

CityPULSE

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REVEALING LANSING'S SECRETS IN PROSE AND POETRY

See Page 17

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Divorce Attorneys

It has been a crazy week. I keep circling back around on everything going on and the theme I keep coming back to is "hypocrisy".

I know the right is hell-bent on calling President Joe Biden and his family "The Biden Crime Family." It is definitely catchy, and they have been diligently piecing the story together to make it fit their narrative. I have no doubt that there are plenty of people who are buying into it, regardless of the fact that they don't have any evidence to support it.

I could write a story, too, and make up a bunch of information to make compelling arguments about anyone to sell it, but it wouldn't stand up in a court of law. So, they are now charging Hunter (the President's son) for lying on a gun application. Nobody has ever been tried on this charge unless they committed some other crime involving the purchase of said weapon. I mean, there is a first for everything, but I have no doubt that if we start charging everyone for lying on an application to purchase a gun, the same folks will scream that it is infringing on their Second Amendment rights.

It is doubtful they'll even be able to prove their case since it is about whether or not he was using drugs at the time of the application versus being high at the time of the purchase. How many gun owners use drugs? Are we going to charge everyone who owns a gun for lying on their applications too? Hypocrites.

Actors Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis are backpedaling after supporting convicted rapist Danny Masterson. They are more worried about being cancelled than they are about the victims receiving justice. Obviously if the letters of support were never released, I doubt we'd be talking about this, but since they were exposed, they are being held accountable, and there are lessons to be learned.

Frankly, nobody should be surprised that there are people defending Masterson; there is a long history of men being protected by their affluent friends. What is surprising is that Ashton has worked with anti-child trafficking groups, and still chose the side of the rapist. Clearly, they only knew the side of Masterson that Danny wanted them to know, so I'd think they'd feel betrayed by him and not stick up for him, unless they knew more than they are saying. That wouldn't be totally out of the question either but would certainly be more damning. Just food for thought.

My biggest concern here is that we clearly have men continuing to violently abuse women, and then be defended after they are convicted in a court of law. All too often I see men claiming to be some sort of victim, that

somehow men are under attack. As absurd as that sounds, we have to accept that men are less often a target and more often a product of the society we've created.

Donald Trump was just being a "guy" when he said "grab 'em by the pussy," and far too many people shrugged it off. I didn't shrug it off. I could see the problem with it, and I could see the bigger picture of how too many people were ok with it. No way they would have the same reaction if Barack Obama was caught on video saying the same thing. Hypocrites.

The UAW workers are the backbone of the auto industry, and without them, the American auto industry would not be what it is today. When the CEO of GM gets 29 million for her compensation last year, she has the audacity to say that they have a pay scale that is fair to those who provide the labor. Executives have seen up to 40% increases in their wages, while the workers get nickel and dimed.

Global companies across the board are recording record-level profits and yet claim they can't afford to bargain in good faith with those who show up and build their wealth. Remember this: what is all but forgotten is the bailout that these auto companies were given back in 2008 at the expense of the American people. Hypocrites.

U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert is a great example of hypocrisy. She continuously uses terms like "pervert" to describe those she would rather see disappear while at the same time feels entitled to display herself in a perverted manner. This week it's her; next week it will be someone else. The hypocrisy knows no bounds.

I could go on. I just feel like I am rambling. This was not what I planned to put on print this week, but I decided to write this at the last minute so that I could get it off my chest.

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Panelists

Judge Milton Mack, State Court Administrator Emeritus

Julia Stewart, Project Coordinator, Wayne State University, Center for Behavioral Health and Justice

Christy Granger, LBSW, Community/Court Liaison Coordinator, (CMHA-CEI)

Jeramie Hall, CPSS, CMHA-CEI, Certified Peer Support Specialist with 55th District Court, Certified Vet2Vet Peer Support Specialist

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CityPULSE

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For Casa de Rosado, it's the busiest time of the year

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Woodworking classes for all

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People's Kitchen's pancakes aren't its only good fu%ing dish

