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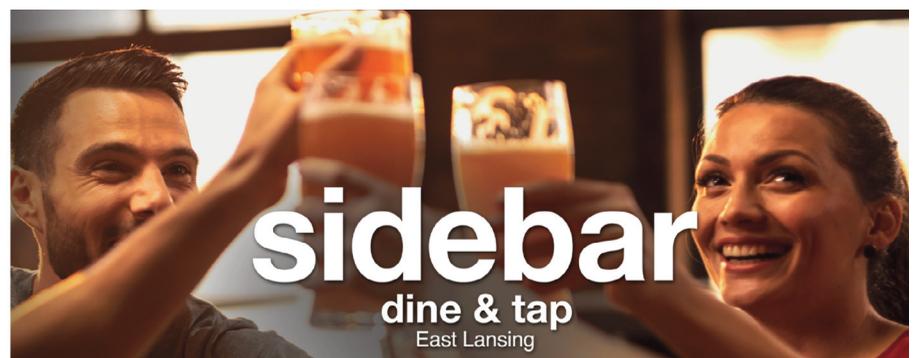
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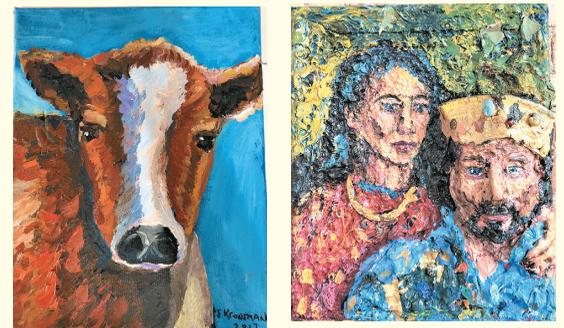
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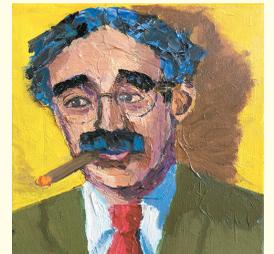
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I'M HERE TO (MUNCH MUNCH) FIX THE POST OFFICE.

MMM... COUPONS.

MAIL IS IMMEDIATELY DIVERTED TO MASSIVE "SORTING CENTERS."

HEY, THIS ISN'T A SORTING CENTER—IT'S A FEEDLOT!

I'M MAKING THINGS MORE EFFICIENT.

POSTAL WORKERS FIND THEMSELVES POWERLESS.

NEW STAMPS

"Make America Goat Again!"

OKAY, THIS IS GETTING RIDICULOUS.

SORENSEN

THE PUBLIC IS FLUMMOXED.

WHY CAN'T BIDEN GET RID OF THE GOAT DESTROYING THE POST OFFICE?!

BECAUSE THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS IS MADE UP OF UNFIRED GOATS!

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CityPULSE

**VOL. 22
ISSUE 9**

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The GP Edit: Voters' rights



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Lansing Symphony Orchestra performs in person again



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BLT perfection



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AMERICA 2021

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MEANWHILE, WE'VE ONLY GOT TEN YEARS BEFORE CLIMATE CHANGE BECOMES CATASTROPHICALLY IRREVERSIBLE.

SOMEBODY SHOULD PROBABLY DO SOMETHING!

SERIOUSLY THERE'S A CLIFF! WTF IS WRONG WITH YOU

REPUBLICANS ARE GONNA DO THEIR BEST TO STEAL THE NEXT ELECTION.

WELP! WHAT CAN YOU DO.

ANGER! CLIFF AHEAD

MANCHIN AND SINEMA WOULD RATHER PRESERVE THE FILIBUSTER THAN SAVE DEMOCRACY.

THAT DOES SEEM TO BE THE CASE!

WHAT PART OF "CLIFF AHEAD" DO YOU FAIL TO COMPREHEND

AIIIEEEEEEEEEEE

OH ALSO, THERE'S A CLIFF AROUND HERE THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WATCH OUT FOR.

YEAH, I THINK I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Dunbar inconsistent on police divestment ahead of mayoral election

‘Offensive’ dark money mailers criticize her stance on police budget

Two mudslinging political mailers that targeted mayoral candidate Kathie Dunbar hit mailboxes across Lansing last week. Both claimed that she plans to slash funding to the Police Department if she defeats Mayor Andy Schor in next month's election.

ANALYSIS

Both Schor and Councilwoman Dunbar have criticized those mailers as “offensive” — specifically because they included a photo of Dunbar making a hand gesture in reference to oral sex, along with a tagline that labeled her a “failed comedian” and “failed politician.” They also referenced unsubstantiated claims of sexual harassment leveled against Dunbar this summer, both of which she has denied.

But aside from the gratuitous sexualization of the only woman in the race, is there anything factually incorrect with the mailers? Does Dunbar still support reducing funds to the Police Department? And if elected, how would she shift the budget to address public safety reforms?

This week, Dunbar said she would not allow the Police Department budget to increase if elected mayor. In an interview with City Pulse last week, however, Dunbar appeared to have some second thoughts about whether cops should have less cash.

“I don’t even want to talk about adding funding or removing funding,” she said. “That puts the onus of public safety on the amount of money spent. The metrics for public safety are not the number of officers or the amount of money spent on police. It is how resources are used.”

Dunbar also told City Pulse: “I don’t know exactly what I would do with the police budget. There would definitely be more funding for training — but it wouldn’t be bullshit training.”

And that’s a major shift from a candidate who wanted to halve the police budget last summer.

Dunbar partnered with Councilman Brandon Betz last July on a resolution

that called for a 20% budget cut to the Police Department budget this year, as well as a \$23 million cut over the next four years. Council eventually watered down the proposal to eliminate any specific percentage benchmark for a budget reduction, but even that failed to pass the Council, with only three votes for it.

Dunbar was also one of three mayoral candidates to voice continued support for police divestment at the primary debate in June. She continued to contend in July and August that more cops wouldn’t necessarily equate to safer neighborhoods, again describing plans to City Pulse to reroute large portions of the Police Department budget to other social programs and services.

But with less than a month until the general election, Dunbar’s tune hasn’t been consistent.

She also told City Pulse last month that more camera equipment and cops on traffic patrol would be “great” to curb reckless driving. At a press conference last month with parents of local teens killed in recent gun violence, she also called for more detectives to focus on cold cases.

When asked how her plans to aggressively hire more cops, buy new equipment and introduce new training squared with her past position on police divestment, Dunbar also recognized that additional funding was a possibility — just as long as that cash is spent “in the right fashion.”

“And when I say the right fashion, I mean what is the greatest return on investment,” she said, emphasizing how she wants to further analyze the budget before making any firm decisions.

Dunbar didn’t mention the term “divestment” at all during a 95-minute interview with City Pulse last week. And that turnabout suggests that defunding the police may no longer be in her mayoral playbook, or at least shows that her enthusiasm for police budget cuts may be waning.

Dunbar declined to specify whether the police budget would be increased, decreased or kept flat under her leader-



Dunbar



Courtesy

Political mail attacking Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar hit mailboxes this week.

ship on Monday — only demanding that our coverage “be changed” to address what she labeled as an “inaccuracy.” In a statement on Tuesday, however, she said that the police budget will not see an increase if she’s elected to the office in November.

She said that boosting funding for training while also reducing funding for other, unspecified portions of Police Department budget could still lead to an overall net budget decrease.

“Calling on the mayor to fill already funded positions is not a change of tune, nor does it equate to increasing the police budget. The money is already allocated, just sitting there,” Dunbar said, noting that she also never specifically targeted LPD’s investigative division for any budget cuts.

She added: “My point was, and always has been, that police budgets don’t correlate with crime and safety. What matters more than budgets or headcounts is how police are deployed.”

Schor — who opposes police divestment and ramped up funding for cops by 2.4% in his latest budget — told City Pulse last week that he had nothing to do with sexually suggestive political mailers that criticized Dunbar. And if he had his way, the mudslinging would stop immediately.

“These sort of disgusting tactics have no place in politics,” Schor said today. “This election should be about ideas for Lansing’s future, not personal attacks. I don’t engage in negative campaigning

and I’m calling on all parties to keep focused on the issues facing our city.”

The mailer was funded by a 501(c)(4) nonprofit group called Michigan Deserves Better, led by local political consultant Joe DiSano. DiSano has refused to identify its donors and told City Pulse in March that the sole purpose of the group was to oppose former Mayor Virg Bernero’s fledgling mayoral campaign. Michigan Deserves Better was also responsible for a series of full back-page advertisements (among others) in City Pulse that have labeled Bernero as “America’s Horniest Mayor.” After Bernero left the race following sexual harassment claims against him, DiSano locked his sights on Dunbar.

The latest mailers also included Dunbar’s personal cell phone number and urged residents to call it. Dunbar said she has no plans to change her number, though she acknowledged that her phone has been “blowing up” with angry calls — mostly from “uninformed” people, she said.

The nonprofit group — not to be confused with the Super PAC with an identical name — is guided by a board with DiSano as its president, he said. While he won’t disclose any financial details, he maintains that “no money is coming in from outside the area.” He also said it has no ties to Schor or his reelection campaign. The IRS also doesn’t require it to report its spending.

The bookkeeper for the organization is Reid Felsing, an attorney who made headlines in 2019 for forming Michigan for Traditional Values — a nonprofit that orchestrated a series of failed political attack mail against State Rep. Matt Hall, a Republican candidate in the 63rd District.

The latest IRS 990 forms (from 2018) show that Michigan Deserves Better has collected at least \$228,000 in grants and other contributions and also spent about \$200,000 in the same year. It has not filed to run ads on any local broadcast TV stations and had a balance of about \$48,000.

Schor said he saw the mailers last weekend but was not involved in their creation.

Reapportionment in Lansing: What is it? Why does it matter?

Dueling proposals could expand — or shrink — Ingham County Commission

With every census, another diennial ritual is unleashed: rewriting the political lines in Michigan.

Every decade, census data is used to create election districts. That includes congressional districts, state Senate and House districts and local districts.

On the county level, new districts for county commissioners are drawn by the prosecuting attorney, clerk and treasurer. That means Prosecutor Carol Siemon, Clerk Barb Byrum and Treasurer Eric Schertzing are behind the wheel this year on recreating the format of the county Board of Commissioners. Chairs of the Republican and Democratic parties are also on the reapportionment committee.

Byrum is pushing a plan that will reduce the size of county commission from 14 to 11 seats. That plan, she said, will bring the county more in line with similarly sized counties in Michigan.

Last week, the Democratic Caucus of the commission also pitched a plan in the opposite direction, increasing the commission from 14 to 15 seats. A total of four maps have been introduced for the committee's consideration. Three of them have 15 commission seats. Only Byrum's plan would reduce the size of the commission. The reapportionment committee isn't required to accept any of those four recommendations and maintains final discretion to make any changes. The decision, however, must be made by Monday (Oct. 11), county officials said.

Byrum's plan has faced criticism from some Democratic commissioners, including Mark Grebner, Grebner, who represents all of East Lansing and Michigan State University. At the cau-

Ingham County Reapportionment Input Sessions

11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 7 — Conference Room B of the Hilliard Building in Mason
10 a.m. Oct. 11 — Conference Room A of the Hilliard Building in Mason

cus meeting, Grebner attacked the plan for pitting sitting commissioners against each other for reelection. He also contends that the reformatted commission would put each of the people of color who serve on the commission in jeopardy of losing their seats.

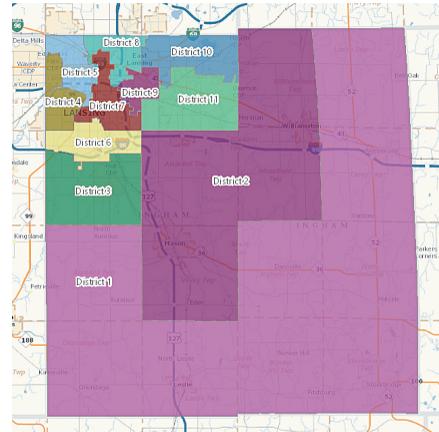
"I just don't think a lot will get done if commissioners are busy campaigning against each other," Grebner explained in a phone interview this week. "That seems counterproductive."

Grebner said the party in power — which has long been the Democrats — usually refrains from creating mayhem by pitting sitting elected officials against each other. But Byrum's proposal, he said, would put longtime Commissioner Vic Celentino up against Commissioner Derrell Slaughter. It would also shift the boundary of that seat to the east, absorbing some of East Lansing and pitting Chairman Bryan Crenshaw against newcomer Commissioner Bob Peña.

"I don't think either one of them would understand the needs of East Lansing," Grebner said.

Byrum said the current district configuration has commissioners each representing 20,350 people based on the 2020 census — up from 20,063 in 2010. A move to 11 commission seats would mean commissioners would be elected to represent 25,900 people.

Her proposed changes reflect an increase in population in the county, although most of that increase was in Meridian Township, while Lansing's



Proposed reapportionment map from Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum.

population shrunk. The change would proportionately increase representation from Meridian Township to two seats, while reducing seats in Lansing through consolidation of all of south Lansing into a single commission seat.

The increased size of the districts is also a concern for Grebner, a longtime political consultant who makes his living mining voter lists to create targeted political campaign activity locally. He said larger districts would make it more difficult for in-person political campaigns — meaning that candidates would be forced to spend more cash on mailers to reach a wider audience.

For Byrum, the apportionment process is about democracy at its core.

"The goal of county reapportionment is to create county commission districts that are as close to equal in population as possible," she said in an email. "Residents of each district only get one representative on the Board of Commissioners, which means that those who live in a district with a smaller than average population will have a fractionally larger voice, whereas those who live in a district with more than the average would be

represented slightly less so on the board."

The new 15-seat commission would decrease the size of the commission districts, making commissioners more connected to their constituents, according to Commissioner Ryan Sebolt. He said that's why he supported the 15-seat solution but has not endorsed any specific map.

Reapportionment also isn't exclusive to Ingham County. Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope, also proposed a consolidation of precincts but it would not change the number of Council seats.

The proposed changes would ultimately shift three neighborhoods into a different ward in order to put voters closer to a bigger polling place and reduce the difference in the number of voters between the four wards of the city, Swope said in a Facebook post on Monday afternoon.

Additionally, city ward boundaries may change in the near future depending on the outcome of final 2020 census data in Lansing. City officials are considering challenging the outcome of the latest census, arguing that citizens may have been missed in the truncated census, which was complicated by the pandemic and decreased investment from the federal government.

The apolitical statewide apportionment commission is also redrawing state Senate and House districts in Michigan and working on changes to congressional districts. This year is the first time that a citizens commission, rather than lawmakers, has drawn the new district maps. The commission, as of Monday evening, was considering a map that would see the state Senate districts evenly split 19-19 between leaning Democratic and leaning Republican.

— TODD HEYWOOD

Dunbar

from page 5

"Regardless of what others do, I'm going to continue to share a positive vision for the city's future, because that's what Lansing residents want and deserve," Schor said in a statement.

According to IRS guidelines, DiSano's 501(c)(4) can promote "social welfare" as described in federal law but it cannot be used for direct support or opposition to any candidate for public office. It can also engage in "some" political activity, as long as that is not its "primary" purpose.

In 2014, DiSano signed a public apology for 2012 robocalls that allegedly accused Democratic state House candidate Phil DiMaria of taking "dirty pictures in his basement" and "using the internet to lure young girls into nude modeling sessions at his home," MLive reported.

In that race, State Rep. Sarah Roberts had also said she wasn't linked to the robocalls against her opponent. She also said DiSano was hired by a third-party group with a personal vendetta.

