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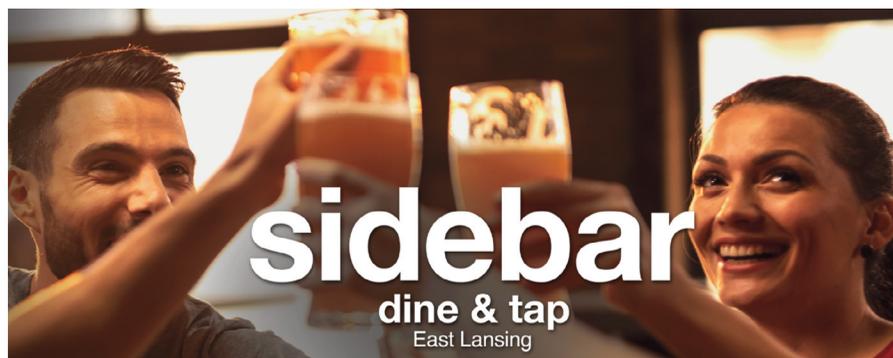
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# CityPULSE

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Art**

Cover by Nevin Speerbrecker

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**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER** • Berl Schwartz  
[publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5061

**ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR** •  
[arts@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:arts@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5068

**EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER** • Suzi Smith  
[suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6704

**NEWS REPORTER** • Todd Heywood  
[heywood.reporter@gmail.com](mailto:heywood.reporter@gmail.com) • (517) 899-6182

**STAFF WRITER** • Lawrence Cosentino  
[lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5065

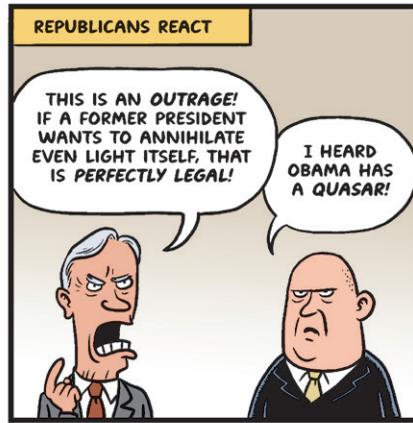
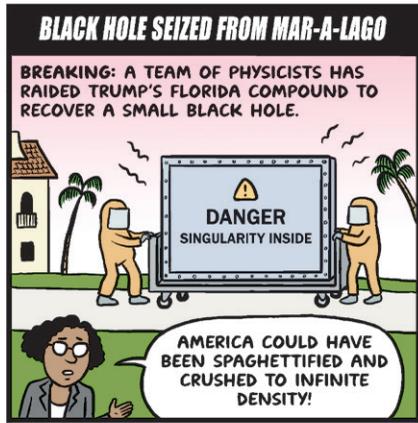
**SALES EXECUTIVE** • Lee Purdy  
[lee@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lee@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5064

**SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER** • Jack Wheatley  
[jack@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:jack@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5063

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** • John Paul Murray  
[johnpaul@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:johnpaul@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6707

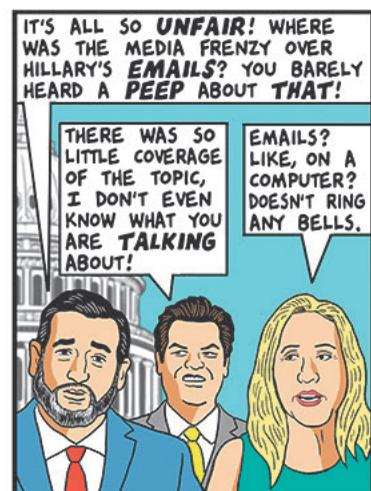
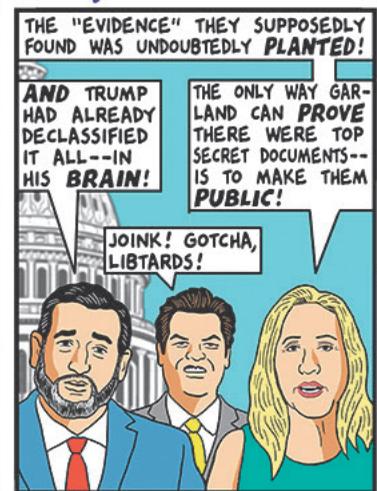
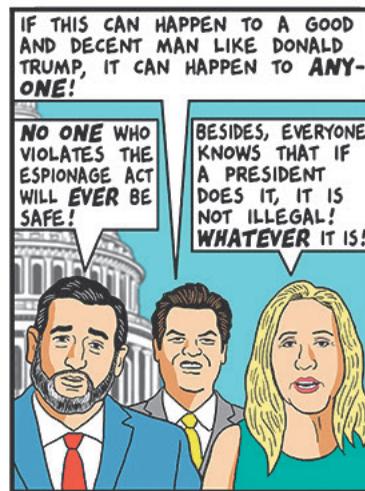
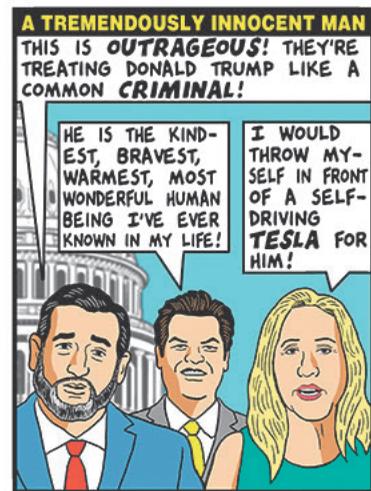
**Contributors:** Andy Balaskovitz, Dedria Humphries Barker, Bryan Beverly, Rob Brezny, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Air LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Audrey Matusz, Kyle Melinn, Dawn Parker, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Chelsea Roberts, Jen Sorensen, Sarah Spohn, Nevin Speerbrecker, David Winkelstern

**Delivery drivers:** Dave Fisher, Melodee Mabbitt, Curt Lauck



## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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# PULSE NEWS & OPINION

## Golf comes knocking on Bancroft Park's door

Bancroft Park, in north Lansing, is 41.77 mostly wooded acres of mature oak, maple and basswood trees. It is part of the Mason Esker, which, as a sign in the park explains, is a “linear, winding ridge formed of sediments deposited in the bed of a stream that flowed upon, within, or underneath a glacier.” That stream stretched almost to Mason. Glaciers came and went, with the last one believed to have melted 15,000 years ago, leaving behind deposits of sediments at various places along the stream’s route. “Bancroft Park is one of the few remaining segments of the esker,” the sign says.

A 1920 clipping of the Lansing State Journal, unearthed by local history buff Tim Bowman, reported that the Lansing Park and Cemetery Commission had named the park in honor of Mrs. May M. Bancroft, who had sold the land to the city, and her son, H. Lee Bancroft, the city’s first parks and forestry superintendent. When he was appointed in 1913, Lansing had just two parks totaling 50 acres. When he retired 43 years later, it had grown to 1,500 acres, including Groesbeck Golf Course.

Bancroft Park features a paved loop for walking, jogging and cycling. Counting the walk around the adjacent Groesbeck Drain Park just north of Bancroft Park, the path is 1.4 miles.

Along the way, visitors will see among and between the trees some backyards in the working-class neighborhood on the park’s west side, an occasional bench, ponds, a playground, a basketball court, a few barbecue grills, two wooden observation decks, ducks and geese, now and then a deer and, more rarely, a fox, and, along the east side of the path beyond a chain-link fence, the greens and fairways of Groesbeck Golf Course.

What you do not see in Bancroft Park are many people at any hour.

It wasn’t always so. Glenn Lopez remembers in his youth when Bancroft Park was bustling with baseball, tobogganing and, most of all, ice skating. You can still make out what appears to have once been a baseball diamond at one end of several acres of grass in the park’s largest open area. Two bare soccer goals stand in the field.

“That was the warming center,” Lopez, 69, said, pointing to small brick building,



Bert Schwartz, City Pulse

Glenn Lopez is the president of the Friends of Bancroft Park, which is next to Groesbeck Golf Course. “We don’t want a driving range,” he says.

“That’s where I got hot chocolate.”

Lopez is president of the Friends of Bancroft Park. He wants the bustle back. He calls the park a “hidden gem.” He’d love to see more activity there, he said.

But he’s worried that the gem is going to be tarnished by the installation of a “limited flight driving range.” That’s how an idea for the park was described in the minutes of the April board meeting of the Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority, which operates Groesbeck Golf Course.

“We don’t want a driving range,” Lopez said.

Scott Keith, who heads LEPFA, steers clear of calling it a driving range. It’s “someplace to practice and warm up” before playing a round at Groesbeck.

Keith has his eye on the clearing where Lopez played ball and skated. It’s where the road into the park from Otto Street ends in a paved lot with 14 parking spots and where the looping walking trail through the park begins.

“It’s extremely early on,” said Keith about the concept. He’s hoping to sign a contract soon with a local consultant, Allen Belyea, a grad of Everett High School and Michigan State University who

works for Albanese & Lutzke, an international golf course design firm. Scott said Belyea grew up in the Groesbeck area and has played at the golf course many times. He estimated the consultation fee at \$25,000 and said it would be spread out over two years, an indication that no decision on a driving range is imminent. Belyea’s marching orders will be to look for a “practice area in close proximity” to Groesbeck where golfers can warm up, Scott said, but “It can’t be too far away,” lest golfers cool off.

Bancroft Park fits the proximity bill to a tee. The site Keith is eyeing is just a good smack with a driver from the golf course.

A practice area was the No. 1 desire Groesbeck golfers expressed when LEPFA asked them what would make the course more appealing. LEPFA asked because it is looking for ways to generate more revenue, which a limited driving range could do.

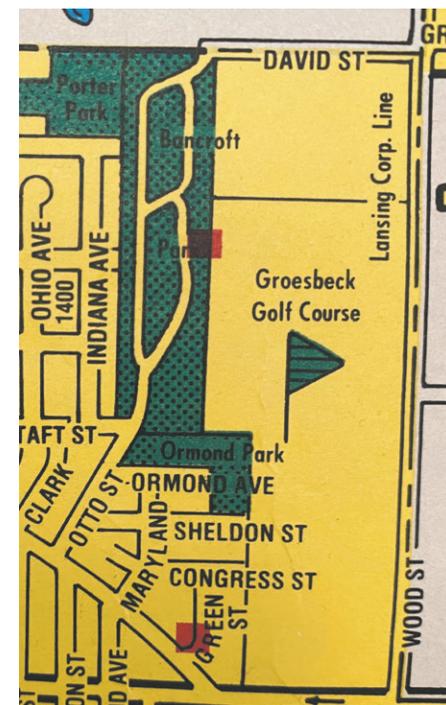
Under LEPFA, which took over management of Groesbeck from the Parks Department five years ago, the city subsidy for Lansing’s only golf course has dropped dramatically from \$400,000 to \$500,000 a year to \$100,000, Keith

said.

Being a relatively COVID proof activity, golf at Groesbeck peaked during the pandemic and has been leveling off as the virus has waned, Keith pointed out. Thus, LEPFA has been strategizing ways to continue reducing the subsidy. One idea is the limited driving range.

Bancroft Park is an obvious choice. Besides being close, it has electricity to power golf-ball vending machines and it has restrooms on the side of the same building where Lopez drank hot chocolate. To protect trail users, Keith said golfers would be required to use so-called limited distance balls. Netting would be also necessary, he added. But he does not foresee much more change, such as lights or a path from the golf course to the driving range.

Keith is well aware the group, whose Facebook page says it has 346 members, is dead set against a driving range of any sort. If indeed the consultant recommends putting the range in the park, **See Bancroft, Page 6**



An older map of Greater Lansing shows Bancroft Park, on Lansing’s north side, whose entrance is from Otto Street off of Cesar Chavez Avenue. Adjacent Ormond Park is smaller now because of a new entrance on the southern end of Groesbeck Golf Course.

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# CityPULSE

## Bancroft

from page 5

then Keith is hoping to convince them doing so would be a “win-win.”