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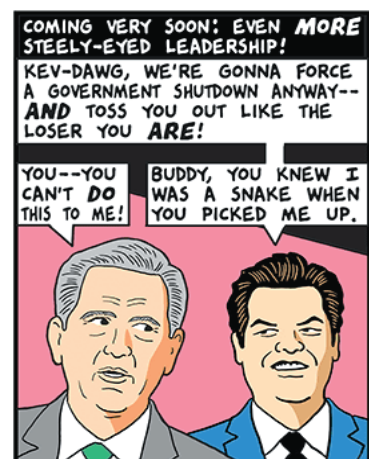
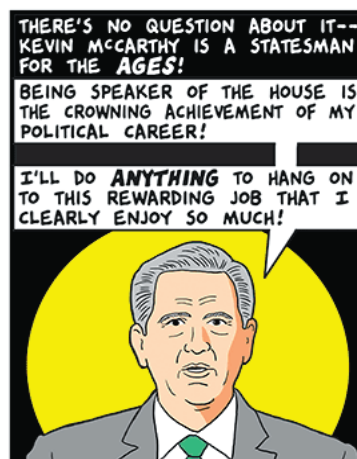
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY TYLER SCHNEIDER



MSU plans to fire head football coach Mel Tucker, athletic director Alan Haller said Monday. The university wrote Tucker the same day that it intends to terminate his 10-year, \$95 million contract for “moral turpitude” amid an investigation into a sexual harassment

complaint by rape survivor Brenda Tracy. A requirement in Tucker’s contract gives him seven days to make a case for retaining his job. Tucker stands to lose \$80 million on the agreement he signed in November 2021. MSU said Tucker’s firing will not impact the Office of Civil Rights case and announced that it has hired Jones Day law firm to investigate who leaked Tracy’s name.

A 19-year-old Mason man has been charged with the deaths of his sister and another 16-year-old girl in an Aug. 23 Delhi Township crash. Elijah Klages was arraigned Friday in 55th District Court on two counts each of driving while intoxicated causing death and reckless driving causing death. The incident happened around 3 a.m. in a neighborhood south of Holt Road and west of Cedar Street, near the intersection of Sycamore and Schoolcraft streets. Lillian Klages and Amanda Blue, both students at Mason High School, died at the scene, while Elijah Klages was taken to Sparrow Hospital with serious injuries. A hearing to determine whether Klages should stand trial is scheduled for Oct. 3.



The Lansing City Council voted 5-3 Monday to revoke the cabaret license of the Energy Event Center in response to a July 30 shooting outside the venue that injured five people. Police Chief Ellery Sosebee initially asked for the revocation in an Aug. 4 letter to the city, followed by an Aug. 24 public hearing at City Hall. On Sept. 11, Lansing’s Human Resources Director Elizabeth O’Leary submitted a report on the incident that said 70 bullet casings had been recovered from the scene and cited evidence that alcohol had played a role despite the venue’s lack of a city-issued liquor license. Venue owner Ryan Cabell said that he’d hosted just two events in the three years he has owned the property.

ENERGY
EVENT CENTER



UAW workers at Local 602 and 652 chapters in Lansing are waiting to hear if or when they will be called on to join the strike against the Big Three. Workers at a GM plant in Wentzville, Missouri; a Ford factory in Wayne, near Detroit;

and a Stellantis plant in Toledo struck on Friday. The union’s contract expired at 11:59 p.m. Thursday, prompting UAW president Shawn Fain to call for the first simultaneous strike at each of the Big Three. The three plants employee roughly 13,000 of the 146,000 total workers who are covered under the UAW’s \$825 million strike fund.

The City of Ovid was granted more than \$6.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act grants to help fund an estimated \$9.8 million project that will include water line replacements, new meters and other improvements.

The funding is a 75% grant, with the city covering the remaining 25% toward replacing 31,500 linear feet of water main and lead service lines, installing approximately 658 water meters throughout the city and removing and replacing filter media. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy awarded a total of \$81.2 million in MI Clean Water Plan grants statewide through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, including five other municipalities in the Greater Lansing area: Delhi Township (\$382,000), Eaton Rapids (\$2.1 million), Mason (\$2.8 million), Grand Ledge (\$900,000) and the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (\$4,015,000).



