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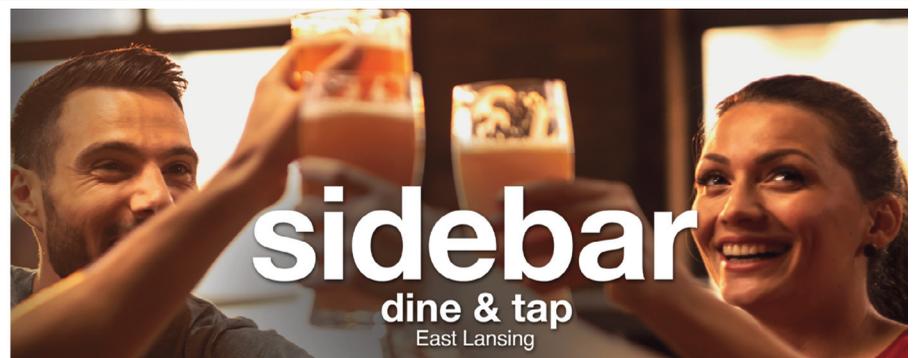
Capital City Comic Con
ushers in
Hollywood stars

See
p.13

ABOOD

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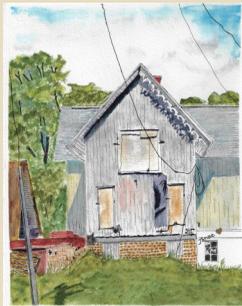
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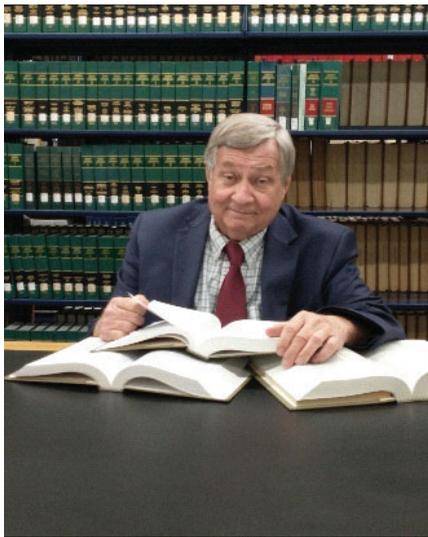
Featuring: “Janae”

(aka Jeanne Kipker) and Mike Bricker

Friday, July 8, 2022 5—8



ARTISTS NIGHT
OUT



DON KESKEY
 FOR
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 75TH DISTRICT – DEMOCRAT
 «YOUR KEY TO THE HOUSE»



Assistant Attorney General Don Keskey working with Attorney General Frank J. Kelley (1973-1998)

Career

Veteran

Vietnam War Veteran (1970) and US Naval Reserve (1968 - 1974), Active Duty (1969 - 1970)

Public Servant

Michigan Assistant Attorney General and an Assistant Attorney General in Charge (1973 - 1998)

Public Law Attorney

Private Practice focusing on economic development; broadband initiatives in rural areas; representing utility customer groups in utility and renewable energy cases (1998 - present)

Small Business Owner

Principal Member, Public Law Resource Center, PLLC, East Lansing (2009 - present)

Homeowner and Board Member

Homeowner in East Lansing and Haslett since 1975; condo board member/President (93 condos in Haslett - 15 years; 28 condos in Haslett - 10 years)

Legal Experience

Don Keskey from 1973 to the present has prepared and argued numerous cases before state and federal agencies, including the Michigan Public Service Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and state and federal courts, including State District and Circuit Courts, the Michigan Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeal, and the United States Supreme Court, and has testified on behalf of Michigan and its utility ratepayers before the United States Congress

Education

Northern Michigan University - BA (1968)
 University of Michigan Law School - J.D. Law (1973)
 Michigan State University - MBA (2005)

Issues and positions

Infrastructure

Promote improved roads, renewable energy, high-speed broadband, cost-effective and reliable utilities, enhanced transportation development

Public education

Promote and support public education

Public safety

Enhance public safety, including security in schools and in other public gatherings

Economic Development

Promote economic development and expansion; focus on state strategies to address inflationary impacts

Environmental Protection

Support clean air and water and combat pollution of natural resources, ensure safe public water resources, promote conservation programs

Climate change

Promote renewable energy and customer distributed generation; energy efficiency

Personal Medical rights

Support Roe v Wade principles and personal medical decisions and privacy

Voter rights

Expand citizen participation and oppose voter suppression

CityPULSE

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Seeing Stars: Capital City Comic Con

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ScrapFest returns in style

PAGE 16



A notable local poet emerges

PAGE 22

IF WATERGATE HAPPENED WITH TODAY'S MEDIA

THIS JUST IN: SPECIAL PROSECUTOR ARCHIBALD COX MAY BE PART OF THE DEEP STATE UNDERMINING PRESIDENT NIXON!

FOX NEWS

UP NEXT: IS DAVID BOWIE MAKING OUR KIDS GAY?

twitter

Silent Majority Mike 🇺🇸
@NixonArmy74

When will the #FakeNews @WashingtonPost investigate McGovern and the DemocRATS breaking into the RNC headquarters? #TrickyGeorge #LockHimUp #NixonRules 🙌🙌

14,729 Likes 19,289 Retweets

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The False Equivalence Times

GOP MEMO ACCUSES FBI OF IMPROPERLY INVESTIGATING G. GORDON LIDDY

Victim of witch hunt?

THE NEWS ABOUT WATERGATE IS SO CONFUSING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK!

... AND THE ARC OF HISTORY IS CHANGED FOREVER.

Trending: #NixonInnocent

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

OUR STORY SO FAR: DONALD TRUMP FILLS THREE SUPREME COURT VACANCIES BEFORE ULTIMATELY ATTEMPTING A COUP.

SENDING AN ARMED MOB TO THE CAPITOL IS A BRILLIANT IDEA! WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

THE FOUNDING FATHERS NEVER INTENDED FOR TRUMP TO LOSE AN ELECTION!

YOU GOT ANY EXTRA PARDONS LAYING AROUND? JUST ASKING, NO REASON.

THE JUSTICES, OF COURSE, HAVE LIFETIME TENURE.

IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT THEY WERE NOMINATED BY A SEDITIONIST!

ANYWAY, JOHN ROBERTS CARES DEEPLY ABOUT HIS LEGACY! IT'S NOT AS IF HE'S GOING TO LET THE NEW SUPER-MAJORITY REVIVE THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS OR SOMETHING!

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

TIME PASSES--AND THEN--

THE SUPREME COURT HAS REVIVED THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS! THE DECISION STATES THAT ALL WOMEN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITCHES UNTIL IT CAN BE DETERMINED IF THEY SINK OR FLOAT!

ACCORDING TO ALITO, THE ENGLISH WITCHCRAFT ACT OF 1604 PROVIDES A CLEAR HISTORICAL PRECEDENT!

DEMOCRATS RESPOND TENTATIVELY.

COME ON, MAN! IF WE START TALKING ABOUT EXPANDING THE COURT, WE MIGHT UNDERMINE EVERYBODY'S EXTREMELY REAL FAITH IN THAT INSTITUTION!

JUST KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF THE FILIBUSTER! IT IS MY PRECIOUSSS!

WE SENT OUT AN AVALANCHE OF FUNDRAISING EMAILS! WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?

LAWMAKERS IN RED STATES QUICKLY EMBRACE THE RULING.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH EARLY PURITAN LAW, DREAMS AND VISIONS WILL NOW BE ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE IN WITCHCRAFT TRIALS!

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HANGED AS A WITCH--DON'T PRACTICE WITCHCRAFT!

OR SHOW UP IN ANYBODY'S DREAMS AS A WITCH!

AND BEFORE LONG--

I DREAMED LAST NIGHT THAT GOODY PELOSI AND THAT TURN-COAT GOODY CHENEY ARE WITCHES! NOT TO MENTION GOODY CLINTON!

THEY TRIED TO CAST A SPELL AND SHRINK MY LARGE, MANLY HANDS, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

THIS IS A WITCH HUNT I CAN GET BEHIND!

TOM TOMORROW'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Michigan prosecutors fall in line politically on abortion

Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon doesn't mince words on enforcing a 1931 felony law outlawing abortion.

"I have said, unilaterally, during my entire legal career I will not prosecute a medical provider for providing an abortion."

"I've been very clear where I stand on reproductive rights during both of my campaigns," she added. "Voters know what I stand for. If they don't like it, they can vote me out of office."

Siemon echoes the sentiments of other Democratic elected prosecutors in the state. Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald told MSNBC she will use her limited funds to pursue serious crimes such as increased gun violence, domestic violence, rape and child abuse. Democratic prosecutors in Marquette, Kalamazoo, Wayne and Washtenaw counties are on record as stating they will not enforce it either.

The 1931 law is a felony law prohibiting anyone from deliberately causing a "miscarriage" by administration of drugs or use of instruments. It has only one exception: When the life of the mother is in jeopardy, an abortion is legally allowed. But abortions for pregnancies resulting from rape and incest are prohibited.

Reflecting national reaction by prosecutors, it's a familiar partisan divide on the issue of abortion.

At least two Michigan Republican prosecutors have announced they will bring charges under the century old law.

Prosecutors in Michigan are legally permitted to decide which cases they will bring charges in and which ones they won't. The American Bar Association Code of Conduct holds prosecutorial discretion as a key element in enforcing the law.

The American Bar Association Code of Ethics states a prosecutor's primary "duty" is to "seek justice, not simply convictions." To do that, the prosecutor should "exercise discretion" when choosing not to seek criminal charges in a case.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Democratic prosecutors want the courts to rule the law unconstitutional under Michigan's constitutional due process

and equal protection clauses. The governor initiated the suit in anticipation of the U.S. Supreme Court's June 24 overturning the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision.

The court on a 6-3 vote that predictably reflected GOP vs. Democratic appointees — ruled there was no federal right to an abortion, and it was up to each state to determine whether and how to address abortion.

As a result, Whitmer has asked the Michigan Supreme Court to skip two court levels — the circuit and appeals courts — and hear the case directly. No decision on that has been made.

Whitmer has also issued an executive order directing state agencies not to participate in any criminal investigation related to abortion. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor has also directed the Lansing Police Department not to participate in any investigation related to the abortion ban and the 1931 law.

A law from 1846 backs this up, noting county prosecutors may decide to bring charges for criminal actions. That one word, "may," makes all the difference in the legal world because it unleashes a prosecutor's ability to use their own discernment on how to handle cases brought to them.

Currently, the 1931 ban is unenforceable. That is because a temporary injunction was issued by the Court of Claims in May. The injunction prohibits the enforcement of the ban until, and if, it is found constitutional under Michigan's Constitution — something Court of Claims Judge Elizabeth Gleicher determined was more likely to occur than not in issuing her injunction.

The injunction was issued in a second lawsuit seeking to overturn the ban as unconstitutional under Michigan's



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Over the holiday weekend, downtown Lansing was awash with supporters of abortion access. On Sunday, about 1,000 people marched through downtown railing against the U.S. Supreme Court decision and any attempt to reinstate Michigan's 1931 abortion ban. On Monday, protesters blocked, then took over the annual Fourth of July parade in downtown Lansing. The event was ultimately canceled, and many who'd arrive for the parade joined protesters demanding access to safe, legal abortions without criminalization.

Constitution. The case was brought by Planned Parenthood of Michigan against Attorney General Dana Nessel. Under the order, Nessel was to inform all people under her supervision of the injunction. According to state law, that includes all county prosecutors. Nessel sent notification by email to all the people she supervises on May 18, the day after the injunction was issued.

"As it currently stands, providing abortion care in Michigan cannot be prosecuted, and I encourage those with appointments to move forward as scheduled and consult with their doctors," Nessel said in a statement.

But two Republican prosecutors said they will file charges under the law if presented cases.

Kent County Prosecutor Christopher Becker and Jackson County Prosecutor Jerald Jarzynka — both Republicans — announced last week they will proceed with prosecutions. Their attorney said

Nessel is wrong. They are represented by David Kallman, a Delta Township lawyer involved in dozens of lawsuits related to homeschooling, LGBTQ rights and more, who said the injunction did not apply to local prosecutors.

