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January 24-30, 2024

A classic(al) garage band comes to Wharton

See Page 12



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CityPULSE

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New cannabis event company to host inaugural outings



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Takitos AF sets up shop in Lansing Shuffle




PAGE 23

While Texas grapefruit is in season, make a Thai salad


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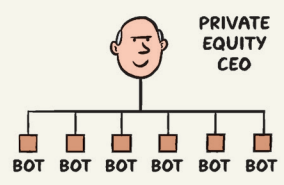
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

WELL IT'S OFFICIALLY PRIMARY SEASON--AND THE SUSPENSE IS PALPABLE!


WHO WILL BE THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE, AND HOW SOON WILL IT BE DONALD TRUMP?



BUT FIRST--THE QUESTION WE NEVER TIRE OF ASKING--WHAT TRULY MOTIVATES THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S SUPPORTERS?


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AS A SIMPLE, HARDWORKING, SALT-OF-THE-EARTH CONSERVATIVE--ARE YOU EVEN SLIGHTLY TROUBLED BY DONALD TRUMP'S LEGAL PROBLEMS, OR HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE JANUARY 6TH INSURRECTION?

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I SEE! AND OVERALL, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN MR. TRUMP'S ENDURING APPEAL TO KINDLY, GOOD-HEARTED FOLK SUCH AS YOURSELF?




EASY--HE HATES YOU ELITIST MEDIA SCUM AS MUCH AS I DO! NOT TO MENTION IMMIGRANTS AND MINORITIES! AND HIS VENGEANCE WILL BE MAGNIFICENT TO BEHOLD!

I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE ALL BEEN EXECUTED FOR TREASON!



HMMM, STILL NOT QUITE GETTING IT. IS IT HIS MAGNETIC CHARISMA? HIS LUXURIANT HAIR? OR MAYBE JUST ECONOMIC ANXIETY?

WE'LL KEEP TRYING TO FIGURE IT OUT--AFTER THESE MESSAGES!



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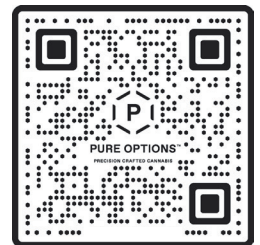
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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Lansing's Charter Revision Commission field set at 36 candidates

Voters will choose nine in a special election on May 7

Joan Bauer thought she was through with politics.

Bauer, a former state representative and Lansing City Council president, began to reconsider after Nov. 7, when Lansing voters approved a ballot proposal establishing a City Charter Revision Commission. Its nine members — out of the 36 who met Tuesday's filing deadline for the positions — will be chosen in a special election on May 7.



Bauer

"After it passed, I had a number of people encouraging me to run because of my experience. I had to give it a lot of thought, because I never planned on running again," Bauer said.

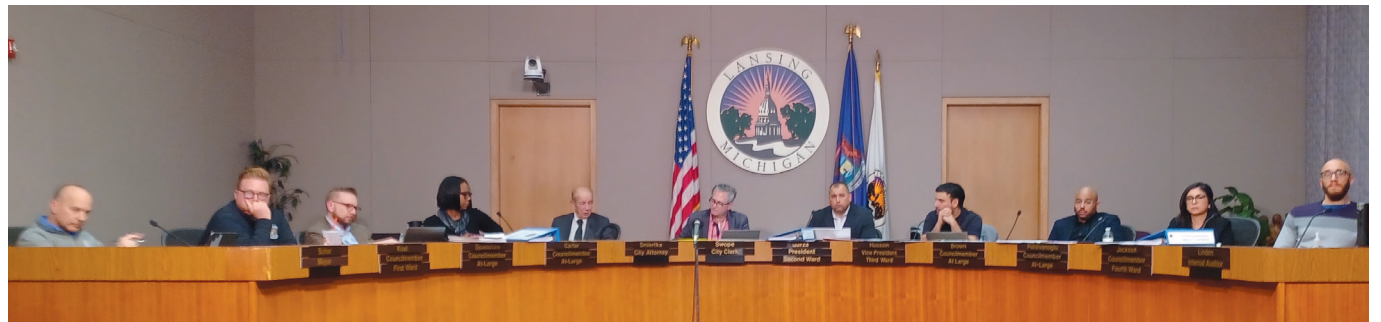
While the revision question has been on the ballot in Lansing every 12 years since 1978, it had never passed until last fall, when 51.6% of residents approved it.

Bauer said she didn't expect it to pass, but when it did, she viewed it as a unique opportunity to jump back into public service. She filed to run on Jan. 11.

"It's very important to me that we elect members who will give thoughtful consideration to all the issues, do the homework required to understand how the current charter works and be willing to research different models of governance, both in Michigan and nationally, that could better serve our residents," Bauer said.

Bauer isn't alone in the field of candidates to have in state or municipal government. It also includes lawyers, educators, journalists, community activists, two former bankers and a retired librarian.

The nine who are selected to serve on the commission will be given



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

It was business as usual at the Lansing City Council meeting on Monday night. But that could change with the creation of the Lansing City Charter Review Commission. Candidates in the 36-member field for the nine positions are already talking about big changes in how the city is run.

three years to draft a revised charter proposal. If Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signs off on it, it would then go back to voters for a final decision.

While the election is still months away, the discourse around potential changes is already in full swing. One of the more prominent suggestions has been to pivot away from the strong-mayor system to the city-manager system adopted by East Lansing and some 175 other municipalities in Michigan in some form.

In a strong-mayor system, the mayor is elected as chief executive and serves separate from the City Council, appoints department heads and a few other posts, subject to Council approval, and maintains veto powers.

In a city-manager system, the Council selects a member to serve as mayor. The mayor would then lead the Council, which hires a city manager and delegates responsibility to that person for operating the city.



Dykhuis

Randy Dykhuis, a retired librarian and the fourth candidate to file, echoed many of his opponents in stating that he'd keep his mind open to the idea, however unlikely it may be.

"If we made that change, we would have an unelected manager with diffuse accountability," he said. "As it stands now, if

we don't like the current leader, we have a chance every four years to replace him or her. That seems much more democratic to me."

In his mind, a shift in the structure of the City Council is much more plausible.

"Revamping City Council by establishing more wards and eliminating the at-large seats may give a more diverse group of people a chance to serve," Dykhuis said.



Lowry

Heath Lowry, a staff attorney at the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, agrees. "I'm really interested in making sure that the City Council structure is representative of the people. Part of that effort comes in balancing out the at-large seats with the ward-based seats," Lowry said. "Frankly, four wards just isn't enough award for a city of our size. That's a little over 25,000 people per ward. It's hard for a single individual to be able to represent that and beyond."



Jackson

Monte Jackson II, a real estate appraiser and attorney who has served on the city's Planning Commission since 2020, offered an alternative solution.

"It wouldn't be a bad idea to perhaps bump City Council up to nine members," he said. "That would ensure we don't have any ties and would also provide an additional opportunity for an at-large membership."



Knowlton

Tim Knowlton, a retired attorney who said he decided to file when he woke up the day before the deadline, seconded that take, but for a different reason.

"I do not like the current system where it takes three-fourths of the full Council to successfully overcome a mayoral veto, given the current charter states that a two-thirds vote is sufficient," Knowlton said.



Vandenboom

Knowlton also supported a move to ranked-choice voting in city elections. It's a position he shares with Julie Vandenboom, the first candidate to enter the race.

"There are some concerns about whether state law allows for ranked-choice voting. But, for me, I would support it if there's an appetite for it from the community," Vandenboom said.

Charter

from page 4



Smidt

Corwin Smidt, a political science professor at Michigan State University, isn't so sure. He said the evidence for ranked-choice voting has been less clear cut than some may believe. While he said he would support a shift to an odd number of Council members, he believes candidates should refrain from taking any hard stances this early.



O'Dell

Another candidate, Ted O'Dell, said the commission should take a closer look at how the city's various boards and commissions function. "At the very least, we need to debate and discuss the authority of some of the city's standing commissions," he said. "One example is the Board of Water & Light. While it's been my experience that it works very

well for the Greater Lansing area, I've heard some people talk about wanting to look at that structure to make sure it is the most efficient way to go."

The field suffered from a noticeable lack of diversity up until last week, when several candidates of color threw their hats into the ring.



Simon

Lori Adams Simon, a DEI director at Sparrow Health System and a former state legislative aide, signed on, in part, to look at the charter from an equity standpoint.

"I will be focused on making sure that the charter contains inclusive language and outdated terminology, unintended biases, and defunct agencies are removed from the Charter. Suggestions I've heard are revamping Lansing's form of government and streamlining city departments and agencies," Simon said.

Aside from tweaking the charter's language, any number of smaller changes could be in store.

"My belief is a lot of the procedures and systems that we have in place right now do work to a great extent," Jackson said. "I'd just like to see a

few smaller-to-medium changes that would make things more efficient and promote more transparency for the public."

Bauer agreed.

"At the end of the day, it might be minor, or there may be some major changes," she said. "My hope is that the charter commissioners will go in with an open mind and not go in with any preconceived agendas."

Here is a list of candidates by ZIP code:

48906

Ben Dowd
Muhammad A. Qawwee II
Julie Vandenoorn
Jody Washington
Keith Williams
Ross Yednock

48910

Jesse Lasorda
Guillermo Z. Lopez
Erica Lynn
Derek Melot
Jerry Norris
Stephen Purchase
Justin Sheehan
Stan S. Shuck

Lori Adams Simon
Miranda Swartz
Simon Terhaar
Nicklas W. Zande

48911

Elizabeth Driscoll Boyd
Brian Jeffries
Mitch Rice
Corwin Smidt
Jason Wilkes

48912

Jazmin Anderson
Dedria Humphries Barker
Michele K. Fickes
Britt Houze
Douglas VanBuren Mulkey

48915

Tim Knowlton
Heath B. Lowry
Ted O'Dell

48933

Randy Dykhuis
Monte D. Jackson II

The following individuals did not give addresses:
Layna Anderson
Joan Bauer
Samuel Klahn

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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY TYLER SCHENIDER FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Lansing opened its new election office at 1221 Reo Road Thursday with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Formerly an elementary school, the Reo Voting Center is one of two places where voters can cast early ballots. The Lansing School District building offers space for training election workers and processing ballots. State funding, including a \$1 million investment

announced by Sen. Sarah Anthony, D-Lansing, will help cover infrastructure and other early voting costs, said Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope. Lansing's other early voting location is the Foster Community Center on Foster Avenue.

Planning is underway to commemorate the Feb. 13 mass shooting at MSU, Interim President Teresa Woodruff said.

Most classes will be canceled on the anniversary, but the university will stay open to support students and the community. A student organization-sponsored day of service and an evening remembrance are among events being planned, and a committee is working on a permanent memorial.



The Eaton County Sheriff's Office named Garrett Freeman, 33, of Roxand Township as the man shot and killed by one of its deputies Jan. 11.

A memorial service was held for Freeman on Monday in Charlotte.

The Michigan State Police continue to investigate the shooting, with the deputies involved on administrative leave but unidentified. Freeman, who was shot after he allegedly saw a gun, was pronounced dead at Sparrow Hospital. Deputies had been searching for a white male, believed to be armed and dangerous, and found Freeman near Sunfield.

Lansing Community College's trustees selected Terry Frazier, Ronald Gillum, Becky Brewer and Noel Garcia, Jr. Monday to interview for replacing Andrew Abood and Ryan Buck, who stepped down Jan. 1.

Interviews are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Monday. The two appointees will fill out the remaining terms, which end Dec. 31. The openings attracted 25 applicants.



East Lansing firefighters put out a house fire on Cresenwood Road Friday, the second time they had done so at the same home over two months.

They were called after smoke was seen coming from the home at 3:20 a.m. No one was home, and no injuries were reported. No other details were

released. Firefighters had responded to the same house for a kitchen fire in late November, according to the release, which also reminded residents to test and, if necessary, replace smoke detectors.



A mixed-use building development planned for the corner of Pleasant Grove and Holmes roads in Lansing has been shelved, WLNS.com reported Thursday.