A 40-year-old cold murder case was finally closed Thursday with the help of MSU’s School of Criminal Justice and the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office.

Charles David Shaw, a 26-year-old Livonia resident who died in 1983 of accidental sexual asphyxiation, was identified by the Michigan State Police as the suspect in the March 1982 murder of South Lyon teenager Kimberly Louiselle. The investigation was reopened in 2022 when the department partnered with MSU students and faculty to review the case. When the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office Cold Case Team identified Shaw as the suspect in another unsolved case — the March 1983 murder of 19-year-old Redford woman Christina Castiglione — the Sheriff’s Office worked with the Michigan State Police and MSU to provide the DNA evidence used to verify Shaw’s involvement in Louiselle’s death.

A former Lansing-area referee was sentenced Monday for sexually assaulting minors. Gerald Sutter, 71, was issued 10 to 30 years in prison for first-degree criminal sexual conduct in a case that came to light after a victim came forward with allegations last year. Sutter was given another 71 months to 15 years for second-degree criminal sexual conduct in a separate case and granted 328 days credit for time already served. Sutter’s sentence includes a minimum of 10 years served before he can be considered for parole.



PUBLIC
Art
OF THE WEEK



‘Peace, Love and Rock and Roll’

The electric blue wall on the rear of the building located at 305 S. Washington Ave. in downtown Lansing is about to get a ‘60s makeover, thanks to the efforts of two Lansing artists, Brian Whitfield and Dennis Preston. They are collaborating on a mural titled “Peace, Love and Rock and Roll,” which will recognize the old “hippy dippy” Free Spirit, Sounds & Diversions, and the Sleep Shop, which were located on that block.

The mural project has been organized by Rebekah Cathey as a tribute to her “hippie” father, Tom Cathey, who was involved in those operations, which were hotspots in downtown Lansing from the 1960s into the ‘80s.

She said Whitfield and Preston (who designed the original Sounds & Diversions logo) have collaborated on a design that captures the essence of her father’s iconic record and waterbed shop.

The mural project, which is about to begin, has funding from the Cathey family, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing and the Lansing Economic Development Corp., and Rebekah Cathey is looking to enlarge the mural through a GoFundMe campaign, which can be found at gofundme.com/f/plrr-mural. Donors can also send a check directly to PLRR Properties LLC, 1424 W. Ionia St., Lansing MI 48915.

Additional funding will be used to light the mural and extend it around the corner.

There are two versions of the mural, which will be melded into one design.



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 or call (517) 999-6704.

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

'Gimme Shelter,' the Lansing Rescue Mission asks the City Council

Faced with a dramatic increase in homelessness, the City Rescue Mission of Lansing has been looking for additional shelter space in the downtown area.

But urban revitalization efforts have proved a barrier.

"We've been looking to expand for some time now, and we've kind of been running into this issue in a number of places that we try," Laura Grimwood, the mission's senior director of community engagement, said. "It's understandable, because they're really trying to revitalize the downtown area and had other plans for the buildings that we were looking at. We all want to see downtown revitalized, because this is our hometown too."

Now, though, the mission thinks it has found a solution in two buildings in the 400 block of West Kalamazoo Street, between Walnut and Chestnut streets, adjacent to the Capitol Complex.

"This is probably the fourth or fifth piece of property we've looked at, and I feel it's the best location," Mark Chriss, the mission's executive director, said, adding that the expansion would double the mission's current capacity.

The mission operates a men's shelter at 607 E Michigan Ave. and one for women and children at 2216 S. Cedar St.

In just two years, the demand for shelter space has increased from an average of 138 users per night to 245 through the first six months of this year. As a response, the mission would move the men's shelter to the proposed new location and would move women without children there as well.

The new properties are at 415 W. Kalamazoo, owned by Set Seg Insurance Agencies Inc. and occupied by a law firm, and 421 W. Kalamazoo, which was sold to the Michigan Corrections Organization by Set Seg in January 2022 after Set Seg transitioned its headquarters to East Lansing. Both are about a mile from the current shelter and just under a half mile from the CATA station downtown.

