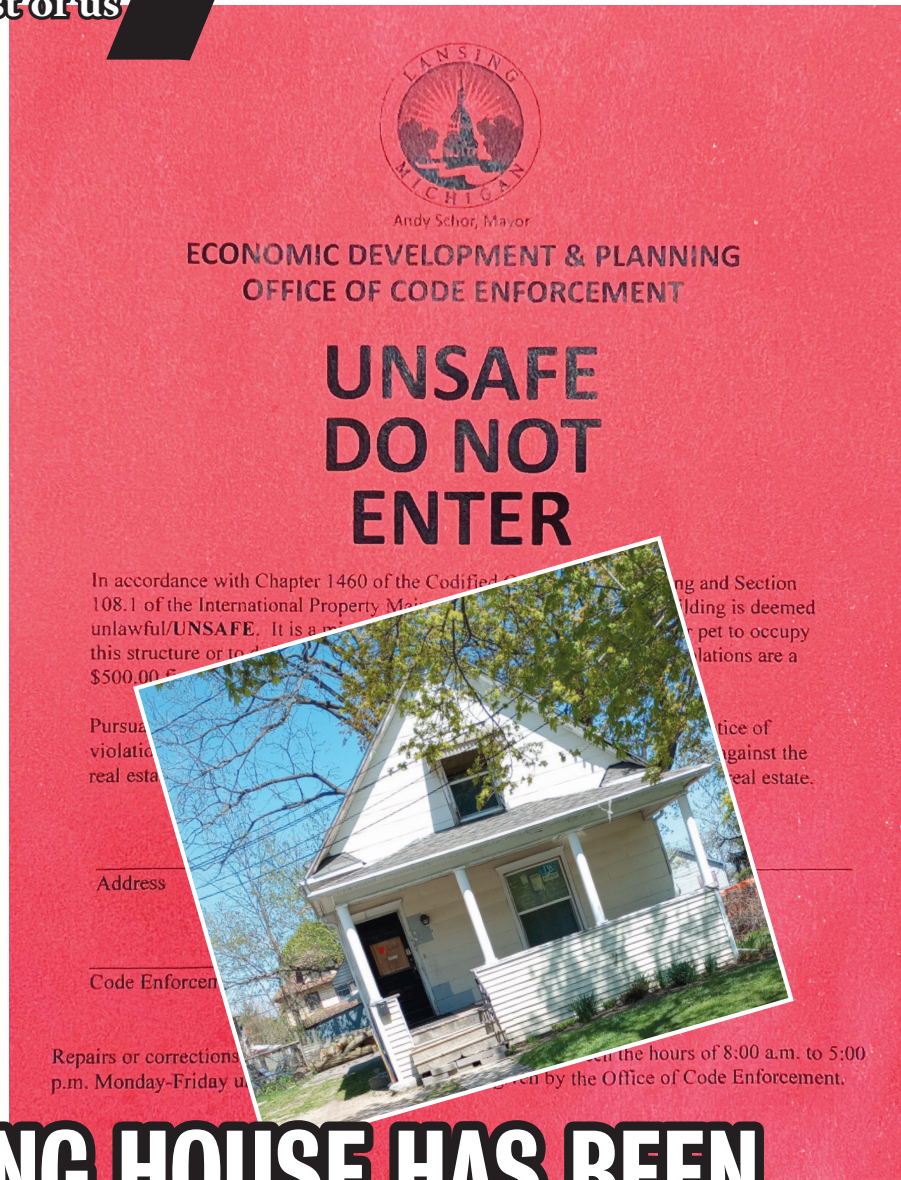


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NEWS & OPINION

Case comparison shows special treatment for Shiawassee Co. sheriff

Judge Alderson gave heavier sentences and fines to others comparably charged with drunk driving

Shiawassee County Sheriff Douglas Chapman received preferential treatment when he was sentenced for a drunk driving arrest in 2018, an analysis of court records of other such arrests before the same judge during the same time frame shows.

The sentence and fines that Chapman received from 54-A District Judge Louise Alderson were significantly less than 11 others received from her who entered into plea deals for operating while intoxicated during the same period.

A City Pulse investigation into police reports and court records of 11 drivers who entered into guilty pleas before Alderson from December 2018 to June 2019 — when Chapman was facing charges — shows he received favorable treatment.

Alderson retired in January last year after 21 years on the bench. Efforts to reach her for comment have been unsuccessful.

Chapman was a road patrol sergeant at the time. He was appointed county sheriff last year to fill out the last two years of his predecessor's four-year term.

Chapman's blood alcohol level tested at .19%, which is considered "super drunk" under Michigan law. It was his first and only arrest.

A local attorney who worked as an assistant prosecutor for over a decade agreed to review all the reports for City Pulse. The attorney asked not to be identified so he could speak frankly about judicial decisions, since he is still practicing and was concerned about the reaction of judges. The attorney's practice includes criminal law.

"I can tell you this is not a deal that would be available to you or me," the attorney said of Chapman's deal. "I think the bottom line here is that the common citizen would not be treated with the leniency that this public official was treated with."

While Chapman received nine months

of probation, he served only five. He was ordered to pay \$685 in fines and \$150 in probation fees for a total of \$835.

But 10 of the 11 other individuals who entered into guilty pleas for the same crime during a six-month period when Chapman was involved with the court found themselves facing probation for as long as 18 months, with fees ranging from \$1,084 to \$2,051. The eleventh individual received a \$360 fine but spent 60 days in jail as well.

Eight of the individuals identified were sentenced to jail for their crimes. Seven were sentenced to 93 days in jail, and one was sentenced to 60 days in jail. The jail time was on top of fines and fees.

Twelve cases of guilty pleas for OWI were identified by 54-A District Court Administrator Anethia Brewer. Using that information, City Pulse filed public records requests for police reports on each of the identified cases. One case was not used in the assessment because the individual was charged with and entered into a guilty plea for multiple crimes.

The individuals are not being identified to protect their privacy. Pre-sentence reports, which evaluate recommendations for probation and jail based on a person's social, psychological and criminal history are not legally available for the public and therefore were not used in the comparisons.

Of the 11 cases, five people were white men, two were Black men, one a Hispanic woman and one a Black woman. In two cases, race was not identified in reports. The individuals ranged in age from 21 to 68. Blood alcohol levels in five of the cases were over .17% or higher. That's the state's "super drunk" level. The blood alcohol levels in five cases were unavailable in police reports or court records, although the original charges in four of those cases were for blood alcohol levels above .17%.

Super drunk is a felony in Michigan with automatic license suspensions for a year. After 45 days some individuals can qualify for a restricted license, but all vehicles they drive must have an ignition lock installed that requires a blood-alcohol-content test before the car can start. The equipment has to be installed



Courtesy Owosso Argus-Press

Shiawassee County Sheriff Douglas Chapman (left) received favorable treatment from Ingham County 54-A District Judge Louise Alderson in a drunk-driving conviction compared to others who came before her on similar charges during the same period, a study of cases shows.

at the individual's expense.

The highest blood alcohol level in the cases was .278% according to reports. The 21-year-old Hispanic female who had that level was sentenced to 18 months' probation and \$1,460.28 in fines and fees.

The lowest was .085%. The 26-year-old Black man was sentenced to 60 days in jail and paid \$360 in fines and fees. His license was also suspended, but records do not indicate how long the suspension was.

A 32-year-old Black man who had a blood alcohol level of .34 was sentenced to 18 months' probation, 93 days in jail and fines and fees of \$2,267.64. That's the harshest sentence handed down by Alderson in the 11 cases.

In another case, a 24-year-old white man was sentenced to nine months of probation and \$1,330.10 in fines and fees. He had an unknown blood alcohol level but was originally charged under the super drunk law.

In the case where a 45-year-old Hispanic male had a blood alcohol level of .233%, the man was sentenced to 93 days in jail, nine months of probation and \$1,203.64 in fines and fees.

The only Black woman appearing in the reviewed records was charged under the super drunk law, meaning her blood alcohol level was over .17%, although records do not disclose her results. The 36-year-old woman was sentenced to 12 months of probation and fines and fees of \$1,369.38.

Chapman's story is one of getting break after break.

Chapman was arrested Oct. 9, 2018, by Michigan State troopers. MSP reported that Chapman, who was off duty at the time, was passed out at the wheel of his vehicle, which was in the middle of the entrance ramp to I-69 at M71, the Durand Corunna exit, around 1 a.m. His personal truck was still in gear. Two loaded handguns were in a luggage container on the front seat beside him.

He refused roadside sobriety tests at the scene, so he was arrested and taken to the Flint post, where he received his first break: He was not tested until two hours after troopers found him. Even so, he had a blood alcohol level of .19 and then .17 when measured within minutes of each other at the post shortly after 3 a.m. The legal limit is .08. Bowling Green State University Department of Recreation and Wellness reports that, on average, a person will lose .015 in blood alcohol content each hour. This means that when troopers found him passed out at the wheel, his level could have been as high as .20, significantly over the legal limit and well into the "super drunk" category adopted by the state Legislature in 2010.

Yet MSP troopers only sought a charge for operating while intoxicated — a charge below the state's super drunk law, his second break.

After his arrest, Shiawassee County judges and the prosecutor recused themselves. The case was assigned to Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon and to Alderson by state authorities. That is normal court procedure.

Chapman entered a guilty plea to operating while intoxicated, the lowest drunk driving offense in Michigan law, on Dec. 14, 2018. In addition to the probation and fines he paid, the Secretary of State's Office reported that his license

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Longtime understudy plays Elphaba in "Wicked" at Wharton Center

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Get to know the woman behind Ganja Girl



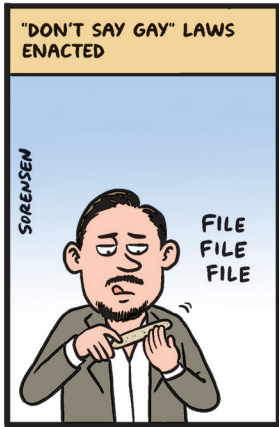
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Enjoy gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options at Anna's House

Cover design by Design2Pro

Delivery drivers: Cindy Heistand, Laurie Langstaff, Curt Lauck, Terri Paine

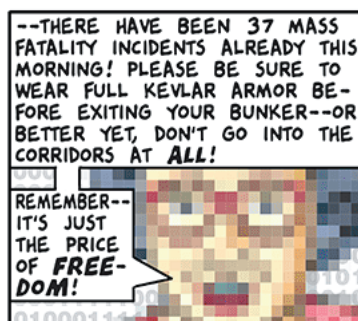
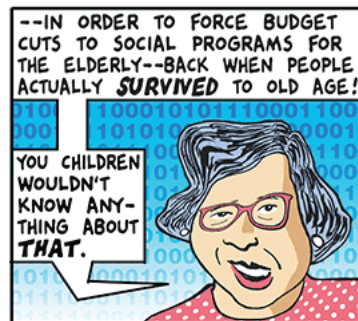
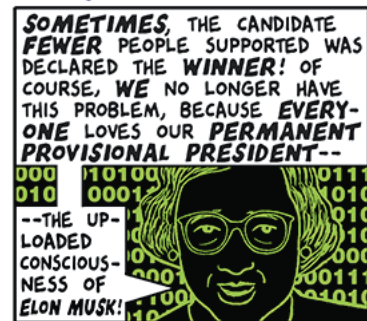
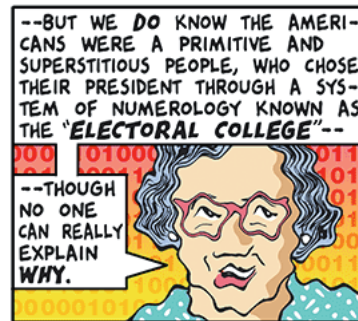
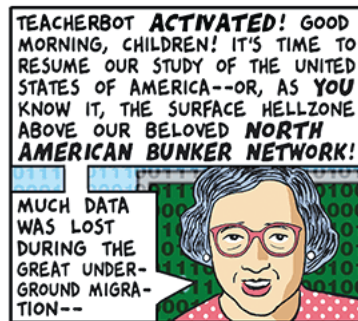
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOEHEL



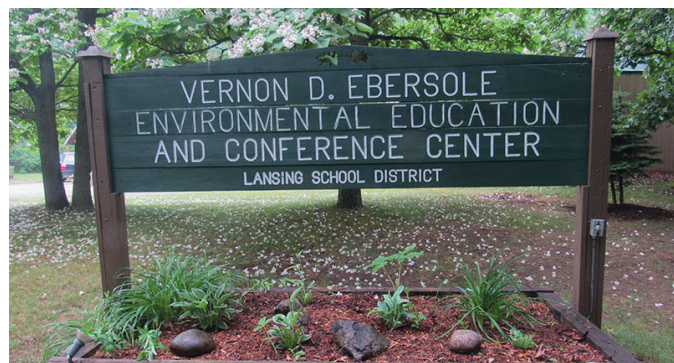
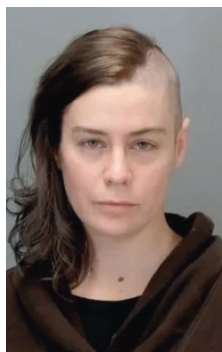
Five people were assaulted and one person was stabbed at the Willow Vista Apartments in the 500 block of West Willow Street. The six victims, who are believed to be residents at the apartments, were hospitalized in stable condition. One person was arrested but hasn't been charged. Police believe there's no threat to the public.

In other related news:

A 48-year-old man was fatally shot at Reutter Park. Lewis Hill was pronounced dead at the hospital. No arrests have been made, but the Lansing Police Department believes there's no threat to the public.

A woman was shot in the head in the 200 block of East Hazel Street. The woman was awake and talking when police arrived at the scene. She was hospitalized in stable condition. No arrests have been made, and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about either of the shootings should call the Lansing Police Department at 517-483-4600.

A woman charged with second-degree murder after her 4-year-old son drowned in Lake Lansing waived her right to a preliminary exam in 55th District Court. Claire Elizabeth Powers, 34, claimed her son was wearing a life jacket when their kayak tipped over on Lake Lansing in March 2022, but investigators couldn't find one at the scene. Her son was retrieved from the water and taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Her case is headed to Circuit Court. If convicted, she could face life in prison.