"The state cannot tell local prosecutors what they can and cannot prosecute," Kallman said in a phone interview last week. "That's just ridiculous."

Kallman did acknowledge that a 1963 Michigan Supreme Court ruling found only providers involved in an abortion can be charged under the law. "Not the mother," he said, "She can't face charges."

With the legality of abortion care in the air, activists like Melinna Brann of Lansing "feel like we have no control." She submitted a proposed resolution to the City Council seeking to get that body to reject the 1931 law. It's unclear if the Council will take up the issue. Brann, who works with social workers in the

See Abortion, Page 6

Morning-after pills in good supply locally, pharmacies say

East Lansing resident Lynsey Clayton's thoughts were for others on the afternoon of June 24.

Clayton, mom to four, went to the pharmacy inside the Bath Township Meijer shortly after the Supreme Court handed down its decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

With her youngest in tow, Clayton eventually purchased three pills.

Given that Viagra pills (for male erectile dysfunction) can be found online for less than \$6 per dose, Clayton could only shake her head at the cost of Plan B, a morning-after pill.

"I can't believe I have to spend \$100 to make sure my friends and I have the option if there was a sexual assault or someone had a birth control mishap," she said.

What do you do now, if you find out you weren't as ... safe ... as you thought you were? What happens if the help you need is harder to come by?

In a post-*Roe* world, the answer isn't nearly as clear-cut as it used to be.

For more than 20 years, American women could rely on the legal availability of RU-486, better known as either

the morning-after pill or Plan B. But in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling that abortion is no longer a constitutionally protected right, contraceptive alternatives are fast disappearing.

While the morning-after pill does not cause an abortion — after all, you can't terminate a pregnancy that has yet to exist — pro-life adherents often seek to convince patients that it does.

The use of emergency contraception can keep an egg from being fertilized, according to Focus on the Family (www.focusonthefamily.com).

If that happens, "an abortion will occur, because each human life begins as an embryo."

While the pills are available both locally and online through various retailers, it's unclear for how long and how many may be purchased per transaction. Rite Aid, Walgreens and Meijer all have the pills available online, priced from \$30 to \$50 per dose depending on the brand.

Plan B One Step is the priciest, while generic versions can cost as little as \$11 per pill.

According to documents on Planned

Parenthood's website (www.plannedparenthood.org), any one of the various morning-after pills are between 75 and 89 percent effective if taken within five days after unprotected sex.

The pill must be taken as soon as possible following unprotected sex to be most effective, and it may not work at all in women weighing more than 165 pounds. For those women, Planned Parenthood says there are other forms of emergency contraception that would work better.

Repeated phone calls and phone messages for the Ann Arbor-based affiliate and the Lansing clinic in Frandor went unanswered.

For those who are looking for emergency contraception locally, so far, so good.

No one at the Meijer pharmacy mentioned a limit, Clayton added.

Local Walgreens pharmacy staff deferred all comment to the chain's Deerfield, Illinois, headquarters.

"We continue to have ample supply to meet customer demand," Walgreens' senior director of external relations, Fraser Engerman, said in an e-mailed statement.

"To help ensure ongoing access and availability for our customers and patients, we have implemented a purchase limit of 15 products per customer for Walgreens.com purchases only."

The story is much the same at Rhode Island-based CVS, which has several stores in the Lansing area.

"Immediately following the Supreme Court decision, we saw a sharp increase in the sale of emergency contraceptives



and implemented a temporary purchase limit to ensure equitable access," Matt Blanchette, senior manager for retail communications, said in a statement.

"Sales have since returned to normal, and we've removed purchase limits in-store and on CVS.com. We continue to have (an) ample supply of emergency contraceptives to meet customer needs."

Things are quiet at Sparrow Health System as well.

"While we have seen media reports referring to larger chains," a Sparrow spokesperson said, "Sparrow Pharmacy Plus has not yet seen an increase in demand for the 'Plan B' or the 'morning-after' pill."

Clayton went to Meijer last month "because I was worried about having access (to the medication) if someone needs it," she said.

"I have teens. What if they have a friend who is assaulted, or something else?" she said.

"I also have friends who are done having kids and use reliable birth control methods like vasectomies. But what if someone was assaulted? Their husband's vasectomy is useless" then.

— DAWN PARKER

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Abortion

from page 5

state, said there is a significant amount of anxiety for women as well as social workers and medical providers as the future of the law hangs in the balance.

"No one knows if they can be charged for providing information about abortion, but social workers have an ethical obligation to provide that information," she said.

Planned Parenthood of Michigan's communications director, Ashlea Phenicie, said the organization has already seen a 13% need for telehealth services.

"They are asking to get Plan B and birth control (prescriptions) filled early and for longer periods" because of uncertainty over how long they will be available.

— TODD HEYWOOD



REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By TODD HEYWOOD



1036 N. Larch St., Lansing

This week's eyesore comes with a twist. At 1036 N. Larch Street is a small, white house, with all the entryways boarded up. Its roof has significant moss growth, which is causing the shingles to buckle and bend.

The 1904 structure is owned by Sherri and Paul Weigman, according to city of Lansing property records. It was purchased from the Ingham County treasurer for \$750. The duo own at least seven other properties in the city, and records show they have done extensive work on the other properties, including remodeling from multi-units back to single family units.

The property is up for sale, and this where the eyesore turns into less of a concern. Real estate agent Gary Naeyaert said the owner has used the property as storage. "It's currently filled with things like toilets and other building materials. This is not a place to live."

In fact, part of the sale agreement will have the owners tearing it down completely, leaving an empty lot. "It's not financially worth it to fix it up to live in it," he said. "That's why he's agreed to tear it down when it sells. Everyone wins with this."

- TODD HEYWOOD

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly 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 Managing Editor Kyle Kaminski at eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination at 517-999-6715.



Elderly Instruments marked its 50th anniversary Tuesday with a block party outside its headquarters on Washington Avenue in Lansing's Old Town. The music store that started as a business in a basement in East Lansing on July 5, 1972, has 45 employees spread out over three buildings and customers worldwide.

1 dead, 2 injured in Rotary Park shooting

One man is dead and two others are recovering from gunshot wounds they received in downtown Lansing's Rotary Park on Sunday. The deceased has been identified by Lansing Police as 42-year-old Richard Simmons. Simmons is the city's ninth gun-related homicide in 2022. A 37-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man are also expected to survive. The LPD said there have been 32 nonfatal gunshot incidents in the city this year through June 30.

Peanut Barrel sells to competitor Crunchy's

For 42 years, Joe and Jennifer Bell owned and operated the iconic Peanut Barrel bar and restaurant in East Lansing. But last week, they announced, was their last on duty and they were retiring. They sold the business to longtime customer Mike Krueger and John Mosholder, co-owner of another classic EL hangout, Crunchy's.



Three charged on Eaton Co. shooting

Two men and a minor, Malachi Mcabee, 19, Damari Ware, 18, and Jaylin Leek, 16, have been charged in Eaton County district court with first-degree murder and other charges stemming from the 2021 murder of 17-year-old Anthony Alvion-Inez Davis III. The shooting happened at Hunter's Ridge Apartments, and Davis was driven to the hospital where he died. Officials would only say Davis had been having issues with another group of youth.

Zoo to get \$2 million in state funds

The Legislature approved a \$76 billion budget for 2023

that includes \$2 million to help Potter Park Zoo build an animal health facility that is expected to cost \$4.5 million. The current facility was rated as out of date by the Associations of Zoos and Aquariums. The

zoo has already raised about \$1.7 million for the project with grants from the Great Lansing Visitors and Convention Bureau and the Dart Foundation. Also in the budget is \$5 million for Downtown Lansing Inc. to stabilize downtown after the COVID pandemic. That's particularly important as more workers shift to remote work options and away from office spaces. McLaren will also receive \$5 million to renovate its mostly empty campus on Greenlawn to provide mental services and support for teenagers and their families. The project is expected to open in September 2022.



Lansing school leader dies at 92

Matthew Prophet Jr., Lansing's first Black superintendent, died in California at age 92. As superintendent from 1972 to 1982, he helped lead the schools through integration. He left to become superintendent of the Portland, Oregon, school system.



Strike averted at GM plant

The United Auto Workers and General Motors averted a strike last week, narrowly beating the clock by arriving at a tentative agreement. The automaker is investing millions of dollars in the region, and billions of dollars nationwide, as it transforms its product line to all electric vehicles.

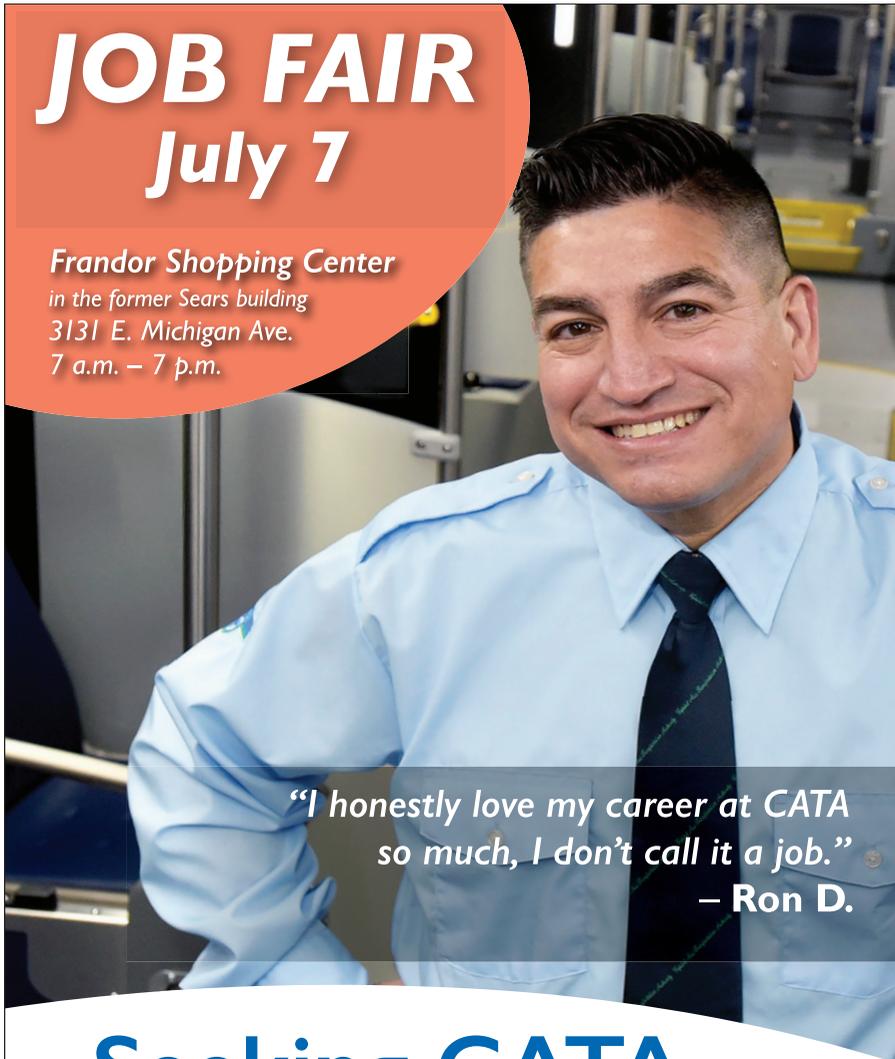
MSU plans fence to prevent drownings

Michigan State University has begun the process of installing 2,300 feet of 4-foot tall-fencing to help prevent accidental drownings in the Red Cedar River, which runs through the heart of campus. In October 2021, Grand Valley State University student Brendan Santo, 18, drowned. His body was recovered in January. The area that will be fenced off is where the banks of the river are the steepest, near Beal Street and West Circle Drive. A spokesman told the Lansing State Journal the fencing will cost an estimated \$645,000 to install.



JOB FAIR July 7

Frondor Shopping Center
in the former Sears building
3131 E. Michigan Ave.
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.



