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Locally owned



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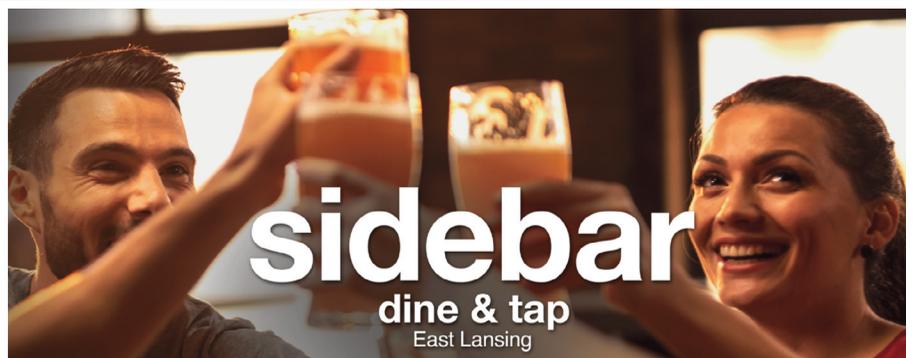
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Wharton Center's new director plans the next act

# ABOOD

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## sidebar

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East Lansing

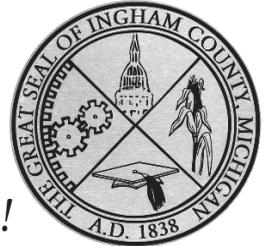
# REAL ESTATE AUCTION

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

*By Order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County*

### INCREDIBLE LOW RESERVES!!

*Below are a few of the many properties offered in this incredible auction!*



*Property 3306 - Lansing*  
2806 Cynwood St.



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*Property 3309 - Lansing*  
922 N. MLK Jr. Blvd.



*Property 3311 - Lansing*  
921 N. Capitol Ave.



*Property 3314 - Lansing*  
1814 N. High St.



*Property 3330 - Lansing*  
919 S. Holmes St.



*Property 3335 - Lansing*  
1208 Lathrop St.



*Property 3340 - Lansing*  
512 E. Willard Ave.



*Property 3341 - Lansing*  
1017 W. Mt. Hope Ave.



*Property 3342 - Lansing*  
2104 S. Rundle Ave.



*Property 3343 - Lansing*  
2225 Pamela Pl.



*Property 3348 - Lansing*  
3309 Viking Rd.



*Property 3350 - Lansing*  
1813 W. Holmes Rd.



*Property 3351 - Lansing*  
2131 Pleasant View Ave.



*Property 3352 - Lansing*  
4014 Marland Dr.



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1232 Pompton Cir.



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1321 Pompton Cir.



*Property 3356 - Lansing*  
4511 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.



*Property 3357 - Lansing*  
Vacant - Joshua St.

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### www.BippusUSA.com

Alan Fox, Ingham County Treasurer, 341 S. Jefferson St, Mason, MI (517.676.7220)

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# CityPULSE

# CityPULSE

**VOL. 22  
ISSUE 3**

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Lansterdam profile: Leslie Pinder



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Luxury Flux returns



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New In Town: Bunker Busters Ice Cream

Cover photo by Roxanne Frith

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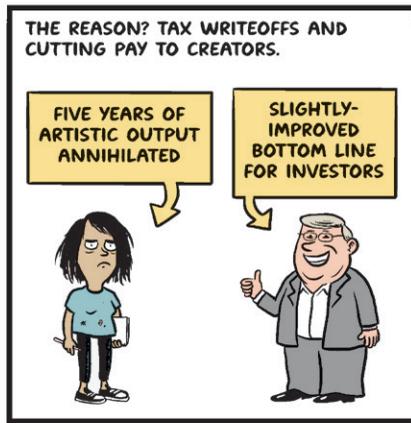
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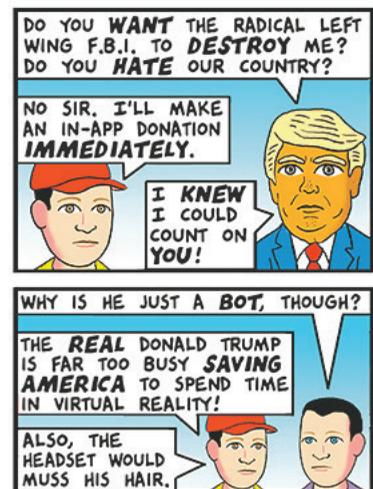
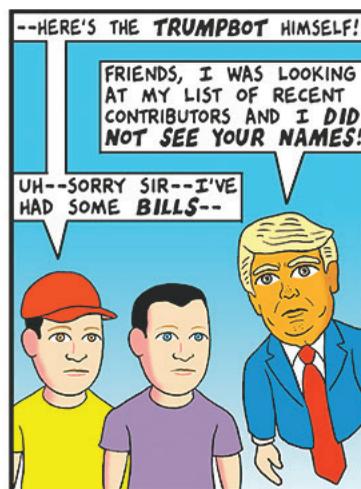
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Sparrow's treatment of monkeypox patient raises questions

Ingham County's first person with monkeypox is accusing Sparrow Health Systems of violating her rights during and following an Aug. 2 visit to the emergency department.

Lynn Williams, a Black woman assigned male at birth, alleges that Sparrow providers misgendered her, failed to provide medical care and then informed her that officers were being sent to her home.

City Pulse has learned that a Sparrow nurse called the East Lansing Police Department in an attempt to have officers knock on her door and convince her to return to the hospital. During the call, a nurse disclosed Williams' protected health information to an ELPD supervisor, said Capt. Chad Pride, the East Lansing Police spokesperson. The nurse also provided information about Williams' health to the police that differed from her medical records. The records report Williams was "stable and safe for discharge" from the ER, but the nurse told ELPD that she had left "erratically."

Nearly all of her allegations are substantiated by her own medical records, phone records and public records. Initially, numerous efforts to question Sparrow about Williams' claims were rebuffed or ignored.

Despite all of this, Sparrow would unlikely face civil penalties unless Williams pursues a lawsuit. For the discrimination based on her gender identity that she alleges, Williams would have to file a complaint with the City of Lansing Department of Human Relations and Community Services or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

A medical privacy claim might not fly because the Health Information Protection and Accountability Act — HIPAA — gives a doctor the right to disclose protected information if the doctor believes someone poses an imminent threat to the health, safety and welfare of the community.

While Sparrow may have provided false information to police about her behavior, officials are unlikely to face criminal charges for filing a false police report because East Lansing's city attor-



Lynn Williams

Date of evaluation: August 3, 2022

**CHIEF COMPLAINT:**  
Chief Complaint  
Patient presents with

- Rash

rash - has been seen at urgent care - pr ems worried about "monkey pox"

Portions of this note were prepared with dragon medical dictation software.

**HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS**

Lynn Williams is a 35 y.o. male who presents with chief complaint of a rash. Patient states that he's been feeling sick since last Tuesday with cold-like symptoms. Patient endorses vomiting for the first 3-4 days, he states that vomiting has improved. Patient endorses continued diarrhea. Patient reports generalized body ache fatigue, chills, sweats. He denies cough. He states she works in a hotel. Per patient she had a telephone health visits this past Saturday and was told that the rash on his face was concerning for monkeypox. Patient also presented to urgent care Saturday and was told the same. Patient is a male who has sex with men. Patient works in a hotel. Patient notes the onset of papulovesicular lesions that started on his face one day after his viral syndrome began. Patient states that the lesions spread to his bilateral arms as well as the trunk in the bilateral lower legs. Patient endorses some irritation in his anal vaults and he is concerned that there are lesions there as well.

This excerpt from Lynn Williams' medical records during her visit to Sparrow Hospital's emergency room shows her identified alternately as "he" and "she" — including in one case in the same sentence.

ney believes such cases are too difficult to prove, Pride said.

Williams, 35, was diagnosed as probably having monkeypox on July 30 at an urgent care center. It was the first of five reported cases in Ingham County.

On Aug. 2, Williams was in pain from defecating blood for the last two days. She couldn't sleep because of the itching and the pain combined. She decided to go to Sparrow to seek assistance. She was transported by ambulance to Sparrow Hospital's emergency room shortly after 8 a.m.

Four hours later, Williams left. She was furious she'd had no treatment, no IVs and no blood taken. Medical records obtained by City Pulse support that claim, showing that although blood tests were ordered that morning at 8:53, blood work was never drawn. Despite expressing her concern about the bloody stools, no internal exam was made to evaluate the potential for a bowel perforation, as recommended by standard GI bleeding assessment tools from the federal government.

It also shows her sores were not swabbed for monkeypox testing until shortly before noon.

She alleged she had been subjected to misgendering by the attending physician, James T. Millican. Her medical records show she was misgendered throughout the written narrative of her visit. The records say the narrative was written by a certified physician assistant assigned to her during the visit named Benjamin Sullivan.

"They humiliated me, disrespected

me," Williams said. "They told me they couldn't do anything to help me. That doctor misgendered me. I mean, look at me. Listen to me. I was carrying a purse."

She said Sullivan told her the hospital had no symptom-relief treatments for her and she was being discharged.

"I was like, 'OK, then I'm going home,'" she said. "And I left."

That was noon.

Medical records written by Sullivan, a 2021 graduate of Mercy College in New York, list her as "leaving without completing services (LWCS)." They do not note whether he spoke with her before she left.

Sullivan's written account of his subsequent attempts to encourage Williams to return to the ER and Williams' recollection are similar. Hers is more explicit, his more moderate, referring to her using the "F" word when twice hanging up on him.

"After all that, he tells me they can't do anything to help me?" she said. "I wasn't planning on going home. They told us when I arrived they were going to admit me. They didn't, so I didn't have any money on me [to take the bus], and I had to walk home," despite her painful condition.

She arrived home shortly after 1 p.m. At 1:38 p.m., she received a phone call from a Sparrow nurse, Kathryn Hettinger. Williams alleged Hettinger told her there were officers outside her apartment to help bring her back to the emergency department. As Hettinger kept talking, there was a knock on the door, Williams alleged.

"I am not going back to the fucking hospital," she screamed from the middle of her living room to whoever was

knocking. "Go the fuck away," she said.

She did not go to the door.

Both the East Lansing and Lansing police departments said they didn't send anyone to her home. It may have been Sparrow officers.

Sparrow operates its own private police force under Public Act 330. The state law allows private organizations to have armed police officers. Still, their police powers are limited to when they are in uniform, on the clock and on property owned or occupied by the business.

Sparrow has not responded to questions about its security force and whether it dispatched anyone to Williams' apartment. The Michigan State Police Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards, which oversees the Act 330 officers, has not responded to inquiries about whether the officers possibly overstepped their jurisdiction.

But City Pulse saw first-hand Sparrow's willingness to use armed private security guard police officers.

As part of the investigation into Williams' allegations, City Pulse requested and obtained a medical privacy waiver from Williams authorizing Sparrow to release her medical records and discuss her care with a reporter. Sparrow spokesperson John Foren did not respond to numerous inquiries from City Pulse last week on where to file the request.

