now the espresso bar, which has become a popular study spot.

Château's connection to the university goes beyond its clientele. Many of the baristas are students, and Chawich routinely collaborates

with MSU student organizations.

"We've collaborated with the marketing research master's program to do a couple studies on Château," he said. "The data analytics club has done some data research for us, and we've collaborated with VIM Magazine."

Chawich puts his employees' diverse educations to use, with baristas doubling as social media managers, grant writers and decorators.

One barista, Kayla Munson, praised the flexibility Château offers employees.

"It turned out to be such a good fit for me," she said. "They work around my school schedule very well."

Having opened two locations in three years, what's next for Château? Chawich is interested in opening a third location, though perhaps not yet — he oversaw the Okemos location's construction himself, which "took a lot of work." But even as he rests, he's begun crowdfunding for the company, an idea he developed alongside a finance professor at MSU.

As the company grows, working with local businesses remains a focus. Its Château Valley espresso beans — a smooth, sweet, medium-light roast — are roasted by 517 Coffee Co., and its baklava comes from Okemos eatery Bread Bites, where it's baked by Chawich's aunt.

Chawich is excited to grow the business further, but he draws the line at franchising.

"We would always keep it corporate-owned because we really want to focus on quality," he said.



Courtesy Château Coffee Co.

Château Coffee Co.'s second location in Okemos. The 1,800-square-foot storefront opened Jan. 26.

TO ALL CREDITORS: The Settlor of The Sharon L. Pennell Revocable Living Trust dated Feb. 12, 2009 and Amended and Restated Feb. 8, 2022, Sharon L. Pennell, who was born May 3, 1943, is now deceased as of Dec. 21, 2024. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to Francine Bushrey, Successor Trustee, 317 Jones St, Lansing, MI 48912, or Attorney Christine Caswell, P74165, 7402 Westshire Dr #125, Lansing, MI 48917, within four months after the date of publication, 2/19/2025. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

CP#25-062

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

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

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about March 10, 2025, the City of East Lansing will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended 42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq., to undertake a project known as the Emerson Park Improvement Project, Phase III, for the purpose of making comprehensive improvements to this low-to moderate-income neighborhood park. The project location is 1135 Arbor Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823. Approximately \$106,650 in CDBG funding would be allocated to complete Emerson Park's Master Park Plan that was developed in 2022. Proposed improvements include a new accessible 5 ft concrete walkway completing the walking path on the north side of the park, a new merry-go-round, an ADA accessible drinking fountain, ADA accessible seating, and various native plantings.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of East Lansing has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at East Lansing City Hall (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) and may be examined or copied weekday's 8 A.M to 5 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of East Lansing at 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, ATTN Matt Apostle or via email at grants@cityofeastlansing.com. All comments received by Friday, March 7, 2025, will be considered by the City of East Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of East Lansing certifies to HUD that Robert Belleman in his capacity as East Lansing City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of East Lansing to use Program funds.

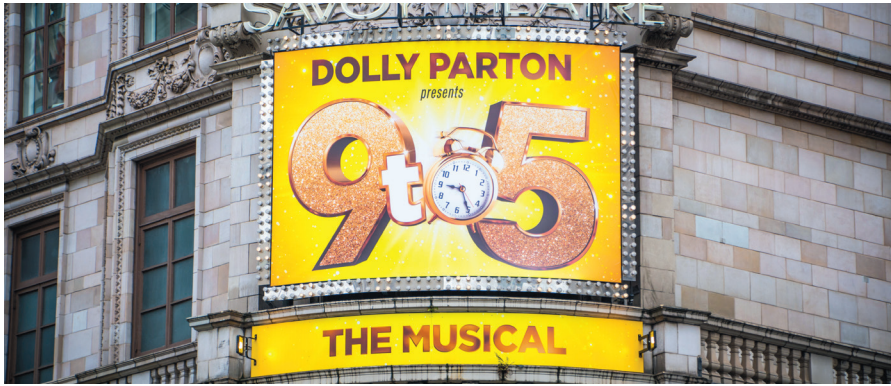
OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of East Lansing's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of East Lansing; (b) the City of East Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the **U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development -Detroit Field Office, Keith E. Hernandez, Director, Community Planning and Development at 477 Michigan Ave, Suite 1600, Detroit, MI 48226 or DetroitCPD@hud.gov.** Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Date: February 19, 2025
Robert Belleman, City Manager
City of East Lansing
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#25-049

Still relevant after all these years: '9 To 5, The Musical' at Fairchild



William Barton/Shutterstock

"9 to 5: The Musical" during its run in London's West End in 2019.

By **DANA DEMINK**

Dolly Parton was front and center at Michigan State University's Fairchild Theatre for the Broadway revival of "9 to 5, The Musical."

From her pre-recorded introduction to the Dollymania t-shirts and cowboy hats donned by audience members, one would think that this production was a homage to Dolly. And while she certainly penned the music and lyrics of this award-winning workplace revenge comedy based on the seminal 1980s movie, Dolly is really an aside here. The message of "9 to 5, The Musical" cannot be ignored: If women work together, there's nothing that they can't do, even in a man's world.

Trapped in a toxic office culture ruled by a "sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot," Violet, Judy, and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy of taking control of their company and deposing the capricious, patriarchal man-child in charge of it all. Whether they are overlooked for promotion, or sexually harassed, the women of Consolidated Corporation are tired of being belittled.

Through a little bit of creativity and an old-school garage door opener, the three have a chance to run the company. In short order they introduce job flexibility, free day care, training opportunities and equal pay.

Hail to the three leads: Brook Cousins, as the scrappy Violet, Reese Martin, as the curvaceous cowgirl Doralee and Olivia Bath as Judy, the recently divorced naïve new secretary. It's always wonderful to see young performers showcase their tri-

ple-threat talents, and these three delivered sublime performances.

However, a few break-out performances from the supporting cast ran off with the show. Jordan Ivazaj as the tumescent Roz, electrified the stage during her performance of "Heart to Hart." Kudos to Matt Antalok as the devoted Joe, the object of reluctant Judy's affection. Antalok carried the duet, "Let Love Grow," and dazzled us with his captivating voice and spry dance moves.

While the incongruous digital backdrop with its repeating geometric patterns and alternating floral wallpaper served no purpose to the plot but to distract from the action on the stage, one stage element, the neon "Consolidated Corporation," sign grabbed my attention. At one point, the sign blinked and sputtered and only the words "so dated" glowed in the darkness. It called attention to what had crossed my mind at the start of the play: Why are we still having a conversation about women's rights? Economic inequality and low respect for women in the workplace is a thing of the past — over and done with in the 1970s and 1980's, right? Not so fast. Many women, especially those in low-wage jobs, can't afford child care and have never enjoyed a flexible work environment. Aren't we living in a nation that embraces patriarchal manifestos that attack protections against sexual discrimination, seeks to eliminate the civil rights offices of every federal agency, weaken Title IX protections, and rolls back decades of labor laws?

If only three women and a garage door opener would fix the problem.

Regardless, "9 to 5, The Musical" was a delightful evening of entertainment that should not be missed.