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– Ron D.

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CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, July 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by Amending Chapter 1060, Section 1060.09, to add City waste hauler license application requirements, including description of materials and weight/volume/estimates of material collected, and curbside collection schedule.

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

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

CP#22-145

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1301

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, re-adopting the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lansing...

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#22-146

The price of public safety

One of Lansing's longest running municipal conundrums is the on-again, off-again pursuit of new facilities for its city government, from replacing an outdated, dysfunctional City Hall to building a new police headquarters. Readers will recall that former Mayor Virg Bernero pursued a plan to create a new City Hall by refurbishing the old Lansing State Journal building. The existing City Hall, located on a prime piece of downtown real estate, would have been transformed into a hotel.

Bernero's approach didn't, however, include a plan for replacing the city's detention facility, relocating the 54-A District Court or housing the Lansing Police Department's administrative offices, all of which are in the existing City Hall. In 2018, newly elected Mayor Andy Schor promptly shelved Bernero's plan based on those omissions, then didn't do much to advance the project over his first term in office.

Last week that all changed, with Mayor Schor rolling out his own chapter in the saga: a sprawling, \$175 million plan to overhaul the city's public safety facilities from top to bottom. When we say sprawling, we're not kidding: Schor's plan is a laundry list of capital projects that includes a new building for the Police and Fire departments and 54-A District Court, a new detention facility, upgrading fire stations across the city, and purchasing new equipment for both departments. If the City Council approves the plan, Lansing voters will be asked to authorize selling up to \$175 million in municipal bonds — a form of long-term borrowing — at this November's general election.

We admit that our first reaction to the mayor's proposal was a moderate case of sticker shock. For a proposal that doesn't even include a new City Hall, \$175 million seems a bit on the pricey side. Critics may be inclined to call it grandiose, but we're not sure what to think about it just yet. Few details are available, and that makes it difficult to say if we're for it or against it. We do have questions, though, and hope that answers will be forthcoming as the proposal works its way through the City Council process.

On the surface, Schor's plan feels too much like a blank check for the city's public safety agencies, with insufficient detail to support such a massive expenditure of public funds. Approve the money now, the mayor seems to be saying, and we'll figure out how to spend it later. Schor argues that the longer the city waits to build new facilities, the more costly it will become. He's not wrong, but we're also concerned about the increased financial burden on city residents. With gas prices still in the stratosphere, inflation driving up the cost of necessities, and the possibility of a recession in the not-too-distant future, a nearly 4-mill tax

increase would be a significant new financial burden on many Lansing families. We're not yet convinced that the time for this plan is now.

That said, we may be inclined to support the plan on the condition that it is thoroughly vetted by the City Council before it is sent to the November ballot. Each component of the mayor's proposal should be scrutinized and compared to less costly alternatives, rather than just signing off on a spending spree by the Police and fire departments. The chiefs of both departments should be quizzed about the difference between what they want and what they really need to effectively and efficiently do their jobs.

We're somewhat concerned that several Council members have already decided they will support the plan, without having done anything resembling due diligence. It is the Council's job to dissect the mayor's proposal, to ask the tough questions, and to at least go through the motions of exploring alternatives before jumping on board.

For what it's worth, we continue to believe it's a terrible idea for the city to stay in the jail business. It's a nightmare in every respect. It's hard to keep the facility staffed with experienced, well-trained officers and the exposure to civil liability is high. The most recent example is the lawsuit brought by the family of Anthony Hulon, who died in the city lockup two years ago. Even though no criminal

charges were brought against the officers involved in the incident, settling the case is likely to cost the city a boatload of cash. Twenty years ago, the death of Edward Swans under similar circumstances cost the city nearly \$13 million.

Bernero frequently touted the idea that the county sheriff is supposed to handle jail functions and should be in charge of the Lansing lockup. He also was convinced that the city's detention facility could be relocated to the base-

ment of the county's Veterans Courthouse in downtown Lansing, which already has a similar facility that could be expanded. This still strikes us as a sensible approach but it would require a level of shared vision and cooperation between the city and county that don't seem to exist.

In the end, Schor's proposal may be exactly the right approach to knocking down the obstacles that stand in the way of a new City Hall while meeting the future facility and equipment needs of the city's public safety departments. We worry, though, that the price tag of the current proposal may be perceived by voters as overly ambitious. To convince Lansing residents to support it, the mayor needs to get busy explaining why each element of his plan is a necessary and prudent expenditure of public funds.



The CP Edit

Opinion

CORRECTION Because of a reporting error, the primary election preview story two weeks ago incorrectly stated when Logan Bryne, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the 77th Michigan House District seat in the August primary, was appointed to the Clinton County Zoning Board, which was February, 2021.

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

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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.)

She's running for the House — and hates every minute of it

Why is Emily Dievendorf running for the state House?

It's a valid question as she makes herself a cup coffee shortly after 10:30 a.m. on a Wednesday morning in June.

It's five weeks to the Democratic primary, and you'd never know she's a political candidate. She's not wearing a campaign T-shirt. She's not wearing a campaign button.

There's no lawn sign leaning against a wall. No "vote for me" fliers spread out on the table.

A leader in Lansing's civil rights movement, Dievendorf isn't planning to knock doors from dawn to dusk today. No walk lists ready to go. Her phone isn't blowing up. No volunteers buzzing in and out the door.

No, Dievendorf seems perfectly content showing me around her new bookstore on Ionia Street, near the Capitol Complex.

Remember where Belen's Flower Shop used to be downtown? It's called Resistance now. There are books about the struggles of LGBTQ folks, Blacks and other marginalized communities.

Love what she's done with the place. Looking at beautiful renovations of this historic storefront is worth the visit itself.

It's been her labor of love since a motorcycle plowed into her a couple of years ago.

Dievendorf was demonstrating with allies in front of the Capitol. They were crying out about George Floyd, systemic racism and defunding the police.

Agitated counter-protesters were blowing down Capitol Avenue in front of their mural painted on the street. Some in trucks. Some in vehicles. Others in motorcycles.

They were speeding on purpose. They were showing off their firearms on purpose. Their angry shouts made that clear.

Dievendorf was by the cones city officials used to block off a lane and a half for protesters who were painting their Black Lives Matter mural on Capitol Avenue.

One motorcyclist took intimidation to the next level. He swerved into the cones.

It took months for the 43-year-old to recover. Actually, she still is recovering. Two and a half fractures and a severe concussion later, she is only now walking more than a block.

Her wrist still doesn't bend right. Bright lights bother her. Great care at University of Michigan is helping with the PTSD.

The civil settlement helped birth her

nonprofit bookstore. Selling her house helped, too.

The civil rights activist wasn't going away after this violent attack. No, she came back with a bookstore.

It's her new safe place for those from marginalized communities. It's a place people can learn about others. Understand their differences. Find out where they coming from.

"I built this place to pursue some justice, some justice for communities impacted by discrimination and bias," she said.

She isn't getting rich from this venture. If you're dedicating your life to advocacy, that's never the goal.

So, it leads back to the question at hand.

Why is Emily Dievendorf running for the state House?

At this point in her life, putting her name on the ballot seems like the last thing she would be doing.

She's not a politician. She only tried for the Lansing City Council in 2015 because then-Mayor Virg Bernero wanted someone to take out Councilmember Carol Wood.

It didn't work. Honestly, it might not work this time.

The powers-at-be are coalescing behind former Grand Ledge basketball standout Jon Horford. A young DeWitt attorney named Logan Byrne is giving it a go, too.

With these being the choices in the new 75th House District that covers Lansing north of the Grand River, Dewitt and Grand Ledge, Dievendorf and her circle of activists wanted another option.

They want someone who talks the talk.

They don't want someone susceptible to being another tool of monied interests. They don't want someone obsessed with political self preservation.

They want someone literally willing to risk everything for the downtrodden minority populations. Someone like ...

"I hate everything about this," she said. "There's nothing about this that I'm enjoying."

But the former executive director of the LGBTQ rights group Equality Michigan loves the idea of digging into public policy. She loves the idea of helping people in her community.

If advancing that cause and serving her constituents makes her a one-termer, oh, well.

The bookstore is only a step. The work needs to be done. Now more than ever.

That's why Emily Dievendorf is running for the state House.



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ON A ROLL

Lansing's eclectic electric skateboarding scene sparks joy

By **CHELSEA ROBERTS**

Members of Lansing's most mesmerizing meetup coast into a parking lot on a Wednesday evening in Old Town. Men, women and children glide effortlessly on electric skateboards. Thirteen of over 100 group members have braved a hot day to ride the River Trail together.

Liz Ritchie's first experience on a skateboard was only two years ago and it was ... not rad.

"I did the splits," she said. "It was a mess."

But today, Ritchie is floating with confidence.

Ritchie is one of 5,000 people (according to a national Facebook group) who have taken up the "boardsport" in their mid-40s.

The group for this Facebook-organized meetup is called "OneWheel Lansing," in reference to the OneWheel brand electric skateboards that most in the group are riding. All personal electric vehicles are welcome here, but they each have their nuances. A OneWheel is not an electric unicycle. On a unicycle, the rider faces in the direction they are moving. A OneWheel is not exactly an electric skateboard, which has four wheels and is often powered by a handheld remote. A OneWheel is a hybrid. To ride, you face to the side, like a skateboard, and one single large wheel in the middle spins to power you forward. The board responds to your weight shifting between your left and right foot.

Ritchie invited me to give it a try on her OneWheel.

I've ridden a skateboard before, so I hopped onto the 30lb deck with her help. OneWheels run on rechargeable batteries. They have a range of up to 20 miles and reach a top speed of 25 mph. Ritchie told me to lean forward, onto my right foot, and I was delighted when the board started moving. It's surprisingly smooth.

Rusty Allswede described his first time on a OneWheel like this: "When you get on it, you can make it go almost immediately, you just ride it.

But you don't know how you're doing it yet." The boards are sophisticated pieces of technology that are pleasantly intuitive. Like everyone I interviewed, Allswede purchased his OneWheel during the pandemic. After just a few months he decided to ride 230 miles from Lansing to the Mackinac bridge. "No one else was doing it," he said.

This is the central theme in Lansing's OneWheel scene: a group of early adopters, engineering nerds, and adrenaline junkies out for community and fun. Riders connect with each other using an app that locates other OneWheel owners and coordinates group rides. Ritchie describes the Lansing group as helpful, inclusive and intellectual. Of her and her friend Rusty, she said, "We're both super nerds."

According to Shawn Dyer, an IT professional and father of one, the best thing about OneWheels is the diversity of people who ride them. Dyer, who grew up skateboarding, said this com-

munity is different. "You don't need to be a professional athlete, or in peak physical condition. I'm in my mid-to-late 40s now,

and it's great to see all ages and levels of fitness coming out and having fun. That's what it's all about."

A OneWheel might boast a quicker learning curve than a traditional, four-wheeled skateboard, but it comes with added costs and maintenance. To start, the boards are over \$1,000. They aren't waterproof, and they shouldn't be left out in the heat or extreme cold.

OneWheel's website states that the

boards are optimized to move over any surface provided the rider is sufficiently practiced. But defining where these personal electric vehicles fit into our state's mix of pedestrian and vehicular traffic is ongoing. In 2018, the Michigan State Police released an update to the vehicle code defining and regulating "electric skateboards." It states that electric skateboards "must have an electrical propulsion system that does not exceed 2,500 watts and a maximum speed on a paved level surface that does not exceed 25 mph."

OneWheels fall into this category. They are allowed on sidewalks and in roadways if riders are within the speed limit, stay to the right and yield to pedestrians. But the updated vehicle code does not govern every municipality. The code states, "Local governments and certain state entities may adopt regulations and certain prohibitions regarding the operation of electric skateboards."

In Greater Lansing, rules posted on the Ingham County Parks website do not specify electric skateboards, just "motorized vehicles." Among other requirements, speeds are limited to 15 mph unless posted otherwise, and they must stay on roadways — again, unless otherwise posted.

In Lansing parks, a city ordinance says "powered vehicles" are only permitted on roadways and parking areas.