As a result, this City Pulse reporter tried to deliver the medical privacy waiver to the health system's administrative offices in the Sparrow Professional Building on Friday afternoon. I had notified Foren by email of my intention to do so.

Instead of allowing me into the administrative offices' waiting room to deliver the document or directing me where to deliver it, Sparrow sent an armed officer into the hallway who introduced himself as William.

"Unfortunately, from what I was told, you have no business on Sparrow property. Nothing against you," William said in a conversation I recorded. "But again, right now, we're going to have to ask you to leave the property and have you go through the normal marketing channels."

After I was rebuffed, City Pulse sent the waiver by courier. On Wednesday, Sparrow released Williams' medical records to City Pulse and phone calls to

See Monkeypox, Page 6

# Election law trips up aspiring judge in East Lansing

*Martin's pocket-change error may hand victory to Babcock in 54-B District Court Race*

Way back in 2020, East Lansing School Board member Chris Martin, pondering a run for a 54-B District Court judgeship, plunked down \$12.17 for the domain name "eastlansingjudge.com".

Although Martin never did anything to develop the site — easily verifiable by typing that address into a browser bar — that one small expenditure got him in a world of trouble, derailing his campaign for the seat and threatening to leave voters with just one choice: East Lansing City Councilmember Lisa Babcock.

Babcock, a Lansing native and a 1984 Lansing Eastern High School graduate, formerly worked as a journalist but is now a lawyer in Lansing. The winner, whoever it may be, will succeed retiring Judge Richard Ball, who served the district court for 30 years.

Martin, a Texas native, is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. He worked for Texas Democratic U.S. Rep Lloyd Doggett for a couple of years in Doggett's Washington office, taught in New York City for four years and then returned to law school at the University of Virginia.

Martin met his wife, Laura, during his studies at UVA. The young family moved to East Lansing in 2015, after she accepted the offer of a teaching position in the School of Education at Michigan State University.

After a stint with the Abood Law Firm in East Lansing, Martin moved to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. Over the last five years, he has been involved with diversionary efforts to keep low-level drug users out of the traditional criminal justice system, including drug, sobriety and mental health courts. He has been a liaison between the pros-

ecutor's office and diversionary courts.

He has been part of a national working group that examines how prosecutors treat drug crimes. "I've been very involved in the main issues that come up in district court proceedings," Martin said, part of what prompted him to run.

A self-described stickler for the rules, Martin nevertheless gave little thought to what he'd spent on the website address until a friend pointed out that spending anything triggered a requirement to file a report.



Chris Martin (left) expects to know soon whether a technical election law error will cost him a spot on the ballot in his race against East Lansing City Councilmember Lisa Babcock (right) in the race for district judge in East Lansing.

He filed that report on time, plus all the required ones that followed, all of which had zeroes in both the fundraising and spending columns.

While filing a report in October 2021 for his school board committee, Martin said he realized his virtually dormant judgeship committee needed attention. Things began to unravel when he tried to submit a report and couldn't.

Someone in the Secretary of State's Office told him it was because he had shut down his campaign committee, which he denies. "I wanted to keep it active for this very reason," Martin said.

He filed a report for the committee once it was reactivated five days later, and then didn't think about it again for several more months. When he did think about it was after receiving a notice that a report had been filed, five days late.

The notice also carried with it a \$125 fine, which he attempted to protest and ultimately did not pay, a decision which

would come back to haunt him.

"I wrote back and I said I disagreed with that," Martin said. "They wrote back and said I could disagree with it, but you owe the money."

The matter is in litigation, and Martin said he expects a determination around Labor Day, because ballots must be finalized by Sept. 9. The matter has already been through the Court of Claims, where Martin lost.

He understands there are things he could have done better or differently.

"There's a legal process that I had to undertake to challenge their determination which I didn't do," Martin said. "So in the eyes of the law, which is what we're dealing with here, there was that \$125 fee, I had notice of it and I didn't do anything about it."

According to lawyer, political consultant and county Commissioner Mark Grebner, changes have taken place over the last five years that have ratcheted up the pressure to pay fines associated with filing reports.

Clerks' offices have made that a priority, Grebner said.

"That's the way the world works, (but) they've completely lost track of what it is they're trying to do. Instead of keeping the world safe from political corruption, they've turned it into a paperwork marathon."

Martin simply got the paperwork wrong, Grebner said, while adding there are very few who do truly understand all the nuances of the system.

"I've devoted 50 years of my life to understanding it — and I don't understand everything of how election law works," he continued.

"The courts have taken the unfortunate attitude that perfection is the only standard. It makes the whole thing into a trivia contest. The winner is the one who can successfully get past all the nit-picking."

**-DAWN PARKER**

# Monkeypox

from page 5

police were made.

Documents and interviews reveal that at 3:05 p.m., the ELPD received a call from Sparrow. Pride, the public information officer at ELPD, declined to identify the nurse who called. The nurse asked police to perform a "welfare check" at Williams' home.

When a police supervisor called the nurse back, the nurse claimed Williams had left the hospital "erratically," said Pride, and the hospital wanted to make sure she was OK. That claim contradicts the medical records. She also asked if officers could convince Williams to return to the hospital as she had a likely case of monkeypox.

The supervisor declined to send police but offered to send an ambulance and fire. The nurse declined the offer.

Hettinger, the nurse, wrote in a record entry that she asked the Ingham County Health Department how to handle the patient. An unnamed physician had expressed "concerns" after seeing her because she had "several open wounds to buttocks," according to the medical record entry.

State and local health officials said they were not involved in the decision to call police by Sparrow.

Chelsea Wuth, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, said the call to ELPD did not violate the state's public health code, which includes the Health Threat To Others provisions.

Pride said the nurse's claim to ELPD that Williams left "erratically" may rise to the level of filing a false police report. But ELPD is unlikely to pursue any criminal action because the city attorney has regularly dismissed such cases. Pride said the attorney believes the case law is too unsettled.

Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon said by email her office would review a misdemeanor case of filing a false police report or medical emergency, but she said that "it does not look like (on the limited information available) that this is a case involving the criminal legal system."

Dan Levy, the retired legal director for the Michigan Civil Rights Department, said the description of Williams' ordeal matched with cases he had reviewed before the state had rules allowing the department to file discrimination charges. He said he was "amazed" at the health care failures Williams' care raised.

"Properly treating a person must always begin with showing that person respect," Levy said. "Going to the hospital is unpleasant enough without then being degraded for being Black, female, transgender — or indeed all three. Whatever happened to 'first, do no harm?'"

**-TODD HEYWOOD**



**Elliott-Larsen State Office Building**

The u-shaped Elliott-Larsen building on Walnut Street in downtown Lansing features a handful of decorative details throughout its façade: Ionic volutes top otherwise simple structural columns, and black-framed windows are separated by tablets of engraved masonry. The sand-colored exterior gives the building in the Capitol Complex some warmth while the sleek curtain wall entrance keeps it cool. Healthy trees and green grass are a welcome sight in this concrete-heavy part of town.

The building looks a bit different from when it was completed in 1922. In fact, it's missing its entire top floor. On Feb. 8, 1951, a state employee started a fire inside the building in an attempt to make himself undesirable for the military draft. There were no casualties, but the blaze consumed thousands of documents and caused millions of dollars in damages. The seventh story was deemed beyond repair and the structure has been six stories tall ever since.

Previously known as the Lewis Cass building, it was renamed in summer 2020. The new title honors Daisy Elliott and Melvin Larsen, the lawmakers who spearheaded Michigan's landmark civil rights act in the 1970s. It's the first state building in Michigan named in honor of a Black woman.

— JAMES KNARIAN

"Eye Candy of the Week" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore of the Week and Eye for Design. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By TODD HEYWOOD



**The former Krispy Kreme shop on Lake Lansing Road in Lansing Township is getting a \$1.3 million makeover.**

The Lansing State Journal reports McAlister's Deli in the Eastwood Towne Center will move into the 4,448-square-foot building in April, after renovations. The building, seated on just over three and a half acres, has been vacant for 13 years.



**Linda S. Vail, Ingham County's chief health official, will step down in February, she informed the Board of Commissioners.** Vail has served as health officer for nearly nine years. "I am feeling confident at this time that we will have navigated our way through the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic by the time I retire," she said. Vail, 61, said she will stay in Lansing and expects to continue working, though only part time.

**Lansing Township officials authorized attorneys Thursday to sue Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum in Circuit Court over the city of Lansing's efforts to annex Groesbeck.** The suit will seek to prevent Byrum from putting the proposal on the Nov. 8 ballot. The City Council unanimously approved the measures in late July.



**Lansing Police continue to investigate the Friday night shooting death of 77-year-old Abel Gonzalez in the 1100**

block of Camp Street on the northeast side.



**Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum set Sept. 1 and Sept. 2 to recount votes in Meridian Township over allowing marijuana dispensaries in Meridian Township.** By a 12-vote margin, residents decided against banning them. The recount — which will cost the township about \$13,000 — is unlikely to change the outcome, Byrum predicted.

**The Mason Public Schools Foundation has donated \$75,000 to the Mason Public Schools.** The money was raised through a gala on April 23 and a 5K race on May 6. Mason high and middle schools each received \$12,500, while



the Harvey Center, Mason Special Education and three elementary schools each received \$10,000. The money is to expand learning opportunities for Mason school students.

**A 47-year-old Eaton Rapids man was arrested Monday night after a 11-hour standoff with law enforcement.**

Eaton County Sheriff officials told WLNS they responded to a domestic violence incident involving a gun in the 800 block of Katelin Drive. The man refused to exit the home in Hamlin Township until shortly after 8 p.m.



**A Lansing couple will stand trial for embezzlement from a local car dealership, Ingham County Circuit Judge Cynthia Ward ruled Friday.**

Amanda Root was charged with multiple counts of embezzlement and filing false tax returns. Justin Root will face four counts of filing false tax returns, according to the state Office of the Attorney General. The couple is accused of taking \$400,000 from Glenn Buege Buick GMC between 2016 and 2019.

**A Lansing man won \$100,000 in the Powerball Lottery.** Johnnie Porter Jr., 69, matched four numbers. The initial prize was worth \$50,000, but Powerball automatically doubled that to \$100,000. The ticket was purchased at the



Shell Gas Station at 3206 West Saginaw Highway. Porter told lottery officials he plans to buy a new car with part of his winnings and save the remainder.

**Lansing City Council approved accepting \$91,000 in grants Monday night**

for city departments. A \$15,000 grant from Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund will allow staff from the Office of Financial Empowerment to mentor partners in Jackson, Tennessee. A grant for \$76,000 was also approved for the City Attorney's Office. The money will help pay for a part-time clerk and interns to assist in prosecuting criminal cases. The money came from the Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program.

**Lansing City Councilmember Brian Daniels pushed through a resolution Monday to broadcast more City Council committee meetings and allow for remote public comment periods.**

Daniels' resolution will serve as information for the budget priorities conversations slated for next month. The move comes after a group of citizens, called the People's Council, began attending meetings to complain about a lack of transparency. The group is organized out of the Fledge. It is unclear what his proposal could cost taxpayers in technology upgrades to support the broadcasts.