Review

"9 to 5: The Musical"

Performances through Feb. 23
7:30 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday
8 p.m. Friday
2 & 8 p.m. Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
General Admission: \$25; faculty, \$20; students, \$10 or free with MSU ID
MSU Theatre Department
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Theatre.msu.edu/heels
(517) 355-1855

H&H Mobil Abandoned Auto Auction
Viewing 2/20/25 By Appointment
2818 E. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48912
Call 517-332-6335
Bids must be submitted by 8 am 2/24/25
at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823
For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

CP#25-019

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

This is to give notice that the City of East Lansing under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity, Emerson Park Improvement Project – Phase III, is funded under the City of East Lansing's Community Development Block Grant program (B-24-MC-260024). The proposed project is located at Emerson Park (1135 Arbor Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823, Ingham County). A small portion of the northwest corner of Emerson Park is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a freeboard value approach. The Emerson Park Improvement Project – Phase III will install a new accessible 4-foot concrete walkway, a small playground amenity with permeable safety surfacing, and several native plantings at Emerson Park, which is a 2.7-acre park in East Lansing's low-to moderate-income Red Cedar Neighborhood. Approximately 0.2 acres of the northwest corner of Emerson Park is within the FFRMS floodplain.

The City of East Lansing has determined that, although a small portion of the floodplain is located on the same parcel where the project will take place, all construction activities proposed at Emerson Park are outside of the FFRMS floodplain. Additionally, FEMA lists the 100-year floodplain elevation surrounding Emerson Park as 836.2 feet. The lowest point of disturbance for this project is at 840.48 feet, which is more than 4 feet above the floodplain elevation and greater than the 2-foot freeboard prescribed by the FFRMS Freeboard Value Approach. Additionally, although the floodplain will not be impacted, the project is adding native plantings, which will help to mitigate floodplain concerns in this area in the future. Given this information, the City of East Lansing has determined that the project as designed minimizes adverse impacts and preserves all natural and benefit functions as well as intrinsic values of the existing floodplain.

The City of East Lansing has reevaluated alternatives to building near the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to development near the floodplain. The no-action alternative of not completing Phase III of the Emerson Park Improvement Project would not necessarily benefit the floodplain but it would limit the park's positive impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

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

Written comments must be received by the City of East Lansing at the following address on or before Friday, March 7, 2025: City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, ATTN: Matt Apostle, Community and Economic Development Specialist. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8AM-12PM or 1PM-5PM, Monday-Friday at the address listed above as well as online at <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/2458/Active-Public-Notices>. Comments may also be submitted via email at mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com. The City of East Lansing's Certifying Officer is Robert Belleman, City Manager.

Amy Gordon
Interim City Clerk

Dated: February 19, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#25-061

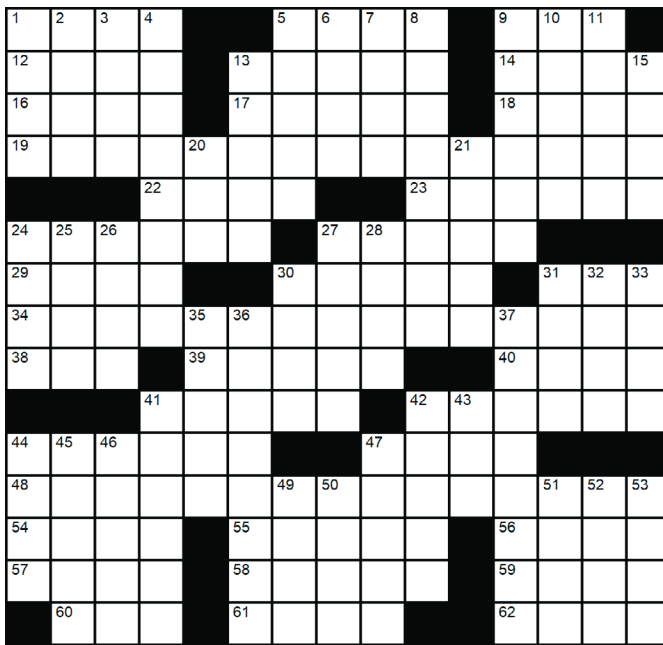
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Put ‘Em Together!”--
yeah, I hear you!
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. ___-building game
- 5. Part of CD
- 9. Opposite of flow
- 12. Notion
- 13. You are here
- 14. “___ Land” (2016 musical film)
- 16. ___ Fein (Irish political group)
- 17. Old copy machine, for short
- 18. Like some lattes
- 19. Behind-the-scenes theater worker’s been specially selected?
- 22. ___-deucey (backgammon variation)
- 23. Walker’s Prawn Cocktail snacks, e.g., in the U.K.
- 24. Fifth U.S. president
- 27. “___ the Sheriff” (1974 hit song)
- 29. Hydrox rival
- 30. ___ Martin (007’s auto)
- 31. Wall Street index, briefly
- 34. Pre-owned greeting with a firm grip?
- 38. Sound of admonition
- 39. Albertan NHLer
- 40. Belonging to us
- 41. Walk with pride
- 42. Oppose vigorously
- 44. Peevish
- 47. “Yeah, I bet”
- 48. Straight or flush indicating one way to go to help?



- 54. Opera highlight
 - 55. Journalist
 - 56. 1/12 of a foot
 - 57. Turkey meat preference
 - 58. Pretzel shapes
 - 59. Gospel singer
 - 60. “___ Boot” (1981 film)
 - 61. Part of a skate blade
 - 62. Sharp as a tack
- DOWN**
- 1. Talk smack about
 - 2. Make some changes
 - 3. John who’s supposedly tough to see
 - 4. Qantas logo animal
 - 5. How often Wordles get released
 - 6. “Garfield” waitress
 - 7. Instruction
 - 8. “Quickly!”
 - 9. Bring out
 - 10. Is a supporter of
 - 11. Sound of censoring
 - 13. Show host
 - 15. Tacks on
 - 20. “Foucault’s Pendulum” author
 - 21. “Reversal of Fortune” Oscar winner
 - 24. The majority
 - 25. Natural resources
 - 26. Shirt measurement
 - 27. Dot in the ocean
 - 28. Symbol over an 8
 - 30. Org. that defends individual rights
 - 31. Paint ineptly
 - 32. Gumbo ingredient
 - 33. Toward sunset
 - 35. Observant person
 - 36. No-bake dessert that may be garnished with gummy worms
 - 37. Nostalgic, perhaps
 - 41. Lectures
 - 42. Dice, most often
 - 43. Singer Rita
 - 44. Apple product that debuted April 2010
 - 45. Org. that tracks Santa
 - 46. “Ran” director
 - 47. Bitter feeling
 - 49. Ilsa’s surname in “Casablanca”
 - 50. Work like ___
 - 51. Leg hinge
 - 52. “Behold!” to Caesar
 - 53. At that moment