A given with electric skateboards: They require safety gear. Let me just say that again, they really require safety gear. Everyone I talked to had a story about a crash, specifically, a crash where they said they avoided life-altering injuries thanks to wearing a helmet.

When I meet Ahmed Aldhaferi, a 33-year old East Lansing native, he was covered head-to-toe in safety gear and looks like a villain from a Marvel movie. Aldhaferi always wears his helmet and encouraged others to do the same. He owns more than one personal electric vehicle, but today he was riding his electric unicycle that goes up to 45pmh! Unlike OneWheels, electric unicycles like Aldhaferi's are not defined under the current update to the state's Vehicle Code.

Throughout the pandemic many adults have increased their levels of drinking and drug use to cope with social isolation. But for Aldhaferi, who doesn't drink for religious reasons, that method of coping wasn't an option. Luckily for him, he's found a different kind of escape.

"I used to get bored in Lansing, but now I see it in a different way," he said. "It's kind of like you're playing a game. When a new trail opens or a new place opens you go see that place, it's like, a new level."

After a group picture everyone was ready to ride out together. I ask Aldhaferi one final question about his status as the unofficial leader of this group. He denied it, saying the group doesn't have a leader: "They only say that because when I set the pace and ride out in front, I care about the last person as much as the first."



The crew at the OneWheel meetup.

Photo by Chelsea Roberts



Photo by Shawn Dyer

Liz Ritchie (left) instructs City Pulse's Chelsea Roberts.

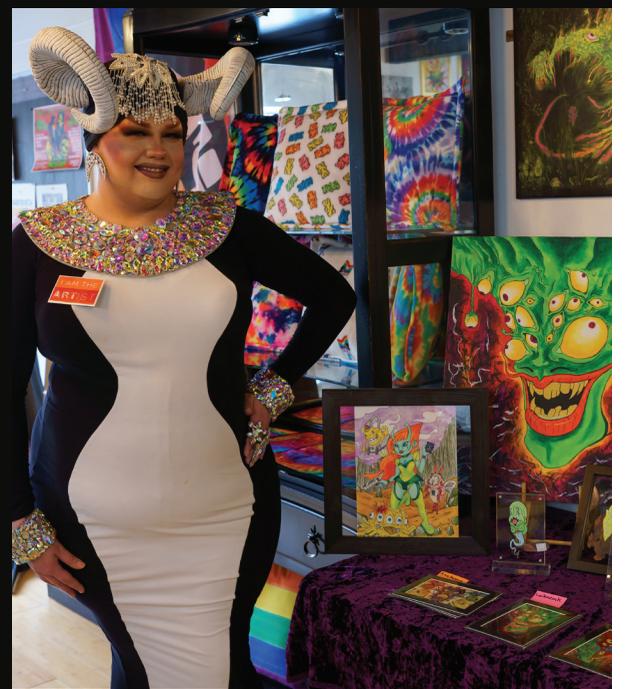
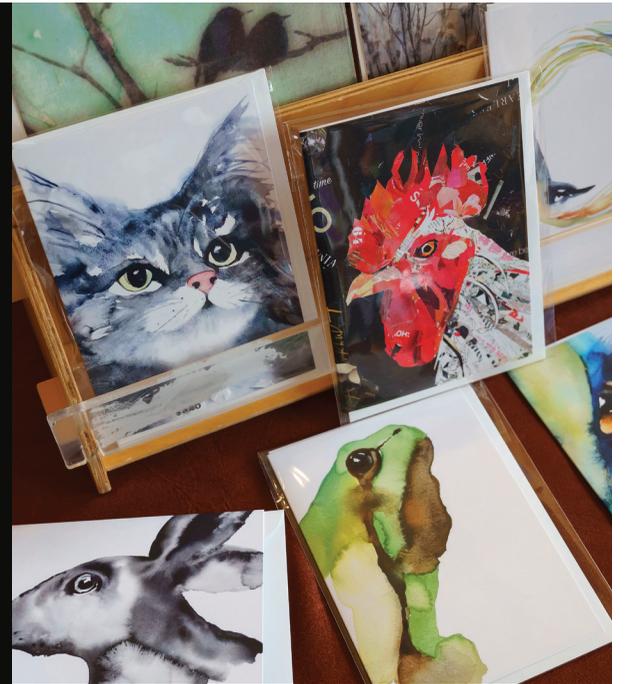


"I used to get bored in Lansing but now I see it in a different way." - Ahmed Aldhaferi

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Courtesy photo

Capital City Comic Con co-owner Bryan Harris (right) with Shamus Smith, aka the Lansing Batman, dressed as Spaceghost. He is getting married Sunday at the convention. He will also be interviewing guests on the mainstage (as Spaceghost), including actor Tom Arnold.

SEEING STARS

Capital City Comic Con features Tom Arnold, 'Aliens' and 'Peanuts' reunions and a local Batman/Wonder Woman wedding

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

It was Bryan Harris' profound love of pop culture that first drew him toward the Capital City Comic Con — C4 — but it was the annual event's community that ultimately encouraged him to become a co-owner of the local operation that brings Hollywood stars to Lansing. "I've always loved conventions," said Harris, who became a C4 partner in 2017. "Conventions are a place where everyone fits in. No one is weird or strange or what-not because we all are. It's where my people are. I bought into the company because I wanted to be a part of building a place for all of us geeks to geek out together."

This year's stacked show features a reunion of several co-stars from 1986's "Aliens" and the 1970s' "Peanuts" cartoons. Another 2022 attraction is actor/comedian Tom Arnold ("True Lies"), who is also performing a VIP-only standup show at 9 p.m. Saturday (July 9) at the Radisson Hotel Lansing.

"Tom Arnold is a legendary comedian, actor and writer," Harris said. "We had an unexpected opportunity to add him and we couldn't be happier. Tom is with us all weekend for autographs and photos."

Outside of Hollywood, notable comic creators attending include former Marvel editor-in-chief Jim Shooter and artist Bob Hall ("Avengers"). Wrangling this list of acclaimed talent is a far cry from Harris' day jobs and accomplishments.

Harris, 44, a Troy native, moved to East Lansing in 1996 to attend Michigan State University, and he "more or less" stayed here ever since. His background is diverse. He is a civilian employee of the U.S Army, formerly worked at MSU in environmental health and safety, has a B.S in physics and an MBA and is nearing completion of a master's in environmental management.

Recently, he's kept busy rebuilding C4 back into its original, in-person status. The locally grown con, which launched in 2015, was completely derailed by the pan-



Tom Arnold

demic. Though, Harris said the C4 team, which includes co-owner Tim Hunt, is happy to finally return to the Lansing Center after being canceled the last two years. Being centrally located, Harris said the con draws from across the state, but he's excited to see some familiar faces, as well.

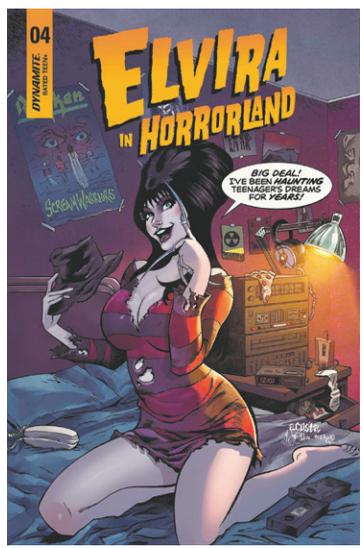
"It feels good to be back in the saddle," Harris said. "I've made so many great friends over the years, people I would never have known if not for C4. We have something for just about everyone. We do our best to build a show that's a smart business decision for our B2B customers and a great value for attendees, which ultimately will result in a profitable business for us."

This year, along with curating a roster of celebrities that locals can snap photos with, C4 is also offering shopping for attendees, contests, kid's activities, cosplay groups, informative panels, plus some afterhours events.

A local talent connection on the bill this year is Flint-based comic artist Jason Moore, known for his work on "Elvira." And while being an artist often means doing solitary work, he said C4

offers a nice change of pace.

"It's a fun, family-friendly show," Moore said. "I enjoy connecting with fans. It's fun discussing art when they're looking through my portfolio or asking for a custom piece of artwork and seeing their enthusiasm as they describe what they want. It's hard to pinpoint one or two things because I really enjoy all aspects of conventions, but if I had to nail it down to one single thing, it would be connecting with fans of my work."



Another local highlight is the public wedding of Shamus Smith (aka the Lansing Batman) and Katie Whittaker (the Capital City Wonder Woman) at 2 p.m. Sunday (July 10). However, "Wonderbat the Wedding" is not just for entertainment purposes.

"This is not a normal wedding," said Smith, 48, of Leslie. "It's more like a production. Afterwards, we're going off to a private reception, then our honeymoon in California." This is the second

See Comic Con, Page 14

NOTE:
Masks are encouraged but not required. Attendees can use their own judgment.

Capital City Comic Con
Friday, July 8-Sunday, July 10
The Lansing Center
333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Tickets: \$20-\$200
14-and-under: FREE
capcitycomiccon.com

Comic Con

from page 13

marriage for both. Smith's five children and Whittaker's four children will be in the wedding party. Smith's father will be the best man and Whittaker's biological mother will be the matron of honor.

The couple, who met five years ago in Grand Rapids, has since gone on to lead the League of Enchantment, a Michigan-based nonprofit consisting of 100 cosplayers who work with hospitals to bring joy to sick children.

Dressing up as Batman has helped Smith cope with PTSD. In 2015, Smith was driving on Laingsburg Road when 3-year-old Wesley Krupp ran out into



Cover art from Flint artist Jason Moore

the road. Smith slammed on the brakes and swerved but couldn't avoid hitting him. This child's mother, Ashley, performed CPR and revived him.

"All of us were a mess," Smith said. "I couldn't sleep for a week."

Fortunately, Wesley survived and is doing better today. However, his injuries included shattered pelvis and fractured skull, a brain bleed and lacerated spleen. After Wesley was released from the hospital, Smith visited him, which began the healing process for both. Smith gave Wesley several super-hero toys, including Batman, his favorite. At a benefit dinner for him, Smith asked Wesley's mom if he could attend as Batman, which he did.

"They forgave me," Smith recalled. "It

was a turning point in my life. I learned a lot about myself and the people who would stand beside me when going through all that. They picked me up. I dealt with PTSD because of it. I'm better now. I can speak openly about it without a panic attack. It was a pivotal change in my life."

This sparked his involvement in the League and taking part in community events like C4.

"I realized there's a need for this. I realized the power of what we do," he said. "I wanted to do more. I've visited kids in the hospital and in hospice, trying to give them happiness in those moments. I've coordinated with groups all across the country. I've trained with Homeland Security. It's been unbelievable."

Alien encounter

Mark Rolston reflects on his dynamic career before C4 appearance

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

To this day, decades later, people often recognize actor Mark Rolston as Private Drake in 1986's "Aliens" or Bogs in 1994's "The Shawshank Redemption."

"Men say to me, 'You're the reason I never went to prison.' That's a good one," Rolston, 65, said. "Compared to 'Aliens,' they say, 'You're the reason I enlisted in the Marines.' I automatically reply, 'Oh no, I can't be responsible for that, but thank you for your service, sir.'"

"Soldiers have told me the night before a mission they'd watch 'Aliens' just to get pumped and ready to go," Rolston added. "I couldn't believe it. We often get the compliment about how we real we seemed in 'Aliens.'"

Not a bad resume, but he's done far more than that. Rolston has also appeared in 1998's "Rush Hour," 2006's "The Departed," as well as "Star Trek: The Next Generation," "X-Files," "Angel," "The Shield" and "24," to name a few.

Rolston will be at the Capital City Comic Con signing autographs and taking photos with fans throughout the weekend as he also reunites with "Aliens" co-stars Ricco Ross, Daniel Kash and Cynthia Dale Scott. This is his first time in Lansing.

How did "Aliens," which was directed by James Cameron and stars Sigourney Weaver, change your life?