The rescue mission said it has options on the buildings and plans on securing the purchase if and when the City Council approves a pair of rezoning requests for the special land use permit required to establish a sheltered care facility on the site. The city's Planning Commission voted 5-1 on



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

These two buildings in the 400 block of West Kalamazoo Street would become a homeless shelter for men and women without children if the Lansing City Council approves.

Aug. 1 to recommend the zoning change. At-large member Monte Jackson opposed the request. Jackson expressed concerns about the potential for increased foot traffic and loitering near the site.

The latest step came in a 30-minute Council public hearing before the Council on Monday (Sept. 18) that featured nine speakers in favor and two opposed. Afterward, the Council referred the request to the Development and Planning Committee, which meets at 4 p.m. today (Sept. 20). The Council will consider the committee's recommendation on Oct. 2.

Were the city to grant these requests, the rescue mission would finalize its purchase of both properties in December, followed by fundraising efforts and the beginning phase of a series of renovations that are expected to last two years and cost upward of \$7.3 million. Chriss said the mission can't provide a price for the properties "at this time."

Once the new shelter is open, the mission would move its kitchen operation from 608 W. Saginaw Street to the Michigan Avenue space. Chriss said the mission produces 125,000 meals a year. Michigan Avenue would also be used for storage and

sorting donations, he said.

The rescue mission has considered a number of options in recent years. In August 2020 the mission purchased a vacant law office at 605 E. Michigan Ave. to the immediate west of the men's shelter. The mission also looked at acquiring the property at 603 E. Michigan Ave, but those plans fell through over renovation costs.

Shortly after that, Grimwood said, the mission tried to purchase the building once occupied by the downtown YMCA at the corner of Washington Square and Ottawa Street and the former Masonic Temple Cooley Law School building on Capitol Avenue that was recently announced as the city's choice for its next City Hall. The former did not work out because of zoning issues, and the latter because the city had undisclosed plans for it.

The Kalamazoo Street properties adjacent to the Capitol Office Complex — it is across Kalamazoo from the Elliott-Larsen Building, which was formerly the Lewis Cass Building — will give the mission considerable room to grow. The 11,452-square-foot building at 415 W. Kalamazoo sits on a 26,136-square-foot property and is listed by the Lansing city assessor's website at a

value of \$715,700. The 12,216-square-foot building at 421 W. Kalamazoo is part of a 32,670-square-foot property and listed at \$906,900.

Though less in the heart of downtown, one homeless man said the location may be better for him than the shelter on Michigan Avenue.

David Harris, a man in his mid-60s who has been without a home for three months after losing his apartment, said the new location would probably be an easier commute for him on most days.

"Seeing as sometimes I'm sleeping out under the Kalamazoo Street bridge and others, that's a little bit closer for me. It depends on the bus run, to tell you the truth," he said.

Asked if he would agree that the mission had been operating over its ideal capacity, Harris did not hesitate: "Yes. Oh yeah, it is."

At the public hearing, nine people spoke in support of the project, many of them former occupants or volunteers at the mission.

"The mission gives us a place to go to clean our lives up, pull our lives together and become functioning members of society," Angela Sherwood, who has used the shelter, said. It's "a place to go to have hope, and not feel like you're an undesirable."

Don Morrison, owner of two apartment complexes nearby, including Executive House around the corner on Walnut, opposed the rezoning request. He called the project "basically a hotel" and expressed doubt that the mission would be able to fully staff the operation.

"There seems to be a reasonable doubt as far as adding this location to the rescue mission," Morrison said.

Gabriel Biber, director of Haven House, a shelter in East Lansing, said that the rescue mission is one of few organizations that can meet the needs of the community.

"We've seen the CRM take great strides over the years to lower their barriers of entry. I think that when it comes to what's available to us now, absolutely CRM has filled the space. They've stepped up, they've provided really quality services — some that none of the rest of us are providing. When it's the middle of the night and none of the other shelters can take some-

Rescue mission's shelter plan offers hope for historic neighbor

The City Rescue Mission's potential purchase of the property it hopes to turn into a homeless shelter would notably include the 147-year-old Glaister House, which is on a list of endangered historic properties in Greater Lansing.