# Driving range: If, not when

The pandemic was kind to golf. “The numbers are official,” Golf Digest declared: “Golf’s surge in popularity in 2020 was even better than predicted.” And reporting on 2021, Forbes magazine’s headline read: “Golf Saw Record Play Totals Last Year, On Heels Of Covid-Fueled 2020 Boom.” Locally, activity at Groesbeck, a municipal course, mirrored the national trend. Rounds rose as COVID drove people outdoors for a relatively safe diversion, helping to reduce Lansing’s annual operating loss to below \$100,000 — a significant improvement over subsidies that reached \$600,000 just six years ago.

Determined to bring Groesbeck under better fiscal control, former Mayor Virg Bernero initiated its move from the Parks Department to the Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority, which clearly has paid off. LEPFA is to be commended for its progress toward solvency since taking control in 2018.

Now, though, COVID is waning, and so is traffic at Groesbeck. Concerned about losing ground, LEPFA is searching for ways to maintain its progress toward the goal of making Groesbeck self-sufficient. One direction it is looking is barely more than a chip shot away: Bancroft Park.

Bancroft Park, Groesbeck’s western neighbor, is nearly 42 rolling, largely wooded acres of fairly natural beauty left behind by the Ice Age. Combined with the adjacent Groesbeck Drain Park, it offers an easy, oft-secluded 1.4-mile paved trail. Its entrance on Otto Street in north Lansing leads to a parking lot that faces several cleared acres. At one time, that parcel was home to baseball in the summer and ice skating in the winter. But those activities are long gone, the victim of budgetary cutbacks throughout the park system. An attempt to turn it into a soccer field apparently failed because the ground becomes too soggy. The trail is lightly used by bikers, joggers and bikers, the field even less.

LEPFA has a potential cure for that: a “limited-distance driving range,” as the minutes of its April board meeting describe it.

In a City Pulse interview last week, Scott Keith, LEPFA’s president and CEO, said the No. 1 improvement Groesbeck golfers desire is a practice area. Keith plans to hire a consultant to conduct a \$25,000 study to identify potential locations. Such a study may be a good idea — but it’s not what is needed at this point.

LEPFA should first determine what the market will bear. The research firm

Golf Datatech reported that April rounds were down 13% compared to a year ago and 10% year to date. “Running behind prior year rounds is the continuation of a trend that began nine months ago — the second half of 2021 trailed the boom year of 2020 by about 7%,” the nonprofit National Golf Foundation said

in May. Before spending funds on where to build a driving range, LEPFA should see what is the forecast for golf in Lansing in the foreseeable future. Before we study where to build a driving range, let’s see if we should build one.

Another concern is the lack of open communication with Friends of Bancroft Park, which opposes constructing a driving range in the park in favor of organized youth activities. Friends’ board member Ryan Kost (also a candidate for the City Council) told City Pulse last week, “I’ve talked to Scott Keith. He’s not very interested in working with the Friends group.” Keith said he wants to wait until he has some “meat” — meaning a plan — before talking to them. Such a response only fuels fears that a driving range is destined for

Bancroft Park, concerns of the Friends be damned. And there is precedent for such apprehension: The Bernero administration gutted nearby Ormond Park for a new entrance to Groesbeck Golf Course. We encourage Keith to change his approach and meet soon with anyone concerned about the driving range idea in an open forum. Not to do so only invites acrimony. We had enough of that

over Ormond Park. Let’s try a different approach this time.

Ultimately, the decision to allow a driving range in Bancroft Park will be up to Mayor Andy Schor. LEPFA’s April minutes reflect that “Scott noted the Mayor and Parks and Rec Director are supportive and willing to have the hard conversations.” That suggests Schor and Parks Director Brett Kaschinske’s minds are made up in favor of a driving range in the park. We hope not.

And, publicly at least, both were on the record in City Pulse last week as saying their minds were open. We thought Schor said it well: “I want to hear the opinions of the neighbors in the area and the feasibility of even doing something like this. Bancroft is a big park and could offer many amenities for the community. Still, 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.”



## The CP Edit

Opinion

**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.)

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Z-2-2022, Vacant lots between 3220 & 3330 W. Miller Road  
Rezoning from "R-3" Suburban Detached Residential to "R-6B" Urban Residential

Z-3-2022, 3021 Aurelius Road  
Rezoning from "R-2" Suburban Detached Residential to "R-6B" Urban Residential

The Lansing City Council will hold public hearings on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider the following requests by Raymundo Garcia:

Z-2-2022: Rezoning the 2 vacant parcels of land located between 3220 & 3330 W. Miller Road from "R-3" Suburban Detached Residential to "R-6B" Urban Residential.

Z-3-2022: Rezoning 3021 Aurelius Road from "R-2" Suburban Detached Residential to "R-6B" Urban Residential.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearings or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, September 12, 2022 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov)

**Chris Swope, City Clerk**

**CP#22-185**

**City of Lansing  
Notice of Public Hearing**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Certificate (the "Certificate"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 700 May St., Lansing, Michigan, but more particularly described as follows:

COM AT THE SW CORNER OF SECTION 10, TH N00D31'32"W 390.58 FT (RECORDED AS N00D35'41"W 392.72 FT) TO POB: TH N00D31'32"W 121.20 FT; TH N82D26'00"E 86.98 FT; NO 82D58'07"E 15.01 FT; S89D51'56"E 140.63 FT; S89D44'56"E 55.83 FT; S00D28'26"W ALONG A BLDG WALL LINE 398.36 FT TO NORTH LINE OF MOTOR WHEEL LOFTS; TH N89D39'09"W 14.74 FT, S00D20'51"W 3.70 FT, N89D39'09"W 120.70 FT, N00D20'51"E 182.13 FT AND N89D39'09"W 50.84 FT; N00D20'51"E 84.23 FT; N89D39'09"W 108.50 FT TO POB, CONTAINING 1.83 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, SUBJECT TO ALL EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS, IF ANY. SPLIT/COMBINED ON 02/01/2018 FROM 33-01-01-10-353-006;

Parcel Number: 33-01-01-10-353-008

Approval of this Certificate will provide the owner or potentially the developer of property an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to the property noted above. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Mitch Timmerman, Lansing Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), 230 N Washington Sq. Lansing, MI 48933, 517-898-1709.

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

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMCC**  
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**CP#22-184**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM. NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, File No. 22-001012-DE.** Estate of Philip Alan Siebert. Date of birth: 10/11/1941. **TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Philip Alan Siebert, died May 30, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jerry Ward, 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. 8/24/2022. Bradley Vauter P35762, 11963 E. Andre Drive, Ste. D, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. 517-853-8015. Jerry Ward, 1733 Autumn Lane, Lansing, MI 48912. 517-712-9811 **CP#22-183**

**TO ALL CREDITORS:** The Surviving Settlor, Margaret Laura Graham (date of birth May 2, 1923), who lived at 3340 North Chester Rd, Charlotte, Michigan, 48813, Chester Township, Eaton County, died May 3, 2022. There is no personal representative of Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against The Graham Family Trust, dated October 1998, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented in writing to Kal Graham, Successor Trustee, or Bradley Vauter, Attorney, within four months after the date of publication of this notice. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Date: August 24, 2022. Kal Graham, Trustee, 10301 N. Royston Rd, Grand Ledge, MI 48837; Phone: 517-614-4509. Bradley Vauter & Associates PC by Trustee by Bradley Vauter (P35762), 11963 E. Andre Dr. Suite D, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837; Phone: 517-853-8015 **CP#22-182**

# Michigan's \$7B is behind glass: We can see it but can't touch it

Waiting for Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Republican-led Legislature to announce some large tax cut, a \$500 rebate, a gas tax holiday or some other substantive tax cut anytime soon?

Don't hold your breath.

It isn't coming until after Nov. 8, more than likely early 2023. Let me tell you why.

Michigan has \$7 billion on the balance sheet. First of all, that's never happened before. Second, that's the equivalent of everything the state government spends every year out of the General Fund, absent the Department of Health and Human Services budget and education.

State Police, prisons, environmental quality, roads, agriculture, the Legislature, all of it. Add it all up, and you get \$7 billion. That's what the state government is sitting on.

Most of the extra money came directly from the federal government in response to COVID-19, hoping to get the economy back on track. Most of the rest came from people making more or spending more money due to the COVID money sent from Washington.

People with jobs are making money and spending more money. That's more state government money from income and sales taxes.

You're not alone in thinking taxpayers should get a little of that back. Whitmer, Democrats and Republicans agree on that. The issue: Who is getting money and how much?

Republicans and Democrats can't agree on that.

Whitmer wants to increase the Earned Income Tax Credit, an automatic tax write-off received by lower-income people. She also wanted to shield retirement income from the state income tax.

Republicans have a much bigger vision. They want to cut the income tax from 4.25% to 3.9%, the rate from the Gov. John Engler-era. They also want to increase the per-child income tax write-off by \$500, give disabled veterans a property tax exemption, suspend the gas tax (when gas was \$5 a gallon) and maybe provide some businesses with a tax cut.

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich suggested suspending the sales tax collected on gasoline. Whitmer came back with the idea of giving Michigan taxpayers a \$500 rebate check.

Clearly, there's no shortage of ideas. The money is there. Why can't they agree on something?

In a word: politics.

Whitmer didn't sign the expansive tax cut bill the Republican-led House and Senate threw on her desk earlier this summer. Why? Because the state couldn't afford it after the \$7 billion is gone. If Whitmer returns next term, she would either be forced to raise taxes again or make heavy spending cuts by 2024 or 2025. She doesn't want to do either.

Republicans figured she'd veto the tax cut. Since she did, they can call her out on it during her reelection campaign. On Monday, the Senate Republicans did exactly that on Twitter.

The GOP Legislature could have sent Whitmer something she would have signed, like the \$500 rebate. But they know Whitmer would have immediately taken credit for it.

The governor hasn't stopped crowing about the \$400 rebate check she gave auto insurance customers earlier this year. Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and House Speaker Jason Wentworth won't allow her to take credit for another giveback until after the election.

Also, both sides are looking ahead. If the Democrats take control of the Legislature in November, Whitmer will have more opportunities to spend the \$7 billion as she wants. She won't need to negotiate with Republicans, who would inevitably insist on something she's not crazy about.

Same thing with the Republicans. If nominee Tudor Dixon wins, she has promised to cut the income tax, which they want.

Honestly, there's no incentive for anyone to do anything with the \$7 billion. Gas is back under \$4 a gallon. That's a hell of a lot better than over \$5.

So, the extra \$7 billion sits. We can all see it through bulletproof glass. We know it's there. But we can't touch it... for now.

*(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news services MIRS at [melinnky@gmail.com](mailto:melinnky@gmail.com).)*



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Eric Olmscheid takes reins as Wharton Center's fourth director in 40 years

## The next act

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Eric Olmscheid has a strange sense of timing when it comes to taking a new job. He started work as the fourth executive director in the 40-year history of MSU's Wharton Center for Performing Arts June 22.

Olmscheid takes the reins after an unprecedented pandemic that shuttered the facility for 18 months and, in the words of his predecessor, Michael Brand, "re-defined an act of God."