Mark Rolston: Bill Paxton would always tell me how huge this movie was going to be. I knew it was a fantastic script. With most projects, you never know if it'll be a hit or become iconic in film history. "Aliens" certainly did. I always had it in the back of my mind that in order to get to Hollywood, I most likely had to do it on the back of a huge project. "Aliens" was it. I took the opportunity to come to the premiere — all at the behest of (Paxton) who'd call me once a week saying, "Mark, you've got to come, man! It's going to be huge!" I finally relented and bought a ticket. It changed my life.

Looking back, how was working with James "Jim" Cameron?

He was on-set hours before anybody else because of his vision. There are rumors he's mega-maniacal. He's not. He was on the hook for a lot of money if he fucked something up and ran a day behind. He also knows what he wants onscreen. The main thing about Cameron is when he spent time at Roger Corman's studios, he learned every single job. He knows when a crew member's slacking, he doesn't have time for fools. He's quite an innovator.

How was the auditioning for him?

When we all auditioned, we all read the same pages. I thought I was reading for Hudson, to be honest. I met (producer) Gale Anne Herd. She interviewed me but didn't read me. Then they called me back to read for her and Jim. After reading, I went to Jim's office. 'We want you to play Drake.' It wasn't that I was attracted to it, they just saw me in the part. Truthfully, I've been very lucky to audition for so many classic films and fit the director's picture.

And Weaver?

She's the epitome of class. She's a tremendous professional, very fine actress. She's stunning, statuesque, serious about her work, committed and determined. What an iconic role for her to play. And for Jim and Gale to have that vision of a female action hero, Sigourney pulls it off in spades and then some. She's the backbone of the movie. It's such a great portrayal of mothers and what they'll do to protect their young.

How did "Aliens" challenge gender stereotypes in science fiction?

It's something often forgotten. It's a shame. More buzz was made about Gal Gadot in "Wonder Woman." I remember seeing it with my daughters and they're like, "Wow, this is awesome, Dad! There's finally a female action hero!"

Studios wanted to talk Jim out of this idea. Imagine that. It's way ahead of its time — way ahead. Jim stood by Sigourney, so she'd become the first woman to make \$1 million. It's amazing. Historic.

Was it a similar process auditioning for Bogs in "Shawshank"?

When I auditioned, I met with casting director Debra Aquila. I was interested in Hadley. She immediately shut me down. I pushed one more time to let me read. She said, "Read for Bogs." I went, "OK, I can do that."

On the day I auditioned, I was looking at pages. This guy kept walking back and forth, craning his neck and looking at me. I'm like, 'Who the fuck is this?' I walked in the room, having never met anyone before, it was (director) Frank Darabont. He said, "Hey, man, I'm Frank and I've got to say, you're Drake!" I thought, this director's an "Aliens" nerd!

It was the first audition I ever did where I was absolutely certain and felt it in my soul that I finally achieved something as an actor. I just talked the part. I didn't lay a bunch of things on it or make actor choices, I just talked. That very notion was supported by a conversation I had with Morgan Freeman: "Look, the secret to film acting is just talking, don't layer it with anything. Let it come out conversationally."

Did Darabont vouch for you?

After leaving that audition, I was certain I did my absolute best work but didn't hear anything for three months. One morning, Darabont called and told me what happened.

(Producer) Rob Reiner didn't want me in "Shawshank," forcing Darabont

to (audition) actors until he found the right one. Before it was finally cast, Darabont, Reiner, Aquila and the executives sat in the room and saw each character's final choices. Frank — God bless him, my angel — went to the projection booth and said, "Hey, at the end of the Bogs auditions, slip this in" and gave them my audition tape. The five auditions were played. Frank never said who the others were, just that I beat out some really big names.

At the end of (my audition), Frank told me that he stood, pointed at (Reiner), and said, "If you don't think that's the guy for this role, you're stupid!" Apparently, Reiner's like, "All right, you can have him!" He really forced Frank's hand on that one.

What do you recall about working with Jackie Chan in "Rush Hour"?

Jackie Chan is the gentleman of all gentlemen. He's a legend! He's extraordinary to watch. Even if I wasn't on-set that day, I'd go watch this guy. It's extraordinary. He's a human cat. He can climb up shit, latch onto stuff. He's nimble, malleable. It's unbelievable what this guy can do.

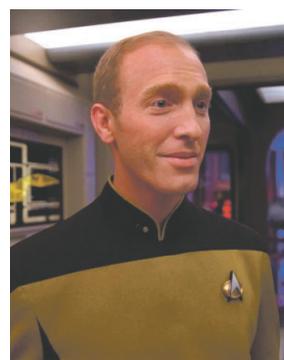
Any new projects in the works right now?

I'm doing a top-secret show. I'm grateful. I'm not done yet. I want to die of a heart attack in the middle of a movie when I'm 89.



Mark Rolston

“I’m grateful. I’m not done yet. I want to die of a heart attack in the middle of a movie when I’m 89.”
— Mark Rolston



Photos courtesy of C4

Mark Rolston has acted in a list of now-classic films and television series, including "Aliens," "Shawshank Redemption" and "Star Trek," among others.

From the Barn to the Black Box

Wally Pleasant production headed to Riverwalk

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Joe Dickson was a week away from opening Over the Ledges Theater company's 2022 season when he was told by the Grand Ledge city manager that the Barn Theater, located in Fitzgerald Park was condemned. At the moment, he was standing inside Riverwalk Theater.

Within a half an hour, discussions to salvage the shows were underway with Riverwalk President Jeff Magnuson and within 10 days a deal was struck to let Over the Ledge perform two of its four scheduled productions in the downtown theater's black box.

"It might seem like community theaters are in competition in Lansing," said Dickson, Over the Ledge executive director. "But we're not. We're always helping each out with sharing lights or flats or props. It's a very cooperative community in that way, so it's not a surprise Riverwalk was willing to help us find space."

The two companies will share the proceeds from the shows as part of the deal struck.

The Black Box is a smaller venue than the old Spiritualist Pavilion turned barn that has played host to live theater since 1956, but Dickson knows his way around the space and is convinced it will work for his productions of "Songs about Stuff: The music of Wally Pleasant" and "The Realistic Joneses." Both will be performed this month in the Black Box.

The change in venue also caused the company to flip the order of shows. Instead of opening with "The Realistic Joneses," the company is opening with

Pleasant's "Songs about Stuff" (Wally Pleasant is a long-time fixture in Lansing's music scene).

"I figured it was easier that way be-

All right, enough about the weird shuffle and schedule. Let's talk about things Pleasant — Wally Pleasant that is.

The '90s remedy to grunge music, Pleasant's career has grown out of performing in intimate spaces like coffee houses. It also meant self-producing his own string of acclaimed albums. His off kilter, weird story-songs have near cult status in the Lansing area and for many were the soundtrack of their lives in the '90s.

"I just wanted to tell stories," Pleasant said. "Stories that rhyme."

And while those songs often skewer daily life, Pleasant said they were really a way for him to tell stories about interesting people or events he had encountered. It also became an outlet for his own social observations about life.

Friend Michael Lluberes said he had desperately wanted to create a musical with Pleasant's songs. For years it was one of those things that friends say to each other, with neither having any certainty how they would go about tackling such a project. Just as life takes strange twists in many of Pleasant's songs, the muses conspired to land Lluberes as the producing artistic director of the Flint Repertory

Theater, a professional company. So, he conceived the show in collaboration with Pleasant. In 2019, the Flint company debuted the show. The production garnered a Wilde Award nomination. Over the Ledge's production is the second time the show has been produced.

So how does one turn the off kilter musical world of Wally Pleasant into a musical adventure for the stage? It requires four actors playing different characters sharing Pleasant's music. In Over the Ledges production, Court-



Courtesy

The ensemble of "Songs about Stuff: The Music of Wally Pleasant," presented by Over the Ledge Theater in cooperation with Riverwalk Theater. The ensemble includes (left to right) Courtlandt Lyons, Storm Kopitsch, Anasti Her and Jeff Kennedy. It runs various dates from July 7-17 at Riverwalk Theatre's Black Box space.

cause the musicians had already committed to those dates," Dickson said of the decision. While technical staff and actors generally do not receive compensation for their work, musicians in local productions are always paid.

The set for "Songs about Stuff" also had to be redesigned for the smaller theater space.



landt Lyons, Storm Kopitsch, Anasti Her and Jeff Kennedy will tackle those roles, under the directing hand of Adam Carlson.

Over the Ledges' website describes the show as following the four actors playing "characters while navigating college life, dating and adulthood: with song titles and topics from "Psycho Roommate" to "Stupid Day Job."

In the smaller space, the show is more likely to have the feeling of seeing Pleasant perform live, generating those nostalgic feelings of watching him strum his guitar, tease the audience and sing in such long-forgotten venues as Cafe Venezia (a coffee shop formerly located in downtown East Lansing across from Pinball Pete's).

Pleasant said he will attend the show "at least a couple of times" and he is very excited to see what Over the Ledge brings to the production.

The show opens Thursday (July 7). It runs two weekends, with curtain times on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Being a significantly smaller venue than the Barn in Grand Ledge, seating is limited. Dickson encourages audience members to reserve tickets in advance to make sure they get a seat. Tickets will be \$15 for adults, \$12 for youth and students. Tickets can purchase online at OvertheLedge.org, or by calling 517-819-0579.

A look ahead: july theater

"Songs about Stuff: the music of Wally Pleasant" performed by Over the Ledge Theater at Riverwalk Theater's Black Box space, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Thurs. July 7-9, 8 p.m. July 10, 2 p.m. and Thurs. 14-16, 8 p.m. July 17, 2 p.m. overtheledge.org

"Something Rotten" performed by the Owosso Community Players at the Lebowky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. July 8 and 9, 8 p.m. July 10, 3 p.m. NOTE: This three-day production is a continuation of the show from June, when it was canceled due to a COVID outbreak in the cast. lebowkycenter.com

"Hat Box" performed by Williamston Theater Co. 122 South Putnam St., Williamston. Preview performances: July 14-16, and July 21. Performances: July 22 - Aug. 5. Performance times vary. williamstontheatre.org

"The Realistic Joneses" performed by Over the Ledge at Riverwalk Theater's Black Box Theater, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Thurs. July 28-30, 8 p.m. July 31, 2 p.m. and Aug. 4-6, 8 p.m. Aug. 7, 2 p.m. overtheledge.org

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B&I Bar

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Rollin Brummette
Thurs., July 7, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Blue Owl

1149 S Washington, Lansing
Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill
Thurs., July 7, 6-8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
DJ E. Nyce
Thurs., July 7, 7-10 p.m.
Kevin Parker
Fri., July 8, 7-10 p.m.
Jamison Livingston
Sat., July 9, 7-10 p.m.

Elderly Instruments

1100 N. Washington, Lansing
Nu-Blu Bluegrass Artists
Sat., July 9, 6:30 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Soulstice
Fri., July 8, 8 p.m.
The Corzo Effect
Sat., July 9, 8 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Company

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Darin Larner Jr.
Fri., July 8, 7-10 p.m.
Downriver Dan
Sat., July 9, 7-10 p.m.

Reno's North

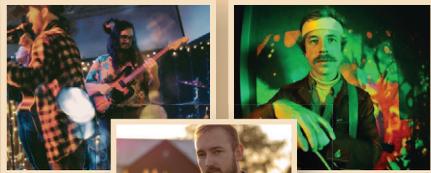
16460 Old US 27, Lansing
The New Rule
Fri., July 8, 6 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington, Lansing
Djanguphonique
Wed., July 6, 8 p.m.

Urban Beat

1213 Turner Rd., Lansing
Mulebone
Thurs., July 7, 7-8:30 p.m.
Michael on Fire
Sat., July 9, 7-8:30 p.m.
Michael Reed Quartet
Sat., July 9, 9-11 p.m.
Ajah Montalvo
Sun., July 10, 6-9 p.m.
Elias Alexander (Ramblxr)
Mon., July 11, 6-7:30 p.m.



ScrapFest returns in style

ReFashion Show repurposing clutter into wearable art

By SARAH SPOHN

ScrapFest 12, the repurpose-focused art festival, returns to the streets of Old Town this weekend with a scrap metal sculpture competition, eco-art booths, live music and family activities. But a stylish new addition to this year's roster is the ReFashion Show, which takes over the Music Stage Friday evening.