In 2017, DiSano faced criticism for helping to create a mudslinging political mailer for 4th Ward City Council candidate Jim McClurken. That mailer

included an image of six young men and women of different ethnicities and the phrase "Lansing's criminals want Jim McClurken to lose."

Some said the image used for that mailer was rife with stereotypes and fear mongering over criminals in Lansing. Former McClurken staffer Emily Dievendorf resigned from the campaign over the incident. She said the mailer was created without her knowledge or authorization. Then Lansing School Board member Peter Spadafore also said that McClurken mailer "offensive."

DiSano ignored calls for this story, as well as for one that was published online last week.

Many political insiders have speculated that local labor unions have been involved in funding the recent political mail. Councilman Jeremy Garza, state political lead for the Michigan Pipe Trades Association, said that plumbers and pipefitters have not provided financial support to the group.

"It was disgusting, and I'm glad my daughters didn't get a hold of that. I do not support any negative campaign attacks, especially sexualized ones such as this," he said. "I'm focused on my own reelection. We've had beautiful weather for knocking doors and talking to neighbors."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Biden visits Howell

President Joe Biden stopped in Howell Tuesday to promote his infrastructure bill and his “Build Back Better” plan. He landed at the Capital Region International Airport about 1:30 p.m. His agenda included a stop at the Operating Engineers 324 center in Howell Township.



Delhi Township opens car chargers

A set of newly installed fast charging stations for electric vehicles at Delhi Township Hall on Aurelius Road were opened to the public through a partnership with Consumers Energy. The new chargers were funded through the Township’s Downtown Development Authority.



Local pols push for tax credit extension

Mayor Andy Schor and State Rep. Sarah Anthony urged the state’s congressional delegation to permanently extend the Child Tax Credit at a virtual press conference so that “millions of children, especially children of color, can be lifted out of poverty,” according to a press release.

County tackles environmental issues

Ingham County’s recently reestablished Environmental Affairs Commission met for the first time. The group will serve as an advisory body to the county commission and make recommendations on how to reduce energy usage, promote sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions — all in the best interests of “climate justice,” according to a release.



State budget invests in local cops

The latest state budget includes more than \$1 million for public safety in Lansing, including \$75,000 for work on unsolved murders at the Lansing Police Department and \$1 million for security cameras and policing at the Capitol, reports the Lansing State Journal.

Lansing gives pot shops more time to open

City Clerk Chris Swope’s office issued license extensions to five yet-to-open marijuana dispensaries, giving them a few more months to open their doors before they could be forced to forfeit their licenses and make room for another pot shop. Five unopened stores must launch their business (or request another extension) or else risk license forfeiture in December. The city of Lansing, for now, has hit its legally



Swope

mandated cap of 28 retail operations. If those five licenses go back on the market, the City Council plans to reserve as many of them as possible for women, people of color and those who have been unfairly impacted by the war on drugs.

McLaren: Flu season is approaching

McLaren Greater Lansing is urging residents to start planning their flu shots for the upcoming influenza season because contracting the flu can weaken the immune system and leave it vulnerable to COVID-19. The “prime time” to get the shot is this month, according to top doctors.

Fluoride systems updated in Lansing

The Lansing Board of Water & Light is wrapping up an upgrade to its water fluoridation system following a \$90,000 grant from the Delta Dental Foundation. The upgraded system ensures that local tap water will continue to be optimized with fluoride as a means to prevent tooth decay.



Counties diverge on school mandates

The Barry-Eaton District Health Department has rescinded masking and quarantine orders for school districts in Barry and Eaton counties, noting that the mandate could cause the county to lose state funding under the latest budget. The Ingham County Health Department, however, doubled down on its existing emergency orders, noting they will remain in place indefinitely.

LCC honors fallen firefighters

The Granger Clock Tower at the community college’s downtown campus has been glowing red as a tribute to firefighters who died in the line of duty. The annual “Light the Night” memorial has been held in partnership with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for the last four years.



Local community center goes solar

The Capital Area Chapter of Michigan Interfaith Power and Light has raised about \$20,000 of the \$35,000 needed to put solar energy panels on the roof of the South Side Community Coalition Center in south Lansing. The panels are set to power the whole building next year.

Sellers headlines NAACP telecast

CNN political commentator Bakari Sellers was announced as the keynote speaker for the Lansing NAACP’s 55th Freedom Fund Celebration, which airs at 8 p.m. Oct. 16 on WLNS-TV 6. Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist will also speak.



Sellers

Correction

Because of a reporting error, a story in the Sept. 29 issue of City Pulse incorrectly described a candidate for the East Lansing City Council as an incumbent. The incumbents are Dana Watson and Ron Bacon.

SORE OF THE WEEK



1004 Johnson Ave.

This week’s eyesore is a juicy one: It’s the scene of an active police investigation.

This bright red house with a gambrel roof on the north side was reportedly declared a “total loss” by the Lansing Fire Department after it was destroyed in a blaze March 4. Boards still cover the entirety of the porch. Bricks are charred along the roofline. Sunlight shines through cracks in the walls and the shattered upper-floor window. The vacant home seems like it could collapse at any time.

City officials think so too. They red-tagged the home and declared it unsafe on the same day.

Elissa Cheeks and her 3-year-old daughter lost all of their belongings in the blaze, a teary-eyed Cheeks told WILX in front of the charred remains of her former homestead in March. Cheeks also told reporters on scene that her old friends were responsible for burning it down.

The property owner, Dennis Moore, told City Pulse this week that he also believes a group of people intentionally started the fire. He said that he’s working with his insurance company to help cover the repairs, as well as local cops to help track down the alleged culprits.

So far, he’s not having much luck.

“I couldn’t evict the person who was living there illegally and the house was arsoned,” Moore said. “The neighbors even have video of it, but nobody will do anything about it. The cops told me it wouldn’t be good for race relations to prosecute the people who did it. Now the city just keeps charging me fees, so I don’t care what happens to the place. The city can kiss my ass.”

A spokesman for the Police Department was only able to confirm the address to be the site of an “open arson investigation,” but he couldn’t provide any details about the status of the probe. So far, the investigation has dragged on without an arrest for more than six months. Those with any information about the alleged crime are still encouraged to call the cops at (517) 483-4600.

Meanwhile, the city has been billing Moore about \$150 per month through its Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team, which monitors unsafe, substandard and vacant properties across Lansing and issues recurring fines to their owners who fail to make timely repairs. Under state law, the home must be red-tagged for 180 days before the city can begin the process of ordering a demolition. That deadline passed on Aug. 31. So, sit tight neighbors. The end is near.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

“Eyesore of the Week” is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call it in at 517-999-6715.

Voting rights under assault — again

Just when we thought the Republican crazy train claiming last year's presidential election was stolen had finally run out of steam, now comes the Grand Old Party's latest attempt at voter suppression, this time in the form of a petition you'll soon be asked to sign by an earnest volunteer in the parking lot at Meijer's. As New York baseball great Yogi Berra purportedly once said, "It's deja vu all over again."

The specifics of the petition will sound familiar to those who are paying attention. This year, Republicans in the Michigan Legislature introduced a series of bills that aimed to restrict voting, especially by absentee ballot, knowing full well that if they made it to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's desk, she would relegate them to the trash bin of history with a stroke of her veto pen, which she did Sunday. By using Michigan's unique, petition-based system for initiated laws, however, they can bypass her office altogether. More on that in a moment.

First, flying under the predictably misleading banner of "Secure MI Vote," the new petition seeks to undermine the sweeping voter access reforms approved in 2018 by an overwhelming vote of the people of Michigan that made it much easier to vote by absentee ballot. The results of those changes were dramatic — more than 3.2 million out of 5.5 million Michigan voters cast their ballots by absentee in the 2020 presidential election. Of course, Republicans abhor absentee voting because it improves access to voting for marginalized groups that typically favor Democrats. Thus the "Secure MI Vote" cabal was convened to lead a renewed effort to disenfranchise these groups.

Approved last week by the state Board of Canvassers, the group's petition would prohibit the secretary of state and local clerks from sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications to eligible voters, even though both political parties and countless candidates routinely do the same thing. The plan would require Election Day voters to show a photo ID, eliminate their ability to sign an affidavit and require those applying for absentee ballots to include their driver's license or state ID number, along with the last four digits of their Social Security number. It would also prohibit clerks from accepting donations from third parties to help underwrite the cost of election-related activities like deploying additional absentee ballot drop boxes or hiring more poll workers.



The CP Edit

Opinion

If the petition sponsors are successful in obtaining the signatures of 340,047 registered Michigan voters — equal to 8% of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial election — their plan will be presented to the Republican-controlled Michigan Legislature, where it can be approved as a new state law with nothing more than a simple majority vote, and with no opportunity for a gubernatorial veto. In essence, it's a method by which a relatively small number of people can impose their will on the rest of the state by circumventing a statewide vote.

In fairness, we note that this peculiar provision of Michigan's ballot initiative process has benefitted some of the causes about which progressives are quite passionate. Two such initiated petitions were elevated to new laws by the Legislature in 2018, one that increased the minimum wage and indexed it to inflation, another that required employers to provide paid sick time to their employees. Two other initiated petitions, one to repeal the state's prevailing wage statute and, most recently, rolling back the governor's emergency powers, were advanced by conservatives and became law without going to the statewide ballot.

One might say what's good for the goose is good for the gander, that if progressives can advance their

agenda through the initiated law process, so can conservatives. We have a different perspective. Regardless of their political leanings, the ease with which a motivated minority can make new laws for the entire state, provided they have a cooperative legislature, would make the Founding Fathers roll over in their graves.

Even though progressives have used petition drives to change state laws just as much as conservatives, we think it's a loophole that should be closed. While we support the long-held power of the people of Michigan to bypass the normal legislative process through a statewide ballot, the Legislature shouldn't have the option to circumvent a vote of the people by adopting the petition as law through a simple majority vote. If they choose to do so, Michigan's Constitution should subject the proposal to gubernatorial

review and possible veto, just like any other new law. This would preserve the essential checks and balances that make our system of democratic government work best.

If the "Secure MI Vote" voter suppression effort succeeds, there is no stopping the radical right from pursuing all manner of retrograde rubbish via petition drives, including draconian restrictions on abortion, further eroding or even eliminating the governor's emergency powers, and whatever else they think they can get away with.

There are three ways to stop them: The first is for Democrats or another public interest group to launch a statewide ballot drive to amend Michigan's Constitution, getting rid of the language that allows the Legislature to bypass the Governor's Office and unilaterally pass initiative petitions into law. All valid petitions with sufficient signatures would have to be placed on the statewide ballot. Another is to elect a Democratic majority in the House or Senate, which would prevent Republicans who control both chambers from rubber stamping the next wave of deranged petitions.

In the short term, the third option is the only one we've got, which is to refuse to sign the "Secure MI Vote" petition. As sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, petition circulators will use every trick in the book to make their voter suppression plan sound eminently reasonable in an effort to get you to sign it. Don't be fooled.

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor: E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com or mail: City Pulse 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 • Fax: (517) 371-5800 • lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column: Contact Berl Schwartz for more information publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061.

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

Marijuana lobbyist becomes focal point of first caregiver legislation hearing

Pro-marijuana caregivers burned away a chunk of credibility this week when they turned a legislative committee discussion on bills forcing them to become a registered business into a snide attack on an opposing lobbyist.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Asked for a comment later, Linder said, “They really did their side proud.” The lead sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Jim Lilly, R-Park Twp., added, “Any time you make an issue about a person, you’re probably not on the right side of the issue ... even if it is against Steve Linder,” he added with a smile.

Scott Hagerstrom, who is advocating for the Michigan Caregivers Association (MCA), acknowledged that his members were passionate in their approach to defeating the bills and he expects opponents to be more composed at the next hearing.

His members are growing medical marijuana for a small group of patients. These bills would force them to become a business and adhere to the same testing requirements as “Big Weed.”

They resent the “Cannabis Cartel” coming in with their big bucks. They’re trying to wow legislators with a fancy presentation designed to make out caregivers as scofflaws who give questionable quality marijuana to sick patients and sell their excess on the black market.

“Many lawmakers seem to believe that bills like HB 5300, HB 5301 and HB 5302 are to help public safety,” said MCA founder George Brikho. “They have been deceived by dishonest and slimy lobbyists like Steven Linder. We will show them the light, or, if they refuse to do the right thing, make sure their constituents in their districts know about it.”

The bills are the first serious attempt to change the government oversight of medical marijuana caregivers, which was created through a 2008 ballot initiative, to that of adult-use marijuana grow operations.

Marijuana growers can grow up to 12 plants for each of their five patients. The bills would drop that number to one patient. Since it’s amending a ballot initiative, it would need three-quarters support from both the House and Senate to pass and get to the governor.

Prior to the hearing, I felt enough legislators had questions on the bills that this high level of support wasn’t there.

After the hearing and talking with legislators, I’m not as sure.

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

Opponents to HB 5300, HB 5301, HB 5302 lampooned Steve Linder on a rolling billboard that portrayed the executive director of the Michigan Cannabis Manufacturers Association (MCMA) as Mini-Me from the old Austin Powers’ movies.

OPINION

“One Billion Dollars!” reads the billboard. “Vote no on Linder’s monopoly bills ... Michigan Representatives, don’t fall for Steve Linder’s lies!”

Linder referenced the billboard — a tactic he’s used before against caregivers— in his testimony to the House Regulatory Reform Committee by saying he’d “left his Dr. Evil suit at home.”

But when Rick Thompson, executive director of the Michigan chapter of NORML (National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws), made a reference to “Evil Steve” in his testimony, Committee Chairman Roger Hauck gavelled him down and asked him to stick to the merits of the legislation.

“He called himself ‘Evil Steve,’ Rep. Hauck, right?” continued Thompson, before he let his disgust for the “big bucks” that hired Linder, attorney Shelly Edgerton and the public relations team in the committee get the better of him.

“That was big dollars today that testified,” he said. “The two polls they conducted, too. That was big dollars. Plus, the dog and pony show that we saw here today ...”

Hauck shut down Thompson at that point and moved on to the next witness.

“I’m not going to sit up here and be lectured,” Hauck said.

Shortly after the hearing, opponents to the bills heckled Linder personally, calling him a “bitch,” among other things. The House sergeants ended up giving the lobbyist an escort to a back staircase, which he used to exit the building.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

By Order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County
Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 10:00 AM
 Registration Starts at 8:30 AM

Auction Held: Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI

INCREDIBLE LOW RESERVES!!



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- Roosevelt Ave, Lansing
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- 904 N. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing
- 1315 W. Maple St, Lansing
- 1315.5 W. Maple St, Lansing
- 203 E. Reasoner St, Lansing
- 1027 Cady Ct/929 Johnson, Lansing
- N. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing
- 1000 Mahlon St, Lansing
- 1558 E. Cesar E Chaves, Lansing
- 1314 E. Oakland Ave, Lansing
- 217 N. Fairview, Lansing
- 616 S. Mifflin Ave, Lansing
- 223 Hill St, Lansing
- 1008 Bement St, Lansing
- Clifford St, Lansing
- Buffalo St, Lansing
- 927 S. Grand Ave, Lansing
- 518 Christiency St, Lansing
- 1423 Ada St, Lansing
- 913 Motor Ave, Lansing
- 1735 Lyons Ave, Lansing
- 1522 W. Holmes Rd, Lansing
- 3005 Herrick Dr, Lansing
- W. Jolly Road, Lansing
- 1732 Hillcrest St, Lansing
- 1318 Mary Ave, Lansing
- Hughes Rd, Lansing
- 4615 Ora St, Lansing
- 840 Maple Hill Ave, Lansing
- 6227 W. Lake Dr, Haslett
- S. Charles St, Lansing
- 2034 Wyndham Hills Dr, Holt
- 2036 Wyndham Hills Dr, Holt
- E. Main St, Stockbridge

A deposit of \$2,000 in certified funds is required for bid approval.