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Answers on page 29

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Feb. 19-25, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The Hindu holiday of Maha Shivaratri is dedicated to overcoming ignorance and darkness in celebrants' own lives and in the world. This year, it falls on Feb. 26. Even if you're not Hindu, I recommend you observe your own personal version of it. To do so would be in accordance with astrological omens. They suggest that the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to be introspective, study your life and history, and initiate changes that will dispel any emotional or spiritual blindness you might be suffering from. PS: Remember that not all darkness is bad! But some is unhealthy and demoralizing, and that's the kind you should banish and transmute.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The blue whale is the most massive animal that has ever lived. You could swim through its arteries. Its heart is 5 feet tall and weighs 400 pounds. And yet when diving, its pulse slows to four to eight beats per minute. I propose we choose the blue whale to be your spirit creature in the coming weeks. May this magnificent beast inspire you to cultivate slow, potent rhythms that serve you better than hyperactivity. Let's assume you will accomplish all you need by maintaining a steady, measured pace — by focusing on projects that require depth and diligence rather than speed. Your natural persistence will enable you to tackle tasks that might overwhelm those who lack your patience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): More than 10,000 years ago, someone walked for a mile through what's now White Sands National Park in New Mexico. We know they did because they left footprints that were fossilized. Scientists believe it was probably a woman who mostly carried a child and sometimes let the child walk under its own power. Like those ancient footprints, your actions in the coming weeks may carry lasting significance — more than may be immediately apparent. I encourage you to proceed as if you are making a more substantial impact and having a bigger influence than you imagine.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): What's the oldest known recipe? What ancient food product did our ancestors write down instructions about how to make? It was beer! The 4,000-year-old Sumerian text included a hymn to Ninkasi, the goddess of beer. It tells how to use the right ingredients and employ careful fermentation to concoct a beverage that lowers inhibitions and brings people together in convivial celebration. In that spirit, Cancerian, I encourage you to meditate on the elements you can call on to create merrymaking and connection. Now is a good time to approach this holy task with extra focus and purposefulness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In November 1963, the captain of a sardine boat sailing near Iceland noticed a column of dark smoke rising out of the water. Was it another boat on fire? No, it was the beginning of a volcanic eruption. A few days later, steady explosions had created a new island, Surtsey, which still exists today. I suspect you will have a metaphorically comparable power in the coming weeks, Leo: an ability to generate a new creation out of fervent energies rising out of the hot depths. Be alert! And be ready to harness and make constructive use of the primal force.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Harald “Bluetooth” Gormsson was a 10th-century Danish king. He united the tribes of Denmark into a single kingdom. His nickname originated in the fact that he had a prominent dead tooth that turned bluish-gray. More than 10 centuries later, engineers who created a new short-range wireless technology decided to call their invention “bluetooth.” Why? Because they imagined it would serve a variety of electronic devices, just as the king once blended the many tribes. In the spirit of these bluetooth phenomena, I'm urging you Virgos to be a uniter in the coming weeks and months. You will have an enhanced capacity to bridge different worlds and link disparate groups. PS: An aspect that could be construed as an imperfection, like Harald's tooth, could conceal or signify a strength.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libran author Ursula K. Le Guin wrote, “Freedom is a heavy load, a great and strange burden for the spirit to undertake.” I know from experience there's truth in that idea. But I'm happy to tell you that in 2025, freedom will be less heavy and less burdensome than maybe ever before in your life. In fact, I suspect liberation will be relatively smooth and straightforward for you. It won't be rife with complications and demands but will be mostly fun and pleasurable. Having said that, I do foresee a brief phase when working on freedom will be a bit more arduous: the next few weeks. The good news is that your emancipatory efforts will set the stage for more ease during the rest of 2025.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Always and forever, the world is a delicate balance of seemingly opposing forces that are in fact interwoven and complementary: light and shadow, determination and surrender, ascent and descent, fullness and emptiness, progress and integration, yes and no. The apparent polarities need and feed each other. In the coming weeks, I invite you to meditate on these themes. Are there areas of your life where you have been overly focused on one side of the scale while neglecting the other? If so, consider the possibility of recalibrating. Whether you are balancing emotion with logic, rest with work or connection with independence, take time to adjust. If you honor both halves of each whole, you will generate fertile harmonies.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The ancient stands of cedar trees on Japan's Yakushima Island have a special power. They create weather patterns for themselves, generating rain clouds from the water vapor they release through their leaves. This ingenious stroke of self-nurturing provides them with the exact rainfall they require. I propose that we make these cedar trees your power symbol in the coming weeks. It's an excellent time for you to dream up and implement more of the conditions you need to flourish.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Tardigrades are tiny, eight-legged animals colloquially known as water bears or moss piglets. Their resilience is legendary. They can thrive anywhere, from mountaintops to the deep sea, from Antarctica to tropical rainforests. They can withstand extreme temperatures, live a long time without water and even survive in outer space. I propose we make the tardigrade your power creature for the coming weeks, dear Capricorn. Your flexibility and fluidity will be at a peak. You will be hardy, supple and durable. It will be a favorable time to leave your comfort zone and test your mettle in new environments. Seemingly improbable challenges may be well within your range of adaptability.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the coming days, playing games could be good practice for life. Breezy exchanges and fun activities could stimulate clues and insights that will be useful in making important decisions. What appears to be ordinary entertainment or social engagement may provide you with profound lessons about strategy and timing. How you manage cooperation and competition in those lighter moments could yield useful guidance about more serious matters.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Have you been struggling to summon the motivation to start anew in some area of your life? I predict that sometime in the coming weeks, you will find all the motivation you need. Have you been wishing you could shed the weight of the past and glide into a fresh project with unburdened mind and heart? I believe that destiny will soon conspire to assist you in this noble hope. Are you finally ready to exorcise a pesky ghost and dash jubilantly toward the horizon, eager to embrace your future? I think you are.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Feb. 19

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.

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

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

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

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

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.

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

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 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.

Historians at the Movies: Star Trek - Each month, the LCC History Department hosts students and history experts to discuss significant eras, events or themes featured in some of our favorite movies. Watch the movie together, then share lively discussions surrounding the topics and themes behind the plots. 6:30 p.m. Virtual - register at lcc.edu/historymatters.

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 - 7-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Kindergarten Craft Club - Create a CD spaceship! Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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.

Lansing Roller Derby Adult Boot Camp - Four-month roller derby training course focused on developing skaters to their full potential, regardless of prior skill or experience. 8-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.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 Concert Band and Campus Band - Program includes "Vanity Fair," by Percy Fletcher; "House Plants in Terracotta Pots," by Roy Magnuson; "Illyrian Dances," by Guy Woolfenden; and more. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

MSU Department of Theatre: "9 to 5," the Musical - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Native Planting & Sustainability Efforts in our Local Communities - Representatives of Haslett Community Church and All Saints Episcopal Church share how they helped lead native plant installations in their communities. 7 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. wildoneslansing.weebly.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.

Weaving the Web: Deity - 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, Feb. 20

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 Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.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 - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. cmialanon.org.

MSU Movie Night concert

Thursday, Feb. 20
7:30 p.m.

Wharton Center

Michigan State University's Concert Orchestra presents one of its four yearly concerts Thursday. The Movie Night concert will kick off with John Williams' theme from "Jurassic Park," followed by a Richard Russell Bennett arrangement of songs from "The Sound of Music," by Rodgers and Hammerstein. A symphonic suite of another John Williams score, "Harry Potter," will close out the night.

French horn player Jonah Weber, the winner of the concert orchestra's third annual concerto competition, will reprise his winning performance of Malcolm Arnold's "Horn Concerto No. 1."

The concert orchestra is open to auditions to faculty, staff and MSU students regardless of major. The orchestra comprises more than 100 majors and minors, including students from more than 80 cities in 15 states and six countries, its website says.

Conductor Katherine Kilburn (pictured) is the assistant director of orchestras at the MSU College of Music. Kilburn received the 2008 Thelma A. Robinson Conducting Award from the International Conductors Guild and has been assistant conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra, the El Paso Opera, the Bowling Green State University Philharmonic and the St. Louis Symphony Chorus. She also worked alongside the legendary Sir Simon Rattle, conductor emeritus of the London Symphony.

Daniel Jaggars and Zongheng Zhang, graduate students of orchestral conducting at MSU, will assist Kilburn.

The Movie Night concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, 750 E Shaw Lane. Tickets are \$15.50, or \$13.50 for seniors. Students with IDs and children under 18 are free with a ticket. Tickets can be purchased online at the Wharton Center's website.



Courtesy photo

Michigan State University director Katherine Kilburn.

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

"At the Border of Jazz" - Renowned classical saxophonist Nicolas Prost and jazz pianist Sébastien Paindestre present a blend of classical precision and jazz spontaneity. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Charlotte Community Library Board Meeting - The board meets the third Thursday of every month in the library's Spartan Room. 7 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

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

lansingshuffle.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.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

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

Michigan Birding 101: Spring 2025 - Join Michigan Sea Grant as we explore the wonderful hobby of birding in four FREE and FUN classes. 7-8 p.m. Virtual - register at bit.ly/MIBIRDS25.

