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## THE BIRTH OF 'MOTHER TREE'

See Page 11

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# CityPULSE

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

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR •  
[arts@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:arts@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5066

OFFICE MANAGER • Kamara Drane  
[kamara@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:kamara@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6704

EVENTS EDITOR • Nicole Noechel  
[nicole@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:nicole@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5066

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

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

STAFF WRITER/OFFICE ASSISTANT • Lucas Henkel  
[lucas@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lucas@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6706

SALES EXECUTIVES • Lee Purdy • Steve Underwood  
[lee@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lee@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5064  
[steve@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:steve@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6705

Contributors: Dedria Humphries Barker, Bryan Beverly, Taylor Blair, Rob Brezny, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Lizy Ferguson, Roxanne Frith, Mark Gmazel, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Audrey Matusz, Kyle Melinn, Joan Nelson, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Chelsea Lake Roberts, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, David Winkelstern

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



Projectionist looks back on U-M student film movement

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Load up your ramen with seasonal veggies

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Cover photo by Lawrence Cosentino

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**INDICTMENT TALKING POINTS FROM THE G.O.P.**

**TRUMP WAS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH, ACTUALLY**

YOU'RE ALLOWED TO ATTEMPT A COUP IF YOU **TRULY BELIEVE** THE ELECTION WAS STOLEN!

EVERYONE KNOWS **THAT!**

**IT'S A WITCH HUNT**

BIDEN HAS **WEAPONIZED** THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE!

AND JACK SMITH IS **CRIMINALIZING** CRIMINAL CONSPIRACIES!

THE DEEP STATE IS OUT OF **CONTROL!**

**HE WAS MERELY EXERCISING HIS FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

A FEW HYPOTHETICAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FAKE ELECTORS AND SUDDENLY THEY WANT TO MAKE A FEDERAL **CASE** OUT OF IT?

ER, YOU MEAN **ALTERNATE** ELECTORS.

RIGHT, SORRY.

**HE CAN'T GET A FAIR TRIAL**

D.C. JURIES WILL BE FULL OF... **THOSE PEOPLE!**

YES, THERE ARE DEMOCRATS **EVERYWHERE** THERE!

UH HH YEAH, THEM TOO.

**NANANANA I CAN'T HEAAAAAR YOU**

I HAVEN'T READ THE INDICTMENT-- AND I DON'T **INTEND** TO!

I'D RATHER DENOUNCE THE THINGS I **IMAGINE** IT SAYS!

**BLAME THE LAWYERS**

DONALD TRUMP WAS AN INNOCENT NAIF WHO WAS SIMPLY FOLLOWING THE ADVICE OF HIS UNSCRUPULOUS ATTORNEYS!

IS IT A CRIME TO BE TOO **TRUSTING?**

**NONE OF IT REALLY HAPPENED**

HOW CAN **ANYONE** CLAIM TO KNOW THE **TRUTH?** TO COMPREHEND THE UNKNOWNABLE NATURE OF **REALITY ITSELF?**

DID JACK SMITH TAKE **THAT** INTO ACCOUNT?

**WHAT ABOUT OTHER THINGS**

HOW CAN THEY INDICT **TRUMP** WHEN WE **SHOULD** BE TALKING ABOUT **HUNTER BIDEN?**

NOT TO MENTION THAT **BARBIE** MOVIE!

WHAT IS EVEN **HAPPENING** TO THIS COUNTRY?!

TOM TOMORROW © 2023-08-07... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: [thismodernworld.com/subscriptions](http://thismodernworld.com/subscriptions)



## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

# Red-tagged dream home turns into red-tape nightmare

Tabitha Castilla watched her two daughters roll down the sidewalks on Stafford Street in south Lansing on their hoverboards and smiled.

“I love that they can be out here and play like this without having to worry about them,” the 40-year-old single mother said.

In March, she closed on the 1937 ranch house in a quiet neighborhood with a dream of updating it. The property sat empty for two years after Wells Fargo foreclosed on it. The hot water heater was stolen and the kitchen sink was ripped off the wall, among other damage. It's unclear if this was done by squatters while the property was vacant or if former residents did this in retaliation for a foreclosure in 2021.

In April of last year, the city red-tagged the house, meaning it must be brought up to code before it can be occupied.

Undaunted, Castilla imagines her three children and her elderly grandmother living in the single-story home. It has a huge double lot with massive mature oak trees throughout.

She paid \$44,900 in cash for it. She's sunk an estimated \$11,000 to \$12,000 into it since then. She's replaced windows, doors and the roof and purchased a hot water heater. She's reflooring the house in large tiles and working on the gutted-out kitchen. She's sealing off her garage to make a sitting room, bathroom and bedroom for her grandmother. She's pulled the requisite permits.

But her dream of moving her family into the home before winter is in jeopardy. Despite owning the property outright, she can't find a mortgage or loan because city fines and fees related to the property being red-tagged while owned by Wells Fargo are being counted as part of her total annual tax obligation for years to come, even though once she brings the property up to code, those fines and fees end. That totals \$8,837.61, including property tax — and the catch is that banks look at it as if it is all property tax, even though property tax is less than 25% of the amount.

With an annual income of just \$25,000 a year from her employment



Todd Heywood

Tabitha Castilla outside the red-tagged house on Stafford Street in south Lansing that she wants to make a home for her family. Because of a technicality, she cannot qualify for loans to fix it up.

as a security guard, the banks argue she can't afford the high taxes.

“I cannot get a loan, any type of loan,” she said.

She needs to borrow \$25,000 to pay for installing the water heater, wiring and other essentials so she can move into her dream home.

City spokesperson Scott Bean said the city cannot remove or separate those red-tag-related costs from the assessed tax rolls, because otherwise if Castilla goes into tax foreclosure, the city can't recoup the fines and fees.

Castilla has been exploring various options to get out of this Catch-22.

She's gone to Capital Area Community Services.

“They told me that I do qualify for a \$7,500 grant — only if I lived in the home,” she said. Living in a red-tagged home is a misdemeanor in the city. She rents in the Churchill Downs neighborhood.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services offers grants of up to \$25,000 for home re-

pairs. But the program has a two-year waiting period and requires the applicant to live in the property. Castilla said she was told by a caseworker to sign the paperwork claiming to live in the property, which could be considered fraud.

City of Lansing officials said it's a frustrating gray area.

“Unfortunately, this is a situation where a resident purchased a red-tagged home with good intentions to fix it and make it livable, but now she is stuck,” wrote Bean. “The city wants to see all red-tagged homes repaired and made livable. Buyers need to be fully aware of what they are getting into when purchasing one of these homes.”

Castilla's crunch is not the first time the city has seen a red-tagged property turn into a nightmare for a well-intentioned property buyer, Bean said. Banks won't provide mortgages or home equity loans on red-tagged property, he said, because the equity doesn't exist in the property because of its condition.

“Too late, they realize there is little to no financial assistance available to assist,” he said.

Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox said Castilla's situation illuminates a larger problem in trying to address the city's red-tag property crisis.

“It's a sticky question that I've had some talks with the city about, about how you really do make it easier for people to take a red-tagged house and make it into something when it's not their fault that the red tag is there,” Fox said by phone. “We've got various people articulating that we've got all this housing, it's just that it's red tag. People can't live in it. We need to do something about that. That does require some innovation that nobody's really figured out yet.” When the county sells property in tax foreclosure auctions, the staff attempts to “warn people about things like this possibly happening happen.”

“But we have no legal steps that we can take to make that work,” he said. “And, and that's frustrating to us too.”

— TODD HEYWOOD



# MSU canceling classes on anniversary of shooting

## BRIDGE MICHIGAN

Classes at Michigan State University will be canceled for most students on Feb. 13, 2024, the one-year anniversary of a mass shooting on campus.

In an email to the university community, interim President Teresa Woodruff discouraged instructors from scheduling exams or assignments on Feb. 13 and 14. Classes will resume on Feb. 14, and exams and assignments may be scheduled for Feb. 15. Some graduate and professional students may be exempt from this observance to meet certain requirements.

Campus will remain open on those days, including dining halls and recreational activities. Public buses from Capital Area Transportation Authority will run as scheduled.

MSU plans a remembrance ceremony on Feb. 13 to commemorate three students killed by a Lansing gunman: Arielle Diamond Anderson, 19, of Harper Woods, Brian Fraser, 20, of Grosse Pointe Park and Alexandria Verner, 20, of Clawson.

The gunman also wounded five others before killing himself.

The university has not released any



Photo Courtesy Shutterstock

Classes, assignments and exams will be canceled on Feb. 13, 2024, one year after the MSU shooting. A gunman killed two students and wounded others inside Berkey Hall, shown above.

further details on the memorial. Officials will make plans based on feedback from community members, especially those impacted by the shooting.

Although classes will be canceled, support staff are required to work, but Woodruff instructed supervisors to be flexible with time-off requests for people who need to “step away from work on this day.”

The university will also develop a Public Art on Campus Committee that will include faculty, staff and students who will create a memorial on campus.

The university received over \$2 million in donations after the shooting and will allocate \$300,000 to building

a memorial.

A memorial tree was planted in July, which honored all students who died during the 2022-23 academic year. The new memorial will be dedicated to the shooting.

MSU also announced that Berkey Hall, where two of the three students were killed, will remain open for academic and support staff, graduate students and faculty who have offices there, but accommodations will be made for those who don't want to enter the building.


Berkey Hall will undergo renovations with plans to fully reopen by spring.

— JANELLE JAMES

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**Public Notice**

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Qualifications for **Cleaning Services**. The Request for Qualifications Packet is available August 9, 2023 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 11am on August 23, 2023 and will be opened at 11am on August 23, 2023. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFQ#: Cleaning 08-2023-26

**CP#23-192**

**Public Notice**

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Proposals for **Appraisal Services for Residential Improved and/or Vacant Properties**. The Request for Proposal Packet is available after August 9, 2023 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 10:00am on August 23, 2023 and will be opened at 10:00am August 23, 2023. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFP#: Appraisals 08-2023-26

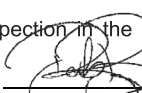
**CP#23-191**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT TO INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that at a meeting held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted an amendment to Art. IV, Sec. 1 of the Ingham County Animal Control Ordinance, by adding a provision allowing the Animal Control Officer to waive criminal liability for a license violation upon proof that a license has been obtained before arraignment on the misdemeanor charge.

A copy of the Ordinance Amendment is Available for public inspection in the office of the Ingham County Clerk.

**CP#23-189**

  
Barb Byrum, County Clerk

**PUBLIC Art OF THE WEEK**



Noted Lansing-area sculptor Ivan Iler's artwork can be seen up and down what Joan Nelson, former director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, calls the “scrappy little Kalamazoo Street art corridor.” (See pg. 11 for a full story on Iler's newest sculpture, “Mother Tree.”)

Iler has installed several bike racks along the corridor and, combined with a new mural at the Lansing Bike Co-op and the addition of a new Brian Whitfield mural at the Neighborhood Center, the strip has a new vibrancy. Even the bus stops have become works of art.

Iler's work can also be seen on Michigan Avenue at Museum Drive, where his massive stainless-steel sculpture “Portrait of a Dreamer” was installed in 2017.

“Portrait of a Dreamer” is tongue-in-cheek, called a head-turner due to the immersive and large gears that can be moved with hand cranks. The stainless-steel head towers 15 feet and can be seen on the Michigan Avenue thruway from quite a distance. Stop by sometime and get those gears moving.

When the sculpture was dedicated, Iler said he was inspired by the simplicity of gears moving, creating art.

— **BILL CASTANIER**

Public Art of the Week is a new feature that rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have an idea for either, please email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call (517) 999-6704.



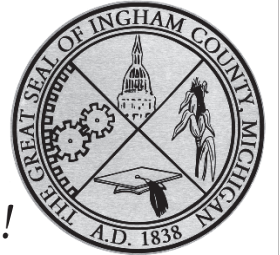
# REAL ESTATE AUCTION

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 24TH, 2023

*By Order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County*

**INCREDIBLE LOW RESERVES!!**

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



*Property 3302 - Lansing*  
1213 Lake Lansing Rd.