The project, a partnership with developer and MSU Trustee Joel Ferguson and Ferguson Development with an investment of \$13.8 million, was set to include housing and commercial space. It was to be built on the site of Pleasant Grove Elementary School, which the late Malcolm X attended as a youth. Completion was planned for this summer, but Ferguson Development did not renew a purchase agreement, officials said.

Lansing Branch NAACP President Harold Pope wrote a letter to the East Lansing City Council that was critical of its Nov. 14 vote for mayor pro tem.

The Council voted 3-2 for Kerry Ebersole Singh, a white candidate who had just been elected to her first term, over Dana Watson, a Black incumbent who served in that role in 2021. Pope said the decision was "an exercise, at its finest, of some people using their privilege and bias, plain and simple" and condemned the Council for "voting for a less qualified white female candidate with no experience serving in any capacity for the city" over Watson, whose "experience as a public servant is unquestionable."



Lansing Police released footage from a non-fatal officer-involved shooting that occurred Jan. 10.

The video, available on YouTube, shows multiple officers running toward a white 2014 Chevrolet Cruze parked at a

home in the 300 block of West Saginaw Street. The officers can be heard telling the suspect and driver, Zachary Duling, to show them his hands before Duling tried to back the car out of the driveway. Duling then pulled the car forward and struck Officer Robert Olson, after which several shots were fired. Duling fled the scene but was arrested the next day with minor injuries.

Public Safety:

A 23-year-old unnamed Lansing man was arrested Friday on charges related to the Jan. 12 shooting death of Israel Temple, 24, of Battle Creek. The Battle Creek Police Department said it identified him during its investigation, then located and arrested him in Lansing. ... The Clinton County Sheriff's Office confirmed Thursday that Danny Lee Valasek, who was involved in a standoff for several hours on Wednesday with deputies at a Victor Township home, was apprehended.



Capital Area District Libraries Bookmobile

When you see Capital Area District Libraries' new mobile children's library driving around town, give a hats off to Alpena artist Elisa Chavarri. Chavarri, who graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design, has become a noted illustrator of children's books. Most recently, she illustrated a Little Golden Book biography of superstar Taylor Swift.

The book is 24 pages and provides a mini-biography of the singer-entrepreneur, and Swifties have gobbled it up. It was originally published in May 2023 and immediately sold more than 170,000 copies. Its sales have since surpassed 1 million copies, with no end in sight.

Chavarri designed a colorful 25th anniversary poster for CADL, and that artwork appears on the back of the van, which can be seen around town stopping at Head Start programs and daycare centers.

The children's van was one of two purchased to replace an aging mobile library. The second van is for adults.

For the side of the children's van, Chavarri illustrated a bright, shiny sun reading a book, with a young blonde girl reading along. Some might see a preteen Swift in the picture, but that's only speculative.

- 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.

Whitmer doesn't want Dems hidin' from Biden as November presidential election approaches

It's the weekend before her sixth State of the State address, and what is Gov. Gretchen Whitmer doing?

Holding a reproductive rights rally to prop up President Joe Biden and other Democrats on the ballot in November. Talking to CBS' "Face the Nation" about not electing Republicans who are eyeing a national abortion ban.

What else would she be doing?

In case you haven't noticed, 2024 is a campaign year. The president's numbers are in the tank. Motivation among Democrats is pretty low. Why not call in "that woman from Michigan" to pound on an issue that motivated female voters in 2022?

After all, Whitmer's approval ratings in Michigan are still over 50%. As the co-chair of Biden's sputtering reelection campaign, she's a fine candidate to inject some juice into the fuel tank.

She made national news in the process by saying it "would be good" if Biden were more vocal on this pressing issue for many Democratic voters. Wow! Pressing the commander in chief? That raised some eyebrows.

As it turned out, the Biden campaign released a 60-second ad the next day that focused on how "Trump's Supreme Court justices ripped away reproductive freedom and threatened the health of women all over the country."

Michigan voters took care of the issue in 2022 by enshrining abortion rights in the state constitution. Women in the South and other conservative states don't have the same access.

What would happen if former President Trump were to return to the White House while Republicans controlled the House and Senate?

Whitmer doesn't want the country to find out.

Democrats need to motivate their voters and prevent panic. Earlier this month, the Glengariff Group reported that in Michigan, Trump is up 8% over Biden in a hypothetical rematch. Days later, a Target-Insyght poll for MIRS and the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance showed Biden up on Trump by four points, 45% to 41%.

How could both be true?

The difference comes down to the presumed universe of voters the polling firms believe will show up in 2024. Glengariff is presuming at least a slightly suppressed Democratic turnout

based on current motivation levels.

Target-Insyght is projecting numbers closer to 2020 and 2022.

Yes, Democrats are "hidin' from Biden" right now. They're wishing for a better option than a tottering 81-year-old. Gavin Newsom? Michelle Obama? What about Whitmer?

But it's looking less and less like plan B will be necessary. If that's the case, Democrats will vote for Biden because they fear a Trump second term that much, said Ed Sarpolus of Target-Insyght.

Look at these polling numbers. Among Michigan Republican voters, 13% have a favorable opinion of Biden, and 84% have an unfavorable opinion of him. Among Michigan Democratic voters, 6% have a favorable opinion of Trump, and 91% have an unfavorable opinion of him.

Democrats hate Trump more than Republicans hate Biden. It's as simple as that.

Michigan has proven in prior national elections that if Democrats show up to the polls, Democrats win. Republicans and Trump MAGA types show up regardless.

To get Democrats motivated, someone has to touch on the issues they find important. Target-Insyght found that abortion is the second-biggest issue after climate change.

Whitmer is ready to go another round on the subject, and why not? It's not as if she can get anything done with the Legislature right now anyway.

Michigan House Speaker Joe Tate, D-Detroit, can't find any common ground with Republican leader Matt Hall as that chamber gridlocks at 54-to-54 until late April at the earliest.

Once two new Democrats jump on board, it'll be budget crafting time, so little is getting done then. After the budget is summer recess. After summer recess is a month of minimal legislative activity until the October campaigning break. Then it's Election Day!

Maybe something of substance gets done in the lame-duck period, but first things first for Whitmer and the Democrats. They have a fairly unpopular president they need to drag to victory.

Whitmer is getting a head start in doing exactly that.

(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol newsletter MIRS at melinnky@gmail.com.)



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

Phillips' cover story 'puff piece'

As a long-time reader of City Pulse, I've always considered Kyle Melinn as someone who enjoys being cantankerous but is essentially harmless. However, his centerfold puff piece on Dean Phillips (Jan. 10), coming on the heels of his misguided one-sided attack on Michigan's extremely successful redistricting reform, has forced me to conclude that he in fact intends to sabotage the Democratic Party. Melinn's glowing portrayal of Phillips repeats the same platitudes being used by Republicans to attack Biden (inflation, the southern border) without any context of how Biden has brought the inflation rate down considerably, while posting absolute record job growth and record-high stock markets, nor any mention of how it is Republicans that are deliberately blocking any increased funding for southern border protection in order to keep the issue alive. (If Melinn had wanted to make this article more balanced and less of a puff piece, he could simply have followed his re-statement of Phillips' arguments about "many Americans are struggling" with something like: "Of course, Biden supporters will counter with facts about Biden's record job creation and reduction in unemployment rates".) How ironically revealing that the

Letter to the editor

article features Gene McCarthy's 1968 run against Lyndon Johnson, since that effort gave us Richard Nixon, something that Melinn somehow fails to mention in the article. Now that I see the big "front page" coverage and huge two-page centerfold treatment of this Phillips campaign promotional material, I have to question the motivation of City Pulse management and ownership. The 2024 election is as serious as a heart attack. We cannot afford to play around with a McCarthy-type political game this year.

I can appreciate the notion of having an article about a potentially newsworthy subject, such as Dean Phillips' unusual run for the nomination. However, I found the article to be unabashedly favorable to Phillips, and neglecting what is actually likely the most "important" aspect of his run (since he has absolutely no chance of winning), which is the very real risk that efforts like his and/or the various third-party efforts will perhaps inadvertently (or deliberately in the case of some billionaire-funded third-party discussions) lead to a Trump victory. I would think that noting and discussing that aspect would be an important part of covering the "Dean Phillips story."

Martin Kushler
Wixom

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**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR THE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:
Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

For the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

- President of the United States (Democratic)
- President of the United States (Republican)

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their local clerk, the office of their county clerk, a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at www.Michigan.gov/vote and mailed to or dropped off at the office of the local clerk. Any qualified elector that has a Michigan Driver's License or Personal ID can also register to vote at www.Michigan.gov/vote. Voters who are already registered may update their voter registration at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk's Office is **Monday, February 12, 2024**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours January 18 – February 23
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm
Lansing City Clerk – Reo Elections Office	1221 Reo Rd. Lansing, MI 48910	Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm Wednesdays 8am – 7pm

Additional times outside of the above listed regular business hours are as follows:

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Monday February 26 8am – 4pm Election Day February 27 7am – 8pm
Lansing City Clerk – Reo Elections Office	1221 Reo Rd. Lansing, MI 48910	Monday February 26 8am – 4pm Saturday February 24 9am – 5pm Sunday February 25 9am – 5pm Election Day February 27 7am – 8pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required. The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have an application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above tables or by visiting our website at lansingvotes.gov.

Friday, February 23, 2024 at 5:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, February 26, 2024 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, February 27, 2024, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC
Lansing City Clerk
Phone: 517-483-4131
Email: city.clerk@lansingmi.gov
Website: www.lansingvotes.gov
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#24-363

**ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP, EATON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

The Planning Commission of Oneida Charter Township will conduct a public hearing on February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oneida Township Hall, 11041 Oneida Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. The purpose of the hearing is to consider and hear public comment concerning an amendment to the Oneida Charter Township Zoning Ordinance to update regulations pertaining to parking restrictions.

A copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment is available for inspection at the office of the Zoning Administrator Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. or by appointment and will also be available for inspection at the public hearing. Written comments will be received by the Township at the Township Hall prior to the public hearing or at the public hearing. Oral comments may also be made at the public hearing during the allotted time.

Oneida Charter Township will provide auxiliary aids or services to individuals with disabilities. Persons needing such services should contact the office of the Township Clerk by writing or calling the Township Clerk not less than four (4) days before the public hearing.

Published by Order of the Planning Commission
Oneida Charter Township, Eaton County, Michigan

Jacqueline H. Kilgore
(517) 622-8078

CP#24-364

**COUNTY OF INGHAM
2023/2024 TENTATIVE RATIOS AND TENTATIVE FACTORS PREPARED
BY DEPARTMENT OF EQUALIZATION & TAX MAPPING**

Unit	Real Property												Personal Property	
	Agricultural		Commercial		Industrial		Residential		Timber-Cutover		Developmental		All Classes	
	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor
ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	51.72	0.9668	50.09	0.9982	47.76	1.0469	44.51	1.1234	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
AURELIUS TOWNSHIP	44.42	1.1256	49.77	1.0000	45.76	1.0927	44.63	1.1203	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	50.60	0.9882	51.46	0.9716	48.95	1.0214	44.85	1.1148	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP	47.08	1.0620	48.46	1.0318	47.81	1.0458	45.24	1.1052	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
INGHAM TOWNSHIP	48.77	1.0252	40.52	1.2340	NC	NC	44.55	1.1223	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
LANSING CHARTER TOWNSHIP	NC	NC	50.31	0.9938	48.92	1.0221	44.70	1.1186	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
LEROY TOWNSHIP	47.52	1.0522	49.68	1.0000	48.09	1.0397	41.37	1.2086	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
LESLIE TOWNSHIP	43.23	1.1566	46.85	1.0672	47.86	1.0447	44.55	1.1223	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
LOCKE TOWNSHIP	39.22	1.2749	49.37	1.0000	49.79	1.0042	49.37	1.0000	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP	NC	NC	48.60	1.0288	47.39	1.0551	45.09	1.1089	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
ONONDAGA TOWNSHIP	43.82	1.1410	47.44	1.0540	48.99	1.0206	43.06	1.1612	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	48.11	1.0393	47.57	1.0511	48.68	1.0271	46.87	1.0668	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
VEVAY TOWNSHIP	37.73	1.3252	49.25	1.0000	45.34	1.1028	44.80	1.1161	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	57.96	0.8627	47.50	1.0526	48.83	1.0239	44.77	1.1168	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	47.25	1.0582	44.53	1.1228	39.07	1.2798	41.28	1.2112	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP	41.39	1.2080	48.41	1.0329	48.69	1.0269	46.16	1.0832	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF EAST LANSING	NC	NC	48.36	1.0339	49.88	1.0024	45.21	1.1060	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF LANSING	NC	NC	49.05	1.0000	45.90	1.0893	44.03	1.1356	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF LESLIE	NC	NC	44.40	1.1261	48.88	1.0229	43.08	1.1606	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF MASON	NC	NC	49.16	1.0000	48.65	1.0278	45.45	1.1001	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF WILLIAMSTON	60.33	0.8288	45.33	1.1030	49.35	1.0000	44.90	1.1136	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000

These Tentative Ratios and Estimated Factors are published in compliance with PA 165 of 1971 [MCL 211.34a(1)]. These figures are temporary in character and are intended to be informative in nature as of the third Monday in February. Local assessing units and board of review activities may significantly change the tentative figures. Finalized Ratios and Factors will result from the activity of the local units and through Equalization procedures. The recommended Tentative Ratios and Estimated Factors shall not prejudice the Equalization procedures of Ingham County or the State of Michigan.