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Events

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MSU Concert Orchestra: Movie Night - Program features music from some of the most famous films of all time, including "Jurassic Park," "The Sound of Music" and "Harry Potter," as well as a performance by the winner of the Concert Orchestra Concerto Competition. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

MSU Department of Theatre: "9 to 5," the Musical - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Open Jam! | Third Thursday of Every Month - Whether you play guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dobro, bass or another instrument, you're invited to join in — even if you know only a few songs or chords. 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Rock-Steady Boxing - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

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

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

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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly - Weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. facebook.com/HaslettTops.

Friday, Feb. 21

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.-6 p.m. MSUFCU

Headquarters Building 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

"A Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

The Coffeehouse at All Saints - Monthly showcase of Michigan-based musical and spoken-word talent. Bring your own snacks/drinks. Free. 7:30 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/TheCoffeehouseAtAllSaints.

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.

"Crime and Punishment" - This award-winning adaptation of Dostoevsky's literary masterpiece is a thrilling journey into the mind of a killer and his search for redemption. Free. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Emerging Technologies and Legal Governance - The MSU College of Law International Law Review presents its annual symposium, "Emerging Technologies & Legal Governance." 10 a.m.-2 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/msu-college-of-law-88697455223.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

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.

Isaac Harper at UrbanBeat - You're invited to a special country music night featuring live music by the talented Isaac Harper! Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Lansing Parks and Recreation Travelogue: Alaska - Join Keith Neff and his wife for three weeks,

nine rooms and 2,200 miles. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. lansingmi.gov/985/Travelogue.

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

The Lynx Band Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 7:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

"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 Department of Theatre: "9 to 5," the Musical - 8 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

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

MSU Professors of Jazz - From jazz standards to innovative arrangements and original compositions, this instrumental band never disappoints with its exciting and often moving live performances. 8 p.m. Murray Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Open Irish Jam! | Third Friday of Every Month - Open jam focusing on Irish traditional music. All skill levels welcome. Bring your instruments and we'll share some tunes. 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

The Townsman at the Peanut Barrel - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. Peanutbarrel.com.

Saturday, Feb. 22

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.-3 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

"A Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and

friendship. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

All About Owls Campfire - We'll roast marshmallows, learn about Michigan owls and take a guided walk through the woods to search for signs of owls. 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Comedy at "The Creek" 18 - We'll have a brand-new batch of 10 hilarious comedians to dish out the laughs, plus drink specials and delicious food. Doors 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. Country Creek Reception Hall, 5859 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. facebook.com/countrycreekreceptionhall.

"Crime and Punishment" - This award-winning adaptation of Dostoevsky's literary masterpiece is a thrilling journey into the mind of a killer and his search for redemption. Free. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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. weaversoftheweb.org.


"Farmland: Food, Justice and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

"First Date" - A charming and hilarious modern musical comedy that follows the awkward yet endearing first encounter between two unlikely singletons. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Greater Lansing Orchid Show and Sale - Enjoy beautiful exhibits, learn how to grow orchids with free classes and brighten up your home with some of the spectacular flowers on sale! 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett. greaterlansingorchidsociety.info.

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.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SPECIAL USE PERMIT #25004
(2745 MOUNT HOPE)
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Special Use Permit #25004
(2745 Mount Hope)
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Community Development & Planning of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a minor amendment special use permit (SUP) request from Montessori Radmoor School. The applicant is requesting to construct a 1,276 square foot building addition at 2745 Mount Hope Road. The approximate 9.64-acre subject site is zoned RR (Rural Residential).

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to Associate Planner Keith Chapman, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.


Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-056



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Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SPECIAL USE PERMIT #25003 (OKEMOS LOCAL INVESTMENTS)
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Special Use Permit #25003 (Okemos Local Investments)
Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., in the Meridian Township Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, to hear all persons interested in an amended request from Okemos Local Investments LLC to construct a recreational marijuana retailer in a new building at 4360 South Hagadorn Road, Okemos, MI 48864. The approximately 0.62-acre parcel is zoned RP – Research and Office Park and is located within the Marijuana Business Overlay District.

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to shorkey@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-055



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Events

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“Mastermind Prayer Circle” on Zoom - Support each other in envisioning our hearts' desires. Facilitator Lisa Schmidt. 8 a.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Mix Pack 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. Penn State University - 6 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

MSU Department of Theatre: “9 to 5,” the Musical - 2 and 8 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

“Peter Pan, a Ballet for Everyone” - Told through a combination of physical theater, dance, music and narration, the timeless story of Peter Pan comes to life in this premiere production! 2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. thestudiopac.ticketspice.com/peterpan2025.

Salsa Verde - Enjoy a salsa dance class at 8:30 p.m., followed by live music and dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight! UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

SPARTan Wellness: Positivity Journals - Need a mid-semester pick-me-up? We're creating positivity journals from recycled materials! Restricted to MSU students. 2-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Sunday, Feb. 23

“A Case for the Existence of God” - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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. Noon-6 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Christine Lavin: Sunday Afternoon Show - The queen of onstage improv comedy returns to the Fiddle, sharing clever, funny tunes with her longtime fans. 3 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

“Crime and Punishment” - This award-winning adaptation of Dostoevsky's literary masterpiece is a thrilling journey into the mind of a killer and his search for redemption. Free. 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Delta Rocks! Fit & Frosty - Enjoy the fresh air, connect with friends and family and celebrate the joy of being active, whether you're dancing along the walking path, taking a leisurely stroll, participating in the kickball tournament or one of the other fun activities. 1-3 p.m. Mount Hope Park, 7419 E. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. Facebook.com/deltatowship.

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” - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. Broadmuseum.msu.edu.

“First Date” - A charming and hilarious modern musical comedy that follows the awkward yet endearing first encounter between two unlikely singletons. 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Muse-

um Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

GLAD Drum Circle - Join the Greater Lansing Area Drummers for a fun and energetic afternoon of rhythm and drumming. All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Greater Lansing Orchid Show and Sale - Enjoy beautiful exhibits, learn how to grow orchids with free classes and brighten up your home with some of the spectacular flowers on sale! 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett. greaterlansingorchidsociety.info.

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

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.

Lansing Roller Derby Adult Boot Camp - Four-month roller derby training course focused on developing skaters to their full potential, regardless of prior skill or experience. 2-4 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

MSU Department of Theatre: “9 to 5,” the Musical - 2 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. Theatre.msu.edu.

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

“Peter Pan, a Ballet for Everyone” - Told through a combination of physical theater, dance, music and narration, the timeless story of Peter Pan comes to life in this premiere production! 2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. thestudiopac.ticketspice.com/peterpan2025.

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

Unity's Fifth Principle, with Donnette Pinkerton - Pinkerton will review the last of Unity's basic principles, which tells us that to know the truth, to think positive thought and to pray is not enough; we must also take action. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. Unitylansing.org.

Xochitlo Conuco Ancestors Garden Mural - Artist Theresa Rosado invites the public for a drop-in session to paint portions of her 30-foot teaching mural. No registration required, all ages welcome. 1-5 p.m. Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center, 204 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/casaderosado.

Monday, Feb. 24

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/summerlands-brewing.

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

Christine Lavin Ten Pound Fiddle 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 University Lutheran Church, East Lansing



Bring your knitting needles: Christine Lavin, a New York City-based folk musician and comedian, takes the Ten Pound fiddle stage Sunday. But first she leads a knitting circle.