The Ebersole Foundation donated 80 acres of land to the Lansing School District to expand its Ebersole Environmental Education Center. The gift nearly doubles the size of the center. The land, which has a value of almost \$1 million, is adjacent to the center's current site in Wayland, about 75 miles west of Lansing between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. The foundation raised the funds from nearly 400 donors throughout the Lansing area. "The Ebersole Center started as

a tent campground in the 1970s and today is a jewel in the Lansing School District," center Director Benjamin Botwinski said. "The donation of this land increases the total size of our center to 238 acres, and the site features a 14-acre lake, many biodiverse environments including wetlands and mature forests." The center also includes classrooms, a cafeteria, a conference center and dorm-style housing for 120 students traveling from Lansing for education programs.

Michigan State University announced its full presidential search committee. Board of Trustees member Dennis Denno is committee chair, and Trustee Brianna Scott is vice chair. There are 27 additional committee members, including other trustees, undergraduate and graduate students, university faculty, support staff, alumni, athletic coaches and state leaders. The full list can be found at presidentsearch.msu.edu. "The full search committee is reflective of the diverse voices and perspectives of those who care about Michigan State University," Denno said. "Our commitment from the onset has been to ensure an inclusive process that leads us to a top candidate for the university's 22nd president." The committee will review the feedback it received through campus open forums and listening sessions to determine the characteristics and qualities the community desires in the school's next president. It will also provide input on the position description and screen and interview applicants to determine which should be considered by the Board of Trustees.

In other related news:

MSU held its spring commencement ceremonies Friday (May 5). 6,978 bachelor's degree candidates were honored with a speech by Lisa Cook, a Federal Reserve Board of Governors member and MSU professor. 1,362 master's degree candidates were honored with a speech by Jill Hruba, undersecretary for nuclear security in the U.S. Department of Energy and administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration. 466 doctoral degree candidates were honored with a speech by Anthony Fauci, former chief medical adviser to the president and former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "I do not believe that I am being hyperbolic when I say that the normalization and casual acceptance of untruths without our fiercely pushing back ... can gradually lead to the erosion of the foundation of our democracy," Fauci told graduates at the ceremony, referencing the rise of anti-vaccine and anti-science sentiments during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. "You are our best hope to counter this threat to our society. Do not hesitate to push back these destructive forces with all the strength that you can muster."



J.W. Sexton High School debuted its new mascot. J-Dubbs, named for the late educator Jay Wesley Sexton, is a grey dog with a red spiked collar that includes a "JW" tag. Last year, the school received an \$87,500 grant from the

Notice to Creditors. Decedent's Estate. Case No. 23-31775-DE. Estate of Martha Jane Snider. Date of birth: 03/31/1946. The decedent, Martha Jane Snider, died 11/03/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to David W. Snider, personal representative, or to both the Clinton County Probate Court at 100 E. State St. #3400 St. Johns, MI 48879 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 05/08/2023. David W. Snider 6548 Bunker Hill Drive Lansing, MI 48906 Attorney Christine Caswell P71465 7402 Westshire Dr. #125 Lansing, MI 48917 517.282.1406

CP#23-111

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ingham County Housing Commission has developed its 2024 Annual Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. The Plan is available for review at the Housing Commission Office located in Carriage Lane Apartments, 3882 Dobie Rd. Okemos, MI. The Housing Commission office hours are Monday – Friday 8am-5pm. Please call 517-349-1643 for an appointment. In addition, a public hearing will be held on Thursday June 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Multi-purpose room of Carriage Lane Apartments. Public is welcome.

Shanda Johnston
Executive Director

CP#23-109

State of Michigan Probate Court. County of Ingham. Publication of Notice. File No 2-000221-GA. In the matter of Joseph Wikle. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Jeremy Plummer, Jason Plummer, Chris Smith, Eddie Smith, and James Smith, nephews of Joseph Wikle whose addresses are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: Mid-Michigan Guardianship Service, Inc. has been appointed the guardian of Joseph Wikle. Mid-Michigan Guardianship Services, Inc. intends to file one or more Annual Report of Guardian on Condition of Legally Incapacitated Individual with the Ingham County Probate Court located at 313 W Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48933. 5/2/2023 Mid-Michigan Guardianship Services, INC. 600 W. Maple St. Suite C Lansing, MI 48906 517.372.9853

CP#23-110

Native American Heritage Fund to change its original mascot, Big Reds, which was viewed as offensive to Native Americans. The Lansing School District Board of Education originally chose the Scorpions as the school's new mascot, despite J-Dubbs getting the most votes in a community poll. The board reversed its decision and went with J-Dubbs after receiving backlash from community members.



Treatment

from page 5

was restricted from Dec. 14, 2018, to March 15, 2019. Court records show Chapman's restrictions allowed him to "drive to and from residence, place of and during employment, treatment and support group meetings, regularly scheduled treatment for serious medical conditions, probation, community service, and school, must carry proof of destinations and hours."

His probation was served through Ingham County services rather than Shiawassee County programming, records show.

The attorney who helped City Pulse examine court cases said Chapman's probation supervision being done in Ingham instead of Shiawassee County was "unusual," as far as normal court operations. He said it was likely to prevent others from knowing of his arrest and conviction and keeping it from the public eye.

He said if he had represented Chapman, he would have asked the judge to assign probation to Ingham County rather than Shiawassee County "so nobody in government would know and none of the voters would know, and my client wouldn't have to appear at probation with other people that his department has arrested."

In a similar case three years later, then-Assistant Shiawassee County Prosecutor Chris Brown was charged with operating while intoxicated and two counts of possession of a firearm while impaired. The charges arose when Brown arrived at work two hours late and admitted to drinking. His blood test revealed an alcohol content of .14, nearly twice the legal limit, but not "super drunk."

The case was brought by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's team. It resulted in a guilty plea on one count each of operating while impaired and possession of a firearm while impaired. He was ordered by 66th District Judge Ward Clarkson, a Shiawassee County judge who recused himself in the Chap-

man case, to pay a \$1,500 fine. Brown had already moved out of the state and licensing officials in Michigan had intervened with "intensive probation" to keep his law license.

Carol Siemon, who was the Ingham County prosecutor at the time, has since retired. She said she did not recall Chapman's case. Her replacement is John Dewane. When City Pulse reached out to him earlier this year to explain the differences in the sentencing, here's how he responded:

"You have compared this case to another — one prosecuted by another agency — where there were both similar and unique characteristics," Dewane wrote in an email. "While each case has its own circumstances, I believe the sanctions were equivalent relative to the conduct and the evidence. Also, the plea and sentence were consistent with charging and sentencing policies under Prosecutor Carol Siemon."

"Police are subject to the same laws as the rest of us," Dewane said. "When a conflict of interest exists, the best practice is to provide for an outside agency

to review and prosecute these cases. I believe that each of these principles were handled satisfactorily on this case."

Shiawassee County Prosecutor Scott Koerner said in response to a public records request that Chapman did not testify in any drunk driving cases during his time on probation. His arrest and subsequent guilty plea are not required to be disclosed to the defense, he said.

"I would certainly want to know," said the attorney who helped City Pulse. "I probably couldn't use it in court, but I would want to know about it in a case and as a defense counsel."

In an interview with City Pulse last year, Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina called the Chapman case a "sweetheart" deal. The former assistant prosecutor helping City Pulse agreed with Aquilina's assessment.

"Frankly, I would be shocked as his attorney with the plea bargain that he got," the former prosecutor said. "I would be shocked that I was so successful."

— TODD HEYWOOD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 7:00 P.M., at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. The hearing will be for the purpose of reviewing the Special Assessment Roll for Special Assessment District No. 77 in conjunction with the Downtown Management Board.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Additionally, members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the City Clerk or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic access information:

Marie Wicks – Interim City Clerk
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Notice is further given that the said Roll is on file in the office of the City Clerk where it may be found for public examination, as well as online at <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/371/Downtown-Management-Board>. Any objections to the assessments on said Roll must be presented in writing at the above mentioned meeting. Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the amount of Special Assessment to the State Tax Tribunal. A property owner or party-in-interest or his/her agent may also appear in person at the hearing to protest the Special Assessment or may file his/her protest by letter received on or before the date of the hearing, and his/her personal appearance will not be required.

The total estimated costs of said Special Assessment Roll is \$109,260.00 all of which is proposed to be assessed in accordance with benefits upon the following described lots and parcels of land which are hereby found and declared to be specially benefitted by said improvement and are hereby designated as constituting Special Assessment Roll No. 77 for the Downtown Management Board.

33-20-01-13-227-005 254 W. Grand River	33-20-02-18-163-010 203 M.A.C. Avenue
33-20-01-13-227-006 248 W. Grand River	33-20-02-18-163-011 217 E. Grand River
33-20-01-13-227-020 300 W. Grand River	33-20-02-18-163-013 219 E. Grand River
33-20-01-13-227-021 133 Evergreen	33-20-02-18-163-014 225 E. Grand River
33-20-01-13-229-010 327 Abbot Road	22-20-02-18-163-101 201 E. Grand River
33-20-01-13-230-006 100 W. Grand River	33-20-02-18-164-101 240 M.A.C. Avenue
33-20-01-13-238-001 311 W. Grand River	33-20-02-18-164-102 301 E. Grand River
33-20-01-13-240-004 234 Michigan Avenue	33-20-02-18-164-201 360 Albert Avenue
33-20-01-13-240-005 210 Michigan Avenue	33-20-02-18-164-202 320 Albert Avenue

33-20-02-18-136-001 322 Abbot Road	33-20-02-18-165-002 307 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-136-008 325 Grove Street	33-20-02-18-165-004 321 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-136-011 311 Grove Street	33-20-02-18-165-005 333 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-136-017 131 Albert Avenue	33-20-02-18-165-006 309 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-136-018 115 Albert Avenue	33-20-02-18-165-007 313 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-137-002 211 Ann Street	33-20-02-18-165-008 317 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-137-005 213 Ann Street	33-20-02-18-166-003 421 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-138-004 301 M.A.C. Avenue	33-20-02-18-166-004 427 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-138-005 221 Ann Street	33-20-02-18-166-005 435 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-139-008 314 M.A.C. Avenue	33-20-02-18-166-009 401 E. Grand River
33-20-00-18-150-102 300 M.A.C. Avenue	33-20-02-18-166-100 410 Albert Avenue
33-20-00-18-150-103 325 Albert Avenue	33-20-02-18-166-101 110 Charles Street
33-20-02-18-152-005 423 Albert Avenue	33-20-02-18-167-004 512 Albert Avenue
33-20-02-18-152-006 433 Albert Avenue	33-20-02-18-168-001 501 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-162-001 218 Abbot Road	33-20-02-18-168-008 537 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-162-003 231 M.A.C. Avenue	33-20-02-18-168-009 547 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-162-004 223 M.A.C. Avenue	33-20-02-18-168-010 505 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-162-005 221 M.A.C. Avenue	33-20-02-18-168-011 515 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-162-101 192 Albert Avenue	33-20-02-18-168-012 521 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-163-001 110 Abbot Road	33-20-02-18-170-002 551 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-163-002 115 E. Grand River	33-20-02-18-170-003 565 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-163-006 211 E. Grand River	33-20-02-18-172-003 611 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-163-007 213 E. Grand River	33-20-02-18-172-004 619 E. Grand River
33-20-02-18-163-009 211 M.A.C. Avenue	33-20-02-18-172-005 639 E. Grand River
	33-20-02-18-172-009 601 E. Grand River

For more information, please contact Matt Apostle at (517) 319-6859 or at mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Marie Wicks, Interim City Clerk
City of East Lansing
Ingham and Clinton Counties CP#23-108

Elected commissioners in Clinton County are on the verge of approving a one-year moratorium on renewable energy developments, which would prohibit 11 of the county's 16 townships from entertaining applications for large-scale wind or solar projects. It's the latest manifestation of the ever-popular "Not In My Backyard" syndrome, and it's currently sweeping rural communities across the state. The trend is a clear and present danger to Michigan's successful transition from fossil fuels to renewable clean energy.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Michigan Healthy Climate Plan sets out an ambitious goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. A group of Michigan Democrats led by State Sen. Sam Singh recently called for an even more aggressive timetable of net zero by 2035 — little more than a decade from now. But achieving either goal is likely to be a tall task thanks to scores of NIMBY-driven opponents, who are managing to put a stick in the spokes of utility-scale renewable energy developments in rural communities across the state.

We understand the aesthetic concerns associated with massive wind farms that dot the landscape with towering propellers, but it's something most people can learn to live with given the associated benefits. And there are successes: DTE, Michigan's largest investor-owned utility, just cut the ribbon on its new \$300 million, 225-megawatt Meridian Wind project that cuts across three townships in two counties near Saginaw. The wind farm is expected to generate enough clean energy to power 78,000 homes, which is nearly equivalent to every household in Flint, Saginaw, Bay City and Midland combined.

From our perspective, widespread and growing opposition to utility-scale solar development on Michigan's farmland is the most disconcerting trend. Local objections range from not unreasonable aesthetic considerations, which are readily addressed with setback and screening requirements, to the utterly false and plainly absurd: that Michigan will lose most of its prime farmland, or that solar panels cause poisonous runoff, and, of course, what's the big deal about climate change anyway?

The truth is that utility-scale solar will only utilize a tiny fraction of Michigan's agricultural land. A bushel of compelling reasons favor the expansion of solar farms, which are, in fact, good for the environment, for farmers and their land, and for the communities that agree to host them. Starting with the obvious, solar farms generate emissions-free electricity that helps reduce our

reliance on fossil fuels to power our homes and businesses. When planted with native grasses and flowering species important to pollinators, solar farms help support ecosystems that increase biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife.

The land beneath the solar panels gets an extended break from intensive agriculture, allowing the soil to regenerate important nutrients and minerals, making it even more viable for agricultural use after the solar panels are decommissioned and removed.

Local communities that welcome utility-scale solar also stand to gain millions in long-term tax revenues they can use to support schools, enhance public safety, fix roads or build new recreational facilities.

For small farmers and their families, leasing land for solar can be a financial lifeline in a business where annual yields and market prices can be unpredictable, the cost of inputs like fuel and fertilizer continue to rise, and competition from corporate-owned megafarms and foreign growers can cut profit margins to the quick. By going solar, farmers can make anywhere from three to 20 times the per-acre revenue they can generate by growing corn or soybeans, with a lot less work and financial overhead.

We think it's hypocritical that the biggest detractors of solar farms, who, generally speaking, don't like the government telling

them what to do, are more than happy to tell their rural neighbors what they can do with their land. And it's ironic that by opposing solar farms, a long-term but still temporary land use, they could instead end up with yet another permanent, cookie cutter residential subdivision carved into their bucolic rural landscape.