Rosemary Anger MMAO GISP, Director
Ingham County Department of Equalization/Tax Mapping

CP#24-366

Goodbye Gabriels Community Credit Union and hello MSUFCU

By JOAN NELSON

The east side is losing a full-service credit union. Not just any credit union. Gabriels Community Credit Union had been an integral part of this community, offering a banking experience much different from the increasingly impersonal and mechanized exchanges happening elsewhere. Gabriels has merged with MSU Federal Credit Union, which will not shutter the space but rather provide a limited set of financial services and community engagement activities there.

A little background: On Jan. 1, Gabriels, a fixture in this quadrant of Lansing, officially merged with MSUFCU. According to all accounts, this was a merger brought about by the unsustainable position in which Gabriels found itself. Without a merger partner, Gabriels might very well have ceased operations.

While many of us genuinely appreciated MSUFCU stepping up, we were disappointed when MSUFCU announced it will close Gabriels at 1901 E. Michigan Ave. on Feb. 29. It turns out, though, that this is not the case. On Friday, MSUFCU's president and CEO, April Clobes, disclosed that she expects her board to approve her plan for continued use of the space, albeit not as a full-service branch.

I'll get to those plans in a moment, but first a grateful acknowledgement of Gabriels' many community-building contributions over the past 63 years.

Founded in 1957 by Church of the Resurrection parishioners, Gabriels became even more of a neighborhood asset when, in the early 2000s, then CEO Dan Dowsett petitioned state regulators to allow Gabriels to become a "community credit union" open to all tricity residents. The neighborhood signed up. Unsurprisingly, the primary membership of Gabriels lives in 48912 (the east side), while the second largest group is in 48910.

During his 22 years at the helm ending in 2020, Dowsett developed deep connections to many groups, including previously "unbanked," low-moderate income residents. He courted many nearby businesses and nonprofits, including Allen Neighborhood Center, on whose board he served for a decade. Dowsett also spent years working with the large Lansing Sudanese population and other new Americans to, as he put

it, "build trust in the institution."

About 2,700 members regularly utilized this accessible, walkable institution in the heart of the east side. Indeed, Gabriels has been part of a "15-minute neighborhood," offering face-to-face, human-scale interactions valued by many.



Opinion

Needless to say, some of the diverse constituent groups that made up Gabriels' loyal members are a little nervous about the fast-moving change, first announced in November and expected to be completed by March 1. However, the promise of a continuing MSUFCU presence at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Horton Street offers some reassurance.

Many were no doubt relieved to learn last Friday, as City Pulse reported, that MSUFCU intends to transform the space to provide limited services to the community. The branch will still close Feb. 29 because it will take several months to plan and design space that will include a video teller: a real person, though one with whom you are interacting via a screen, who can do transfers, loan payments, cash deposits, check deposits, cash withdrawals, and account inquiries. Basically, an ATM machine plus a teller as needed.

Clobes noted that additional offerings at the former Gabriels site might include access to financial literacy education and specialized counseling as well as engagement activities, such as events featuring new businesses from the maker and incubator-rich Lansing community. Clobes' model for this might be the recently announced community engagement space that MSUFCU is creating in the MSU Union. If you have other ideas about the potential use of the space, Clobes has invited you to send them to her.

My personal recommendation to MSUFCU is: Maintain a full-service credit union on the site; you won't be disappointed. Short of that, open a micro-branch, like the five that Clobes said MSUFCU is opening in Chicago this year with two in-person staffers to provide face-to-face assistance.

MSUFCU is a good fit for the east side, and it will find great potential for good work and growth here. Indeed, there is a significant MSU presence already in 48912. Data generated by MSU since 2018 suggests that outside of East Lansing, the east side is one of the most dense graduate and undergraduate student pockets in the region. Data also suggests a substantial num-

ber of MSU faculty and staff live here — people who will appreciate a credit union branch close to home.

The east side is a transformative and vibrant community. There are robust housing and health initiatives, community art projects and youth development programs coming out of the neighborhood's dynamic nonprofit and civic community. MSUFCU has been a generous donor to some of these organizations; they may see opportunities for deepening these community partnerships, now that they have had the good fortune to acquire an eastside site.

Our economically, ethnically and racially diverse neighborhood has a rich history of community improvement, from its days as a part of the Model Cities Program in the 1970s; to being a pilot for a new concept called community policing in the '80s; to tackling social determinants of health via the Eastside Health Summit in the '90s; and today through work done by community development agencies and roughly 20 organized neighborhood groups. Half of the occupants of roughly 8,500 eastside homes are homeowners, while the other 50% are renters (who traditionally have become home buyers and mortgage holders). Decades ago and before it was a thing, the east side was a welcoming community to our LGBTQ neighbors,



refugees and immigrants from dozens of nations, and to people of many faiths and beliefs.

We know that MSUFCU has much to offer this community, just as we offer fertile ground for a credit union truly invested in community improvement and partnership. I welcome MSUFCU and am looking forward, with cautious optimism, to supporting its efforts in its new digs.

(Joan Nelson is the retired founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center. He next column will appear March 7.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Region 6 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan

The **Capital Area Transportation Authority** – in conjunction with the **Michigan Department of Transportation** and the **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission**, including Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties – invites all members of the public to review and provide feedback regarding the draft **Region 6 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan**. Public feedback is welcome during CATA's Local Advisory Council meeting **Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.** The meeting will be hosted by CATA at **4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910**.

The Coordinated Plan is the region's blueprint for planning, funding and coordinating strategies that serve people with disabilities, older adults and low-income residents. It is a federal requirement under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Plan aims to identify transportation gaps faced by transportation-disadvantaged populations; establish priorities for funding decisions; and focus on a broad range of mobility strategies to improve coordination among public transit agencies and human services transportation providers. To remove barriers to public transportation and address transportation gaps, the plan is periodically updated to consider the evolving transportation needs of these communities.

View the Region 6 Coordinated Plan draft by KFH Group and at bit.ly/Region6Plan, or scan the QR code below. KFH Group comprises transit industry professionals who are dedicated to providing consulting assistance to local, state and federal organizations to improve public transportation services. You are also welcome to ask a friend or advocate to submit comments on your behalf.

Public feedback regarding the draft Plan is also welcome at future Listening Bus sessions. The 2024 Listening Bus schedule and feedback form are available at cata.org/ListeningBus.

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. March 8, 2024, to be considered.

For the latest updates about CATA, follow facebook.com/rideCATA and twitter.com/rideCATA.



CP#24-362



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An evolving community

Evolve Theatrics has weathered its share of storms, but it's keeping afloat

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

From its beginnings as a small children's theater company to producing sold-out musicals, Evolve Theatrics has outgrown venue after venue over the past two decades. But it's had its share of tragedy, too. In the past five years alone, it's weathered two major shifts: a global pandemic and the suicide of co-founder Dan Southwell in 2021. Formerly known as the Blue Light Players from its founding in 2005 until 2020, which stemmed from its mission to raise money for the families of fallen and seriously injured law enforcement officers, Evolve takes its name from the community's ability to stay current and stay together.

In summer 2020, during the global uprising for Black lives, Southwell and his wife, co-founder Helen Hart, decided to rethink the Blue Light Players' name and mission. Although it had donated more than \$35,000 to families of fallen police officers, public opinion was shifting.

Hart said the impetus for the re-branding came from conversations with her husband and theater community.

"We had to look at ourselves as an organization, what we stand for, what our values are, and put ourselves behind those values," she said. "Whether they're popular with everybody, they're not always going to be. But we've always prided ourselves on being an open and affirming group. We felt we needed to change, so we did."

A statement on the group's website reads, in part, "Like the rest of the country, we have been deeply shaken by the violence we have witnessed because of institutional racism within the criminal justice system and within our communities. We realized that we could no longer continue to support that system."

When asked about the impact of changing the company's name and mission, Hart said, "We were very concerned that we would lose cast members, but we wanted to make sure that we were listening to our community. Our community is the Lansing community, and I think the Lansing community knew the dif-



Courtesy of Evolve Theatrics

The cast of Evolve Theatrics' production of "Chicago," which runs 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the First Christian Church of Lansing.

ference between right and wrong."

Actor Marty Snitgen enrolled his daughter in an Evolve summer camp a few years ago, but before long, he was performing in the shows alongside her.

"She played Matilda in 'Matilda,'" he said. "Watching her in that role, it was hard for me not to tear up while I was on stage. I was just so proud of her."

The company's production of "Chicago," which runs 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday (Jan. 26 and 27) at the First Christian Church of Lansing, is his fifth full show with Evolve, but he's also done two cabarets and an online show.

"My daughter and I have been in every single one of those together, except for this one," he said. "Being involved has done wonders for my mental health and boosted my confidence. Everyone involved — cast, crew and the audience — provides such positive and supportive feedback. They make me feel valued and capable of achieving anything."

Andrew Muylle, Evolve's new artistic director, joined the board last summer, but he was introduced to the group as a middle schooler. In the past few years, he's been in three productions with the company and is the choreographer for "Chicago."

He echoed Snitgen's sentiments.



Courtesy of Helen Hart

Evolve Theatrics co-founders Helen Hart and Dan Southwell (right) with sons Philip Franke (left) and John-Weston Franke and daughter-in-law Lilly Conklin in 2017.

"Evolve just draws these really wonderful people. They're receptive, they're creative and they're talented," he said. "You can't do theater without people, and there's just so much kindness here."

But it's not a total love fest. Both Muylle and Snitgen remarked that Hart runs tight rehearsals. She's known for being efficient — "uber-organized," according to Muylle. That kind of respect for others and their time is often seen as the hallmark of a true theater professional. But Hart doesn't have a professional arts background. She worked in information technology for many years, and she met Southwell through performing in community theater.

Southwell was a former law enforcement officer and firefighter. As a trained counselor to law enforcement professionals, he responded to traumatic incidents to help fellow officers emotionally process horrific events. He was even sent to New York City after the 9/11 terrorist attacks to counsel police and firefighters. In 2021, he took his own life.

"I think there are people who probably still don't know," Hart said of her husband's suicide. "But we're not trying to hide what happened. If you don't talk about suicide, then people don't realize that somebody

can be very functioning, look great, seem great, but have this happen. I think it's very important to have those conversations so that people get help and there isn't a stigma attached to it."

Muylle looks back fondly on working with Southwell during his early days with Evolve.

"I always saw him and Helen as a really strong team. They worked really well together, and they had a clear vision. It was devastating when he died. I think he was really down to earth and liked to take care of the people around him."

Hart credits the community that she and Southwell built together with helping her through this new era of her life and Evolve. She said that when she learned of her husband's death, "The first thing I did was call my stage manager and said, 'Hey, I need help.' The theater community rallied around me, they came and performed at the funeral and all those sorts of things. Since my husband and I were the leaders of the organization, I've had to find new people to help fill different roles and be all of the support system I need."