"I asked for it," mission executive director Mark Chriss said, adding that the rescue mission has no current plans for how they might utilize the property. "I don't have any desire to try to shelter people in the house, it's just not designed for it. I think there's a possibility for us to use it in the future, just not in the immediate future."

Last year, Preservation Lansing and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing named the Glaister House as one of the top 10 endangered historic buildings in Greater Lansing.

Built in 1876 by Capitol architect Richard Glaister for him and his wife, Deborah, the red-brick Italianate and Queen Anne style house on the corner of Walnut and Kalamazoo streets was later occupied by Alice Sessions on and off from age 15 until her death at age 93 in April 2018.

In 2017, after turning down several offers to sell, Sessions put \$30,000 into repairs, had the house listed on the National Register of Historic Places and contacted Preservation Lansing President Dale Schrader for advice on how to further protect it.

Together, they drafted a letter to

Mayor Andy Schor in January 2018 nominating the house as a local historic district. Four days later, though, Sessions' son, Richard Sessions, acting as co-trustee of the house, withdrew the request.

"We came so close," Schrader said. "It was very sad and discouraging, and I truly believe she died of a broken heart."

In June 2018, just two months after Alice Sessions died, Set Seg, the nonprofit insurance agency that operated out of the offices next door at 415 Kalamazoo St. at the time, purchased the house for \$250,000. Set Seg chief financial officer Dennis Rogoszewski said then that the company had no plans for the property. It has remained unoccupied since, while Set Seg has moved their headquarters to East Lansing.

"The National Register of Historic Places doesn't offer any kind of protection for property. It just brings public national attention to the property, but that's not protected. The only mechanism to protect the property is a historic district," Schrader said.



The City Rescue Mission want to purchase the historic Glaister House, at the corner of Walnut and Kalamazoo streets, as part of its homeless shelter proposal.

Someone "could buy it, but they can't tear it down, and they can't change it by putting siding on it or something," Schrader said.

Without those protections, the future of the property remains speculative. Laura Grimwood, the rescue mission's senior director of community engagement, said that the mission's staff had an opportunity to tour the house, which they found in "bad repair." Sessions had rented upstairs

bedrooms to boarders as recently as 2017.

Schrader, who made several trips to meet Sessions at the house around that time, agreed that it would require "a lot of work everywhere" were a future owner to take up restoration efforts.

"It's in bad repair, no question about it. It had some leak damage from one of the heat radiators upstairs and had some ceiling and wall damage. It's a big house, and it's going to cost a lot of money, probably hundreds of thousands of dollars, to restore," Schrader said.

With that said, as Schrader repeated several times, "I do a lot of restoration of old houses. In my eye, I've done a lot worse than that. A lot worse."

If the rescue mission succeeds in turning the two properties on Kalamazoo Street into a homeless shelter, the Glaister House would remain unoccupied at least until the shelter opens.

"It'll take two years to raise and develop, so maybe in the future we might have a need and be able to do further expansion," Chriss said. "We didn't want to miss the opportunity, adding that Set Seg "didn't want to hold onto the property anyways, so it worked out well for us."

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

Shelter

from page 7

one, CRM takes them. That's regardless of faith or gender or other types of identities," Biber said.

Other concerns cited at that meeting included security. Chriss said the current men's shelter stations one security officer per 100 guests, typically two per night. A day program would be optional. He also indicated his interest in exploring the possibility of adding a patrol at Reutter Park, which is a block from the proposed new location.

The mission has said the expansion would allow people to stay inside during

the day and include space for visitors to line up inside, rather than on the sidewalk as they do on Michigan Avenue.

Presenting the mission's vision to the City Council, Randy Barton, the mission's senior director of operations, revealed another piece of the puzzle in hopes that the Council will ultimately approve the plans.

"We're in talks now to work on providing a medical care facility at this location as well. One of the increasing things we see within our folks that are experiencing homelessness is that they're an increasingly aging group," Barton said, adding that the specifics are not yet available but that they mission would make that information public once plans were finalized.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

The men's shelter on Michigan Avenue would close and be replaced by a centralized kitchen to prepare food for the new shelter on Kalamazoo as well as the shelter on South Cedar Street for women with children.