*Property 3303 - Lansing*  
W. Paulson St (400)



*Property 3304 - Lansing*  
336 W. Gier St.



*Property 3305 - Lansing*  
1582 Bassett Ave



*Property 3306 - Lansing*  
1217 Greenwood Ave.



*Property 3307 - Lansing*  
1512 Knollwood Ave.



*Property 3308 - Lansing*  
915 Clayton St.



*Property 3309 - Lansing*  
712 N. Sycamore St.



*Property 3310 - Lansing*  
W. Saginaw St.



*Property 3311 - Lansing*  
N. High St.



*Property 3312 - Lansing*  
Massachusetts Ave.



*Property 3313 - Lansing*  
Illinois Ave.



*Property 3314 - Lansing*  
1503 Taft St.



*Property 3315 - Lansing*  
1129 Camp St.



*Property 3316 - Lansing*  
Cleveland St.



*Property 3317 - Lansing*  
1208 Maryland Ave.



*Property 3318 - Lansing*  
1004 Mahlon St.



*Property 3319 - Lansing*  
323 S. Hayford Ave.



*Property 3320 - Lansing*  
311 S. Foster Ave.



*Property 3321 - Lansing*  
527 S. Hayford Ave.

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

Detailed information on parcels to be offered & terms of sale can be obtained on the internet at

**www.BippusUSA.com**

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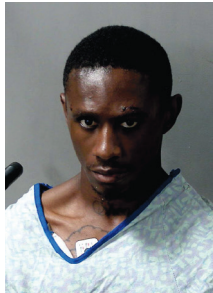
# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOECHEL



**2-year-old Wynter Cole-Smith's autopsy confirmed she died from strangulation.** A cell phone cord was wrapped around her neck and hair seven times. She also had bruising on her right shoulder, left arm and both sides of her torso. Her alleged assailant, Rashad Trice, 26, pleaded not guilty to federal charges of kidnapping a minor and kidnapping resulting in death during his arraignment hearing in Grand Rapids. He has also been charged with 18 felony counts and two misdemeanors by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel's Office, which is handling the state charges. A two-day preliminary examination for the state charges is scheduled for Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Trice is being held in the Newaygo County Jail without bond.



**Two teenagers were charged with 13 felonies each, stemming from the fatal shooting of 22-year-old Jose Manuel De Jesus Flores on July 30.** Aiden Wilson, 16, and Bradli Stoutmiles, 18, were arraigned in 54A District Court on charges of open murder, assault with intent to murder, receiving and concealing a stolen vehicle, third-degree fleeing and eluding and nine weapons counts. Both were denied bond.

Wilson was charged as an adult because of the serious nature of the offense and his previous involvement with the juvenile court system. He has been held at the Ingham County Youth Center since his arrest, but the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office asked that he be moved to the county jail, where he would be held separately from the adult population. A probable cause conference for both teens is set for Friday (Aug. 11).

**Three people were treated for injuries at a local hospital and three were arrested after an altercation at Capitol Village Apartments off Edgewood Boulevard.** Police responded to the scene after reports of a stabbing. Residents told the Lansing State Journal it was "a family matter." Lansing Police Sgt. Jillian Colby told the Journal she didn't know what caused the altercation but said alcohol was involved. The Journal reported that officers were seen placing a large kitchen knife into an evidence bag. At least one of the injured victims was stabbed.



**A woman was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries after an alleged sexual assault on the Lansing River Trail near Hawk Island Park.** Lansing Police Department spokesperson Jordan Gulkis said the trail remains safe for pedestrians and that a volunteer patrol group will focus on that section of the trail.

**A new \$1.75 million bridge connecting Rotary Park to Impression 5 Science Center is open.** The concrete bridge replaces an old wooden bridge that was decaying. Mayor Andy Schor said the concrete bridge costs less to maintain. The city also completed an extension near the Beekman Center off Wabash Road, renovated a deck near Mount Hope Cemetery and is planning to begin work on the trail near Mount Hope Avenue and Aurelius Road, Parks Director Brett Kaschinske told the Lansing State Journal.

**Lansing-based Gentilozzi Real Estate and Detroit developer JFK Investments unveiled \$215 million in plans downtown for 450 apartments, retail, office space, entertainment and green-space amenities, to be anchored by a 25-story tower.** Christman Co. of Lansing will manage construction of the proj-

ect, which comprises Capitol Tower at Capitol Avenue and Ottawa Street, Tower on Grand, and Washington Square on the southwest corner of the downtown Lansing traffic circle. The architect is Hobbs & Black.



**Michael Lynn, a former Lansing firefighter, is suing the city over his 2021 termination, the Lansing State Journal reported.** Lynn was fired for posting former Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green's cell phone number in a Facebook comment

after the department made a post in remembrance of a police dog killed in a 1999 shootout but didn't name Aldric McKinstry Jr., a young Black man who was also killed. The lawsuit names the city and Mayor Andy Schor as defendants. It states



that Lynn was acting in an individual capacity and within his First Amendment rights when he posted the phone number. It also alleges that Lynn, who is an African American, was discriminated against within the Fire Department based on his race. Lynn seeks more than \$75,000 in damages. In a separate grievance process that ended in January, an arbitrator upheld Lynn's termination. "The city has not been served, but our attorneys will review it and respond vigorously," city spokesperson Scott Bean said of the new lawsuit.

"Normally we do not comment on active litigation. However, this issue has been grieved and arbitrated through a process the plaintiff agreed to and fully participated in. The arbitrator ruled in favor of the city and that the city acted properly in his termination."

**A Michigan State University strength and conditioning coach filed a federal lawsuit against the university, alleging discrimination.** Mike Vorkapich, 52, is listed as the director of athletic performance/sports science for MSU's hockey team, a position he was promoted to in 2020. He claims that since 2021, he was "demoted twice, excluded from meetings, relegated to an isolated office and left out of decisions relevant to his job," according to the lawsuit.

Further, he alleges "Younger, less qualified, female, Black and nondisabled individuals have been promoted ahead of (him) and treated better in the name of 'diversity.'" The lawsuit names MSU, Athletic Director Alan Haller and Deputy Athletic Director Ashton Henderson as defendants. Vorkapich is white and has Tourette syndrome, according to the lawsuit. Both Haller and Henderson are Black. Vorkapich is seeking reinstatement to his original position or a higher position as well as back pay for wages lost or, if he's not reinstated, benefits and wages he'd receive until his retirement.



**Lansing and Ingham County officials held a news conference to address the recent rise in gun violence in the city.** So far this year, police have investigated seven gun-related homicides in Lansing, including three in the past two weeks. On July 30, 22-year-old Jose Manuel De Jesus Flores was shot and killed on the 700 block of East Kalamazoo Street. On Aug. 3, 21-year-old D'Angelo Hayward was killed and a 16-year-old girl was injured in a domestic dispute and shooting at the Boulevard West Apartments on Forest Road. On Aug. 4, 24-year-old Eric Humes Jr. was killed in a shooting near West Holmes and Pleasant Groves roads. Lansing Police Chief Ellery Sosebee said the department will continue to seize illegal weapons whenever possible, and Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane said his office will continue prosecuting gun violence cases to hold people accountable.



# How markets help build a resilient local food system

*(This column continues a discussion about the importance of building a resilient local food system in a time of global food crisis. In Part 1, we focused on pantries, community and home gardens, and the emergence over the last decade of urban farmers in Lansing. This month, our focus is on current and emerging markets for locally grown and prepared food products.)*

By **JOAN NELSON**

Along with their rural counterparts, Lansing’s urban farmers have found a convivial setting for selling their products in farmers markets. Twenty years ago, the region had two markets: Downtown Lansing City Market and Meridian Market. Today, mid-Michigan has 15 to 20! Most are a blend of rural and urban growers, and most also feature local makers selling breads, cheeses, sauces, jams and ready-to-eat items. The latter include participants in incubator and accelerator kitchens such as those at Allen Neighborhood Center. These kitchens provide entry-level food entrepreneurs with affordable kitchen rental and business mentoring; and they help build the local food economy. According to Matt Jones, ANC’s kitchen manager, “Eighty-seven small businesses have gotten their start in the ANC Incubator since 2014. Many have since opened storefronts in the region, contributing to more vibrant commercial corridors. These include Apple Blossom Kombucha, Sweet Encounters, Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale, Tatse and Tacqueria Chaparrito.”

Farmers markets are a celebration of the huge array of food items grown and produced within 50 miles of Lansing. Though most are open only one or two days a week and only a few are year-round (Meridian, Holt, Allen), they offer fresh, just-picked, nutritious products that are an alternative to the items on grocery store shelves that, on average, have traveled 1,500 miles and many days to get here.

While farmers markets are important venues for selling local food, most have limited hours and seasons. Enter the Eastside Lansing Food Co-op. Since opening last October in Allen Place,

a new location for this 40-year-old institution, ELFCO has grown steadily and impressively into a hybrid food co-op and neighborhood grocery store. Open seven days a week, ELFCO has many traditional co-op features: bulk foods and spices, fresh local produce, a social mission surrounding access to food and a sense of community. (Note the frequent pop-ups, meet-ups, food sampling and community events at ELFCO.) To match the cultural and economic diversity of the community, ELFCO’s general manager, Sally Potter, works to offer a wide variety of products, featuring many price points. She notes, for instance, that “ELFCO carries 3 choices for a dozen eggs: \$2, \$4 and \$6, and that is typical for every food category. We are also debit, credit and EBT-friendly. Most shoppers, by the way, are not co-op members; everyone is welcome to shop here.”

Most significant is that while several other grocery stores stock locally grown food on a limited basis, no other store in town has so central a focus on local food as ELFCO. Since opening last October, ELFCO has paid over \$80,000 to small farmers and food producers in mid-Michigan. A fully stocked grocery store, ELFCO makes it easy for you experience a complete grocery shopping trip within what Potter aptly described as “its art-filled, calm and friendly walls.” (This week I ducked in to get Blue Mitten lettuce, veggies from half-dozen other local farmers, Felske’s strawberries, Mr. Leslie’s Cheesecake and cat food and paper products.)

Sourcing from local farmers and producers whenever possible will eventually (and hopefully) become the new norm, especially given MSU-coordinated farm-to-institution initiatives (e.g., schools, hospitals, dormitories). You can add to the momentum by suggesting local sourcing at the restaurants that you frequent and by shopping at grocery stores that prioritize local products (ELFCO, Old Town General Store, Capital City Market).

While the grim headlines about the global food crisis will continue, we can do our part as individuals, households, neighborhoods and communities to build resilience into our local food system — one that we can rely upon to supply nutritious and fresh food for our families and neighbors; support family farms (an estimated 400 within 50 miles of Lansing); and encourage

the growth of small food businesses for many years to come — cities all over the world are doing the same. Groundwork in Traverse City has just published an inspirational playbook titled “Shared Abundance: Lessons in Building Community Around Locally Grown Food.” The book documents 20 years of building agro-biodiversity, small farmer capacity, and generally strengthening the food system in NW Michigan. There are very similar efforts throughout the state, nation, and world. In the words of the Post Carbon Institute’s “Great Unraveling,” “Influence cascades down from global systems, to nations, cities, households, and individuals — and also back up those same hierarchical levels.” Perhaps, the cumulative effect of all of us



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Sally Potter is the general manager of the Eastside Lansing Food Co-op, an example of a market meeting the demand for locally grown and prepared food products.

working to create local food resilience will be to change the headlines regarding what’s to come.