Lavin, a 49-year performing veteran, and is a member of the Four Bitchin' Babes, a comedic folk band she founded in 1990. Her performance begins at 3 p.m. at the University Lutheran Church, but fans can show up as early as 1 p.m. to join in knitting.

The tough-to-categorize musician and comedian has been chronicled in the New York Times, Cosmopolitan, and Billboard. The Times called her “a garrulous comic observer of contemporary manners. Billboard called her “a central force in the most visible segment of the contemporary folk music scene.” She was a 2019 inductee into the Rochester Music Hall of Fame and the recipient of numerous awards, including five ASCAP — American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers — composer awards), the Kate Wolf Memorial Award and an Album of the Year award from The National Association of Independent Record Distributors for her 1988 album “Good Thing He Can't Read My Mind.”

Gary Gould of The Davison Index describes Lavin as “an iconic singer/songwriter who has earned her legendary status through years of tireless performing, doing shows at once quirky, hilarious and touching,” noting that her songs “have a wordsmith's eye for detail, with a comic's vision for the absurd, and a huge and fearless heart that will go anywhere.”

As with most of the larger Ten Pound Fiddle concerts, Lavin's performance will be at the University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road in East Lansing. Tickets are \$25 for the general public, \$20 for Ten Pound Fiddle member and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the box office at 2 p.m. or online at tenpoundfiddle.org.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 7 p.m. City Hall, 259 Kent St., Portland. 517-647-5027. portland-michigan.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.

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.

Parkinson's Exercise: Yoga - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

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

“The Untethered Soul” 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.

Work It Out Wombats: Step It Out - 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.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

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 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.

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Williamston Theatre production makes case for God's existence

By **MARY CUSACK**

The title of Williamston Theatre's first production of 2025, "A Case for the Existence of God," might lead one to believe that this is a grandiose, preachy story that deals with deep theological debates. This may be a case of God being in the details, because this is a small, intimate story about two men who are trying to be good fathers, and- spoiler alert- God is neither in the cast nor the script.

Ryan (Ryan Patrick Welsh) is a factory laborer going through a divorce who desperately wants to give his daughter the stability he never had as a child. To achieve that, he wants to buy a piece of land that had belonged to his great-grandparents and build a home there.

Ryan meets mortgage broker Keith (Anthony Cason) at the daycare that their daughters both attend. Keith is a single, gay Black man who fostered

a baby with the intent of adoption, and as the plot unfolds he faces the potential of losing her.

The story takes place in Twin Falls, Idaho, a fittingly symbolic location as the men face similar situations and the threat of similar loss. Although they had very different upbringings, early on in their relationship Keith recognizes that the two men "share a specific kind of sadness." From that point on, they forge bonds as fathers whose deepest fears are losing their daughters.

When the play debuted at the Signature Theatre in New York in 2022, playwright Samuel D. Hunter said in an online interview that he wrote "Case" to address the question "how do we find space to hope" in a world where cynicism is easy. As a fairly new father himself, Hunter realized that

parents must have hope that there is a future for their children, and "Case" makes that case.

In real life do men share vulnerabilities like Ryan and Keith do? As a woman, I honestly do not know, but certainly it would be a brighter world if there were more relationships like theirs. "Case" is a balm against toxic masculinity because with Ryan, Hunter has created a straight male character who is not uncomfortable developing a friendship with a gay man.

Welsh and Cason are perfectly cast. Welsh has the physicality of a former high school jock turned working stiff, but he also has the acting chops to mesmerize the audience as he describes a close call with a mental breakdown. As a minority living in a small town, Cason's Keith is tightly bound physically, as if he is still avoiding the head smacks he might have gotten in school hallways 20 years ago. As he grows more comfortable with Ryan, though, he becomes increasingly animated and confident.

Kinza Parker has designed a fantas-



Chris Purchis

Keith (Anthony Cason) (left) and Ryan (Ryan Welsh) in the Michigan Premiere of "A Case for the Existence of God," by Samuel D. Hunter, at Williamston Theatre.

tic set, a tidy little corporate cubicle perfectly lit by Harley Miah's lighting design. The stage is elevated, a simulated office floating above the floor, giving the setting a feeling of isolation, mirroring Keith's and Ryan's own feeling of isolation. In their most intimate scenes the men sit at the edge of the stage, poised breathtakingly on both a real and an emotional precipice.

"A Case for the Existence of God"

Performances through March 16
2 p.m. Thursdays
7:30 p.m. Fridays
2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays
2 p.m. Sundays
Tickets start at \$44 (senior, military, under 30 and student discounts available)
Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
(517) 655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org

Review

Events

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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.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Dine & Discovery Workshop: Desi Flavors, with Chef Meghesh Pansari - Pansari will teach participants how to make chickpea curry and chicken makhani. 6 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/Allen-NeighborhoodCenter.

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

Michigan Birding 101: Spring 2025 - Join Michigan Sea Grant as we explore the wonderful hobby of birding in four FREE and FUN classes. 7-8 p.m. Virtual — register at bit.ly/MIBIRD25.

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.

Parkinson's Exercise: Balance, Conditioning and Strength - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

The Poetry Room Open Mic Presents: "Radical Love" - Share your words, thoughts and emotions with a supportive audience. Optional theme: love. Sign-ups begin at 7 p.m., event. runs 7:30-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom.

Reading in Translation, with Juliet Guzzetta - Join us for an immersive reading of Italian author and actor Giuliana Musso's "Dentro (Inside): A True Story, If You Think So." Excerpts of the play will be read by MSU Professor Juliet Guzzetta, co-starring Professor Helen Veit. 5:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.org.

Trivia at Lansing Shuffle - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4366. lansingshuffle.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 26

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.

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.

Broad Underground: Afro-Iran - Join us for a program and discussion about Blackness in the Persian Gulf, featuring screenings of "Black is Beautiful, Siyah Zibast" (2021) and "Waiting (1974)." 7 p.m. Wells Hall, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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: "A Little Devil in America," by Hanif Abdurraqib - 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

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.

Declutter Your Life - Heather, a professional decluttering expert, will discuss the decluttering process, target organizing and how to create functional spaces. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 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.

Ignite Talks MSU - The MSU Museum CoLab Studio presents the fourth edition of Ignite Talks MSU, featuring the fast-paced stories of 10 student research rockstars. 7 p.m. 311 Abbot Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/MSUMuseum.

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 - 7-11 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.

Lansing Roller Derby Adult Boot Camp - Four-month roller derby training course focused on developing skaters to their full potential, regardless of prior skill or experience. 2-4 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.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. iamcsangha.wordpress.com.

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'First Date' at Riverwalk offers warmth and fun in February

By VIC RAUCH

"First Date," a one-act romantic comedy, opened on a cold and snowy Valentine's Day Eve. The show took my mind off the world's uncertainties for 90 minutes, and it warmed my heart. It can warm yours, too, this Thursday through Sunday.

It's a musical, with seven people playing 26 characters on Riverfront Theatre's Black Box stage. Seamlessly, I must add. Kudos to them and director Crystal Carlson. The five-member band played to subtle perfection.

The audience response was infectious, with laughter and applause.

"First Date" is a meet-up of two mismatched New Yorkers in a neighborhood bar. The pub's staff is fully prepared to make the experience as positive as possible. At least they sing so.

Aaron, played by Jeff Kennedy, arrives first, nervous, wearing the stuffy suit and tie of his profession in banking and finance. Casey, Ny'Kiera Blocker, enters with flashy dress.

In their awkward banter, reinforced by freeze-frame interstices of song and dance — yes, even a chorus line — we begin to learn a whole lot more about Aaron and Casey than one would expect on a first date.