Governor Whitmer and the new legislative Democratic majority should start building a sea wall against the rising tide of NIMBY opposition to renewable energy developments in rural Michigan. We're generally supportive of local control but

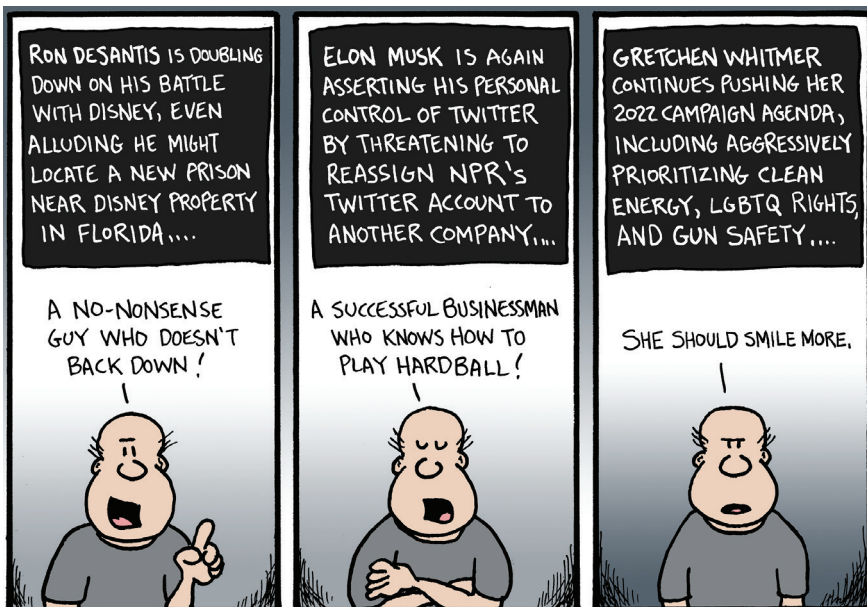
recognize that there are times when the public interest is more important than parochial preferences. We believe the need to build out Michigan's renewable energy infrastructure outweighs local objections that often are based on misinformation and irrational fears.

While we're not fans of eminent domain, where the government seizes private property for a compelling public purpose, we urge state leaders to get to work on uniform standards that enable renewable energy developments to move forward, including a prohibition on counties and townships imposing endless moratoriums while they "study" the issue. If we're going to have a real chance to meet Michigan's carbon reduction goals, action is needed now to remove unreasonable local roadblocks to utility-scale wind and solar energy development.

Rural backlash threatens clean energy transition

The CP Edit

Opinion



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Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061. (Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)



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LEGAL AD NOTICE: Ordinance 2023-04

5677 Cade Street

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE

Ordinance 2023-04

The Township Board at its regular meeting on May 2, 2023 approved for final adoption Ordinance 2023-04, a request to rezone the property at 5677 Cade Street from PO, Professional Office, to RB, One-Family High Density Residential.

The parcel identification number for the property that is rezoned is #33-02-02-11-304-031.

Materials related to the rezoning request may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (517.853.4560) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

CP#23-107

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meridian.mi.us

Both sides dug in as usual as aggregate mining debate returns

You're either digging a gravel pit or you're not.

If you don't see a lot of middle ground on the issue, don't tell Rep. Tyrone Carter.

The Detroit Democrat chairs the House Regulatory Reform Committee, and he's neck deep in the most contentious nonpartisan, non-budget-related issue to hit the Michigan Legislature this year.

It's legislation that puts state environmental regulators — as opposed to local township boards — in charge of approving new gravel mines.

Known as "aggregate," this material is critical to road building. The debate is pretty simple to understand. Weak-kneed local officials tend to buckle when their neighbors get on their case about a new gravel mine that's being proposed near their homes.

The mining industry wants more because more mines mean more money. More aggregate means more material for roads. The closer the mines, the cheaper it is to transport the stones. State government and several metro municipal officials like saving money.

The cheaper the stone, the more lanes road builders can theoretically create. The better the roads, the happier drivers and passengers are.

On the other side, environmentalists don't like the bills. The more mines, the more farmland and open space that get cut. The cut-up land disrupts habitats and could pollute the wells.

Local governments don't like being trumped by the state, of course. They don't want to be told that a noisy, dusty gravel mine is being dug into their backyard.

The debate has gone on in multiple legislative sessions now. The arguments haven't changed. The only difference is that the sides have gotten more entrenched.

The road-building lobby says too many local governments are standing in their way. Local governments say that's not true.

Local governments say the road industry is trying to push its way into communities without agreeing to some commonsense regulations. The aggregate mining folks say that's not true.

Money is being made or lost regardless of whether the bills are signed by

the governor or not. The question is over who is on the money-won side and the money-lost side.

Unlike prior attempts to put the state's environmental regulators in charge of permitting aggregate mines, the bills will start with House leadership four-square in support, with the real ball game likely to erupt in the Senate.

In the first two terms, it was a gung-ho Senate passing bills that disappeared in a reluctant House.

It's hard to see where the middle ground is coming from when the interest groups' testimony this week seemed a little more dug in. A little more entrenched.

For the road-building lobbyists, if they can't get this through with the House speaker's team sponsoring the bills, when are they going to get it?

Local governments have whipped up the "Not In My Back Yard" (NIM-BY) crowd with slippery-slope fears. Today, it's aggregate. Tomorrow, it's wind turbines and solar farms.

The lead lobbyist on this issue for the Michigan Municipal League, Jen Rigterink, opened her testimony to the House Regulatory Reform Committee with, "New year, same crap. Point blank."

Sitting in the background is the Governor's Office. It's presumed Gov. Whitmer would sign the bills if they made it to her desk. That said, she's not using one stitch of political capital to support them or oppose them.

She's too politically savvy to get involved in this sticky wicket.

Carter is jumping in head first. He said both sides are starting on their own 10-yard line.

"Each side wants it their way," Carter said. "It's 90/10 right now. If I can get it to 60/40 ..."

"Obviously, this has gone on for decades. It's not going away. We talk about kicking the can down the road. Well, I think it's been dented enough," Carter said. "We got to get this resolved."

When you're dealing with trench warfare, one side wins and one side loses. The local governments and environmentalists have won up to now.

How much longer can they keep it up?

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS



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of every month.**

CityPULSE

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Green but not mean

Olivia Valli brings humor and heart to 'Wicked's' lead role

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

For someone playing the Wicked Witch of the West, Olivia Valli seems almost too kind, caring and humble.

If the woman wearing the pointy, dark hat and green makeup could ask an actual Wizard of Oz for a wish, Valli, 29, said, "I think I would ask for something for other people."

Instead of asking for more flying monkeys or the death of a certain lovable terrier, she would wish for illnesses to be cured or for people to not live in poverty.

That might seem odd for the familiar witch from L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." But for the new Elphaba in the national touring production of "Wicked" — stopping at the Wharton Center today (May 10) through May 28 for a return visit — revealing a different side to the well-known character is what the show is all about.

The musical, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and book by Winnie Holzman, is based on Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel, "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West."

Besides the 1939 film with Judy Garland, there have been multiple remakes and spinoffs of Baum's original story. "The Wiz" debuted on stage in 1974. That was followed by a 1978 film starring Diana Ross as Dorothy. Andrew Lloyd Webber supplied the music for yet another "The Wizard of Oz" musical that opened in 2011. So, why do we need another spinoff like "Wicked"?

"We need a story about the witches — the power of their friendship and rising to who they are," Valli said. "Why would anyone not want to see witches running around and singing their faces off? Who doesn't want to see someone painted green flying around in a big, beautiful dress in a

bubble? People say, 'There's no place like home.' I say there's no place like 'Wicked.'"

The musical's worldwide popularity is reflected by how often it has appeared at the Wharton Center. The national touring company performed there in July 2007, July through August 2008, June through July 2012 and November 2016. Wharton was scheduled to host another tour in April 2020, but it was canceled due to COVID-19 safety restrictions.

"Wicked's" many runs on the Cobb Great Hall stage are only rivaled by musicals like "The Lion King" and "Hamilton."

For "Wicked's" return, Valli, who was Elphaba's understudy in the national touring company from 2016 to 2019, will finally get the chance to play the lead.

"As I got older, I was thinking that maybe it wasn't going to happen," she said. "But here I am. It's really wild."

"I bring a lot of knowledge to this role. It's very emotional for me now," she added. "It takes years to understand Elphaba."

Valli is well suited for the role.

"I really relate to Elphaba because, in a lot of ways, I felt like an outcast. I was too loud. I was too bold. I was too much — and Elphaba is considered to be too much," she said. "Elphaba and I only know how to be ourselves. We don't know how to play it safe for the comfort of others."

That unapologetic manner, as well as Elphaba's compassion and strength, is what drew Valli to the part. She aims to be relatable and show that, overall, Elphaba just wants to help other people.

"I've added a lot of heart to it," she said. "I've added a lot of humor to it. It's not a funny role, but she has a dry humor."

Valli makes sure all audience members, even those in distant balconies, stay engaged by looking up and having a powerful voice with a lot of forward projection. She believes in her role so that others — even those far away — will believe in Elphaba.

Another captivating element of the show is Elphaba's trademark green makeup, which takes 45 minutes to apply.

"We have a really incredible makeup artist who takes her time to make sure the makeup doesn't transfer and that I still look pretty," Valli said. "Just because you're painted green doesn't mean you're this hideous ogre from 'Shrek.'"

Since graduating in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in musical theater from Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey, Valli has worked consistently in "high-intensity shows." After getting 11 chances to play Elphaba as an understudy, she moved on to play Frankie Valli's ex-wife in an off-Broadway production of "Jersey Boys."

Since Frankie Valli is her grandfather, playing Mary Delgado in the musical meant she played her real-life grandmother.

For the past year, she's played Vivian Ward — a role made famous by Julia Roberts — in the national touring company of "Pretty Woman" to rave reviews.

"I just finished my contract with 'Pretty Woman,' and I said to myself, 'I want to audition for (Elphaba) again,'" Valli said. "I wanted to see if this is something I'm really



Courtesy of Olivia Valli

Olivia Valli, who was the understudy for Elphaba in the national touring company of "Wicked" from 2016 to 2019, is finally getting her chance to play the lead full time. "I bring a lot of knowledge to this role. It's very emotional for me now," she said. "It takes years to understand Elphaba."

meant to do."

She secured the part and made her debut May 2 at The Fabulous Fox Theatre in St. Louis. Her contract lasts one year, and she expects to be wearing green nail polish for at least the next 12 months.

"Coming back to this cast, there's a familiarity about it," she said.

Despite the new cast members, Valli said that everyone was "so kind and welcoming."

"It's pretty rare in companies," she said. "It genuinely feels like a family."

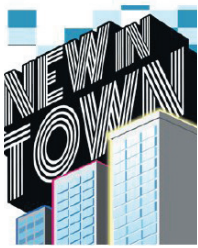
"Wicked"

May 10-28
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-
Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday
1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Wharton Center Cobb
Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East
Lansing
517-432-2000
whartoncenter.com

Find unique cannabis products at Sapura

By LUCAS HENKEL

There have been some major changes on Dunckel Road near Interstate 496 throughout the last year.



Sapura Dispensary Lansing

3000 Dunckel Road,
Lansing
9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily
517-580-8906
sapuralife.com

The site of a former car wash has been transformed into Sapura — pronounced sah-pure-ah — an eye-catching dispensary that aims to let Lansing stoners have cannabis their way. Sapura is owned by Massachusetts-based Northeast Alternatives, and this is its second location in Michigan.

“A lot of work was put into remodeling this building,” store manager Josh Haney said. “Aside from removing all of the equipment, we also had to address all of the water damage that had been neglected over the years. This took a while, but we’re

excited about the progress that has been made and for folks to check the place out.”

The hard work has definitely paid off. The inside of the dispensary, which opened April 27, is absolutely stunning. Art from the Brazilian illustrator and muralist duo Bicicleta Sem Freio (“Bicycle Without Brake”) lines the walls. The mural depicts a colorful portrait of a woman smoking a joint as her frog companion beats a drum beside her. This trippy and beautiful piece can also be found on the store’s equally gorgeous packaging, merchandise and apparel.

Apart from its aesthetically pleasing interior, Sapura offers a variety of products Lansing stoners can’t find at other dispensaries in the area. This includes brands like MI Loud Flower Farms, a Jackson-based cultivator that offers buds that are always slow-cured, hand-trimmed and never remediated. With most strains containing around 3% terpenes, each hit is guaranteed to be flavorful no matter how it’s consumed. Customers can purchase flower from MI Loud and other brands deli-style or choose from one of Sapura’s

many prepackaged options.

Twisted Trees’ prepackaged, kief-infused shake ounces are also part of the dispensary’s unique product lineup. For folks new to smoking, kief (sometimes spelled “keef”) refers to the pure and clean collection of loose cannabis trichomes, which typically accumulate after being sifted from flower or buds with a mesh screen. Shake, on the other hand, consists of small pieces of cannabis flower that have broken off the bud. While some cannabis brands and companies simply use kief and shake for pre-rolled joints, Twisted Trees combines them into a potent and smooth-hitting product that retails for \$50 per ounce.

The dispensary’s most budget-friendly product is its Sapura Sack. Each smell-proof mylar bag contains two ounces of flower for \$100. I took a peek at the Wedding Cake strain and was pretty impressed with what I saw. The outdoor-grown flower smelled delicious and had a beautiful dark green hue, with hints of purple.

“Our drive-through is also going



Lucas Henkel/City Pulse

The inside of Sapura, a new dispensary on Dunckel Road, features a large, trippy mural by the Brazilian illustrator and muralist duo Bicicleta Sem Freio (“Bicycle Without Brake”).

to be next level,” Haney said. “Customers will be able to pick up their online orders and place orders in the drive-through like they would at any fast-food restaurant. The building that they pull their cars through to pick up their orders is heated, which will be a welcome change during the snow-fueled winters.”

Keep an eye out on Sapura’s Instagram, @sapuralife, for updates on the construction of its drive-through and upcoming events, like outdoor grilling days where staff will flip burgers and hot dogs for the community.

Ixion Theatre Ensemble captures the intensity of death row imprisonment

By MARK GMAZEL

“When I Come to Die,” an existentialist drama by Nathan Louis Jackson, is a tough and uncompromising play. It tells the story of a death row inmate who struggles with themes of hope, love, faith, connection and redemption while trying to understand why he survived his ordeal. The show features a good dramatic structure, meaty monologues and well-written scenes. Interestingly, it avoids the hot-button issue of the death penalty and instead explores what a man will do if given a second chance.