*(Joan Nelson was the founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center. She lives on Lansing’s east side.)*



Opinion

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**B/24/016 SECONDARY EFFLUENT PUMP NO.5 REBUILD** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing Wastewater Division. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site ([www.Mitn.info](http://www.Mitn.info)) until 2PM local time in effect on AUGUST 17, 2023. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or [Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov](mailto:Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info). The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

CP#23-188

#### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Bids for **Tree and Brush Removal & Trimming Services**. The Request for Proposal Packet is available August 9, 2023 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 10:30am on August 23, 2023 and will be opened at 10:30am August 23, 2023. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFP#: Trees 08-2023-26

CP#23-193

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

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Building Board of Appeals on **Thursday August 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, Conference Room A, Second Floor, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an **appeal of Bruce Hulse, Attorney for Kevin and Madeline Corbett, owners of the property at 864 Tanglewood** who were cited for "discharge at the curb cannot discharge into the /neighboring properties or public street which is claimed to be a violation of Section 304.7 of the City Code which they do not agree:

304.7 Roofs and sump pump discharge and drainage. The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drainage shall be adequate to prevent dampness or deterioration in the walls or interior portion of the structure. Roof drains, gutters and downspouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions. Roof water and sump pumps shall not be drained or discharged in a manner that creates a nuisance to the owners or occupants of adjacent premises, or to the public. Any drainage or discharge which creates a nuisance to the owners or occupants of adjacent premises or to the public shall be abated by the owner of the drained area. For purposes of this section, **a nuisance includes, but is not limited to, the discharge or drainage of water onto neighboring property**, a discharge or drainage that results in the accumulation of standing or freezing water on any public property or any discharge or drainage which causes the erosion of soils on public or neighboring private property.

For more information on the request please contact Scott Weaver at (517) 319-6810 or [sweaver@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:sweaver@cityofeastlansing.com). Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Building Board of Appeals, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [bba@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:bba@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 [mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com).

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

Marie Wicks  
Interim City Clerk

CP#23-190

## Firearms ban kicks in next month, but Capitol theatrics will continue

The inevitable Capitol building firearm ban starts next month after years of handwringing from an appointed body that takes its marching orders from legislative leadership.

Some type of metal detector screening system will be coming to a Capitol entrance near you. We can only hope it's not as cumbersome as entering a courthouse or as time-consuming as a TSA airport checkpoint.

Early reports are that we'll be able to keep our shoes and belts on. Laptops in a satchel bag? Those will get a little extra look.

The change will impact the habits of a sliver of the population but will inconvenience all of us to varying degrees ... especially if we get stuck behind a tour group.

Sparking the change was that much-demagogued, COVID restriction-inspired Capitol protest of April 30, 2020. That's the one the detached national media has been snookered into believing was an armed military takeover attempt of the Capitol a la Jan. 6, 2022.

In reality, this was about 1,000 purposely unmasked people who wanted to show state government they can shove their COVID restrictions up their you-know-where.

A small percentage (I counted 20 or so) of armed agitators paraded around the building and the Senate gallery like it was 1776 and lawmakers were taxing tea.

The weapons were part of their whole intimidation schtick, but it was hard for this observer to take it as anything more than a glorified prop. These people didn't know what they were watching. They didn't know a legislator from an assistant clerk.

This wasn't Jan. 6. An election wasn't being certified inside. In fact, the lawmakers were trying to negotiate lighter COVID restrictions with the governor. Most of the elected officials inside AGREED with the people yelling and screaming.

The protesters were actually angry at Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, and she's rarely in the Capitol.

If the shouters and screamers who got in the face of the House sergeants

had been allowed to charge an empty state House floor, I'd have bet \$100 they wouldn't have done much more than take a few pictures and walk out the back (hopefully, without a souvenir or two from a legislator's desk).

When given access to the official proceeding in the Senate, these "patriots" followed the rules, from what I saw.

A young man seated next to me in the Senate gallery laid his long gun on his lap while he attentively watched the session until he couldn't take the boredom anymore, got up and left.

I've never been threatened with a gun. But I have been on the Senate floor when armed men and women are looking down at me. The pro-gun lobby's Second Amendment Day drew so many armed people, school groups were offered another date if their tours overlapped.

Like these "liberty" protesters from 2020, though, gun-tooters never gave an inclination they were ready to open fire.

Honestly, I was more concerned about legislators' safety when Republicans repealed the state's prevailing wage law or passed Right to Work restrictions. Those blue-collar protesters were every bit as loud. They were probably even more angry. More important, they knew the bill and they knew who was voting yes and who was voting no.

Masked, ninja-like protesters ran around the Capitol grounds when tougher emergency manager laws were on the table — years before COVID made mask-wearing normal. I watched other protesters lock hands under the Capitol dome and refuse to leave, ultimately inviting arrest.

Other Snyder-era policies drew swarms chanting a hell of a lot louder than what these "Liberty protesters" managed on April 30.

Every passionate issue brings its own flavor of theatrics. Some are more inappropriate, unsettlingly tacky and offensive than others. The risks, regardless of whether protesters are packing heat or not, remain.

People may feel safer in the Capitol with the metal detectors screening everyone at the door, but no device will erase the passion that brought a protester to the Capitol in the first place.

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS





Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Sculptor Ivan Iler (right) and one of his assistants, Travis McGinnis, hustle to finish the sculpture last week before its scheduled unveiling at a community celebration in Hunter Park on Lansing’s east side Thursday (Aug. 10). Countless temporary spot welds held the skin in place and had to be made permanent before the sculpture was installed.

# A tree grows in St. Johns

## ‘Mother Tree’ brings big public art to Lansing’s east side

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Thursday morning, a fabulous scene out of Ovid’s “Metamorphoses” played out in a cluttered motorcycle shop in St. Johns, north of Lansing.

Two men were assembling a half-woman, half-tree out of metal.

One by one, they smoothed hundreds of sinuous steel shards onto a rigid frame, until they assumed the contours of a woman’s face and back. Acetylene torches marked each step of this strange ritual with a blinding blue flash and a shower of sparks.

The shop floor was covered with metal shards. Sculptor Ivan Iler searched for the perfect swirl to smooth onto the woman’s face. His longtime assistant, Travis McGinnis, zapped another piece into place along her spine. Nearby were a set of reference drawings and an empty can of Unicorn Farts beer.

A chain stretched upward from the woman-tree’s scalp into a high canopy, like the tower where Dr. Frankenstein hoisted his creature to touch the lightning. Bare branches towered high above the torso, waiting for thousands of stainless steel leaves to be attached.

Nearby, a second tower of steel,

nearly 15 feet tall, was coalescing into a muscular braid of human legs and tree roots — the base of the sculpture.

Iler didn’t have much time to savor the scene. He was under the gun.

“Mother Tree,” a monumental, 40-foot-tall sculpture commemorating the diverse and close-knit Prospect Place neighborhood on

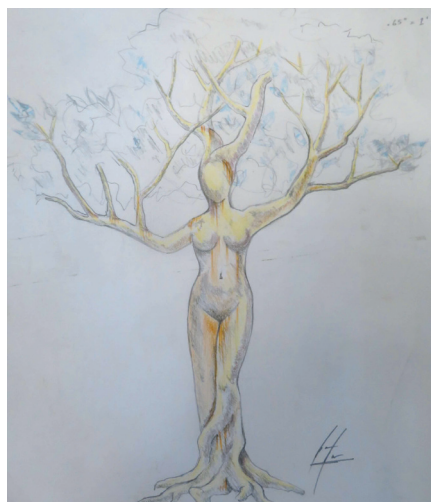
Lansing’s east side, was due to be erected in Hunter Park the following Thursday (Aug. 10) with a big community party. A freshly poured concrete pedestal was waiting.

Thousands of temporary spot welds had to be made permanent on the mosaic-like skin. And then there was the foliage. Iler had no idea how many laser-cut leaves were stacked in the plastic crates on the floor.

“How many are there? All of them,” Iler joked. “It’s going to be tight. There are going to be some sleepless nights.”

### WORTHY OF BEAUTY

It doesn’t take much to provoke a shindig on Lansing’s east side, especially along the Kalamazoo Street corridor. The community is already woven together by dozens of activities and programs, from a farmers market to a garden house, a food pantry, refugee services, free



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Although Iler made a reference sketch for “Mother Tree,” he prefers “sketching in metal,” shaping the work as he builds.

ice cream days at the Eastside Lansing Food Co-op, swimming, soccer, yoga, yadda yadda. What more could it want?

The “Mother Tree” sculpture in Hunter Park promises to provide a crowning touch. Unsurprisingly, its unveiling Thursday will spark a big community “Summer Art Celebration” at Hunter Park that afternoon.

Yasmina Bouraoui, the instigator of the sculpture project, called it a “small but mighty” neighborhood.

In 2015, after living for 25 years in East Lansing, Bouraoui moved to Lansing’s Prospect Place neighborhood, a strip of Lansing’s east side that lies between Michigan Avenue to the north and Kalamazoo Street to the south, from Holmes Street to the west and Allen Street to the east.

“Like much of the east side, we’re colorful and quirky and really diverse,” Bouraoui said. “We have artists, students, factory workers, state workers, everything in between.”

She often takes her grandkids to Hunter Park.

“It’s a beautiful park with lots of amenities, but there’s no art, there isn’t that touch of cultural beauty,” she said.

In fall 2021, while thumbing through the Allen Neighborhood



## Mother Tree

from page 11

Center newsletter, she spotted a notice for an Arts Impact Grant for \$75,000 from the city of Lansing.

The grants go to “a permanent creative structure” that “enhances a neighborhood’s appearance and kindles community engagement” in the city.

Bouraoui saw Ivan Iler’s work on the Netflix series “Metal Masters,” a reality show where metal smiths create art on demand in a competitive setting — a British cook-off show, with rivets.

She took the bull by the horns and called Iler in 2021. He agreed to help her make the pitch for the grant, but he had conditions.

“If you work with me, you have to trust me,” he told her. He didn’t want to deal with micromanaging from people with the purse strings.

“School didn’t agree with me,” Iler said. “I was the kind of person who didn’t like to be told what to do, and probably still am.”

“You’re the artist,” she replied.

Iler had already proven himself in Lansing with “Portrait of a Dreamer,” also known as the “gear head,” a titanic metal being that presides over the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Museum Drive.

“Dreamer” is a bold cascade of functioning metal gears, springing from the head of a silvery colossus. The bravura sculpture turns heads downtown while deftly capturing Lansing’s self-image as a hub for manufacturing brawn, represented by all those gears, and high-tech brains, embodied in the giant crane.

Bouraoui, Prospect Place Neighborhood Association President Ethan Schmitt and a group of residents were confident that Iler would come up with a similarly spectacular and neighborhood-specific work for the east side.

“We feel like it’s time for this community to be recognized and to be celebrated, to call attention to the work that’s been going on for 22 years and to tell east siders they’re worthy of beauty too,” Bouraoui said.

### FAST AND NATURALLY

The design for “Mother Tree” came to Iler fast and naturally. In fall 2021, he walked the Prospect Place neighborhood, toured the Allen Neighborhood Center and talked with residents.

“It’s such a family there,” Iler said. “Everybody looks out for one another. They also care a lot about the trees in their area. The ‘Mother Tree’ seemed very fitting.”

To Schmitt, a tree was the perfect symbol of “how something can be beautiful and also serve a really important function.”

“With climate change, shade is literally life saving,” Schmitt said. “Trees soak up a ton of carbon dioxide and are saving the entire world. There is so much that trees do that not only make the neighborhood more beautiful, but functionally, a lot better to live in for everybody.”

Iler was also aware of recent research suggesting that some patch-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Iler and McGinnis weld hundreds of flakes of metal skin (or is it bark?) onto the frame of the “Mother Tree” in Iler’s St. Johns workshop last Thursday.

es of forest are home to “mother trees” that share resources with surrounding trees and even warn them of potential threats, via chemical signals.

“Mother Tree” won’t do that, but Schmitt expects it to serve a practical function in addition to its aesthetic and symbolic qualities.

“It will slow down a lot of that traffic on Kalamazoo Street,” Schmitt said. “So many kids go to that park. Lives might be saved and injuries prevented by cars just slowing down. If you want to make a corridor thrive, you have to have slow traffic.”

Iler made a reference sketch, but the surging limbs and epic proportions of the sculpture taking shape in St. Johns bear little resemblance to his humble drawing.

His creativity bubbles up mainly during the process of building. He calls it “sketching in metal.”

“I start with a drawing, but I sculpt by letting something build itself, letting it become what it wants to be,” he said. “That’s what makes it fun for me. Once you actually start to make something, it will tell you things you didn’t even think of asking it.”

With “Mother Tree,” Iler has grown fully into his dream life. During the pandemic, his motorcycle business went dry and he decided to make a living as a full-time artist.

It wasn’t the first time he bet on himself.