Visit website for detailed info on parcels & terms of sale at www.BippusUSA.com
 Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer, 341 S. Jefferson St, Mason, MI (517.676.7220)

BippusUSA.com **Detailed Information**
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 John Bippus AARE CAI CES GRI Broker/Auctioneer

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. Request from 310 LLC to rezone a 0.36-acre parcel located at 210 West Lake Lansing Road from RA (Residential Agricultural District) to B-4 (Restricted Office Business District).
2. Request from Merritt Road 4, LLC to divide a 6.42-acre parcel located at 2040 Merritt Road to create three (3) new parcels.

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

Peter Menser – Planning and Zoning Administrator
 410 Abbot Road
 East Lansing, MI 48823
 517.319.6861 or pmenser@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Jennifer Shuster
 City Clerk
 Dated: September 29, 2021
 East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#21-221

Lansing mayoral candidates face off over felony firearms policy

By **ANDY SCHOR**
OPINION

(Andy Schor is seeking a second term as mayor of Lansing in the Nov. 2 general election.)

As the mayor of Lansing, I have taken a stand against gun violence. I have joined with Dion'trae Hayes (Lansing Township supervisor), Ron Styka (Meridian Township supervisor), John Hayhoe (Delhi Township supervisor) and almost all other chief executives of communities in Ingham County to ask the county prosecutor to reverse her police of not charging for felony firearm when guns are present during another crime. The signers are diverse and reflect Ingham County.

I signed this letter because I do not want the perception among criminals to be that guns can be brought to a crime without consequence.

There is certainly a racial disparity in those accused of gun violence. But minorities are also disproportionately victims of gun violence. And that is what the prosecutor is ignoring. I have spoken to parents and grandparents of victims of gun violence (mostly people of color). They expect justice, and they want to see fewer guns on the streets. These families are upset by the blanket policy that fails to take evidence and circumstance into account. I would hope that the prosecutor would listen to these voices within our community in addition to the national VERA report that she is citing and review charges case by case.

We do need changes in the Felony Firearm statute. I ensured that the letter I signed stressed the need for change at the state level, which the prosecutor and I agree on. The mandatory minimum sentence of two years for a first offense needs to change. And the consecutive sentencing requirement needs to change. Judges need to be able to decide the necessary punishment case by case, just as the prosecutors should have the ability to charge case by case. They need the ability to



Schor

balance justice for the victims with the ability to rehabilitate and reform offenders instead of simply locking them away. That change comes from the state legislature. I join with Rep. Sarah Anthony and others who are willing to work on this.

Gun violence is real, and we are all seeing the impacts. People are afraid in Lansing and throughout the nation. Too many guns are on the streets, and there are too many gun shots and homicides. I have a plan to address this. I proposed and passed through City Council more police officers in Lansing to patrol the streets and respond to crimes, and we are actively hiring to fill those spots. We were fully staffed and actually overstaffed a few years ago, but recent proposals at City Council to cut the police by 50% have hampered hiring efforts. I will not cut the Police Department without a reduction in crime and calls (we get 85,000 per year), and we are actively recruiting police officers and sponsoring officers in the police academy. I also want to provide positive outlets for our youth. As the pandemic has lessened and vaccinations have become available, we reopened community centers and allocated \$180,000 to community programs. We also allocated \$240,000 to join with Ingham County to use street outreach to reform those who have gone down the wrong path before they land in prison or worse. And we have a Violent Crime Initiative that is actively taking hundreds of guns off the streets.

Our work toward public safety expands far beyond what's mentioned here, and our plan is what's needed to reverse the trend. As mayor, I will continue addressing crime head-on through a comprehensive approach that involves community input and putting plans into action.

I join with most of the other chief executive officials in Ingham County to ask the prosecutor to charge case-by-case based on the evidence, and to remember the victims families as well as those accused of the crimes, instead of having a blanket policy to not charge for felony firearm as a secondary offense.

By **KATHIE DUNBAR**
OPINION

(Councilwoman Dunbar is a candidate for mayor of Lansing in the Nov. 2 general election.)

After a year-long publicity campaign of press conferences and committee reports that feign to address racial disparities in Lansing, Andy Schor denounced Ingham County Prosecutor Carol



Dunbar

Siemen for adopting an evidence-based policy to reduce racial disparities. One more time for the people in the back: After making a consistently performative show of his efforts to reduce racial disparities, Schor denounced a policy designed to reduce racial disparities.

In Michigan, it is a crime to possess a firearm while committing or attempting to commit a felony. It doesn't matter if the firearm is legally owned, properly licensed and stored, or played no role in the underlying offense (e.g. drug possession). Once you are charged with felony firearm in Michigan, even if a judge grants probation on the original offense, you will still serve a minimum two-year sentence for felony firearm.

Prosecutor Siemen's decision not to automatically add felony firearm charges on top of underlying offenses is based on decades of research that shows — contrary to its legislative intent — mandatory felony firearm sentencing has never been proven to deter gun violence. What it has done is create huge race disparities in sentencing, resulting in far more Black men incarcerated for longer periods.

Truth be damned, Schor opted to perpetuate statistically disproven fear-mongering rhetoric that gun violence will increase if felony firearm charges aren't automatically added to underlying offenses. There is great irony in his concern about rising gun violence given how little he has done to address the staggering amount of gun violence already affecting so many Lansing families.

Schor's cavalcade of committees includes a gun violence task force, composed almost exclusively of Cabinet-level staff, which has yet to provide a single substantive solution to address the record number of gun-re-

lated homicides in Lansing. Throwing one-time cash donations at local non-profits with no cohesive long-term plan for sustainable change is not a substantive solution. It is, however, a great way to buy favor during an election season.

If interrupting gun violence was a priority, Schor would be pushing to operationalize Advance Peace, not secretly meeting with county officials to undermine the process because he has a personal vendetta against the organization put forward to receive the contract.

After unanimous support by the scoring committee, which included senior staff in the Schor administration, the contract was forwarded to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners for approval. Then Schor met with county officials — and the contract was inexplicably pulled from the agenda. A week later, the organization unanimously put forward by the scoring committee received an email thanking them for participating, but the decision was made to reopen the bid process.

We funded Advance Peace during this budget cycle. It needed to be operationalized yesterday. How many more lives will be lost before he's capable of setting his ego aside for the betterment of those hurting most in Lansing?

There's a reason Schor is named in eight federal discrimination lawsuits. There's a reason no policies have changed in the city's detention facility after the death of Anthony Hulon. So it should come as no surprise that Schor would jump in to defend flawed and discriminatory law enforcement policies that disproportionately affect our Black and brown residents.

The mayor of a city as diverse as Lansing has a responsibility to uphold the rights and protect the safety of ALL of our residents. This policy shift within the Prosecutor's Office seeks to ensure the protection and safety of ALL residents by eliminating commonly misused "companion charges," which by no means allows criminals to "go free."

Schor has shown, time and time again, that he is the mayor of people like him. Lansing deserves better. We need a city government dedicated to the safety, success and prosperity of all of our residents. When we make sure the least of our community is cared for, everyone rises.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Broughton
MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees: Brewer, Ruiz
ALSO PRESENT: Mike Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of meetings held on August 9, 2021 and August 17, 2021 as presented.
Agenda approved as amended.
Closed public hearing for Bogus Swamp Drain Special Assessment.
Adopted Resolution 21-15: Resolution to Confirm 2021 Bogus Swamp Drain Improvement Special Assessment Roll as presented.
Adopted Resolution 21-16: Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) as presented.
Approved entering into Executive Session for purpose of pending litigation – Eastwood LLC v Lansing Charter Township – MTT Docket #20-004633.
Approved returning to Regular session.
Approved authorization of Township Attorney and Township Assessor to settle Eastwood LLC Tax Tribunal Case within the parameters discussed in Executive Session.
Approved claims as presented.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-222

NOTICE OF HEARING

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS
TO THE OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY IN THE PROPOSED 2021
POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:**

All lots and parcels of land within the Township.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lansing proposes to make the following generally-described police, fire, and emergency services improvements with respect to the proposed 2021 Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment District:

- (1) one or more ambulances; (2) fire engines/vehicles/apparatus; (3) building/facility upgrades, improvements and/or repairs; (4) computer hardware, software, and related technology and equipment; (5) police patrol vehicles and related equipment; (6) cameras, recording equipment, and related police and/or fire equipment; (7) police and/or fire operating costs; and (8) other police and/or fire equipment, apparatus, and operation costs (the "Project").

Plans and cost estimates for the Project have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination. The estimated total annual cost for the Project is \$1,522,415.01. Property that is exempt from real property taxes will be exempt from this assessment.

Plans and cost estimates for the Project have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet on Tuesday, the 12th day of October, 2021, at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., in the Township Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917, for the purpose of hearing any objections to the Project, and the question of creating a special assessment district and defraying the expenses of the special assessment district by special assessment on the property to be especially benefited.

Appearance and protest at the hearing, in person or in writing, are required in order to appeal the action of the Township Board in approving the police, fire, and emergency services improvement special assessment project, the special assessment roll, and/or the amount of an assessment to the state tax tribunal. A property owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment proceedings or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter and his or her personal appearance will not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of a special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 35 days of the date the special assessment roll is confirmed by the Township Board.

Dated: September 29, 2021

Maggie Sanders, Township Clerk

CP#21-220



**EQUALITY
MICHIGAN
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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Lansing Symphony returns with a vengeance

A bagful of bangs

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

After a year and a half of pandemic-imposed exile, the Lansing Symphony will be back Saturday, not with a bang, but with a bagful of bangs.

A saucy salvo of slaps, courtesy of Leonard Bernstein's "On the Town," will serve instant notice the orchestra is open for business.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Michael Brown, soloist
7:30 p.m. Sat., Oct. 9
Wharton Center Cobb
Great Hall
\$20-55
(517) 487-5001

"It's not very subtle, but we wanted to make the very first thing the audience hears to really have an impact," music director

Timothy Muffitt said.

The biggest bangs Russia has ever produced, this side of the tank battle of Kursk, are the crushing chords that open the evening's centerpiece, Tchaikovsky's massive piano concerto.

One of the most skilled and compelling young musicians on the scene, New York pianist and composer Michael Brown, will provide the keyboard fireworks.

Brown has the unique ability to project stress and joy at the same time — the perfect combination for one of the toughest works in the repertoire.

He's been holed up in his Manhattan apartment, his pandemic headquarters for the past year and a half, getting the beast under his fingers.

"You can start anywhere and four hours later, you're not much further



Courtesy photo

Pianist Michael Brown, lauded by The New York Times as "a young piano visionary," will bring Tchaikovsky's epic Piano Concerto to life at the Lansing Symphony's first post-pandemic concert Saturday.

than where you started," he said. "It's exciting because you can never be good enough."

Although Brown emerged from his hideout for a few outdoor festivals this summer, Saturday's concert will be a comeback for him as well.

"I've done concertos during the pandemic, but a lot of strings-only or smaller ensembles," he said. "This will be the first time in two years I'm doing a piece that requires this many players."

Brown is an accomplished composer as well as a pianist.

After several false starts over the pandemic, he came to Kalamazoo in April to perform a lyrical, probing piano concerto he wrote while living at Rock Hill, the Aaron Copland House in New York.

He recently wrote a piece for the Maryland Symphony about COVID, "Merging Pods."

"It's based on the fantasy that we start together, we all come apart, and we come back together," he said. "It's not really true, but maybe in art, we have better luck to create our own fantasy worlds."

He got through the pandemic with the help of long walks in gorgeous Fort Tryon Park and along the High Line in Manhattan, where he lives in the Washington Heights neighborhood, and quality time with his quarantine buddies: two Steinway pianos he has named Octavia and Daria. The ménage a trois has taken the opportunity to plunge into all-consuming vor-

ticals like the Tchaikovsky concerto and Beethoven's "Hammerklavier" sonata, which he called a "weird, psychotic puzzle."

Octavia and Daria were "born" in 1893 and 1884, when Tchaikovsky was still around, and Brown can feel the affinity when he practices.

"I'm drawn lately to music that's beautiful, and makes you cry," he said.

He's never worked with Muffitt, but he heard about the maestro from his friend, frequent duet partner and Manhattan neighbor, Nick Canellakis, who played the Schumann cello concerto with the Lansing Symphony in April 2019.

Brown was happy to learn that visiting artists prize Muffitt as a flexible and dynamic collaborator who tackles the biggest concerto as if it were an intimate duet with the soloist.

"When a concerto can feel like chamber music, that's really awesome," Brown said. "Otherwise, you get this leading-following thing, where it's not a unified experience for everyone."

The cream center of the concerto, for Brown, is the gently whimsical middle movement.

"It's just really fun to play," he said. "It's like a ballet for the fingers, especially after this titanic opening movement that's like a battle to get through."

To master a concerto this intense, he has to will himself to stay in the moment.

"I have my anxieties," he said. "Will I remember what comes next? Will I forget something? The best thing for me is to limit my negative thoughts and focus on how beautiful the music is."

Fortunately, Tchaikovsky gives the

See LS0, Page 15

Happendance honors the dance trends of the '80s

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Spandex, glitter, glam and synthesizers — these wonderfully kitschy hallmarks of the '80s are getting the Happendance treatment in its upcoming

Dancing Through the '80s

\$15
Sunday, Oct. 10, 2 p.m.
Lansing Eastern High
626 Marshall St.,
Lansing
Happendance.org

ing production, "Dancing Through the '80s."

Production for "Dancing Through the

'80s" began with an announcement in January, and dancers had until May to learn some of the required choreography for the audition. An outdoor performance was held this summer, and the indoor performance, which features 10 dancers, goes down this weekend. Songs featured in "Dancing Through the '80s" include "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'" by Michael Jackson, and "In the Air Tonight," by Phill Collins.

"It feels like what we've all been hun-

gry for after this horrible. We needed something super colorful, fun and celebratory," Happendance artistic director Missy Lilje said.

"Dancing Through the '80s" is just one part of a planned retrospective series that will celebrate the dance trends from the past several decades in honor of Happendance's fast approaching 50th anniversary. Upcoming productions will feature dance moves from the '90s onward.

Happendance is also working on a virtual platform that Lilje likens to streaming services like Netflix or Disney Plus. Users will be able to select a wide range of video lessons and performances from a digital menu. It will include a vast archive of past productions and lesson plans from Happendance's history.

"We've been around for 45 years, so there's a lot of content. It will serve an educational purpose, as well as an archival purpose. It's a great way to take care of our legacy and share it with a lot of people," Lilje said.

Favorite Things

Cody Hobbins and his Fender Stratocaster



Cody Hobbins, who owns a window-washing company, is a prodigious guitarist. Though he used to prefer pointy metal guitars fit for bands like Pantera and Ratt, he now prefers vintage-style Fender guitars.

Before I joined my current band, I had always played Deans and Jacksons, maybe a Telecaster here or there, but it was always metal guitars — pointy things. I cut my teeth on Iron Maiden, Judas Priest and Megadeth. I was a metalhead. I didn't play punk music, I played metal.