Before coming to Wharton, he served 14 years as director of Des Moines Performing Arts, where he took over in the wake of the nation's worst recession in decades.

Olmscheid is good at keeping the lights on, sometimes literally. He ran a gymnasium light board for his high school's production of "Damn Yankees."

Through brutal cycles of recession and inflation, a global pandemic and ongoing challenges to live arts venues from movies, TV, home theaters and whatever comes next, he remains convinced the arts will always be essential to human life.

"Some of our first gatherings were for arts events," he philosophized. "People came together for outdoor concerts, with painted circles in the grass, or songs and trumpeters in the streets. The arts will continue to gather people together."

But the show doesn't go on by itself. While overseeing day-to-day operations at the region's largest performing arts center, Olmscheid is charged with retooling it for an uncertain future. Among his top priorities are attracting a younger and more diverse audience, including students, expanding education programs and linking up with a developing cadre of new arts leaders at MSU to build a broader arts strategy.

"Organizations like the Wharton Center, and all over the country, persevered," Olmscheid said. "They figured out how to remain relevant during the pandemic shutdown and, more important, they asked themselves: Who are we? What are we doing as we emerge into the next chapter?"

### Juggling act

James Forger, dean of the MSU College of Music and chairman of the



Roxanne Frith/Courtesy Wharton Center

Eric Olmscheid, the Wharton Center's new executive director, and development director Kristen Calabrese review brochures.

search committee that recommended Olmscheid, called the top job at Wharton "quite a juggling act."

"You need to be self-sufficient, generate a big budget through Broadway, raise supplemental dough from donors, grow the educational programs," Forger said. "You have the logistics of being home to the Lansing Symphony. And then," he added, with a guilty chuckle, "it's also home to certain groups that don't create revenue, meaning the College of Music and its large ensembles."

Olmscheid compared the Wharton Center's mix of programs to an

ecosystem, with blockbusters like "Wicked" helping to "underwrite the shows that may not do as well at the box office, or, frankly, require significant subsidy even just to be on our stage."

He isn't crazy about the showbiz formula that "rock pays for Bach," but he admitted, "it's kind of true."

"And we have to have that mix, as a major university presenter and a robust, diversified performing arts center," he said.

To further complicate the job, he has to make many commitments a year

or more in advance while keeping an eye on national macroeconomic curves, broader cultural trends and other arcane tea leaves.

"All of our operational expenses, our labor costs have all increased," Olmscheid said. "We've pushed the price of the arts experience to the point where it's not achievable for some. We have to balance the equation, but it doesn't always add up."

The pandemic "significantly drained" Wharton's reserve funds, Olmscheid said, but federal aid, mostly via the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, helped replenish them.

"Now we are back on a solid financial footing, able to take risks and move forward," he said.

### Lessons from Iowa

Olmscheid made his mark at the Wharton Center long before he was chosen as its director. MSU Provost Judith Stoddart, a key leader in the current consolidation of the university's arts institutions, said the search committee was deeply impressed with his work in Des Moines.

In 2016, Olmscheid received the Broadway League Award for outstanding achievement in engagement. The educational programs he developed in Des Moines grew to reach 75,000 patrons a year, according to Broadway World Detroit.

The Wharton Center is a well-established hub for an interlocking set of programs linking hundreds of Michigan students with lessons and workshops from Broadway pros, from K-12 to grad school.

"These programs are already familiar here, but that's in part because we learned a lot from Des Moines," Stoddart said.

"What stood out about Eric was his commitment to education and audience engagement, and the fact that he's been recognized nationally for that."

Olmscheid shook things up onstage as well. He led a fresh wave of arts programming in Des Moines, notably Live at the Temple, a small-venue "listening room" concert series.

"He's interested in connecting specific audiences with the kinds of art forms they'd like to see, asking what we've offered in the past and whose voices and perspectives are missing," Stoddart said.

Wharton's 2022-'23 season was already set when Olmscheid arrived, but he said he's "proud to inherit" it from Brand, and he's working with his team



Olmscheid (right) and his life partner, Adam Yankow, a theater artist and an assistant professor of musical theater at Drake University. Olmscheid is holding Beo, their Goldendoodle, and Yankow has Rue, their Labradoodle.

# Wharton

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to shape the 2023-24 season “and whatever we add to the current year.”

This fall’s schedule at the Temple is a preview of the kind of acts Olmscheid will bring to Wharton — a genre-blurring rainbow of human faces and musical styles, from Arkansas bluesman Larry McCray to Louisiana Cajun band Beau-Soleil, Latin rock singer Gina Chavez, jazz singer Shayna Steele, alt-country singer-composer Amy Helm and composer/vocalist Somi, a champion of African music with deep roots in Rwanda and Uganda. There isn’t a single white male headliner in sight — no gel-haired Broadway crossover bros, no stern gray eminences.

Olmscheid also launched a dance and a family series in Des Moines. He’s particularly proud of the Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards, a statewide, year-long program involving 90 schools.

“It was a significant investment in arts education across the entire state,” he said.

At Wharton, Olmscheid hopes to replicate a program he developed with the Des Moines Parks Department to organize over 50 free performances in public spaces during the pandemic summers of 2020-’21 and 2021-’22.

The concerts began as a response to a crisis, but they effectively broke the walls between the performing arts center and the community.

“That’s something we can look at as a model here for the Wharton Center as well,” he said.

## Farm to soundboard

Olmscheid, 41, grew up on a dairy farm in central Minnesota, as did his predecessor at the Wharton Center, Michael Brand. The nearest town was tiny Saint Martin (population 308 in 2010). Farming was not his thing. His brother took over the family farm; he took a pass.

“I didn’t think of it like this at the time, but the arts were like my refuge way from that,” he recalled.



Brand

Singing in a church choir and a youth chorus gave him his first taste of the performing arts. In ninth grade, he saw his first professional Broadway touring

show — a revival of “Showboat” at the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis.



Courtesy photo

Wharton Center director Eric Olmscheid plans to expand unconventional collaborations with various university departments. Isotopes in Motion, a subatomic dance fantasia celebrating the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, returns to Wharton Nov. 6.

Hunched in the back row of the balcony, with his head pressed against the wall, he watched Cloris Leachman take a curtain call.

“I thought, ‘I don’t know what this is, but I want to do this,’” he said. He did everything remotely arty in high school — band, choir, one-act plays, yearbook.

In fall 1994, he was asked to run the lights of a high school production of “Damn Yankees.”

Needless to say, it wasn’t a state-of-the-art digital lightbox. “I was running the lights out of a breaker box,” he recalled. “I was captivated by this idea of

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**In a country that GAVE reparations to the people who enslaved people, but NOT to the people who were enslaved, I find it hard to accept that we are morally superior to any other nation. I used to believe that racism would die off with the older generations, but their offspring seem formidable. I thought truth mattered, but I’m convinced it may never have been important to them at all. Ignorance may be bliss for them, but it’s terrifying and a luxury for too many. We are all responsible for what happens next.**

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# Wharton

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telling a story, creating a fantasy in an old high school gym and cafeteria. That was the moment where I thought, 'Wow, this could really be something.'"

Later that year, he was spellbound by a production of "A Christmas Carol" at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis.

"I could walk you through the theater

and still point to the seat where I sat," he said. "It was so important to me, so powerful."

He set out to become an arts teacher, but felt confined in the classroom. The arts dean at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where Olmscheid studied as an undergraduate, recognized his love of the arts and community-mindedness and suggested he add business acumen to the mix.

Olmscheid realized that arts administration, an arcane field he had never considered, would enable him to harmonize art and business on a large scale and make a difference in a community.

He finished his music degree but promptly "took a left turn" to study arts and culture management at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

"That allowed me to focus on the business side of show business," he said. "It's equally show and business, and if we don't understand both, the equilibrium will be

off-balance."

While studying at St. Mary's, he worked his way through half a dozen jobs at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, marking another convergence with his predecessor.

Brand started as an intern at the Ordway in 1986, the year it was formed, and helped build it into a premier national venue as director of programming and marketing before moving on to Wharton in 2003.

## Down from the pedestal

Venues like the Wharton Center are having limited success in drawing younger audiences, but the market for live performing arts is still aging. Market researchers have a spectacular euphemism for it: "negative substitution of the historic visitor."

The pandemic blew a hole in that slowly sinking boat. Attendance at American performing arts events in 2021 plunged to a devastating 54.5% of 2019, according to the arts research firm IMPACTS Experience.

In January 2022, the same firm found that arts venues had the market potential to bounce back to 85.9 percent of 2019 attendance, but the pandemic scrambled the picture so thoroughly it may take years for venues to refocus.

Olmscheid said it would be a "long endeavor" to build back to pre-pandemic attendance "as our event habits have, expectedly, shifted."

"Many of our guests have found different priorities or just slowed down a bit," he said. "If you used to go to four to six arts and cultural events a month, you might only be going to two to three. We're trying to figure out what a new normal is."

Fortunately, performing artists are more eager than ever to get off their pedestal and find new audiences.

"We used to have to beg artists to do the lowest-hanging fruit, like a master class," Olmscheid said. "Now they're much more open to that. Artists see it as a way of connecting, staying relevant, breaking down this barrier of 'I don't leave the stage.'"

The era when someone like Mad Magazine's Eric von Schteric, "the world's loudest tuba player," swaggers into town, plays a concert and climbs back into his limo is long gone.

"We have to be more intentional about inviting people in," Stoddard said, "but also think about how we take the arts outside, present in other spaces, engage in formal and informal ways."

In the next few years, Olmscheid and the College of Music want to offer more



Courtesy photo

The Wharton Center opened 40 years ago, this Sept. 25.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Many top artists visiting the Wharton Center plunge into a broad range of outreach and education work. The New York-based Imani Winds, seen here working with student composers at a November 2019 workshop at MSU, will return to Wharton March 25.

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Forger

the opposite of a prima donna. She was fascinated by projects like the Community Music School in Detroit." Many performing arts centers, including the Wharton Center, are specifying some form of local engagement, from impromptu free public performances to master classes, as a contract item.

"It becomes part of the agreement on the front end," Olmscheid said. "If that's not part of what you're interested in doing, then we'll have to decide if that's going to meet our goals."

A November 2019 residency by the Imani Winds, a charismatic, multi-racial, polystylistic wind quintet from New York, included a week of master

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# Wharton

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classes, outside appearances, and a formal concert at the Wharton.

The ensemble will return to Wharton for another residency in May of 2022 and premiere a new work by Sneed.

When it comes to growing and green-ing the audience, another arrow in Olmscheid quiver is the new wave of Broadway shows that deal forthrightly with a range of burning social topics and showcase under-represented realms of experience.

A perfect example is Detroit-born playwright, composer and lyricist Michael R. Jackson's "A Strange Loop," the chronicle of the author's experience as a Black, gay and large man. It won the 2022 Tony Award for Best Musical.

"I had a chance to see 'Strange Loop' recently in New York," Olmscheid said. "It's Michael R. Jackson's lived experience, showcased beautifully onstage. 'Kite Runner' is another example."

Playwright Matthew Spangler's adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner," set in Afghanistan's turbulent recent history, came to Broadway in 2022.