As Damon Robinson, Ndegwa McCloud gives a notable performance, effectively using the power of stillness, excellent vocal clarity and agility in changing tone. He keeps his head up, so it’s easy to witness the subtle changes in his facial expressions as the audience follows him on his journey. He’s a different version of himself when interacting with each character, allowing the audience to understand the different levels of status each person occupies, and these interactions continue to

grow and deepen because of the clarity of his emotionally unencumbered performance.

Robinson begins to confide in and trust his fellow condemned inmate, James “Roach” Teagle, played by the versatile Doak Bloss. Teagle firmly embraces the idea that just because someone does bad things, it doesn’t necessarily make them a bad person. He desperately seeks a way to avoid his own execution and eventually resolves to write a poignant final letter

expressing his simple yet profound thoughts. Bloss creates an indelible character and is clearly at ease with the dialect and many shifts in tone this production requires.

Father Adrian Crouse, played by Drew Cook, goes on an interesting journey with Robinson as his unwelcome jailhouse minister. Crouse begins with a mutually ambivalent attitude toward Robinson, but throughout the course of the show becomes more invested in him and therefore more com-

passionate. Sensing this compassion, Robinson begins to trust and rely on the priest.

Some of Crouse’s moments were a bit overtelegraphed, especially early on. Cook is a very intelligent actor, and it’s easy to see he understands how to put a strong performance together, but I think sometimes, the audience sees how hard he’s working just a little too much. This is a mere quibble, as Cook more than redeems himself at the end of the show, producing true emotion and believable sentiment.

Janell Hall as Robinson’s sister, Chantel, excels in her role — she’s complex and realistic in a scene that effectively portrays the complicated emotions, motivations and responsibilities felt by families of people who are incarcerated, as well as those who are incarcerated themselves.

Joseph Beaman, who’s a real-life parole and probation manager, brought instant clout and credibility as the no-nonsense prison guard,



Review

“When I Come to Die”

Ixion Theatre Ensemble
May 12-13
8 p.m.
Lansing Mall
5330 W. Saginaw Hwy.,
Lansing
517-775-4246
ixiontheatre.com



Courtesy of Ixion Theatre Ensemble

In Ixion Theatre Ensemble’s production of “When I Come to Die,” prison minister Father Adrian Crouse (Drew Cook) begins with a mutually ambivalent attitude toward death row inmate Damon Robinson (Ndegwa McCloud), but throughout the course of the show, the pair form a close bond.

C.O. Cooper. It was his totally believable physicality that created the reality of the prison space, along with effective use of lighting, set and props. The whimsical and imaginative fishing scene was striking in its expression of the idea that imagination can be freedom.



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Seeing red

The nuance of Lansing's red-tagged housing crisis

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Dan Backus thought that investing in rental properties in 1978 would serve as a retirement plan.

"I was thinking long term," said Backus, 76, a retired building contractor from Mason about why he bought three Lansing rental properties.

But the reality of being a landlord has turned out much differently, at least at 123 Isbell St., near Washington Avenue in Fabulous Acres, a working-class neighborhood. He and his wife, Mary, bought it in the '90s, with the goal of returning it from being two units to a single-family house. Meanwhile, he rented it as was.

But on Halloween 2003, the city red-tagged it — meaning it was declared uninhabitable — after an inspection revealed nearly two pages of housing violations, ranging from a lack of smoke detectors to structural issues with the foundation and the roof. While Backus worked on those issues, he said, a pipe froze and burst. The subsequent flood washed through the home, destroying ceilings and flooring.

City property records do not show any current permits for construction or mechanical improvements for the property. On the front window is a building permit that expired in 2005.

Those records also show that Backus has had problems with the city over the years with his other two rentals, which are nearby. But it's 123 Isbell St. that stands out: It is the longest red-tagged property in Lansing. It's been red-tagged for nearly 20 years. It is emblematic of what city officials call a housing crisis.

As of May 8, the city had 685 red-tagged properties, according to a report adopted by the City Council. Of those, 501 are being monitored by the city and charged a \$150-a-month fee.

Twenty-one have been red-tagged for a decade or more. A red tag means the residence has been deemed unsafe to occupy.

The city also has 281 pink-tagged buildings, which means a property has code-related issues that do not cause an immediate threat to health and safety if a person continues to live in the property. However, if that tenant moves, the landlord is prohibited from renting until the pink tag is removed.

A HOUSING CRISIS

"There is a crisis of not having enough affordable and safe housing," Lansing Mayor Andy Schor told City Pulse in an interview after an April 3 special meeting of City Council's Committee of the Whole. The meeting was called to address housing issues following a series of high-profile red-tag-related evictions.

"When you hear that if we're gonna red tag these properties and displace people, there's nowhere for them to go," Schor said, "that's a crisis."

It's a sentiment shared by administration officials and City Council members.

"Yes, there is a housing crisis in the city of Lansing and our region," said At-large member Peter Spadafore. "This red-tag, pink-tag, unsafe-housing-condition factor is a huge part of it."

The housing crisis is a combination of a swelling population of homeless residents, an aging housing stock, a lack of attainable housing — that is, housing that is below market rate and accessible financially to those who do not qualify for low-income housing options — a dysfunctional Code Compliance Office and



The City of Lansing has red-tagged about 700 residences, meaning Code Compliance Office inspectors have found them unsafe to occupy. Of those residences, 21 have been red-tagged at least 10 years. The longest one on the list, which is pictured on the cover, is at 123 Isbell St. and is owned by Daniel P. and Mary Backus. It was red-tagged on Oct. 31, 2003. On this and the following pages are photos of the other 20, who owns them and when they were red-tagged. (Above, top) 1300 W. Maple St., Gloria Hall, Nov. 8, 2005; (center) 1722 Donora St., 1309 Vermont Ave. LLC, Sept. 22, 2006; (bottom) 500 N. Butler Blvd., Pretty Pink Houses LLC, Feb. 9, 2007.

unscrupulous landlords who ignore, manipulate and violate the city's housing laws.

Houses like 123 Isbell feed a negative cycle, causing property values to decrease and neighborhoods to struggle to keep the area safe, said First Ward Councilmember Ryan Kost and At-Large Councilmember Carol Wood. The Isbell property is in the First Ward.

Kost has raised the alarm about people living in red-tagged housing and the general condition of Lansing's housing stock. Those alarms have resulted in turmoil, resignations and retirements in the city's Code Enforcement Office.

On April 3, the City Council held a special, four-hour meeting after housing issues culminated in a series of evictions from red-tagged residences and a lack of housing to move people into. Administrative officials were put on the hot seat to explain why people were living in substandard conditions.

That's when the Council learned there were 21 properties in the city that have been red-tagged for a decade or more, led by 123 Isbell.

From the street, it is a well-appointed one-and-a-half-story home. The lawn is cut. There are flowers growing in the flower beds. But behind it, a pile of logs from a fallen tree is stacked haphazardly. There are multiple trailers with tarp-covered appliances in them. Some have flat tires, which could result in premise violations. The front porch had three gasoline containers and a pile of scrap wood on it.

Backus showed off the renovations he has accomplished in the home over the years. He's replaced the flooring and drywall. There's new electricity throughout the house. He added support beams in the living room and the basement to shore up the floors, which he described as "a little bit on the bouncy side."

As for the lengthy time the property has remained tagged, he admits he's "guilty." Other priorities, including keeping up his two other properties — a total of eight apartments — have taken over. The city's fee of \$150 a month to monitor the property to verify it remains uninhabited and secured didn't bother him. He figured he'd spend that on rental fees for a storage unit to store tools that he keeps at the house.

'WE'RE A LITTLE STUCK'

A property owner has 90 days to begin taking action to resolve the property violations before the city starts charging the monitoring fee. Those actions could include getting required permits, as is required for items like electrical work, construction and remodeling or installation of new furnaces or water heaters. That means that of the city's approximately 700 red-tagged residences, over 500 — or more than 73% — have been deemed uninhabitable for at least 90 days.

Jordan Hankwitz is the newly appointed director of the Economic Planning and Development Department, which oversees the Code Compliance Office. That office is responsible for inspecting and monitoring the city's housing stocks.

Hankwitz said he would classify the house at 123 Isbell as being "in limbo."

"If we don't have the mechanisms for escalation to get it out of our pot and they're paying the fees, what do we do? We're a little stuck," Hankwitz said.

As a result, his department is studying fees charged



1115 Regent St., DeWayne and Ellawyne Birch, Nov. 29, 2007



31 N. Chestnut St., Gridiron Marketing Group LLC, Sept. 16, 2008



603 Shepard St., Peter Hudy, Nov. 13, 2008



5625 Kaynorth St., James Fawaz, March 13 2009

Seeing red

from page 11

to landlords “to make sure that these fees are appropriate for compulsion. We want people compelled to act.”

The monitoring fee has not been reviewed since it was implemented in 2005.

That might be difficult, though. Michigan law requires that municipal fees cover only the actual expenses incurred for a given service.

In a wide-ranging interview, Hankwitz talked at length about looking at the city’s policies and procedures. It’s going to be a learning curve for him and his deputy, Nicholas Montry, because neither has a background in housing matters.

Hankwitz, 38, joined the city last month from the state Legislature, where he spent eight years as the Senate’s chief financial officer in the nonpartisan Senate Business Office. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and an MBA from Michigan State University.

Montry, 44, also joined the department in April from the city’s Public Service Department. He’s been there for nearly five years as an engineering technician supervisor. In that post, he reviewed utility construction permits throughout the city. Before joining the city, Montry ran a small business for 15 years. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business management from Northwood University. He also holds an associate degree in business administration from Lansing Community College.

Hankwitz and Montry will in particular be trying to get a handle on how the Code Compliance Office operates and how big a part of the housing crisis it is.

The office has had nine building inspectors; three premise officers, who

enforce the grass and trash code; three clerks; one administrative secretary; and a manager. One inspector is on leave. Code Compliance is up one inspector and one premise officer since Schor became mayor in 2018. Previous departmental leadership has said the current staffing level is enough, administration spokesperson Scott Bean said. But with new leadership that may change.

“That’s part of the review that Jordan and Nick are doing as well as finding other efficiencies where possible,” Bean said. It remains unclear when the duo will complete their top-to-bottom departmental assessment.

The Council approved the two new positions after complaints from citizens that the office was not responding fast enough. One inspector was moved to inspecting the business corridors, allowing the others to focus on neighborhoods.

Kost said the two new positions haven’t “made a dent in the problem.” But he said he will wait until Hankwitz and his team complete their review before determining if more staff is needed. The implication is that the problem may not be the size of the staff but its performance.

Each inspector is slated to inspect 16 single-family properties a week. Those same inspectors are also weaving in inspections on multi-family apartment complexes, which can take days or weeks to fully inspect.

Single-family homes are being inspected as quickly as seven days after the fees are paid, said Bean. Multi-family units are waiting six to eight weeks.

One apartment complex made headlines this winter because of its living conditions. The city is battling with the owners of Autumn Ridge Apartments and Townhomes, OPV Partners LLC of

Southfield, for years. Of 618 units in the sprawling complex on the very southern edge of the city, 27 are red-tagged.

The owners claimed enforcement of the city’s codes were being applied in a racist way — but that lawsuit was dismissed on agreement between the company and the city. The company has since filed appeals related to findings from code compliance inspections that required significant work to qualify for rental certification. Those appeals are ongoing, but the property remains problematic.

Bean said the city wants owners of Autumn Ridge “to stop playing games and get the property up to code and into compliance.”

“This has gone on for far too long, and these property owners have gotten good at gaming the system. The residents of Autumn Ridge who get caught in the middle need safe housing that meets state and city standards.”

Last month, Schor and his administration spent a Friday evening fighting to get natural gas service restored at the property. The reason it was turned off? Property owners had failed to pay the Consumer’s Energy bill. Schor was able to get the company to restore service.

OPV Partners is one of many headaches for the city when it comes to providing safe housing. The city is suing Richard and Brad Simtob, Holmes Apartments LLC, The Good Life Apartments LLC and Simtob Management & Investment LLC. Each of the companies is tied to the Simtobs, City Attorney Jim Smiertka told City Pulse May 2, when the city filed the lawsuit.

The companies and the Simtobs have been in hot water since building officials found the Holmes Apartments, 222 W. Holmes Road, were uninhabitable because the owners failed to make

roof repairs. The roof was damaged in heavy winds in 2022, leaving the building open to the weather and creating a fire risk. Residents had taken to social media to express their anger and concern for the state of their units. Those social media posts included photographs showing holes between the floor and ceiling of two units.

The company agreed to re-house the residents, but it moved them to Pacific Apartments, 1317 E. Kalamazoo St., until city officials learned those units were pink-tagged. The displaced residents were moved to local hotels and the city was footing the bill. In court two weeks ago, the companies agreed to reimburse the city for the hotel bills and pick up the continuing tab. They also agreed to get building permits and secure the building.

The city has paid \$10,091.78 to house nine people in six hotel rooms from the Simtob situation. The Simtobs and their constellation of LLCs are reimbursing the city and taking over payment of the hotels until the properties are brought up to code, Bean said.

Bean declined to discuss the Simtob lawsuit because it was in litigation. In general, however, he said the city “will continue to use every tool available, including the courts, when landlords have tenants living in substandard conditions.”



805 N. Seymour Ave., June 26, 2012



1624 E. Cavanaugh Road, Alex and Mary C. Boegner, Aug. 8, 2011



318 Clifford St., Daniel D. and Kimberly Dudley, Aug. 22, 2011



4808 Ingham St., Antroy Nathan, Oct. 7, 2011



1521 Reo Road, Joel Christie, Oct. 22, 2011



204 W. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Quixote Properties LLC, Nov. 9, 2009



929 N. Seymour Ave., Ronald W. Junttonen, Dec. 7, 2009



815 Prospect St., Mike Penta, Nov. 9, 2010



1232 N. Washington Ave., Clarence Hooker, June 27, 2011

THE TROUBLE WITH RENTERS

Standing in the backyard of their Mason home, Mary Backus, the co-owner of 123 Isbell, said being a landlord was difficult.

“Everybody is on some kind of assistance or some Social Security, things like that. They’re not people that have any place to live, and he’s trying to provide that for them,” she said of her husband. “But it’s hard to keep up with them. Because a lot of them aren’t very clean and they just have no regard for any of the stuff that he’s done. You know? It’s tough being a landlord.”

Working with “low-income” residents also causes a cash flow issue for the elderly couple. “I mean, he’s really getting on it and trying to get it done,” she said.

Her husband shared his frustration about the Ingham County Land Bank property across the street, at 118 Isbell. The lot was vacant, and the grass was unmowed. At the back were stacks of tires in one corner of the lot, abutting his property.