I started buying up Squiers, I bought a Jazzmaster and two different Squier Jaguars. I returned both Jaguars because they were total garbage. Horribly built, just not good. I went into Guitar Center and was looking at the wall thinking, "I just need anything. I need something sweet." There it was, the guitar I wanted — the exact Stratocaster I was looking at on the Internet before going into Guitar Center and telling myself, "Damn, it would be cool to have that guitar."

I said, "All right, stop everything. Return this piece of crap and give me the guitar the top of the shelf that's the one I want." The sparkly mint green and the off-white pickguard and accessories — that was it, I was sold.

Funnily enough, I took the guitar home and thought, "What a hunk of

crap." It was in horrible shape; the neck was all warped. It needed a little bit of work before it would be up to snuff. I started getting into my tools and looking stuff up online. I had to shim the neck a little bit and loosen a few bolts. I screwed with the action. I had to figure this guitar out all on my own. I took it to a professional and they didn't get it where I wanted, I had to do it all myself.

I am bonded and endeared to this guitar because I had to do my own work and so much of my time into it. On top of that, I have a custom Seymour Duncan JB Jr. pickup in it. I went through two of those. The first one broke midway through recording my band's album, which was the worst possible timing. My good friend replaced it with a brand-new one.

Every piece of that guitar is set up for me and nobody else. I don't have it set up as to where anybody else would like it, but it's been so good to me. I had to do that all myself, so I am really bonded to the thing. There will always be a place in my heart for the big wild Dean or a pointy Jackson, but by and large I've moved onto Stratocasters and Super Stratocasters. I can't go back.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com.

LSO

from page 14

pianist much-needed breaks while the orchestra storms away.

"There's a lot of great orchestral moments," Brown said. "It's an experience for the pianist and the orchestra together. I'm just a part."

He paused.

"A major part."

Between the bangs Saturday night, Muffitt and the orchestra will acknowledge the emotional weight of their return to Wharton with a 1985 piece by American composer Roger Briggs, "Gathering Together."

"It's the perfect piece for bringing an audience back into a concert hall after a global pandemic," Muffitt said. "The composer spins these long lines that are achingly beautiful, that put the audience in this space of warm contemplation."

The Lansing Symphony's COVID-19 guidelines for Saturday's concert are roughly in line with widely adopted rules in venues across the country, including Broadway theaters. Audience

members will need proof of full vaccination or a negative test and masks will be required. (For more detailed information, see the LSO website.) All symphony concerts through November will not have an intermission and no concessions will be available.

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**See our website absolutemusiclansing.org for tickets and our safety plan. Concert will be live and live-streamed. Seating limited to 60 and masks required.

Robin Theatre expands with a new bookstore

By **BILL CASTANIER**

The Robin Theatre in REO Town just got a lot more interesting. Not that it wasn't interesting before — having hosted more than 500 events since opening in 2015. Dylan Rogers and his partner, Jeana-Dee Allen, have transformed a funky old building in REO Town into a residence and an intimate vaudeville-style performance site. Now they are adding a bookstore.

Rogers said the space will have a double life.

"It will be disguised as a bookstore during the day and when the sun goes

down, the curtain will continue to rise — welcoming poets, musicians and theatrical presentations," Rogers said.

Rogers said the bookstore, which will be called Robin Books, started with a trip to Bogota, Colombia, where he ran across what he calls "a magical bookstore," with floor-to-ceiling stacks and piles of old books.

"That's where the germ of an idea began, but it probably started with me being a reader and not wanting a boss," Rogers said.

The bookstore will feature a general stock, including mysteries, thrillers, literary fiction, plays and non-fiction. Also coming to the bookstore's shelves are Rogers' favorite genres of mythology, folklore, science fiction and fantasy. The

stock will be rotated monthly.

The most recent books he's read cover Chinese mythology and life in the Middle Ages for women.

Rogers said when he started thinking of opening a bookstore, he consulted his friend and serial entrepreneur, Sally Potter.

"She gave me inspiration," he said.

During last winter, Rogers said he spent his time building bookcases, which are pushed against the wall to maintain seating for the theater. During that time, Jenn Carpenter opened another bookstore, Deadtime Stories in REO Town, which features true crime titles that Rogers said will be compatible with his bookstore.

Rogers said initially that Robin

Books' hours will be posted on its website, therobinbooks.com, and on its Instagram account, [@therobinbooks](https://www.instagram.com/therobinbooks).

"I will be working to establish consistent hours, and I want to build something that is charming, interesting and valuable to the community," he said.

Rogers also said he will begin working with local authors to do author readings and signings. "One thing I know is I'm going to do cool shit," he said.

Rogers said he is "so unqualified to do this." That naivete may work in his favor, as he selects a broad variety of used books to sell. He said one thing he has going for him is he went through a similar process when he and Allen opened the theater.

"I'm doing it all over again," he said.

Rogers said his experience with opening Robin Theatre has helped his psyche.

"I'm not about sitting around bitching — I say do it yourself," he said.

'The Penelopiad' arrives straight from hell

By **DAVID WINKELSTERN**

Despite a conspicuous role in one of 2019's bolder local productions, Abbie Cathcart isn't a familiar face in local theater. That's because she played the heavily made-up and unrecognizable "Creature" in Michigan State University Department of Theatre's "Frankenstein."

Making her directorial debut with "The Penelopiad," audiences once again won't be able to see her striking face — and she is OK with that. "My acting training definitely has influenced my directing, but directing exercises different muscles than acting," Cathcart said. "I've been focused on hon-



Courtesy

The cast of MSU Department of Theatre's "The Penelopiad" rehearsing.

ing them more than anything else."

The Margaret Atwood play is based on her book modeled on "The Odyssey." Atwood wrote the novella in 2005 and it was first performed as a play in 2007. Using contemporary prose and verse, "The Penelopiad" is a feminist reimag-

ining of Homer's epic poem. In Atwood's version, the story is told from the viewpoint of Penelope, Odysseus' wife, from Hades.

When Rob Roznowski, head of acting for MSU Department of Theatre, brought the play to Cathcart's attention, she fell in love with it.

"I immediately started hearing the soundscape of the show and just became so excited to get started," she said. "It's a fascinating, moving story and felt like a fun foundation upon which to experiment with some of my staging ideas."

She relates to the impossible situation Penelope is in. "She represents all women who are forced to either tear down the world that exists and doesn't serve them, or risk hurting other women to get ahead," Cathcart said.

The production will be MSU Department of Theatre's first live indoor play since the March 2020 shutdown. "It's invigorating getting back to work with other artists after so long away from in-person theater making," Cathcart said.

After working for three years at the Commonweal Theatre Co. in her home state of Minnesota, the 27-year-old graduated this year with her MFA from MSU. "I started in 2018 in a cohort of eight," Cathcart said. "It feels great to revisit my very recent stomping grounds."

"The Penelopiad" is the first offering as part of the new Storefront Theatre Initiative. The Storefront model dictated having an only-one-week run. It's meant to bring new acting opportunities and a different approach to students. Creative teams are challenged to work with limited rehearsals and resources.

"It's characterized by sparse designs, experimental works and an approach that focuses on directing, acting and writing," Cathcart said. "The set is extremely bare bones."

Cathcart said that once all the elements come together, it doesn't feel that way. "The actors' creativity is the heartbeat of this production, and that's very exciting," she said.

She supplied props like flashlights and shawls and crafted the floral crowns and wreaths to add to the rehearsal blocks the department provided. "I've gotten all right with a can of spray paint, a hot glue gun and other craft supplies I had at home," Cathcart said. "The more elaborate props have been pantomimed."

She said she lucked out getting such a lovely cast of "super smart, interesting artists that have poured themselves into this show."

Rehearsals with the 10 players have been masked and contact-tracing protocols have been followed. "We have masks that have little plastic windows so we can see their mouths when they speak," she said. "I'm a person who always has closed-captioning on so this was a nice bonus."

The hardest part of bringing "The Penelopiad" to the stage for Cathcart was establishing the balance between Penelope as victim and as perpetrator.

She hopes her direction conveys the message that the status quo can always be questioned. "We're stronger when all of us can be heard and seen," she said. "A lack of personal empowerment for some is a poison for many. They're ideas I want the students in my cast to chew on. Hopefully, they embolden their artistry later in their careers."

"The Penelopiad"

\$10
Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 8, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 9, 8 p.m.
MSU Department of Theatre
542 Auditorium Road # 149,
East Lansing
www.theatre.MSU.edu

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HALLOWEEN EVENTS GUIDE

Now that October is upon us, spooky season is about to be in full swing. There will be all sorts of gothic attractions and events for you to check out across the Greater Lansing area. Here's a handy guide to get you started in anticipation for Halloween and all its nightmarish festivities.

Oct. 10

Kids Halloween Baking Class

Allen Neighborhood Center is putting on a kid-friendly baking class where children can learn how to bake spooky-themed cupcakes.

Sunday, Oct. 10, 3 p.m.

Allen Neighborhood Center

1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing

Allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Oct. 10, 16, 17, 23, 24

Potter Park Fall Zoo-Tacular

Potter Park's annual autumn celebration is full of colors, costumes, candy and more. Put on a Halloween get up and take a seasonal stroll through the zoo.

Zoo hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

Potterparkzoo.org

Oct. 23

Trick or Truck at Royal Scot

Royal Scot Golf & Bowl is hosting a

kid-friendly Halloween party featuring haunted golf cart rides, trick of treats, games, music, food and a costumer contest.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing

Facebook.com/RoyalScotGolfAndBowl

Oct. 29

Halloween Blues Cruise

Legendary Lansing blues band Root Doctor continues its yearlong string of farewell shows with a haunted Halloween cruise on the Michigan Princess.

Friday, Oct. 29, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Michigan Princess

3004 W. Main St., Lansing

Facebook.com/PrincessRiverboat

Oct. 29

Smoothie Queen Spooktacular Halloween Mixer

Smoothie Queen is hosting a Halloween party and costume contest with a \$25 entry fee featuring karaoke, giveaways, great food and all sorts of spooky fun.

Friday, Oct. 29, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Lansing City Market

325 City Market Dr., Lansing

Facebook.com/SmoothieQueenLansing

Oct. 30

Dr. Esophagus Presents: Pumpkin to Talk About

A Halloween concert is coming to The Fledge featuring frightening artists Lake Gonzo, Tangelo, The War Balloons, Vincie D and, of course, macabre headliners Dr. Esophagus and the Scoundrels.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.

The Fledge

1300 Eureka St., Lansing

TheFledge.com

Oct. 30-31

How-To Halloween

How-To Halloween is a family-friendly festival that features an exhibit hall packed with theatrical displays, interactive games, unique vendors and fun live entertainment.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lansing Center

333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

How-ToHalloween.com

Oct. 31

Audio Air Force Halloween Show

Audio Air Force is returning to the stage at The Robin Theatre for a performance of the radio versions of the classic Hollywood era horror films "The

Birds" and "The House on the Haunted Hill."

Sunday, Oct. 31, 4:30 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Facebook.com/Audioairforce

Oct. 31

Arachno-Broadia!

The Broad is hosting a spooky afternoon of eight-legged fun for all ages. Arachno-Broadia is inspired by artwork from the museum's vast archive and collection and will feature creepy insects from the MSU Bug House.

Sunday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Broad Art Museum

547 E. Circle Dr., East Lansing

broadmuseum.msu.edu

Oct. 31

Drag Brunch at Ellison Halloween

Ellison Brewery's REO Town location is hosting a Halloween-themed drag show featuring Alicia Moore, Bentley James, September Murphy, Cali Blaq and several others. Brunch will also be served.

Sunday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m.

Ellison Brewery

1314 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Ellisonbrewing.com

New shop in Old Town caters to horror and nerd nostalgia

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Right on time for Halloween and the autumn rush for all things macabre, a

new nostalgia driven shop focusing on '80s and '90s horror and geek culture has opened in Old Town.

Grave Danger co-owners Roanna Selvage and Brian Jupin have always been obsessive collectors of nerdy goods like vintage horror movies on VHS, comic books and action figures. Selvage said she grew up going to horror and comic book conventions with her parents, and her father even owned his own comic book shop in the '90s.

"My mother and father used to vend at conventions when I was a little girl. It's been something I've always been a part of," Selvage said.

Selvage and Jupin discussed finally opening a shop of their own during one of their typical weekend days spent shopping together for more cool collectibles to bring back home. With their combined experience and knowledge in the growing industry of nerdy nostalgia,

why not go for it?

"We learned that there's a lot more people like us than we may have realized," Selvage said.

Some of Grave Danger's best inventory has been supplied by trade-ins with people that didn't realize the old toys collecting dust in their closet might be worth some serious cash. Most of our stuff comes from people we sell to, it's a circle of life kind of thing," Selvage said.



Grave Danger

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noon to 6 p.m.
1236 Turner St., Ste. A,
Lansing
(517) 331-5427
Gravexdanger.com

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Cheers, Lansing!

More than a dozen breweries launch in Greater Lansing since 2012

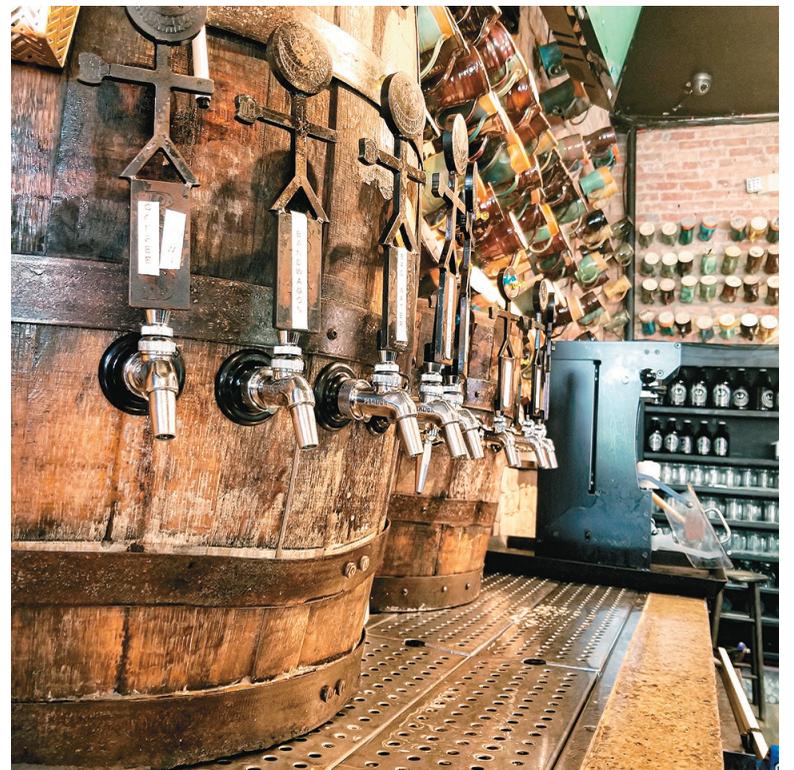
Thirteen breweries chart beer industry growth — and keep Lansing buzzed

Very few of life's experiences can offer the sheer sensory pleasure of a tall, frosty pint of beer — especially when it's served up at about 5 p.m. just a few yards from where it's all being brewed.

Lansing might not be ready to start installing "Beer City, USA" billboards like in Grand Rapids, but the local region is still quickly brewing a name for itself in the craft beer industry with a wide selection of dank IPAs, mellow and smooth lagers, creamy stouts, tart sours and much more.

More than a dozen breweries have opened across the Greater Lansing region within the last 10 years. So, in tribute to our beer brewing (and beer drinking) neighbors, City Pulse is

turning over as much ink as possible this week directly to the talented brewmasters who are making the hoppy magic happen locally — one deliciously crisp, ice-cold pour at a time.