The Ax and how to swing it

Emanuel Ax, Yo-Yo Ma and Leonidas Kavakos bring star power to Wharton Center



Photo by Nigel Perry

From left: cellist Yo-Yo Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax and violinist Leonidas Kavakos will share their “Beethoven for Three” concept with audiences at the Wharton Center on Wednesday (Jan. 31).

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma loves to call it a “garage band.”

Some garage. Hey, isn’t that a 1734 Stradivarius violin between the rusty can of paint and the Big Wheels?

The superstar trio of Ma, pianist Emanuel Ax and violinist Leonidas Kavakos, coming to the Wharton Center on Wednesday (Jan. 31), is a rare convergence of talent, passion and — yes — garage-band spontaneity and rapport.

At the nucleus of the trio is Ax’s long musical friendship with Ma.

“Yo-Yo and I have been playing together for 53 years now,” Ax said. He’s 74; Ma is 68. “We’re like an old married couple. Leonidas is a more recent acquaintance, but we so love being with him and working with him.”

This is not a laid-back, greatest-hits retrospective. Ma is on a lifelong crusade to show the healing power of music, whether the venue is a palace in Vienna, the parking lot of a hospital under COVID lockdown, the rim of the Grand Canyon or the sands of the Kalahari Desert. Ax is a firm ally, although he likes to needle his friend now and then.

“I admire him unreservedly,” Ax said. “There’s no one more wonderful whom I can think of than Yo-Yo.”

Despite Ax’s worldwide fame and many musical accomplishments, he still practices numerous hours a day and piles more new and difficult works into his repertoire each year.

“For me, personally, music is incredibly inspiring,” he said. “It really is my religion. The fact that it’s entertaining doesn’t take away from that.”

But the third week of December, before taking off for Europe to play with two major orchestras, Ax suffered a slight setback. After watching a few too many Jacques Pépin cooking shows, he got carried away with a mandolin — the kitchen tool, not the musical instrument.

“I was cutting eggplant with a mandolin and cut the tip of my finger,” he said. “I’m not going to be practicing for about four days now. It’s an enforced vacation.”

He used some of that downtime to share a few thoughts on his long friendship with Ma, the impetus for the current tour with the trio, his amazement at the “good fortune” he’s enjoyed in life and much more in an exclusive interview with City Pulse.

2% of Oscar Peterson

In his teens, studying at the Juilliard School in New York City, Ax was a world away from the cramped apart-

ment in Lviv, Ukraine, where he grew up with his two musical parents, both survivors of Nazi death camps.

The apartment, which they shared with another family, was a tight fit, but there was a piano in the living room nobody touched.

“In those days, in the Soviet Union, pretty much everybody took music lessons,” he said. “You just did it because that’s what you did. Some people stuck to it, and some didn’t. It’s as simple as that.”

Taught mainly by his father, beginning at age 6, Ax “stuck to it” through some major life changes. His family moved to Warsaw, Poland, when he was 7, then to Winnipeg, Canada, and finally, in 1961, to New York.

Within a few years, he excelled at Juilliard and began to make a splash at big competitions, but he doggedly denies that he was, or is, anything special. To his mind, he just “stuck with it.”

He could have rattled off a story about winning the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in 1974, but instead he recalled a more recent event: a visit to his son’s first-grade classroom.

“The sheer talent you see from 6- and 7-year-olds — it’s unbelievable,” he said. “Nothing interrupts the eyes to the brain

to the hand. They just do it. And some people follow and keep doing it, and some lose interest or stop. It’s the same thing with music. I think it’s more a matter of interest and what surrounds them than talent.”

At Juilliard, Ax shared his love of music with a world of newfound friends, including a musically omnivorous cellist whose family had emigrated from war-torn China, Yo-Yo Ma.

“We were in the cafeteria — not necessarily cutting classes, but just eating lunch,” Ax said. “We just hit it off, and thank God, it continues to this day.”

Many afternoons in New York, Ax ducked out of the daylight to catch musical titans like conductor Leopold Stokowski and his American Symphony Orchestra in rehearsal.

“He was, like, 97 years old,” Ax said. “They would have rehearsals at Carnegie, and I would sometimes sneak in and listen.”

Also lurking in the wings was Stewart Warkow, then-executive director of Carnegie Hall and a close aide to Stokowski. Warkow noticed the avid young fan but didn’t toss him out.

“There was a piano in the corner, and this wonderful man said, ‘Go ahead and try it,’” Ax recalled.

He felt like a young baseball fan standing on the pitcher’s mound at Yankee Stadium.

But how do you get to Carnegie Hall for real? Ax credits a “lucky” series of teachers in Poland, Canada and New York who were not only demanding but kind — which, to his mind, is just as important.

“When you’re young, when you’re starting out, the most important thing for a teacher is to make it both serious and fun,” he said. “Teaching in general is a very special and rare talent.”

It’s been a long time since Ax had to sneak into Carnegie Hall. In April, he’ll play a solo recital there, capping off a solo tour that will take him to five cities in the Eastern U.S. At the same time, the trio of Ax, Ma and Kavakos are in a flurry of tours and recordings wrapped around their “Beethoven for Three” concept.

The idea of boiling down Beethoven symphonies into a trio format sprang from the 2020 pandemic shutdown.

“There was just nothing going on,” Ax said. “Yo-Yo and I were talking to each other every day, and he said, ‘Maybe we should try and look at doing the symphonies in small ensembles because there are no orchestras playing.’ Leonidas joined us, and we loved doing it.”

The trio’s obvious joy and turn-on-a-dime agility brings out the energy of the music in a way a large orchestra can’t.

“We definitely play spontaneously,” Ax said. “We don’t have to make as many decisions as a conductor with an orchestra, and I like the idea of not making a lot of decisions beforehand. Rehearsals are usually about trying different ways to do things. Then, in the concert, we do what we feel like at the moment.”

But he was careful to distinguish the trio’s brand of spontaneity from genuine jazz improvisation.

“I wish I had the talent of someone like Oscar Peterson,” he said, naming a jazz icon he fervently admires. “That’s a whole different level of music making and piano playing that I will never achieve. But yes, we have a little bit of spontaneity. We have 2% of Oscar Peterson!”



The trio devotes much of its recording intense, boiled-down of Beethoven symphonies.



Photo by Dorothea von Haeften, courtesy of the Marlboro Music Festival



Courtesy photo

"We're like an old married couple," Ax said of his decades-long musical partnership with Ma. Here, they share a bright moment at the 1971 Marlboro Music Festival.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ax and Ma played free recitals for healthcare workers and hospital patients.

The gadfly

The Wharton concert is completely devoted to Beethoven, who, to Ma's mind, is the man we need right now.

In a promotional video for the trio, Ma asserts that Beethoven's music is "absolutely right for this present moment."

But that's a tough case to make, even for an artist with as much public renown and cultural capital as Ma.

Not only is Beethoven the ultimate icon of the classical establishment, he looms in the public mind as a scowling, overbearing avatar of testosterone-fueled anger.

Going back to the music, the trio rediscovered a striking saga of musical struggle and hope. True to their personalities, Ma and Ax make the case in different ways. Ma sees Beethoven's music as a model for positive action. In the video, he says that Beethoven "got to catharsis and transcendence through physicality."

Ax lovingly calls these kinds of statements from his old friend, now a United Nations Messenger of Peace, "pronouncements."

In the video, Ax listens to Ma with an expression that's hard to read.

"What we need today is that willpower to say that we can actually make a difference," Ma continues.

"I'd love to hear the long version," Ax remarks tartly.

Ax said it's all in fun.

"An unfortunate trait of my personality is that I love sending Yo-Yo up," Ax explained. "He's a very thoughtful and inspiring person in so many ways, but I'm like the gadfly that always has to make fun. So, when he makes a pronouncement, I always feel I have to kind of puncture the balloon. It's more a matter of comedy than anything else."

When it comes to Beethoven, Ax said all three men are on the "same page."

"If you want to be depressed, you listen to Mahler or Brahms or maybe Shostakovich — plenty of people," he said. "But if you want music to give you hope, I think you always turn to Beethoven. What could be more hopeful than the Ninth Symphony?"

Bypassing Ma's abstractions, Ax ticked off the miseries that dogged the composer all his life.

"This is a man who lost his hearing, the most important sense for a musician, who had a terrible personal life in every way," he said. "No romantic relationship, really, that we know of, no children. Parents that were — it's a nightmare, when you think about it."

(Beethoven's father was a strict disciplinarian and, later in life, an alcoholic. He considered his mother his "best friend," but she died when he was only 16.)

"And yet, when you listen to what he wrote, it's just — Yo-Yo and I play the third cello sonata, the A major sonata, which is one of the most beautiful, positive, open pieces in the world."

In the hands of the duo, the very first seconds of the sonata take your blood pressure to risky levels of serenity. Not only does Beethoven catch a ray of pure sunshine with its gorgeous opening melody, he dares to ride it, wrestle it, take it apart, put it back together and bring it back unscathed, in all its pristine beauty.

"And he wrote this in 1809, in the basement of a house in Vienna during bombardments from Napoleon's army," Ax marveled. "That's what Yo-Yo is talking about. The contrast between his life and the music he wrote is so inspiring."

In their trio recordings, Ax, Ma and Kavakos ignite Beethoven's mercurial moods with a supple, organic fire, trading phrases and flipping roles almost faster than the ear can follow. Yet almost as exciting and inspiring as their communion are the sweet little moments when playing together seems to set them free individually.

At the beginning of their trio version of Beethoven's Second Symphony, Ax bobs up with a buoyant "here I am" fanfare, but he plays it guardedly, as if he's not sure he walked into the room with all his clothes on. When Kavakos picks up the tune on violin, Ax starts chunking like mad underneath, dressed or not, with Ma in tow. One second, he's alone and walking on eggs; the next, he's stomping on grapes with his pals.

"Most of the time, if you're good friends, that's 90% of making music together," Ax said. "Slower or faster, louder or softer, that can all fall into place as long as you like each other. We really are very good friends, and I think that makes all of this possible to do — and such a joy."

The big lottery

With nearly all the music in the classical repertoire under his belt, Ax keeps things interesting by playing premieres and new pieces, many of which are written for him. It's a lot of extra work to learn something new and difficult. In many cases, the music is performed once, or only a few times.

"At my age, it's not so easy," he said. "A few months ago, we did a new piece by Anders Hillborg."

He modestly left out the concerto's title, "MAX" — short for "Manny Ax."

Audiences loved the new concerto when Ax premiered it with conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen and the San Francisco Symphony in October. Hillborg wrote the concerto as a tribute to Ax's "exuberance and geniality," according to the concert notes.

Ax loves the variety of sounds the piano can generate, from thundering low chords to the gentlest whisper. In the trio's version of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Ax gets to play the walrus-wobbly bass whomp at the beginning as well the chirpy piccolo trills in the final bars, and he's clearly having a ball.

"I am not a conductor," he said. "And to really get my hands on this wonderful music — to be able to get to know it from the inside, I guess you could say — is a special thrill."

Hillborg's concerto is a straight-up showcase for the pianist's many sonic moods, with subtitles like "hard piano," "soft piano," "grand piano," ascending piano" and even "toy piano" (plinky and crystalline).

"I like the piece very, very much," Ax said. "The audience responded to it very well, and we hope that will continue in New York and Stockholm."

From Terence Blanchard's turbulent opera "Fire Shut Up in My Bones" at New York City's Metropolitan Opera to exhilarating new music by composers like Jennifer Higdon, Joseph Schwantner and David Biedenbender at the Lansing Symphony, concert halls across the nation are popping with new music that connects with audiences.

"That's a revolution that I have lived through," Ax said. "When I was young, there was an emphasis on a certain type of new music — very difficult, very complicated and, in a way, very rigid. But it's almost impossible to talk about contemporary music now because there's so much variety. You can have things that sound absolutely straightforward, things that are complicated, multimedia — you name it, it's happening."