“Why is it they are cracking down on me?” he asks with a tinge of bitterness in his voice. “They don’t do anything about this. They really can’t complain about me, but I understand the City Council gets involved and then they’re going to really start jumping.”

The land bank is not subject to the same premise codes as private property

owners, said Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox, the ex-officio chair of the land bank’s board.

“We try to be conscientious about mowing regularly,” he said, adding that the organization mows hundreds of properties a month.

As for the property behind Backus’ property, Fox said the land bank is aware of the ongoing problem of people putting their trash on empty lots. The organization is working to identify those people and have them remove the garbage, he said.

“That’s why we ask people who see this sort of thing to call the land bank offices,” he said. “Often the neighbors know better what is going on than we do.” (The phone number is 517-267-5221.)

Back at 123 Isbell, Backus pointed to the siding, noting that it’s asbestos.

“The city does have programs that you can get new siding,” he said. “I think it’ll qualify. If it doesn’t, I’m sure I got some lead paint here,” which could also possibly qualify him for assistance.

He taps the red tag on the door. “But this means I can’t apply.”

In his State of the City address on March 14, Schor announced an initiative to help landlords improve their properties — in addition to programs that help remediate lead.

“New state laws allow communities to use incentives to update existing rental housing,” Schor said. “I am proud to announce we are putting the final touches on a new Lansing Rental Housing Rehabilitation Program, which will help to rehab affordable rental housing. We will be creating requirements and guideposts for this program to ensure that it is appropriately used and rental properties are improved throughout the city.”

Bean said Monday the administration will release the proposed legisla-

tion by the end of May. Earlier, though, the plan was going to be ready by the end of April. City Council will have to review and approve it.

Backus also noted that the red tag serves as an invitation to thieves and vagrants.

“I’ve had all the copper stolen,” he said. “Obviously, they know it’s vacant. I’ve had a couple of different issues with it because of that, but it also stops me from doing anything.”

FINDING SOLUTIONS

Red-tagged properties are not going to disappear, city officials said. The city’s housing stock is aging, requiring more work to keep it up, and ultimately some property owners are going to fall behind in doing so.

The question for Wood and Hankwitz is not how many properties are red-tagged, but rather how long have they been in that condition.

“It’s one house at a time, one problem at a time, and at the end of a year you look back and say, we got 20 houses taken care of,” Wood said. “You didn’t realize that when you were doing that one house at a time. Right. But that one house at a time is a critical move for a community and a neighborhood.”

That philosophy is what she will use in her remaining time on the Council — after six terms, she will retire on Dec. 31 — to help determine solutions, one of which is demolition.

It can take years for a property to reach a point where demolition is considered. Each property is unique in terms of the time frame it takes to get there.

Why not just tear them down when landlords are recalcitrant?

Demolishing a property is difficult. State law requires a property either

be a blight or that repair costs exceed the state-equalized value of the property. An SEV is half the market rate of a property. Once one or both of those triggers are reached, the city must put the property before the city demolition board, a body made up of three individuals with a background in housing. The board can either send it back to Code Compliance for further attempts to get cooperation from the property owner or recommend demolition to the Council, which delegates it to the Public Safety Committee. After review, the committee makes its recommendation to the Council. If it’s for demolition and the Council agrees, then there’s a public hearing. Then the committee studies it some more. Then, finally, if the committee recommends it, the Council votes on a “Make Safe of Demolish” order. Then the property owner has 60 days to take action to prevent the demolition.

A property owner can take substantial action to stave off demolition at any point through the process. Even after a final demolition has been ordered, the property has to be disconnected from the utilities. That can take as long as six or nine months.

In 2022, 11 properties were ordered demolished. All but two have been.

There is an alternative. Instead of waiting until the property is so damaged and beyond repair that demolition is less expensive than repairing, state law allows a municipality to begin make safe or demolition actions on a property that has been red-tagged over 24 months. However, it is not a provision the Schor administration is using. Bean said they don’t want to tear all the properties down. “We want them repaired.”

See Seeing red, Page 14



922 N. Walnut St., Joseph L. Vitale, Oct. 25, 2011



1616 S. Cedar St., Brian T. McNamara, Nov. 28, 2011



5017 Hughes Road, A Better Way LLC, Dec. 25, 2011



1022 S. Grand Ave., Gabriel Valle, Dec. 15, 2012

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TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

'DARK AND GOTHIC'



Courtesy of Sean Freedberg

A Rueful Noise opens for THE KB Saturday (May 13) at The Avenue Café.



Courtesy of Jared Talcott

The band has a 2022 EP, "Let the Revels Begin," and a new LP on the way.

How did A Rueful Noise form?

A Rueful Noise began to coalesce in the spring of 2019 when Nicholas and I began playing covers together while the world was shutting down due to the pandemic. After we began posting videos of our performances online, a good friend and excellent Detroit musician, Jeremy Porter, contacted us. He offered to produce some tracks if we could get a few originals together. We took up the challenge, working first on songs from Nicholas' extensive catalog of solo music. Once we had a handful of songs ready to go, we contacted Todd. Nicholas and Todd had worked together in several bands over the years. I was — and am — a huge fan of Todd's drumming. Very luckily for us, Todd signed on. In October 2021, we played our first show, and we began recording our first EP on GTG and Silver Maple Kill Records with Jeremy and his bandmate Gabriel Doman in December of that year.

Did you have any goals for the band after it took shape?

With this band, I honestly had no expectations. I was too overwhelmed by playing with these incredible musicians that I had admired since I entered the scene to formulate any kind of vision. I met Todd in the early days of Scary Women when his band, The Jackpine Snag, took us under their collective wing. The Jackpine Snag is, to this day, one of my favorite bands. When I first heard Todd play, I was struck dumb — such power and control. I met Nicholas

soon after when he was playing in The Hat Matter, another band that blows me away. I saw Nicholas on stage with The Hat Matter during his solo performances. I was overpowered by his talent.

Did you have a goal of exploring new sounds with this band?

Collaboratively, we've somewhat stumbled upon a sound we didn't necessarily strive for — something dark and gothic. The heavier, sometimes more aggressive atmosphere is due, in part, to the lyrical content. Nicholas and I tend toward darker themes and weightier storytelling. Our songwriting process has become increasingly more of a group venture. While we each have our own styles and influences, they've happily melded in such a way that it's hard to distinguish whose songs are whose. Working also to our advantage is the fact that Nicholas and I are married and are regularly bandying around

song ideas at the house, where we happen to be recording our first full-length album with Jason Roedel of The Jackpine Snag and Anvil Crawler.

So, you have a new LP in the works?

We plan to have the album completed by the end of the year. In the meantime, we've got a series of really exciting local and out-of-town gigs on the docket, too.

Listen to A Rueful Noise's "Let the Revels Begin" EP at aruefulnoise.bandcamp.com.

THE KB, A Rueful Noise, Twin Stars

Saturday, May 13
8 p.m.

The Avenue Café
2021 E. Michigan Ave.
Free, 21+
avenuecafelansing.com

A Rueful Noise brings gloomy indie rock 'n' roll to The Avenue

After cultivating a cult following across the state, Lansing-based punk-rock outfit Scary Women suddenly parted ways in July 2021. Jennifer Toms, the bassist and lead vocalist, didn't miss a beat, however. The songwriter has kept busy with A Rueful Noise, a gloomy indie rock 'n' roll band featuring her husband, Nicholas Merz, on guitar and vocals and Todd Karinen on drums. City Pulse caught up with Toms before the band's next show Saturday (May 13) at

The Avenue Café.

Looking back, what caused Scary Women to end?

Jennifer Toms: The band broke up largely because of the different musical endeavors we wanted to pursue. We had such an exciting run and received tremendous support. It was a great joy to play in that band. Everyone in the group is still musically active. They are all exceptional musicians and songwriters.

Seeing red

from page 13

Spadafore would like to see the city explore creating a fund that would allow contractors, hired by the city, to enter and upgrade properties that have been red-tagged. Spadafore said it may have to require a special fund or assessment on landlords to pay for such improvements.

"There are some hurdles there, but it sounds like it might be possible to explore," he said following the April 3 special meeting. "That's something I'm certainly gonna lean on and figure out if we can do that to make places safer for our residents to be housed in."

Wood, who has been on the Council since 1999, apologized for the Council's role in the housing crisis during that special Committee of the Whole meeting. In a sit-down with her, she said that she has not accomplished all she had hoped related to housing issues when she first ran for office. She said the reality of being in the legislative body was a wake-up call. There were limits to their power.

"There's always more that can be done," she said. "Council may pass a new ordinance, but that doesn't mean it's being enforced."

As an example, she raised the concern that the city was supposed to refuse to certify a rental property if taxes were



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

From right: Jordan Hankwitz, the new director of the City of Lansing's Economic Development and Planning Department, and his deputy, Nick Montry. Digging into problems in the city's Code Compliance Office is one of their priorities.

due on it. But former Code Compliance Office manager Scott Sanford was not refusing to certify for that reason if the tax debt had been transferred to the county, as happens as part of the foreclosure process. Based on advice from the City Attorney's Office, Sanford's ar-

gument was that the taxes were no longer due to the city.

Council members said they knew nothing about this policy until mid-March, shortly after Sanford, the butt of much criticism from the Council, quit in frustration over what he considered

political games.

The city has since begun declining certification or recertification for rental properties if the owner has past-due taxes due to either the city or the county.

Wood was asked if the housing issues, including red tags, meant the city and the Council had failed. She was blunt. "Yes. We have."

"The failure was assuming that people were doing what needed to be done, accepting the answers that were given to us instead of asking for the data."

Sanford called the focus on red tags a "joke."

"Less than an eighth of a percent of the entire housing stock in Lansing is tagged," he said.

"The only people that complained about red-tagged properties or properties that needed to be red-tagged were when they had a neighbor they didn't like. And it became a big dispute. And then they were constantly complaining, you know, if a piece of paper blew in the yard, they were reporting. But other than that, we didn't really get a lot of complaints about red-tagged properties."

While the city continues to evaluate the systems in place to improve the housing stock in the city, Backus said he's ready to let go of his properties.

"I just need to get my stuff out of here," he said, motioning to his tools in the living room of 123 Isbell. "Then I'm going to sell it all."

Discover the rich literary history of Mackinac Island

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Most people who visit Mackinac Island never get beyond Arch Rock, the Grand Hotel porch, the Pink Pony and the fudge shops. That's why tourists are called "fudgies," and not always affectionately.

If you want to move beyond tourist status and steep yourself in the history of one of Michigan's most venerable destinations, author Melissa Croghan's new book, "Great Women of Mackinac, 1800-1950," deserves your attention.

Mackinac Island is in Croghan's blood. She's been summering there for decades and even worked as a tour guide at one point.

In the book, published by Michigan State University Press, the author provides the histories of 13 women who played a large role in the island's lore and development. Included in that group is Croghan's great-grandmother Daisy Peck Blodgett, who, along with another island woman, Stella

King, "worked together to bring civic change to the island and to safeguard the heart of the community as it transitioned from the fishing industry to a tourist mecca."

King and Blodgett helped establish the island's first library and community center and provided medical care for its residents. Both lived well into the mid-20th century, and they were great friends, despite hailing from different backgrounds.

Blodgett ended up on the island after marrying a lumber baron, and King was the daughter of a commercial fisherman who worked on the island. Blodgett was key in the island's horse and bicycling culture. King helped establish the annual lilac parade.

"Without these women, Mackinac Island would be just a tourist city," Croghan said.

Blodgett was an equestrian who believed horses and bicycles should be the only modes of transportation on the island. She could often be seen on horseback or on her bicycle, traversing the landscape.

Ironically, it was a terrible riding accident in 2015 that inspired Croghan to begin writing the book. During her long recovery, she said the women's stories "kept teasing my mind."

She begins the book with the legendary fur trader Madeline Marcot LaFramboise, who was a shrewd businesswoman in the island's earliest days. LaFramboise identified closely with her Anishinaabe culture.

"She wore Native dress every day of her life," Croghan writes.

LaFramboise is one of seven Native American women whom Croghan profiles. Others include Elizabeth Therese Baird, whose book "O-de-jit-wa-winning, or, Contes du temps passe" highlights life on the island from 1800 to 1814, and Jane Johnston Schoolcraft,

who's considered one of the first literary writers with Native roots.

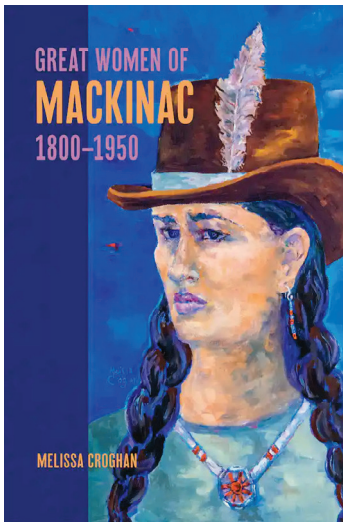
Johnston, who was the spouse of Indian agent Henry Schoolcraft, also has the distinction of being one of the first Native writers to have her work stolen. She originally wrote many of the stories published in her husband's book "Alcic Researches," which Henry Wadsworth Longfellow drew upon for his poem "The Song of Hiawatha."

Croghan also delves into some of the more influential women writers who called Mackinac Island home at various times, including Anna Brownell Jameson, author of "Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada," published in 1838. Jameson is considered one of the most important women writers to touch on women's rights and was one of the first to form a personal bond with Jane Schoolcraft.

"I believe it was important to show how Native and white women worked together on the Island," Croghan said.

Another famous author whom Croghan profiles is Constance Fenimore Woolson, who only spent three summers on the island but published a hugely successful book, "Anne," that was serialized in Harper's Weekly and outsold a contemporary book written by one of her best friends, Henry James. Woolson's novel, about a mixed-race family on the island, is one you'll likely want to read after Croghan's. One of Woolson's earlier historical essays, "Fairy Island," is also set on the island.

Margaret Fuller, a major leader in the transcendentalist movement and co-editor of The Dial, the movement's chief publication, also appears in the book. Fuller's novel "Summer on the Lakes, in 1843" covers the topic of



Courtesy of Melissa Croghan

In "Great Women of Mackinac, 1800-1950," author and painter Melissa Croghan, who has been summering on Mackinac Island for decades and even worked as a tour guide for a time, provides the histories of 13 women who played a large role in the island's lore and development.

women's freedom and delves into the lives of Native Americans. Alongside Jameson, she was one of the first authors to consider the important lives of LaFramboise and Schoolcraft.