Barrel taps at Mason's BAD Brewing. Mug Club members' drinking vessels adorn the walls of the brewery.

Prost Lansing! Sláinte



Salt Rock Brewing Co.
Steve Kelly, owner
519 W. Ionia St., Lansing
517-446-0375
saltrockbrewingco.com



This brewery opens at the end of the year—and it's been a long time coming. In 2010, owner Steve Kelly pursued a degree in business and hospitality and never looked back. From there, he studied culinary techniques and obtained a chef certification while majoring in beer and wine production. Today, he wants to hire 20 to 30 employees to help him dish out both beer and food.

After you received your degree, what did you do?

I started working in the craft beer and wine sector for a chain of COOPs in the Lansing area. Then I became an executive and private chef during my time spent in Costa Rica where I catered food for parties and brewed and produced beer through my own Mayan Brewing Company.

Who is your head brewer?

My good man James LeBrun. He is a retired Air Force mechanic. After serving our country, he used his G.I. Bill to continue his education. He obtained a master's degree in business administration. The man is really quite intelligent. He became interested in brewing and went back to school at Schoolcraft College in Detroit to obtain his brewing license.

What can people expect once you open?

Our brewing site is in a building right off of our main patio, providing our guests a front-row seat to the brewing process, all while enjoying some amazing food. Our beers are sold in-house along with our freshly made seltzers, distilled spirits and delicious wines.

How many barrels do you plan to produce in a year?

Our goal for the first year of opening is 250 barrels.



C4. It's an IPA with four hops that start with the letter C. We're hoping it has an explosive flavor.



Ozone's Brewhouse
Kyle Malone, owner and head brewer
305 Beaver St., Lansing
517-999-2739, ozonesbrewhouse.com

Since 2016, Ozone's Brewhouse, which has 14

employees, has been brewing new and unique beers and serving them in a family-style tasting room. Most Ozone beers are sold inhouse, but some can also be found at bars and restaurants across the Greater Lansing area. Thanks to his father and business partner, owner Kyle Malone was born into brewing. Beyond that, he also attended the Siebel Institute in Chicago to further study brewing science.

How did your family first start working together on beer?

My dad had been home brewing since I was 4 years old, and with my sister we made up his bottling line thinking the capper tool was really cool. When I turned 21, my dad mentioned how you could brew beer for much cheaper and better than you could buy it, and so the day after my 21st birthday he taught me how to brew. After that it just snowballed.

How many barrels do you produce in a year?

In a typical year, about 400 barrels. However, the last two years have been anything but typical. Aside from a rotating cast of unique brews, what sets your brewery apart?

We are also the premier soccer bar in Lansing. We regularly open early or stay open late for matches. We were also proud to be the kit sponsor for the inaugural season of the Lansing Common FC and look forward to continuing to work with the soccer club.

What do you recommend on the food menu?

Our Honey & Spice & Everything Nice Wood Fired Pizza. It's made with our house red sauce, small ring pepperoni, jalapenos, house cheese blend and Marc's Hot Honey. It's the perfect blend of sweet, salty and heat.

Kryptonale. It is a cherry vanilla amber ale. You get the caramel maltiness of an Amber, mixing with the vanilla and tart Montmorency cherries. I've never seen any brewery do something fun and unique with an amber like this. (This is also one of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's favorite beers.)



EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
owner
4906 W. Mt. Hope Hwy., Lansing
517-708-7350, eaglemonkbrewing.com

For the last nine years, owners Sonia and Dan Buonodono have grown EagleMonk into a local fixture that's known for being a friendly neighborhood pub where people can gather. Wednesdays is all about live music, but you might also stop in for bingo or trivia nights. Twelve employees crank out 300 tasty barrels per year, thanks to head brewer Dan Buonodono's assistant brewer, Cam Stevens.

What inspired you to start a brewery?

Dan was the president of the Red Ledge Home Brew Club for four years and has a passion for making beer. We opened EagleMonk Pub and Brewery for Dan to pursue his passion of making

beer. We both have a strong business background and had faith that we could make EagleMonk Pub and Brewery a success.

Who is on your brewing team and what expertise do they bring to the job?

Dan is head brewer and has been making beer for over 30 years. Cam Stevens is the assistant brewer. He has worked at EagleMonk for about four years and was recently promoted to assistant brewer.

Where are your beers sold?

We have 12 beers on tap that rotate among the 20-plus beers that Dan makes. EagleMonk Pub and Brewery beer is sold on tap in our pub and to-go in growlers, howlers and cans. We also have our beer on tap at Meridian Sun Golf Course.

How has business been lately?

We're very happy to see business coming back. We were open the whole time during the pandemic. We adjusted our hours and provided the services that we could when we could do them. We recently hired three new people and we are looking forward to a brisk fall business.

What sets your brewery apart from others on the local market?

We have a large beer garden that is dog friendly. In addition to craft beer, we have wine, hard cider, mead, seltzer and house-made sodas. Our food menu includes appetizers, thin-crust pizzas, paninis, salads and desserts.

Suggest one popular food/menu item that people must experience?

Definitely our pizza, we have a couple unique ones.



Red Eye Rye. Red Eye Rye is our signature beer that we try to always have on tap. We also just released an Oktoberfest, a new beer from Dan, and our Pumpkin Rye will be out soon.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.
Joel Dillingham, owner
115 N. Bridge St., Dewitt
517-668-6004,
lookingglassbrewing.com



While traveling and vacationing, Joel Dillingham and his business partner enjoyed visiting breweries across the map. After a buy-out from his job, and years of homebrewing, Dillingham took that knowledge and launched Looking Glass Brewing — named after the river that flows through DeWitt. The building is a repurposed church adorned with stained glass. There's a relaxing patio overlooking downtown Dewitt with hop vines growing up the walls — a must see, along with its wide selection of beers, meads, ciders, seltzers, wines and assorted hand-crafted food items. It's all made possible by its cast of 18-22 employees.

Who manages your brewing?

Lee Streeter is the head brewer with over 25 years of brewing experience — making all styles of beer while managing everything in the brewery.

Walk us through the scope of your company: Where are your beers sold?

Our business model is all about the taproom and the patrons that visit us in DeWitt. We do a small amount of kegs distribution to Lansing area bars and restaurants, like Reno's Sports Bar, Meat, Horrocks, Soup Spoon, The Grid and Nut House to help market our product to new consumers in hopes to draw new customers to our

taproom.

How many barrels do you produce in a year?

We make 250-300 barrels per year. Our volume went down during the pandemic.

How has business been lately?

We had a great summer because of our patio, and a decent start to the fall, which can slow down a bit with kids going back to school, so we are excited about what's to come.

What food item, made by Chef Moyer, would you recommend?

The turkey reuben has smoked carved turkey breast with tomato, bacon, homemade coleslaw, Swiss cheese, pickled red onion and roasted garlic aioli served on a toasted pretzel bun.



Pink Lady. This is a lactose (organic yogurt) kettle sour that's infused with real raspberries and passion fruit then dry hopped with Mosaic. The inspiration to make this beer came from our pink-haired server Kait Rodgers.



Sleepwalker Spirits and Brewery
owner and head brewer
1101 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
517-918-4046, drinksleepwalker.com

This month, Sleepwalker's owner, Jeremy Sprague, will celebrate two years in business — and two years of pursuing his goal: "making people happy." While he's locally known for his decades-long music career, brewing has become another notch on his belt. In the list of 12 employees is Sprague's daughter, Abigail Sprague, who handles Sleepwalker's wine program. Next, they plan to expand into the distilling side — not bad for a modest operation born at the Allen Marketplace business incubator.

Where did you get the idea for this company?

I like making people happy with my fermented adult beverages, music and food. I grew up as a musician for the first 40 years of my life. This is just an extension of that lifestyle. I used to sing songs to make people feel good, and now I make beer and pizza to make people feel good. It's sort of a curse in a way. If you don't feel good, then I don't feel good.

How was it opening right before a pandemic?

As we opened on Oct. 23, 2019, we didn't have a chance to get our distribution up and running before the pandemic. The good news is that we purchased a canner and are about to begin distribution into local small markets and hopefully get back into some restaurants again.

What sets your brewery or brewpub apart from others on the local market?

We're prettier. We designed our taproom after Sigmund Freud's study. We try to name many of our products through the lens of psychology,

which is fun if you check out the names. We consider ourselves a little less "concrete, steel and bro" and a little more "refined, academic and effeminate." I still love my bros, though.

Any food item you'd recommend first?

The Jagged Little Dill pizza. If you love dill, you will not regret trying this pizza.



Bavaria Hysteria Hefeweizen — "the Hefe." This summer my Hefeweizen has been a big hit. I modeled it mostly after my dad's recipe.

BAD Brewery Co.
Sarah Knupfer
marketing manager
440 S. Jefferson St.,
Mason
517-676-7664
badbrewing.com



Since Day One, BAD's owner and brewer, Brian Rasdale, has kept the same dream team intact. At his side have been Kf Rowen (head brewer) and Derek Bercau (brewer). But going back even further, it humbly started as a one-man show back when Rasdale would moonlight as a brewer. His marketing manager, Sarah Knupfer, filled us in on the backstory on how it grew into a 500-barrels-per-year operation with 19 employees. Want to try some? You'll have to stop in. BAD is mainly sold in-house at the brewery on tap and in to-go howlers, growlers and cans.

How did Brian come up with the name "BAD"?

Brian started BAD in 2012 after deciding to switch careers and go for his passion. He had been homebrewing since 2008 while working a full-time job in a different industry, and he decided it was time to commit to what he loved. "BAD" is an acronym for "Brian After Dark" because during his homebrewing days, he could only make beer at night.

What sparked the idea of opening a location?

Brian got the idea to open BAD when a historical building in Mason became available. He toured the space and knew it was the perfect spot for a brewery. He wanted a brewery that was slightly tucked away — one that is welcoming and feels like a hidden gem for craft beer lovers, so the space had a lot to do with that. Inside, the building has exposed brick and custom, locally crafted woodwork. Outside, we have murals by local artists that creates a cool, homegrown experience.

BAD's menu is always rotating, but what's a go-to fixture?

Something that's always on the menu is our BAD burger. This is a classic, reliable smash-patty burger with all the toppings, and a side of fries.

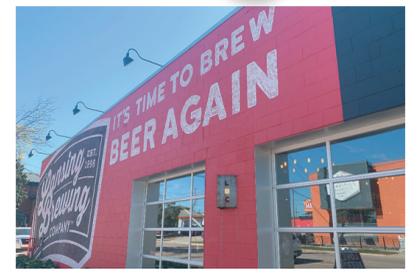


Chocolate Covered Coffee Brown. It's one of our most popular beers. It uses local and Grumpy Monkey coffee for a robust coffee flavor with hints of chocolate. If you're a fan of dark beer, you should definitely come in for a taste.

Lansing Brewing Co.
Chris Ward
head brewer
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
517-371-2600
lansingbrewingcompany.com



With an output of 3,000 barrels on the horizon, Lansing Brewing Co. is an undeniable force



in Lansing's beer scene. With help from their 45-plus local employees and distribution partners across Michigan, its brews can be found far beyond its taproom and restaurant. All this comes after just six years in business.

Technically, LBC has a long history. Can you elaborate?

We like to think that this brewery was 100 years in the making. The original Lansing Brewing Company closed in 1914, and we opened our doors just over 100 years later. There was a great desire for a brewery to come back to Lansing and it was seen as a perfect cornerstone to the revitalization of the Stadium District.

What was the mission you set out to accomplish?

We want to put Lansing on the map for beer in a state already loaded with great breweries. We want to create a beautiful and welcoming spot in the heart of the city that honors the tradition that comes before us and gives back to the people that make Lansing great. We also seek to be a destination in addition to a great local institution.

Along with assistant brewer Brian Wilson, LBC also hired a new head brewer, correct?

Our head brewer, Chris Ward, just joined the team this September. Chris has worked in the industry for over a decade up and down the east coast — advancing his career and knowledge along the way. An award-winning brewer at the highest levels, he brings unrivaled passion and dedication.

What LBC food item would you suggest?

Our brand-new spicy chicken sandwich. Sriracha-marinated fried chicken breast on a toasted brioche bun, topped with pickled jalapenos, spicy mayo and house-made slaw. Goes great with a pint of Angry Mayor IPA.



Amber Cream. It's our flagship beer and is a slightly reworked recipe from when LBC first opened in 1898. A unique style that you don't see a ton of on the market. It's crafty enough for aficionados while still being perfectly approachable to drinkers that are a little newer to craft and looking to expand their horizons.

MichiGrain
Mike Bird, vice president,
distiller
523 E. Shiawassee St.,
Lansing
517-220-0560
michigrain.net



Established in 2016, MichiGrain is a one-of-a-kind distillery that entered the craft-beer world this year. Its spirits are distilled with an "obsessive attention to quality and detail" using techniques that have been used for 650 years, while

Salud *Lansing!*

Cheers

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also utilizing cutting-edge science to deliver unforgettable spirits. Plus, all of MichiGrain's ingredients are all sourced within 60 miles of its location. **Where did you get the idea for this company?**

After helping another distillery get going, I decided that bulk ethanol was a very good business to have in Michigan. We have the best grains and produce in the world — might as well distill them to perfection.

What's MichiGrain's mission?

We are a distillery in Michigan that's here to help other distillers. There is a need for mass produced ethanol and we intend to fill that need. We also want to help bring a national spirit brand out of Michigan.

Who is on your brewing team?

Currently it's Billy of Gamn Dood Brewing and Mike Bird. Billy has been home brewing and consulting for years, we're just bringing him and his amazing beers to the public.

Where are your beers sold?

We are only selling out of our tasting room.

How many employees do you have?

We employ seven awesome peeps — five full-timers and two students. We're big on students.

How has business been lately?

Like all businesses, we'd like more of our locals to come out. We have been able to weather the growth process of not only our business, but also the other



Dry Stout. Geez that's like picking a favorite kid. We are very small so we only have four on rotation at all times. We love the Dry stout for sure. It's a straight forward stout. No extra flavors, just good stout.

issues the world has presented us.

What sets your brewery apart from the rest?

We offer spirits and our lounge area is very inviting for a pint.

In 10 years, where do you want to be?

We will be the leader in bulk ethanol in the Midwest and we will have a brewery to match.

Dimes Brewhouse Chad Rogers, owner and brewer

145 N. Bridge St., Dimondale 517-303-2067 dimesbrewhouse.com



After nearly four years in business, Dimes Brewhouse has grown into an establishment that churns out 200 barrels each year and employs 15 people. Patrons are welcome to sip brews in the taproom, on the front or back patio, or grab some to go. Dimes has certainly put Dimondale on the craft-brew map. Plus, their Reuben sandwich is a customer favorite.

How has business been lately?

Business certainly picked up this summer compared to previous years. I believe this is largely due to the addition of our kitchen and expansion of our patio.

What was your intro into the world of beer?

After college, I began home brewing with my roommates and that's where my interest in brewing beer really started. My wife and I have always wanted to start a business but didn't really know what it would look like. We are both chemical engineers and thought we could combine what we learned in school with something we were passionate about: brewing beer. The name Dimes Brewhouse stems from where we are located: Dimondale. Our mission was to create a friendly village brewery where people could meet up and share a pint of delicious craft beer.

Who is on your brewing team?

We've always had a great brewing team. Our current team consists of myself, Nick Mulder and Nick Holbrook. We all bring something different to the table. Nick Mulder makes our cider, wine, mead, kombucha and soda. Nick Holbrook has about 3.5 years of professional brewing experience and contributes heavily to brewing and cellaring operations. Also, my dad, Steve Rogers, has been instrumental

in assisting with nearly every brew day since we began in 2017.