B/24/037 GIER PARK PUMP TRACK as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. 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) until 2PM local time in effect on SEPTEMBER 27, 2023. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

CP#23-244

We're delighted with Mayor Andy Schor's elegant solution to one of the city's longest running conundrums: how to create a new home for municipal government. After more than a half-century of honorable service by the now deteriorating structure known as David C. Hollister City Hall, Schor last week rolled out a plan to relocate much of the apparatus of city government to the historic Masonic Temple building, a seven-story, stone and brick behemoth one block south of the current location on South Capitol.

Schor's proposal is a masterful adaptive reuse of a long vacant, iconic structure in the heart of downtown. Built in 1924 and previously owned by Cooley Law School, which sold it to the Boji Group, the building's classic mid-century architecture evokes a magisterial presence that's a good fit for civic affairs. Making the building a functional modern office environment will be pricey, but Schor solved that problem, too, convincing state lawmakers earlier this year to fork over \$40 million to underwrite the costs.

The other major piece of the city government relocation riddle — what to do with the old city hall — brings us to a welcome blast from the past. Toward the end of the Bernero administration, a compelling plan was put forward by J. Paul Beitler, a Chicago real estate developer (and MSU alum), who proposed to repurpose City Hall as a top-notch hotel and restaurant, then transform the vacant former headquarters of the Lansing State Journal on Lenawee Street into the new City Hall. Thankfully, Beitler is still on board to develop the hotel and restaurant, even though Schor has shifted his focus for the new city hall to the Masonic Temple.

The final puzzle piece is relocating the Police Department, lockup and 54-A District Court, which was finally solved last year when city voters approved Schor's \$175 million bond for public safety facilities. Among other things, the bond will pay for a new headquarters for the Police Department, courts and jail adjacent to the city-owned South Washington Office Complex, current home of the Lansing Public Media Center (which will relocate to The Ovation, the new downtown performing arts center now under construction.) SWOC's fate, despite offering a large auditorium and its own wealth of mid-century interior design, seems sealed as demolition for parking, but that's fodder for a future editorial.

It will take a few years for all this to play out but we're more than excited to see it happen. Congratulations to Schor and his team for pulling it together. Successfully shepherding the complex process of repurposing not one but two historic downtown buildings, and building a new criminal justice complex to boot, will surely be one of Schor's lasting legacies as mayor.

Schor solves City Hall puzzle

The CP Edit

Opinion

MSU fumbles Tucker debacle

Sadly, Michigan State University once again finds itself embroiled in controversy. Soon-to-be fired head football coach Mel Tucker's extramarital indiscretion has not just tied the university to allegations of sexual harassment, misconduct or assault for the umpteenth time over the last decade, but also has raised questions about how the institution has handled said allegation ... AGAIN.

Tucker is accused of sexually harassing Brenda Tracy, a prominent sexual assault survivor whom ironically the program hired to teach the MSU football team about avoiding sexual violence and misconduct. Regardless of what an investigation reveals, the conduct to which Tucker already has admitted is completely unacceptable for someone tasked with leading more than 75 student athletes — and who's been known to quip that "the standard is the standard."

Students, faculty, alumni, parents and fans of the university have again seen the Spartan logo splashed all over television networks for all the wrong reasons and read about unseemly behavior on the news ticker far too many times since Larry Nassar's sexual assaults connected to his former role as a physician on campus.

Then, as now, much of the public uproar has been over the way MSU's administration handled the allegations and the missteps that followed — and deservedly so. The response to the Tucker allegations has called into question when university leadership knew and why it took so long for "intermediate actions" to be levied, i.e., the suspension of the head football coach. Tucker's seemingly tardy suspension two games into the football season led to the appointment of long-time Spartan Harlan Barnett as interim head coach and the return of former head coach Mark Dantonio, who led the team to the 2014 Rose Bowl — a feat recognized on Saturday by a raucous standing ovation. What's being said with less audible volume is that Coach Dantonio left the program at a time of multiple sexual assault claims against his players and similar controversy over who knew what and when, and why did it take so long for the university to act ... AGAIN.