The next time you visit Mackinac, hike the East Bluff to Anne's Tablet, which was laid to commemorate Woolson's book — but keep in mind it recognizes only one of the amazing women who gave life to the island.

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Mixing it up with Ganja Girl's Morgan Underwood

By LUCAS HENKEL

In 2016, eight years after Michigan legalized medical cannabis, Morgan Underwood was an undergraduate mathematics major at Michigan State University. She created a pop-up yoga studio at the school and collaborated with one of the city's nearby medical cannabis dispensaries.

The pop-up was a significant catalyst for the Lansing native. That year, she became a licensed medical marijuana caregiver and devoted her free time to learning about and cultivating cannabis to better serve patients' needs. From dank flower to even danker hash rosin, which was impossible to find in the early days of legalization, patients were amazed by the high-quality products Underwood produced. During her five years as a caregiver, she assisted more than 200 patients in obtaining medical marijuana certification in addition to growing and cultivating her own cannabis.

While she enjoyed meeting and getting to know folks who benefited from cannabis' medicinal properties, she realized being a caregiver wouldn't be sustainable in the long run.

"Initially, I wanted to cultivate cannabis and get a microbusiness license," she said. "But getting that type of license is so expensive, and it's a lot of hoops to jump through."

It costs around \$6,000 just to apply for a microbusiness license in Michigan. There's also an \$8,000 initial licensure fee that applicants must pay prior to obtaining the license. After the hefty fees, applicants must pass multiple background checks, find a physical location and provide detailed drawings and information about the proposed facility, including how the company will operate in a legal and compliant way.



Courtesy of Morgan Underwood

After five years as a medical marijuana caregiver, Lansing native Morgan Underwood founded Ganja Girl LLC, which offers workshops, resources, information and events to support cannabis users, especially people who have been disproportionately affected by the war on drugs.

The financial barriers to starting a microbusiness were discouraging, but Underwood pressed on. After obtaining a marijuana event organizer license, she transitioned to cannabis event planning and established her company, Ganja Girl. She graduated from Our Academy's mentorship program, a 15-week course that offers free workshops, compliance support and pro bono attorneys for independent cannabis entrepreneurs and social equity applicants who are people of color. With the knowledge and resources from the program, in addition to her experience working in the cannabis industry, Underwood became the first woman of color in the city of Lansing to hold a state-issued cannabis license in December 2021.

"Honestly, event planning is kind of in my blood. My mother is an event planner, and I would help her with some of her

events," Underwood said. "I love collaborating. If I'm not having an event, I'm at my friends' events supporting them in whatever way I can. I want Lansing to have fun events so they don't have to travel to places like Grand Rapids or Detroit."

Underwood created Ganja Girl LLC to support cannabis users, especially those who have been disproportionately affected by the war on drugs, by offering equitable opportunities and resources, encouraging community involvement and promoting freedom of cannabis use as a way of life. The company's virtual events range from free workshops on topics like how to get a job in the cannabis industry, cultivation and harvesting to DJ livestreams that feature local musicians as well as Underwood herself.

"I never planned to be a DJ, but I love music and live events, so it just made



sense," Underwood said. "One of my friends, VNM\$, who's also one of our resident DJs, offered to teach me how to DJ. We would play basement shows with Mary Sherman (aka Grapefruit Jacuzzi) at friends' houses, Twitch streams and even small shows in parks for free."

The DJ collective eventually began playing bigger events and venues. Most recently, Underwood performed at this year's Capital City Film Festival after-party alongside other Lansing locals like Ace DeVille and DatGuyBlue and the Detroit-based techno-punk trio Decliner. Underwood will play at her first festival, Michigan Gems n Genetics, next month in Morley.

Information about future events and links to resources, workshops and community testimonials can be found on Underwood's website, ganjagirlli.com, and Instagram, @ganjagirlofficial. The DJ collective's music can be found on Soundcloud, Spotify and other streaming services.

While Ganja Girl's success has been worthy of celebration, Underwood said there's much more work to be done.

"I would love to see more local faces owning licenses, products and brands, but I also want those people to have more say in the Lansing market in general," she said. "From what I've seen, the Lansing community is excited to support local and help the small guys. At one point, we had almost 100 Michigan Medical Marijuana Program shops in the city that were owned by local caregivers, but you can't find much local ownership anymore."

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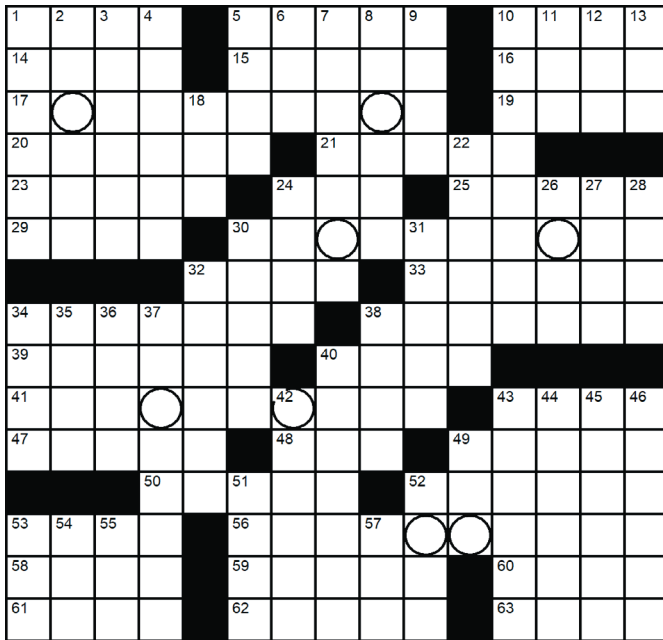
By Matt Jones

"Home Row Truths"
-- a little typing test, and pinkies out!

by Matt Jones
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ACROSS

1. "C'mon, ___ it out!"
5. Graph starter
10. Otherworldly glow
14. Southern cornbread
15. Hard-hit baseball
16. Minute or milligram, e.g.
17. Home clearance event ["Here's where your ring fingers go ..."]
19. Bring down, as a building
20. Came to an end
21. Skiing surface
23. Country singer Musgraves
24. 2006 Nintendo release
25. Egg-shaped
29. Some retired boomers, for short
30. Digital gambling game ["Position your middle fingers right there ..."]
32. All dried out (and anagram of 28-Down)
33. Electrician's tool
34. Turkey
38. "Oh, golly ..."
39. Comic book artists
40. Sound of contentment
41. Steak and peppers dish ["Let's get the index fingers back to home position ..."]
43. Obama-era policy, briefly
47. Chihuahua, for one
48. Acne medication brand
49. Hall of Hall & Oates
50. "No question"
52. "___ borealis?! At this time of year ..."
53. Protein building block?



56. 1994 Robin Williams/John Turturro movie ["Now move those index fingers inward ..."]
58. Rank emanation
59. Come after
60. "___ California" (Red Hot Chili Peppers song)
61. "Push th' Little Daisies" duo
62. Stashed in a new place
63. Those, in San Jose
10. "So long," at the Sorbonne
11. "Sherlock" actress Stubbs
12. "Sound of Metal" actor Ahmed
13. Had some grub
18. "Miss Pym Disposes" author Josephine
22. Cottonwood, for one
24. Telegraph
26. "Just pick ___!" (complaint to the tin-eared)
27. Presidential span
28. Scots Gaelic
30. Vice ___
31. Nearly 300-year-old unfinished Jean-Philippe Rameau work, completed and premiering in 2023, e.g.
32. Wave rider
34. Small prevarications
35. Working without ___ (taking risks)
36. Acronymic store name
37. What a flashing yellow arrow may allow (watching for crossing traffic)
38. "Jury ___" (2023 Amazon Freevee series)
39. Playfully mischievous
42. Song that Dolly Parton temporarily reworded as "Vaccine" in 2021
43. Finnish DJ behind the ubiquitous hit "Sandstorm"
44. Candle store features
45. 1993 Broadway flop musical based on a big-nosed Rostand hero
46. "Jagged Little Pill" singer Morissette
49. "No ___" (No Doubt tribute band)
51. Rival of Lyft
52. Like most fine wines
53. Pull behind
54. Praiseworthy poem
55. Opponent
57. Rapa ___ (Easter Island, to locals)

DOWN

1. Dots of dust
2. Pretend to be
3. Complete
4. Hints at, like a movie trailer
5. Answered a court charge
6. ___ Majesty the King (title official since May 6)
7. Per team
8. Singer-songwriter McKay
9. Pie crust flavor

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

May 10-16, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries dramatist Samuel Beckett, winner of the prestigious Nobel Prize for literature, wrote 22 plays. The shortest was "Breath." It has no dialogue or actors and lasts less than a minute. It begins and ends with a recording of a newborn baby's cry. In between, there are sounds of someone breathing and variations in lighting. I recommend you draw inspiration from "Breath" in the coming weeks, Aries. Be succinct and pithy. Call on the powers of graceful efficiency and no-nonsense effectiveness. Relish the joys of shrewd simplicity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In the coming weeks, you Bulls must brook no bullies or bullying. Likewise, you should tolerate no bullshit from people trying to manipulate or fool you. Be a bulwark of integrity as you refuse to lower your standards. Bulk up the self-protective part of your psyche so you will be invincibly immune to careless and insensitive spoilers. Your word of power is BUILD. You will align yourself with cosmic rhythms as you work to create situations that will keep you strong and stable during the next 12 months.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): How much do you believe in your power to become the person you want to be? 90%? 55%? 20%? Whatever it is, you can increase it in the coming weeks. Life will conspire with you to raise your confidence as you seek new ways to fulfill your soul's purpose. Surges of grace will come your way as you strive with intense focus to live your most meaningful destiny. To take maximum advantage of this opportunity, I suggest you enjoy extra amounts of quiet, meditative time. Request help from the deepest core of your intelligence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Early in the 19th century, cultural researchers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm gathered an array of old folk stories and published a collection of what we now call fairy tales. Because the brothers wanted to earn money, they edited out some graphic elements from the original narratives. For example, in the Grimms' revised version, we don't get the juicy details of the princess fornicating with the frog prince once he has reverted to his handsome human form. In the earlier but not published stories of Rumpelstiltskin, the imp gets so frustrated when he's tricked by the queen that he rips himself apart. I hope you will do the opposite of the Brothers Grimm in the coming weeks, Cancerian. It's crucial that you reveal, expose and celebrate raw, unvarnished truths.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Is there a job you would love to have as your primary passion, but it's different from the job you're doing? Is there a calling you would delight in embracing, but you're too consumed by the daily routine? Do you have a hobby you'd like to turn into a professional pursuit? If you said even a partial "yes" to my questions, Leo, here's the good news: In the coming months, you will have an enhanced ability to make these things happen. Now is an excellent time to get underway.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo-born Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) was a versatile virtuoso. He excelled as an essayist, biographer, playwright, editor, poet and lexicographer. How did he get so much done? Here's one clue. He took his own advice, summed up in the following quote: "It is common to overlook what is near by keeping the eye fixed on something remote. Present opportunities are neglected and attainable good is slighted by minds busied in extensive ranges and intent upon future advantages." Johnson's counsel is perfect for you right now, Virgo. Forget about the future and focus on the present. Dive into the interesting work and play that's right in front of you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I would love for you to go searching for treasure, and I hope you launch your quest soon. As you gather clues, I will be cheering you on. Before you embark, though, I want to make sure you are clear about the nature of the treasure you will be looking for. Please envision it

in glorious detail. Write down a description of it and keep it with you for the next seven weeks. I also suggest you carry out a fun ritual to formally mark your entry into the treasure-hunting chapter of your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the coming weeks, you'll be guided by your deep intelligence as you explore and converse with the darkness. You will derive key revelations and helpful signs as you wander around inside the mysteries. Be poised and lucid, dear Scorpio. Trust your ability to sense what's important and what's not. Be confident that you can thrive amidst uncertainty as you remain loyal to your core truths. No matter how murky this challenge may seem, it will ultimately be a blessing. You will emerge both smarter and wiser.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you take the Bible's teachings seriously, you give generously to the poor and welcome immigrants. You regard the suffering of others as being worthy of your compassionate attention, and you express love not just for people who agree with you and share your cultural traditions, but for everyone. Numerous biblical verses, including many attributed to Jesus Christ, make it clear that living according to these principles is essential to being a good human. Even if you are not Jewish or Christian, Sagittarius, I recommend this approach to you. Now is an excellent time to hone your generosity of spirit and expand your urge to care for others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In 1982, Capricorn actor Ben Kingsley won an Oscar for his role in the film "Gandhi." Then his career declined. In a 1992 animated movie, he voiced the role of an immortal frog named F.R.O.7. who worked as a James Bond-like secret agent. It was a critical and financial disaster. But Kingsley's fortunes rebounded, and he was nominated for Academy Awards in 2002 and 2003. Then his trajectory dipped again. He was nominated for the Golden Raspberry Award for Worst Actor for four separate films between 2005 and 2008. Now, at age 79, he's rich and famous and most remembered for the great things he has done. I suggest we make him your role model for the coming months. May he inspire you to emphasize your hits and downplay your misses.

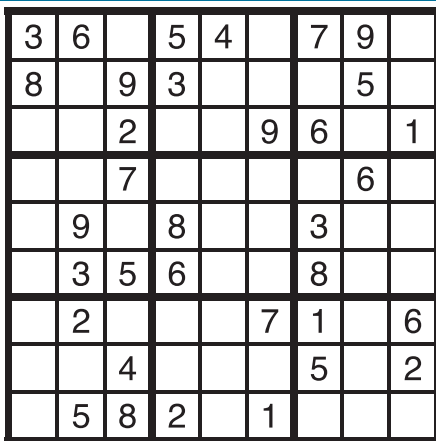
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I'm devoted to cultivating the art of relaxation, but I live in a world dominated by stress addicts and frenzied overachievers. Here's another problem: I aspire to be curious, innocent and open-minded, but the civilization I'm embedded in values know-it-all experts who are very sure they are in command of life's secrets. One further snag: I'm an ultra-sensitive creator who is nourished by original thinking and original feeling, yet I constantly encounter formulaic literalists who thrive on clichés. Now here's the good news: I am a successful person! I do what I love and enjoy an interesting life. Here's even more good news, Aquarius: In the next 12 months, you will have a knack for creating rhythms that bring you closer than ever to doing what you love and enjoying an interesting life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Most of us suffer from at least one absurd, irrational fear. I have a daft fear of heights, even when I'm perfectly safe, and a manic fear of mosquitoes dive-bombing me as I sleep, an event that has only happened four times in my life. My anxiety about running out of money is more rational, though, as is my dread of getting sick. Those worries help motivate me to work hard to earn a living and take superb care of my health. What about you, Pisces? Do you know which of your fears are preposterous and which make at least some sense? The coming weeks will be a favorable time to get a good handle on this question. Ask yourself: "Which of my fears are misdirected or exaggerated, and which are realistic and worthy of my attention?"