Jessy Gregg, owner of Seams Sewing and Mercantile in East Lansing, has been involved in the behind-the-scenes organizing of the first-ever ReFashion Show, alongside local artists Sarah Williams of SarahJean Sews and Cat Weaver. Ever since opening her fabric store three years ago, Gregg said she has been looking for potential collaborations.

"Textile waste is a huge problem globally, and partnering with ScrapFest seemed like a perfect forum to highlight the problem while also showcasing our local maker community," Gregg said. "Our goal for this first year is to showcase some local artists and to expand the definition of 'scrap' in regards to ScrapFest. We have a lot of interest in the idea, and we've got about 10 artists committed to showing their work. For a first effort, I think it's going to be great."

"Hopefully this will help start a local conversation about the waste in the textile supply stream and we'll be able to come back bigger and better next year," she added.

The ReFashion Show will feature artist introductions, information about the materials used and a "walk-on-spin-walk-off-situation," Gregg said.

Participating artists and designers were given simple requirements: to "use 80% of recycled/ reclaimed/reused/up-cycled" textiles for their projects. Some artists are transforming old, stained furniture factory fabric into a jacket, others are creating jumpsuits from dated curtains and various other clutter found around the house — objects destined for the trash bin.

Danielle Jenson, Seams' event coordinator, said she hopes events like this can bring awareness, excitement and become annual traditions.

"I am astounded with the talent and source of materials you can find right in Michigan," Jenson said. "Whether it's local wool, pattern designers, slow fashion or other creative textile work, there are options to choose from."

Katie Deska, education coordinator at the MSU Surplus Store & Recycling Center, said the center hosted a drop-in Spartan Upcycle event allowing people to make wearable art for the ReFashion Show. Participants used discarded materials like buckets, tubs, bicycle wheels, bowls, screws, wire, film reels and canisters to embellish hats.

Deska said these events encourage people to look around and see possibilities that exist with what's already surrounding us.

"One of my favorite things about up-cycling or repurposing scrap objects and



Courtesy photo

ScrapFest 12's newest addition to the annual repurpose-focused art festival is the ReFashion Show.

materials is that I don't feel so much pressure to make it 'good,'" Deska said. "Since I'm not so afraid of failing or falling short, then I'm more willing to go ahead and just try to create something."

The ReFashion show will operate as more of a showcase rather than a competition, and is open to anyone, regardless of experience, Deska said.

"One reason I think events like this are important is because they can get people who may not think of themselves as artists or makers to find that creativity that's in all of us, and just have fun with it," she said.

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Una Labs picks up steam in Lansing — just in time for Dab Day

By KYLE KAMINSKI

The Capital Region International Airport is under siege from its southern front, where a blossoming cannabis confederation is still expanding its ever-growing empire in Lansing.

No; It's not another pot shop. This time, it's a high-tech processing laboratory that's ramping up production this summer with a wide array of edibles, THC-infused beverages, concentrates and vape cartridges. Oh, and joints — plenty of joints. Some are even packed full of concentrates.

And since Sunday (July 10) is a stoner

holiday literally dedicated to cannabis oil, I figured I'd invite myself over for a tour of the state-of-the-art cannabis extraction facility to learn more.

It's called Una Labs, and it's the last piece of the vertically integrated puzzle for Carbidex, the parent company of both Franklin Fields and The Botanical Co. The trio of cannabis brands is a "family-owned

holding entity" that shares the same leadership team, all chiefed by founder and CEO Russ Chambers, a pioneering caregiver who got in early on the recreational pot game.

The company was founded on a single mission: "Bringing good people together to enhance lives by creating extraordinary cannabis experiences." And it must be working out pretty well.

Chambers' pot kingdom first launched along Capital City Boulevard in 2020 with Franklin Fields, which handles cultivation. Botanical Co. — which sells the goods — opened next door in 2021. There are two other

(soon to be three) BoCo locations across Michigan. And in late May, Carbidex also launched Kalkushka, a swanky new lounge where you can smoke pot on site — the first in Michigan to be licensed to do so — in Kalkaska, just a short drive from Traverse City.

And over the last few months, Lansing has taken on an even more critical role for its operations.

The new processing lab was licensed on April 20 (nice) and is set to handle some of the finer science behind the operation and manufacture millions of dollars in dank products annually.

For the last few months, the eight-person team — led by lab director Cassin Coleman — has kept busy extracting cannabis oil from thousands of pounds of bud, conveniently harvested from Franklin Fields next door. It's then used to churn out a virtually endless supply of dabbable and vapable concentrates, a rotating selection of edibles, plenty of kief and tons of pre-rolled joints.

One small, windowless room, affec-



Photo by Kyle Kaminski

The infamous "Doobie Dungeon" at Una Labs is filled with thousands of pre-rolled joints.

tionately known as the "Doobie Dungeon," was filled with thousands of pre-rolled cones that were rolled last week. Yes: I managed to snag a sample.

The lab also has an industrial can- See Una Labs, Page 20



Photo by Kyle Kaminski

Lab director Cassin Coleman holds a massive bag of newly made edibles.

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MANY STRAINS
 IN STORES
NOW

**OTF
 710**

Una Labs

from page 18

ning machine for THC-infused seltzers and mocktails, like a booze-free mimosa with Napa Valley grapes. Several shelves of gummies filled another room, with plenty of new recipes and flavors under “research and development” — which

I’m pretty sure just means the staff gets to munch on dank edibles until they can perfect their techniques.

Una Labs is also growing. Some equipment was just installed last month. Other stuff has yet to arrive. But just in time for the Dab Day weekend, several new products are set to hit the shelves by Sunday (July 10), all available at BoCo next door. Check out thebotani-

cal.co for a full menu.

I got an early sample of an oil-infused joint, Ice Cream Sundae with Blueberry Muffin kief, and it was one of the smoothest, sweet-cheesiest and gassiest cones I’ve had the pleasure of puffing.

And even if you’re not into oils, you can’t go wrong with the bud. My top recommendation is the Member Berry, a tangier strain with distinct blueberry notes and a light hint of lemon meringue — which conveniently comes in a five-pack that even has that familiar, flip-box cardboard pack.

The Botanical Co. has also made a name for itself in Lansing as one of the most welcoming pot shops in town, with a raft of knowledgeable bud-tenders to help complete the experience. So, even if you’re not sure what you’re looking for, they’ll be sure to help you find something good.

Seriously though: Even conservative former Lansing City Councilwom-

What is Dab Day?

Similar to 420 but specifically focused on cannabis oil rather than the entire plant, July 10 (or 710) is a relative newcomer to the world of cannabis festivities. The date was adopted because 710 spells “OIL” upside down. Pot shops across the country — including in Lansing — have fully embraced the holiday with an array of new products and promotions leading up to the holiday.

an Jody Washington managed to walk away happy after I referred her there for some products. That says something.

Kyle Kaminski is a journalist and cannabis enthusiast. Editor & Publisher magazine has labeled him “arguably, the state’s authority on everything you need to know about cannabis.” Have a suggestion for a dank new product or a feature idea? Email lansterdam@lansingcitypulse.com.



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Jonesin' Crossword By Matt Jones

"Citing Your References"—it's not exactly how it looks.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1. Song by The Kinks
- 5. Pan for gold, e.g.
- 9. Dragged fishing net
- 14. Eye color location
- 15. Rainbow Bridge National Monument state
- 16. Placed a curse on
- 17. Fathom divisions
- 18. Halliwell once known as Ginger Spice
- 19. "Doesn't ring ____"
- 20. See66Across
- 23. Go out to play?
- 24. Performer's booking
- 25. Buck's companion

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17				18				19					
20				21				22					
		23				24							
25	26			27		28	29	30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39			
40				41				42					
43					44				45				
46					47	48			49	50			
				51		52		53		54			
	55	56	57				58	59			60	61	
62						63				64			
65						66				67			
68						69				70			

- 27. Undergarments in a drawer
- 30. Reproductive part of a flower
- 35. Kendrick who voices Poppy in the "Trolls" movies
- 37. Feels lousy
- 39. Bus driver's itinerary
- 40. See8Down
- 43. Bean or horse variety
- 44. Dreamcast maker, once
- 45. Suffix after "suit" or "wear"
- 46. Spanish architect Gaudi
- 48. Smallest chess piece
- 50. Fleur de ____ (Hubert Keller's famed S.F. restaurant)
- 51. Econ. indicator
- 53. Riviera resort city
- 55. See43Across
- 62. Home of ancient Bethlehem
- 63. "____, said the fly"
- 64. Classic TV kid nickname, with "The"
- 65. Arctic, for example
- 66. Egg timer noise
- 67. Painter Magritte
- 68. Literature category
- 69. Wilder formerly of Depeche Mode
- 70. Throws in
- Down**
- 1. Raise up
- 2. Cookie that collaborated with Ritz in 2022
- 3. Uhura's rank on the original "Star Trek"
- 4. "The Jetsons" dog
- 5. Nickname used by at least two boxers
- 6. Checklist bit
- 7. Cost of a ride
- 8. Alternative to "person" or "place"
- 9. Marlo Thomas sitcom
- 10. "It's Your Call" singer McEntire
- 11. Battle weapons
- 12. TV bandleader and accordionist Lawrence
- 13. "Bad" cholesterol initials
- 21. Worn-down pencil
- 22. Insider's offering
- 25. Defense Dept. tech agency
- 26. ____ a million
- 28. Goes on TV
- 29. Hit the sack
- 31. Tofu source, in some places
- 32. Stock Western prop
- 33. Winter Olympics host country of 2006
- 34. Starts of news articles
- 36. Saxophone range
- 38. Drawn-out drama
- 41. Attribute for a unicorn, or, say, Fabio
- 42. It may show support for a graduating student or a political candidate
- 47. Suffix for hydrox
- 49. Nothing, to Nigel
- 52. "Kung Fu ____" (2008 animated film)
- 54. "King" of snakes
- 55. Purplish brown
- 56. Barbara who played a TV genie
- 57. Back end
- 58. Work too hard
- 59. Vesuvius's Sicilian counterpart
- 60. Hit the tarmac
- 61. Saint Laurent of fashion
- 62. Get some morning exercise, maybe

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com) Answers on page 22

SUDOKU Beginner

			2	5	4			7
5	3		1		9	6		2
				3	6		1	
	6			4	2		5	
		7	9	6		2		
	9	5						
		2			1	4		3
	5					9		
3	1			9		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 22