“This could be a positive thing for the park and the golf course and the youth,” he said. “There’s a lack of opportunity for youth to get engaged in golf.” Indeed, Lansing’s public high schools don’t have golf teams. “Practice is a great way to get kids involved. You just hit the ball and not worry about a score or all the etiquette” that shooting a round of golf entails. It’s a relatively expensive sport because of the cost of clubs, but Keith said the city Parks and Recreation Department could seek grants to help pay for equipment for youth.

Keith stressed that “everybody’s got similar goals” when it comes to the park, and indeed Lopez emphasized that his goal is to bring kids back to the park. But he wants it to be through recreational programs. “We have it in other parts of the city,” he said, recalling again the year-round programs the Parks Department once provided in Bancroft Park. “Why can’t we get it back right here?”

Parks Director Brett Kaschinske said he is willing to discuss ways to bring recreational opportunities to Bancroft Park. He knows and highly respects Lopez, a retired classroom paraprofessional in the Lansing School District, who has worked in parks and rec youth programs for decades. Kaschinske professes neutrality on the issue of a driving range. He wants to see the consultant’s study before he offers an opinion.

Like Lopez, Brian Daniels, the Lansing City Councilmember whose ward includes the park would like to see more park activities. “Let’s come up with a list of things we want to do at the park,” Daniels said, “and bring it to Brett and make sure the space is used.”

But such a list would not include a driving range, Daniels said, despite reports to the contrary on where he stands. In April, Keith told LEPPA’s board that Daniels was “supportive” of a driving range. Daniels said Keith took what he said out of context. “He said he wants to put in a driving range near Groesbeck. I said that’s great. I want to hear more about it.”

Daniels said he won’t support it in Bancroft Park “in any way.”

“People have made it very clear” they don’t want it, “and I’m a representative of the people.”

Daniels, who was appointed to the Council this year to fill a vacancy, then criticized his opponent for the 1st Ward seat in the Nov. 8 general election, Ryan Kost, whom he said “has continued” to say that Daniels supports a driving range.

Kost, who serves on the board of Friends of Bancroft Park, said he is “not sure why Daniels is slinging mud. I don’t think I’ve ever said he supports it, but I repeated what’s on the Friends page,” which is that Daniels supports the idea according to Keith.

Kost said he’s “absolutely against” the range idea in the park. “I can’t see any way this would benefit the citizens when you can go any day and see people walking their dogs or with kids or jogging.”

He also criticized Keith. “I’ve talked to Scott Keith. He’s not very interested in working with the Friends group.”

Keith has not yet met with the Friends group. He said he wants to wait till he has some “meat” — something concrete to tell them based on the consultant’s study.

Ultimately, if LEPPA does settle on Bancroft Park as the best location, the issue will land in Mayor Andy Schor’s lap. Schor is aware of the issue.

“I want to hear the opinions of the neighbors in the area and the feasibility of even doing something like this,” he said by text message Friday. “Bancroft is a big park and could offer many amenities for the community, but I don’t want to lose any of the benefits for the neighbors, so I want to see any feasibility study and hear the opinions of those that live in the area and use the park.”

Schor is well familiar with what a fight over a park can be like. One of the last acts by his predecessor, Virg Bernero, was to put an entrance to the golf course through 8.2-acre Ormond Park off what was then Grand River Avenue, since renamed Cesar Chavez Avenue. Bernero said it was part of a plan to make the course profitable by making it more accessible. Ormond Park denizens sued.

Schor inherited the suit when he took office in 2018. He kept a campaign promise to install new playground equipment in what was left of the park. Under Schor, the city settled the suit for \$10,000, but the fight left some residents bitter. “The park was destroyed,” Peter Wood, who helped lead the fight, told the Journal in 2019. “The whole character of the park was destroyed.”

Clearly, from his statement, Schor wants to avoid embittering Bancroft Park area residents. Bancroft Park is five times bigger, and the driving range idea is not comparable to gutting a park for a paved road. But it would change the park experience to some extent for those who enjoy it for its serenity in a setting that after all dates back to the last Ice Age.

Ryan Kost fears worse.

“We have a history of piecemealing stuff,” he said. “If we make it a range, what’s next?”

**BERL SCHWARTZ and TODD HEYWOOD**



**Cesar Chavez Avenue east of Larch Street**

A large swath of land, running from Cesar Chavez Avenue to Larch Street, next to Zoobie's bar on the eastern edge of Old Town in Lansing, are two lots owned by the railway and transportation company CSX. While the larger lot is contained behind a fence with barbed wire on top, the other lot is freely accessible.

That access has resulted in mounds of trash, including piles of plastic water bottles, broken pallets, a five-gallon bucket, pieces of construction barriers and weeds varying in height from knee to waist high. Just a few feet from the sidewalk is a mangled, torn-up mattress. On the west side of the property a large tree has died, and its massive limbs are falling off, pushing trees and shrubbery into a partial obstruction of the sidewalk.

CSX spokesperson Sheriee Brown said the company notified its property management team to assess the situation and determine next steps. She also said dumping on railroad property is "considered both trespassing, which is dangerous and illegal."

The site looks the same as it did last summer.

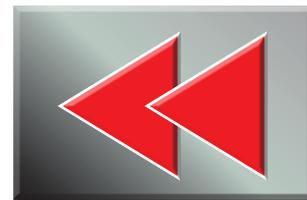
**- TODD HEYWOOD**

"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](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call in a nomination at 517-999-6715.

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By TODD HEYWOOD



**The Ingham County Health Department gave free monkeypox vaccinations to 70 people during the Lansing Pride festival in Old Town Saturday.**

Ingham County has four confirmed cases and the state has recorded 97 cases since late June, as of Monday. The international outbreak, which causes painful sores, has mostly impacted

men who have sex with men. Lansing Pride said the festival — its first — was a success, drawing a crowd of 3,500 despite rain and cool temperatures. Nearly 100 vendors were on hand and 150 people volunteered to run the event in Old Town.



**Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. has agreed to allow Delta Township employees to hold a union vote.**

Workers at the 5805 W. Saginaw Highway location filed a petition July 7 with the National Labor Relations Board.



**Former Dr. Shannon Wiggins has lost an appeal to sue her former attorney for malpractice.**

The Michigan Court of Appeals unanimously upheld a decision by an Ingham County Circuit Court judge to dismiss her case because she had not filed within the six-year time frame. Wiggins argued that attorney G. Sal Gani had a conflict of interest after representing her former husband in a domestic violence case.



**The dean of the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University resigned Friday.**

Sanjay Gupta's resignation after an alleged failure to follow the university's sexual violence and harassment reporting guidelines, the Lansing State Journal reported. Gupta served in the position since June 2015. He denies any wrongdoing.

**Eaton County Sheriff Tom Reich is asking county commissioners to approve \$10,000 bonuses for his officers.**

That's to offset lower salaries than surrounding communities, Reich told the Lansing State Journal Friday and commissioners in a request. The Ways and Means Committee tabled the proposal, but it wants to open negotiations with officers to increase pay. They also want to find ways to attract and retain new officers as others leave.



**Former Eaton Rapids softball coach William Steven Kunkel Jr. will spend the next year in jail for numerous criminal sexual conduct and related charges.**

In addition, Kunkel will serve five years' probation, with a GPS monitor, complete sex offender counseling and is prohibited from being around anyone under age 17, the Lansing State Journal reported. Kunkel pleaded guilty to having a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old female player on his team.



**Bath Township is warning residents to be on the lookout for a mail thief.**

On Monday, the township police posted a warning on social media that an individual was driving a dark color Chevy Equinox. The post said police have received numerous calls that the vehicle was snatching mail from boxes with the flags up, likely seeking checks. Police asked residents to call 911 if they saw an Equinox with any odd behavior, But they cautioned not to call the emergency line for every Equinox in the township.

**A Dimondale man will spend 366 days in federal prison for his role in a healthcare scheme that defrauded MSU health insurance over \$1 million.**

As part of a deal struck with federal prosecutors in the Western District of Michigan, Daniel Brown will also have to pay \$1,267,418 in restitution. Law enforcement and U.S. Attorney Mark Totten alleged Brown participated in a \$200 million health care kickback fraud with a Mississippi pharmaceutical company. Brown got doctors to prescribe unnecessary pain creams, then the company would charge health insurance \$2,000 to \$3,000 for each prescription. Brown would then receive a kickback for the sales.

**Three Lansing Police officers are riding bicycles for 360 miles to honor Michigan officers killed in the line of duty.**

Lt. Sean Mills, Detective Sgt. Brent Sorg and Officer Brian Rendon started the bike journey at Stevensville on Monday and will ride to Petoskey. It's part of the Thin Blue Shoreline ride. The participants will pedal 360 miles over four days.



**Lansing has begun accepting grant applications for approximately \$1.9 million from the American Rescue Plan Act.**

The grants were part of a special budget adopted by the City Council to distribute the federal dollars. Grant applications, which are due Sept. 30, should be sent to [desiree.kirkland@lansingmi.gov](mailto:desiree.kirkland@lansingmi.gov). An application form is online at <https://www.lansingmi.gov/892/Grants>. An original budget proposal from Mayor Andy Schor explicitly set aside cash for specific nonprofits, but the Council was uncomfortable with "picking winners and losers" without any transparency as to how an agency qualified. The Ways and Means Committee struck a deal to create a competitive grant process.

# The case for the state Legislature to take up a modest abortion proposal

Quiet conversations are beginning in Republican circles about the possibility of the state House and Senate taking up a modest abortion proposal to defuse the arguably expansive Reproductive Freedom For All ballot proposal.

The rough idea is for the Legislature to put on the governor's desk a bill banning abortion after 12 to 15 weeks, requiring parental consent for minors seeking abortions and other regulations that a majority of Michigan voters would support.

The idea is two-fold: First, it would present to the public an alternative that likely a majority of voters would support: limited abortions under strict regulations. This would be in stark contrast to the all-or-nothing options voters are stuck with.

Second, it forces Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to make a decision. If she were to sign a legislative abortion alternative, it would likely deflate the "Reproductive Freedom For All" ballot proposal and weaken the abortion issue as a campaign talking point.

If she were to veto it, she could be framed as an extremist supporting "abortion on demand" and make the Republicans look like they were willing to work with Democrats on a middle-of-the-road alternative.

A June Pew Research poll found that 61% of Americans are not absolute on abortion. The majority fall within that gray area of some level of exceptions. Meanwhile, 29% believe abortion should be legal in all cases, while 8% believe it should be illegal.

Yet, Michigan's abortion policy is being played on the extremes.

The "pro-life" side wants the 1931 abortion ban in place, which only provides exceptions for the mother's life. The "pro-choice" side wants voters to pass a proposal that allows for all abortion until the day of birth. The state could later limit abortions to the stage of "fetal viability" as long as the mother's mental and physical health is a permanent carve out.

It gives "every individual ... a fundamental right to reproductive freedom and effectuate decisions about all matters related to pregnancy ...

abortion care." This provision would end parental consent to abortion and gender changes, if you believe that is what "sterilization" means.

The anti-ballot-proposal side is planning an expensive ad campaign to bring up wild scenarios this constitutional amendment could make real: Youth starting gender transitioning without parental consent. Prosecutors unable to charge "back-alley abortionists" who botch a procedure.

Maybe it all works. Perhaps the scenarios are too outrageous for voters to believe.

Voters in Kansas two weeks ago showed they don't want a near-abortion ban, and Michigan Republican legislators don't want to be on the receiving end of that sentiment. They don't want to be looking at complete abortion legalization on Nov. 9 and feel like they could have done something to limit it and didn't.

They don't want the Michigan Supreme Court to overturn the 1931 abortion ban law, as the governor is asking, and play the "what if" game.

The biggest initial hurdle is getting to first base with the idea in the wildly conservative Republican caucuses in both the House and Senate. Many of the members came into office with Right to Life support. They have moral issues with anything other than abortions limited to the life of the mother. Some support abortion exceptions for rape and incest, but not all.

Selling this idea to individual members would be much work, even if the political benefits make sense.

Emily Kroll, who runs the Michigan Right to Life's Political Action Committee, said, "Unequivocally, we would never support that."