“I’ve always been an artist,” he said. “I was the one who was drawing on the desk, the one they said wasn’t going to amount to anything.”

He comes from Drummond Island, but his family moved to Mexico for much of his childhood. He was back in Michigan by fifth grade.

He started as a tattoo artist, to make ends meet, but when the re-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The sculpture’s torso embodies the omphalos (the central hub) of a sprawling figure that will reach 40 feet tall, from roots to topmost leaves, and stretch out 16 feet in all directions.

cession tightened, he got a job at a car parts shop in Owosso. By 2008, he was working at a gas station, building motorcycles on the side, when he got tired of working for other people and started his own

motorcycle shop.

“You’ve got metalworking, painting, leather work, all these things I love to do, rolled into one,” he said.

See Mother Tree, Page 13



## Mother Tree

from page 12

His passion for creating large sculptures on the side developed into a series of public works, beginning with a “splash of aluminum” at a park in St. Johns and a “little aluminum man” climbing a ledge in Grand Ledge.

In 2018, Iler created a 25-foot-tall brown trout sculpture for village of Baldwin in Lake County, billed as the “world’s largest brown trout sculpture.” Iler had found a brown trout sculpture in New Zealand that was 20 feet tall, so he upped the ante in Baldwin to 25 feet.

The trout is an airy, dynamic head-turner that RoadsideAmerica.com called “an artistic, but not unpleasing, depiction of the humble campfire fish.”

Iler’s life tilted more decisively toward art after his 2021 stint on “Metal Masters,” which he called “surreal in the moment, but fun.”

He stuck it out for an entire season, fulfilling tasks like making a mobile in 10 hours, getting used to working under pressure.

He was shocked by the torrent of feedback he got from being on the show, from as far as South Africa.

“It took me by surprise,” he said. “I couldn’t believe I had touched people on the other side of the world. But as an artist, that’s what you’re trying to do — put your work out there into the world and get recognition for what you do. That’s what we do as human beings. We want recognition for the things we put into the world.”

### ART CORRIDOR

Rummaging through hundreds of laser-cut shards of bark Thursday, Iler seemed unfazed by the magnitude and complexity of “Mother Tree.”

“You’re always trying to outdo yourself, make something more beautiful than what you’ve already made,” he said.

As a highly visible outdoor sculpture, “Mother Tree” has to be as graceful as a goddess, but built like

a tank. Iler, McGinniss and another trusty helper, Kenneth Wesner, used every trick they know — and some new ones — to fuse form and function. As the sculpture’s head took shape Thursday, a sturdy brace was still visible behind the Mother Tree’s slender neck. In the coming days, the brace would be hidden by sweeping steel swooshes that morph from locks of hair to bark-covered branches.

The flakes of bark and skin are made of weathering steel, an alloy that doesn’t need painting and develops a rich, orange-and-brown, rust-like patina. With the passing of the seasons, the earthy colors of the trunk will sharply contrast with the eternally silver, stainless steel leaves.

Leaves are a reliable way to identify tree species, and this specimen is no exception.

“They’re Mother Tree leaves,” Iler explained with a smile. “They’re roughly like a deciduous tree, a little bit like a maple, but it’s also its own species.”

Iler used the same leaf design when he built new bike racks in front of the Allen Neighborhood Center across Kalamazoo Street from Hunter Park. The leaf-shaped racks, painted in fall colors, were installed last week.

“I thought that by making the bike racks look like the leaves that were on the ‘Mother Tree,’ that would be a good way to tie that area together through the artwork,” Iler said.

In that spirit, Bouraoui hopes the “Mother Tree” will boost an ongoing effort to make Kalamazoo Street a corridor for public art. In 2020, Prospect Place got grants for colorfully painted bus stops in front of Hunter Park and Foster Park, closer to downtown.

“It’s a smile when you go past them,” Bouraoui said. “Those were our first points of light.”

In 2021, artist Brian Whitfield painted an eye-popping mural on the east wall of the new Allen Place development, home to the Allen Neighborhood Center, a medical clinic, the Eastside Lansing Food Co-Op and 21 mixed-income housing units. The mural was featured



Courtesy photo

Iler’s 25-foot-long brown trout, installed in 2018 and billed as “the world’s largest brown trout sculpture,” has become the prime attraction and civic emblem of the village of Baldwin, Mich., in Lake County.

in a story on urban development in The New York Times. A year later, a third arty bus stop was added in front of Allen Place.

A week ago, one block east of Allen Place, new murals went up on the garage doors of a bike co-op.

Public art often gets a bad rap as an all-too-easy diversion of attention, and money, from more pressing needs and problems. But after all the programs and activities that have been put in place on Lansing’s east side over the past 20

years, from community gardens to a medical clinic, it’s hard to dismiss “Mother Tree” as a mere distraction.

Bouraoui, Schmitt and the sculpture’s other supporters hope it will send a strong message: People who live in a mixed-income neighborhood with more than its share of struggles deserve a nice place to live, like anyone else.

Schmitt moved to Lansing’s east side in January 2020, “an awful time to get to know any community.”

“When I first got here, I saw all the trees and assumed this neighborhood had a ton of money,” Schmitt said. “When I learned the average income of the neighborhood, I was shocked that it was such a working-class area and a place where so many people struggle with food security.”

During the pandemic, he could often be found, sitting at a small table in his front yard, reading.

“One thing that struck me is how many neighbors would stop and talk with me,” he said. He quickly learned about the multifarious activities and projects that knit the area together.

“It was so clear this was a community I would love to be in,” he said. He became president of Prospect Place within a year of joining the meetings.

“The fact that I could be here, making \$32,000, and still be able to live in a place that I really enjoy, is, to me, really emblematic of the community we’re in,” he said. “To me, the tree represents how beauty, function and a good life should not be reserved for those with money.”



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

“Portrait of a Dreamer” (aka “The Gearhead”), Iler’s monumental sculpture at the crossing of Michigan Avenue and Museum Drive in downtown Lansing, deftly meshes mid-Michigan’s manufacturing prowess, represented by gears, with its high-tech brainpower, embodied in the figure’s huge cranium.





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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Smooth new world

### Armory Jazz Fête showcases stars of contemporary jazz

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The siren song of smooth jazz will sail over Lansing's east side again Saturday (Aug. 12). Lansing-based saxophonist Phil Denny's Armory Smooth Jazz Fête is back on its grooving feet with a full slate of top national artists after the pandemic stopped the show in 2021 and a relentless deluge swamped the grounds in 2022.

"We're still standing," Denny declared.

With the return of the festival comes the return of an age-old question: What, exactly, is smooth jazz?

As the British Admiralty cautioned the accused HMS Bounty mutineers, "Be careful how you answer." The subject has been known to stir dissension in the ranks.

Fortunately, this year's headliner, chart-topping West Coast guitarist Adam Hawley, is happy to explain in a positive vein.

"What I love about it is that it's such a cool cross-section — a meeting of the minds," he said. "You've got grooves that are R&B-based, or maybe Latin-based, but then you've got sophisticated chord changes and harmony similar to jazz. And then you've got great melodies that go back to R&B and pop."

Denny called smooth jazz "instrumental R&B with jazz undertones."

"That language of improvisation is still there, but for some people, it's a more relatable sound, along the lines of R&B and pop," Denny said.

Hawley added one more often overlooked spice: a unique and irresistible live vibe.

"I love making records, but the live show is a whole other thing," Hawley said.

When Hawley puts on a show, it's not background music.

"My show is high-energy, interactive," he said. "We keep the level of musicianship high, but we also make sure the audience is having a good time. There's interplay, improvisation, and we have a lot of fun."

He advises people who are on the fence to just jump over it.

"Anybody that is unsure how they feel about contemporary jazz, I always tell them to just go to one show," he said. "At every show, I have converts."

Hawley hails from the small town of



Courtesy photo

Energetic guitarist Adam Hawley brings a mix of musicianship and showmanship as headliner of the 2023 Armory Smooth Jazz Fête.

Gaston, Oregon, near Portland. He discovered his parents' vinyl collection as a kid, got hooked on guitar and started playing piano at 9. He toured the region as part of a youth bluegrass band at 12 and joined a blues-rock band in high school.

When he was 16, a drummer friend made him a mix tape — actually a CD-R — that included a smooth-jazz classic, guitarist George Benson's "Breezin'."

"It just blew my mind," Hawley said. "It was an old record, but it sounded so fresh and pristine."

He quickly dove into the music of smooth-jazz stalwarts like Kirk Whalum, Gerald Albright and Will Downing. He moved to Los Angeles in 2002 to study guitar with luminaries like Lee Ritenour at the University of Southern California.

His big break came in 2008, at age 20, when he joined the flashy vocal troupe The Manhattan Transfer for a four-year stint, playing gigs across North America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Soon he was touring with top vocal stars like Natalie Cole, Jennifer Lopez, the Backstreet Boys, Lalah Hathaway and Brian McKnight.

In 2013 and 2014, he toured with one of the smooth-jazz stars he discovered as a teenager, keyboardist Brian Culbertson. A smooth new world opened up to him.

"Touring with Brian, I learned to navigate the whole scene. The infrastructure of festivals, clubs, radio promoters and all of that," Hawley said.

Denny is happily ceding the headliner spotlight to Hawley, though the pair will join forces for a grand finale. They have collaborated on several tracks, working back and forth to layer the sound they want.

"His musicality is challenging," Denny said of Hawley. "It's not cookie-cutter. It pushed me into a different realm of songwriting. It creates a great sonic experience."

Hawley has not only topped the Billboard charts 13 times; he also has a doctorate in music.

"At first, when we got together to compose and play, it was a little intimidating," Denny said. "But he is a super genuine guy, and our friendship translated well into the chemistry between saxophone and guitar."

Grammy-nominated Hank Bilal, a young trombonist from South Carolina, will open Saturday's festival. Bilal comes from the Southern gospel tradition, with a mighty sound that stood him in good stead when he matched pipes with Aretha Franklin at the 2008 Grammy Awards.

"He's got a great sense of melody and a beautiful tone on the trombone," Denny said of Bilal. "I wanted to offer something different than the saxophone and traditional smooth-jazz guitar."

Denny made a point of inviting pia-



Courtesy photo

Grammy-nominated trombonist Hank Bilal, whose gospel roots stood him in good stead when he played with Aretha Franklin at the 2008 Grammy Awards, will open Saturday's festival.

nist Gino Rosaria, whom he described as "a kind and generous spirit and incredible musician" after last year's rain-out kept Rosaria from taking the stage. Born and raised in the Caribbean island of Curaçao, Rosaria is equally adept at classical and jazz piano and works as a studio musician, producer, educator and bandleader.

Young and fiery saxophonist Kyle Schroeder came to Lansing for Denny's Christmas Collective concert last December, and Denny instantly tapped him to fire up the Fête this year. Bobbi Storm, a nationally known gospel and R&B vocalist who recently moved back to Detroit, is making a mark on the scene and jumped at the chance to join the party in Lansing. Storm will not only do a set of her own but will also come back to play with Denny and his group.

In addition to a full stage and sound upgrade, the 2023 Fête will feature a full complement of food vendors, beer, wine, local artists working onsite and others selling their work. There will also be an afterglow at Cask & Co. Kitchen & Bar, near the Frandor Shopping Center.

Denny looks forward to welcoming smooth-jazz acolytes — and new fans — from across the Midwest and beyond. Watch out for that party bus of 60 people from Cleveland.

"It's an escape for people," Denny said. "We want to take you from your everyday woes for six hours and take you to a transcendent place."

#### Phil Denny's Armory Smooth Jazz Fête

Saturday, Aug. 12

3-9 p.m.

330 Marshall St.,  
Lansing

\$55 in advance, \$65  
at the door

[smoothjazzfete.com](http://smoothjazzfete.com)



# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

NO SKULL BROADENS ITS HORIZON ON 'WIDE EARTH'



Photo by Weber Gowere

Lansing-based trio No Skull returns with a heavy and moody four-song EP.