His life experiences have been limited by his Jewish upbringing. Chorus: "This isn't the girl for you — oy oy oy! This isn't the girl for you — goy goy goy!" Casey's lifestyle has been enhanced by openness to diversity and its potential pitfalls.

Those freeze-frame interludes are absolutely fitting and replete with irreverent lyrics. Especially delightful are the appearances of Brian Farnham as Reggie the Bailout Man, whose cellphone calls are ignored by Casey. Farnham also shows up as Aaron's "future son" and a British artist.

Without leaving the stage, the cast easily transformed into their various characters as voices in the couple's



Photo by Arinko Artistry

(From left) Storm Hawthorn, Jeff Kennedy and Ron Meyer performing in the musical "First Date" at Riverwalk Theatre's Black Box through March 16.

heads, thanks to props as simple as aprons, shawls and hats, along with changes in tone and demeanor. Storm Hawthorn didn't really need words for her role as Allison, but she really delivered.

And just watch Quentin Villa as the waiter, as Casey's Christian father, the imaginary Blaze, Twitter man and friendly therapist.

Review

"First Date"

Through Feb. 22
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.
Sunday, 2 p.m.
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
\$20-\$24
riverwalktheatre.com
(517) 482-5700

Carmen Zavala-Kelly is positively wow-inducing as Grandma Ida and Aaron's mother. Ron Meyer, Aaron's longtime friend is effective as his misguided conscience.

This show also delves into the effect of the internet. It's too tempting and too easy to search the

name of the date your friends arranged for you.

A few titles from the list provides clues to what "First Date" is all about: First Impressions, The Girl for You, The Awkward Pause, The World Wide Web Is Forever, The Bailout Song, I'd Order Love, The Things I Never Said, The Check! and Something That Will Last.

This was my first visit to the Riverwalk's Black Box. It's rows of chairs along one wall, the stage along the opposite wall. Intimate and interactional.

The experience reinforces my love of community theater. Regular local people stepping outside their daily lives and obligations to entertain friends and neighbors. As someone who played Charlie Cheswick in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at Riverwalk mainstage two decades ago, I applauded the new generations.



'Crime and Punishment'

Feb. 21-22, Feb. 28-March 1: 7 p.m.; Feb. 23 2 p.m.
Lansing Community College
Black Box Theatre, 11 N Grand Ave., Lansing

Marilyn Campbell-Lowe, who cowrote the stage adaptation of Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" with Curt Columbus, studied at Michigan State University and worked at the old Boarshead Theatre in Lansing. Their theatrical version has received numerous awards, including the Joseph Jefferson Award for best new adaptation (2003), the LA Drama Critics Circle Award for best adaptation (2009), and the L.A. Backstage Garland Award for best adaptation (2009). A 2007 New York Times review by Neill Genzlinger called the distillation of "Crime and Punishment" into a 90-minute play "a feat that rivals the construction of the Hoover Dam."

The play is directed by Lansing Community College Professor Andy Callis. It tells the familiar story of Rodion Raskolnikov, whose superiority complex leads him to justify murders that later haunt him.

The play's cast features only three actors, playing multiple roles. Student Simon Rebeck (pictured) portrays Raskolnikov, former student Will Millstein (pictured) plays detective Porfiry Petrovitch and student Camilla Trudell portrays the young prostitute Sonia and others.

Literary fanatics will appreciate the unique take on the Russian classic, while those who read the CliffsNotes in high school will appreciate this version's brevity.

Campbell-Lowe, who is attending theatre and humanities classes at LCC this week, will attend the opening night performance and participate in a talkback. Admission is free and reservations will not be taken.

Events

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The Natural World Through Poetry & Prose: A Reading - Through poetry and prose, writers Laura Apol, Jan Shoemaker and Mary Anna Kruch will share their ideas about and interactions with the natural world. 6:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Eipl.org.

Rollin Brummette Live at Williamston Roadhouse - Fresh off the boat from Nashville, Tennessee, Rollin brings you a wide variety of acoustic tunes and original music! 7 p.m. 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. facebook.com/williamston-roadhouse1.

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

Weaving the Web: Invocation - 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, Feb. 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.

"A Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.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.

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

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

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

Blood Drive: Delta Township Admin Building - Schedule your appointment at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Service) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Noon-5:45 p.m. 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/delta-township.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

Michigan-based Sports Bar chain Art & Jakes and I have something in common, aside from our love of seasoned french fries and carrot cake: We both do business in the state of Georgia. For those of you keeping track, which I understand is probably only my

parents at this point, your girl is a licensed attorney in Michigan, of course, but also in the Peach State, home of Julia Roberts, Elton John and the late Jimmy Carter. (If you don't believe me, Google it.)

Art & Jakes recently opened its newest Michigan location near the Eastwood Towne Center, atop the land that used to be Champps sports bar. The building was destroyed after allegedly being in such terrible condition that it was easier to tear down and rebuild. Doesn't that feel terrifyingly close to what's happening nationwide right now? Anyway, let's drown our dystopian fears in street tacos and steak tips.

On my first visit, I immediately set my sights on the roasted kale salad (\$15.95). I remember the days when kale was relegated to be a garnish on the Pizza Hut lunch buffet, but now I'm a fan of the dark, leafy green and have yet to meet a kale salad that I didn't love. This one was unique. The kale was roasted at high heat to achieve a bit of texture before being topped with the other salad components, in this case sliced cucumber, cherry tomatoes, red onion, grilled chicken, dried cranberries, feta and balsamic vinaigrette. I know most of you won't believe me, but this kale salad is the best thing on the menu. If you want to dip your toe into the kale salad pond and don't want to spend 10 minutes chewing each bite, try this one. I loved it.

On a return visit, I tried the fire-grilled Cobb salad (\$14.95), which left me crying for kale. The portion size can only be classified as "humongous," and the sheer amounts of bacon and blue cheese surely eradicated any purported health benefits. This was one dimensional for me, and I also wondered about the suspicious absence of any avocado.

For my next trick, I placed a large takeout order for a family dinner. We started with the New York steak bites appetizer (\$15.95), which was a good idea in theory. The menu promised thinly sliced New York strip steak on top of melted provolone cheese and toasted baguette, with a side of au jus for dipping. In actuality, the steak was cooked almost beyond recognition. The kids had a kids' cheese pizza (\$8.95), which was crispy, had a healthy amount of bubbly melted mozzarella and was, frankly, way better than any kids' pizza has been in the past. They also shared an order of chicken tenders and french fries (\$7.95), which elicited one of the most bourgeois comments my son has ever made when he said the fries were almost as good as the

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Art & Jakes finds success in healthier sports bar fare

ry, Lions fans), NBA All-Star Weekend and the start of MLB spring training, while March Madness is just on the horizon. But where to take in all the action?

Art & Jakes Sports Bar
2800 Preyde Blvd., Lansing
11 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Thursday
11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday
(517) 855-5000
artjakes.com

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

This time of year is always exciting for sports enthusiasts: February brings Super Bowl Sunday (sorry, Lions fans), NBA All-Star Weekend and the start of MLB spring training, while March Madness is just on the horizon.



Beverly

Sure, the comfort of my living room has an intoxicating allure, particularly in the seemingly never-ending onslaught of cold weather from Mother Nature and Jack Frost. Yet sometimes, one wants to feel like they're part of the crowd, even if they're not actually in attendance. Frosty beer mugs, strong and flavorful cocktails, and plenty of high-fives to go around — the sheer essence of a sports bar.