"They're both real stories we've always said we wanted, stories of the moment and of the time, but the Broadway community has really embraced," Olmscheid said.

Nearly 30 years ago, "Showboat," with its head-on depiction of racial inequality and prejudice, awakened Olmscheid to issues of class and race that didn't penetrate his corner of rural central Minnesota.

"The story had never been told in a way that was reachable for me," Olmscheid said.

Although the flaws, stereotypes and white-centeredness of "Showboat" have

been dissected in umpteen revivals, autopsies and re-revivals, the empathy for others embedded in the show's DNA leads directly to the breakthrough shows that refreshed Broadway in the 2010s.

To Olmscheid, there's no need to choose between escapist fantasy and social engagement.

"As a theater-goer, I want both," he said. "I want the sense of joy, the buoyancy, the escape from the world for a moment. But I also want to be challenged. I want my empathy to be built for someone else's existence who is not my own."

Fall classes begin Monday, September 12th!

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# All about advocacy and accessibility

## Franklin Fields' Leslie Pinder is a vet on a mission

By **MIRANDA DUNLAP**

Before Leslie Pinder entered the cannabis industry, she was a psychology major working in a group home with adults with traumatic brain injuries and cognitive impairments.

A number of her patients were veterans, and as a veteran herself, she saw particular needs not being met. Pinder sought help to fix those problems.

"I just felt that my calling was cannabis because I would like

for veterans to have safe and accessible cannabis, hopefully, at the federally legal level one day," Pinder, 30, said.

When she started working on the retail side of the cannabis industry, customers who were veterans would ex-



Courtesy photo

Leslie Pinder, the 2020 Top of the Town winner for Best Budtender while employed at Skymint. Today, she works at Franklin Fields in Lansing.

VA (U.S. Veteran Affairs Department) — having that knowledge and being able to disperse it to people I work with on a regular basis."

In 2020, Pinder got her start at

plain their issues to her. It was easy for her to relate to these struggles and give individuals a safe space to feel heard.

"A lot of what I do comes out through advocacy," said Pinder, now a customer success manager at cannabis cultivator Franklin Fields in Lansing. "I really try to be involved as much as possible with keeping up to date with different policies and changes that are going on inside of the

Skymint Brands. She said she values the experiences gained here but exited the company in search of a career shift — one echoing her professional goals.

"My values and mission align with caregivers and giving people the freedom to grow their own product and have their own patients," Pinder explained.

She then transitioned into a much different role: trimming and assisting



**Leslie Pinder**  
Franklin Fields  
3535 Capital City Blvd., Lansing

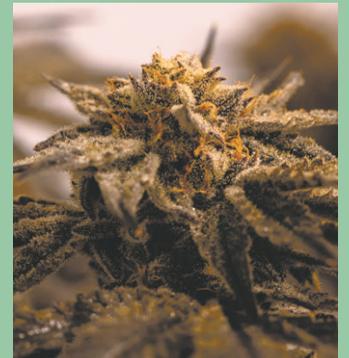
with cultivation at Lemonati Family Farms in Lansing.

"Because it was a small craft grow, all of us pitched in and helped in other areas," Pinder recalled. "I loved Lemonati. I couldn't say greater things about the company. There just wasn't an opportunity for growth with what I wanted to

See Lansterdam, Page 16



"Calyxum's Gelato Sundae has recently been my go-to," Pinder said. "It's sweet and a bit earthy, accompanied by a mellow body high that's great at the end of the day. Calyxum is a Detroit-based female-owned company. Their passion and commitment to quality cannabis are apparent in the flower they cultivate. You can find it at The Botanical Co. in Lansing, our sister company."



Courtesy photo

Leslie Pinder recommends Gelato Sundae Flower

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# Retracing a 'Path Lit By Lightning'

New book details the life of Jim Thorpe

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Maraniss has one regret about his riveting new book, "Path Lit By Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe," it's the unfortunate publication date.

A month after he passed it off to Simon & Schuster, the decision was made to restore the two Golf Medals Thorpe won at the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm.

That would be one of the few details Maraniss missed about the man still regarded as "the greatest athlete who ever lived." It will no doubt be added to an inevitable second edition.

Thorpe, a member of the Sac and Fox Nation, won both the pentathlon and decathlon at the 1912 Olympics but was stripped of his medals because he played minor league baseball in a summer league for pay, a common practice at the time.

In his monumental 700-page biography, Maraniss deftly tells the complicated story of Thorpe, a product of the now controversial Indian Boarding School system, who for more than 40 years dominated sports coverage in the United States thanks to his long career in track and field, baseball, football and basketball. He even had a run as a bit player in around 70 movies.

The book follows Thorpe's extraordinary and sometimes depressing life and tells the genesis of professional football and baseball. It digs back to pioneering figures like Pop Warner, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Walter Camp and John McGraw.

This is Maraniss' 13th book and third

title in his trilogy on iconic sports figures, following biographies on baseball great Roberto Clemente and legendary Packers' coach Vince Lombardi. A Detroit native, Maraniss, 73, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for his coverage of presidential candidate Bill Clinton for The Washington Post and shared in another for the Post's coverage of the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007.

Maraniss said the initial idea to write the Thorpe biography came from a reader.

"I never listen to suggestions about books I should write, but at a meeting of journalists in Denver in 2003, I was approached by Norbert Hill, an Indian writer," he recalled. "He said to write a book about Jim Thorpe."

In the book, the author commemorates this conversation: "I owe this book to Norbert Hill with belated gratitude."

In addition to detailing Thorpe's prodigious athletic skills, Maraniss also unearths the private life of Thorpe, including his three marriages and unstable relationship with his children. He also reflects on how the sports star dealt with racism directed at American Indians. That is perhaps best represented in sports coverage of the powerhouse Carlisle Indian Industrial School football team, a dominant force in early college football.

Maraniss found actual news reporting on the team often used racial slurs. Even The New York Times referred to him as "Chief Thorpe," and game day articles were peppered with words like "massacre," "scalping" and "dead Indians."

The book also delves into the con-

cept of the noble stoic Indian and how the phrase "Lo, the poor Indian," ripped from a poem by Alexander Pope, followed Thorpe throughout his athletic career until he died in 1953 in a California trailer park.

The glory stories are documented, such as when Thorpe led the way to Carlisle's upset victory over Army — and supposedly sidelined a West Pointer named Dwight Eisenhower. But Maraniss doesn't turn a blind eye or sugarcoat Thorpe's drinking or even his sometimes-lackluster baseball skills. For instance, he couldn't hit a curveball.

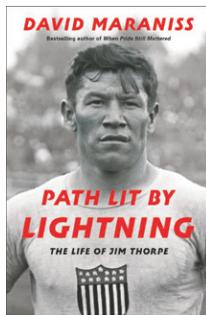
Though, the trunks with medals and trophies from various sports are tangible proof of Thorpe's achievements. But he was never able to, as Maraniss writes, "fully erase the history of the reality of Native American experiences."

Maraniss said he believes that even the

1951 Thorpe biopic starring Burt Lancaster, a non-Native American, was narrated through the eyes of Pop Warner and what he thought he created rather than Thorpe's point of view.

Sidenote: That outdated film narrative is reportedly getting an update. In a 2018 story, The Hollywood Reporter wrote that Angelina Jolie is producing "Bright Path: The Jim Thorpe Story," which is expected to star actor Martin Sensmeier, a multitasking athlete and member of the Sac and Fox Nation. This time, it will be told through the Native lens and is also being financed in Indian country. Producing a major motion picture outside the Hollywood machine is undoubtedly something the dynamically independent Thorpe would appreciate.

"Despite all the obstacles," Maraniss said, "he kept adapting."



"Path Lit By Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe" is available via Simon and Schuster.



Courtesy photo

David Maraniss

# Lansterdam

from page 15

do long term, which is how I ended up with the company I'm with now."

Pinder works on the wholesale side of Franklin Fields. Having explored the different roles in the industry, she said it takes one thing to do well: grit.

"I don't think this industry is for everyone," she said. "It's very dog-eat-dog and cutthroat despite all the wonderful aspirations we all have for bringing this beautiful plant to the legal market. It takes a lot of tough skin, perseverance and finding the right leadership to reassure you there's a space for everyone in this industry."

Pinder described the cannabis market as being in a "crazy time" as prices for the flower decrease rapidly. She said the average price per pound is dropping at a rate of \$67 per month. She said she fears for the ethicality of sales as costs plummet.

"Now, with that said, not all retailers are extending those same types of discounts to their customers," Pinder said. "I hope it gets to a place where people are ethical. My one complaint about the cannabis industry ... is the greed. And I see it not just in Lansing. I see it in every township I go to. I hope we get to a place where the benefits of the plant outweigh the profits."

Pinder also mentioned the false perception that all people working in the cannabis industry are "giant potheads" who smoke weed all day.

"That's not it at all," Pinder said. "There is a lot of knowledge and education that goes into any position inside the cannabis industry. Everyone's goal is the same. It's to break the stigma and allow this wonderful product to be accessible to everyone at the federally legal level."

With all of this knowledge, what is something Pinder would recommend? Right now, one of her favorite products on the market is the Jesus OG strain from The Hempire Collective.

"As a veteran, I suffer from a little bit of anxiety, and it is one of the few strains I've found that can calm my body down from that flight or fight space," Pinder said. "But also provide me with mental clarity. And I rarely find products I know I will remember for the rest of my life. So big shout out to the Hempire Collective. Their team is cultivating amazing flower right now."

## TOP OF THE TOWN REMINDER:

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

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# Live & Local CityPULSE

## The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Jeremy Porter and the Tucos, A Rueful Noise**  
 Fri., August 26, 9 p.m.  
**PET ME, She/Her/Hers**  
 Sat., August 27, 9 p.m.

## B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing  
**Keith Minaya**  
 Thurs., August 25, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

## Bluegill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Rd., Haslett  
**Tony Thompson**  
 Thursday, August 25, 5-8 p.m.

## Classic Pub & Grill

16219 S. US-27, Lansing  
**Darin Lerner Trio**  
 Fri., August 26, 8 p.m.  
**Sonic Voodoo**  
 Sat., August 27, 8 p.m.

## Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**DJ E-Nyce**  
 Thurs., August 25, 7-10 p.m.  
**Smoke and Flame**  
 Fri., August 26, 7-10 p.m.  
**Matt Adkins**  
 Sat., August 27, 7-10 p.m.

## Ellison Brewery

4903 Dawn Ave., East Lansing  
**Tony Thompson**  
 Sun., August 28, 5-7 p.m.

## The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Capital Sundogs**  
 Fri. & Sat., August 26-27, 9:30 p.m.

## The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk**  
 Fri., August 26, 9 p.m.  
**Off the Ledge**  
 Sat., August 27, 9 p.m.

## Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee, Lansing  
**The New Rule**  
 Fri., August 26, 9 p.m.-12 a.m.  
**Tell Yo Mama**  
 Sat., August 27, 7-10 p.m.

## Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
**Rollin Brummette**  
 Fri., August 26, 8-10 p.m.