## Q&A with guitarist/vocalist Ryan Andrews

With a diverse and lengthy discography behind him, Ryan Andrews returns with another experimental blast of majestic heaviness, this time with his band No Skull. Over the years, Andrews (guitar/vocals) has issued stacks of lo-fi releases with past bands like Red Teeth and Bert. But with No Skull, it seems tape hiss is taking the backseat to sonic clarity, which fully displays his ever-growing talent for producing unnerving aural

landscapes and otherworldly punk rock. The new four-song EP, "Wide Earth," is out now. It will soon be released as a 10-inch vinyl, and a full-length album, "Fields of None," is also coming soon via GTG Records.

**How would you compare your current records to your earlier bands and projects?**

**Ryan Andrews:** The biggest difference is that we're older and more stable.

In Red Teeth, our focus wandered a lot. We'd get into some style or band and want to make music in that vein: punk, prog, sludge, math-rock, pop, country or whatever. By the time we'd complete a recording, we'd be on to something else before we released it. That and lineup changes always seemed to push us back quite a bit. In Bert, near the end, we had more of a solid idea of what we were going for, but we still had similar issues. The writing and recording process was more focused, but we always had so many ideas that we couldn't keep up.

**Has No Skull also evolved over the last few years?**

In the pre-COVID No Skull days, we looked back a lot and revamped my old songs, many of which I had written and demoed on four-track in the late '90s. The current No Skull is a slower-moving beast because we're all responsible adults with jobs, wives and kids, but it gives us more time to contemplate the ideas and move forward on the ones we like most. Now, we're constantly looking ahead and writing new material rather than rehashing older material.

**Who's all in the band right now?**

The current lineup includes Jason Wicks on electric guitar, who used to be in Red Teeth with me for years, played guitar in Bert for a spell and is one of my oldest and dearest friends. We've been playing music together for almost 25 years now. On drums, we have Dave

Shilakes. He's been in many bands in Lansing, including the Wild Honey Collective and Cutlass Supreme. He's also the current drummer for Small Parks.

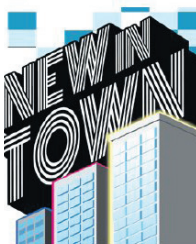
**What are some records you've been digging lately?**

I've been really into Sleep's 2018 album, 'The Sciences,' for a few years now. Killer record. It's amazing when a band can come back and make a better album than their previous efforts. Quicksand's 'Interiors' is another current favorite. Another good comeback with great songwriting and some killer riffs. I've also been rediscovering Los Natas lately. 'Corsario Negro' and 'El Gobernador' are two of my very favorite albums. I think Sergio Ch. is one of the best guitarists, and his band is so underrated. Of course, I'm constantly listening to Pink Floyd, my all-time favorite band. I listen to most of their early catalog almost weekly.

Dave says his top three right now are Sonic Youth's 'Daydream Nation,' Butthole Surfers' 'Locust Abortion Technician' and Meat Puppets' 'Too High to Die.' Jason's top three most-listened-to albums right now are Los Natas' 'El Hombre Montana,' Gentle Giant's 'Playing the Fool' and Robin Trower's 'Twice Removed from Yesterday.'

**Follow No Skull at [instagram.com/noskullband](https://www.instagram.com/noskullband) and listen at [noskull.bandcamp.com](https://noskull.bandcamp.com).**

# Serving up soul on a platter



## 4 Tha Soul Restaurant

5920 S. Cedar St.,  
Lansing  
3-11 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday  
Noon-7 p.m. Sunday  
517-721-1003  
[4thasoulrestaurant.com](https://4thasoulrestaurant.com)

By LUCAS HENKEL

From serving up Southern comfort-food classics at 4 Tha Soul Restaurant, which opened in February, to helping folks better their mental health, husband-and-wife team Dartagka and Domonika Tipton are nourishing the souls of Lansing residents from the inside out. For this week's New in Town, I had a chance to talk to

Dartagka Tipton about the couple's new restaurant, their other businesses and what it all means for the people of Lansing.

**How'd you meet your wife? What's it like being business partners?**

**Dartagka Tipton:** I can only credit God for helping me meet my wife. It's difficult to find someone who's completely supportive of your dreams and goals, so to work alongside her is amazing.

When we aren't in the restaurant, my wife and I run Uplift & Inspire Counseling and Consulting, a private mental health practice on South Cedar Street in Lansing. Our staff is composed of a large range of therapists with different specializations who are willing to help patients create a healing-focused treatment plan. We offer in-person and telehealth sessions and online resources to those seeking help. Those who are interested in receiving any of our services can email us at [info@upliftandinspirellc.com](mailto:info@upliftandinspirellc.com) or stop into our office from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

In September, we will also be opening Great Lakes Fingerprinting. This organization will also be located on Cedar Street and will provide even more services to help the Lansing community. Fingerprinting for non-Department of Transportation jobs, drug-screening services and a notary will be available for residents of the Greater Lansing area.

**What inspired you to start cooking? What inspires you to continue cooking?**

My great-grandmother inspired me to start cooking. She adopted me at the

age of 6, and I spent the majority of my childhood sitting in her kitchen and watching her cook. As I got older, my love for cooking grew, and that's when I started experimenting with different meals.

What inspires me to keep cooking is the look I see on a customer's face when they taste the food. I know I make great food, and seeing customers agree makes me even more confident. Some people may see that as cockiness, but I see it as confidence. I'm confident that we are making great food that gives people a better understanding of our mission to bring great soul food to the area.

**Where does the name '4 Tha Soul' come from?**

The name of our restaurant comes from how we want our customers to feel after eating our food. Regardless of what's on your plate, we want customers to be able to take a bite, close their eyes and feel like their soul is being fed. If you don't close your eyes and start reminiscing after taking a bite of our food, we're not doing our job.

**What's your favorite item on the menu at 4 Tha Soul?**

There's a lot of tasty food on our menu, so it's hard for me to choose. To



Courtesy photo

Dartagka (left) and Domonika Tipton, owners of 4 Tha Soul Restaurant and Uplift & Inspire Counseling and Consulting — plus Great Lakes Fingerprinting, opening in September — are nourishing the souls of Lansing residents from the inside out.

be honest, my favorite menu item is something we only bring out on special occasions. The Tuscan Salmon is a pan-fried salmon filet that's smothered in creamy garlic butter, spinach and sun-dried tomato sauce and served alongside a bed of rice. It's amazing.



# Dive into Ann Arbor's historic film culture

By **BILL CASTANIER**

As a film projectionist, Frank Uhle has spent untold hours showing movies for audiences of all stripes. Now, he has stepped out from the cramped projection booth to showcase the 90-year history of cinema in Ann Arbor with his first book, "Cinema Ann Arbor: How Campus Rebels Forged a Singular Film Culture."

Uhle and his 95-year-old father before him were both members of film clubs while attending the University of Michigan. Uhle inherited his father's love for film, and his dad was one of the more than 80 individuals he interviewed while writing the 334-page book.

The word "rebels" in the book's title provides some insight into its content, which covers a movement one would expect to emerge from New York or Los Angeles — not a small Midwestern city. In essence, the book tells the history of the student film movement at the University of Michigan and how it spilled over into the rest of Ann Arbor, spawning the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

"The film culture in Ann Arbor was innovative, often controversial and never dull," Uhle said.

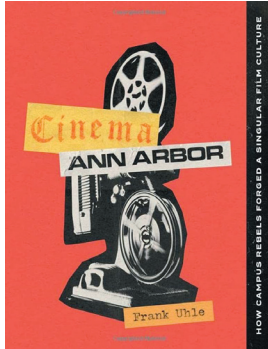
The stories of Andy Warhol and the Velvet Underground showing up for a screening at a 1966 film festival exemplify the movement's importance, as do film entries from the avant-gar-

de Fluxus group — including two by Yoko Ono.

Like most college film clubs, the earliest versions at the University of Michigan showed silent and foreign movies that couldn't be seen anywhere else. Names like François Truffaut and Ingmar Bergman were mentioned in hushed tones. Later, the clubs would screen first-run movies, often before they were shown at big-screen theaters in New York.

The '60s and '70s were outrageous times for movie-club culture, with screenings that often exceeded what was considered pornographic, such as "I, a Woman" and "I Am Curious (Yellow)."

One great illustration in the book depicts Cinema Guild member Hugh Cohen's 1967 mugshot. Cohen was



among a group of members who were arrested for showing "Flaming Creatures," an over-the-top, avant-garde art film that contains graphic sexual scenes. The cops must have missed earlier performances by the dazzling University of Michigan student, part-time stripper and early performance artist Pat Olesko,

who was known as "Hippie Strippy." At the time, she was at the forefront of guerilla-style multimedia performances.

Cohen would go on to teach an introduction to film class at the university, and he's still teaching at 92.

Uhle was inspired to take on the massive book project when he began writing a magazine-length history of his audio-visual department for the University of Michigan's bicentennial in 2017. Then COVID struck, and he

kept on writing, buoyed by what he calls his "detective and research skills" that he developed while getting his library science degree.

He said the university's Joseph A. Labadie Collection of Social Protest, along with its Screen Arts Mavericks and Makers collection, proved invaluable resources, as did the digitized version of The Michigan Daily, which covered the various film clubs' activities.

He also made connections with former members and leaders of the film-club movement, who had their own personal archives. One former leader dropped off six boxes of material, and Cohen's spouse had compiled a 6-inch-thick scrapbook of film-club activities over the years.

Among those Uhle interviewed was the award-winning documentarian Ken Burns, who, as a teenager, was an avid filmgoer at the university. He attributed some of his style to those early days of watching movies on campus.

Another interviewee was Jay Cassidy, who went on to edit "American Hustle," "Silver Linings Playbook," "A Star is Born" and other popular films.

Uhle said he believes the film societies and clubs were successful because they were more than just "cheap entertainment."

"The societies were independent from the university, showing what they wanted. They were the antithesis of what a college would want," he said. "Today, film societies at colleges and universities are kind of tepid, and it's more college kids hanging out with their buddies."

He attributes some of that to the digital age, where everything is available to screen at home.

Uhle's book was recently shortlisted for the prestigious Alice Award.



Courtesy photo


Film projectionist and cultural historian Frank Uhle has stepped out from the cramped projection booth to showcase the 90-year history of cinema in Ann Arbor with his first book, "Cinema Ann Arbor: How Campus Rebels Forged a Singular Film Culture."

Unlike a lot of book awards, the Alice Award comes with a \$25,000 prize, and just being shortlisted earns authors \$5,000.

The award recognizes books that not only have high standards of production but also contribute to the slow-reading movement, which "recognizes and cherishes the lasting values of the well-made illustrated book and the special sense of intimacy it affords," according to the Alice Award website.

Uhle's book qualifies on both counts: It's beautiful to page through and even better to read. It's more than a history book — it's a deep dive into a film culture that permeated Ann Arbor for more than nine decades.