How would you describe your tap list?

Our tap list is in constant rotation. We keep about four flagship beers on tap while the other eight beer taps are in a constant state of flux. Our ciders rotate nearly every week due to their small batch size and large demand.



Diamond Ale. It's an excellent beer to highlight. It's light, crisp and refreshing any time of year. The beer is built on a pilsner malt with a deliciously distinct grain flavor.



Old Nation Brewing Co. Travis Fritts, owner, president and brewer

1500 E. Grand River Rd., Williamston 517-655-1301 oldnationbrewing.com

Since Old Nation opened the summer of 2015, it's grown into a thriving company with an annual output of around 19,000 barrels — or roughly 215,000 cases worth of beverages made by brewers Travis Fritts and Nathan Rykse. Beyond that, Old Nation employs roughly 30-40 employees locally and 10 more statewide and nationally.

How did Old Nation first start up?

Old Nation is the brewery we have been working towards since owner and brewer Travis Fritts became a professional brewer in 2002. After working under many great brewers, running a pub brewery, building a successful "nomad" brand with the Detroit Brewing Co. and consulting for several breweries, we decided to move to Williamston to see if we could do it ourselves.

You've got a far distro reach. Where are your beers sold?

In Michigan, a slight majority of our packaged (canned) beer is sold in large retailers such as Meijer, Kroger, D&W, Family Fare, Busch's and Walmart. A comparable, if slightly smaller amount of packaged product is sold in more than 1,500 independent retailers from Ontonagon to Temperance. Our kegged product is sold in more than 300 restaurants and bars across the state. Outside of Michigan, we sell with comparably sized chain retailers and have a thriving restaurant and bar business in Great Lakes states such as Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. It's also sold as far west as Colorado, as far south as Florida, and as far east as Athens, Greece, and other parts of Europe.

Is business up or down?

Business has been great on the production side, but finding experienced, full-time staff for the restaurant in a semi-rural environment has been a challenge — even at excellent wages. We are up or flat overall on revenue, but losing the interaction we get with our

staff and guests in the restaurant has been an adjustment.

What food items do you suggest?

Pasties. They have a handmade cold-water crust, local beef, rutabaga, onion, carrots and garlic. They're big enough to share and served with ketchup if you ask, gravy if you don't.



Oktoberfest Lager.

It's a rich and interesting lager in the German tradition, brewed by brewers who brewed it there.

St. Johns Brewing Co. Joe Herman, general manager

200 N. Clinton Ave, St. Johns 989-227-7700, stjohsbrew.com



While their roots are north of Lansing in Mt.

Pleasant, the Mountain Town Brewing Co. team recently nudged a bit closer to the Capital City with its late 2020 opening of St. Johns Brewing Co. in Clinton County. In 1996, Mountain Town Station was launched as a brewpub in Mt. Pleasant. Then, in 2008, the company formed Mountain Town Brewing Co., its main brewery and distribution center. That was followed by Alma Brewing Co. in 2014. The St. Johns-based venture is just another feather in the company's cap. Collectively, the company produces over 3,000 barrels per year and employs 160 people — 30 of those in St. Johns.

What is the backstory of Mountain Town Brewing Co.?

Owner Jim Holton, along with some of the founders, realized that people were starting to appreciate something more than domestic light beers. Jim, being a home brewer while attending Central Michigan University, wanted to take it to a new level with production, canning, bottling and kegging to sell across the Midwest.

What led Jim to actually open a location?

Jim was visiting family in Illinois and they all went to a brewpub called the Mill Rose Brewing Co. While he visited, he was starstruck gazing at the tanks, sampler glasses of their beer varieties and finally a great tour of the brewhouse. It was go-time after that.

Today, what is the mission?

To produce distinctive ales and lagers to thirsty beer connoisseurs and also to people that would never try a craft beer but would become hooked after one sip.

Where are your beers sold?

Throughout Michigan and in northern Indiana in retail stores, bars and restaurants. We have a couple amazing collaboration partners, one being Midtown Brewing right here in Lansing.

Who is on your brewing team?

Kyle Behenna is our head of brew-

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À Votre Santé *Lansing!*

Cheers

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ery operations and has been a brewer and Mountain Town restaurant manager for the better part of a decade. Nick Marquis, another brewer, has also been a brewer as well as restaurant manager. He actually helped to open St. Johns Brewing Co. as its assistant manager, but is now back to mainly brewing. Chris Koop is another brewer and has been brewing with us for the better part of a decade.

Steele Street Brewing
Pete Sanford, owner and brewer
 300 S. Steele St., Ionia
 616-523-4003



STEELE STREET
 BREWING

steelestreetbrewing.com
 In January 2016, Pete

Sanford opened the doors to Steele Street Brewing, his first proper venture in the local brewing industry. The idea came to him after “maybe one too many

homebrews,” he said. This year Steele Street will be around 100 barrels — about half of pre-pandemic numbers. Sanford said he is staying profitable while also employing a team of six.

What first led you into the art of brewing?

As a homebrewer during the period in Michigan when craft breweries were really taking off, it just seemed like the thing to do. There are several of us homebrewers that got our start out of the Red Salamander and The Red Ledge Brewers. We were a group of folks that just liked to get together and have fun brewing beer. Little did we know how much work it would be to start a brewery.

When did things start to get a little serious?

Years ago, Dan and Sonia Buonodono (of Eagle Monk), and I attended the craft brewers conference in Chicago. We were especially interested in a seminar Tom Hennessy of Colorado Boy Brewery would be giving. He would be discussing opening a brewery on a small budget. During that seminar we found out about the immersion course he was starting at his pub. Dan and I signed up, attended the class together and the rest is history.

Why didn't you open until 2016?

It took me a few years to actually get everything going. I'm a graduate of Michigan State University's

class of 1992 in animal science, so I had a successful dairy cow hoof trimming business that I was not ready to give up yet. It was a knee injury in 2013 that sidelined me from my hoof trimming business. That winter I began the paperwork to open the pub.

How do you balance making both beer and food?

We are trying to remain a brewery that makes food, not a restaurant that makes beer. This has been challenging as demand for dining seems to have increased. But we do make a good pizza, Reuben and gyro, if you want something different. They are all good. In house dough, a long, cold ferment, and cooked in a stone oven. We have been dabbling with some smoked meats.



MI IPA. A simple old school IPA using Michigan grown hops.

See Cheers, Page 24

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Cin Cin Lansing!

Cheers

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BrickHaven Brewing Co.

Ed Huston, owner and head brewer

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge

517-925-1319, brickhavenbrewing.com

Four years ago this December, Ed Huston switched career paths alongside his brother, Ben Huston, and opened BrickHaven in Grand Ledge. The pair overhauled the old City Hall and St. Michael's Church building in downtown Grand Ledge and opened BrickHaven, a microbrewery, winery and kitchen that now produces 150 barrels every year and employs six.



Like plenty of other locals in the business, his intro into the brewing universe was homebrewing, but today it's his career. He is the head brewer, while his brother is the assistant brewer.

When did you first get into brewing?

I have been brewing for about 23 years and after my company was sold and my brother got downsized from his company, we decided to start the planning process and look for a building to build a brewery. With my love for brewing, both of us enjoying finding and exploring craft beers, and some prodding from friends in the industry, we decided to move forward.

Today, what is your mission?

We strive to produce the best beer, wine, cider, seltzer, mead and food that we can and serve it in a relaxed, comfortable environment. We want people to be able to leave their worries at the door, talk with old friends and make new friends over a tasty beverage. We have a friendly atmosphere and one — or both — owners are always on-site bartending and interacting with customers. We have a great customer base that

keeps us busy.

Where are your beers sold?

Our beers are primarily sold in our taproom, but I draft beer at a restaurant in Old Town Lansing.

Suggest one popular food/menu item that people must experience?

Our Reuben is top notch. Layers of Pastrami, sauerkraut and Thousand Island dressing on marble rye bread. It brings an explosion of amazing flavor to your taste buds.



Sirius-Ly Crystal IPA. Light body, fantastic aroma and the right amount of bitterness from locally grown crystal hops from Dog Star Hop Farm in Charlotte. It makes you want to come back time and again.

But wait! There's more!

Don't forget to check out these other Greater Lansing breweries:

Charlotte Brewing Co.

214 S. Cochran Ave, Charlotte
517-543-8882
charlottebrewerymi.com

Jolly Pumpkin Cafe & Brewery

218 Albert St., East Lansing
517-858-2100
east-lansing.jollypumpkin.com

Arcadia Smokehouse

2101 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
517-482-2739, arcadialansing.net

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Sq., Lansing
517-977-1349, midtownbrewing.net

CONFLUXCITY Brewing Co.

110 N. Water St., Portland
517-526-9091, confluxcitybrew.com

Harper's Restaurant & Brewpub

131 Albert St., East Lansing
517-333-4040, harpersbrewpub.com

Sanctuary Distillery, Brewery & Winery

902 E. Saginaw Hwy, Grand Ledge
517-925-1930, sanctuaryspirits.com

Ellison Brewery and Spirits

4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing
517-203-5498, ellisonbrewing.com

Uncle John's Hard Cider

8614 N. US-127, St Johns
989-224-3686, ujcidermill.com/
taproom

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Beer Menu



Pick your poison: Beer recommendations from City Pulse and City Hall

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Drink like a journalist...

At last week's staff meeting, Managing Editor Kyle Kaminski suggested that City Pulse staff "get in the mood" for this special print edition by cracking open as many early morning beers as possible throughout the week. Publisher Berl Schwartz put the kibosh on that concept. As a compromise, we're still sharing what we would've been drinking had that plan gone into action.

Kyle Kaminski, managing editor:

My favorite beer is from out of state. Please don't email me about it. Indiana's Three Floyds Brewing has long been considered one of the country's best and most influential independent craft breweries with a lineup that is routinely awarded for its best-in-class flavors. And in May, they finally started to distribute north of the border into mid-Michigan — including at Meijer.

The brewery's Zombie Dust pale ale scored a perfect score from Beer Advocate, and for good reason. This intensely hopped brew brims with a piney bitterness but it goes down smooth with fruity notes of melon and grapefruit. It's also 6.5% ABV, so one six-pack will totally do the trick.

Skyler Ashley, arts and culture editor:

I've always loved things that have a Michigan quirk, and a beer that goes well with a slice of orange fits into that niche. I like beer that tastes like something besides carbonation and alcohol — and Bell's Oberon is thankfully super flavorful.

Abby Sumbler, production manager:

Hibiscus Gose from BAD Brewing. It's sour. It's salty. It's good. I didn't know about sour beers until I had this one years ago, and it made me feel alive. BAD is always consistent with their sours. They're all lovely.

Suzi Smith, events editor and office manager:

I drink whiskey and golden champagne. No beer.

Rich Tupica, contributor:

I'm not into dark beers. Not cool, I know. So each year when the Michigan blizzards start to roll in, I stock up on Bell's Bright White. It's a light, refreshing wheat ale that mixes clove and fruity aromas. Bell's also describes the beer as a "nice alternative to dark

How much is a barrel of beer anyway?

Most U.S. breweries sell their beer in half barrels — or 15.5 gallons. That means a full barrel measures in at about 124 pints or about 165 12-ounce bottles. That's almost 28 six packs per barrel!

and heavy winter warmers and stouts."

Todd Heywood, contributor:

I miss the Raspberry Wheat beer that was brewed by Blue Coyote in the '90s. It was a sweet darker ale and delicious.

Earlisha Scott, sales assistant:

I only drink Corona.

Nevin Speerbrecker, contributor:

Dark beer has been a long time favorite of mine. The flavor complexities, the rich, bold, deep flavor of the malt and hops brewed to perfect blend. That's a beer. My pick for a great local dark beer would have to be BAD's Cellar Aged Imperial Stout. Yes, a stout. Rich, deep, dark color and flavor reaches in and grabs your tonsils and keeps them hostage until you get a second glass.

Kyle Melinn, contributor:

Have you sipped a beer you've never tried and immediately can't wait to take the second sip? That's me and the first time my brother-in-law gave me an M-43 by Old Nation Brewery. I'm a seasonal beer drinker. Short's Soft Parade Shandy in the summer; Cheboygan's Blood Honey Orange in the spring; Bell's Best Brown in the fall; Rochester Mills' Milkshake Stout and Atwater Vanilla Java Porter in the winter. But if I could only drink one more beer, it would be M-43.

Drink like a politician...

With the November election less than a month away in Lansing, City Pulse is committed to asking candi-

dates the tough questions and finding residents the answers they deserve. This feature, however, is not an exercise of that commitment. This one, well, this one is just for fun.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said he has two favorite beers at the moment — "Schor Style" cream ale from Lansing Brewing Co. and "Kryptonale" cherry wheat from Ozone's Brewhouse.

"Trying to narrow down my favorite beer is like trying to pick a favorite child," he said. "It's just not something you should do. The only kind of beer I don't like are IPAs. Too hoppy. Too bitter."

In addition to being named in his honor, Schor said the dry-hopped Schor Style beer from LBC offers just the right amount of smooth, refreshing lightness with a "nice flavor" at the end. And he's not the only person to share the sentiment; LBC routinely runs its kegs of Schor Style dry.

Schor also described the "Kryptonale" at Ozone's Brewhouse as "simply delicious."

"This is a cherry wheat beer made from Michigan cherries from Kings Orchard," he said. "The flavor is simply delicious, and it's an easy beer to drink while watching a game or hanging out with friends. I highly recommend it — and many of the other beers at Ozone's in Old Town."

City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar said she has an unrefined palate and "hates" beer. Despite still accepting an invitation to submit something for this column, she never followed through. At a debate last week, Dunbar also proudly declared that she "doesn't drink." That's not true. She was spotted taking a shot at her primary election party last month. She clarified after the debate:

"They asked for a favorite bar and I went blank because I don't really go to bars. I should have said I don't go to bars to drink. And I rarely drink. Not wine, not beer, and I did that shit to be social because they wanted to buy it. I rarely buy a drink for myself unless it's froofroo."

City Pulse also extended an invitation to the other seven members of the City Council as well as City Clerk Chris Swope to share their favorite beers, but none of them took us up on the offer.

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Beer and cannabis: a match made in heaven — or hell

Why do some smokers report ‘crossfade’ spins while drinking?

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

In the era of legal recreational marijuana, no party is complete until someone pulls out the weed. For some, it can be a relaxing addition to their usual beer-induced buzz. But for others, the combination of cannabis and booze always seems to end in a dizzying hell ride of nausea.

So, what gives? I asked Norbert Kaminski, a pharmacology and toxicology professor at Michigan State University who has been studying interaction with cannabinoids since the '90s. He has a fairly simple explanation: The weed buzz comes on more quickly when you're drunk.

It's science.

“THC could be more quickly absorbed into the bloodstream when taken orally while consuming alcohol,” Kaminski said via email. “This will be greatly dependent on the alcohol content of the beverage. I think the bigger issue is that you have two psychotropic drugs — alcohol and THC — that work through different mechanisms and act in an additive, perhaps synergistic manner.”

You heard right. Getting drunk before lighting that joint can actually make your weed stronger.

But tread lightly. Research from the Center for Biotechnology Information confirms that consuming too much pot after drinking can compound undesirable effects of too much weed.