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky July 6 – July 12, 2022

ARIES (March 21–April 19): My readers and I have collaborated to provide insights and inspirations about the topic "How to Be an Aries." Below is an amalgam of my thoughts and theirs—advice that will especially apply to your life in the coming days. 1. If it's easy, it's boring. —Beth Prouty. 2. If it isn't challenging, do something else. —Jennifer Blackmon Guevara. 3. Be confident of your ability to gather the energy to get unstuck, to instigate, to rouse—for others as well as yourself. 4. You are a great initiator of ideas and you are also willing to let go of them in their pure and perfect forms so as to help them come to fruition. 5. When people don't get things done fast enough for you, be ready and able to DO IT YOURSELF.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): I know three people who have told me, "I don't like needing anyone for anything." They fancy themselves to be rugged individualists with impeccable self-sufficiency. They imagine they can live without the help or support of other humans. I don't argue with them; it's impossible to dissuade anyone with such a high level of delusion. The fact is, we are all needy beings who depend on a vast array of benefactors. Who built our houses, grew our food, sewed our clothes, built the roads, and create the art and entertainment we love? I bring this up, Taurus, because now is an excellent time for you to celebrate your own neediness. Be wildly grateful for all the things you need and all the people who provide them. Regard your vigorous interdependence as a strength, not a weakness.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Bounce up and down when you walk. Express 11 different kinds of laughs. Be impossible to pin down or figure out. Relish the openings that your restlessness spawns. Keep changing the way you change. Be easily swayed and sway others easily. Let the words flowing out of your mouth reveal to you what you think. Live a dangerous life in your daydreams but not in real life. Don't be everyone's messenger, but be the messenger for as many people as is fun for you. If you have turned out to be the kind of Gemini who is both saintly and satanic, remember that God made you that way—so let God worry about it.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): As a child, Cancerian author June Jordan said, "I used to laugh all the time. I used to laugh so much and so hard in church, in school, at the kitchen table, on the subway! I used to laugh so much my nose would run and my eyes would tear and I just couldn't stop." That's an ideal I invite you to aspire to in the coming days. You probably can't match Jordan's plenitude, but do your best. Why? The astrological omens suggest three reasons: 1. The world will seem funnier to you than it has in a long time. 2. Laughing freely and easily is the most healing action you can take right now. 3. It's in the interests of everyone you know to have routines interrupted and disrupted by amusement, delight, and hilarity.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): In accordance with the astrological omens, here's your assignment for the next three weeks: Love yourself more and more each day. Unleash your imagination to come up with new reasons to adore and revere your unique genius. Have fun doing it. Laugh about how easy and how hard it is to love yourself so well. Make it into a game that brings you an endless stream of amusement. PS: Yes, you really are a genius—by which I mean you are an intriguing blend of talents and specialties that is unprecedented in the history of the human race.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Novelist Lydia Peelle writes, "The trouble was, I knew exactly what I wasn't. I just didn't know who I was." We all go through similar phases, in which we are highly aware of what we don't want, don't like, and don't seek to become. They are like negative grace periods that provide us with valuable knowledge. But it's crucial for us to also enjoy periods of intensive self-revelation about what we do want,

what we do like, and what we do seek to become. In my astrological estimation, you Virgos are finished learning who you're not, at least for now. You're ready to begin an era of finding out much, much more about who you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): You need the following experiences at least once every other day during the next 15 days: a rapturous burst of unexpected grace; a gentle eruption of your strong willpower; an encounter with inspiration that propels you to make some practical improvement in your life; a brave adjustment in your understanding of how the world works; a sacrifice of an OK thing that gives you more time and energy to cultivate a really good thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): This might sound like an unusual assignment, but I swear it's based on two unimpeachable sources: research by scientists and my many years of analyzing astrological data. Here's my recommendation, Scorpio: In the coming weeks, spend extra time watching and listening to wild birds. Place yourself in locations where many birds fly and perch. Read stories about birds and talk about birds. Use your imagination to conjure up fantasies in which you soar alongside birds. Now read this story about how birds are linked to happiness levels: tinyurl.com/BirdBliss

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): In accordance with current astrological omens, I have four related suggestions for you. 1. Begin three new projects that are seemingly beyond your capacity and impossible to achieve with your current levels of intelligence, skill, and experience—and then, in the coming months, accomplish them anyway. 2. Embrace optimism for both its beauty and its tactical advantages. 3. Keep uppermost in mind that you are a teacher who loves to teach and you are a student who loves to learn. 4. Be amazingly wise, be surprisingly brave, be expansively visionary—and always forgive yourself for not remembering where you left your house keys.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): If you ever wanted to use the Urdu language to advance your agendas for love and romance, here's a list of endearments you could use: 1. jaan-e-man (heart's beloved); 2. humraaz (secret-sharer; confidante); 3. pritam (beloved); 4. sona (golden one); 5. bulbul (nightingale); 6. yaar (friend/lover); 7. natkhat (mischievous one). Even if you're not inclined to experiment with Urdu terms, I urge you to try innovations in the way you use language with your beloved allies. It's a favorable time to be more imaginative in how you communicate your affections.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Author John Berger described birch trees as "pliant" and "slender." He said that "if they promise a kind of permanence, it has nothing to do with solidity or longevity—as with an oak or a linden—but only with the fact that they seed and spread quickly. They are ephemeral and recurring—like a conversation between earth and sky." I propose we regard the birch tree as your personal power symbol in the coming months. When you are in closest alignment with cosmic rhythms, you will express its spirit. You will be adaptable, flexible, resourceful, and highly communicative. You will serve as an intermediary, a broker, and a go-between.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): People who don't know much about astrology sometimes say that Pisceans are wishy-washy. That's a lie. The truth is, Pisceans are not habitually lukewarm about chaotic jumbles of possibilities. They are routinely in love with the world and its interwoven mysteries. On a regular basis, they feel tender fervor and poignant awe. They see and feel how all life's apparent fragments knit together into a luminous bundle of amazement. I bring these thoughts to your attention because the coming weeks will be an excellent time to relish these superpowers of yours—and express them to the max.

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.

A notable local poet emerges from a family of creatives

I can't tell you the number of times I've heard writers say "I could do that" when it comes to writing poetry. No, you can't. Writing poetry is hard. It takes a special talent to write a collection of poetry that is concise while having a central thematic approach and at the same time making it interesting.

Kamryn Whitfield, a young local, has done just that with her first book, "Turn Off the Dark: The Colours of a Black Experience," which is available on Amazon and at local bookstores.

Meet Kamryn Whitfield

Whitfield, who is 23, has created a collection of 50 poetry pieces that are truly remarkable and reminiscent of the work of Ntozake Shange, Nikki Giovanni and Maya Angelou when they were writing on the precipice of greatness.

"It feels like I have been preparing for this moment my whole life having grown up in a family of creatives." Whitfield, a Waverly High School graduate now attending Lansing Community College to earn a degree in dietetics, said. Her parents, Brian and Kimberly Whitfield, have had a tremendous influence on her life. Her dad's murals can be seen across Lansing, most notably at the new Meijer Capital City Market in downtown Lansing and at the Allen Neighborhood Center. It's also not a coincidence that her one grandmother Ruby Frazier wrote the book's prologue and her other grandmother, Mattie, now deceased, opened Kilimanjaro Gift Shop, a black art store in downtown Lansing in the 1970s.

In essence Whitfield has drawn on those generations to flesh out her book. Her father helped with design of the book, including a knock-out cover showing the piercing eyes of his daughter framed against African-themed art.

The prologue sets out the parameters of the book: "...not all darkness is cloaked in the night hours. It can walk upright in the hearts of those who give breath to fears and hatred of black in mankind, culture and symbols."

I hate to give this away because it would be better if you were surprised, but her first two poems, "Stranded" and "Afro Minimal," are about her beautiful tresses, which she has spent a lifetime nurturing. She refers to her hair as "your mate," and we will soon learn through subtle hints that she cuts them off.

In "Afro Minimal" she writes:

"I started writing in summer. I remember the day because it was the same day my mate died.

June 22, 2020 — a private funeral."

Whitfield calls herself "a minimalist." Cutting her hair "gave me a sense of freedom. Change is such a big thing for people and with faster life-styles the worse it will get."

Throughout the poems, the hair as a metaphor makes numerous appearances. One of her favorite poems in the book, "boy," begins:

"Dreadlocks knotted to the scalp
Gold bead, gold undertone"
"It's really about natural hair and acceptance," Whitfield said.

In a larger sense, cutting her hair was about moving toward a more minimalist life, which she underscores in her poems.

The poetry reflects what she calls her own "before and after."

"I used to be a consumerist. I liked to buy clothes, now my mindset is I'd rather spend more money on experiences," she said.

Her poem "mannequin" speaks volumes to that philosophy:

"What's the price it takes to be a cool kid in America?
The latest trends are copy-paste
They break the necks of manikins
I'm worth more than a couple keyboard views,
that's probably true."
Then:
"How much I gotta pay to be the coolest kid on campus?"

A closet full of made in Chinese technical canvases

Reflections of the coolest kid, turned modern-man enslaved..."

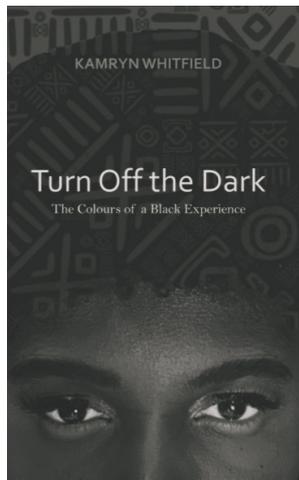
Whitfield's poems about style are most enlightening since she is also a designer of street clothes, which are minimalist and one of a kind. Her line of clothing can be viewed at colorsquarevintage.com.

"All my designs are hand colored and hand sewn," she said.

Whitfield will be showing and selling her clothing and new book today (July 6) from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Allen Street Market and will be joined by her father, whose murals grace the exterior of the market.

Many of Whitfield's poems are hard hitting recalculations on how we think about race in America along with cautionary tales of fast food and cafeteria food. It's quite a mixture and you will enjoy her broad expanse of topics just as she writes in the poem "Tofu:" "I liked ketchup until hot sauce changed my life."

Whitfield's poems may not make you change your life and how you live it, but they will definitely get you thinking.



Kamryn Whitfield is a local creative who has published her first book of poetry.

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June 22, 2020 — a private funeral."

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, July 6

50 over Fitness - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Allen Farmers Market - Corner Shepard/Kalamazoo. 2:30-7 p.m. 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

Backyard Bash: Tim Foust headlines concert to benefit Ele's Place. 6-10 p.m. Eagle Eye Golf Club, 15500 Chandler Rd., Bath. sharethemusic.org.

Building, Accessing, and Using Contemporary Anishinabe Collections of MSU Museum - virtual. Join us for a presentation and Q&A. 7-8 p.m. museum.msu.edu

Concert in the Park - William E. Tennant Performance Shell - Lansing Concert Band. 7-9 p.m. St Johns City Park, 801 W Park St. clintoncountyarts.org.

Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr Blvd., Lansing. lmc.info.

Meridian Township Summer Concert Series - 6-8:30 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Pagan Community Night - Online or in-person. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., 7A, Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Storybook Stroll - through August. Read while you stroll the trails and downtown! 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org.

Tiny Art - Create a mini art masterpiece to be displayed at the library! All ages. 3-4 p.m. Playground of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Wine Wednesday - Wine & cheese tasting 6 p.m., wine & chocolate tasting 8:30 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Your Art's Desire - multi-media exhibit, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

Thursday, July 7

ArtPath Artist Talk with Hannah Tamiko Mackey - 6 p.m. Turner Park, 1200 Turner Rd, Lansing.

Bath Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. shopbfm.org.

Michael Reed Quartet

UrbanBeat
Saturday, July 9, 2022
9-11 p.m.

Tickets \$10 door, \$5 ADV, \$5 student with ID
urbanbeatevents.com

Following the Michael on Fire show, UrbanBeat in Old Town then hosts jazz drummer Michael J. Reed, a Toledo native living in East Lansing. Reed maintains an active performing career throughout the Midwest, gigging across Northwest Ohio, Detroit and New York with artists such as Rodney Whitaker, Patrice Rushen and Wycliffe Gordon, to name a few. Reed recently released his second album, "Remove All Fear," as well as his first album as bandleader and composer, "A Walk of Perspective," in 2018.

After finishing his master's degree at Michigan State University, he continues to expand his career as a performer and educator, teaching at the MSU Community Music School-Detroit in their Spartan Youth Jazz Program. Doors at 5 p.m., dinner menu is available (not included in ticket price).



Black Holes: The Edge of All We Know - 9:30-11 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Ct., East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

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

Field of View: An Art X Science Film series. - 9:20 p.m.-12 a.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Mixer with Blind Wine Tasting or Sangria - rate or attempt to identify the wines you taste. 5-10 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Music in the Garden - Sea Cruisers. 7-8 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownship.com.

Music in the Park - food concessions available onsite. 7-9 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St, Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com.

Stitch 'n Bitch - hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., # 7, Lansing.

Summer Concert Series - 7-9 p.m. American Legion Bandshell, McCormick Park, 300 N. Putnam St., Williamston.

Summer Concert Series - Frenzd. 6:30 p.m. The Courthouse Lawn, 100 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte.

Tabletop Gaming Club - Play our games or bring yours. Ages 10+. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Tie Dye Seashells - Create tie-dye seashells! 10:30-11:30 a.m. Playground of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Wacousta Picnic Playdate Family Storytime - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Wacousta UMC, 9180 Herbison Rd., Eagle. 517-627-7014.