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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"A Lack of Publicity" -- two key letters are missing.

by Matt Jones  
© 2023 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. Amorphous shape
- 5. Sound system setting
- 9. Malia Obama's sister
- 14. Clue weapon
- 15. Friend, in France
- 16. Up to
- 17. God with a war chariot
- 18. "Cheerio!"
- 19. Job for 24-Across
- 20. Emptying and refilling freezer trays, perhaps?
- 23. Longoria of "Desperate Housewives"
- 24. Game show figures
- 25. Headline about an exonerated kitchen appliance?
- 31. Kool-Aid, e.g.
- 32. La \_\_\_ Opera House
- 33. Up to now
- 37. "What's \_\_\_ for me?"
- 39. Abu Dhabi dignitaries
- 41. Get up
- 42. Aquarium fish
- 44. Heptathlon unit
- 46. Image file extension
- 47. Run away, but end up locking lips?
- 50. Blood partner?
- 52. Former WWE rival
- 53. Buyer's remorse sound?
- 59. Impressive layout
- 60. "Believe \_\_\_ Not"

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59						60					61			62
63						64					65			
66						67					68			

- 61. Staff member?
  - 63. "Filthy" riches
  - 64. House of Havana
  - 65. Meeting method
  - 66. Islamic scholars
  - 67. Literary whaler
  - 68. A as in A.D.
- DOWN**
- 1. Maidenform product
  - 2. "Footloose" actress Singer
  - 3. Oil org.
  - 4. Make an appearance
  - 5. 1989 Prince song for a movie soundtrack
  - 6. Key of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, briefly
  - 7. In \_\_\_ (as found)
  - 8. Black, Red, and Yellow, among others
  - 9. Call to court
  - 10. Genealogical discovery
  - 11. Time on a job
  - 12. Clues
  - 13. Math subj.
  - 21. Alamo competitor
  - 22. Not just any
  - 25. Bypass
  - 26. Creeping plant
  - 27. Go offstage
  - 28. Given a title
  - 29. Bartender's garnish
  - 30. Symbol above the 6
  - 34. Island nation near Tonga
  - 35. Nile biters
  - 36. Bylaws, briefly
  - 38. Commercial forest area
  - 40. Alaskan entree
  - 43. "That too"
  - 45. Dash gadget
  - 48. Weird Al's first movie
  - 49. Angola's unit of currency (the holiday ends in the double letter)
  - 50. Discussion group
  - 51. "Blood Wedding" playwright Federico Garcia \_\_\_
  - 54. 12-point type
  - 55. "Industry" state
  - 56. Painter Bonheur
  - 57. Any time now
  - 58. King's Scholars institution
  - 59. Boxing champion Laila
  - 62. Music genre for Fall Out Boy

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsky

August 9-15, 2023

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** The Lincoln Calibration Sphere 1 is a hollow globe of aluminum that was launched into Earth's orbit in 1965. Fifty-eight years later, it continues to circle the planet — and it's still doing the job it was designed to do. It enables ground-based radar devices to perform necessary calibrations. I propose we celebrate and honor the faithfulness of this magic sphere. May it serve as an inspiring symbol for you in the coming months. More than ever before, you have the potential to do what you were made to do — and with exceptional steadiness and potency. I hope you will be a pillar of inspiring stability for those you care about.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** "Live as though you're living a second time and as though the first time you lived, you did it wrong, and now you're trying to do things right." Holocaust survivor and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl offered this advice. I wouldn't want to adhere to such a demanding practice every day of my life. But I think it can be an especially worthwhile exercise for you in the coming weeks. You will have a substantial capacity to learn from your past; to prevent mediocre histories from repeating themselves; to escape the ruts of your habit mind and instigate fresh trends.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** Gemini author Jamie Varon wrote an article titled, "To Anyone Who Thinks They're Falling Behind in Life." She said, "Sometimes you need two more years of life experience before you can make your masterpiece into something that will feel real and true and raw. Sometimes you're not falling in love because whatever you need to know about yourself is only knowable through solitude. Sometimes you haven't met your next collaborator. Sometimes your sadness encircles you because, one day, it will be the opus upon which you build your life." This is excellent advice for you in the coming months, dear Gemini. You'll be in a phase of incubation, preparing the way for your next big thing. Honor the gritty, unspectacular work you have ahead! It will pay off.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** You're entering a phase when you will generate maximum luck if you favor what's short and sweet instead of what's long and complicated. You will attract the resources you need if you identify what they are with crisp precision and do not indulge in fuzzy indecision. The world will conspire in your favor to the degree that you avoid equivocating. So, please say precisely what you mean! Be a beacon of clear, relaxed focus!

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** Unless you are French, chances are you have never heard of Saint-John Perse (1887–1975). He was a renowned diplomat for the French government and a poet who won the Nobel Prize for literature. Now he's virtually unknown outside of his home country. Can we draw useful lessons for your use, Leo? Well, I suspect that in the coming months, you may very well come into greater prominence and wield more clout. But it's crucial for the long-term health of your soul that during this building time, you are in service to nurturing your soul as much as your ego. The worldly power and pride you achieve will ultimately fade like Perse's. But the spiritual growth you accomplish will endure forever.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** "Life is not so bad if you have plenty of luck, a good physique and not too much imagination." Virgo author Christopher Isherwood said that. I'm offering his thought because I believe life will be spectacularly not bad for you in the coming weeks — whether or not you have a good physique. In fact, I'm guessing life will be downright enjoyable, creative and fruitful. In part, that's because you will be the beneficiary of a stream of luck. And in part, your gentle triumphs and graceful productivity will unfold because you will be exceptionally imaginative.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** "You know how crazy

love can make you," write Mary D. Esselman and Elizabeth Ash Vélez in their book "Love Poems for Real Life." "On any given day, you're insanely happy, maniacally miserable, kooky with contentment or bonkers with boredom — and that's in a good relationship." They add, "You have to be a little nuts to commit yourself, body and soul, to one other person — one wonderful, goofy, fallible person — in the hope that happily ever after really does exist." The authors make good points, but their view of togetherness will be less than fully applicable to you in the coming months. I suspect life will bring you boons as you focus your intelligence on creating well-grounded, nourishing, non-melodramatic bonds with trustworthy allies.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** "I don't adopt anyone's ideas — I have my own." So proclaimed Scorpio author Ivan Turgenev (1818–1883). Really, Ivan? Were you never influenced by someone else's concepts, principles, art or opinions? The fact is that all of us live in a world that was created and shaped by the ideas of others. We should celebrate that wondrous privilege! We should be pleased we don't have to produce everything from scratch under our own power. As for you Scorpios reading this oracle, I urge you to be the anti-Turgenev in the coming weeks. Rejoice at how interconnected you are — and take full advantage of it. Treasure the teachings that have made you who you are. Sing your gratitude for those who have forged the world you love to live in. You now have the power to be an extraordinary networker.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** The Tibetan term "lenchak" is often translated as "karmic debt." It refers to the unconscious conditioning and bad, old habits that attract us to people we would be better off not engaging. I will be bold and declare that sometime soon, you will have fully paid off a lenchak that has caused you relationship problems. Congrats! You are almost free of a long-running delusion. You don't actually need the influence you thought you needed.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** If you're like many of us, you have a set bathing routine. In the shower or bath, you start your cleansing process with one particular action, like washing your face, and go on to other tasks in the same sequence every time. Some people live most of their lives this way, following well-established patterns in all they do. I'm not criticizing that approach, though it doesn't work for me. I need more unpredictability and variety. Anyway, Capricorn, I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will benefit from trying my practice. Have fun creating variations on your standard patterns. Enjoy being a novelty freak with the daily details.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** In July 1812, composer Ludwig van Beethoven wrote a 10-page love letter to a woman he called "My Angel" and "Immortal Beloved." He never sent it, and scholars are still unsure of the addressee's identity. The message included lines like "you — my everything, my happiness . . . my solace — my everything" and "forever thine, forever mine, forever us." I hope you will soon have sound reasons for composing your own version of an "Immortal Beloved" letter. According to my astrological analysis, it's time for your tender passion to fully bloom. If there's not a specific person who warrants such a message, write it to an imaginary lover.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** At age 32, artist Peter Milton realized the colors he thought he used in his paintings were different from what his viewers saw. He got his eyes tested and discovered he had color blindness. For example, what he regarded as gray with a hint of yellow, others perceived as green. Shocked, he launched an unexpected adjustment. For the next 40 years, all his paintings were black and white only. They made him famous and have been exhibited in major museums. I love how he capitalized on an apparent disability and made it his strength. I invite you to consider a comparable move in the coming months.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsky'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.

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com) Answers on page 20

# SUDOKU Intermediate

		8		4				7
9	4							
		6						8
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## 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](https://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, Aug. 9

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

**Alluring Nature 2023 Art Show** - Paintings by the En Plein Air group. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](https://framersedge.net).

**Bookend Art Gallery display by Joel Ellis** - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](https://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**Book Group: "The Bright Side Running Club," by Josie Lloyd** - Intended for adults. 11 a.m. Mark's Place, 238 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](https://eradl.org).

**Broadway Jazz Dance** - All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**"Color Me Plaster," by Yvette Robinson** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery](https://cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery).

**"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](https://meridian50plus.com).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. Noon-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Improv Acting Class** - 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Ingham County Democratic Party/Blue Brigade Picnic** - Special guests Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, former state Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. and more. 5 p.m. Frances Park, 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. 313-936-0785. [inghamcountymunicipalparty.net](https://inghamcountymunicipalparty.net).

**It's Elementary: Pollinators** - Discover science in the world around you with experiments, crafts, activities and more. Grades 3-6. Registration req. 3 p.m. Country Mill Orchard & Cider Mill, 4648 Otto Road, Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](https://charlottelibrary.org).

**"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](https://lansingartgallery.org).

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - Sing your favorite tunes or bring a group and listen while enjoying drinks and food. 7-10 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](https://lansingshuffle.com).

**Kids' Day at Sharp Park** - Magic show, games, bounce house, double-lane slide, balloon twisting, balance-bikes course, trackless train, crafts, dance performances, obstacle course, concessions and more! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 1401 Elmwood Road, Lansing. [deltami.gov/residents/events/kids\\_days.php](https://deltami.gov/residents/events/kids_days.php).

**Lansing Concerts in the Park - Aldaco** - 7 p.m. Frances Park, 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. 517-483-4000. [lansingmi.gov/994/concerts-in-the-park](https://lansingmi.gov/994/concerts-in-the-park).

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK," by ART/5** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](https://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Mindfulness 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](https://lamc.info).

**MSU Muelder Summer Carillon Concert Series: Jim Fackenthal** - Carillionist at St. Chrysostom's Church in Chicago. 6 p.m. Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. [music.msu.edu](https://music.msu.edu).

**Photography: NOW!** - Vibrant display of photography depicting an array of subject matter. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

**PJ Storytime** - Read stories about the night, sing songs and have a small snack. Come in your pajamas if you want! 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](https://gladl.org).

**"Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home," "As we dwell in the fold"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**St. Johns Concerts in the Park - Detroit Retro Society** - 7 p.m. St. Johns City Park, 801 W. Park St., St. Johns. [clintoncountyarts.org/experience-the-arts/concert-in-the-park](https://clintoncountyarts.org/experience-the-arts/concert-in-the-park).

**Weaving the Web: Honor** - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](https://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Wednesday Night Free Concerts - Garage Sale Band** - 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. [meridian.mi.us/calendar](https://meridian.mi.us/calendar).

### Thursday, Aug. 10

**Acting Technique Class** - 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Alluring Nature 2023 Art Show** - Paintings by the En Plein Air group. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge,

### Bee Palooza

Sunday, Aug. 13

1-4 p.m.

MSU Horticulture Gardens  
1066 Bogue St., East Lansing



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Michigan State University hosted an annual Bee Palooza at its Horticulture Gardens to promote pollinator stewardship, or humans' role in protecting and providing natural resources such as clean water, nectar and pollen for pollinators such as bees, some birds and some bats. The event was held from 2012 to 2019, and a virtual version was held in 2020.

Bee Palooza makes its return Sunday (Aug. 13), featuring a variety of activities that teach attendees all they need to know about bees and how to help them thrive in the wild.

There will be eight stations throughout the gardens: a Welcome Center where the main events will take place, a Bees Underground station where guests can learn about the difference between social and solitary bees, a Honeybees & Beekeeping station, a Cavity Nesting Bees station where guests can learn about mason and leafcutting bees and how to make bee hotels, a Become a Pollinator station with free face painting and other children's activities, a Bumble Bees & Petting Zoo station, a Gardening for Pollinators station and a Science of Pollination station with free ice cream.

The main events at the Welcome Center include a Bumble Bee Safari at 1:30 p.m., where a bee expert will lead attendees through the gardens and assist with bee identification; a Storytime at 2:30 p.m. with Grand Rapids-based Olivia C. Means, author of "Untying My Wings," about a caterpillar who learns to be brave and untie her wings; and a Bee Palooza Giveaway at 3:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, including a map of the stations, visit [beepalooza.org](https://beepalooza.org).

1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](https://framersedge.net).

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. 517-641-6728. [shopbfm.org](https://shopbfm.org).

**"Be Here Now"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](https://williamstontheatre.org).

**Bookend Art Gallery display by Joel Ellis** - Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](https://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**"Color Me Plaster," by Yvette Robinson** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery](https://cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery).

**Concerts at the Shell - Tony Thompson & Friends** - 7 p.m. McCormick Park, 300 N. Putnam St., Williamston. [facebook.com/williamstonconcerts](https://facebook.com/williamstonconcerts).

**Dimondale Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. [villageofdimondale.org](https://villageofdimondale.org).