Reproductive Freedom For All is a roll of the dice for everyone. It's all or nothing.

It's either "abortion on demand" or no abortion at all.

Republican legislators could look like the sensible middle as they work hard to connect with independents in their quest to keep the majority of the House and Senate.

Or they die on the hill with Right to Life and have, "We don't play politics with human lives" written on their political tombstone.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Jessica Torrez for the property at 614 Sunset Lane to remove and replace a deck.
- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Century Construction Inc. for the property at 353 Division Street to build a roof over the front stoop.
- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Colleen Graber and Joshua Smith for the property at 65 University Drive to construct a new roof and repair siding.

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

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

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

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

#22-178

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the **East Lansing Public Library**, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 in the Community Room:

A public hearing will be held to consider an appeal of a decision made by the City building official and planning and zoning official from Hagan Realty, Inc. for the property located at 190-192 Kedzie Street. The applicant intends to appeal the denial of a building permit application to construct a door between two apartment units. The property is zoned R-2 (Medium Density Single Family Residential).

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

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

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

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

#22-179

**STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM. NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate. Case No. 22-000054-DE-P33.** Estate of Harold Counsellor Stratton Jr. Date of birth: 11-30-28. **TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Harold Counsellor Stratton Jr., died 9-19-20. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Harold Counsellor Stratton III, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 8-10-22. Harold C. Stratton III, 3335 Inverary Dr., Lansing, MI 48911. 517-230-8173.

CP#22-177

**State of Michigan, Probate Court, Ingham County Circuit Court Family Division. Notice of Hearing: file # 22-001017-GA.** In the matter of MATTHEW STRUBLE, especially to the attention of his siblings Patrick Struble, Billy Struble, David Struble and Linda Jones, whose contact information is unknown to the petitioner. **TAKE NOTICE:** A hearing will be held on 10/06/2022 at 8:45 AM via ZOOM conference before Judge Shauna Dunnington for the following purpose: FULL GUARDIANSHIP. If you require special accommodations because of a disability, or if you need a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in the proceedings, please contact the court immediately at 517-483-6300 to make arrangements. Gene Mellen, petitioner, Adult Protective Services, Ingham County DHHS, 517-763-1210. **CP#22-180**

# Lansing theater needs to embrace casting diversity

By **ERIC VINCENT**

I turned 29 a few days ago, I've lived here in Lansing since 2019, I'm a half white-half Latino male, and I'm writing about an article written by Todd

**Opinion**



Vincent

Heywood about the challenges still faced in Lansing theater in regards to diversity and inclusion.

One of those he interviewed for it is a dear friend of mine named Ny'Kieria. I've known her for several years as a promising actress, a powerful singer and a good woman that I'm humbled to be friends with. The fact that she and so many who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) are still overlooked within the Lansing theater community, such as at Riverwalk Theatre, is deeply concerning. This is somehow still happening even after the vibrant Black Lives Matter movement that was practically worldwide back in 2020, thus a prominent reason we ought to be outraged by the slow lack of progress of Lansing's theater community.

In the past decade that I've seen

plays and musicals here in Lansing, I've seen shows live at Lansing Community Community and at Riverwalk Theatre or I've read about them on articles.

What I've noticed are stark contrasts between the casting choices by LCC's theater program and Riverwalk: That it's sometimes easier to be cast by the former than the latter, which is sadly more true for those who are BIPOC.

The earliest example of this that I've seen is the cast photo for Riverwalk's production of "RENT," in which there was a young Caucasian lady in the role of Mimi, who ought to be played by someone of Latin(x) and/or African American descent. The second time I observed this was up close when a young Caucasian man was cast in "Sweat" as Oscar, a role for which I auditioned. I'm of Hispanic heritage on my mother's side. Mind you, I don't like calling out either actors, both being good friends of mine. But the fact of the matter is that the veteran producers and promoters at Riverwalk are still racially biased when it comes to casting actors.

In fact, when Riverwalk performed "Louder Than Words" back in 2021, the show was a musical cabaret reviewing how people felt during the start and middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, I observed as an audience member that Riverwalk barely talked about the Black Lives Matter move-

ment that arose during the exact same time. The closest they got to even mentioning it was when Ny'Kieria sang "I'm Here" from "The Color Purple," but they clearly limited her from reminding us all of the reality of racial inequality we need to escape from. Worse, when Riverwalk did another musical cabaret, they titled it "All Together Now," which seems questionable considering they cast more white actors who could sing and dance than they did actors who were BIPOC. Frankly, if they were going to put on a show they titled "All Together Now," they should have considered who else might've wanted to be together on stage with their colleagues: in this case, more than the three or four wonderful actors and actresses who are BIPOC.

Now, I find myself disappointed in Riverwalk Theatre for casting my dear friend Ny'Kieria as the witch in the musical adaptation of "Big Fish." Knowing her vocal range and acting conviction, she rightfully deserves roles that allow her to be more than just a two-scene role or cast as a witch; the same for everyone either Latin(x), Black, Asian American Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, or of Indigenous descent who lives in Lansing. The worst is believing this to be true throughout the Lansing area besides Riverwalk Theatre (such as Peppermint Creek Theatre or the Ixion Acting Co.). If that's the

case, then I strongly urge you to look into such a community issue that deserves to be addressed for the people of Lansing AND that you continue to report instances where there is indeed representation, diversity and inclusion within theater here in Lansing.

In conclusion, I find it questionable that any "community" theaters here in Lansing still put on shows that barely reflect how the community appears or casts people who are BIPOC in roles that limits or stereotypes us, especially when we as human beings were given the biggest reality check in 2020 while facing a global pandemic. I speak this to you not as some "angry individual" but as someone whose dream is to live his life doing something that has given him a sense of purpose through the magic that is live theater. In fact, I would love to see diversity in theater discussed more from this point forward and hope to see more articles like the one Todd Heywood recently wrote. His attentive work and reporting is what I admired the most from his article about diversity and inclusion in theater.

Anyone I mentioned in the letter, directly or indirectly, was not for the sake of offending them, as said people are good and close friends of mine. And that goes for any place mentioned, as I still wish to participate in my community, albeit with those who reflect ALL of the community as a whole.

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

**1.) Write a letter to the editor.**

• E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com) • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 • Fax: (517) 371-5800 • At [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)

**2.) Write a guest column.** Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto: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.)

## Ingham County Animal Shelter

To adopt one of these pets, visit the ICAS at 600 Buhl St., Mason, call (517) 676-8370 to make an appt. or go to [ac.ingham.org](http://ac.ingham.org).

Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35, \$6 goes to the shelter. To sponsor, call 999-5061 now!! Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.



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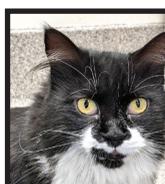
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**Big John** is big handsome tabby who loves lots of attention and should do well in any type of home. He needs regular brushing of his beautiful coat

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**In Memory of Rodica's cats.**

# Where was All Lives Matter since 1619?

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### ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids marked **S/23/013, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave, 3rd FLOOR, Lansing MI. 48933 until but no later than, **1:00 PM, local time in effect WED. AUG 24, 2022.** Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson Buyer, at (517) 483-4128 or email: [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) - ALL VEHICLES MUST BE TOWED OUT.

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. AUG 24, 2022, as follows:**

SHROYER'S, 2740 EATON RAPIDS RD, LANSING MI. 48911 8:30 AM  
PJ'S, 1425 RENSEN, LANSING MI 10:00 AM  
NORTHSIDE TOWING, 226 RUSSELL, LANSING, MI 48906 10:45 AM

NORTHSIDE		YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE
2002	BUICK	2014	CHEVROLET	2018	CHEVROLET	2008	GMC
2012	CHEVROLET	2009	NISSAN	2008	FORD	2014	JEEP
1997	JEEP	2007	CHEVROLET	2014	JEEP	2008	CADILLAC
2011	DODGE	2018	CHEVROLET	2008	CADILLAC	2011	CHEVROLET
2005	GMC	2018	HYUNDAI	2011	CHEVROLET		
2015	HYUNDAI	2007	CHEVROLET				
2021	OTHER	1999	FORD				
2022	CHEVROLET	2013	FORD				
2020	OTHER	2006	FORD				
2020	OTHER	2008	MERCURY				
2010	DODGE	2008	VOLKSWAGON				
2012	DODGE	2004	LEXUS				
2004	CHEVROLET	2005	CHRYSLER				
2005	DODGE						
2012	CHEVROLET						
2006	CHEVROLET						
2007	JEEP						
2004	CHEVROLET						
2012	DODGE						
2011	GMC						
1999	DODGE						
2013	VOLKSWAGON						
2005	BUICK						
2008	DODGE						
2011	KIA						
2005	CHRYSLER						
2005	DODGE						

SHROYERS		YEAR	MAKE
2018	FORD	2018	FORD
2018	CHEVROLET	2018	CHEVROLET
2019	JEEP	2019	JEEP
2017	GMC	2017	GMC
2012	AUDI	2012	AUDI
2017	CHEVROLET	2017	CHEVROLET
2016	OTHER	2016	OTHER
2017	CHEVROLET	2017	CHEVROLET
2003	NISSAN	2003	NISSAN
2009	DODGE	2009	DODGE
2012	FORD	2012	FORD
2016	CHEVROLET	2016	CHEVROLET
2016	CHEVROLET	2016	CHEVROLET
2013	KIA	2013	KIA
2022	KIA	2022	KIA
2008	CHEVROLET	2008	CHEVROLET
2003	GMC	2003	GMC
2009	BMW	2009	BMW

PJ'S TOW		YEAR	MAKE
2004	NISSAN	2004	NISSAN
2009	JEEP	2009	JEEP
2013	CHEVROLET	2013	CHEVROLET
2011	CHEVROLET	2011	CHEVROLET
2011	CHEVROLET	2011	CHEVROLET
2017	CHEVROLET	2017	CHEVROLET
2019	OTHER	2019	OTHER
2020	CHEVROLET	2020	CHEVROLET
2012	BUICK	2012	BUICK
2008	CHRYSLER	2008	CHRYSLER
2013	KIA	2013	KIA
2001	FORD	2001	FORD
2008	DODGE	2008	DODGE
2015	JEEP	2015	JEEP

CP#22-174

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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## It's a scream

### Quality Scary film series welcomes banter

By **CHELSEA ROBERTS**

It takes a village, maybe even M. Night Shyamalan's "The Village," to pull off a monthly show in Lansing, but the horror film series Quality Scary has done just that.

The local group, which gives an obvious nod to Quality Dairy, presents the kind of scary flicks that lose their dreadful suspense when you riff on them with your friends. In short, standard movie theater rules do not apply. Think "Mystery Science Theater 3000" but louder.

"We like to show movies that are meaningful to us but make themselves available for satire," said co-host Tricia Chamberlain. She and fellow comedian Emily Syrja co-founded the series, which runs on the third Friday of each month at the Lansing Public Media Center.

The duo encourages the audience to yell jokes during campy horror flicks like "Return of the Living Dead" (1985), "Scream" (1996), and "The Slumber Party Massacre" (1982). For those still worried about being shushed by an usher, Syrja makes it clear: "Please, be rude at our shows."

Dan Hartley is a videographer and the third member of the Quality Scary team. He said they're trying to build a community, not just a show.

"We want people to dress up and yell out their jokes, bring their friends and cackle at the goofs," Hartley said. "It's an interactive experience, and we want people to come back to it every month."

Hartley met Syrja and Chamberlain after one of their standup sets a few years ago. Hartley walked out of the audience and introduced himself. Hartley has been part of the Capital City Film Festival for over a decade, making him a natural collaborator.

"He was just a straight guy with a camera, but we gave him a chance," Syrja quipped.

Before Quality Scary, Syrja and Chamberlain spent their 20s performing standup and hosting the popular occult-themed variety show "Comedy Coven" at The Robin Theatre from 2015 to 2018 and earned a local cult following.

But after countless nights of both Comedy Coven events and standup gigs, Syrja said the duo started experiencing "stand-up fatigue." So, creating a Quality Scary, where the focus is off of themselves, has been a nice change of pace and a natural progression. After bingeing nearly 70 horror movies during the fall of 2021, Syrja and Chamberlain were inspired to integrate the genre into their next project.