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

SUDOKU

Beginner



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, May 10

"A Course of Love" with Lucille Olson - 7 p.m.
Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

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

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Code Club! - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. Register at hq.girlswhocode.com using club code MI45609. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

"Exploring Our World" 2023 Art Show - Photographs by Creative Photographers of Mid-Michigan. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

It's Elementary! - Discover science in the world around you with experiments, crafts, activities and more. Snack included. Grades 3-6. Registration req. 2:45 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Jessey Adams - 7-10 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

"LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan" exhibition - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.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.

Meridian Township Health and Safety Expo - Learn more about health and safety resources available in Meridian Township. Free family-friendly event with food, music, giveaways and more. 5-8 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 773-860-8388. meridian.mi.us.

Weaving the Web: Strength - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

"Wild Florescence" - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Thursday, May 11

2023 World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute - Youth present research and recommendations on how to solve global challenges, participate in educational sessions and connect with other students, professionals, researchers, professors and college students. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. STEM Teaching and Learning Facility, 642 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. 906-439-5065. canr.msu.edu/wfpmyi.

"A Course in Miracles," a Group Discussion on ZOOM - 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886 Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

"Turning Heavenward" – A choral tribute to Stephen R. Lange

Saturday, May 13

7 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing

Stephen R. Lange, the longtime organist, choir director and minister of music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and leader of the Lange Choral Ensemble, died unexpectedly in January. In recognition of his life and career, former members of the ensemble are holding a tribute concert Saturday evening (May 13), featuring a collection of works that were meaningful to him, including two pieces he composed.

The choir, led by L. Harrison Brown, director of music and worship arts at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, will perform works by Ralph Vaughan Williams, René Clausen, Kurt Bestor, Ola Gjeilo, Z. Randall Stroope, Jake Runestad and Adolphus Hailstork. The concert will also feature Stephanie Gewirtz on piano and organ, Tim Wright on horn and Deidreanna Q. Potter on harp.

There will be a reception immediately following the concert. The event is free, but a goodwill offering will be collected, with proceeds benefiting the Michigan State University College of Music's Stephen R. Lange organ scholarship.



BOTTOM BRACKET, HEY THANKS, FINAL BOSS FIGHT - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Dominique Hammons Live - Pre-Mother's Day jazz celebration. 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

"Exploring Our World" 2023 Art Show - Photographs by Creative Photographers of Mid-Michigan. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

First Annual Community Breakfast to Support Hope & Healing - Learn about Endeavor House Ministries' faith-based drug and alcohol support programs for men and women in the community. 8 a.m. Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Lansing, 600 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. 517-285-1270. endeavorhouseministries.com.

High Caliber Teacher and Staff Appreciation Day - Educational staff can show their work ID to get a free all-access pass. Food and beverages not included. Noon-10 p.m. High Caliber Karting and Entertainment, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-721-1790. highcaliberkarting.com.

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

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

"LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan" exhibition - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-

4521. lansingartgallery.org.

"LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan" opening reception - Celebration of diversity and inclusivity, highlighting the unique perspectives and experiences of LGBTQ+ artists in the region. 5-8 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive., Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

School Spirits Pairing Dinner - Four courses with drink pairings from Bell's Brewery, Buffalo Trace and Blanton's Bourbon. 6:30 p.m. Graduate East Lansing, 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. graduatehotels.com/east-lansing.

Upbeat Thursdays with Anthony Taylor Trio plus Open Jam after the show - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeat-events.com.

"Wild Florescence" - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Zoo Nights #1 (21+) - Happy hour-style event featuring tastes from local restaurants and beverage companies. See the zoo after-hours, visit with the animals and enjoy yard games with friends. 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Live & Local

CityPULSE

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing

3 Mikes (Mike Daniels, Mike Smalley, Mike Eyia)

Fri., May 12, 7 p.m.

Luke Sittard Trio

Sun., May 14, 6 p.m.



Explore the origin story of 'Peter Pan' at Riverwalk

By **MARK GMAZEL**

"Peter and the Starcatcher" is an origin-exploring prequel to "Peter Pan," featuring characters such as Peter himself, Tinkerbell, Mrs. Darling, Captain Hook and a certain determined crocodile. The musical, based on the novel "Peter and the Starcatchers," by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, is intended for ages 10 and up, but even younger children will enjoy the escapades, and there are plenty of jokes that parents will laugh at while trusting the risqué comedy to fly over kids' heads.

Riverwalk Theatre has done a great job bringing the story and characters to life. The sound, lights, costumes and sets all service the production well, and the small pit orchestra handles the score with ease. Kudos to director Brian Farnham, who manages all the different elements with skill.

Black Stache, the man who eventually becomes Captain Hook, is played with panache by Joe Dickson, whose consistently over-the-top performance is a treat to watch. Dickson delivers a

pirate that echoes Tim Curry's best performances, with a dash of Jack Sparrow sprinkled in. Best of all, he clearly knows which jokes are meant for children and which are meant for adults and delivers them accordingly. His assistant, Smee, is played by Jilian Stauffer, who also delivers a delightful performance.

The script asks a lot of the juvenile leads, but Ava Taube, who plays Molly Aster, and Mathieu Wiesner, who plays Peter, are up to the task, driving the scenes and connecting well with each other. Both look the parts and convincingly express teenage angst and longing.

Luka Pawsek is captivating as Mrs. Bumbake, showing a solid understanding of the character's arc and delivering punchlines with the correct flair. The post-intermission opening number is especially hilarious and shouldn't be missed.

This is a show that demands a disciplined and focused ensemble to propel the narrative, set the scenes, sing the songs and enact the many characters. The ensemble

is practically faultless in the execution of their duties, and each member adds nice touches as various supporting characters. Notable among them are Lyla Pople as a melancholy Prentiss, Anthony Mandalari as Bill Slank and Lainie Plunkett as Fighting Prawn. Sarah Lehman is also impressively versatile in her many roles, including the mermaid Teacher and a cat.

The musical numbers and combat scenes are well-staged and performed, and the plot moves forward with energy and purpose. Scene changes are smooth and quickly completed, and the chorus navigates them with competence. The sets and props, such as storms at sea, sailing vessels, a monster crocodile and even a human stairway, are all smoothly constructed. The proscenium arch-style stage leaves plenty of room on the beautifully painted main floor for perform-



Courtesy of Aniniko Artistry

Joe Dickson is a treat to watch as Black Stache, the man who eventually becomes Captain Hook, in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Peter and the Starcatcher."

ers while also having a revealed play space behind the main curtain.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" is a fun romp through a complicated script, but don't think about the details too hard and just enjoy the ride. With lots of youthful energy and some adult humor sprinkled in, this production registered well with the audience, scoring solid laughs in all the right places.

Events

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Friday, May 12

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Divination Roundtable - Learn a new divination method, get a reading and compare notes with others in your field. All readings free, all systems of divination welcome. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

"Exploring Our World" 2023 Art Show - Photographs by Creative Photographers of Mid-Michigan. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

"LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan" exhibition - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300

S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

"The Marvelous Wonderettes" - In 1958, a small girls' group sings at their high school prom and competes for the Queen of Your Dreams prom queen crown! See what the ladies go through while singing classic tunes about love. 7 p.m. J.W. Sexton High School, 102 S. McPherson Ave., Lansing.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive., Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

Taylor Taylor at The Peanut Barrel - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

Tony Thompson & Friends - 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-319-4500. lansingexchange.com.

"Wild Florescence" - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Saturday, May 13

Adopt a River Community Clean Up - Tree giveaways and flower planting. Water bottles and lunch provided. Free entry to the science center after cleanup. Registration req. 8:30 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

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

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Collaborative Printed Accordion Books and Zines - Learn the basics step by step. Print your own edition of accordion books or zines. No experience necessary. 10 a.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Courageous Conversations - Healing of the Heart - Experiential gathering of healing sound energy with Norma Gentile and friends. Participate in toning, chanting, sound bowls and more. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and feel free to bring a meditation cushion. 1 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Edible Wild Plant Walk - 1 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

"Exploring Our World" 2023 Art Show - Photographs by Creative Photographers of Mid-Michigan. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Family Fun Day - Craft and vendor show with live music and food trucks. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. West Windsor United Brethren Church, 7275 Windsor Hwy., Dimondale. 517-803-2039. facebook.com/kellyhumeeventslc.

Free Library Saturday with The Reading People - Thousands of free books available for guests of all ages. Bring a box to fill or fill one of ours. 10 a.m.-noon. The Reading People, 1028 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. 517-485-4949. thereadingpeople.org.

Inebriated Insights - A night of intoxicated witchcraft! Variety of Tarot, oracle cards, bone readings, astrology, runes, Reiki and more. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

"It's Only a Play" - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Lansing Common FC vs. Troy United - Drinks from Strange Matter Coffee and food from Stacks BBQ and La India Mexicana Cocina food trucks, plus regular concessions. 6 p.m. Eastern Stadium, 400 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. lansingcommonfc.com.

Lansing Roller Derby | 2023 Home Season Bout 4 - Lansing Roller Derby vs. Downriver Roller Dolls at 5:30 p.m. and Lansing Roller Derby vs. Chicago Style Roller Derby at 7:30 p.m. Afterparty at Mayfair Bar. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. 517-802-7974. lansingrollerderby.com

"LGBTQ+ Artist in Michigan" exhibition - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

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Events

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Live Music with The Swift Brothers at LBC - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

"The Marvelous Wonderettes" - In 1958, a small girls' group sings at their high school prom and competes for the Queen of Your Dreams prom queen crown! See what the ladies go through while singing classic tunes about love. 7 p.m. J.W. Sexton High School, 102 S. McPherson Ave., Lansing.

Meridian Township Farmers' Market - Ready-to-eat foods, produce, meat, cheese, eggs, baked goods, bread, crafts and so much more! 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/farmersmarket.

Mommy & Me Tea Party - Celebrate your mother (or mother figure) with a tea party! Intended for kids in grades K-3 and their caregivers. Registration req. 11 a.m. BlackDog Coffee, 120 W. Hamlin St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Moth Duster at Harrison Roadhouse - Food and drink specials all day. Chance to win Taylor Swift tickets. 5 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

Native Michigan Plant Sale - Selection of native Michigan wildflowers, grasses and sedges. Proceeds help Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter continue educational programs and provide grants to help establish native gardens in Greater Lansing. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Township Farmers' Market, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. wildoneslansing.org.

The Otherside Paranormal & Mortuary Science Museum Grand Opening - Free guided-tour museum with haunted items from paranormal investigations and antique mortuary relics. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. REO Town Marketplace, 1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. screamcraftstudio.com.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive., Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Planet D Nonet CD Release - The Detroit-based band pays tribute to Duke Ellington with its new album, "Blues To Be There." 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeat-events.com.

Plant Sale - Geraniums, succulent plant bowls, herb plant bowls, perennials, seed packets, garden art and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lee Austin Park, 320 W. Ash St., Mason. business.mason-chamber.org/events.

Smooth Street - 7-11 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

Spring Salad Luncheon - Group tables available. Proceeds benefit Haven House. \$10. 11 a.m. Okemos Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. 517-655-1331. okemoslodge252.wordpress.com.

Tony Thompson - 7-9 p.m. Ellison Brewing Co. and Event Space, 1314 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-3896. ellisonbrewing.com.

Turning Heavenward - A Choral Tribute to Stephen R. Lange - 7 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. facebook.com/langechoralensemblelansing.

"Wild Florescence" - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Mother's Day Brunch at LBC - Choose from dishes like lemon-ricotta pancakes with strawberry compote; huevos rancheros with barbecue corn salsa, chorizo and sunny-side-up eggs; kids' French toast sticks; and more. Specialty brunch cocktails. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Mother's Heart with Casey Miller - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

"Peter and the Starcatcher" - 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive., Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Piano Monster: For Mothers Everywhere - A resounding wall of sound from four grand pianos celebrates Mother's Day with works composed by Ravel, Saint-Saëns and Bach. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

"Wild Florescence" - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Sunday, May 14

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Eastern Ingham Farmers Market - Locally grown produce, baked goods, prepared food, hand-made artisan goods, live music, kids' crafts and so much more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

"Exploring Our World" 2023 Art Show - Photographs by Creative Photographers of Mid-Michigan. Noon-4 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

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

Mad Lib Meditations with Solinox Silverstar - We'll work together to create some entertaining meditations Mad Lib-style, then see where they take us! 3 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

"The Marvelous Wonderettes" - In 1958, a small girls' group sings at their high school prom and competes for the Queen of Your Dreams prom queen crown! See what the ladies go through while singing classic tunes about love. 3 p.m. J.W. Sexton High School, 102 S. McPherson Ave., Lansing.

Mother's Day - All Moms Enter Free! - Moms receive FREE admission into the zoo. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave.,

Monday, May 15

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

"Exploring Our World" 2023 Art Show - Photographs by Creative Photographers of Mid-Michigan. Noon-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Gloss Mondays Open Floor - Aspiring drag performers showcase their talent. 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Graphic Novel Book Club - Hang out with friends, chat about the book, have a snack and do a book-related activity or craft. Grades 3-6. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladdl.org.

Jump Into Reading - Stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Intended for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

See Events, Page 23

Lansing Art Attack!

May 13-19

Various locations

Lansing will be under "attack" beginning Saturday (May 13), when an army of artists will take to the streets to showcase art in all its forms, from a student art show and a children's coloring contest to an outdoor artisan market and a walking tour of eclectic public art.

One of the highlights of the event, which runs through May 19, will be the Off the Record Art Walk 1 p.m. Saturday, which starts at the corner of Capitol Avenue and Ionia Street and will take guests on a tour of art installations completed in the last year on 12 traffic signal boxes throughout downtown Lansing. Attendees will be able to meet some of the 26 artists who contributed to brightening up the gray utility boxes.

Local artist Bob Rose said he saw a similar project in Nashville and wanted to implement it in Lansing.

"I ran the idea by artist Dennis Preston, and it snowballed from there. We initially thought we'd do three boxes, but once word of mouth spread, it just snowballed," he said. "The enthusiasm among the artists was mind-boggling, and the momentum just kept growing."

Rose said the response from passers-by while the artists were painting was amazing.