Ever smoked too much, got really sweaty and had to lie down for a bit? At high doses, booze and pot both induce sedation, disrupt spatial learning and lead to a major lack of



Lansterdam in Review: Beer Edition

coordination. And that specific combination, known as a “crossfade high,” can also be terribly uncomfortable, especially for your friend who has a low THC tolerance and always pukes after smoking a blunt.

But what about smoking before drinking? Well, that can also carry some serious negative effects. Some studies suggest that marijuana can slow the absorption of alcohol — pushing some people to drink more with a joint in their hand than they would without smoking pot at all.

Some researchers have also expressed concern that the synergistic effect of booze and pot could lead people to feel less drunk than they really are, leading to overly confident drunk drivers. Cannabis can also help reduce nausea, so there's also a concern for inadvertent alcohol poisoning in that too much weed could derail the body's natural reaction to vomit.

So, if you smoke before you drink, maybe wait a bit before cracking that third beer — knowing that the alcohol's effect could be delayed and it could hit you like a freight train in a few hours.

Also: Don't expect cannabis-infused beer to hit the market in Michigan anytime soon. Those negative interactions helped push new guidelines from the state's Marijuana Regulatory Agency this year that specifically state that cannabis-infused beverages may not also contain alcohol.

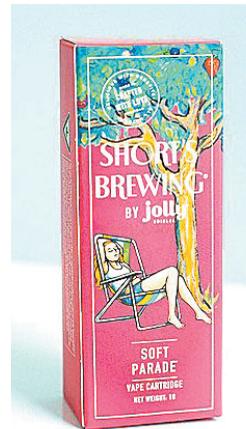
Beer drinking pot smokers shouldn't be too disappointed, however. Michigan-based Griffin Claw Brewing Co. recently announced plans to team up with Redbud Roots to release THC-



Michigan brewery Short's Brewing Co. and Skymint Cannabis have teamed up to offer beer-inspired gummies.

infused gummies this fall flavored after its long-running seasonal favorite, “Screamin’ Pumpkin Ale.”

A dank collaboration between Skymint and Short's Brewing Co. also brought several other beer-inspired products to the Greater Lansing cannabis



market this year — including a 1g vaporizer cartridge and gummies that tastes just like Soft Parade. Other beer-inspired Skymint gummies are flavored after Bell's Mule and Huma Lupa Licious, as well as Starcut Ciders' Mosa.

Check out lansingcitypulse.com/lansterdam to read full product reviews about that collaboration.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Every week, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.



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Can't find a brew you love? Craft your own

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Thanks to the explosive craft beer revolution of the past decade, there are more options on store shelves than ever before. Gone are the days of being limited to mass-produced domestic beers like Budweiser and Miller Lite.

But even though there's more freedom of choice in beer than ever before, there still prevails a dedicated homebrew scene.

Capital City Homebrew Supply

623 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Monday-Saturday,
noon to 6 p.m.
(517) 374-1070

The city also has a homebrewing headquarters of its own: Capital City Homebrew Supply.

Capital City Homebrew Supply is a shop where one can find just about

everything they need to get into the world of homebrewing. Its customer base ranges from clueless newbs to old pros who have gone through countless batches. You can walk in empty-handed and walk out with enough supplies to turn your garage into a nanobrewery.

Owner and manager Todd Branstner took an interest in homebrewing himself after visiting a friend's family in Birmingham, England.

"His uncle brewed beer. It wasn't much. It was a can of hopped malt extract, some sugar and some yeast — which gives you something alcoholic that tastes sort of like beer. But we liked it," Branstner said.

Branstner returned to the United States with a can of extract and began his path toward becoming an underground brewmaster. As a Michigan



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Todd Branstner with some homebrewing equipment in the back of Capital City Homebrew Supply.

State University student in the late-80s and early-90s, Branstner was dealing with a marketplace that wasn't too kind to people with sophisticated taste in beer. Homebrewing was something of a necessity, he explained.

"I liked the ability to experiment. Back in those days, there wasn't a lot of beer available that was different. It was all yellow and fizzy. That's just what beer was," Branstner said. "With

homebrewing, you could make anything you wanted. You could make a stout, a red ale, or you could make German and English styles."

Branstner eventually used his savings from working retail jobs to open Capital City Homebrew Supply. As a homebrewer, Branstner said the best part of running his own shop is helping people get started with their own homebrew operations, and learning

new homebrewing techniques from clever customers that he can try out for himself.

"You learn from your customers. If you've got the right mindset, you can digest all of the information they give you and pass it down to other people as questions are asked of you," he said.

Greg Harris, a regular customer at Capital City Homebrew Supply, enjoys homebrewing due to its industrious DIY spirit. And, of course, getting to enjoy a delicious alcoholic beverage doesn't hurt either.

"I like the challenge of it, being able to create something yourself that you enjoy. If you're going to have a hobby, it might as well be a hobby where you get to drink the product at the end," Harris said.

A beginner's homebrewing kit for an extract beer costs around \$150 and includes malt extract, hops and specialty grains. The process of combining these ingredients, boiling them, adding yeast and bottling the resulting brew to be enjoyed takes a few weeks.

At its very core, Branstner likens basic homebrewing to cooking. He's also happy to help anybody who visits his shop with questions on how to get started.

"If you know how to cook, that's helpful. What we're really doing is just stirring a pot, adding ingredients, mixing them together and watching it," Branstner said. "If you've got the interest and homebrewing sounds like a fun thing to do, give it a try."

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Brewer's Resource Michigan Brewers Guild mibeer.com

Since 1996, The Michigan Brewers Guild has been unifying the Michigan brewing community. Its goal? To assure a healthy beer industry within the state by increasing sales of Michigan-brewed beer through promotions, marketing, public awareness and consumer education. The Guild sponsors events, as well, including the upcoming Detroit Fall Beer Festival on Saturday, Oct. 23. Breweries who join the have the ability to participate in the guild's annual beer festivals, one free registration to its annual Winter Conference & Trade Show, and a list of other perks.



JULIAN VANDYKE

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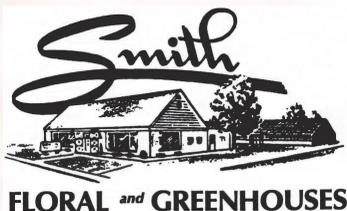
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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Open Letters"—
—a themeless
58—worder.

by Matt Jones
Across

1 Trees lining the new Malahat Skywalk on Vancouver Island, B.C. (a spiral ramp tower with optional slide to the bottom)

10 Surname in a nursery rhyme with platter licking

15 To the point

16 "It's ___ of passage"

17 2010 statute nickname whose real initials are hidden in the name

18 Sounds in certain specialty cafés

19 One with interior motives?

20 Realm of influence

21 Employs a hive mentality?

22 "La r̄Ee ___" (fanciful term for absinthe, based on the color)

23 Sticks it out

24 Run, as a forklift

26 Maneuvers famously pulled off by rapper Lil Uzi Vert

29 You might use one to play Breakout

33 Second, for instance

34 Word that ends many yoga classes

35 Puzzle magazine with a "Pencilwise" section

40 Grey Goose rival, familiarly

41 ___ tetrameter (poetic verse used in works like "Twas the Night Before Christmas", using an unstressed/unstressed/stressed pattern)

45 Film critic Kenneth who stepped down from

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14
15										16				
17										18				
19										20				
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34										35	36	37	38	39
40								41	42	43	44			
45								46						
47								48						
49								50						
51								52						

the L.A. Times in 2020

46 Notable feature of "Careless Whisper"

47 "Fame" singer/actress Cara

48 Brit who imparts vitality (though the battery brand's spelled with a Z)

49 Observes Ramadan, in a way

50 State where the soft drink Mountain Dew was first formulated

51 What some collars ward off

52 Participants in the Singing Revolution (1987-1991)

Down

1 Like eels and flukes, biologically

2 Brazilian gymnast Andrade, gold medalist in the vault in Tokyo

3 Modified leaves on flower stems

4 Maximal

5 "Toddlers & ___"

6 Cooper title character

7 Former Pacific defense gp.

8 "The Smartest Guys in the Room" subject

9 Site that bills itself as "The world's best music blog"

10 Hindu scripture that contains melodies and chants

11 Demonstrate deservingness in advance

12 1959 western with Dean Martin and Ricky Nelson

13 Nervously excited

14 SAT takers, e.g. (and not... body parts)

25 Legendary footballer

26 Go (through), as evidence

27 Nice private discussion?

28 Actress Dolenz

29 Note that sounds like B double flat

30 Residents of one of the Lesser Sunda Islands in Southeast Asia

31 Loser of a mythological footrace

32 Optimistic quality

33 Fluid, as a dancer's motion

35 CNN senior political analyst David who advised four administrations

36 Saint Francis's home

37 Peak near Olympus

38 Title name on the 1982 album "Too-Rye-Ay"

39 Sports recap feature

42 Geese on the Big Island

43 In regard to, old-style

44 Movie aired when there's often nothing on?

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Answers on page 34

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 34

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

October 6-12, 2021

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Aries poet Anna KamieDska said her soul didn't emanate light. It was filled with "bright darkness." I suspect that description may apply to you in the coming weeks. Bright darkness will be one of your primary qualities. And that's a good thing! You may not be a beacon of shiny cheer, but you will illuminate the shadows and secrets. You will bring deeper awareness to hidden agendas and sins of omission. You will see, and help others to see, what has been missing in situations that lack transparency. Congratulations in advance!

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): "There is something truly restorative, finally comforting, in coming to the end of an illusion—a false hope." So declared author Sue Miller, and now I'm sharing it with you, Taurus—just in time for the end of at least one of your illusions. (Could be two, even three.) I hope your misconceptions or misaligned fantasies will serve you well as they decay and dissolve. I trust they will be excellent fertilizer, helping you grow inspired visions that guide your future success. My prediction: You will soon know more about what isn't real, which will boost your ability to evaluate what is real.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Afghan-American novelist Khaled Hosseini writes, "People mostly have it backward. They think they live by what they want. But really what guides them is what they're afraid of—what they don't want." Is that true for you, Gemini? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to meditate on that question. And if you find you're motivated to live your life more out of fear than out of love, I urge you to take strenuous action to change that situation! Make sure love is at least 51 percent and fear no more than 49 percent. I believe you can do much better than that, though. Aim for 75 percent love!

CANCER (June 21–July 22): "Sometimes dreams are wiser than waking." Oglala Lakota medicine man Black Elk said that, and now I'm passing it on to you. It's not always the case that dreams are wiser than waking, of course, but I suspect they will be for you in the coming weeks. The adventures you experience while you're sleeping could provide crucial clues to inform your waking-life decisions. They should help you tune into resources and influences that will guide you during the coming months. And now I will make a bold prediction: that your dreams will change your brain chemistry in ways that enable you to see truths that until now have been invisible or unavailable. (PS: I encourage you to also be alert for intriguing insights and fantasies that well up when you're tired or lounging around.)

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): "Don't hope more than you're willing to work," advises author Rita Mae Brown. So let me ask you, Leo: How hard are you willing to work to make your dreams come true, create your ideal life, and become the person you'd love to be? When you answer that question honestly, you'll know exactly how much hope you have earned the right to foster. I'm pleased to inform you that the coming weeks will be a favorable time to upgrade your commitment to the work and therefore deepen your right to hope.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): "To be truly visionary, we have to root our imagination in our concrete reality while simultaneously imagining possibilities beyond that reality." This shrewd advice comes from author bell hooks (who doesn't capitalize her name). I think it should be at the heart of your process in the coming days. Why? Because you now have an extraordinary potential to dream up creative innovations that acknowledge your limitations but also transcend those limitations. You have extra power available to harness your fantasies and instigate practical changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): "Some people are crazy drunk on rotgut sobriety," wrote aphorist Daniel Liebert. I trust you're not one of them. But if you are, I beg you to change your habits during the next three weeks. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you have a heavenly mandate

to seek more than the usual amounts of whimsical ebullience, sweet diversions, uplifting obsessions, and holy amusements. Your health and success in the coming months require you to enjoy a period of concentrated joy and fun now. Be imaginative and innovative in your quest for zest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Scottish Poet Laureate Jackie Kay, born under the sign of Scorpio, writes, "It used to be that privacy came naturally to everybody and that we understood implicitly what kind of things a person might like to keep private. Now somebody has torn up the rule book on privacy and there's a kind of free fall and free for all and few people naturally know how to guard this precious thing, privacy." The coming weeks will be a good time for you to investigate this subject, Scorpio—to take it more seriously than you have before. In the process, I hope you will identify what's truly important for you to keep confidential and protected, and then initiate the necessary adjustments. (PS: Please feel no guilt or embarrassment about your desire to have secrets!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): "All our Western thought is founded on this repulsive pretense that pain is the proper price of any good thing," wrote feisty author Rebecca West (1892–1983). I am very happy to report that your current torrent of good things will NOT require you to pay the price of pain. On the contrary, I expect that your phase of grace and luck will teach you how to cultivate even more grace and luck; it will inspire you to be generous in ways that bring generosity coming back your way. As articulated by ancient Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu, here's the operative principle: "Opportunities multiply as they are seized."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): "If you don't ask, the answer is always no," declares author Nora Roberts. In that spirit and in accordance with astrological omens, I urge you to be bold and lucid about asking for what you want in the coming weeks. In addition, I encourage you to ask many probing questions so as to ferret out the best ways to get what you want. If you are skilled in carrying out this strategy, you will be a winsome blend of receptivity and aggressiveness, innocent humility and understated confidence. And that will be crucial in your campaign to get exactly what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): "Few persons enjoy real liberty," wrote poet Alfred de Musset. "We are all slaves to ideas or habits." That's the bad news. The good news is that October is Supercharge Your Freedom Month for you Aquarians. I invite you to use all your ingenuity to deepen, augment, and refine your drive for liberation. What could you do to escape the numbness of the routine? How might you diminish the hold of limiting beliefs and inhibiting patterns? What shrunken expectations are impinging on your motivational verve? Life is blessing you with the opportunity to celebrate and cultivate what novelist Tim Tharp calls "the spectacular now." Be a cheerful, magnanimous freedom fighter.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): The brilliant Piscean composer Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849) wrote, "I wish I could throw off the thoughts that poison my happiness, but I take a kind of pleasure in indulging them." What?! That's crazy! If he had been brave enough and willful enough to stop taking pleasure in indulging his toxic thoughts, they might have lost their power to demoralize him. With this in mind, I'm asking you to investigate whether you, like Chopin, ever get a bit of secret excitement from undermining your own joy and success. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to dissolve that bad habit.

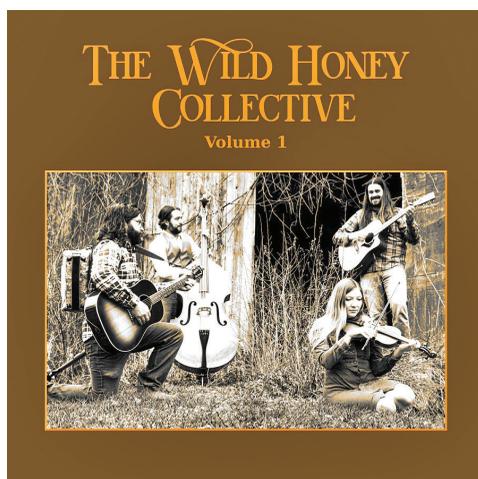
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

Q&A: DANIELLE GYGER TALKS WILD HONEY COLLECTIVE



Wild Honey Collective formed in the summer of 2020 and released its debut LP earlier this year. (All photos by Michael Boyes)

Lansing-based band has genuine 'Sweetheart of the Rodeo' vibes

Over the summer of 2020, COVID-19 shut down the live music community, but many musicians figured out ways to safely stay active by jamming at home. One of those outfits is the newly formed Wild Honey Collective, a super group of locals who formed to play rustic traditional tunes and some acoustic-driven originals, too. The group's debut LP, "Volume 1" — which is streaming on YouTube, Spotify, and Bandcamp — features Tommy McCord (lead vocals, guitar), Danielle Gyger (vocals, fiddle), Timmy Rodriguez (vocals, upright bass), Dan O'Brien (banjo, accordion), Drew Howard (pedal-steel) and drummer Dave Shilakes.