"As we started to plan for Quality Scary, there were so many conversations where things just fell into place," Syrja recalled. "We needed graphic design. Now we know that person. We needed someone to sell our merch before the shows and help us set up a website — now we know those people."

Plenty of that aid comes from the Lansing Public Media Center, which has all the technical effects for a live show and enough space to allow for social distancing and ventilation. It's also the

hub for the Capital City Film Festival.

Since April, each Quality Scary show has included unique elements, such as a pajama party, music by Super Secret Cult Band,

glowstick dancing and a birthday party. This August's screening of 1984's "A Nightmare on Elm Street" includes a high-concept costume contest. Participants are encouraged to freely interpret the character of Freddy Krueger in their own, deeply personal way.

As for an ongoing theme, Quality Scary honors Lansing-born Matthew Lillard, a Hollywood actor best known

because Lansing loves him."

The group hopes to invite Lillard to a screening when the time is right, but they don't want to get blocked from his Twitter feed. Chamberlain has vowed to tread lightly, not wanting Lillard to mistake their fandom for fanaticism.

While Lillard is not a part of the team (yet), plenty of current Lansing locals are big fans of Quality Scary. When a friend's birthday fell on the same night as a movie screening, Rachel Eldridge reached out over Instagram and asked if Quality Scary would give a shout-out to her friend and birthday girl. The comedians went above and beyond. "They brought her up on stage and included her in a bit," Eldridge said. "Their shows are really personal."

So, Eldridge, a Quality Scary devotee, must be a huge horror movie buff, correct?

"No. I don't even like scary movies," she said. "You don't have to like scary movies to enjoy it."

"It's campy horror movies with comedic hosts, plus that original element they are always bringing," Eldridge added. "It's not, 'Here, sit down and watch this movie.' It's an orchestrated event."

Eldridge has been to nearly every Quality Scary show since April and has already purchased her tickets for the October screening of "Halloween," the classic 1978 slasher. Eldridge said she has been a fan of Syrja and Chamberlain since their Comedy Coven days. Four years and a pandemic later, Syrja and Chamberlain look back on the defunct Comedy Coven as a creative, collaborative and experimental training ground.

"We had a head start on Quality Scary because we had the boot camp of doing standup for several years and then building up Comedy Coven," Syrja said.

As for Chamberlain, she recalled one specific evening after Comedy Coven rehearsal at The Robin Theatre when the venue's co-owner Dylan Rogers encouraged them to get as bizarre as they'd like.

"In the stand-up climate, you were discouraged if you wanted to try something a little out of the box," Chamberlain recalled. "But when we teamed up for Comedy Coven, we made it more of a variety show. We wrote sketches and tried improv. One day, Dylan said to us: 'Be weirder.' That stuck with me. I still think about it today. It's like, 'Yeah, I can be as weird as I want.'"



Chelsea Roberts

Quality Scary team members Tricia Chamberlain, Emily Syrja and Dan Hartley at their home base, the Lansing Public Media Center. The heckle-friendly film screenings happen on the third Friday every month.

for leading roles in "Scream," "SLC Punk" and the live-action "Scooby Doo" movies. While Lillard was born in Lansing, he grew up in California and maintained no known connections to our city. Nevertheless, Quality Scary tips its cap to Matthew Lillard each month with lovingly curated shout-outs, jingles, puppets and other forms of comedically desperate homage.

And while Quality Scary is co-branded as the Matthew Lillard Fan Club, factually, Lillard is not part of Quality Scary and is likely unaware of the series. This is not yet an issue for the local troupe, which has dubbed Lillard "Lansing's favorite son."

"Matthew Lillard has been part of this since the very beginning," Hartley says, "We don't care if he doesn't love Lansing



Quality Scary screens 1984's "A Nightmare on Elm Street."



Gage Skidmore

"Scream" star Matthew Lillard remains Quality Scary's muse, though he is not affiliated with the event in any fashion.

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# THE CHEAP ISSUE

HAVING FUN ON A BUDGET  
IN GREATER LANSING

# GREAT DEALS IN GREATER LANSING

By MIRANDA DUNLAP

Welcome to The Cheap Issue, which published annually around the anniversary of our first issue, which was Aug. 15, 2001. As a way of thanking readers and advertisers alike, we offer ads at half rate — as long as they include a coupon for our readers.

While it's easy to feel like there's not much to do in your town without draining your bank account, especially in these inflationary times, City Pulse is here to protest that this is not true in Greater Lansing. A fun-filled day doesn't have to empty your wallet. If you're willing to get a little creative, it doesn't have to cost anything. Beyond that, \$20 can go further than you'd think. Here's where to start.

## RETAIL

### Sift through Flat, Black and Circular's bargain bin

Flat, Black and Circular, or FBC, has been a downtown East Lansing fixture since 1977. Vinyl record collecting can be pricey, but if you're looking to explore music on a budget, FBC's bargain bin is stacked with used, affordable slabs of wax.

"We have a 50-cent bin, a \$1 record bin, and a \$2.50 CD bin," manager Jon Howard said. "We haven't raised the price of those. We're in our 45th year, and we've never raised the price since then."

Aside from saving dough, the bargain bin is a great place to expand your music taste and check out artists you've never listened to — which is why it's been an iconic fixture of the shop since its genesis.

"It's a huge mix of things," Howard said. "We either have too many copies of the title that hasn't sold in the past or things that might have minor imperfections."

FBC is at 541 E. Grand River Ave.



Courtesy photo

FBC's bargain bin is a long-running record hotspot for music buffs on a tight budget.

Suite #204 in East Lansing. While on the hunt, also scope out The Record Lounge in REO Town for more deals on records and top-notch used stereo equipment.

### Every day is Black Friday at Daily Dealz

Daily Dealz, 5412 W. Saginaw Hwy. in the Lansing Mall, is a relatively new addition to the local bargain scene.

The store comprises rows of bins filled to the brim with discounted items, such as clothing, electronics, toys, home decor and more. Their cost depends on the week's day: \$1 on Wednesdays, \$2 on Tuesdays, \$4 on Mondays, \$6 on Saturdays and \$8 on Fridays. (No sale bins on Sundays.) The store is closed Thursdays.

"What makes it very special is the idea of a treasure hunt," owner Anan Abubaker said. "Some peo-

ple have gotten iPhones for \$8. Some have gotten an Xbox One for \$6. Or an air fryer for \$1 on Wednesday. It's you, treasure hunting and figuring your way around those bins. That's the fun part."

### Browse Lansing's Free and Cheap Store

The name says it all. The Free and Cheap store, 1408 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing, is stocked by Lansing Junk

Removal. Items in good enough shape to be reused in a new home are taken here to keep unnecessary things out of landfills. In this store, you can find just about anything for (you guessed it) a low price or free.

Many previously owned furniture lands at this store, which can be great for an upcycling project. You're helping the environment and saving money — a win-win.

### Go antiquing

Hyped as Mid-Michigan's "most unique shopping experience," The Mega Mall can keep bargain hunters entertained for hours simply browsing the endless rows of vendor booths. There are both newer items and hard-to-find antique gems.

"We have over 220 vendors, and our store is 40,000 square feet," manager Heather Smith said. "We do antiques, vintage items, collectibles and home décor. There's literally something for everybody here."

The mall also hosts a "Junk in the Trunk" outdoor flea market every Thursday. The mall is at 15487 Old U.S. 27, Lansing.

See Cheap Issue, Page 14



Courtesy photo

Bins at Daily Dealz are filled to the brim with hidden gems.



Courtesy photo

This is just one vendor at The Mega Mall. It's packed with over 40,000 square feet of vintage and collectible items.

# Cheap Issue

from page 13

*No money? No problem. There are plenty of activities in the Lansing area that don't cost a dime.*

## RECREATION

### Spend some time outside

Lansing has an abundance of free nature centers. Here are a few.

**Woldumar Nature Center**, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing, encompasses 180 acres. All are welcome to take in the wetland, prairie and woodland terrains and explore the hike-able trails. Trails are open dawn to dusk daily.

**Harris Nature Center**, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, boasts 200 acres of forest and meadows on the Red Cedar River. There is a paved half-mile trail open daily dawn to dusk. While you're there, take in a live animal exhibit.

**Fenner Nature Center** offers four miles of trails amid its 134 acres of green space. The center hosts free events, such as group hikes and en-



Courtesy photo

A peek at LCC's Sculpture Walk, near the Arts and Sciences Building.



Courtesy photo

Broad Art Museum is free and now exhibiting "Flint is Family in Three Acts."

vironmental education storylines for children. Fenner is at 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing.

ist LaToya Ruby Frazier, is on display. Family day, the first Saturday of every month, offers "free hands-on and interactive family fun" throughout the museum. All ages are welcome.

## ARTS & CULTURE

### Immerse yourself in art

Nestled into Downtown Lansing is **Lansing Community College's Sculpture Walk**. Each piece is a product of the imagination or engineering of an LCC graduate, alum or professor. The free outdoor exhibition showcases Lansing's diverse artistic talent. Organizers say one of the most popular pieces, the stainless steel "Red Ribbon in the Sky," stands 30 feet tall and is a must-see.

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at MSU might be a multi-million-dollar building, but it's always free to visit. "Flint is Family in Three Acts," a multi-part exhibition by renowned art-

**Explore African History**  
The **All Around The African World Museum and Resource Center**, 1136 Shepard St., Lansing, displays remarkable artifacts, pictures and printed materials. The mission? "To provide citizens of the United States and the world evidence of the presence of people of African descent in the history and development of the world and their contributions to the world's continents." Guided appointments are available by appointment. At-will donations are accepted ... but maybe don't be cheap about that donation.

See Cheap Issue, Page 15

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# THE CHEAP ISSUE

## HAVING FUN ON A BUDGET IN GREATER LANSING

# SCRUMPTIOUS SAVINGS Big portions at small prices

By MIRANDA DUNLAP

Sometimes when hunger strikes, a normal-sized portion of food just won't satisfy. Luckily, Lansing is home to numerous restaurants that serve large meals for economical prices. Whether you're looking for a shareable meal for you and a date or bordering on hangry, these restaurants will deliver a budget-friendly feast. And, yes, leftovers will need to be boxed up. Let's dig in.

## Cheap Issue

from page 14

### BLONDIE'S BARN

If a big breakfast is the most important meal, Blondie's Barn is the place to be, and owner Andrew Manuel isn't shy about it.

5640 Marsh Road,  
Haslett  
(517) 339-4600  
blondiesbarn.com

"No one has larger portions than we do," Manuel said. "I promise you that."

Blondie's has established a reputation for its generous portions. Their sizable omelets are all priced at below \$10. Coffee addicts can rest assured that coffee comes in supersized mugs and can be topped with whip cream and syrups.

For hungry newbies, Manuel recommends the "Big Mikey." The meal is proudly named after his son, who is 6'5" and 250 pounds.

"The Big Mikey comes with three



Courtesy of Andrew Manuel

The "Big Mikey" at Blondie's Barn comes served on two separate platters.

large pancakes, three eggs, hash browns, bacon, sausage and ham," Manuel said. "You get a bit of everything in a feast."

The "Big Mikey" is so famous and so filling that Manuel created two variations: a "Little Mikey" and a "Senior Mikey," for those intimidated by the original.

### OHANA SUSHI

At Ohana Sushi, you're in charge of choosing how much bang you get for your buck. For \$30 at dinnertime and \$18 for lunch hours during the week, you receive an all-you-can-eat experience. You're supplied with a dry-erase menu that's continuously filled out until you're filled to the brim with sushi rolls, hibachi items, ramen,

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See Cheap Issue, Page 16

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Courtesy photo

Ohana Sushi's all-you-can-eat meal is served in a picture-perfect manner.

## Cheap Issue

from page 15

salads and more.

Orders arrive in small portions to ensure you try an array before you leave stuffed. (Spoiler alert: You absolutely will.) The upscale modern vibe of the restaurant also makes for a pleasing experience.