**Flowerpot Painting** - Grades K-3. Registration req. 10:30 a.m. Playground of Dreams Pavilion #2, 100

Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](https://eradl.org).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. Noon-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](https://lansingartgallery.org).

**Karaoke at the Marketplace: Teen Night** - 6-9 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian.mi.us/calendar](https://meridian.mi.us/calendar).

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](https://greendoorlive.com).

**Laingsburg Farmers Market** - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. [laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1](https://laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1).

**Live & Local**  
CityPULSE  
**Red Cedar Spirits**  
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
**Friday Night Jams**  
Frog n' Koop  
Fri., Aug. 11, 7-10 p.m.  
**Sunday Jazz**  
Noah Jackson Trio  
Sun., Aug. 13, 6-9 p.m.





# Camp cooking with cannabis



By LUCAS HENKEL

Summer is in full swing, and I, like many other Michiganders, am ready to pack up my tents and coolers and set out on an outdoor excursion. While planning my trip, I was thinking about how cool it would be to make or bring a few weed-infused snacks, inspired by some of my favorite camping meals. I got together with my fellow campers and devised a menu that would be perfect for a stoned night under the stars.

## Stoner s'mores

The first official recipe for s'mores appeared in the 1927 Girl Scout guidebook, "Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts," and was later credited to a troop leader named Loretta Scott Crew. In 2023, we're taking the classic s'mores recipe up a notch by utilizing some or all of the infused products below.

**Infused cookies by Motor City Cannabites | \$7/100mg at Gage or \$10/200mg at JARS**

Ditch those dry graham crackers for a chewy infused cookie from Motor City Cannabites. Available in multiple flavors like Snickerdoodle and Confetti Cake, these two-packs of cookies are the perfect base for an ooey-gooney goodie. You'll definitely want s'more of these!

**Midnight Bars by Midnight Roots Genetics | \$10/100mg at Gage or \$12/200mg at Pure Roots**

Brought to you by 10-time High Times Cannabis Cup winner Midnight Roots Genetics, each Midnight Bar is made with handmade artisan chocolate and produced locally in Jackson. Midnight Bars are available in 14 different flavors, including Chocolate Banana, Cookies N Cream, Toasted Coconut, Key Lime Pie, Cherry, Orange Cream, S'mores and more. For the

traditionalists, infused milk chocolate, dark chocolate and sugar-free chocolate bars are available as well.

**Infused Peanut Butter by True North Collective | \$20/200mg at JARS**

Whether you spread it on a s'more or eat it straight out of the tub, there's no wrong way to enjoy True North Collective's line of infused peanut butter. Available in three flavors — classic, Chocolate and White Chocolate Banana — each 5-ounce jar is infused with 200 milligrams of THC. The ability to elevate your favorite snacks is just one scoop away.

## Twisted trail mix

These THC-infused products are great options to add to your favorite pre-made trail mix, but you can also enjoy them by themselves or mix them together to create the ultimate twisted trail mix.

**X Nuts by MKX Oil Co. | \$15/100mg at Gage**

Go nuts for MKX Oil Co.'s line of infused, cinnamon-roasted cashews, almonds and pecans, which are both gluten-free and vegan. The almonds are also available in Blueberry flavor, a great option for those with a sweet tooth to add into trail mix or enjoy with breakfast.

**Hot Cheese Curls by Funky Extracts | \$6/50mg or \$10/100mg at Pincanna**

Pinconning-based Funky Extracts just made Flamin' Hot Cheetos even better. Created with full-spectrum cannabis oil, Funky Extracts' Hot Cheese Curls are super crunchy and pack a punch in every bite.

**Potdots by Lion Labs | \$15/100mg at Pincanna**

Similar to M&Ms, Potdots are 1-milligram candy-coated edibles that let you hone in on exactly how high you want to be. They're a great option to add to a trail mix or put into pancake mix during breakfast.



Courtesy photo

Whether you spread it on a s'more or eat it straight out of the tub, there's no wrong way to enjoy True North Collective's line of infused peanut butter.

## Medicated munchies

If a savory snack is what you seek, look no further than these cannabis-infused classics.

**THC-Infused Popcorn by MKX Oil Co. | \$9/100mg at Ascend Wellness**

No microwave? No problem! Rip open a bag of MKX's microwave popcorn over a metal pie tin, throw in some oil and gently shake the tin as the kernels pop. Season with salt or whatever tickles your fancy and enjoy 100 milligrams of buttery, weedy goodness.

**Infused Olive Oil by Monster Xtracts | \$20/200mg at Bazonzoes**

Olive oil is an excellent choice to pack for camping because it can be used in place of butter in dishes such as soup, pasta, rice and bean dip. Cannabis-infused olive oil made with premium cannabis distillate is an even better choice, in my opinion.

**Kaya Granola Bar by Detroit Edibles | \$8/100mg or \$16/200mg at Bazonzoes**

"Kaya" is a Jamaican slang term for cannabis, rooted in Rastafarian culture. Its use was popularized through the music and lyrics of reggae pioneer Bob Marley in the 1970s. The combination of oats, butter, honey, cherries, dark chocolate chips, pecans and, of course, cannabis, makes these bars a great option to pack for a lengthy hike.

*Lucas Henkel (he/him) is a columnist and advertising assistant for City Pulse. He is a cannabis enthusiast and advocate that has worked in the cannabis industry since 2019. When he's not reviewing weed from across the state of Michigan (and beyond), he lives in Lansing with his wife and three cats. Have a suggestion for a cannabis product or brand to review? Want to shout out your favorite bud-tender? Email lucas@lansingcitypulse.com.*

## Events

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**LBCA's FREE Summer Concert Series – Atomic Annie** - 7 p.m. McClintock Park Amphitheater, 255 McClintock St., Laingsburg. laingsburgbusiness.org/music-in-the-park.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK," by ART/5** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Modern Dance Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Music in the Park – Stone Street Revival, opener Donny Brown** - 7 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/music\_in\_the\_park.php.

**National S'mores Day** - Enjoy a variety of s'mores recipes, play games, make a craft and more! 4-7 p.m. Camp Wacousta, 13360 Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge. 269-343-1516. gshom.org.

**Photography: NOW!** - Vibrant display of photography depicting an array of subject matter. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

**"Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home," "As we dwell in the fold"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broad-museum.msu.edu.

**Summer Concerts on the Square – Parted Waters** - 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-543-0400. micharlotte.org.

**Thursday Night Live Courthouse Concert – Mixed Flavors** - 6:30-8 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse lawn, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 517-676-1046. masonchamber.org.

**Two Rivers Sounds of Summer – Flat Water** - 6:30 p.m. Two Rivers Park, Dixie Highway, Portland. miportland.org/events.

**Upbeat Thursdays Dinner and a Show** - Choose from regular dinner menu or Dinner and a Show four-course meal. Performance by Anthony Taylor Trio, open jam after the show. 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

## Friday, Aug. 11

**Alluring Nature 2023 Art Show** - Paintings by the En Plein Air group. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

**"Be Here Now"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Bookend Art Gallery display by Joel Ellis** - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

**Bubble Play Date** - Hands-on, immersive play experience for adults and littles. Dress to get messy! Registration req. 10:30-11 a.m. Patriarche Park, 1100 Alton St., East Lansing. lansingareallittles.com.

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## 'Tactical Mindfulness' CD Launch Party

Friday, Aug. 11  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art  
1210 Turner St., Lansing

Jan Bidwell, a psychotherapist and mindfulness meditation teacher, is hosting a launch party for her new CD, "Tactical Mindfulness," Friday evening (Aug. 11) at the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art in Old Town. The CD offers a practical tool for individuals to integrate mindfulness into their daily lives, according to MICA.

"The 'Tactical Mindfulness' CD Launch Party offers a relaxed open-house atmosphere, providing attendees with the flexibility to come and go as they please while immersing themselves in the tranquil ambiance. Amid the serene setting, guests can also explore captivating art, enjoy delightful music and savor light refreshments, all designed to enhance the experience of mindfulness," the gallery wrote.

Bidwell will guide attendees through a series of mindfulness exercises, such as chocolate savoring, that are designed to melt away stress and foster a sense of inner peace.

The event is free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to RSVP ahead of time at [janbidwell.com/event-details/cd-launch-party](http://janbidwell.com/event-details/cd-launch-party).



& Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Karaoke at High Caliber Karting** - 7-11 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. 517-721-1790. [highcaliberkarting.com](http://highcaliberkarting.com).

**Knights of Columbus Presents: Food Truck Festival** - Food, music, cruise-in. Free entry. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK," by ART/5** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Live Music on the patio with Justin Holcomb** - 8-11 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Photography: NOW!** - Vibrant display of photography depicting an array of subject matter. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

**Salinaz Promotions Presents: Chente Barrera and Grupo Dezeo** - 7-11 p.m. Afterparty 11:30 pm.-1:30 a.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**"Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home," "As we dwell in the fold"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**St. Johns Mint Festival** - 2-8 p.m. Clinton County Fairgrounds, 800 W. Sickles St., St. Johns. 989-224-3219. [mintfest.org](http://mintfest.org).

Lansing Community College Gannon Building and Mall, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. 517-394-4614. [safetycouncil.org](http://safetycouncil.org).

**Creative Story Pages: The Art of the Cover** - We'll smash, crumple, paint, get messy and end up with a unique container for our stories. 18+. 10 a.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Daylily Sale** - \$6 each or 5 for \$25. Funds support Mason Sycamore Creek Garden Club projects. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lee Austin Park, corner of Lansing and Ash streets, Lansing. 517-525-7664.

**Environmental Stewardship Work Day** - Restore East Lansing's park biotic communities by removing problematic invasive plant species and replacing them with native species. 9-11 a.m. 517-319-6804. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Fantastic Bees and Facts About Them** - 1 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. [meridian.mi.us/hnc](http://meridian.mi.us/hnc).

**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](http://manifestlansing.com).

**"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Knights of Columbus Presents: Food Truck Festival** - Food, music, car show. Free entry. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK," by ART/5** - 9 a.m.-7 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Live music at The Green Door** - 9 p.m. 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](http://greendoorlive.com).

**Live music on the patio with The Drifter Kings** - 8-11 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Mason Farmers Market** - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lee Austin Park, corner of Lansing and Ash streets, Lansing. [facebook.com/masonfarmersmarket](http://facebook.com/masonfarmersmarket).

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. [meridian.mi.us/farmersmarket](http://meridian.mi.us/farmersmarket).

**"Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home," "As we dwell in the fold"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**St. Johns Mint Festival** - 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Clinton County Fairgrounds, 800 W. Sickles St., St. Johns. 989-224-3219. [mintfest.org](http://mintfest.org).

## Saturday, Aug. 12

**2023 Michigan 4-H State Dog Show** - Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 517-432-5566. [canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-dog-show-1](http://canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-dog-show-1).

**5th Annual Phil Denny's Armory Smooth Jazz Fete** - Performances by a variety of cross-genre jazz musicians. Food vendors, beer and wine, local art and more. 2:30-9 p.m. Marshall Street Armory, 330 Marshall St., Lansing. [smoothjazzfete.com](http://smoothjazzfete.com).

**Alluring Nature 2023 Art Show** - Paintings by the En Plein Air group. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**"Be Here Now"** - 3 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Bookend Art Gallery display by Joel Ellis** - Noon-2 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**"Color Me Plaster," by Yvette Robinson** - 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery](http://cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery).

**Community Resource & Safety Fair** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

[cityofeastlansing.com/455/summer-concert-series](http://cityofeastlansing.com/455/summer-concert-series).

**End Of Summer Reading Foam Party** - Inflatables, foam machine and popcorn. Announcing summer reading grand-prize winners. 3-5 p.m. Playground of Dreams, 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**"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](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Friday Night Concert Series - The Frog King (Neil Diamond tribute)** - 7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Bandshell, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. 517-676-2233. [pk.ingham.org](http://pk.ingham.org).

**The Further Adventures of FatBoy and JiveTurkey** - 9 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](http://greendoorlive.com).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. Noon-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**"The Journey Continues: American Aboriginal Art," by Brian Snyder** - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery

## Events

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**"Color Me Plaster," by Yvette Robinson** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery](http://cityofeastlansing.com/353/public-art-gallery).