In 2012, Ax generated a memorable moment at the San Francisco Symphony's American Mavericks Festival in Ann Arbor by playing a meditative, soft-focus concerto by Morton Feldman that barely rose above a whisper. Along with adventurous conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, Ax was clearly enjoying the process of stripping music almost down to silence.

"It was absolutely crazy stuff," Ax said. "I've also known Michael for almost 50 years, and he's been kind of a guru for me. When he tells me to do something, I do it."

He thought back to the afternoon at the piano in Carnegie when he was 12, hearing his notes reverberate through the empty hall.

"In a lot of ways, the fantasy I had as a kid has become reality," he said. "I was able to play with wonderful orchestras in beautiful halls, to travel, to meet wonderful musicians, to have a life with my friend Yo-Yo and, most of all, to have a very wonderful and happy family."

An inveterate New Yorker, Ax lives there with his wife, Yoko Nozaki. They have two children, Joseph and Sarah.

He facetiously tells journalists he has no life outside the practice room, but the weekend after he cut his finger with the mandolin, he didn't sound bereft.

"I'll think of something to do," he said. "I'll watch more Jacques Pépin videos."



Photo by Maurice Jerry Bezios

At 74, Ax dives happily into brand-new music, including a concerto written for him by Swedish composer Anders Hillborg, premiered in San Francisco last fall.



Courtesy photo

energy to performing and in chamber music versions



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ZAprès Events makes networking fun for cannabis community



is confident that ZAprès Events will offer people something to do other than stand around and smoke dope. She's looking to create a strong presence by hosting events in both Michigan and her former home state of Colorado, which has a way more developed ski culture and a comparable cannabis culture.

A summer event in in the works as well. For many years, Cooper has organized a highly successful cannabis beach party, Canna Cantina, at a house on Lake Michigan near Grand Haven. The event has been a business-to-business networking opportunity in the past, but this year, under the ZAprès name, it will be consumer-facing.

The rise of social consumption lounges and legal events have made the cannabis event space pretty crowded. ZAprès and other recreational cannabis event organizers face competition not only from each other, but also from the plethora of gray-market and legacy events that flood the calendar in Michigan. These events draw from an established subculture within cannabis and should be very enticing to potential advertisers and partners. Retailers and producers are always interested in selling upscale products, but the utilitarian nature of our state's cannabis industry can make finding consumers to purchase the products difficult. ZAprès and other lifestyle-based event companies help these advertisers connect with specific demographics and engage them in an authentic way.

ZAprès and the plethora of designated consumption lounges opening this year indicate a new and exciting time for cannabis consumers in Michigan. As operators settle into a more mature and developed market, we should see more unique events centered around consumption start to pop up.

ZAprès Events, a new cannabis event company, will hold its inaugural skiing and snowboarding outings Feb. 5 at the Highlands at Harbor Springs and Feb. 8 at Mount Bohemia Ski Resort in the Upper Peninsula. The outings are paired with an opportunity for members of the cannabis community to consume together and hear from some of Michigan's premier cannabis brands.

By **CHRIS SILVA**

Many people ask me what the cheapest and easiest way for them to get into the cannabis industry would be. Unfortunately, the cheap and easy ways all disappeared five years ago when the legal market was established, and even those were only cheap or easy for a lucky few. The reality is that this game is tough, with shrinking margins and evermore savvy and cutthroat operators.

Long-term, there's hope that as the market matures, operators will consolidate and proverbial hangers-on will drop off and create more opportunity. However, I've always

been supportive of people looking into ancillary businesses as a way to build a cannabis-based brand and raise a profile. An ancillary business, in terms of cannabis, provides products or services for the industry, like packaging or marketing, but doesn't deal with the plant itself and doesn't require a license from the state Cannabis Regulatory Agency.

Ever since people started smoking dope, they've been smoking it together. Any cannabis user who's been around for a while knows that it enhances most activities. As professional cannabis events have grown in popularity, consumers have started to demand more to do than just stand there

and maybe eat some food and listen to music.

Enter ZAprès Events, a new cannabis event company that will hold its inaugural skiing and snowboarding outings Feb. 5 at the Highlands at Harbor Springs and Feb. 8 at Mount Bohemia Ski Resort in the Upper Peninsula. The outings are followed by networking events where members of the cannabis community can consume together and hear from some of Michigan's premier cannabis brands.

This setup is unique compared to the standard cannabis consumption events that are common in Michigan. Most are either centered around music or just consist of a bunch of people gathered in a building that you're allowed to smoke dope in, with reps from cannabis companies giving away swag and fighting for attention from purchasers, store owners and customers alike.

One way ZAprès is different is that it's run by a pioneer in the cannabis event and networking space. Jamie Cooper has been trudging away in the Michigan cannabis scene for almost a decade. She formed her own independent statewide network of business-to-business and consumer-facing networking events before joining national publisher Sensi Media Group in both statewide and national leadership roles. She has a great deal of marketing experience and has held positions in legal cannabis as well. In addition, she has been a prolific activist in opening up her hometown of Grand Haven for adult-use cannabis.

Outdoor activities and cannabis are natural bedfellows, and Cooper

**ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP, EATON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024
7:00 p.m.**

The Planning Commission of Oneida Charter Township will conduct a public hearing on February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oneida Township Hall, 11041 Oneida Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. The purpose of the hearing is to consider and hear public comment concerning an amendment to the Oneida Charter Township Zoning Ordinance to regulate permanent and temporary storage containers in Oneida Charter Township to maintain public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors of the Township.

A copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment is available for inspection at the office of the Zoning Administrator Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. or by appointment and will also be available for inspection at the public hearing. Written comments will be received by the Township at the Township Hall prior to the public hearing or at the public hearing. Oral comments may also be made at the public hearing during the allotted time.

Oneida Charter Township will provide auxiliary aids or services to individuals with disabilities. Persons needing such services should contact the office of the Township Clerk by writing or calling the Township Clerk not less than four (4) days before the public hearing.

Published by Order of the Planning Commission
Oneida Charter Township, Eaton County, Michigan

Jacqueline H. Kilgore
(517) 622-8078

CP#24-365

City Pulse is giving away two tickets to each of ZAprès Events' February outings.

Tickets include access to the networking event, dinner, beverages and goodie bags. Lodging, lift tickets and ski/snowboard rentals not included. To enter, email contest@lansingcitypulse.com with "ZAprès Tickets" in the subject line. Deadline is Jan. 29.

Curtis Chin reflects on offbeat upbringing in 1980s Detroit

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Curtis Chin's delightful memoir, "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant," is as tasty as one of the 10 million eggrolls his family turned out in their multigenerational restaurant that thrived for more than six decades in Detroit. It has garnered quite the buzz nationwide, and more locally, it was named a 2024 Michigan Notable Book.

The memoir is reminiscent of the popular television series "The Bear," providing an unbridled behind-the-scenes look at the operation of a Chinese restaurant, but it also sorts through a complex coming-of-age story of a self-proclaimed "fat boy" coming to understand and embrace that he's also gay.

I was fortunate enough to catch Chin as he traverses the country on a book tour while balancing his successful documentary filmmaking business. He'll make a stop at Michigan State University's Main Library Feb. 1 to discuss the book and sign copies.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Chin has written for CNN, Bon Appetit, the Detroit Free Press and the Boston Globe as well as network and cable television programs. He's the co-founder of the nonprofit Asian American Writers' Workshop in New York City and served as its first ex-

ecutive director. He's screened his films at more than 600 venues in 20 countries, with his most recent documentary, about the late photographer and activist Corky Lee, premiering at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival in May 2022.

Chin's family's restaurant, Chung's, was already thriving as he began to come of age in Detroit's tumultuous '80s, when crack-cocaine mixed with an auto industry scrambling to survive met the AIDS crisis.

Despite the hardships, Chin writes lovingly of his experiences in Detroit, especially the time he spent hanging around and working in the restaurant, which was located in the Cass Corridor. Before being bulldozed for one of the many Detroit expressways, it had been in the center of a bustling Chinatown.

"Detroit, for me, was normalized. Oh, a nearby building was burned down or a person got shot a block away. I don't feel bad about growing up in Detroit," he said.

While most parents were telling their kids, "Don't talk to strangers," Chin and his brothers were thrown into the restaurant environment, where talking to strangers was encouraged.

Through the restaurant, he said, "My parents always got us to meet and talk with different people."

Of course, I had to ask Chin if he had a favorite dish at his family's restaurant.

"Oh my God. You can't ask that question. There were so many dishes. I'd eat multiple times a day. That's why I was a little fat kid," he said.

I was curious about why Chin's first name is Curtis, an Americanized name, and his book provides the answer. Growing up in Hong Kong, his mother loved movies, and one of her favorites was the 1959 crime comedy "Some Like It Hot." The movie stars Tony Curtis, who wore women's clothes and a wig to hide from pursuant gangsters.

"Basically, she'd named me after the worst drag queen ever," Chin writes.

If he hadn't opted for a degree in creative writing, his book shows he may have had a career in stand-up comedy.

But he doesn't abstain from writing about the painful times, too, like the overt racism his family faced after moving to the suburbs as he was entering middle school. Anti-Asian sentiment was widespread — when he was a freshman in high school, his family friend Vincent Chin was beaten to death by two autoworkers who mistakenly believed he was Japanese and blamed foreign competition for taking American jobs. In the end, the culprits



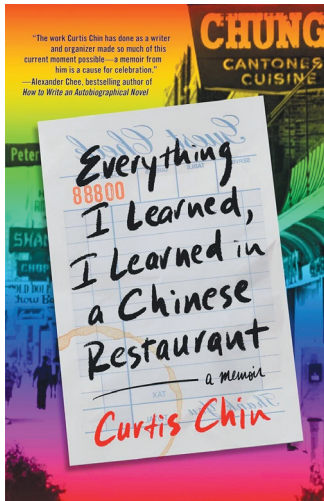
Courtesy photo

In his new memoir, "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant," Curtis Chin details his time spent working in his family's Chinese restaurant while coming to terms with his sexuality and heritage in Detroit's tumultuous '80s.

received what amounted to a slap on the wrist.

The incident clearly had a lasting effect on Curtis Chin, who explored the murder and its aftermath in his 2009 documentary, "Vincent Who?"

Chin is working on a screenplay adaptation of his memoir, with the hopes of optioning it for a movie, which would be set against the backdrop of Chinese Americans living through the chaotic ups and downs of 1980s Detroit.



"Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant" discussion and book signing

Feb. 1
7 p.m.
MSU Main Library
366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Free
facebook.com/events/280141638404479

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Lansing Shuffle adds Mexican cuisine to its six-restaurant roster

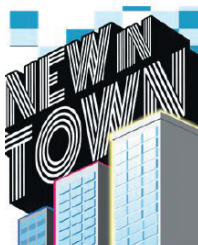


Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Ivan Vera and his girlfriend, Courtney Mitchell, pose behind the counter at the grand opening of Vera's new Lansing Shuffle eatery, Takitos AF, on Saturday (Jan. 20).

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

As a child, Ivan Vera spent most of his evenings at a jewelry store owned by his grandmother Rosa Chavez in Chicago's predominantly Mexican neighborhood of Pilsen.



Takitos AF

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday,
Sunday
11 a.m.-midnight
Friday-Saturday
517-853-6496
takitosaf.com

“She had a little kitchen in the back, and we grew up watching her cook,” he said.

She exemplified values that would stick with Vera throughout his life. “She was really resourceful, and now it bugs me when people are wasting food, or when someone says there's no food in the fridge,” he said. “If my grandma heard you say that, she would grab your hand, take you over there and walk you through how to whip up something out of nothing.”

Chavez's influence can be seen throughout her grandson's new culinary venture, Takitos AF, which on Saturday (Dec. 20) became the sixth restaurant to open inside Lansing Shuffle. Her original taquito style is immortalized on the menu as the “OG” option, while a framed photo of

her sits on a shelf behind the register, next to a shot of Chicago and another of her late husband, Nicolas Chavez.

The idea for the restaurant started to take shape, in part, when Vera, 29, found out he was going to become a father in 2022. At the time, he had spent more than a decade working as a server at Cancun Mexican Grill on Jolly Road in Okemos, which is partially owned by his father and uncles.