## FALAFEL TIME

Falafel Time opened in May and has since received rave reviews, often citing its shocking portion-to-cost ratio.

6030 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing  
(517) 899-0333

The restaurant offers falafel, gyros, shawarma, smoothies and more. Large, protein-packed salads do not exceed \$10, and their plates (served with sides) all cost under \$13. If you're feeding more than yourself or prefer takeout, the 30-piece family order is just \$25. The chicken shawarma salad is a fan favorite, too.

See Cheap Issue, Page 17

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# Cheap Issue

from page 16

## DAGWOOD'S TAVERN & GRILL

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dagwoodstavernandgrill-alternate.com

However unassuming Dagwood's Tavern and Grill may be, it's a beloved local favorite for good reason. The watering hole is arguably one of the best spots to eat and drink for cheap. The tasty menu has something for everyone



Courtesy photo

Dagwood's burger special includes a burger, fries and a draft beer for just \$6.

— with no menu item exceeding \$7. Inflation be damned, the famed "Dag Burger" still costs just \$3.25. Still not convinced? Dagwood's special offers a burger, fries and a 12-ounce draft beer for just \$6. With food and drink prices this low, you'll surely be able to afford the Uber ride home that you will desperately need.

See Cheap Issue, Page 18

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# Cheap Issue

from page 17

## FLEETWOOD DINER

Like a nostalgic scene from “American Graffiti,” Fleetwood Diner is a unique experience. The restaurant offers a ’50s-esque vintage diner vibe, picture-perfect with its checkered floor and bright red furniture. The diner offers

2211 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
(517) 267-7606  
thefleetwooddiner.com



Miranda Dunlap

Fleetwood Diner brings a vintage feel to S. Cedar St.

famously large portions of traditional American eats. The salads are priced below \$10, and the breakfast special costs just \$6.99.

“Our salads are huge. A large salad will feed three people,” manager Dani Schick said. “Our big breakfast comes with three eggs, a large portion of hash browns, toast, bacon, sausage and ham. Everybody always takes leftovers home.”

## GOOD TRUCKIN’ DINER

To continue the throwback diner theme, head from Old Town to REO Town and visit

Good Truckin’ Diner. If you’re lucky enough to score a seat at the always bustling you’re in for a treat. The eclectic diner is decorated with a distinct personality, ensuring your eyes can explore while you wait for your food.

No dish costing over \$12, and its portions more than satisfy the hungriest of locals. There’s breakfast,

1107 S. Washington Ave.,  
Lansing  
(517) 253-7961  
goodtruckin.com



Miranda Dunlap

Good Truckin’ Diner’s South by Southwest omelet, with a side of potatoes and toast.

street tacos, sammiches and more. For only \$9, grab the Mantis: BBQ chicken, bacon, pickles, smoked gouda with bourbon sauce — served on a grilled hoagie roll. The diner also offers gluten-free and vegan options, so everyone can fill up at a cut rate.

## GOLDEN HARVEST

1625 Turner St., Lansing  
goldenharvestlansing.com

If you’ve never eaten a meal at Golden Harvest, don’t dare call yourself a Lans-

tronaut. And if you’ve never shared a plate, you’re not a certified cheapo. A prized possession to the foodie community, this eccentrically ornamented restaurant seats only those lucky enough to arrive early or patient enough to wait in line. Its rotating menu offers heaps of creative and cleverly named brunch foods. The French toast is piled high with sweetness and perfect for sharing on a breakfast date. It’s truly a bargain hunter’s dream sequence.



Courtesy photo

Golden Harvest’s French toast is big enough and sweet enough for two.

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# It's a family tradition

Pincanna budtender learned the ropes at home

By **MIRANDA DUNLAP**

Budtender Spencer Donley was drawn to the budding world of cannabis years before his official start in the industry, with a little help from his family.

“My dad was among the first registered caregivers in the state,” Donley said. “We had an indoor grow, so we had a whole facility. He started letting me water the plants and work around them. I was just happy to be a part of the cultivation aspect of it.”

Donley, 23, quickly realized he had a natural green thumb, but he shelved his passion for several years while he worked a series of what he described as “dead-end jobs.”

“I served at numerous restaurants here in East Lansing for a number of years, and I was just kind of burned out in the restaurant space,” Donley recalled. “So, I decided to hop over to something I was actually passionate about.”

When he decided to step back into the cannabis world, he did so with perfect timing. The Botanical Co., a then-new

Lansing dispensary, was gearing up to open its doors.

“I got to open up their dispensary with them,” Donley said. “That was kind of my first endeavor into the industry.”

Donley said he originally planned to work in the growing aspect of the industry but ended up learning to do retail. Now, he works as a budtender at Pincanna, 1234 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. Despite this, he says his roots will always lie in cultivation.

Since he got his start, the cannabis market has changed quite a bit. Donley said one of those evolutions is that marijuana is getting cheaper in the Lansing area.

“I feel like cannabis is maybe, a little bit, losing its value,” Donley said. “There's just so much saturation in the area. That's why prices are going lower and lower. It's because we're in competition.”

While the market competition in the area is intense, Donley said Pincanna has two key factors that set it apart from other dispensaries: their team's knowledge and the overall environment inside of the retail space.

“I would say there's a lot of places that

have modeled each other very similarly. They're all a pretty similar setup,” Donley said. “Pincanna is pretty cool because we have a neat vibe and energy here that many of our regulars say they can't find anywhere else.

According to Donley, Pincanna gets the “upper hand” because it has access to the processing and cultivation of its products.

Other dispensaries “are just sourcing other people's material. They might not know as much about stuff,” Donley said.

Donley said that for those looking to get into the biz, to be a good budtender, one must be wholly invested in what they're selling — but that's not all.

“We've got to be in touch with the customer base as well,” Donley added. “In East Lansing, specifically, since our clients are typically around my age, we kind of have an understanding with each other, which is pretty cool.”

When it comes to making recommendations to customers, Donley said his favorite products are concentrates.

“A lot of people are really intimidated by concentrates because it's a little bit of a process to get into,” Donley said. “Most people are savvy with smoking the actual flower itself. Concentrates are a step above that, but that's my favorite. I love it.”

When he's not helping clients at Pincanna, Donley said he is busy attending Northwood University. Fittingly, he is working toward a bachelor's degree in business administration. He said he hopes to become more involved in the creative and marketing side of the industry once he completes his degree.

“I definitely plan on moving up in the industry in general,” Donley said. “My goal is to be involved on the creative side of the local cannabis industry. I want to continue to be in this space. That's my plan. To stick around and keep working and networking and connecting with people.”



**BUDTENDER PROFILE:**  
SPENCER DONLEY  
2021 “Best Budtender” Runner Up



Courtesy photo

Spencer Donley is a budtender at Pincanna in East Lansing.

**Top of the Town contest reminder**

Be sure to vote for your favorite local budtender in the 2022 Top of the Town Contest. It kicks off in City Pulse's Sept. 14 issue!

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# WKAR hits 100

By **DAWN PARKER**

It was an experiment that nearly torpedoed the infant radio station before it could grow to maturity, much less mark a “Century of Service.”

As WKAR interim general manager Shawn Turner recalled, a group of World War I vets were “testing” some military surplus broadcast equipment. They didn’t think anyone could hear them, but their chatter unknowingly went out over a 15-mile radius.

“The dialogue was ... somewhat irrelevant,” Turner said. This outraged some at the then-Michigan Agricultural College, and the “Radio Club” soon faced being disbanded. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed.

“There were visionary leaders here at MSU who recognized the technology had immense potential value to the community,” Turner said.

By Aug. 18, 1922, the fledgling station officially signed on the airwaves for the

first time — making this a banner year for WKAR.

“I find it fascinating because it almost never happened,” Turner said. “There were just a few individuals here, that incident notwithstanding, who said, ‘We have something here we can use to serve the community.’ That’s how it all started.”

In celebration of this milestone, the station hosts an open house to mark its centennial on Saturday at the WKAR studios, on the second floor of MSU’s Communication Arts and Sciences building.

Visitors will get a glimpse into the inner workings of the WKAR television, radio and digital studios and see where the next generation of the station is headed.

That next era might include Turner, who comes to his current position with an atypical background —

including 21 years in the Marine Corps and a job as the deputy White House press secretary for national security.

Turner’s wife, Monique Mitchell Turner, is an MSU grad who chairs the communications department in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences.

“I remember it so vividly,” he recalled. “26 years ago, on our second date, I asked her what her dream job was, just making conversation. She said someday I’d like to go back to MSU and be the chair of the COM department there.”

As for Shawn Turner, the native of inner-city Cincinnati said he didn’t have much while growing up, so access to public media helped expand his horizons.

## 100 Years

### WKAR: A Century of Service

Saturday, Aug. 20  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
WKAR studios  
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Communication Arts and Sciences,  
2nd floor  
wkar.org

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“It really helped me open my eyes to the world.”

And then there’s WKAR.

“This station and the people here are focused on what it means to go out and be a part of the community, more so than any other station I’ve been associated with,” Turner said.

At the event, dubbed “100 Years — WKAR: A Century of Service,” fans of local on-air staff can put faces to the voices that keep them company throughout the day. And some of those voices have been around for decades.

Jody Knol, the classical host, began at WKAR as a student in early 1982. The Grand Rapids native studied music and theater at Calvin College before transferring to MSU. Much like WKAR’s genesis, his foray into radio was by chance.

One summer night, Knol was working at a restaurant in Grand Rapids. WOOD-TV anchor Jay Johnson was dining alone, and it happened to be a slow evening. The pair had time to chat. By coincidence, Johnson had worked at WKAR as a student employee.

“He said, ‘Do you like music?’ Yes, I do,” replied Knol, a one-time music major. Johnson then encouraged Knol to apply at WKAR radio “because they were always looking for students who could talk about music on the air.”

Johnson left his business card with the hostess on the way out, with a note on the back addressed to WKAR’s then-program director: “Hal Prentice: Give this guy a job. He knows music,” Knol fondly recalled.

Since then, the station has undergone many operational changes over the years. From reel-to-reel tape machines and vinyl, the standard in Knol’s early years, to today when music is often loaded from a computer hard drive. Though, one thing that has not changed over the last 100 years is the connection with listeners. Through both good times and rough times.

“I remember after 9/11 we were not doing classical music for several days because it was wall-to-wall NPR coverage,” Knol recalled. “When we went back on the air, we just had to gently ease back into that and be sensitive to how people were thinking.”

“I do think the station is a community bond that a lot of people feel,” he added. “Whether they’re in mid-Michigan or beyond now (listening via web stream), there’s comfort in hearing local commentary and listening to music together in a shared experience. That’s what makes (WKAR) different than a SiriusXM radio.”

That international bond also flourishes with online listeners all over the world. Knol said WKAR was one of the first public radio stations with a web stream launched more than 20 years ago. From its humble genesis — an accidental live broadcast during the WWI era — to listeners now tuning in worldwide, WKAR’s journey is one of continual evolution.

“We’re finding more and more MSU alumni around the world are enjoying listening to the station because it brings them back to their roots of studying at MSU,” Knol said. “They want to know what the temperature is here.”



Courtesy of WKAR

WKAR Radio hosts Jody Knol and Melissa Ingells host a 1990s-era WKAR auction.