The Lansing sports bar scene is wide ranging. Some date back three quarters of a century. Some have passionate, local followings due to their close proximity to Michigan State University's campus. Others are established regional and national brands. This month's review highlights a Michigan-based chain in Art & Jakes, which occupies a completely renovated space near the Eastwood Towne Center that formerly housed Champps sports bar. Founded in Shelby Township in 2002, the chain has grown to five locations in southeast Michigan, plus one in Georgia, and the newest venture in Lansing.

Art & Jakes sees your sports bar vibes and raises the bet. I didn't get a full count of the number of televisions, but 90 doesn't sound inaccurate. The space is large, appropriately lit and modern enough without trying too hard. What struck me most about the ambience was that even during a recent Spartan basketball game, the noise level was still conducive to conversation. The staff is friendly, if not exactly attentive — on one visit, I waited an inordinate amount of time to be greeted and offered a beverage while seated at a sparsely populated bar. Team members seem to enjoy one another's company a bit more than taking orders or following up with customers because I also had to waive over a bartender to pay for my takeout order, even after the food arrived via another server.

What's surprising

Typical sports bar fare doesn't include the range of healthier options that Art & Jakes does. Most offer a version of a chef or Caesar salad with or without chicken, a couple of soups and maybe a wrap of some sort. Art & Jakes goes above and beyond with choices that impart flavor without damaging your diet.

First up was the Orchard Harvest salad with chicken (\$15.95), which is one of 10 salads on the menu. Sliced apples, dried cranberries, fresh-cut strawberries, blue cheese crumbles and candied pecans accompanied leafy greens. The fruit and cheese complimented one another well, but while the chicken was flavorful, it didn't exactly look very appealing, which caught me

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Bryan Beverly for City Pulse

The Memphis burnt ends at the new Art & Jake's sports bar near Eastwood Towne Center are melt-in-your-mouth tender, with a sauce that's sweet and tangy but not overpowering.

Remy and the chocolate bean

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Not everyone loves chocolate, but those who do feel it deeply. My son Remy is one of those people. For the last several years, he's been researching the process by which chocolate is created from raw cacao beans. So, when we arrived in Hawaii a few weeks ago, he was ready.

Within minutes of arriving at my friend Ken's lushly planted property, Remy had an oblong cacao pod gripped firmly in hand, freshly twisted from one of Ken's trees. He carried that pod around as he took stock of the location of Ken's other cacao trees, counting the ripe pods. Harvesting the

rest of them was complicated by the fact that Remy was now working one-handed since it never occurred to him to put down his original pod.

Long before he'd unpacked his suitcase, Remy had harvested roughly 20 more golden pods. Moving with the calm steadiness of an expert despite never having touched cacao in his life, Remy opened the pods by whacking them with a hammer and extracted the seeds, which were covered in a sweet, white, fruity pulp. He then asked Ken for a container in which to ferment the beans.

They decided on a sun-tea maker, into which they placed the pulpy beans before leaving them out in the sun to ferment. For the next few days, we enjoyed

the kombucha-like liquor that built up. It was fruity, alcoholic and decidedly non-chocolatey, despite being pure cacao.

Although Ken has a grove of cacao trees, he doesn't bother with the laborious chocolate-making process. Instead, he has a hack to turn the beans into a tasty snack. He simply places the individual cacao seeds on dehydrator trays, pulp and all, and dries them into a crisp. The pulp shrinks down and hardens into a sweet leather that encapsulates the seeds, adding just the right amount of sweetness to balance the bitterness of the cacao beans — to my taste, anyway. If I had cacao trees, I would probably do the same with my beans.

But Remy was laser-focused on the smooth, refined chocolate you find wrapped in bars, with zero interest in shortcuts or hacks. After several days of fermenting his beans, he dried and roasted them on cookie sheets in the oven, carefully stewarding them into a rich, Oreο-esque shade of brown. The transformation was impressive: The beans developed a rich and deeply chocolatey flavor that Ken's dehydrated beans lacked. Taking note of this, I began my own research project.

Since Remy had cleaned out Ken's ripe cacao pods, I visited a nearby self-serve farm stand and grabbed a few, with which I made a batch of Ken-style seeds with a twist. Before dehydrating them, I

tossed the seeds with sugar and vanilla. After dehydrating these seasoned cacao seeds, I roasted them to add that rich, dark, chocolatey flavor. At this point, they were perfect — a sweet, vaguely fruity and deeply chocolatey snack as crunchy as a corn flake.

Meanwhile, Remy was ready to grind his beans, but there was no cacao grinder in the house. So, he used Ken's coffee grinder, shaking it like a maraca as it spun to prevent a paste from building up and sticking to the bottom, out of reach of the blades. It was a generous move by Ken to allow him to use the coffee grinder, which was never the same, to put it mildly. Before that heroic little machine overheated and died, Remy managed to incorporate cocoa butter, sugar and powdered milk in his mixture and grind it into a state of smoothness that was probably as silky as we were going to get without a stone roller to slowly grind away at the beans for about 48 hours.

Our choco-tourist proceeded to spoon his mixture from the broken-down coffee grinder into a rubber ice cube tray and put it in the fridge to harden. A few hours later, we enjoyed some damn good chocolate.

If you want to try any of these DIY chocolate methods, finding cacao pods online is significantly cheaper than a trip to Hawaii. But you don't have to go to anywhere near those lengths in order to get creative with chocolate. Allow me to introduce my own hack that was created out of necessity one evening when I found myself needing chocolate but had only cocoa powder. I came up with a little



Photo by Ari LeVaux

You don't need to travel all the way to Hawaii to find cacao pods for your DIY chocolate experiments — buying them online is significantly cheaper.

recipe that's so simple and easy that I fear I might have to go into hiding after telling you this so the Hershey hitmen don't hunt me down.

I kid you not, people. All you do is combine cocoa powder, heavy cream and sugar — or the sweetener of your choice — and stir it until thick and smooth. You've essentially created an instant ganache, with way less effort and fewer dishes. Proportions don't matter because it's all to taste. If it's not sweet enough, add more sweetener. If it's too sweet, add more cocoa powder. If it's too thick, add more cream. If it's too thin, add more cocoa and sugar.

If you want to shape this divine paste into a cute animal, be my guest, but it will never be finger-friendly. This chocolatey goodness is definitely spoon material.



She Ate

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ones at the University Club pool. He further instructed me to write in my notes, "I give this a five-star french fry. Please, can I have way more!" (He is 7.)

Mr. She Ate had the steakhouse meatloaf (\$18.95), which was a thick, juicy slab of savory-as-hell meatloaf served with a mound of mashed potatoes, sauteed zucchini and red bell pepper. In a world obsessed with protein intake, get yourself a slice of meatloaf. It's cozy and comforting and is so much more fun to eat than cottage cheese. I love cottage cheese, for the record, but on that snowy night it would have hit differently.

I chose the shawarma chicken bowl (\$18.95) because I'm a total sucker for unexpected dishes

on the menu of a sports bar. I've come to realize recently that I love my chicken shawarma with pickles, and this version had plenty of them, along with lots of crisp cucumber and tomato. The garlic sauce was runnier and less potent than I'm used to, and the rice wasn't the typical Middle Eastern rice pilaf, but again, we're talking about a sports bar. The kale salad is still my clear winner, but the shawarma bowl is a solid option.

We also picked up a slice of the carrot cake (\$12.95), which was humongous. Think of it as a slab of multi-layer carrot cake. The cream cheese frosting was way too sweet for my preferences, which meant everyone else in my family loved it.

He Ate

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off guard. The raspberry vinaigrette was a lovely combination of sweet and tart.