The band heads out today for an East Coast tour with Jeremy Porter & The Tucos, but City Pulse was able to catch up with Gyger before they hit the road. Here's what she had to say.

Were you in any bands before Wild Honey Collective?

Wild Honey Collective is my first actual band, unless you count the one-night whiskey fueled performance of me and my friend Charron in a band called Pepperoni. At first, I was a bit intimidated by being in a real-life band because I feel like most musicians, or at least the ones I'm around, joined them before the age of 27, but I'm glad I followed through. Growing up, I would either be playing drums or guitar in the music room

with my family during a weekend night, holiday, or at Wheatland Music Festival sitting in a circle with a bunch of fiddle players trying to keep up, so performing is an entirely new experience for me.

So your family was pretty musical, huh?

Most of my immediate family members are musicians, so I was always around it. My dad is a very talented pianist and I loved learning songs from him growing up. I first started playing guitar and writing my own songs around 13, and it just kind of grew from there. I play piano, guitar, old-time fiddle, a bit of mandolin, a bit of bass, and a few tunes on the accordion. I can also keep a simple rock beat on the drums, if need be.

Growing up, what bands were you into?

I've been a big Joni Mitchell fan since I was a kid. Three-part harmony girl groups from the 1930s, '40s and '50s like the Andrews and Boswell Sisters blow my mind. If it's Motown, I like it. I'm also big into The Beach Boys, The Zombies, The Kinks and The Byrds. And '70s classic rock really does it for me. Then there's Belle & Sebastian, Paul Simon and Neil Young.

Your dynamic fiancé, Tommy, is in the band — do you two write together?

Be still, my beating heart! We defi-

nately do a little bit of both. He will come to me with a song and I'll think up harmonies or suggest different wording, and vice versa. He's my favorite person in the world, and I feel really lucky to be able to make music with him and share it with the people we love.

There's a mix of originals and traditional songs; how do you pick the traditional tunes?

Well, I play the ones I know. Sometimes I learn them at a festival as the group is playing it, other times I hear someone playing a tune I like and write down the title to learn later. A lot of the traditional tunes I play are hundreds of years old, and have many variations to them, which makes learning them even more nuanced and fun.

What's the story behind your beautiful song "This Old House"?

The song is about my grandparents. They've been together since they were teenagers and have always been an inspiration to what I want, and have currently, in a lifelong partnership. The song describes their beautiful English Tudor-style home that my grandfather built, and the sort of whimsical happenings that it's hosted over the years. They come to most of our gigs. It's their favorite song for some reason.

The amazing Drew Howard plays on the album. What did he bring to

the mix?

Amazing is an understatement! We asked him to add some steel to a few songs, and within a day, he sent us these pristine recordings. I remember listening to the songs with Tommy and both of us got a bit teary-eyed. Pedal steel adds such an inimitable sound to music and, when it's added to a song that you wrote, it makes you feel some feelings.

The band released your debut "Volume 1" LP earlier this year. How was it recording that album?

Again, this is the first album I've been involved in making, so the entire process was so new to me. I may be biased being betrothed and all, but Tommy is such an impressive sound engineer. I watch him cut and paste various sound bites and it's like watching Matthew Lillard in "Hackers." I don't know what he's doing, but in the end, he hacks into the main frame and makes a really tight sound. Recording the many layers of each track was so fun, and dissecting each song really trained my ear and made me a better musician. Each member of our band is so talented in different ways, so it was like watching a messy, chaotic live painting or sculpture come together slowly.

Follow Wild Honey Collective at [facebook.com/thewildhoneycollective](https://www.facebook.com/thewildhoneycollective).

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

Hell's Halloween

\$10

Friday, Oct. 8, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 9, 9 p.m.

The Avenue Cafe

2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing



The Dark Art of Michigan is hosting a Halloween party Friday and Saturday at The Avenue Cafe. Friday features live metal music by Cavalcade, Rip Van Ripper and Dead Hour Noise, and a costume contest with the category "Most Scary." Saturday is a Halloween-themed performance art and burlesque show titled "Hell's Halloween" hosted by Secretia Noxious. Saturday night also features an expanded costume contest with the categories "Most Sexy" and Most Creative."

Both nights include the Dark Art of Michigan Artist Market, where you can find a unique lineup of vendors dealing spooky artisan goods. It's the perfect place to pick up an excellent and haunted gift for your favorite vampiric loved one. Ruckus Ramen will be open both nights as well, so delicious food will be served on top of all the drink specials.

Wednesday, October 6

517 Living Community Week - Join us in celebrating living in the Greater Lansing area! Info at 517living.com.

Adult Book Group - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Playground of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Allen Farmers Market - Allen Farmers Market from 3-6:30 p.m. at 2100 E Michigan Ave. 517-999-3911.

Krish Mohan at The Robin - with Tricia Chamberlain, standup comedy. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing. therobintheatre.com

Lansing Matinee Musicale -featuring Judy Kabodian, organist, celebrating 50 years of music, and Pipe Major William Collins of the Glen Erin Pipe Band. 1-2:30 p.m. Ascension Lutheran Church, 2780 Haslett Rd, East Lansing. 517-214-1487.

Museum as Muse: Mixed Media Class - 6-8 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

New Moon Ritual - Join us in person or online. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St. #7Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

The Penelopiad - MSU Theatre. 7:30

p.m. Studio 60 at MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Rd., E. Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Poetry of Witness, Poetry of Resistance Series: An Evening with Divya Victor and Serena Chopra. 7-8:30 p.m. Online. poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

Wednesday Workdays at CCBS - 9 a.m.-12. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

Thursday, October 7

Bath Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. www.shopbfm.org.

Binary Calculations are Inadequate to Assess Us Workshop - Transmedia artist Stephanie Dinkins workshop. 6-7:30 p.m. museum.msu.edu

Capital Area Audubon Society Monthly Meeting - 7-9 p.m. For Zoom link go to capitalareaaudubon.org.

Dimondale Farmers' Market - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. villageofdimondale.org.

Harry Potter and the Hour of Code - Learn to code with challenges inspired by the world of Harry Potter! For students in grades 2-8. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St', Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Info: ladiessilverblades.org.

MSU Department of Forestry Virtual Open House - with faculty, staff and students 4-6 p.m. canr.msu.edu

The Penelopiad - MSU Theatre. 7:30 p.m. Studio 60 at MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Rd., E. Lansing. theatre.msu.edu

Reach Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People - Sara Gothard. 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Sara/Eli @ Reach - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. 800 W. Barnes Ave. 517-374-5700.

Stitch 'N Bitch - Bring your yarn or thread and join the crowd at Keys To Manifestation. 5-8 p.m. 809 Center St., #7, Lansing.

Virtual Refugee Foster Care Information Session - 5:30-7:30 p.m.. 517-449-3270. To register, samaritas.org

Friday, October 8

Autumn Harvest - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Coffee Chat with EMBA Alumni - Bring your own coffee and join us for a brief virtual networking session to connect you with Broad EMBA Alumni. 10-10:30 a.m. broad.msu.edu.

Second Friday Shop Hop - Old Town Lansing - 1232 Turner St. 5-8 p.m. Lansing. iloveoldtown.org.

Spartan Upcycle Fridays: Macrame Plant Hangers - 12-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Take-Home Crafts @ GLADL - Make fun crafts with our Take Home Craft kits! Instructions on gladl.org 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge.

Ten Pound Fiddle 47th Birthday Party! Peter "Madcat" Ruth and C.A.R. Ma. 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.



Community

MENTAL HEALTH

CLINTON • EATON • INGHAM

CMHA-CEI is a front runner in mental health awareness and change. Are you interested in joining us?

EMERGENCY SERVICES THERAPIST

Responsibilities: Under the supervision of the Children's Emergency Services Coordinator, serves as a Master's level professional clinician performing short-term, urgent crisis intervention services to youth at risk for an out of home placement and their families. Intervention services provided could include intake assessments, psychiatric hospitalization screenings, referrals, and family interventions that require extensive crisis/safety planning and follow-up. Other duties will include consultation and collaboration with other service providers and case documentation. Services will be provided in the office, community and consumers home. CMHA-CEI is a Michigan Certified Bronze Level Veteran Friendly Employer and we encourage active military service member, veterans, and their family member to apply.

Requirements: Master's Degree in Social Work, Psychology or related field is required or must be obtained within 60 days of application. Possession of an appropriate State of Michigan credential is required or must have applied for and be able to obtain within 60 days of hire, LMSW preferred. One-year experience (professional or paraprofessional) in the examination, evaluation and treatment of minors and their families required or one academic year of graduate practicum/internship experience with children and families.

Candidate will be expected to work some evening hours. Possession of a valid Michigan driver's license and access to reliable means of transportation for job related use is required.

About Community Mental Health Authority: Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties was founded on the belief that mental health services are best provided in the community in which the person receiving such service lives. CMHA-CEI provides a wide range of community-based services. Annually, the organization serves over 10,000 persons at 122 sites through the tri-county region.

Compensation: We offer a very compelling salary commensurate with experience and a complete benefits package (Health, Dental, Disability, Defined Benefit through 403B), Public Service Loan Forgiveness, PTO, and personal days. We're serious about finding good people and treating them well. Professional licensure supervision available for social work and counseling. Generous child specific training, including some CEU's.

Schedule: Full-time, 40 hours per week. Variable schedules.

Please contact 517-899-8085 with interest

Events

from page 35

TGIF Weekly Friday Dance - All welcome! 7 p.m. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

Saturday, October 9

Autumn Harvest - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Babysitting & CPR Workshop - Teens 12+. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org to register.

Dueling Pianos by Fun Pianos! - 8-10 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E Shiawassee, Lansing. 517-371-2600.

Fall Festival Events at GLADL & Michigan's Marvelous Mammals: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson. gladl.org

Fall Zoo-tacular - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Gathering Together: Bernstein, Briggs, Tchaikovsky - Celebrate Lansing Symphony Orchestra's 92nd season with world-renown pianist, Michael Brown! 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

Inebriated Insights - Join Rebecca Runyan and the rest of the Keys team for a night of intoxicated witchcraft. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., #7, Lansing. 517-974-5540.

LAFCU Shred Day - free document shredding. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. LAFCU, 106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. lafcu.com.

Michigan Period Action Day 2021 - A rally to eliminate the tampon tax in Michigan. 12-2:30 p.m. Capitol Mall, 925 W. Ottawa, Lansing. 517-775-2936.

Spooky Science - AM - 9 a.m., PM - 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Sunday, October 10

Community Drum Circle at Lake Lansing North - 2-4 p.m. 6260 E Lake Dr, Haslett.

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

With Carpentry: Wooden Toolbox - 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Monday, October 11

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Jump Into Reading - Join Ms. Anna at the Playground of Dreams for stories, songs, and activities. 11-11:30 a.m. 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Tuesday, October 12

Board Game Meet Up - Ages 18 & up. Everyone welcome! 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

Mi Bird-Friendly Communities Lunch & Learn Webinar Series: 12-12:45 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, #200, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

Preschool Family Storytime - for 1-6 year olds with their young siblings, parents or caregivers. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St.

Switch Gaming! - Grab your Nintendo Switch, or play ours! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. gladl.org

Trick or Treat Trail - at Sharp Park. \$1 per child - cash only (while candy supplies last). 5:30-7:30 p.m. 1401 Elmwood Rd, Lansing.

Youth Arts Alliance Maker Space Workshop - 7-8:30 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 31

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 31

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

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

The way of the BLT

By **ARI LeVAUX**

A properly put together BLT is the Bruce Lee of sandwiches. It's lean and light and full of fight.

Just a few strips of bacon give you all the meat necessary for this black-belt combination of tomato, onion, mayo, bacon, bread and lettuce. By using finesse and precision instead of brute force, that elegant BLT can whoop a Reuben, a turkey Swiss, a roast beef — you name it — maybe all at once.

It is a masterpiece of a sandwich and a masterclass in all-around sandwich-ology, in part because pulling off a perfect BLT is not easy. The challenges inherent to a BLT pave the way for some of the most illuminating lessons in getting around the many pitfalls this sandwich presents.

For example, the watery combination of tomato and mayo threatens the integrity of the bread. This combination is non-negotiable. That the tomato must be in contact with the mayo is one of the few hard-fast rules of the BLT. It's the backbone of the flavor combination, more important than the bacon itself. In fact, it's precisely for this reason that vegetarians and other non-bacon eaters can enjoy what I consider a true BLT experience. Just insert your favorite bacon substitute into the equation and Karate-



chop that sucker in half — diagonal, corner to corner.

You won't miss a step with your fake bacon, but kid you not: if you don't manage that tomato and mayo situation, your BLT will self-destruct in about 25 seconds.

The obvious thing to do is toast the bread, right? The resulting browned, crusted finish that develops on the slices can withstand the dual onslaught of tomato and mayo and keep itself together long enough to pack into a lunchbox.

But there is a downside to toasting the bread of a sandwich as delectable as this one. You can become so entranced by the flavor that you eat the sandwich so quickly that the sharp edges of the heat-hardened crust cut into your mouth behind your teeth, in a manner that is most unsatisfying.

It seems wrong that we must choose between bread that has reverted to dough phase from contact with the



Courtesy

A fresh BLT sandwich prepared by Ari LeVaux.

tomato and mayo and risking the roofs of our mouths on the jagged crust as we chomp, eyes rolled back into our heads like frenzied sharks.

The answer — one of the most brilliant culinary tricks ever — comes from a farmer friend. I use it on near-

See BLT, Page 38

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BLT

from page 37

ly every sandwich I make for myself, BLT and non-BLT. It goes like this.

Place two pieces of bread (pressed together as if in a sandwich) in a toaster oven or extra-wide toaster. Set toaster to medium. When the bell dings, each piece of bread will have a toasted side and a not toasted side — the toasted sides being the two outer sides of the double slice of bread, with the non-toasted sides facing each other inward.

Now, prepare your BLT.

Lay the two slices of half-toasted bread on a plate or cutting board, with both toasted sides facing up. Mayo the toasted sides of both. Lay some sliced tomatoes on one mayo-lathered face and thin-sliced onions on the other.

Lay the bacon strips over the tomatoes and layer with lettuce. Place the

onion and mayo piece atop of the lettuce, so that the toasted faces are now lathered with mayo and facing inward, while the soft, untoasted sides of each slice face outward.

When you first bite into a sandwich made with half-toasted bread, everything is soft. Your teeth will soon reach the mayo-lathered, toasted faces. Bite through and into the sandwich.

And that is the half-toasted bread technique.

Once you try it, you may never make a sandwich the same way again. Any time the contents of a sandwich are prohibitively damp, simply toast the inner faces and contain the jelly, tuna fish, egg salad or any moist materials, your bread will be better able to accommodate the contents. And that is what a sandwich is all about.

(Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux's weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.)

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**CITY OF EAST LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
FOR THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 2, 2021 General Election for registered voters in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, has been scheduled for Friday, October 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., in Conference Room A located at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program being used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner that meets the requirements of the law.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Jennifer Shuster
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#21-224

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