“I knew I needed to do something different,” Vera said. “With the whole restaurant, what I'm trying to do is just express myself. That's why I wanted to have my own concept, instead of just partnering with Cancun or something.”

Takitos AF *is* different, from the spelling of its name to the casual Millennial verbiage on its menus and signs to the simple yet delicious dishes it serves.

Customers can choose from taquitos, chimichangas, rice bowls or loaded fries, with six different topping styles and a slew of different protein options, including two that are plant-based. Add-ons include sides like rice and beans, queso, chips and salsa and guacamole; beverages like horchata and margaritas; and desserts like flan, tres leches cake and cheesecake chimichangas.

Where the menu may seem to be lacking in quantity, the quality — inspired by Chavez's teachings — is cer-

tainly there.

“I'm always going to be trying to think of ways I can get the most use out of ingredients that we already have,” Vera said. “I don't like having one ingredient that you only use in one dish when you have 20 other dishes on the menu. It's an efficient way to make sure everything gets used so we can keep things as fresh as possible.”

Vera's minimalist approach fits in well at the Shuffle, where he shares a

space with five other restaurants and a bar.

“What I like about it is that all the businesses help each other out here,” he said. “If I bring in a group of people, maybe not everyone wants to have Mexican that day. So, if my friend brings along some of his friends, they can all get what they want, and then they're probably also going to try everyone else's food, too. I know that if I do well, my neighbors are going to be successful as well.”

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE FEBRUARY 27, 2024, ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of East Lansing will hold a Presidential Primary Election on February 27, 2024.

For the purposes of nominating candidates for the following office:
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Sample ballots can be found at www.mi.gov/vote. Sample ballots can also be viewed at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office, 410 Abbot Road, Room 100, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk; the office of their County Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch Office, or other designated state agency. Qualified electors who have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID, may register online at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>. Registration forms may be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed or dropped off at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.express-SOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the East Lansing City Clerk's Office is February 12, 2024. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

East Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	<u>Regular Business Hours:</u> Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm
410 Abbot Road, Room 100	<u>Additional Hours:</u> February 24, 2024, from 8am-4pm
East Lansing, MI 48823	

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. You may apply online at www.mi.gov/vote or at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

February 26, 2024, at 4 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on February 26, 2024, must be requested and voted in person at either of the East Lansing City Clerk's Offices.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, February 27, 2024, are eligible to receive an Absent Voter Ballot at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

EARLY VOTING CENTER

All qualified electors in the City of East Lansing have the right to mark a ballot and tabulate their ballot beginning the second Saturday before an election and ending the Sunday before the election. For the February 27, 2024, election, the Early Voting Centers will be held at two different locations in East Lansing:

Early Voting Center-Grove St. House 405 Grove St. East Lansing, MI 48823	<u>Dates:</u> February 17-25, 2024 <u>Hours:</u> 8:30am-4:30pm
--	---

STEM Building-Michigan State University-2nd floor 642 Red Cedar Road East Lansing, MI 48823	<u>Dates:</u> February 17-25, 2024. <u>Hours:</u> 8:30am-4:30pm
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Marie Wicks
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#24-368

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"How to Succeed"-- you know what they say.

by Matt Jones
© 2024 Matt Jones

ACROSS

1. Card pack
5. Jazz legend Davis
10. Galaxy addition?
13. Supporter
14. Kind of army or band
16. 2014 U.S. Women's Open champ Michelle
17. *Showroom sale item
19. Tax preparer's charge
20. There's no accounting for it
21. **"You'll do great!"
23. Indefinitely long period
24. Actress Taylor-Joy of "The Super Mario Bros. Movie"
25. Bar offerings
26. "Yes, ___" (improv principle)
28. Small child
30. Lay down the lawn
32. "Help wanted" listings
34. Capricious urge
37. Overinflate
41. **"All we need," per a 1988 Guns N' Roses ballad
44. "8 Seconds" venue
45. Make agitated
46. One of four on the New Zealand flag
47. Geese formation shape
49. ___ Soundsystem ("I Can Change" band)
51. He/___ pronouns
52. Not fully
55. Certain internet junk
58. Monopoly board

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13				14				15	16				
17				18					19				
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32			33		34		35	36		37	38	39	40
41				42					43				
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52	53	54			55	56	57			58	59		
60				61					62			63	64
65				66					67				
68				69						70			
71					72						73		

- abbr.
60. *Screen protector of sorts?
62. Amounts typically shown in red
65. Got away fast
66. Conclusion leading to perseverance, or a hint to the last words of the starred answers?
68. Enmity
69. Tribute
70. Lower range
71. Like much of PinkNews's demographic
72. See 33-Down
73. Decelerate
- DOWN**
1. Nuts
2. Swingin' Fitzgerald
3. Secretive kind of auction without knowing the price
4. City near Osaka
5. Rapper/actor
6. Worked up
7. "30 Rock" character Liz
8. Bad thing to see on your gas gauge
9. Mexican restaurant condiments
10. Horrible
11. Jigsaw unit
12. Looks up the answer, maybe
15. Org. for teachers or artists
18. "It's living ___-free in my head"
22. Crockpot scoopers, maybe
26. Partway open
27. ___ contendere (no contest plea)
29. Nighttime hunter
31. Kimono sash
33. With 72-Across, portrayer of Brian Hackett on "Wings"
35. Corp. debut
36. Word processing function for automating letters
38. Attentive
39. "Superfood" berry
40. Political period
42. Shoe end
43. "Waterfalls" group
48. Conditional deposit
50. Marcel Duchamp's movement
52. Parsley bit
53. Scarlett of "Gone With the Wind"
54. It doesn't grow on trees
56. "Fork it over!"
57. Take ___ at (guess)
59. The Venetian's site
61. Numerical suffix
63. One of the Jackson 5
64. Winter weather prediction
67. "Get ___ Ya-Ya's Out!" (Rolling Stones album)

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com)

Answers on page 21

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

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

January 24-30, 2024

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries author Dani Shapiro has published six novels, three bestselling memoirs and a host of articles in major magazines. She co-founded a writers' conference, teaches at top universities and does a regular podcast. We can conclude she is successful. Here's her secret: She feels that summoning courage is more important than being confident. Taking bold action to accomplish what you want is more crucial than cultivating self-assurance. I propose that in the coming weeks, you apply her principles to your own ambitions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Throughout history, there has never been a culture without religious, mythical and supernatural beliefs. The vast majority of the world's people have believed in magic and divinity. Does that mean it's all true and real? Of course not. But nor does it mean that none of it is true and real. Ultra-rationalists who dismiss the spiritual life are possessed by hubris. Everything I've said here is a prelude to my oracle for you: Some of the events in the next three weeks will be the result of magic and divinity. Your homework is to discern which are and which aren't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Several wise people have assured me that the pursuit of wealth, power, popularity and happiness isn't as important as the quest for meaningfulness. If you feel your life story is interesting, rich and full of purpose, you are successful. This will be a featured theme for you in the coming months, Gemini. If you have ever fantasized about your destiny resembling an ancient myth, a revered fairy tale, a thousand-page novel or an epic film, you will get your wish.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Life as we live it is unaccompanied by signposts," wrote author Holly Hickler. I disagree with her assessment, especially in regard to your upcoming future. Although you may not encounter literal markers bearing information to guide you, you will encounter metaphorical signals that are clear and strong. Be alert for them, Cancerian. They might not match your expectations about what signposts should be, though, so expand your concepts of how they might appear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I wrote a book called "Pronoia is the Antidote for Paranoia: How the Whole World is Conspiring to Shower You with Blessings." Among its main messages: There's high value in cultivating an attitude that actively looks for the best in life and regards problems as potential opportunities. When I was working on the book, no one needed to hear this advice more than me! Even now, I still have a long way to go before mastering the outlook I call "crafty optimism." I am still subject to dark thoughts and worried feelings — even though I know the majority of them are irrational or not based on the truth of what's happening. In other words, I am earnestly trying to learn the very themes I have been called to teach. What's the equivalent in your life, Leo? Now is an excellent time to upgrade your skill at expressing abilities and understandings you wish everyone had.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1951, filmmaker Akira Kurosawa made a movie adapted from "The Idiot," a novel by his favorite author, Fyodor Dostoevsky. Kurosawa was not yet as famous and influential as he would later become. That's why he agreed to his studio's demand to cut 99 minutes from his original 265-minute version. But this turned out to be a bad idea. Viewers of the film had a hard time understanding the chopped-up story. Most of the critics' reviews were negative. I bring this to your attention, Virgo, with two intentions: 1. I encourage you to do minor editing on your labor of love. 2. But don't agree to anything like the extensive revisions that Kurosawa did.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I have selected a poem for you to tape on your refrigerator door for the next eight weeks. It's by 13th-century Zen poet Wu-Men. He wrote: "Ten thousand flowers in spring,

the moon in autumn, / a cool breeze in summer, snow in winter. / If your mind isn't clouded by unnecessary things, this is the best season of your life." My wish for you, Libra — which is also my prediction for you — is that you will have extra power to empty your mind of unnecessary things. More than ever, you will be acutely content to focus on the few essentials that appeal to your wild heart and tender soul.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Psychologist Carl Jung wrote, "Motherlove is one of the most moving and unforgettable memories of our lives, the mysterious root of all growth and change; the love that means homecoming, shelter, and the long silence from which everything begins and in which everything ends." To place yourself in rapt alignment with current cosmic rhythms, Scorpio, you will do whatever's necessary to get a strong dose of the blessing Jung described. If your own mother isn't available or is insufficient for this profound immersion, find other maternal sources. Borrow a wise woman elder or immerse yourself in goddess worship. Be intensely intent on basking in a nurturing glow that welcomes you and loves you exactly as you are — and makes you feel deeply at home in the world.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In a set of famous experiments, physiologist Ivan Pavlov taught dogs to have an automatic response to a particular stimulus. He rang a bell while providing the dogs with food they loved. After a while, the dogs began salivating with hunger simply when they heard the bell, even though no food was offered. Ever since, "Pavlov's dogs" has been a phrase that refers to the ease with which animals' instinctual natures can be conditioned. I can't help but wonder what would have happened if Pavlov had used cats instead of dogs for his research. Would felines have submitted to such scientific shenanigans? I doubt it. These ruminations are my way of urging you to be more like a cat than a dog in the coming weeks. Resist efforts to train you, tame you or manipulate you into compliance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Before poet Louise Glück published her first book, "Firstborn," it was rejected by 28 publishers. When it finally emerged, she suffered from writer's block. Her next book didn't appear until eight years after the first one. Her third book arrived five years later, and her fourth required another five years. Slow going! But here's the happy ending: By the time she died at age 80, she had published 21 books and won the Pulitzer Prize and the Nobel Prize for Literature. By my astrological reckoning, you are now at a phase, in your own development, comparable to the time after Glück's fourth book: well-primed, fully geared up and ready to make robust progress.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "All good writing is swimming under water and holding your breath," wrote author F. Scott Fitzgerald. I'd like to expand that metaphor and apply it to you, Aquarius. I propose that your best thinking and decision-making in the coming weeks will be like swimming under water while holding your breath. What I mean is that you'll get the best results by doing what feels unnatural. You will get yourself in the right mood if you bravely go down below the surface and into the depths and feel your way around.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In honor of this pivotal time in your life story, I offer four pronouncements. 1. You can now be released from a history that has repeated itself too often. To expedite this happy shift, indulge in a big cry and laugh about how boring that repeated history has become. 2. You can finish paying off your karmic debt to someone you hurt. How? Change yourself to ensure you won't ever act that way again. 3. You can better forgive those who wounded you if you forgive yourself for being vulnerable to them. 4. Every time you divest yourself of an illusion, you will clearly see how others' illusions have been affecting you.