## Reno's East

1310 Abbot, East Lansing  
**Tony Thompson**  
 Fri., August 26, 6-9 p.m.

## Reno's North

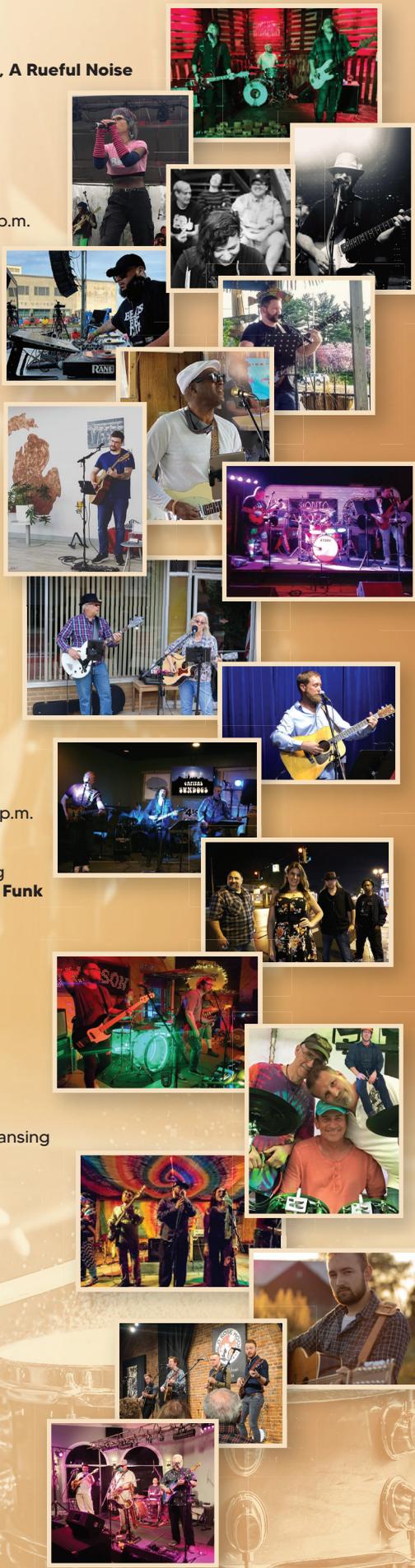
16460 Old US-27, Lansing  
**The New Rule**  
 Sat., August 27, 6-10 p.m.

## The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington, Lansing  
**JigJam**  
 Wed., August 24, 8 p.m.

## Urban Beat

1213 Turner, Lansing  
**Crossroads Resurrection**  
 Fri., August 26, 7-10 p.m.



# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

## LUXURY FLUX RETURNS WITH 'FOR RENT'



Courtesy image

Lansing's own Luxury Flux returns with new digital single.

### 'For Rent' ends hiatus

In April 2017, Luxury Flux released its remarkable debut album and seemed to be on an upward trajectory in Lansing's music scene. The self-titled disc combined minimalistic art-rock with early post-punk and dreamy indie melodies.

And while the outfit echoed their shared love of bands like Wire, Television and The Talking Heads, Luxury Flux brought something new and distinct to local venues. The band's unofficial mantra, "punk is whatever we make it to be," a Mike Watt quote, sums up the Lansing-based group's distinct sound.

But shortly after the record was pressed, the band split up, and the members — Lindsey Taylor (guitar, vocals), Stephen Woida Jr. (vocals drums, synth) and bassist Sam Makula — moved on to other musical projects.

"We disbanded about a year after, mostly due to ego battles and just having run the gamut of the indie rock scene in Michigan," Taylor recalled. "We played many shows and met many great people during the 2015-2018 era, but it felt like we hit the ceiling a little bit. When we were apart, we all played in different projects to fill in the gaps."

In the downtown time, Taylor formed La La Delivery and issued the single "Lax -a-daisy Freaks," an equally impressive 2019 solo outing. She also contributed a cover "As We Go Up, We Go Down" to a 2022 Guided By Voices tribute compilation.

Though, what was supposed to be a permanent breakup morphed into a hiatus. In the summer of 2021, Luxury Flux reconnected.

"It seemed like enough time had passed, and we could come at things from a more mature angle," Taylor said.

By winter 2021, the reunited trio record-

ed new material at BlightAudio in Lansing. The result is the newly issued comeback single "For Rent." The track was recorded by engineer Ryan Bliton and mixed and mastered by Corey DeRushia at Troubadour Recording Studios.

Even with the lengthy pause behind them, "For Rent" shows the band returning in top form and sounding more relaxed than ever. So what inspired this poppy new melody?

"Varying degrees of our immediate surroundings during that time such as the pandemic, enduring winter in Michigan, and dealing with tough people," Taylor said. "The opening line is 'you're so entertaining/you're a cinematic scene.' It is a little bit of an observation of how wild it can be to observe someone who you can't reason with."

"At some point during a conversation, I believe Sam said 'it's a gift to give,' so we threw that in there," she added. "Stephen and I sit down together, hash out whatever comes to mind, and edit later. It always tends to come out a little ambiguous at that point, so everything is up to the listener's interpretation."

And while there is no full-length record in the works, this is no one-off release. Taylor said the band is writing and plans to keep busy.

"We are currently focused on recording and releasing songs one by one as they get finished," she said.



### Luxury Flux

facebook.com/Luxuryflux

### Listen to "For Rent" on Spotify or at:

luxuryflux.bandcamp.com



# Jonesin' Crossword

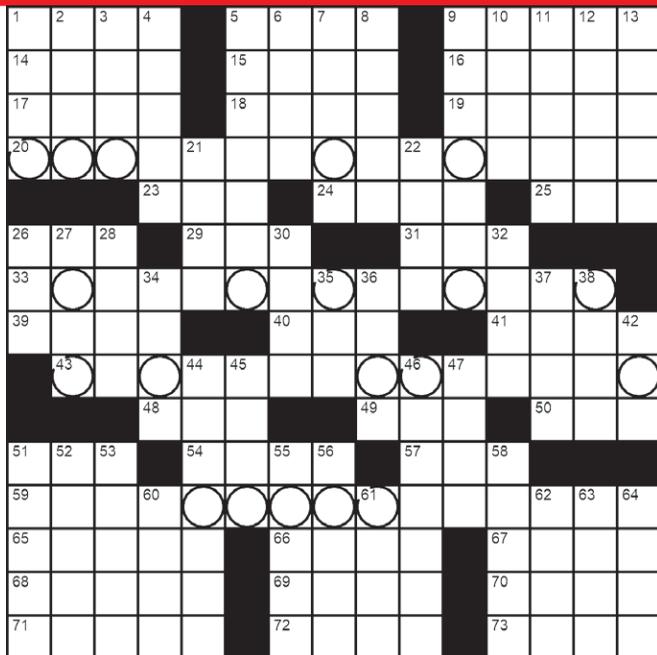
By Matt Jones

**"Found Him!"-- getting good at hide and seek.**

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1. Addams of "The Addams Family", as abbreviated
- 5. "Star Wars" role played by a new actor in 2018
- 9. Duck that gets you down
- 14. First name in country music
- 15. Locale depicted on the Sistine Chapel ceiling
- 16. Name that usually comes up in interviews with "SNL" alumni
- 17. "Yes, we're \_\_\_\_"
- 18. Feline \_\_\_\_ (natural cat litter brand)
- 19. "\_\_\_\_ Vista Social Club" (1999 documentary)
- 20. 1987 hit by Was (Not Was) with a "Flintstonesque" video [OK, there he is!]
- 23. "That was some time \_\_\_\_"
- 24. Peak occurrence
- 25. Information start?
- 26. Piglet parent
- 29. "Young Sheldon" character Rosenbloom
- 31. Judge's highest score on "Dancing With the Stars"
- 33. Town where Evel Knievel attempted to jump across the Snake River Canyon in 1974 [Tough to spot, but right there!]
- 39. Move around, as a mannequin
- 40. Tip of a boot
- 41. Type of booth
- 43. ABC hidden-camera show that was once a segment on "Primetime" [Took me a while, but found him!]
- 48. Heap
- 49. Actor Simu



- 20. "Toy Story" character
- 21. Nautical position
- 23. Long, thin musical instrument
- 24. Most-nominated female artist at the 2018 Grammys
- 25. It may extend a lease or passport [That's it? He's not even trying!]
- 26. Pore Strips brand
- 27. \_\_\_\_ Jr. (Pixar's lamp mascot)
- 28. Work the land
- 29. No further than
- 30. Laptop company
- 31. Bygone U.S. gas station that's still in Canada
- 32. Girder composition
- 33. Email button
- 34. Squares on calendars
- 35. Cain's brother
- 36. Decaf brand
- 37. High-end cosmetics chain
- 38. Garfield's foil
- 39. Provides, as aid
- 40. \_\_\_\_ a million
- 41. Nudged in the side
- 42. Promissory notes
- 43. Night vision?
- 44. Jadedness
- 45. Emulates a startled steed
- 46. Weekend-lover's letters
- 47. "Chicken Little" turndown
- 48. NASCAR additive
- 49. "Whoa, hold it! That hurts!"
- 50. Yearn (for)
- 51. Sax classification
- 52. Gp. planning to add Sweden and Finland
- 53. "Cool," but not as cool?
- 54. Rawls or Reed
- 55. Get rid of cryptocurrency
- 56. Quick photo developing time, once
- 57. "Ye \_\_\_\_ Curiosity Shoppe"
- 58. Pricy bagel topping
- 59. How one might know a longtime friend
- 60. Liberty org.
- 61. Chat app that builds communities called "servers"
- 62. Mandarin hybrid used in Asian cuisine
- 63. Photographer Diane
- 64. Trick move
- 65. Bill from the govt.
- 66. Earthenware cooking pots
- 67. Elicit by reasoning
- 68. Excited, with "up"
- 69. Great Lake or Canal
- 70. "Oregon Trail" team
- 71. "Frozen" queen
- 72. All up in others' business
- 73. "Terrible" stage

**Down**

- 1. "Upstart \_\_\_\_" (sitcom based on the life of Shakespeare)
- 2. Air filter acronym

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Answers on page 21

# SUDOKU

# Intermediate

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

**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 21

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

August 24-30, 2022

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In the coming weeks, I urge you to flee from stale and rigid certainty. Rebel against dogmatic attitudes and arrogant opinions. Be skeptical of unequivocal answers to nuanced questions. Instead, dear Aries, give your amused reverence to all that's mysterious and enigmatic. Bask in the glimmer of intriguing paradoxes. Draw inspiration and healing from the fertile unknown. For inspiration, write out this Mary Oliver poem and carry it with you: "Let me keep my distance, always, from those who think they have the answers. Let me keep company with those who say 'Look!' and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads."