**Cruise to Holt** - Bring your classic, modern or project cars and bikes — if it has wheels, bring it, or just come take a look! 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market parking lot, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. 517-694-2135. [delhitownshipmi.gov](http://delhitownshipmi.gov).

**Darin Lerner Jr.** - 6:30 p.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-901-5001. [onenorthdining.com](http://onenorthdining.com).

**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](http://manifestlansing.com).

**East Lansing Summer Concert Series - Alex Mendonell** - 6-8 p.m. Ann Street Plaza, corner of Albert and M.A.C. avenues, East Lansing. 517-319-6888.

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# Red Cedar spirits®

Introducing our . . . .

## American Single Malt Whiskey

This 5 year whiskey has been aging the whole time right here in East Lansing and is ready to meet you! Come tour our distillery!

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
4 - 11 p.m. Thu, Fri and Sat, 4 - 9 p.m. Tues, Wed, Sun



80 pf, pint

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

1	2	8	6	4	5	9	3	7
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# FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

## Sweet and spicy tacos al pastor

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

Delicious, cheap and fast — at Pancho's Taqueria, you don't have to pick just two. The brick-and-mortar location on Elmwood Road was my DoorDash standby during the pandemic, and, now that the world has reopened, we've continued to see each other in person.

Pancho's is a great place to dine alone, as I often do after running errands in that region of Saginaw Highway. The restaurant goes above and beyond the typical taqueria offerings, with food that's consistently fresh, flavorful and not overly fried. I paid just under \$15 for a variety of a la carte offerings and a fresh-squeezed drink. A typical diner could order a soda (\$2.50) and a dinner plate (\$10.99) for about the same price, plus tip.

Although I'm usually out in my leg-



### Tacos al pastor

\$2.50 each

Pancho's Taqueria  
936 Elmwood Road,  
Lansing  
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
517-708-8743  
panchoslansing.com

gings and Crocs, I imagine Pancho's would be a great place to take a casual date. I'm always surprised by how quickly the food comes out, and you could easily spend your time talking about salsas instead of working to fill that awkward space between ordering and eating. It's also a great place to take parents and other cheap family members since you can pick up the tab

without too much stress and everyone is sure to find something familiar to enjoy.

If you're deciding between drinks, I recommend you go for the limeade. This \$3 beverage has recently become a regular addition to my order. It's perfectly sweet, sour, ice-cold and nearly

addictive.

Every meal begins with free salsa and tortilla chips that are fried and crispy but not greasy. The salsa starts sweet, almost like squash, but the heat is right around the corner. After a few bites, the cilantro and onion move to the forefront.

For the main dish, I ordered tacos al pastor with cilantro and onion, and they came bursting with just enough citrusy grease. The pork fat is just a little chewy — but not more than the tortillas. Adding a dab of both the hot-red and mild-green salsas will season your taco to perfection. The marinated pork is always sweet and hot, and I think the pineapple flavor is less sharp now, which I prefer.

Something I really value about Pancho's is its consistency, both in high-quality food and friendly service. I've been dining there regularly for



Chelsea Lake Roberts for City Pulse

At Pancho's Taqueria, you can order a variety of a la carte dishes for cheap, allowing you to sample the plethora of offerings, such as tacos, tostadas, gorditas, tamales, quesadillas and more.

years now, and aside from the occasional misplaced side or forgotten avocado slice, the experience has always been exceptional. It's clear the owners have worked hard, and I would argue they've succeeded in creating a positive dining experience you can rely on.

## Events

from page 20

**Sundown Safari Camping** - 6:30 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

### Sunday, Aug. 13

**"Be Here Now"** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Bee Palooza!** - 1-4 p.m. MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. beepalooza.org.

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

**Eastern Ingham Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

**Free Outdoor Summer Concert Series at University Lutheran Church - Orquesta Ritmo** - Bring a

lawn chair or blanket. Ice cream and popcorn provided. 6 p.m. 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-332-2559. ulcel.org.

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

**Laingsburg Outdoor Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Roosevelt Row, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK," by ART/5** - Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Live music on the patio with Chris Muethel** - Noon-3 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**"Meet the Fillmores," Co-founders of Unity, with Wendy Karr** - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

See Events, Page 23

## 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 ITALIAN RESTAURANTS

#### 1. Cugino's

Italian restaurant with bar and patio seating for pizza, pasta and other staples  
306 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge  
517-627-4048  
cuginosmenu.com  
4-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
4-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#### 2. Falsetta's Casa Nova

Family-run eatery offering Italian and American classics such as burgers, pizza and pasta  
138 S. Waverly Road, Lansing  
517-323-9181

falsettaschlansing.com  
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Wednesday-Friday  
Noon-10 p.m. Saturday

#### 3. Bravo! Italian Kitchen

Upscale-casual Italian chain serving pasta, pizza, grilled dishes and cocktails  
2970 Centre Blvd., Lansing  
517-485-3779  
bravoitalian.com  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#### 4. Olivera's Restaurant - both locations

Casual restaurants serving pizza, pasta, stromboli and a variety of non-Italian dishes, plus local craft beer  
See oliverasrestaurant.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

#### 5. Carrabba's Italian Grill

Chain eatery and bar offering a diverse menu of classic Italian fare in a family-friendly setting  
6540 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
517-323-8055  
carrabbas.com  
4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

Coming Sept. 13: Top of the Town 2023

## Appetizers

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# Melting-pot ramen

By ARI LEVAUX

When summer's bounty comes at you faster than you can handle, the veggies will start to pile up. That's why we need recipes capable of incorporating the myriad produce of the garden, farmers market, generous neighbors and other sources of seasonal food. The kind of evergreen dish that isn't rattled when you swap a tomato for a turnip or split the hairs that separate a dandelion

from a mushroom. Recipes that improve with diversity and always work no matter what you add.



When I was growing up, stir-fry was the veggie-disposal method of choice in my family. These days, I prefer to use a packet of quality ramen noodles — especially in the summer, when extra hydration is crucial.

The last time I made ramen, I started with a pack of Hot & Spicy Mama-brand noodles and added zucchini, fresh garlic, snap peas, shell-ing peas, bacon, an egg and a garnish



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Ramen can be a go-to dish any time of year. It can warm you up in the winter or hydrate you in the summer, plus you can add almost any form of seasonal produce and it will still taste delicious.

of fresh basil, all from the farmers market. I could have added spinach, rad-ish, kale, peppers, pea greens, carrots, broccoli or cauliflower as well as herbs like cilantro or chives. I would be hard-pressed to think of something that wouldn't work in ramen.

As with a stir-fry, the order in which you add vegetables to ramen is crucial. Fragile herbs should go last, while durable ingredients like zucchini, which can take a little while to cook, need more time in the soup and should go in sooner. The same rule applies to proteins. Some, like meat or tofu, can go in sooner. The egg goes later, just before the delicate ingredients.

Sure, you've added egg to ramen before. Maybe it was your go-to move in college. But there are levels to this game, and getting the egg right is one of the trickiest parts. In my opinion,

the egg should be cooked to the point where the white is solid but the yolk still runs. So, I lay the egg gently atop a raft of noodles, where it steams until the noodles absorb enough water that they sink, along with the egg, into the savory drink. The egg continues to poach a bit before I turn off the heat.

The crux of this operation centers around keeping that frisky raw egg on top of the noodles. It desperately wants to slide off and take a swim, but once it falls into the broth, it hides under the noodles, where it's hard to monitor and manage and will probably overcook.

As the egg steams, add the herbs and other delicate vegetables such as pea greens or radish slices. Assemble your condiments, like jalapeno slices or some other form of heat, hoisin sauce, mayo or whatever else might juice it the way you like to customize it behind closed doors. As with a hot, sweaty summer romance, what happens in ramen stays in ramen.

See Flash, Page 23




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## Flash

from page 22

### Zucchini ramen

This recipe is meant to be an example of how you can add seasonal produce to ramen. As long as the vegetables are fresh, it will be great. The instant ramen you cook it with should be high quality as well, such as Mama, Nongshim or Sapporo Ichiban brands.

- 2 slices of bacon
- 1 medium zucchini, cut into rounds
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 packet instant ramen
- 1 egg
- Handful of snap peas, chopped coarsely
- Peas from a handful of shelling peas
- Handful of basil
- Fry the bacon, either in strips or

pieces. When it's browned, add the zucchini rounds and fry until brown on at least one side. Add the water, noodles and flavorings. Turn the heat to high and bring to a simmer. Flip the noodles so the soft side faces up.

Crack your egg into a little bowl. This allows you to add the egg one-handed with a quick pour and eliminates the possibility of a broken yolk. Dump it with a flick of the wrist.

As the egg lands on the noodles, go to any length necessary to keep the egg on top. Use a spatula, tongs, chopsticks or some other tool to prevent it from escaping. If you can keep it up there long enough, the white will solidify around the softening ramen, and the egg will quit trying to run. As the egg cooks, add the peas.

Gently transfer the ramen to a bowl. Garnish with basil and serve.

## Events

from page 21

**St. Johns Mint Festival** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Clinton County Fairgrounds, 800 W. Sickles St., St. Johns. 989-224-3219. mintfest.org.

### Monday, Aug. 14

**Alluring Nature 2023 Art Show** - Paintings by the En Plein Air group. Noon-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

**Bookend Art Gallery display by Joel Ellis** - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

**Broadway Jazz Dance** - All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Castle Adventure** - Weeklong camp for ages 8-9. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**"Color Me Plaster," by Yvette Robinson** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center Public Art Gallery, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeast-lansing.com/353/public-art-gallery.

**"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.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Noon-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Improv Acting Class** - 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK," by ART/5** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Mental Toughness & Focus for School Camp** - Ages 5-13. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Photography: NOW!** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

**Pirate Adventure** - Weeklong camp for 5-year-olds.

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Reiki for Kids & Teens** - 5 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Science of Art** - Weeklong camp for ages 10-12. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Superhero Science** - Weeklong camp for ages 6-7. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Switch Gaming: "Mario Kart" Night** - All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

### Tuesday, Aug. 15

**Acting Technique Class** - 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Alluring Nature 2023 Art Show** - Paintings by the En Plein Air group. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

**Ballet Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Bookend Art Gallery display, by Joel Ellis** - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

**Delta Township Music in the Park - Three Men and a Tenor; opener Oxymorons** - Food from Jay's Dogs Food Truck. 7 p.m. Sharp Park, 1401 Elmwood Road, Lansing. deltami.gov.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Noon-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

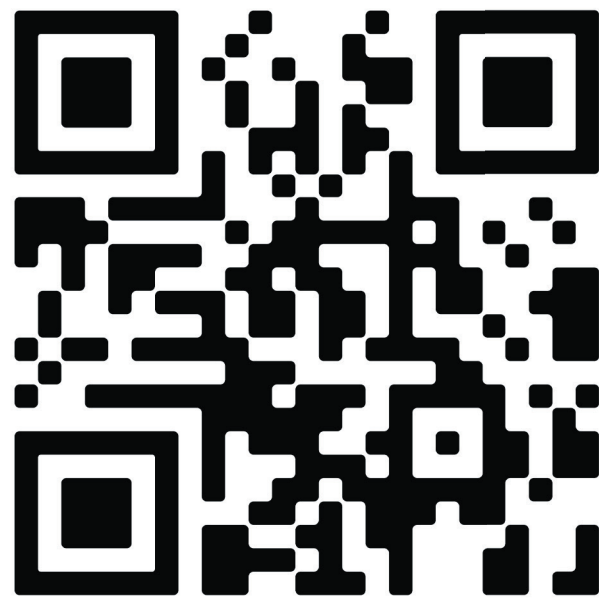
**LAGE Game Night East** - 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

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

**Sparrow Bloom Summer Design Flower Workshop** - Learn how to use seasonal colors to create spectacular centerpieces. 5:30 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-708-8276. sparrowbloom.com/shop/p/flower-workshop.

**Summer in the Park: Medieval Longsword Swordsmanhood Showcase** - 11 a.m. Oak Park, corner of Clinton and Seminary streets, Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org

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# FRESH DROP

# FRESH DROP

# 8/10

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