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, Jan. 24

"A Course of Love," Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

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

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Adult Sew Fun - Beginning class focusing on machine sewing skills and techniques. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

Arctic Art and Science Night - Have fun painting with ice, painting on ice and learning how arctic animals stay warm in the cold. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

CharLit Adult Book Club - A monthly adult book club. 6:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

"How to Afford Everything" Uncorked - Join us for an exciting evening of wine, food and financial wisdom as we launch Darla Bishop's sensational new book, "How to Afford Everything." 6 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. hookedlansing.com.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Karaoke with The BIG Man Genesis - 9 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

MASH — REACH Open Studio - Use REACH's space and tools for your creative endeavors. Bring your own supplies, as available materials vary from time to time. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lancm.info.

Minute to Win It - Compete in 60-second challenges inspired by the game show "Minute to Win It." Grades 4-12. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Movers & Readers Storytime - Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories with Miss Lindsay. Ages 0-3. 10:30 a.m.

Mason City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

Pastel art display by Jules Vander Galien - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Tap II Class - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Walk-in Wednesday: Watercolor Sponge Painting - Registration recommended. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Wolf Full Moon Ritual - Join us for the first full moon of 2024! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftwareweb.org.

Thursday, Jan. 25

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

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Amped Up! Learn GarageBand Software and Make Your Own Tunes - Try out different tools to explore various ways of making music that's uniquely yours. Ages 12-16. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Art Interactive Wolf Moon - Celebrate the full moon with an open mic, drum circle, potluck, vendors, music, art, warm clothing drive and more. 4-11 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. allevents.in/lansing/wolf-moon/200025957827957/.

Bingo - \$20 registration fee includes regular games and a dauber. Food and drinks available for purchase. Early-bird games 6 p.m., regular games 6:30 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

Combat of the Vikings! - Journey back to the Viking Age to explore the weaponry and tactics that led these raiders to terrify Europe for nearly three centuries. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Crafty Vibes - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftwareweb.org.

Game Night with Hoptite Games - 7 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

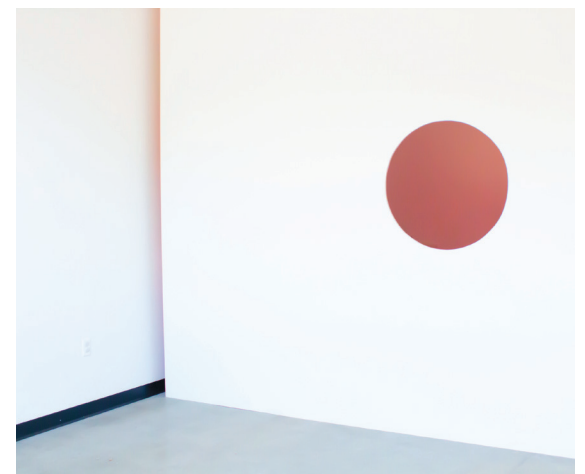
Jazz/Hip Hop II class - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Karaoke Thursday - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult

'Space Between' opening reception

Thursday, Jan. 25
5-7 p.m.
Lansing Art Gallery
300 S. Washington
Square, Suite 100,
Lansing



The Lansing Art Gallery is hosting an opening reception 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday (Jan. 25) for its newest exhibition, "Space Between," by Gerald Collins. The event will feature a discussion with the artist as well as light refreshments.

Collins, born in Detroit, works with a range of mediums, including light and space, architecture, sculpture, photography and film. According to his bio, his art explores "the intricate nature of human experience and evolution."

In this exhibition, Collins examines the importance of spatial relationships in how we navigate life.

"It is important for us to understand our proximity to one another. To understand our relationship to the various components that exist in our daily lives," he writes in his artist statement. "In a society of crisis overload and real-time pandemics that have continued to reshape the way we literally and figuratively utilize space as a society, the aspect of space as it pertains to overall quality of life only grows more important."

The reception is free and open to the public, and the exhibition will run through Feb. 24. For more information, visit lansingartgallery.org.

women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

Laingsburg Farmers Market - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1.

Living with Arthritis: Options & Strategies - Join NovaCare's certified hand therapist, Shelbi Pline, and learn how we can help with hand pain and arthritis. Registration req. 3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

See Events, Page 19

CITY OF EAST LANSING, INGHAM AND CLINTON COUNTIES MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of East Lansing Board of Review will conduct its organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Court/Council Conference Room of City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

2024 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 in the Court/Council Conference Room of City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 on the following dates:

Monday, March 11, 2024: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 12, 2024: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Written appeals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2024. For an appointment, call Marti Townsend (mtownse@cityofeastlansing.com) at 517-319-6880 by 1:00 p.m. on March 12, 2024.

CP#24-361

Events

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

Night Hike - Enjoy a 1-mile hike under the light of the full moon. Hike will include a brief presentation about the night sky by an astronomy professional. 5:30 p.m. Motz Park, 4630 N. DeWitt Road, St. Johns. stjohsareachamber.wildapricot.org.

Pastel art display by Jules Vander Galien - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

SamRose Entertainment Presents: Comedy Night with Headliner Steve Sabo and Featured Comedian Jason Fylan-Mares - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

"Space Between" Opening Reception - A solo exhibition by artist Gerald Collins, who works with light and space, architecture, sculpture, photography and film. 5-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

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

Friday, Jan. 26

Atomic Annie - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

Carl Pawluk at Harrison Roadhouse - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

Euchre Tournament - Bring a partner or come on your own. We'll have a crash course at 6:30 p.m., with the tournament starting at 7 p.m. Winners will get prizes. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. hookedlansing.com.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Lansing Clean Comedy Winter Special - Performances by Detroit's Andy Beningo and Lansing's Tim Palmer. 7 p.m. A Lot More Fun Comedy Club, 227 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. christcommunitylansing.org/comedy-club/.

Main Street Dueling Pianos at Lansing Brewing Co. - Doors 6 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Parkour at ALIVE - A basic introduction to parkour as imagined through stories. You and your little one will learn how to safely maneuver everyday obstacles using the whole body. Ages 2-6. 10 a.m. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-541-5800. myalive.com.

Pastel art display by Jules Vander Galien - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Storytime for Tots — Four-Week Class - Bring your littles to hear a short children's story, followed by artmaking and exploration. 10 a.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

"These Shining Lives" - Witness the lives of four women who work for the Radium Dial Company, a watch factory operating in Illinois during the 1920s and 30s. 7:30 p.m. Grace Bible Church, 1000 S. Canal Road, Lansing. facebook.com/TheAliveTheatre.

Time2Play - Time2Play has been entertaining audiences with its diverse blend of rock, pop, blues and country tunes since 2009. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeat-events.com.

Travelogue: Southeast Asia - Ian Broughton and his family spent over three weeks exploring Southeast Asia. He'll take you on the journey and share some of his best travel advice! 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, Room 213, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4233.

Saturday, Jan. 27

Basics of Building & Maintaining Healthy Soils - 10 a.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 500 Clifford St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/.

Comedy Through the Looking Glass - With headliner Wesley Ward and featured comedians Blain Hill and Will Green. 8:30 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co, 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. 517-668-6004. lookingglassbrewingcompany.com.

Intermediate Ballet class - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Orquesta Ritmo - Ten-piece Latin music group. 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Pastel art display by Jules Vander Galien - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-2 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

SoulPlay 517 - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

"These Shining Lives" - Witness the lives of four women who work for the Radium Dial Company, a watch factory operating in Illinois during the 1920s and 30s. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Grace Bible Church, 1000 S. Canal Road, Lansing. facebook.com/TheAliveTheatre.

Used Book Sale - Thousands of used books will be available at bargain prices. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. uulansing.org.

Sunday, Jan. 28

Conversation Café: "Masculine and Feminine Energies," with Danielle McMahon - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

GLAD Drum Circle - All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-803-2392. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

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

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 5-7 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship - 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org/join-us-for-worship/

Sunday Brunch - Visit lookingglassbrewingcompany.com for menu. Noon-5 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. 517-668-6004.



LSO at the Robin Theatre

Thursday, Jan. 25

7:30 p.m.

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Four Lansing Symphony Orchestra musicians — violinist Michael Bechtel, cellist Myeonggyun Charles Noh, clarinetist Guy Yehuda and percussionist Ben Mapes — will perform a selection of contemporary classical music 7:30 p.m. Thursday (Jan. 25) at the Robin Theatre, part of a series of intimate LSO shows at the venue.

The concert features works by composers Derek Bermel, Shulamit Ran, Judah Adashi, Bright Sheng and Patrick O'Malley.

"This promises to be a mesmerizing evening where you'll be immersed in the enchanting harmonies, intricate rhythms and profound emotions of modern classical music," the symphony wrote in a press release. "Whether you're a seasoned classical music enthusiast or a newcomer eager to explore new horizons, this concert offers something truly special."

Tickets are \$25 and are available at tickets.lansingsymphony.org. Space is limited, so advance purchase is recommended.

Red Cedar spirits[®] Distillery & Cocktail Bar



VALENTINE'S SPECIALS FOR EVERYBODY!

Feb 14 to 17

How about a chocolate flight?!!

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing

4 - 11 p.m. Thu, Fri and Sat, 4 - 9 p.m. Tues Wed, Sun, closed Monday

Evolve Theatrics' 'Chicago' shines above its intimate setting

By MARK GMAZEL

"Chicago" is a Jazz Age-inspired musical that has won six Tony Awards and a Grammy and features sizzling dancing, witty repartee and beloved songs like "All That Jazz" and "Razzle Dazzle." This racy and cynical tale of murder, greed, fame and the manipulation of the American justice system is widely beloved and has been performed by many legends of American musical theater. It has run on Broadway continuously since 1996, and it has been a familiar favorite of many theater companies over the years. So, why go see it again — and in a smallish Lansing church to boot?

See Evolve Theatrics' production this weekend to witness two of the best musical performers in the Lansing area while we're lucky enough to have them around.

Meghan Malusek has had a great showing so far this season, offering a

typically outstanding performance as Magenta in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "The Rocky Horror Show" in October. Here, they have created a slinky yet wary Velma Kelly, moving with predatory grace and desperate purpose and making full use of their confident and accurate singing voice. The former Grand Ledge High School Comet is a true triple threat, a performer in total command of their instrument.

Ember Stokes, who plays competing vaudevillian Roxie Hart, went to Grand Ledge rival Waverly High School, and it's a treat watching these opponents spar on stage and battle for the best legal representation possible. Stokes does a great job with the arc of her character, starting as a gritty down-and-outer, then delivering the "little girl lost" routine and finishing up as a glitzy show-biz kid. Her voice is strong and emotional, her acting chops are polished, and her comic timing is excellent. But even better, her dancing is sharp, crisp and sudden, with full respect paid to the demands required in performing in the choreographic style of Bob Fosse.

Ian Whipp is brash and assured as lawyer Billy Flynn, and Marty Snitgen



Courtesy of Evolve Theatrics

Meghan Malusek (left) and Ember Stokes as rivals Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart in Evolve Theatrics' production of "Chicago."

evokes pity and laughs with his characterization of "Mr. Cellophane" Amos Hart. Joyce Kramer-Cox is threatening and funny as Matron "Mama" Morton, Scot Muncaster delivers the laughs and falsetto required of Mary Sunshine, and Makayla Marrison looks like an up-and-comer in the chorus. Last-minute recasting due to illness makes me reluctant to identify individual chorus performers for fear of misidentifying someone, but suffice to say that all are effective and a treat to watch, dancing

and singing well and offering some of the best Hungarian cursing I've heard in some time.

This production of "Chicago" is very strong, with a well-picked cast and an intimate performance space that allows you to get up close to the action, especially with effective incorporation of the vomitoriums as playing spaces. The lighting is sparse but efficient, the vocals are clear, the costumes are glitzy yet tasteful, and boy, is the jazz hot, baby!

"Chicago"

Jan. 26-27
8 p.m.
First Christian Church
1001 Chester Road,
Lansing
517-282-4699
evolvetheatrics.com

Review



**Too cold outside
to go to therapy?
We offer
telehealth!**

**Let's Talk
517-394-3560
to schedule your
mental health
appointment
today**



Events

from page 19

Monday, Jan. 29

17th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Artists from 19 mid-Michigan high schools showcase artwork, hoping to earn votes. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

Ballet II for kids - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Burger Night - Choice of hamburger, cheeseburger or olive burger, plus fries. Dine in or take out. \$8. 5-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

Downtown Development Authority meeting - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Road, Laingsburg.