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** A blogger named Chaconia writes, "I've cultivated a lifetime of being low maintenance and easy-going, and now I've decided I'm done with it. Demanding Me is born today." I'm giving you temporary permission to make a similar declaration, Taurus. The astrological omens suggest that in the coming weeks, you have every right to be a charming, enchanting, and generous version of a demanding person. So I authorize you to be just that. Enjoy yourself as you ask for more of everything.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** The witch Lisa Chamberlain writes about the magical properties of colors. About brown, she says it "represents endurance, solidity, grounding, and strength." She adds that it's used in magic to enhance "balance, concentration, material gain, home, and companion animals." According to my reading of the astrological omens, the upcoming weeks should be a deeply brown time for you Geminis. To move your imagination in a righteous direction, have fun wearing clothes in shades of brown. Grace your environment with things that have the hues of chestnut, amber, mahogany, sepia, and burnt sienna. Eat and drink caramel, toffee, cinnamon, almonds, coffee, and chocolate.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Cancerian poet Danusha Laméris discovered that earthworms have taste buds all over their bodies. Now she loves to imagine she's giving them gifts when she drops bits of apples, beets, avocados, melons, and carrot tops into the compost bin. "I'd always thought theirs a menial life, eyeless and hidden, almost vulgar." But now that she understands "they bear a pleasure so sublime," she wants to help the worms fulfill their destinies. I mention this, Cancerian, because I suspect you may have comparable turnarounds in the coming weeks. Long-held ideas may need adjustments. Incomplete understandings will be filled in when you learn the rest of the story. You will receive a stream of interesting new information that changes your mind, mostly in enjoyable ways.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You should never allow yourself to be tamed by others. That advice is always apropos for you Leos, and even more crucial to heed in the coming weeks. You need to cultivate maximum access to the raw, primal sources of your life energy. Your ability to thrive depends on how well you identify and express the beautiful animal within you. Here's my only caveat: If you imagine there may be value in being tamed a little, in harnessing your brilliant beast, do the taming yourself. And assign that task to the part of you that possesses the wildest wisdom.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Whenever you are contemplating a major decision, I hope you raise questions like these: 1. Which option shows the most self-respect? 2. Which path would be the best way to honor yourself? 3. Which choice is most likely to help you fulfill the purposes you came to earth to carry out? 4. Which course of action would enable you to express your best gifts? Are there questions you would add, Virgo? I expect the coming months will require you to generate key decisions at a higher rate than usual, so I hope you will make intensive use of my guiding inquiries, as well as any others you formulate.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Libran blogger

Ana-Sofia Cardelle writes, "I look back on past versions of myself with such love and tenderness. I want to embrace myself at different parts of my life." I hope you're inspired by her thoughts as you carry out the following actions: 1. Create an altar filled with treasures that symbolize major turning points in your destiny. 2. Forgive yourself for what you imagine to be old errors and ignorance. 3. Summon memories of the persons you were at ages 7, 12, and 17, and write a kind, thoughtful message to each. 4. Literally kiss seven different photos of your face from earlier in your life. 5. Say "thank you" and "bless you" to the self you were when you succeeded at two challenging tests in the past.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You know more about how karma works than all the other signs. Scorpio-style intelligence typically has a fine intuitive grasp of how today's realities evolved out of the deep patterns and rhythms of the past. But that doesn't mean you perfectly understand how karma works. And in the coming weeks, I urge you to be eager to learn more. Become even savvier about how the law of cause and effect impacts the destinies of you and your allies. Meditate on how the situations you are in now were influenced by actions you took once upon a time. Ruminant on what you could do in the near future to foster good karma and diminish weird karma.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Kabbalistic writer Simon Jacobson says, "Like a flame, the soul always reaches upward. The soul's fire wants to defy the confines of life. It cannot tolerate the mediocrity and monotony of sheer materialism. Its passion knows no limits as it craves for the beyond." That sounds both marvelous and hazardous, right? Jacobson concludes, "Whether the soul's fire will be a constructive or destructive force is dependent on the person's motivation." According to my astrological analysis, your deep motivations are likely to be extra noble and generous in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. So I expect that your soul's fire will be very constructive.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** In the Spanish language, there's the idiom pensando en la inmortalidad del cangrejo. Its literal translation is "thinking about the immortality of the crab." It applies to a person engaged in creative daydreaming—her imagination wandering freely in hopes of rousing innovative solutions to practical dilemmas. Other languages have similar idioms. In Finnish, istun ja mietin syntytjä syviä means "wondering about the world's early origins." Polish has marzy o niebieskich migdałach, or "dreaming about blue almonds." I encourage you to enjoy an abundance of such explorations in the coming days, Capricorn. You need to fantasize more than usual.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** My Aquarian reader Georgie Lee wrote to tell me what it's like being an Aquarius. I offer it to you because you are potentially at the peak of expressing the qualities she names. She says, "Accept that you don't really have to understand yourself. Be at peace with how you constantly ramble, swerve, and weave to become more of yourself. Appreciate how each electric shift leads to the next electric shift, always changing who you are forever. Within the churning, ever-yearning current, marvel at how you remain eternal, steady, and solid—yet always evolving, always on a higher ground before."

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Here's a good way build your vibrancy: Use your emotional intelligence to avoid swimming against strong currents for extended periods. Please note that swimming against strong currents is fine, even advisable, for brief phases. Doing so boosts your stamina and fosters your trust in your resilience. But mostly, I recommend you swim in the same direction as the currents or swim where the water is calm and currentless. In the coming weeks, I suspect you can enjoy many freestyle excursions as you head in the same direction as vigorous currents.

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.

# Ice cream shop lights up parking lot

Bunker Busters Ice Cream is a side venture of Pro Fireworks

By SARAH SPOHN

Thanks to Bunker Busters Ice Cream, Lansing has a hot new place to enjoy a cold treat. The small but mighty new business is located at 901 N. Larch Street in the parking lot of Pro Fireworks. While it's only been open for a shade over a month, this new venture, launched by the fireworks store, was a long time coming.

Kyle Ahrens, Pro Fireworks operations director, said Bunker Busters was initiated last year by Pro Fireworks CEO and founder James Stajos—who was inspired by his father's dream to open an ice cream shop.

After purchasing a 20-foot shipping container last fall, a team got to work on converting the space into a premium ice cream shop. Their staff waited until after Pro Fire-

work's busiest time of year, the Fourth of July, to open up shop.

And while it's a relatively tiny storefront, Ahrens said Bunker Busters is completely decked out and lit up. The once plain-looking white shipping container was fashioned into a uniquely modern spot, with a vibrant bright blue metal logo and adorning purple ice cream cones.

"We gave Dane (Vermeulen) over at Michigan Imagery our vision and what we wanted," Ahrens said. "He handled it himself and did a terrific job."

Fitting all the equipment needed for a full-fledged ice cream shop in the space required some preparation, but Ahrens said careful planning allowed them to utilize the space with top-notch products.

"It's been a journey to get this business open," he said. "You will not regret



Courtesy photo

Bunker Busters Ice Cream is located in the parking lot of Pro Fireworks. The tasty little shop opened in July.

stopping by. People love the quality of the ice cream. Other ice cream places are normally 6 to 7% buttermilk. Here it's 10%, so it's real ice cream. That's the difference with our product compared to a lot of other places."

Menu items include chocolate and vanilla soft serve, waffle cones and candy toppings. Specialty sundaes such as turtle, brownie and death-by-chocolate, and an assortment of shakes and flur-

ries also made the cut. The shop's namesake item, inspired by firecrackers, is the 32 oz. Bunker Buster flurry, perfect for sharing. Prices range from \$2 to \$10.

"The benefit we have is we already own the property," Ahrens said. "We don't have to pay rent, so we can drive down the cost and give people really good quality ice cream for a cheap price."

And while there's no indoor seating, Bunker Busters has outdoor seating, a popular choice for its growing customer base. "We have picnic tables so people can sit down, enjoy ice cream with their family and just spend time together," said Ahrens, who added the company hopes to expand its ice cream biz to future locations.



## Bunker Busters Ice Cream

901 N. Larch St., Lansing  
(517) 246-6700  
Monday-Sunday  
Noon-9 p.m.  
bunkerbusters.com  
facebook.com/  
BunkerBustersIceCream

# A colossal, awe-inspiring tale

'Big Fish' leaps for joy, earns standing ovation

By Chelsea Lake Roberts

A cast of 28 actors of varying ages, abilities and backgrounds brought down the house Saturday night at Lansing's Riverwalk Theatre with its immense "Big Fish" production.

Review

Dale Wayne Williams created a memorable and moving exploration of fatherhood, truth and the fantasies of childhood with his Riverwalk directorial debut.

In addition to guiding this large cast with precision and exuberance, Williams' creativity shines, especially in moments of stage magic when fish fly, flowers bloom, and time stops for love and loss. It presents a mix of highs and lows punctuated with laugh-out-loud comedy and sweeping songs. Tall tales and family secrets raise powerful questions: What does it mean to be a good father? What

does it mean to have a big life?

I have not been to a musical in a very long time, so I was unprepared for the big feelings I got from watching a sizeable cast take to the stage in song, dance and pure joy. As I watched, I noticed a young girl sitting in the audience. She was singing along through her mask to almost every word. I couldn't help remembering how I was at that age: entirely in awe of the theater and captivated by big, bold stories. This show brought that feeling back.

"Big Fish" is about what we leave to our children, not in money or position but experiences and ambitions. The big-talking protagonist Edward Bloom (Kameron Going) can't take his son to the theater, but he entertains him with what he has. Bloom is a complex lead, a traveling salesman who is always impressive but a little dishonest. Going's portrayal brings something softer than I expected to Edward Bloom. In this world of elephants, giants and big

fish, Going's version of Bloom is human-sized. He's not larger than life; he is just trying to make a life. Still, his presence is everything to his son, who, after 30 years, says, "My father is a stranger I know very well."

Playing opposite Going are Brian Farnham (Will Bloom) and Emily Stokes (Sandra Bloom). The relationship between father and son is especially electric. Farnham's voice is as calm, clear and concerted as his character. He is especially compelling in "Stranger." Stokes' brings vocal power to her role, especially on her solo "I Don't Need a Roof." It was my personal showstopper and should not be missed.

Several supporting cast members brought their focus, power and playfulness. I especially appreciated Ny'Kieria Blocker, who wowed as The Witch, and Tim Edinger, who brought depth to the role of Don Price. This show is filled with both experienced and emerging talent. Around 14 ensemble members

made their Riverwalk debut, and two cast members (Stephanie Constan as Dr. Bennett and Trina Rowell in the ensemble) made their musical theater debuts.

Beyond that, Amanda Macomber's artistry and experience as a costumer are on full display. It is no small feat to dress that many people. The USO showgirls and the Western scene were especially dazzling, thanks to the bold lighting by Ted Daniel and support from Macomber's costuming choices. It all helps the audience understand the various locations, transitions and flashbacks throughout this story.

In theory, terrible parents make for sensational scoops, while good parents are pretty dull. But "Big Fish" is about a "real" person. A small-town hero who lived to tell a tall tale and was neither a saint nor a monster. He tells his son, "Remember me as something bigger than I was."

And his son cannot refuse him.

# 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 24

**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's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**An Evening of Reflections** - We are thrilled to welcome our storytellers back to the stage! 6:30-8 p.m. MSUFUCU, 3899 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing. [origamirehab.org](http://origamirehab.org).

**Auditions: "Everybody"** - 6:30-9:30 p.m. Lansing Community College - Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122.