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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Trade Offs"—well, it's close enough.**  
by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1. Pack down firmly
- 5. Garbage bag size
- 9. \_\_\_ above (slightly better)
- 13. Hammer on the screen
- 14. Heed a hypnotist
- 15. "Downton Abbey" countess
- 16. Scratches left on the chalkboard by a temporary teacher?
- 19. Director Guillermo \_\_\_ Toro
- 20. "\_\_\_-Hulk: Attorney at Law" (upcoming Disney+ series)
- 21. Theme park attractions
- 22. Riding transit without having to buy a ticket?
- 27. Yell at some sporting events
- 28. Assistance for a treasure hunter
- 29. Japanese eel and rice dish
- 31. Forensic scientist Barry (aka The Flash)
- 34. Tommy Pickles's younger brother on "Rugrats"
- 35. Quick bite
- 38. Java that works even better in all caps?
- 42. Actress Collette of "The Staircase"
- 43. South Africa-born "Strictly Come Dancing" celeb Mabuse
- 44. "Swell!"
- 45. Spanish newspaper whose name means "The Country"
- 47. \_\_\_ Lingus (carrier based in Dublin)
- 48. Option for a non-grad



- 50. Difference between Nasdaq and Euronext?
  - 55. "Blue screen of death" cause
  - 57. Merchandise tracking ID
  - 58. Be obligated
  - 59. "Don't haggle too much at the flea market" and others?
  - 64. D.C. management?
  - 65. Natural gas add-in (for safety reasons)
  - 66. Reasonableness
  - 67. Lead-in to "margarine"
  - 68. Rome's fifth emperor
  - 69. Window frame
- Down**
- 1. "\_\_\_ words have never been spoken"
  - 2. Easy pace
  - 3. Appropriation starter
  - 4. Some high-end brain imaging
  - 5. Pacific Northwestern pole
  - 6. \_\_\_ Dhabi (capital of the UAE)
  - 7. "\_\_\_ me tell you ..."
  - 8. Soapmaker's need
  - 9. Berry that's somehow still trendy
  - 10. Separate with rope
  - 11. Steve of "Family Matters"
  - 12. Cafe cup
  - 13. \_\_\_ movie (2008 web animation series named for the left-hand home keys)
  - 17. Denny's rival
  - 18. '60s TV equine
  - 23. Chef Lagasse
  - 24. Brackish swimmer also called a grindle or a swamp trout
  - 25. The U of "SVU"
  - 26. 1 on the Mohs scale
  - 30. Blazing
  - 31. Toward the rear of a ship
  - 32. Language spoken in Vientiane
  - 33. Hard-hit baseball
  - 36. Card game with diamonds, squiggles, and ovals
  - 37. "Hold it right there!"
  - 39. Scam or sham
  - 40. Ending for meteor or phosphor
  - 41. Allowance of a sarcastic questioner (or a great Wordle score)
  - 46. Fringe benefit
  - 47. Cross in goth culture
  - 48. Day one, informally
  - 49. "My Psychedelic Love Story" director Morris
  - 51. "The Jetsons" pet
  - 52. Hospital garb
  - 53. Up to one's neck (in)
  - 54. Prawn of later Muppets features
  - 56. Bi- cubed
  - 60. Prodigal one, so it's said
  - 61. Lyric poem
  - 62. "What can I do ya \_\_\_?"
  - 63. Black or Red, for instance

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Answers on page 24

# SUDOKU

Beginner

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

## 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 24

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

August 17-23, 2022

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Aries filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky wrote, "All my life, I've been going around waiting for something—as if I were waiting in a railway station. And I've always felt as if the living I've done so far hasn't actually been real life but a long wait for it—a long wait for something real." If I could speak with Tarkovsky right now, I would cheerfully tell him that his wait will soon be over. I'd say that in the coming months, Aries people who have been postponing and postponing, who have been standing by and holding on and biding time, will have an excellent chance to begin inhabiting their full, rich destiny. I invite you to imagine what that will feel like.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Taurus poet Sherko Bekas wrote, "Each joy I wear, its sleeves are either too short or too long, too loose or too tight on me. And each sorrow I wear fits as if it were made for me wherever I am." With this as our starting point, Taurus, I'm pleased to report some good news. In the next three weeks, you will have zero sorrows to try on and wear like a garment. And there will be at least three joys that fit just right. The sleeves will be the correct length, and the form will be neither too loose nor too tight.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Tips on how to get the most out of the coming weeks: 1. Create a big spacious realization by weaving together several small hunches. 2. Keep a little angel on your right shoulder and a little devil on your left shoulder. Enjoy listening to them argue, and don't get attached to anything they say. 3. Do the unexpected until it becomes expected. Then abandon it and try a new, unexpected experiment. 4. Meditate expansively on the question, "How many careers can I have in one lifetime?" 5. Enhance your home so it feels even more comfortable.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Be fluid and flexible while still being rooted and sturdy. Be soft and sensitive even as you are also firm and resolute. Be mostly modest and adaptable, but become assertive and outspoken as necessary. Be cautious about inviting and seeking out challenges, but be bold and brash when a golden challenge arrives. Be your naturally generous self most of the time, but avoid giving too much. Got all that, Cancerian? Carrying out the multifaceted assignments I just described might be nearly impossible for most of the other signs of the zodiac, but they are in your wheelhouse. You are a specialist in fertile complexity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** "I've swung from ancient vines in the caves of Jamaica," exults Hoodoo priestess Luisah Teish. "I've danced with delight around totem poles and pressed foreheads with Maori warriors. I've joked with the pale fox in the crossroads, then wrestled with the jaguar and won. I have embraced great trees between my thighs and spoken words of love to thunder while riding lightning bolts." I offer Teish's celebratory brag to inspire you as you formulate plans for the coming weeks and months. What exhilarating adventures will you give yourself? What expansive encounters will you learn from? What travels outside of your comfort zone will you dare? The time is right for upsurges and upturns and upgrades.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** In his poem "The Pupil," Virgo-born Donald Justice speaks of how he spent "a whole week practicing for that moment on the threshold." I advise you to do the same, Virgo. The goal is to be as prepared as you can be for the upcoming rite of transition—without, of course, being neurotically over-prepared. It's fine and natural to honor the tension of anticipation, using it as motivation to do your best. One other thing: As you get ready, please have as much fun as possible. Visualize the sense of accomplishment you'll feel when you've reached the other side of the test.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** "One is always at home in one's past," wrote author Vladimir

Nabokov. But I encourage you to rebel against that theory, Libra. For now, find a way to NOT feel at home in your past. Question it, be curious about it, re-evaluate it. My hope is that you will then be motivated to change how your history lives in you. Now is an excellent time to reconfigure your life story, to develop a revised relationship with its plot twists and evolution. Revisit and update some of your memories. Re-evaluate the meanings of key events. Enchanting healings will materialize if you do.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Scorpios are most likely to regard that old pop tune by the Animals as your theme song. "I'm just a soul whose intentions are good," croons lead singer Eric Burdon, "Oh, Lord, please don't let me be misunderstood." But you may have less motivation to express that sentiment in the coming weeks, dear Scorpio. I suspect you will experience record-breaking levels of being seen and appreciated for who you are. For best results, do this: 1. Inform your deep psyche that you have no attachment to being misunderstood. 2. Tell your deep psyche that you would very much like to be well understood.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** "Unless we are creators, we are not fully alive," wrote Sagittarian author Madeleine L'Engle. She was referring to everyone, not just people in the arts. She believed that to be soulful humans, we must always make new things, generate fresh possibilities, and explore novel approaches. The restless urge to transform what already exists can be expressed in how we do our jobs, our parenting, our intimate relationships, and every other activity. You are now entering a phase, Sagittarius, when this initiatory energy will be especially available, needed, and valuable.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** In her poem "Valentine," Capricorn poet Carol Ann Duffy tells a lover she won't give her a "red rose or a satin heart." Instead, her token of affection is an onion, a symbol of multi-layered complexity. "Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips," Duffy writes, "possessive and faithful as we are, for as long as we are." She adds that the onion will "blind you with tears like a lover." OK, I understand the tough attitude expressed by Duffy. Romance isn't a relentlessly sweet, sentimental romp through paradise. But I don't recommend that you imitate her approach to your love life in the coming weeks and months. Appreciate the sometimes shadowy and labyrinthine convolutions, yes, but don't make them more important than beauty and joy and love. How about invoking the symbol of a pomegranate? It represents fertility and rebirth out of the darkness.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Be extra expressive with the people and animals you care about. Be even more amusing and generous than usual. Dare to be abundantly entertaining and engaging and empathetic. Make it your goal to draw out your allies' dormant potentials and inspire them to love themselves even more than they already do. I'll tell you about the endearing terms that author Vladimir Nabokov called his wife. Consider using them with your dear ones: "My sun, my soul, my song, my bird, my pink sky, my sunny rainbow, my little music, my inexpressible delight, my tenderness, my lightness, my dear life, my dear eyes, kittykin, poochums, goosikins, sparrowling, bird of paradise."

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Sometimes, you may feel you're under the influence of a debilitating spell or hindered by a murky curse. Pisceans are prone to such worries. But here's a secret. More than any other zodiac sign, you have the power to escape from spells. Even if you have never studied the occult or read a witch's grimoire, you possess a natural facility for the natural magic that disperses curses. From the depths of your psyche, you can summon the spiritual force necessary to cleanse the gunk and free yourself. Now is a perfect time to prove to yourself that what I've said here is true.

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

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene BY RICH TUPICA

FROM BIG SUR GOES FULL-LANSING,  
RECORDS LIVE ALBUM AT HORROCKS



"Greenhouse" is From Big Sur's first live album

## 'Greenhouse' features 15 original tracks

From Big Sur, a prolific Lansing-based rock 'n' roll band, just went full-Lansing and released a new album recorded live at Horrocks Farm Market. The live record, fittingly titled "Greenhouse," is available on Bandcamp and other streaming services, such as Spotify, Apple, Amazon and YouTube. The tracklist comprises 15 originals that span the band's entire catalog.

This is a follow-up to the band's impressive 2020 disc, "Infinite Morning." The band also returns to the stage Thursday (Aug. 25) with an East Lansing Summer Concert Series performance.

Band member Kevin Ream (vocals, guitar) talked with City Pulse about the new live album and the band's future plans. Here's what he had to say.

**How did this record come together?**

**Kevin Ream:** "Greenhouse" was recorded live and acoustic over three shows at Horrocks Beer Garden at the beginning of 2022. A live album is something we've never done, and we're always looking for something that we haven't done yet.

It started as an experiment but ended up as an album because we liked the sound we were getting. Also, "Greenhouse" was our easiest album to name because it was recorded live in a big greenhouse.

**Do you have a favorite track on the album?**

My favorite track on the album might be "She Knows My Mind." This

song acoustically evolved into a "Tommy"-ish jam. Many of the songs took on a new identity acoustically.

**From Big Sur has steadily released albums over the years — what number is this one?**

This is our ninth full-length release. We've released five studio albums as well as three albums of B-sides and outtakes. To me, this is a different animal but a great representation of what we do live. It might also be an excellent introduction for many to our songs.

**Songwriting-wise, what's been inspiring From Big Sur these days?**

Lately, I think we're inspired by the current events of the day and our growing family lives. We've talked about the next album a little, which we'll write together. There

are certain aspects of all of our albums that we really enjoyed working on.

We keep coming back to how much we love writing together in the same room, which we didn't do on the last album. We're about to start from square one, but we already have a couple of new tunes in the bank.

Beyond that, we will be out there playing live. It's nice to see venues and shows starting to do well. We'll also be working on more mixes. We recorded 70 different songs over the shows that this album comes from. More than likely, this is volume one.



**NEXT SHOW:**

Albert EL Fresco presents:

From Big Sur

Thursday, Aug. 25  
Downtown East Lansing, outdoors  
along Albert Avenue, between  
Abbot Road and M.A.C. Ave  
FREE, 6-8 p.m.  
frombigsur.com

## Live & Local CityPULSE

### B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing  
**Darin Larner Jr.**  
Thurs., August 18, 7:30-10:30 p.m.  
**Flipside**  
Sat., August 20, 8-11 p.m.

### Classic Pub & Grill

16219 S. US-27, Lansing  
**Homespun**  
Fri., August 19, 8 p.m.

### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**DJ E-Nyce**  
Thurs., August 18, 7-10 p.m.  
**Austin Kaufman**  
Fri., August 19, 7-10 p.m.  
**Kate Hinote Trio**  
Sat., August 20, 7-10 p.m.

### The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Darin Larner Band**  
Fri. August 19, 9:30 p.m.  
**Electric Flower**  
Sat., August 20, 9:30 p.m.

### The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Gina Garner and the All Night Band**  
Fri., August 19, 9 p.m.  
**Mixed Flavors**  
Sat., August 20, 9 p.m.

### Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee, Lansing  
**The Hi-Views**  
Fri., August 19, 7-10 p.m.  
**Medusa**  
Sat., August 20, 7-10 p.m.

### Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
**Deacon Earl**  
Fri., August 19, 8-10 p.m.

### Reno's East

1310 Abbot Rd., East Lansing  
**Tony Thompson**  
Thurs., August 18, 6-9 p.m.  
**The New Rule**  
Fri. & Sat., August 19-20, 6-10 p.m.

### The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington, Lansing  
**Eric O'Daly**  
Wed., August 17, 8 p.m.

### Tony M's

3420 S. Creyts, Lansing  
**Invasion.Band**  
Wed., August 17, 6-9 p.m.

### Urban Beat

1213 Turner, Lansing  
**Powerlight**  
Fri., August 19, 8-11 p.m.

### Zynda's

150 E. Grand River, Williamston  
**Tony Thompson**  
Sat., August 20, 6-8:30 p.m.



# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://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, August 17

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

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

**Alluring Nature 2022 Art Show: En Plein Air Exhibition** - through August. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Back-to-School Extravaganza School Supply Drive thru Aug. 17** - drop off 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. LAFCU, 106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. [lafcu.com](http://lafcu.com).

**Brown Bag Books** - August 1-31. Chance to win prizes! 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

**Diabetes Support Group** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr, Lansing. 517-321-4014.

**Food Frenzy** - 4-8 p.m. Holt Farmers' Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**It's My Art Show!** - through August. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. 517-327-0938. [retreadart.com](http://retreadart.com).

**Laingsburg Community Singers** - Singers wanted! Auditions are not required. 7-9 p.m. Laingsburg United Methodist Church, 210 N Crum St, Laingsburg. 517-651-5937.

**LEGO Building Challenge!** - through Aug. 31. Build something and have a chance to win prizes! 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - All welcome! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr Blvd., Lansing. [lanc.info](http://lanc.info).

**Mental Toughness & Focus for School!** - Learn techniques that will make you mentally strong and focused on starting School! 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Rd, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Meridian Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos.

**Meridian Township Summer Concert Series** - 6-8:30 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

**Pagan Community Night** - Join us online or in person. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Ste. 7A, Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**St Johns Concert in the Park** - Frenzy with music through the decades! 7-9 p.m. William E. Tennant Performance Shell, 801 W. Park St, St. Johns.

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

### 4th Annual Flea market and Classic Car Cruise-In Event benefits Turner-Dodge House and gardens

**Saturday, Aug. 20**  
**100 E. North St., Lansing**  
**10 a.m.-5 p.m.**

The Friends of Turner-Dodge House hosts its 4th Annual Flea Market and Classic Car Cruise-In on Saturday, rain or shine. All are invited to scope out automobiles from R. E. Olds Transportation Museum while perusing vendor booths. Michael Beebe, of Friends of Turner-Dodge House, said all money raised from this event goes to support the Friends' efforts to maintain and preserve the Turner-Dodge House and gardens.

Beebe, the co-chair of this annual event, has a long history with the Turner-Dodge House. His past titles include eight years as president and 21 years on the board. He said this event could keep the whole family entertained. "We will have multiple vendors selling flea market items, collectibles, art and antiques. Something for everybody," Beebe said. "We hopefully will have some classic and vintage cars cruising onto the Turner-Dodge House front lawn during the event.

Other attractions include Smoke and Soul barbecue and live entertainment from John Glenn and The Moonlighters, a local band. The beautiful and historic Turner-Dodge House, built in 1858, will also be open for tours.

Want to participate? Email Beebe at [beebe.michael@yahoo.com](mailto:beebe.michael@yahoo.com).



Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Ukulele Strum with Ben Hassenger & Friends** - A casual uke drop-in! 7-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

**Wine Wednesday** - Wine & cheese tasting 6 p.m. Wine & Chocolate tasting 8:30 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

### Thursday, August 18

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Book and Bake Sale** - After two years our annual August Book and Bake Sale is back. 3-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport St, Lansing. 517-285-9016.

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-230-0520.

**Farmers Market at the Capitol** - 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Michigan State Capitol, 100 N Capitol Ave, Lansing. 517-432-3381.

**It's a Thursday Thing** - in downtown St Johns, musicians will be performing on the corner of N. Clinton. 5-7 p.m. [downtownstjohnsmi.com](http://downtownstjohnsmi.com).

**MACC Courthouse Lawn Concert** - 8 p.m. 315 S Jefferson, Mason. business. [masonchamber.org](http://masonchamber.org).

**Music in the Park** - Bring your friends and a lawn chair or blanket. Food concessions are available onsite. 7-9 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St, Grand Ledge. [grandledgechamber.com](http://grandledgechamber.com).

**Stitch 'n Bitch** - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., 7A, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

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

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

**Switch Gaming!** - Grab your Nintendo Switch or play ours! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Zoo Nights #4 (21+)** - 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org).

### Friday, August 19

**50 over Fitness** - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Book and Bake Sale** - 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport St, Lansing. 517-285-9016.

**Can You Dig It?** - Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Cruise In** - 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers' Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**Fizz Wiz Chemistry** - Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Brown Bag Concert Series** - Steve Berkemeier is performing at Noon. Rotary Park Pavilion 107 E. Railroad St., St. Johns.

**Friday Night Concert Series** - 7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Band Shell, 1621 Pike St, Haslett. [pk.ingham.org](http://pk.ingham.org).

**Helles Bells Pop-Up Event** - Calling all beer lovers! 3-6 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee, Lansing. [lansingbrewingcompany.com](http://lansingbrewingcompany.com).

**Home-in-One Golf Outing, Habitat For Humanity Capital Region** - 8:15 a.m.-4 p.m. Forest Akers West, 3535 Forest Rd., Lansing. [habitatcr.org](http://habitatcr.org).

**Marvel-ous Science** - Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Moonlight Movies** - Sing 2 - 9-10:30 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N Aurelius Road, Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**ScienceTok** - Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Sunfield Farmers Picnic** - 4-10 p.m. Floyd Van Buren Park, corner of Logan St. & Second St., Sunfield.

**TGIF Dinner & Dance** - 7-11:59 p.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd. Bath. [tgifdance.com](http://tgifdance.com).

### Saturday, August 20

**Back-to-School Extravaganza Backpack Giveaway** - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The Village Lansing, 3525 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite G, Lansing. [lafcu.com](http://lafcu.com).

**Backyard Bugs** - Join Fenner's Naturalists for a look into the wide world of invertebrates. 1-3 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E Mt. Hope Ave, Lansing. [mynaturecenter.org](http://mynaturecenter.org).

**Book and Bake Sale** - 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport St, Lansing. 517-285-9016.

**Capital City Kid's Triathlon** - 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hawk Island County Park, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com).

**Flea Market and Classic Car Cruise-In** - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing.

See Events, Page 24

At Coontz Law, we believe the justice system can do better. We believe in holding the Government accountable. We believe in empathetic representation of the accused. We believe Black Lives Matter. We believe we can—and will—change the world, starting right here in our backyard.

We were voted Top of the Town for a reason. It's because we have a vision for a better and more just society. And it starts with the work we're doing right now.



# \$1.5 Million Giveaway

Michigan Education Trust is giving \$15,000 in prepaid tuition to 100 lucky children birth to 5 years old.

**Don't wait, enter by 8/31/2022!**

**Enter today!**  
[METgiveaway.com](http://METgiveaway.com)



## Events

from page 23

**Game Night** - 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., # 7A, Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

**Hops & Bops** - 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N Aurelius Rd., Holt. delhitownship.com.

Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame 2022 Induction Awards! 7 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St, Charlotte. 517-541-5690. charlotteperformingartscenter.com.

**Open House** - 1-3 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Sunfield Farmers Picnic** - 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Floyd Van Buren Park, corner of Logan St. & Second St., Sunfield.

### Sunday, August 21

**“The Council of 3 Fires” Workshop with David Meeder** - 12-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 S. Washington, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

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

**Nature Storytime** - 10-11 a.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. mynaturecenter.org.

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

**Wellness Weekends Series: Movement Workshop** - 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing.

### Monday, August 22

**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.

**Back-To-School Hairstyles** - Join stylists from It's Your Hair Salon for back-to-school hairstyle tutorials for children! 2-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

**Science Mystery Box** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Sunset Storytime Mondays** - early evening story time with summery stories, songs and an activity. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

### Tuesday, August 23

**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.

**Concerts on the Lawn “Jazz Combo”** - 6-30 p.m. MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters, Lansing. www.lansingsymphony.org.

**Genealogy Help** - Stop by the Library and get some assistance with Ancestry Library Edition. 1:30-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

**Parent Happy Hour** - Storytime for kids and wine flight specials for parents. 5-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

**Picnic Playdate Family Storytime** - Meet at GLADL and follow the little red wagon to the playground for a family storytime! 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

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

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

T	A	M	P	T	A	L	L	A	C	U	T			
A	R	M	I	E	O	B	E	Y	C	O	R	A		
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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

#### Notice of Funding Opportunity

Capital Region Housing Collaborative announces competition for HUD homeless assistance services funding for Ingham County geographic area under CoC Program for FY2023/2024. Information for interested program applicants available at capitalregionhousing.org. HUD Continuum of Care Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness.

CP#22-181

**B/23/014 BALLISTIC VESTS** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at www.mitn.info or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48933 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on August 24, 2022 at which time bids will be opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#22-176



Lawrence

**By GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

Before talking about the food at Babe's, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the recent Facebook flap created on its page that made a strong statement against another local restaurant.

It seemed to me a shot across the bow, and while it has resulted in dozens of comments in response, it's a choice I wouldn't have made as a business owner. As a customer, it's extremely off-putting. While I recognize it has the opposite effect on others, I can only share my experience. There is room in this community for both businesses, and Babe's management would be wise to reconsider posts that alienate their customers.

That said, the subs (or "hoagies" as they're referred to at Babe's) are the best downtown-adjacent sandwiches in the game. Mr. She Ate and I have been fans of Babe's when it was still called Bango's food truck. The food was always unique and the breakfast potatoes are to die for. We have been to Babe's many times since the storefront opened on Michigan Avenue, although most of those visits have been for ice cream. Babe's offers a few flavors of soft serve that rotate weekly, and one of the options is always vegan. Granted, I don't have extensive experience with vegan ice cream, but Babe's seems to have cracked the formula for making the creamiest, most delicious vegan ice cream on the face of the earth.

The hoagies are Babe's focus, and the attention to every detail is evident. The hoagies are all named after women, which is quirky but also makes it difficult to remember which varieties you liked unless you keep a running list on your phone. The bread is soft and white, covered with white sesame seeds, giving it a little extra flavor and texture. No matter which hoagie you choose, the fillings are generous, and a half hoagie will make for a satisfying lunch (or a normal lunch and a giant afternoon snack when you find a little bit more room in your stomach).

On a recent visit, we shared half-sized portions of the Betty, Judy and Margaret. Mr. She Ate's favorite was the Betty, a savory combination of sliced turkey, muenster cheese, mixed greens and peppadew peppers and finished with pesto mayo and a balsamic glaze. Peppadew peppers aren't traditionally spicy and bring more of a sweet heat to the sandwich, delicious when paired with the creaminess of the muenster and the herby richness of the pesto mayo.

My mother's name is Judy, and she's one of a kind. It's appropriate that the Judy hoagie boasts a couple of unexpected, inspired components because that's a perfect way to describe our matriarch (whose grandchildren call her, exclusively, JuJu). This Judy starts as a classic veggie sandwich, with double the amount of provolone cheese, sliced tomato and shredded iceberg lettuce. But adding red onion, pickles and peppadews kicks everything up a notch and gives vegetarian diners an option that feels like the main character and not an afterthought.

My favorite sandwich of the bunch was the Margaret. The turkey, prosciutto and muenster were set off by the addition of banana peppers and bang bang sauce, which is spicy (but not too spicy) and creamy. I added a note to my phone. I appreciate that all ice-  
See Hoagie cow, Page 26

# Hoagie cow!

## Babe's is first rate

**By BRYAN BEVERLY**

The Greater Lansing area is fond of sandwich shops. A quick Google search will find you no fewer than 30 options — excluding national chains—that seem to occupy space in nearly every strip mall or storefront across the tri-counties.