Department of Public Works meeting - 5:30 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Road, Laingsburg.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-

0464. ruhalacenter.com.

"Letting Go: The Pathway of Surrender" Book Study - A guide to helping to remove the obstacles we all have that keep us from living a more conscious life. 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189.

unitylansing.org.

Pastel art display by Jules Vander Galien - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett

See Events, Page 21

Registering now! Session 2 starts January 22nd.

Last Chance to Register!
Classes starting this week!



Ruhala Holistic
Arts Center

WHOLE BODY WELLNESS THROUGH
PERFORMING & HEALING ARTS



1846 Haslett Rd, East Lansing, Michigan 48823
(517) 337-0464 | ruhalacenter.com

Events

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Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

“The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery” Book Study, with Jeff Benoit - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Switch Gaming: “Mario Kart” - Feel free to bring your Switch to play between turns. All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

17th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Artists from 19 mid-Michigan high schools showcase artwork, hoping to earn votes. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

Acrylic Painting Basics — Eight-Week Class - Explore fundamental skills like color mixing, theory, texture, expression and style, with each class building on the last. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Adult Clay (A) - Explore or hone skills in wheel throwing, hand-building and glazing. Work at your pace on diverse ceramic projects. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Beginners’ Clay — Eight-Week Class - Use pinching, texturing, rolling and sculpting to create cool things. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Fundamentals of Drawing — Eight-Week Class - Discover the art of drawing fundamentals: shape, value and space. Geared toward ages 10-13. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Intro to Acting/Improv for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

LAGE Game Night East - 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

LAGE Game Night West - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank’s Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

Level I Dance Class - Introduction to theater dance using ballet, tap and jazz. Ages 5-8. 4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Oh, Shoot Again! Learn to Take and Edit Photos — Eight-Week Class - Learn digital photography and Photoshop skills to enhance your images. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washing-

ton Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Pastel art display by Jules Vander Galien - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Preschool Family Storytime - Join us for stories and literacy-enhancing activities, including songs and rhymes. Ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Preschool Storytime - Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories with Miss Lindsay. Ages 3-6. 10:30 a.m. Mason City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

“The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery” Book Study, with Jeff Benoit - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

“The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery” Book Study, with Rev. Sharon Ketchum - 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

StressBusters: Positive Mental Health for Kids - 3 p.m. session for ages 3-6 and caregivers, 4 p.m. sessions for ages 7-10 and 11-14. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-346-8094. gladl.org.

Trivia at Lansing Shuffle with DJ Trivia - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 31

17th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Artists from 19 mid-Michigan high schools showcase artwork, hoping to earn votes. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

“A Course of Love,” Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Adult Sew Fun - Beginning class focusing on machine sewing skills and techniques. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos, Yo-Yo Ma - Don't miss the return of this “super trio,” playing an all-Beethoven program. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

“Fitness Over 50” Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

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

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-

‘These Shining Lives’

Jan. 26-27 and Feb. 2-3
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday
Grace Bible Church
1000 S. Canal Road, Lansing



Alive Theatre, a new Lansing theater group, will stage its first show, “These Shining Lives,” Friday and Saturday (Jan. 26 and 27) and Feb. 2 and 3 at Grace Bible Church in west Lansing. The play is set in the 1920s and ‘30s and follows the lives of four women who work at a watch factory in Illinois.

“These Shining Lives’ chronicles the strength and determination of women considered expendable in their day, exploring their true story and its continued resonance,” the theater wrote on its Facebook page. “Their story is one of friendship and dreams, despair and betrayal, justice and a fight for survival in their worst nightmare.”

The show is recommended for ages 12 and up due to its heavy themes. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12.50 for students and seniors. They can be purchased at masterarts.ludus.com/index.php. For more information on Alive Theatre, visit facebook.com/TheAliveTheatre.

0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Karaoke with The BIG Man Genesis - 9 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

MASH — REACH Open Studio - Use REACH’s space and tools for your creative endeavors. Bring your own supplies, as available materials vary from time to time. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

The Middle East Today: A Conversation with Professor Juan Cole - 3 p.m. Virtual — visit muslimstudies.isp.msu.edu/about/reg-links for registration link.

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. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamc.info.

Movers & Readers Storytime - Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories with Miss Lindsay. Ages 0-3. 10:30 a.m. Mason City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

Open Mic, Hosted by Rick Hansel - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Pastel art display by Jules Vander Galien - Hours

subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Quilled Heart - Learn to make different types of scrolls and other shapes with quilling paper to fill in a heart in a frame. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

The Savvy Caregiver Program - In this 6-week workshop, caregivers will learn more about dementia, strategies for communication and how to structure the day to increase caregiver confidence and decrease stress. 5:30 p.m. Virtual. To register, call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Tap II Class - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Thursday, Feb. 1

17th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Artists from 19 mid-Michigan high schools showcase artwork, hoping to earn votes. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

“A Course in Miracles,” Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, INGHAM COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent’s Estate, File No. 23-105-DE - Estate of William Wontor – Date of Birth: 01-11-1958. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, William Wontor, died 11/4/2020. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Allison (Kellogg) Wontor, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 01/24/2024. Personal representative: Allison Wontor, P.O. Box 238, Springport, MI 49284, 517-214-0959.

CP#24-367

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Dave's Hot Chicken brings mouthwatering munchies to East Lansing

By NICOLE NOECHEL

While driving to Crunchy's in East Lansing to meet up with my family for a holiday gift exchange that was postponed by a COVID outbreak, I noticed that Dave's Hot Chicken had opened its doors on Albert Avenue. Though I was already on my way to chow down on a bacon cheeseburger, I made a mental note to return the next time I was feeling too lazy to cook.

I wasn't a fan of fried chicken sandwiches until about a year and a half ago, when I started dating a vegan. I've since found that vegan fried chicken is one of the best meat replacements — it's cheap, easy to throw in the air fryer and has an almost identical taste and texture to real chicken. In a strange turn of events, my love for vegan chicken sandwiches has evolved into a love for all fried chicken sandwiches. No longer do I picture the cold, unseasoned chicken patties that were served at my middle and high school when I take a bite, though it would be hard to use the

terms “unseasoned” and “Dave's Hot Chicken” in the same sentence, unless that sentence is “the food at Dave's Hot Chicken is completely and totally not unseasoned in any way.”

I tried the #1 combo, which comes with two sliders and a side of fries.

Both of the sliders — which were much larger than I expected and could have stood on their own as single sandwiches — were topped with a kale-and-cabbage slaw, pickles and a heaping drizzle of Dave's sauce, which was creamy and tangy and the only condiment I needed. The chicken itself was perfectly cooked, with crispy, well-seasoned exteriors and juicy, tender interiors.

There are seven levels of spice to choose from, and I ordered one mild and one medium. Honestly, it was hard to tell the two apart, but I probably could have chosen heat levels that weren't next to each other on the scale. Both were mildly spicy, good for a kick that didn't make my nose run or my tongue burn, but I think next time I'll venture to try the true hot sandwich.

I'm typically not a fan of crinkle-cut



Nicole Noechel/City Pulse

Dave's Hot Chicken's sliders-and-fries combo features two perfectly cooked fried chicken sandwiches and a side of savory, crispy crinkle-cut fries.



Two sliders with fries

\$13.99

Dave's Hot Chicken

194 Albert Ave., East Lansing

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday

11 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday

517-853-7077

daveshotchicken.com

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TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BURGERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2023 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Crunchy's

Watering hole in old-school digs famous for burgers, buckets of beer and karaoke
254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
517-351-2506

crunchyseastlansing.com

11 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday

11 a.m.-1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday

2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

Casual American mainstay featuring handcrafted burgers and grill fare and sports on TV

2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing

517-374-0390

dagwoodstavernandgrill-alternate.com

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

3. Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shop

1920s diner with a collection of antique Kewpie dolls serving burgers, homemade root beer and shakes

118 S. Washington Square, Lansing

517-482-8049

westonskewpee.com

10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday

10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday

4. The Peanut Barrel

American bar & grill offering burgers, sandwiches and beer and an outdoor patio
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
517-351-0608

peanutbarrel.com

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday

(kitchen closes an hour prior to closing)

5. Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center

Eatery and event space serving familiar Italian fare, plus breakfast

3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing

517-322-2069

tonyms.com

10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday

Noon-9 p.m. Saturday

Noon-7 p.m. Sunday

Grapefruit is a great fruit

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Texas grapefruit is in season and on sale at my local bodega. The bittersweet, ruby-fleshed orbs look shrunken and beat up, which is not necessarily a bad thing. On the contrary, it may mean they're ripe.

My dad made sure his son knew how to choose a grapefruit, and he would have been excited by the contents of this bin. The technique is to press on the bottom. If the skin feels thin and you can press it in, it's ready. If the skin feels thick and spongy, it's not perfect. In my experience as a grapefruit chooser, old and dented grapefruits, like the ones I was digging through, often fit that bill. I gently prodded the bottoms of these marginal-looking orbs until I had about 15.

At home, I peeled and opened one, and I saw the confirmation I was looking for: The membranes between sections had ripped open when I pulled the fruit apart, revealing the pink, juicy vesicles inside. In less-ripe specimens, the sections would separate from one another, but they wouldn't split open like the mouths of hungry baby birds.

Once you get the hang of assessing grapefruit, you'll realize how

rare it is to find one that's ready. Most, it seems, are harvested too early. Maybe the grapefruit merchants figure that people expect them to be a little too sour and a little too bitter. Those same challenging flavors are evident in the perfectly ripe ones, too, but are balanced by enough sweetness.

The bitterness of grapefruit contributes to its medicinal aura, as most medicines are bitter. The high levels of vitamin C are important, too, but the medicinal qualities unique to grapefruit are in that bitterness. "I eat grapefruit when I feel sick," noted a friend of mine recently. "It just feels like it will help."

Grapefruit seed extract is a popular plant-based remedy with demonstrated antimicrobial and antifungal properties. Meanwhile, people with certain health conditions, like high blood pressure or high cholesterol, are well aware that they can't eat grapefruit when taking their medications. Grapefruit can make certain drugs more potent — potentially dangerously so — by inhibiting the breakdown of those medications, allowing them to accumulate in the blood. (If grapefruit is your medicine of choice, I guess you don't have to worry about that effect.)



The intense bitter, sweet and sour flavors in grapefruit allow it to hold its own when mixed with other strong flavors. In this Thai shrimp salad that I learned on an island in the Andaman Sea, the assertive and complex flavor of the grapefruit is countered by the garlic, cilantro, fish sauce and hot pepper flakes. It makes for an exciting salad that's exotic and in season all winter long.



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

In this Thai shrimp-and-citrus salad, the assertive and complex flavor of the grapefruit is countered by garlic, cilantro, fish sauce and hot pepper flakes.

Grapefruit shrimp salad

I first had this dish in Thailand, where it was made with pomelo, a large, grapefruit-like fruit. Alas, the pomelo's thick, heavy skin drives up the cost significantly if you're paying by the pound and also makes it difficult to perform my dad's assessment. I've also swapped the shrimp for imitation crab meat, which works fine. Like other Thai salads, this one contains no oil.

Assuming you've chosen a ripe grapefruit, the juicy sections will come right out of the loose membranes with little effort.

Makes four large servings

- 4 grapefruits, peeled and de-membrated
- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 1 tablespoon (or more) hot

chili flakes

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 pound shrimp, boiled and peeled
- 2 cups grated carrots
- 2 cups grated cabbage
- 2 cups chopped cilantro
- 1/2 cup coconut flakes

Optional garnishes: green onion, cilantro, toasted peanuts

Combine the lime juice, soy sauce, garlic, fish sauce, chili flakes, salt, sugar and any grapefruit juice left over from the peeling process. Add the cooked shrimp and keep it there until it's time for the final mix.

Grate the carrots and cabbage and combine in a large bowl with the coconut flakes, cilantro and peeled grapefruit sections.

At serving time, toss the salad with the marinated shrimp and sauce.



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