This all sounds far too familiar to an exhausted and angry university community. Students, faculty, staff and alums all want MSU to be known for the research, teaching and service that allowed it to grow from a land-grant college to a world-class university with a focus on making a difference here at home and around the world. MSU leaders need to start fresh and get the university on a new track, not back on the old one ... AGAIN.

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

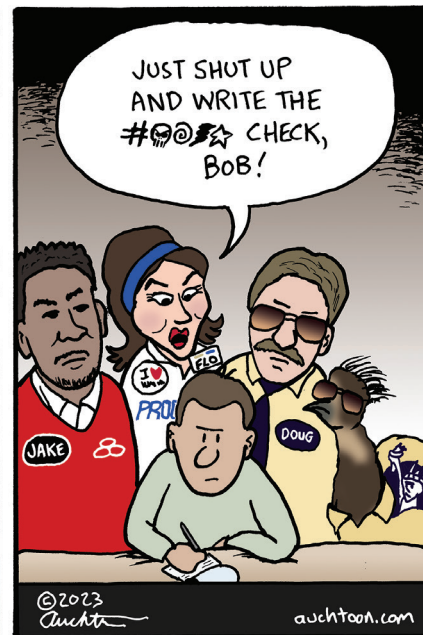
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2 Write a guest column.

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



Lansing on the brink: Why I returned

By **EVAN B. CARR**

(Evan B. Carr describes himself as a "social entrepreneur and spoken word poet who is fired up about Lansing and its incredible potential." He is analyst for the nonprofit Carbon Neutral Michigan and is a facilitator for Ecstatic Dance Lansing.)

When I left Lansing in 2009 after high school, I was convinced Lansing was a small, dead-end town with no redeeming qualities. After a decade in the heart of the sprawling, affluent and cultured metropolis of Dallas, followed by two years of world travel, I am thrilled to be returning home to "little old Lansing." And I'm not the only one.

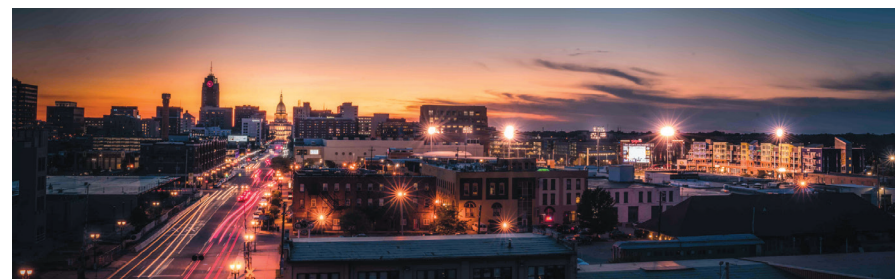
It always surprises me when I tell people of all the places in the world I'm choosing Lansing and they ask why with a puzzled look. Perhaps one has to leave for a while to gain a new perspective.

Michigan is stunningly beautiful. Across each of its four seasons (yes, including winter) is a cornucopia of ways to enjoy our rich natural world. Lansing is full of trees, parks and green spaces, with a spectacular river trail, arboretum and nature centers. Lansing is "where the Land Sings." Are you listening? A walk through the Westside neighborhood ensures that even in the suburbia of ages past the beauty of Michigan nature still shines.

This natural bounty is not all for show. The utility of being the second largest food-producing state and, of course, holding 80% of the continent's freshwater (20% of the world's) bodes well for the decades of uncertain climate trends ahead. Indeed, amid a globally hot summer full of fires, floods, eruptions and heat waves Michigan's mild weather has been as good as it gets. And while the dice of natural disaster

largely spared us this year, the truth is that unlike many regions of the country that must worry about fire, flood, sea rise, seismic activity and heat, we have just the occasional tornado/storm and the long, cold and dark winter of maybe snow. Even this gloomy stretch in the long night has now become for me a healthy part of the cycle where we recluse to hobbies, health and hearth.

You might have noticed that our culture is alive and well. After I browse 517living.com and FB events, there is absolutely no shortage of festivals, events, trainings, concerts, and hobby groups. My Lansing calendar is overflowing with interests vying for my time. There's simply more than one can do. Our central location makes Grand



Rapids, Ann Arbor and Detroit an easy drive, the train to Chicago is affordable and fun, and we have great connections from our quaint and quick airport. Old Town is booming, REO Town is resurgent, East Lansing is vibrant and pockets of micro-community are anchored around our metro region.