**Brown Bag Books** - Aug.1-31. Mystery, comedy, adventure and the 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)

**Concert in the Park** - Miranda and the M-80s. 7-9 p.m. William E. Tennant Performance Shell, 801 W Park St., St. Johns. 989-224-2429. [clintoncountyarts.org](http://clintoncountyarts.org).

**It's My Art Show!** - My mixed media art is displayed in the Event Room at Okemos Library throughout August. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. [retreadart.com](http://retreadart.com).

**Laingsburg Community Singers** - Singers needed. Laingsburg United Methodist Church, 210 N Crum St., Laingsburg. Find us on FB for rehearsal dates.

**LEGO Building Challenge! Build something amazing with your LEGOs and have a chance to win prizes!** Bring your creation to the library by August 31st. 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 are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr Blvd., Lansing. [lamc.info](http://lamc.info).

**Meridian Democrats Public Meeting** - 6-8 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Rd., Okemos.

**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. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Storybook Stroll** - Eaton County Parks & Downtown GL through August. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

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

### Lansing Bless Fest and Flo-Fest takeover Adado

Friday, Aug. 26—Sunday, Aug. 28

Adado Riverfront Park  
300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing

Full schedules:  
[mediamessengers.org](http://mediamessengers.org)

Hosted by Media Messengers, a non-profit, inter-denominational organization "commissioned to communicate the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ in unique and creative ways," hosts a trio of free events and concerts this weekend at Adado Riverfront Park.



Courtesy photo

Bendito, a Saginaw emcee, performs Friday at Lansing Flo Fest.

The festivities kick off Friday (Aug. 26) with **Lansing Flo Fest**, a hip-hop festival running 6-9 p.m.

The free event is family-friendly and features inspiring performances from Bendito, a Saginaw emcee, and Joe Brown & TBAR Music Group, a Grand Rapids-based performer.

On Saturday (Aug. 27), Adado shifts to **Lansing Bless Fest**, a variety music festival on the riverfront. Performers include Steven Malcolm, Kevi Morse, Jalen Bell, Connor Roy, the New Hope Community Choir and more. Along with music, the festival offers free food, like burgers and hot dogs, complimentary bottled water and snacks and attractions like the Kid's Fun Zone. However, bring some cash to purchase merchandise. Attendees can enter a series of free raffles and prize giveaways. Shaded seating under tents will be available.

Closing out the weekend, on Sunday (Aug. 28), is the **United Church Service**, which runs 6-8 p.m. As to what do expect, organizers said: "Let's gather together under the cross of Jesus Christ. Connect as Christians and create an opportunity for the people of Lansing to experience God."



Courtesy photo

Steven Malcolm performs Saturday at Lansing Bless Fest.

### Thursday, August 25

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

**Computer Help** - Did you know you can get your computer looked at for free at the library? 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

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

**Foster Parent/Adoption Information Session** - Virtual. 5-8 p.m. For the link, contact Ingham MDHHS, Christina Redmond at 517-775-2693. [redmondc2@michigan.gov](mailto:redmondc2@michigan.gov)

**Good Morning, Mason!** - local news and community updates. 8:30 a.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds Community Building, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

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

**Sounds of Summer** - Enjoy a variety of musical entertainment. 6:30-8 p.m. Two

Rivers Bandshell, Dixie Highway, Portland. [ectownusa.net](http://ectownusa.net).

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

### Friday, August 26

**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).

**Brown Bag Concert Series** - Kitty Donoho. 12-1 p.m. Rotary Park Pavilion, 107 E. Railroad St, St. Johns. [clintoncountyarts.org](http://clintoncountyarts.org)

**Charlotte Fire Flow Jam Series 2022** - hosted by Nat Spinz and Flames 'N Dames! 9 p.m. Old Courthouse Museum, 100 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte.

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

**Fenner Bushcraft: Fire Crafting** - have you ever wondered how to start a fire with a spark, a lump of coal, a mushroom? 6-8 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E Mount Hope

Ave, Lansing. [mynaturecenter.org](http://mynaturecenter.org).

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

**Lansing Flo-Fest (Hip Hop Festival)** - (clean) Free Raffles! Fun for Kids! 6-9 p.m. Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. [mediamessengers.org](http://mediamessengers.org).

**McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation's McLaren Loves Lansing** - 7-11:30 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. [mclarenloveslansing.org](http://mclarenloveslansing.org).

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

**Summer Send Off** - LSO is thrilled to perform in the City of Lansing's Parks & Recreation's "Summer Concert Series" at 6:30 p.m. Moores River Park, Lansing. [lansingsymphony.org](http://lansingsymphony.org).

**TGIF Dinner & Dance Party** - Everyone is welcome! 7-11:59 p.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd. Bath. 734-604-5095. [tgifdance.com](http://tgifdance.com).

# Events

from page 20

## Saturday, August 27

**17th Anniversary Harvest Celebration** - 12-6 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery 5635 Shoeman Rd., Haslett. burgdorfwinery.com.

**Community Family Fun Fair** - Food trucks, bounce houses, live entertainment, vendors. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Community Faith Church, 4801 E Willoughby Rd, Holt. cfcholt.com.

**Drum Circle** - Bring your drums, rattles, instruments - 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

**Fireside Chat - Michigan Predators** - 7-8:30 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

**Knee High Hikers** - 1-3 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E Mount Hope Ave, Lansing. mynaturecenter.org.

**Lansing Roller Derby** - in person and live stream. After taking 5-9 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

**SFG & L1ENT Artist Showcase Cap City** - 7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St, Lansing.

## Sunday, August 28

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

**Christ Students Community Carnival** - We welcome everybody back for games, prizes, food and fun! Free event! 1-5:30 p.m. Martin Luther Chapel, 444 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

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

**Kids Day** - 1-4 p.m. Absolute Gallery, 307 E Grand River Ave, Lansing. 517-482-8845. absolutegallery.net.

**An Introduction to "A Course of Love"** - with Lucille Olson. 9:30-10:15 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 S. Washington, Lansing. unitylansing.org

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

**Sundried Music Festival Vendor Row 2022** - Registration is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse Square, Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

## Monday, August 29

**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.

**Moonlight ExtravaGRANDza** - The community welcomes back students with activities, vendors, and artists. 8-11 p.m. East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

## Tuesday, August 30

**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.

**Campfire Glow** - 10x30 canvas. 6:30-9 p.m. Charlie's Bar and Grill Perry, 136 N. Main St., Perry. paintyourpoison.com.

**Indoor Farmers Market** - 3-6 p.m. Spring Vale Campus, 4150 S. M 52, Owosso. hipaa.jotform.com.

**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** - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org

**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.



**JANITORS NEEDED** - \$14/hour, 2-3 hours per night, Mon.-Fri. (Friday night cleaning can be done over the weekend). Must have own transportation. Excellent secondary income. Call 517-321-3303.

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Thurs. & Fri. August 25-26, 9am-6 pm  
Sat., August 27, 9am - 1 p.m.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 18

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 18

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2	5	6	8	3	9	7	4	1
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# Enter the meta-veg

## Greco-Roman Caprese is an earthy, savory combination

By ARI LEVAUX

This time of year, it can be challenging to name a single item of produce that isn't ripe. The earth has tilted squarely toward peak veg. It's the gazpacho days of summer when anyone can effortlessly be a vegetarian. Even the most dedicated carnivores might unknowingly find themselves satisfied at the end of a meat-free meal. I get that way for a salad I call Greco Roman Caprese. By going public with such a name, I won't be able to travel freely on the Island of Capri, where the iconic salad of tomato, basil and mozzarella is supposed to have originated. But I mean it with the utmost respect.

My capricious version employs feta cheese instead of mozzarella and adds cucumber, onion, garlic, lemon juice, vinegar and not just basil but also parsley and thyme. So, it's truly a stretch to call this salad Caprese. But when the tomato, basil and cheese find each other, and that distinct flavor combination

hits, the name just works.

Still, the ingredients change it. The most striking part of this salad is how the acids from the tomato juice, vinegar and lemon all combine. Redundancy is underrated. Adding multiple acid sources creates a more complex flavor than a single sour ingredient.

The relatively mild-mannered cucumber provides an aquatic stage so the stronger flavors can play out their drama. Those refreshing chunks are a peaceful counterpoint to the swirl of herbs, acids and spicy allium bulbs. The sharp and savory pizzazz of garlic and onion dance on the cheese and tomato while flavoring the acids with their spicy pungency. When stirred, and the fragrances combine, my whole body feels hungry for this earthy, savory combination. Each bite is a splashy step through a freshly watered garden.

The other day I made another batch, and the leftovers mainly were dressing, which I used to season baked eggplant.

First, I sliced the eggplants in half (end-to-end) and cut a little off the bottom of each half, so they could sit flat with the cut sides facing up. I placed as many halves as possible into a deep oven pan. Then, with a short knife, I scored cross-hatches on each cut face so they looked like pieces of graph paper. I topped each half with a sprinkle of salt, a spoonful of minced garlic and a pour of olive oil. Then I drenched everything in the leftover Greco-Roman dressing. After baking for two hours at 350, I let the eggplant cool. The next day, I shoveled my next batch of salad atop the room-temperature eggplant. Once again, I entered the meta-veg.

### Greco Roman Caprese

Remember, while vegetables are the



star of this salad, it depends on the creamy, salty feta to pull the whole thing together. Don't skimp on the cheese.

### Serves 4

- 1 medium onion, minced finely
- 3 pressed garlic cloves
- 2 lemon's worth, 8-10 tablespoons

See Flash, Page 23

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Courtesy photo

Ari LeVaux's Greco-Roman Caprese. There is an eggplant under there. Truly!

## Flash

from page 22

- 1 cup olive oil
  - 3 tablespoons balsamic
  - 3 tablespoons white or red wine vinegar
  - 2 teaspoons salt
  - 2 lb cucumber, peeled – sliced into half-inch chunks or rounds
  - One large bunch of parsley, no stalks
  - One large bunch of basil, no stalks
  - One bunch of thyme, leaves only (optional)
  - 3 lb – or more – tomatoes, cut into chunks about an inch on a side
  - 1 pound sheep feta, cut into half-inch or so cubes
- In a bowl, combine the onion, garlic,

lemon juice, vinegar, salt and olive oil. Set this dressing aside while prepping the vegetables and cheese.

Add the cucumbers to a large bowl, followed by the tomatoes, parsley, basil leaves and feta. Add the dressing and lightly toss, lifting from the bottom. Be gentle: don't crumble the feta, crush the tomatoes or mangle the herbs.

Serve immediately, and when the chunks are gone, save the dressing. Use it as a marinade or a sauce for baked eggplant or zucchini. Or drink it, like the Greco-Roman elixir it is.

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**Warning:** Use by pregnant or breastfeeding women, or by women planning to become pregnant, may result in fetal injury, pre-term birth, low birth weight, or developmental problems for the child.

FOR REGISTERED QUALIFYING PATIENTS ONLY OR FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR ADULT USE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA. ACTUAL VALUE OF THC AND CBD MAY VARY FROM REPORTED VALUE BY 10%.

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