Next, I tried the Island chicken (\$18.95), a stir fry packed with pineapple, broccoli, onion, red peppers and snap peas and topped with two coconut-crust chicken tenderloins. The tropical chicken flavor was stellar, yet the stir fry was missing something sweet, salty, citrusy or spicy. Add any of those as an additional layer of flavor and this dish would be out of sight. Next time, I'll try one of the ahi tuna options.

What's good

Of course, Art & Jakes still has plenty of the usual sports bar suspects: pizza, chicken wings, sammies, nachos and Midwestern favorites like fried pickles and pretzels. The new spot does these very well.

The Game Changer (\$15.95) is one of 10 burger options, topped with a yummy bacon jam, caramelized onions, Swiss cheese

and more bacon. My burger was cooked to a solid medium (though I always prefer to be asked how I like it cooked, which is medium rare), and the boost of flavor from the garlic aioli was quite pleasing.

Both the mozzarella sticks (\$10.95) and the three-cheese bread (\$13.95) were cheesy, greasy goodness and impressive portions to boot.

Best bite

I was stunned by how good the Memphis burnt ends (\$14.95) were. The chunky bites of smoked pork belly were melt-in-your-mouth tender, and the sauce was sweet and tangy but not overpowering. I only wished there were more of the pickled onions to provide balance and texture. The burnt ends are also served on top of the Detroit mac and cheese (\$20.95), which is made with cavatappi noodles and smoked cheddar cheese.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 CONEY DOGS

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

1. Dimitri's Restaurant

Cozy eatery offering a long menu of comfort-food staples for breakfast and lunch
6334 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
(517) 323-6867
dimitrislansing.com
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday-Monday
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

2. Fleetwood Diner

Retro diner serving homemade breakfast items, burgers, gyros, hot dogs and more
2211 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 267-7606
facebook.com/FleetwoodDiner

Open 24 hours Sunday-Thursday
7 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday

3. Nip N Sip Drive In

Old-school drive-through joint serving American classics like burgers, hot dogs, subs and shakes
2603 N. East St., Lansing
(517) 372-3734
10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday

4. Olympic Broil

Casual fast-food outpost with hefty burgers, Coney dogs, wraps and sandwiches
1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
(517) 485-8584
olympicbroil.com
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

5. Sparty's Coney Island

Old-timey diner known for Coney dogs and other American staples
300 N. Clippert St., Suite 5, Lansing
(517) 332-0111
spartysconeyisland.com
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday



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Friday 11AM-10:45PM
Saturday 11AM-10:30PM
Sunday 11AM-9PM

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE 2025-01 FIRE CODE UPDATE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Text Amendment #2025-01 – Fire Code Update

The Township Board at its regular meeting on February 4, 2025 approved for final adoption Ordinance 2025-01, an Ordinance amending the code of the charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County update the standards in Chapter 26 to meet the standards of the 2024 International Fire Code, with local amendments as outlined.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517.853.4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-057

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meridian.mi.us

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

D	E	C	K		D	I	S	C		E	B	B				
I	D	E	A		E	A	R	T	H		L	A	L	A		
S	I	N	N		M	I	M	E	O		I	C	E	D		
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				A	C	E	Y			C	R	I	S	P	S	
M	O	N	R	O	E			I	S	H	O	T				
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		D	A	S		E	D	G	E		K	E	E	N		

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

Warm up one spoonful at a time

This recipe for "Sweet Potato and Peanut Soup" from "The Culinary Institute of America Book of Soups" (Lebhar-Friedman Books) by The Culinary Institute of America is thick, creamy and full of savory flavor.

Sweet Potato and Peanut Soup

Makes 8 servings

3 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 celery stalk, coarsely chopped (about 1/2 cup)
1 onion, coarsely chopped (about 11/4 cups)

1 garlic clove, minced (about 1/2 teaspoon)
1/2 leek, white and light green parts, coarsely chopped (about 3/4 cup)
11/2 sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced 1/2-inch thick (about 3 cups)
1 quart chicken broth
3 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
1/4 cinnamon stick
11/3 cups heavy cream, divided
Salt to taste
2 tablespoons molasses
Freshly grated nutmeg, to taste

3/4 cup peanuts

Preheat the oven to 325 F. Melt the butter in a soup pot over medium heat. Add the celery, onion, garlic, and leek. Stir to coat. Cook, stirring frequently, until the vegetables are softened, 4 to 6 minutes.

Add the sweet potatoes, broth, peanut butter, and cinnamon stick. Bring to a simmer and cook until the potatoes are fully tender, about 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, spread the peanuts in a single layer in a pie pan. Toast the peanuts in the oven until light brown, 3 to 5 minutes. Shake the pan occasionally and

watch carefully (nuts can burn quickly). Let the peanuts cool, chop coarsely, and set aside.

Remove the cinnamon stick and discard. Puree the soup and strain it. Return the soup to the soup pot and place over low heat. Add 1/2 cup of the cream. Season with salt. Keep warm, but do not boil.

Combine the remaining cream with the molasses, nutmeg and a pinch of salt. Whip until stiff peaks form.

Serve the soup in heated bowls, garnished with the whipped cream and chopped nuts.

(Metro Creative)

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1328

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by amending Chapter 206 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances, Section 206.16, Preference for Local Bidders, to remove the upper threshold of \$1,000,000, and further clarify what bidders may have the opportunity to match the lowest qualifying bid from a non-Lansing bidder.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#25-050

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Zach Matthews on behalf of The Peoples Church located at 200 W. Grand River Avenue. The applicant is requesting installation of two 80"x66" louvered access panels on the north façade as well as four (4) mechanical units on the roof.

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

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

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

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

Amy Gordon
Interim City Clerk

CP#25-058

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

A Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, March 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, March 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#25-059

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Sponsored by Anne and Dale Schrader

Broccoli

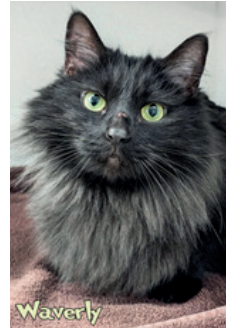
is a sweet, gentle boy who came to the shelter as a stray. He'd been with us before but this time his owner decided it would be best if she let him find a new home. He's a good boy who has lived with other dogs but isn't terribly playful so a calm easy-going friend would be best. He's a staff favorite (and he has the best ears!) and someone is going to get a great dog! We recently discovered that our best boy is heart worm positive. We'll take care of the treatment, but Broccoli would really like to recover in a home with his new family



Bubbles
Sponsored by Schuler Books

Bubbles

is a bouncy brittany/aussie mix teenager who came to us from another shelter. They didn't have much information for us, but they said she likes dogs and is very sweet. Her past is quite a mystery. She showed up at the other shelter missing an ear and I guess we'll probably never know what happened. We haven't had a chance to get her into playgroups yet so a meet and greet with resident dogs is recommended. If you are looking to add an energetic friend to keep you active to your life, Bubbles is ready to meet you!



Waverly
Sponsored by "The Fonz"

Waverly

and the other "butterfly" cats came to us from another shelter, so we don't know a lot about them yet. They said she is super sweet and very outgoing, and she has lived with children!



Maribel
In memory of Rodica's Cats

Maribel

and the other "butterfly" cats came to us from another shelter, so we don't know a lot about them yet. They said that Maribel came to them as a young mom with kittens. She can be a little shy and tends to hide in her box, but she is all purrs and enjoys attention if you sit with her. She needs a quieter home with gentle people. Although Maribel has been successfully living in a house some cats that are used to being allowed outside when they choose cannot adjust to life as an indoor only cat. Potential adopters wishing to make one of them an indoor pet, will need to be patient and to keep in mind that there could be potential behavior issues and that some cats never lose their desire to roam.

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