"It's not often you get to see artists working, and the outpouring of support was gratifying," he said. "We were able to humanize the creation of art."

Other activities include art-making workshops, demonstrations, live music and even a carnival. For a complete list of activities and locations, visit lansingartattack.org.



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Breakfast lovers' paradise

By **LIZY FERGUSON**

I didn't know Anna's House was a chain — there are 10 locations, all in Michigan — but I should've guessed based on its slick branding and decor and the huge number of staff. I visited the Okemos location on a Friday morning around 10:30, starving after a halfhearted hunt for morels, and it was packed.

My companion and I sat at the coffee bar, which brings me to my first point of why this place is a kind of breakfast heaven: You can get an espresso drink with your meal. I often desire a fancy latte to accompany my treat-yourself breakfasts, but it's rarely an option and usually requires a second stop before or after the meal. My first pick from the enormous menu was an oat milk latte

with lavender, and it was everything I could've hoped for.

The huge menu did present one problem: It took me forever to decide what I wanted to eat. Looking at all the no-charge gluten-free options and uncommon ingredients, I was feeling quite torn. Then I remembered I had just gotten my tax return and to-go boxes exist. Even narrowing things down to eggs benedict, I still had three options but ultimately couldn't resist the sound of the poblano hollandaise on the Southwest version.

I ordered mine gluten-free, which meant the basted eggs were served atop pieces of gluten-free toast with guacamole, salsa and plant-based chorizo, which was tasty and less greasy than actual pork. The eggs were more overdone than I prefer, but the piquant

richness of the hollandaise, combined with the fresh guacamole, saved the day. The American Fries were similarly cooked a bit past their prime, but this can be expected in a slammed restaurant at peak hours. My neighbor's hash browns looked like a better option for future visits.

I also added a side of bacon to accompany my couldn't-resist-it gluten-free waffle. The bacon was good, but the waffle was superb. I don't think most people would know it's gluten-free. It was served with a crock of cinnamon-sugar butter that really put things over the top, even if my appetite only allowed for a few bites before it ended up in its inevitable doggy bag.

I recommend dining early when the restaurant is less busy to assure quality control, but the sheer number of options, both for beverages (fresh-squeezed juices!) and food (loaded breakfast tots!), is a great reason to visit — and in my case, return.



Southwest Eggs Benedict \$15.75

Anna's House
1753 W. Grand River Ave.,
Okemos
7 a.m.-3 p.m. daily
517-253-7609
annashouseus.com



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

With a host of gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options, anyone can enjoy a hearty breakfast at Anna's House.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE
THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2022 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

TOP 5 DRIVE-UP RESTAURANTS

1. Nip N Sip Drive-In

Old-school drive-through joint serving American classics like burgers, wings, subs and shakes
2603 N. East St., Lansing
517-372-3734
10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday
10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

2. Olympic Broil

Casual fast-food outpost with hefty burgers, coney dogs, wraps and sandwiches

1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
517-485-8584
olympicbroil.com
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

3. VEG-N

Take-out restaurant serving vegan breakfast, burgers and sandwiches
902 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
517-402-4439
eatvegn.com
11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Saturday

4. Munchies

Soul food restaurant offering fried chicken, wings and seafood
4100 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing
517-887-2500
10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
10:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

5. Arby's — all locations

Fast-food chain with sandwiches, sliders, chicken tenders and curly fries
See arbys.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

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BBQ Food Wings
Signature Dish
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Meat
SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

An ode to kohlrabi

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Kohlrabi is an acquired taste. It's bland, with a mild hint of mustard-like fire, and it's surrounded by a tough, thick peel.

"It tastes like the part of broccoli you throw away," Sarah Aswell wrote for McSweeney's Internet Tendency in a piece called "Your First CSA: A Month-By-Month Guide to Enjoying Your Farm Share."

Comparing kohlrabi to a broccoli stalk is taxonomically sound, as kohlrabi is the swollen stem of a plant in the same family as broccoli. Its name means "cabbage turnip" in German, and both cabbage and turnips are in the brassica family as well. Kohlrabi was bred over many generations to have rounder and larger stems, which enabled perhaps the one edge the vegetable has: It's ready early in the season, so there's no need to wait for flowers, fruit or seeds to develop.

"We grow it because it does well here, and it adds diversity to the weekly shares



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Kohlrabi is the swollen stem of a plant in the same family as broccoli. You can eat it a number of ways, including deep-fried as schnitzel or in place of green papayas in som tam, a Thai salad.



in late spring," said Josh Slotnick, a community-supported agriculture farmer based in Missoula, Montana. He admitted that few of his customers fall in love with the scaly green orb at first sight but

compared it to kiwifruit, which nobody cared about when it was called Chinese gooseberry.

"Kohlrabi needs a rebranding, better marketing and a better name," he said.

His colleague Luci Brieger, a farmer in nearby Victor, Montana, has a recipe for kohlrabi schnitzel that sells itself. Bread-

ed and fried until golden, it's a dish that people clamor for in the old country. She learned the recipe from a German customer.

"It's like chicken-fried steak," said Brieger, who grows the giant Cossack storage variety, which can reach 10 pounds. She and her family feast on these fried slabs of breaded goodness all winter.

Kohlrabi som tam

Som tam means something like "pounded sourness" in Thai, a reference to both the flavor and the mortar and pestle that are traditionally used to make the sauce.

Makes four servings

- 1 softball-sized kohlrabi, peeled and grated (about 5 cups)
- A large handful of cherry tomatoes, sliced into quarters
- A fistful of string beans, chopped into 1-inch lengths
- One medium carrot, grated
- 1 medium-sized clove of garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons peanuts, dry roasted in a pan
- 1 or more tablespoons fish sauce
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 or more thin-skinned chilis, like Thai or serrano, de-seeded and thinly sliced (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

With a mortar and pestle or a blender, convert the garlic, salt, sugar and chili peppers into a paste. Add the peanuts and crush some more. Transfer the paste to a bowl and add the lime juice and fish sauce. Stir together, then add the shredded carrot and kohlrabi.

Lightly crush the tomatoes and string beans with the mortar and pestle or the side of a knife and add them to the bowl. Toss.

The salt will pull moisture out of the

Meanwhile, back in Missoula, my local Thai restaurant, Sa Wad Dee, ran a special of kohlrabi som tam. Also known as green papaya salad, it's based on a classic Laotian dish. Mixed with garlic, chili pepper, lemon and spices and drenched in fish sauce, the kohlrabi salad was as good as the green papaya version, which I could eat any amount of.

kohlrabi, which can build up in the bowl. If that's an issue, drain it or give it a toss right before serving. Sprinkle a few more crushed peanuts on top and serve. This dish is juicy, bright and refreshing, like som tam should be.

Kohlrabi schnitzel

This kohlrabi is breaded and fried, which feels like cheating. As long as you're getting people to chow down on kohlrabi, though, that's a win in my book.

Makes four servings

- 2 softball-sized kohlrabi bulbs
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- Salt and pepper
- Vegetable oil

Peel the kohlrabi bulbs and cut them into approximately 3/8-inch slices. While you're preparing the kohlrabi, fill a saucepan with salted water and bring it to a boil.

Cook the kohlrabi slices in the boiling water until slightly tender, about 7 to 8 minutes. Remove the slices, drain and pat dry.

Coat each kohlrabi slice with seasoned flour, then dip it in beaten egg, then dredge it in breadcrumbs. The slices should be completely coated on all sides.

Heat the oil in a pan on medium and brown the cutlets until golden on both sides. Remove the kohlrabi schnitzels from the pan and drain them to remove any excess oil.

THE PULSIFIEDS

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Staff Scientist (East Lansing, MI) Support Superconducting Radio Frequency (SRF) Linac operation; develop/analyze SRF technology; produce innovative design solutions for SRF and Superconducting Magnet Department. Qualified candidates will possess Master's Degree in Physics or closely related field + 5 years' exp in any related position in superconducting cavity operations and R&D. Must have 5 years' exp in design, testing of SRF components including resonator and coupler, cryogenic instrumentation, high-power RF, electromagnetic modeling software CST Microwave Studio. To apply for this posting, please go to www.careers.msu.edu and search for posting number 857522. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.



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Events

from page 20

“Wild Florescence” - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Tuesday, May 16

21st Annual Pam Posthumus Signature Auction - Our annual gala and auction gives you the chance to help ensure kids have a safe and healthy future free from abuse and neglect. 5 p.m. Breslin Student Events Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. 517-241-0042. michigan.gov/ctf.

Delta Township Music in the Park - Global Village on the big stage with opener Taylor Taylor. Jay's Dogs food truck from 6-9 p.m. 7 p.m. Sharp Park, 1401 Elmwood Road, Lansing. 517-323-8500. deltami.gov.

Domestic Violence: Facts, Myths and Signs of Abuse - Kaitlyn Fales from SIREN/Eaton Shelter presents a basic overview of the dynamics of domestic abuse and tips on how to support someone in that situation. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

“Exploring Our World” 2023 Art Show - Photographs by Creative Photographers of Mid-Michigan. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

LAGE Game Night East - Variety of board games, card games, dice games, cooperative games and strategy games. Bring your own or play games other people bring. All skill levels welcome. 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

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

Next Steps Ukulele Workshop - Taking the strums, chords and single-note skills learned in previous workshops and arranging a ukulele ensemble piece. Loaner instruments available. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Open Mic - 7 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

Preschool Family Storytime - Stories and literacy-enhancing activities for ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Young Adult Book Club - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 8-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

“Wild Florescence” - Multi-dimensional collages by Lansing artist Michelle Word. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Wednesday, May 17

517 Day Patio Party at LBC - Lansing-inspired food and drink specials and live music by Shelby and Jake. 5:15-11 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

“A Course of Love” with Lucille Olson - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalam-

azoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhood-center.org/market.

“Blind Spot,” “DIEGEST,” “The Nightly News,” MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Cars & Coney - Bring your classic car, grab a coney dog and enjoy the company of others who love cars. Drivers (plus one passenger) receive free admission for the evening. 5:30-8 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-372-0529. reoldsmuseum.org.

Code Club! - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. Register at hq.girlswhocode.com using club code MI45609. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

“Exploring Our World” 2023 Art Show - Photographs by Creative Photographers of Mid-Michigan. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

“Piano Monster: for Mothers Everywhere”

Sunday, May 14

3 p.m.

Fairchild Theatre

542 Auditorium Road, East

Lansing

In celebration of Mother's Day, six Michigan State University College

of Music faculty members will take the stage at the Fairchild Theatre Sunday (May 14) to perform a variety of family-friendly and thematic piano works, including Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite," Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals" and Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." There will also be a screen with Mother's Day-themed visuals to accompany the pieces.

The concert will feature Deborah Moriarty, Derek Polischuk, Zhihua Tang, Tamar Mike-ladze, Genadi Zagor and Eric Zuber on four grand pianos and will be narrated by voice faculty member Marc Embree.

"We're delighted to celebrate motherhood through this unique performance of heart-warming music," said Moriarty, a professor of piano and chair of the MSU Keyboard Area. "We invite everyone to join us in this joyous program in honor of mothers everywhere."

Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors (60 and older) and \$12 for students and guests under 18 and can be purchased at music.msu.edu, by calling 517-353-5340 or at the door.



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The taste of Açai is somewhere in between mixed berries, dark chocolate, and red wine.



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As we look toward the future, it is becoming increasingly alarming that we very well could be facing a government shutdown. I'm not up to date on all of the sticking points for not increasing the debt ceiling, so I'm going to speak plainly. I've been listening to conservative talk radio on a daily basis for the last 15+ years. I'm not kidding you when I say that I've heard multiple hosts on every show, including Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity, and many others who've said that "this is the end of the United States as we know it" at least 100 times, and I'm probably incredibly low on my count. And this is just from a financial standpoint. They've claimed the sky is falling equally as much from different cultural issues like same sex marriage, legalized marijuana, or other topics as well. I mean, in all seriousness, they have implored their listeners that they'd even be silenced, telling their listeners to subscribe to their for-profit sites "just in case they wake up one day and they are not on the air" — that they'll have a direct line of communication. If this all sounds dystopian to you, I agree, but I'm not exaggerating even a little bit. They are appealing to their listeners' fears, while insinuating that they are "with them." Except: These radioheads are wealthy and monetize everything they do. It's not about America to them. It's about their place in America. Alex Jones claimed to be a patriot too.

For all of the doomsday talk, not one liberal policy has caused the end of our country as we know it. And while it hasn't resulted in catastrophic meltdown, it has certainly chipped away at our stability. People are suffering the effects of capitalism more than ever. CEOs have continued to multiply their wealth, while regular folks continue to struggle. The cost of everything has gone up, from gas to groceries, rent, and entertainment. People are living to work and not able to enjoy life. They are drowning, suffocating, and if there aren't enough problems already deteriorating their mental health, just providing a life for their children seems daunting. And if the debt ceiling is not raised, regular people are the ones who will suffer the consequences.

We raised the debt ceiling twice under Trump. Why? Because it was the right thing to do. In March of 2020, we injected \$1.5 trillion into the crashing market. We saw a \$2.5 trillion aid bill and watched our debt increase by \$7 trillion, and none of that was for infrastructure, and much of it was incentivized with tax credits for corporate America.

I'm not saying we shouldn't take a long, hard look at how the government spends money. I think there are flaws, and there is absolutely some spending that could be put to better use, but not raising the debt ceiling is just a self-fulfilling prophecy for the Republicans. The players who are refusing to come to some middle ground are the same ones who've benefitted by the tax cuts. Some even took out PPP loans that were meant for small businesses, and many of them have lobbied for raises for themselves in Congress but pushed back on raising the minimum wage, and they've without a doubt cost us dearly in the way we are viewed globally.

They may end up getting what they have been warning their followers about if they refuse to work together with their colleagues. The sky might actually collapse, and we may see everything fundamentally change. Trust me when I tell you that they'll hurt the majority of the people, including those who support them with votes, and all so they can say, "I told you so"!

I'm not afraid to tell you that from an HVAC standpoint, I do not agree with everything in this infrastructure bill, but I also think that much of it is a step in the right direction. Doing nothing obviously hasn't worked, and global warming isn't going to stop itself. In the long run, this spending is an investment in a better future, and jobs will be created that will lift people economically. But we need to get out of this capitalistic nightmare that creates billionaires who exploit everything in the marketplace without any regard for humanity. I don't know how we do it, but letting the government's debts default and causing panic and suffering is wholly reprehensible.

Oh, and we are at 199 mass shootings so far in 2023.