Beverly

Whether you prefer a sub, panini, wraps or bagels, there are plenty of choices to satisfy your handheld hunger. But the hoagie is probably one of the better tributes to the British Earl of Sandwich's legacy. A large split roll (not a bun) is filled with meat, cheese and veggies. Then, the hoagie is coated with either basic condiments or more extravagant toppings like compound butter, dressings, or cream cheese.

This month's destination, Babe's Corner, along the Michigan Avenue corridor, is a wonderful shop with upscale delicatessen offerings, plenty of hoagie options and a few surprises. Babe's has a few quaint seating options inside and out and a mask-on policy, so be prepared when ordering in or picking up. Service is quick and friendly.

**What's good**

The rolls that all of Babe's hoagies arrive on are a star unto themselves. Soft and buttery, the sesame-seeded bread is substantial enough not to evaporate under the weight of a thick sauce coating. I tried several meatatarian sandwiches, but please know that the menu has nearly 20 vegan or vegetarian options. Each sandwich has a name like Pearl, Harriet, or Audrey, which harken back to bygone eras with a resurgent twist.

I enjoyed the Lucille: a turkey-based sandwich with mixed greens, parmesan with real Caesar dressing (anchovies included) served on a garlic-toasted roll. It's almost like a re-constructed salad with enormous croutons. The Fran is equally innovative with its cranberry mayo, which offers a delightful balance of sweetness when paired with the sharp cheddar. It's also highlighted by turkey, lettuce, tomato (always a 'Please hold' for me) and red onion. I ordered both as pre-cut half sandwiches, and thankfully so because "the half" is still a handful!

**What's really good**

When we received this assignment, I went to the Babe's Corner social media pages and discovered they were doing lobster rolls for a limited time that week, but I could not swing by. Thinking I'd missed my chance, I popped in a few times and ordered some other fare. When it came time to sit down and write this review, I saw they had restocked on seafood, and

I hopped in the car and drove over. Wow, was it worth the extra trip! A top-sliced traditional Maine roll was filled with a mountain of real lobster meat that gets special delivered from the East Coast. While I am partial to brown-buttered lobster rolls, this mayo-based version was fantastic. It let the lobster shine. I wished I'd bought two.

Babe's Corner is also an excellent place for ice cream (dairy and vegan options available). I took my three littles on a steamy day for a cool treat, and all three of them fancied Babe's creamy confections. My toddler opted for the traditional vanilla and sprinkles, but the tween's mammoth waffle cone with vanilla, cheesecake bites, and peanut butter sauce was worth the dad tax. The sauce was the standout and reminded me almost of a peanut sauce that might accompany chicken satay at your favorite Thai restaurant.

**Best bite**

Before my third return trip to score a lobster roll, the waffle cone indulgence was the best bite, but then I ordered a second half of the Louise, and this time I got it toasted. My, oh, my! I was already in love with the Pony Sauce from the cold version of this hoagie, but heating things up made the ingredients croon in harmony. The sauce has a horseradish base, but it's not so overpowering that your nostrils will flare. Instead, it piques and tantalizes while making room for the salami, provolone and oregano to resonate. Check out Babe's at the corner of Innovative and Delicious. You won't be disappointed.



**Editor's Note:** Both reviews of Babe's Corner refer to "hoagies." Research shows various arguments over what is the difference between a hoagie and a sub, none conclusive. But they all seem to agree on one thing: It's a hoagie in Philadelphia and South Jersey. Elsewhere, it's a grinder, a hero or a sub, as Midwesterners call it.

# Hoagie cow

from page 25

berg lettuce is shredded, which makes the hoagie easier to eat and prevents the seismic shifting of toppings that can happen with a giant leaf of lettuce coming in contact with turkey or mustard.

From what I gather, the proprietors of Babe's come from Maine, and their state of origin showed this summer with the wildly popular temporary addition of a lobster roll to the menu. These rolls were a special, and they were received with enthusiasm by the community. Mr. She Ate and I frequently reminisce about our family vacation to Maine a few summers ago, pre-pandemic and pre-Baby Girl She Ate. We sampled upwards of a dozen different lobster rolls, and he contends that Babe's version is better than everything we had during the trip. Babe's lobster roll includes mayo, not butter, and for those uninitiated into lobster roll territory, these are the two competing camps. I prefer the butter version by a hair, but Babe's could make me a believer. The mayo is a suggestion, a mere vehicle with which to keep the chunks of lobster meat together because the lobster is what you've come for. Keep an eye on Babe's Facebook and Instagram pages, and if lobster is reintroduced, get there before it sells out.

Babe's also sells Fox Family potato chips, unavailable for purchase in Michigan and shipped in from Maine. I'm a sucker for a regional specialty item. The vegan and vegetarian options at Babe's are perfectly executed and extensive. The prices are a few dollars more than the traditional options, which is easily explained by the fact that vegan deli "meat" is more expensive. I have sampled many of the vegan hoagies and they are just as delicious as their traditional counterparts, if not better.

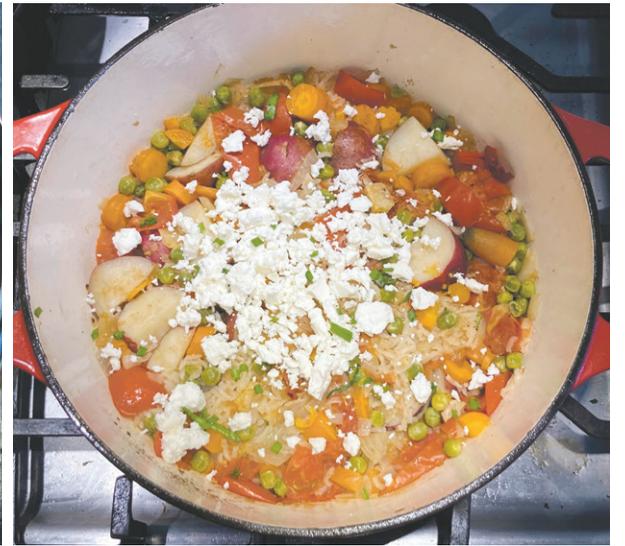
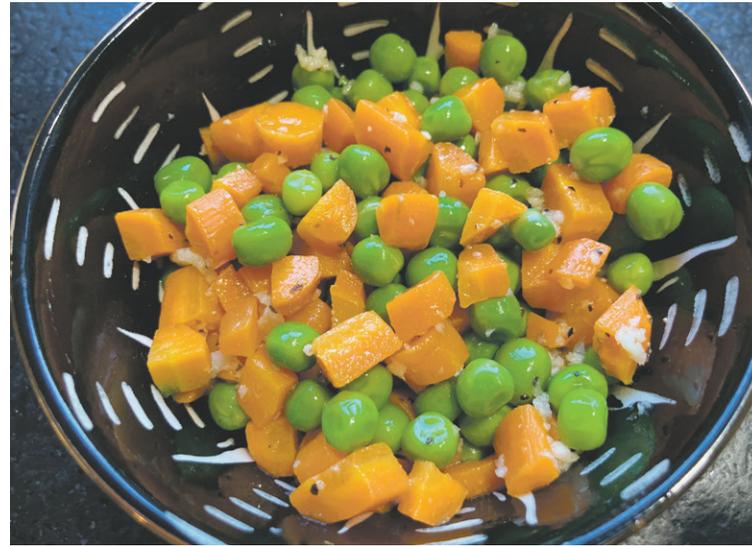
# Peas and love

By ARI LEVAUX

Peas have a warm and fuzzy vibe. The very name sounds like peace, and the cliché, "like peas in a pod," denotes compatibility. Similarly, "like peas and

you sad, now is a great time to plant a fall crop. They will have plenty of time to produce if they get planted ten weeks before you expect a frost.

Now, about those peas and carrots that



Courtesy photos

Utilizing peas can make for a festive dish with happy vibes.

carrots" refers to things that go together harmoniously.

Being so sweet and fun to pick, snap peas are a hit with kids. Shelling peas, not quite so much, as the kids are often roped into doing the shelling. But when the peas are out of the pod, having a bowl of those vitamin-rich spheroids yields a special kind of power. With a bowl on hand, you can easily add them to a dish.

In the garden, the peas are currently in a bit of a lull. The spring peas are starting to wane, although I can still find them at the farmers market. But if the thought of disappearing peas makes

supposedly go together so well. Most of us have had that combination as a side dish, usually from a frozen bag. To make them correctly, cut the carrots down to pea-size for easy eating, and cook them separately in salted water. First, do the carrots, and when they are softened but not mushy, remove them from the boiling water with a pourous spoon and plunge them into ice water. Then boil

the peas. Older peas need more cooking, and if they are of a certain age, you may have to sacrifice that bright green color if you want softness. Then plunge the peas in the ice bath to join the carrots. Next, sauté some garlic butter and make a pea and carrot scampi.

I was in the mood for a main course experience and came up with some-

See Flash, Page 27

## Appetizers

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# Flash

from page 26

thing in the spirit of Guyanese cook-up rice, where various types of meat and vegetables are cooked with rice. Each ingredient is carefully added at just the right time so that by the time the rice is cooked perfectly, everything else is too.

At some friends' house, I tried my first cook-up rice on the outskirts of Cayenne, French Guiana. That batch included tripe, chicken feet, chunks of beef, and several types of dried beans, which my hosts called "peas." My dish does not contain meat because it's satisfying with the peas alone supplying the protein. The other flavors come from fresh tomatoes, onions, garlic and peppers, fresh ginger and the Indian spice powder garam masala — in keeping with the West Indian origins of the dish.

Everything about the dish was festive, including the happy vibes as we lazed around waiting for the cook-up to cook. It was well worth the wait.

## Peas and Carrots Cook-Up Rice

Once you get the hang of cook-up rice, you can play around with all sorts of ingredients. I kept this one vegetarian so we could enjoy summer's bounty without distractions.

### Serves 6

- 2 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- One onion, minced
- 1 pound of potatoes, cubed to about an inch
- 2 teaspoons salt
- Two sliced jalapenos or pepper of your choice
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 cubic inches of ginger, peeled and chopped
- 2 teaspoons garam masala powder
- 1 can of diced tomatoes or a pound of fresh, diced
- 2 cups rice (I prefer jasmine, but any will do, including brown rice)
- 1 cup shelled peas
- 2 cups carrots, cut into ½ thick rounds

Optional: feta cheese as a topping  
Add the butter, oil, onions and potatoes to a deep pan with a tight-fitting lid. Sauté the onions and potatoes on medium. When the onions become translucent and disappear, add the salt, peppers, garlic, ginger and garam masala powder.

Continue cooking on medium for about five minutes, stirring often, to let the aroma develop. Then add the tomatoes and let the sauce simmer and thicken for another ten minutes.

While the sauce cooks, rinse the rice in a bowl or pot by stirring it in the water. Then dump and replace the water and stir some more. Repeat the process until the rinse water stays clear. This means the starch has been removed, and the rice won't stick together.

After letting the tomato sauce cook for about ten minutes on medium, taste and season, if necessary, add the rice and about two cups of water or stock (just enough to cover everything by a half-inch) and stir it all together. Add the peas and carrots and stir again. After that, no more stirring.

Authentic cook-up rice is stirred several times as it cooks, but I can't bring myself to stir rice. And I like the brown skin that develops at the bottom of the pan if you don't disturb it — and manage to cook it perfectly without burning.

Put the cover on the pan and cook for about 20 minutes. Although I frown upon stirring it, you can lift the lid and peek. When the liquid starts to disappear, test a grain of rice. If it has a way to go, you should add another cup of water and replace the lid. Continue adding water, a little at a time, to keep it from burning as the rice cooks. When the rice is cooked, sprinkle on the feta if preferred. (It's not authentic, but I think it tastes good.) Put the lid on, turn off the heat and allow it to rest for another 15 minutes.

Now you may stir it. And serve.

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