Friday, July 8

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Arts Night Out - starting at 5 p.m. 1232 Turner St. Lansing. iloveoldtown.org.

Book Scavenger Hunt - Do you love books? Do you love puzzles, clues, riddles, and games? 6-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Cruise In - 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers' Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. delhitownship.com.

Friday Night Concert Series - 7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Band Shell, 1621 Pike St, Haslett. pk.ingham.org.

Movies in the Park - 9-11 p.m. Mount Hope Park, 7419 E. Mount Hope Hwy., Grand Ledge. deltami.gov.

Senior Picnic - 12-1 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N Aurelius Rd., Holt. delhitownship.com.

Sewers Salute Quilts of Valor Meeting - Quilters are welcome to join. Make quilts to recognize, comfort, and heal service members. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Towar Hart Baptist Church, 6157 Towar Ave., East Lansing.

TGIF Dinner & Dance - all welcome. Every Friday, 7 p.m.-midnight. Hawk Hollow, 15500 Chandler Rd, Bath. tgifdance.com

Thinking in Pictures - Join the Xavier Degroat Foundation in supporting Autism Awareness with Temple Grandin! 4-7 p.m. Launch Trampoline Park, 1982 W. Grand River Rd., Okemos. xavierdegroatfoundation.org.

Events

from page 23

Saturday, July 9

Capital City Comic Con - The Shake Ups perform! 8 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Inebriated Insights - Join the Keys team for a night of intoxicated witchcraft. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., 7A, Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Sunday, July 10

Architecture Tour - Learn more about our unique building through this 30-minute tour. 1-1:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing.

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

Free Outdoor Concert: Lansing Concert Band. All are welcome! 6 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing. ulcel.org

Grand Opening Anniversary Celebration - 12-8 p.m. Meet our artists, get a reading, free giveaways, more! Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., 7A, Lansing.

Music in the Park - 5-7 p.m. Bates Scout Park, 6923-6999 Meridian Rd, Laingsburg. laingsburgbusiness.org.

Sunday School for Witches - workshop series. 3-4:30 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St. 7A, Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Monday, July 11

50 over Fitness - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

Crack the Code - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Space Explorers - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Sunset Storytime Mondays - 6:30-7:30

p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Techno City - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Tuesday, July 12

Board Game Meet Up - ages 18 & up. 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

Computer Help - get your computer looked at for free at the library. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Intro to Fly Fishing [Registration Req.] - at Jaycee Park Pavilion for ages 12+. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Kids Mud Run - Come on out for the 9th Annual run. 5-8 p.m. Grand Woods Park, 4500 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. deltami.gov.

Minecraft Mania! - All skill levels welcome! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Parent Happy Hour - Storytime for kids and wine flight specials for parents. 5-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Picnic Playdate Family Storytime - Meet at GLADL and follow the wagon to the playground! 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org

Play in the Park - featuring Joel Tracey. 7-8 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Recycled Sailboat Race - Make your own sailboat and test it in the river! All materials supplied. 2-3 p.m. Playground of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Sporcle Live! Trivia - 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Zoo Days 2022 - July 12 & 13, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

A calming energy

Surya Yoga Sangha is a warm space for self-care

By SARAH SPOHN

Scott Kelly first turned to yoga for relief from competitively running and coaching for years. While yoga indeed brought comfort, he quickly realized the benefits from yoga weren't just physical, but also emotional and mental. He was hooked.



Scott Kelly

After ample practice multiple times per week, Kelly, a former middle school and high school teacher, got even more serious and began yoga training in Philadelphia. But his roots are right here in Mid-Michigan.

"My first experience teaching yoga was at Gardner International Magnet School in Lansing, actually," Kelly said of the sixth-grade program focused on social and emotional well-being. Since then, Kelly has also traveled to India for a 900-hour yoga therapist training.

The idea of opening up his own yoga studio had been in the back of Kelly's mind for a few years, and was pushed back a bit during COVID-19 when he began teaching yoga more online. In January, Kelly signed a lease for his yoga studio, finalized the name the next month and opened for business on May 5.

The space is roughly 1,000 square feet, with lots of natural light. The overall vibe is refreshing and renewing, yoga teacher Mariah Knight said. "It is filled with happy plants that bring life into the space and unique yogic decor that remind you of the beautiful roots of our yoga practice. The word surya means sun, and that's exactly what I feel walking into the studio. The studio has a very warm, welcoming, calming energy. You can't help but be happy and at ease there."

Kelly also explained the studio's Sanskrit namesake. Surya translates to sun and Sangha translates to community — both are represented and reflected within this new business and its sunflower logo.

"I chose the word 'Sangha' because my vision for the space is to foster community connections, partnerships and to have others offer classes, workshops and events here," Kelly said. "I chose the location for that reason, too. It's on a main street, but in the middle of the Eastside Neighborhood, so the studio has a neighborhood vibe, especially being attached to a residential house."

Surya Yoga Sangha has many various classes and workshops for all lev-



Surya Yoga Sangha

1600 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 899-1220
suryayogasangha.com



Located on the Eastside of Lansing, Surya Yoga Sangha offers a variety of yoga classes and workshops for all levels and needs. They aim to make yoga accessible to all and offer a safe place for deep self-care.

els, to help reduce stress and relocate your center — including yoga basics, reiki flow or restorative yin, meditation, breathwork, mantras and topics from the sutras. Classes are available for drop-in rates, five-or-10 class packages, or unlimited monthly passes. Monday features donation-based classes, which often goes towards a local nonprofit, like the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

"One goal of mine is to make sure yoga is accessible to all and is supportive of the community, even those who may not have a practice of their own," Kelly said. "I hope to see the space attract people who are looking for a soft place to land for deep self-care."

ART BY NEVIN

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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Food of the marathoners

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Every year, the growers will bring their frizzy-headed fennel bulbs to the farmers market. And then they've got some explaining to do.

The customers wish to buy this attractive vegetable, but have no idea what to do with it.

The answers are well-worn. We are told to grill it, braise it, sauté it with gar-

for the most part. A plate of mere slices, sprinkled with salt and drizzled with XVOO, make a lovely snack.

Whether in coleslaw or some other raw, salad-like form, fennel really shines alongside seafood. Last week, I had a fennel and arugula salad served alongside octopus. A few days later, I served mint fennel coleslaw alongside an eight-pound bluefish that my son reeled in. I

To cut a fennel bulb, first slice off the bottom, where the roots were attached, and the stalks, right as they emerge green from the white bulb. The stalks themselves aren't good for much except in the stock pot, but the thin leaves — often called “fronds” — make a nice garnish, and also work as a fresh herb. I add the chopped fronds to my coleslaw, for the lovely green capillaries in

the coleslaw that double-down on that fabulous fennel flavor.

Slice it in half, top-to-bottom, and lay the flat sides down. Many people cut out the core in the middle, but I don't understand why. It tastes like the rest of the plant, and might be more tender.

Slice the halves thinly, in the same top-to-bottom direction. You can go with those slices, or hold the sliced half bulb in place and cut the slices crosswise into dice.

Sliced or diced, on fish or your favorite dish, fennel is your Greek friend.

It doesn't speak English, but now you know enough to communicate in fennelese.

Fennel Slaw

Fennel coleslaw is so simple that no recipe is even required. You can simply add it to your favorite coleslaw recipe, or substitute it for some or all of the cabbage. My recipe, below, involves no cabbage, but rather a bouquet of fragrant herbs to complement the fennel aroma. My choice is parsley and mint, but you could also mess around with basil, dill, chives, all in generous quantities.

1 fennel bulb, trimmed and grated into large shreds

1 medium sized carrot, shredded large



1/2 onion, sliced thinly
2 cloves garlic, shredded small
1/4 cup white balsamic vinegar
1/2 cup mayo
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1 cup chopped parsley
2 tablespoons minced mint
1/4 cup chopped fennel fronds

Combine all the ingredients. Taste and adjust as necessary. Serve with fish, or anywhere coleslaw is served.

Marathon Green Salad

This salad requires some other green with a strong personality, such as arugula or kale, to balance the fruity levity of the fennel. I only use black kale because it's so much more tender. I also give it a squeeze as I add it to the salad, which loosens it further. The toasted pine nuts really bring it home, with their toasted nuttiness and resin-y flavor complementing that of the fennel.

1/2 red onion, thin sliced
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup lemon juice
1/4 cup white wine vinegar or white balsamic vinegar
1 cup olive oil
2 garlic cloves, shredded, minced, pressed or mashed
2 tablespoons minced mint
One fennel bulb, trimmed and sliced
4 cups other greens, like arugula, chopped black kale, parsley, spinach or lettuce
1/4 cup toasted pine nuts or slivered almonds

Combine all of the ingredients except the fennel, greens and pine nuts. Taste and adjust as necessary. Massage the kale, if using, by squeezing it vigorously in your hands. Add the greens to a large bowl, and pour the contents of the other bowl over the leaves. Stir gently by lifting from the bottom. Garnish with the toasted nuts and serve.



Courtesy photo

Fennel salads are a perfect side dish.

lic and olive oil, and other ways to cook the life out of it, because few have the confidence to suggest we eat it raw.

The licorice-like flavor can be intimidating. You may not think that you want bite after bite, so we drench it in sauce and try to cook it out. But when we look forward to grilling season, it isn't for the grilled fennel. And any cooking technique will ruin some of its better qualities. Cooking is like forced aging: What's the hurry? If you really want to try braising fennel, start with the stumps you cut off the bottom when trimming the bulbs.

I look for ways to make the most of its stronger qualities and put that aromatic, juicy crispness to work. Salads,

added shreds of mint, to round out the fennel fragrance with more complexity, and make it taste less like a piece of black licorice.

The city of Marathon, after which the race is named, is itself named after fennel, which translates to “maratho” in Greek, while Marathon literally means “place with much fennel.”

This might just be a coincidence, but nonetheless teases the imagination that it might be connected to longevity. It's high in nutrients and fiber and low in calories, which is a good thing unless you're starving. Fennel also aids in digestion by reducing bowel inflammation, and is thought to suppress gas-causing bacteria in the gut.

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Century-old Friday fish fry tradition lives on at Harry's Place

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

This week's featured flavor to savor may be the longest continuously operating food special in the Capital City.

It's the Friday fish fry at Harry's Bar & Grill, which has been steadily churning out affordable, flavorful, above-average bar fare since

the watering hole first opened in 1921.

The unassuming two-story building on Verlinden street has survived through thick and thin — including prohibition, a dearth of regular customers caused by the closure of General Motors' nearby Fisher Body plant and, of course, it also weathered through the COVID-19 pandemic. But don't be deterred by its plain-Jane appearance: There's a reason the family-owned bar has managed to survive so long — and it's in no small part because of its consistently tasty grub.

While the most endearing feature of the neighborhood bar may be the friendly atmosphere, the mouthwatering three- and five-piece cod dinners it cooks up every Friday are hard to beat.

Harry's Place Friday Fish Fry

404 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing
 (517) 484-9661
 facebook.com/HarrysPlaceLansing



And judging by the crowd in the dining room last week, I'm clearly not the only fan of the cuisine.

Unlike some restaurants that fry up their Friday fish dinners exclusively for Lent, Harry's Place churns them out all year long. The three-piece plate is \$12.95. For an extra four bucks, you can get two more pieces. It's just beer-battered cod, so don't expect anything too eccentric. But over the decades, they've perfected the dish to feature a light, crunchy and consistent layer of batter.

Each bite provides a mouthful of succulent fish; never doughy wads of underdone batter. And while I usually tend to avoid cod because of its bland flavor profile, Harry's Place makes it work. All-you-can-eat dinners have ended, but five pieces

were plenty enough to satisfy my appetite.

Each platter also comes served up with your standard fare French fries and coleslaw, the latter usually absolutely



smattered in black pepper. I'd recommend swapping out the slaw for a side salad, which the staff will be more than happy to accommodate.

And don't forget to wash it all down with an ice-cold beer: Harry's Place added several craft beer options (rather than just Bud Light) shortly after the assembly plant closed to help draw in some younger crowds. It worked.

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