The smart money took notice years ago. Property values are up, and investments in new multi-family construction tells of how our city will be growing again as people flee the crowded heat and traffic of the West, Southwest and South for our temperate oasis. At the moment and even after increased value, Lansing housing is still compar-

atively affordable, but don't expect it to remain as such forever.

In the reduced shadow of our automotive past is the innovation and culture hub of MSU, a premier research university and tremendous resource for our community. Together with LCC, Cooley and our state government, Lansing is actually a powerhouse of technology, policy and education.

These institutions are empty halls without being populated by our people. Healthy and resilient cultures thrive because of a diversity of ideas and backgrounds. And we have great diversity in Lansing with ample opportunity to connect with a variety of different cultures.

Nowhere are diversity and inclusion more evident than at The Fledge, one

of the most impressive community centers in the country on the leading edge of using innovation to build resilience and meet community needs. Any type of weird is welcome there. And we have so many types in our town! Whether you're a biker or a bear, like hip-hop or the symphony, play board games and sail Lake Lansing, there's something for everyone here. And it's only getting better.

On balance, Lansing of course has its



Opinion

problems: affordable housing, mental health and homelessness, food insecurity, crime, economic development, etc. ... but these are the challenges of our greater times. There are so many good people dedicated to addressing our social challenges, and the opportunities are plenty. And Lansing is perfectly sized. It's small enough to have an impact and big enough for it to matter.

Even with these challenges included, Lansing is a place where you can get all of your needs met. I used to say that the smart ones got out and pointed to the diaspora of talent away from our Capital City. But now I'm beginning to see it's the smart ones who are returning for a high quality of life positioned well for the decades ahead. A reverse brain drain is now occurring, and with it a swell of talented and capable people who each in their own way will contribute to our economy and culture.

We are no longer "little old Lansing." We are not "little brother." The word is out. Lansing is once again a center of commerce, culture and connection. Our future is one where "Everyone is Proud of Lansing." Do you see it yet?

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1319

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 1462 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances, Section 1462.03, to bring the acreage limitation for total Neighborhood Enterprise Zones in the City into conformity with State law.

Effective date Upon Publication

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

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

CP#23-245

HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION LATINO EDUCATIONAL FORUM 'CULTURAL IDENTIFICATION'

DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 2023
TIME: 6:00PM TO 8:00PM
VENUE: EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL (626 MARSHALL ST, LANSING)

PANEL MEMBERS:

1. DR. ISABEL AYALA - MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY.
2. DR. ESTRELLA TORREZ - MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
3. DR. SHEILA CONTRERAS - MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
4. DR. OSCAR CASTANEDA - STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
5. MR. RICARDO BRIONES - CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
6. SEIN PAUL BENAVIDES - BUSINESS OWNER (ARTIC CORNER) FOUNDER OF CAFECITO CALIENTE

SPECIAL GUEST: HONORABLE LUPE RAMOS-MONTIGNY, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 2012-2020, COMMUNITY TO HONOR CESAR E. CHAVEZ, BOARD CHAIR, GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN

FREE EVENT

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL
HHM23LANSING@YAHOO.COM



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE HISPANIC PLANNING COMMITTEE & LANSING SCHOOL DISTRICT

Anti-Whitmer conspirators paying a price regardless of their legal outcomes

Last Friday's not-guilty verdicts on the last three alleged Gov. Gretchen Whitmer kidnapping conspirators closed the book on the first round of judicial action against all 14 charged men.

Federal and state prosecutors recorded four plea deals, five convictions by trial and five acquittals. Final Score: Prosecution 9, Defense 5.

Assorted appeals still need to work their way through the system, but it's hard to see the convictions not holding up.

In the end, this loose association of anti-government ideologues who worked out their frustrations over the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions by shooting their mouths off, sporting their guns and pretending like they were leading a revolution are all paying a price, either behind bars or through a tarnished reputation.

They'll go down like the Jan. 6, 2021, rioters. These fools thought they were doing something by trashing the Capitol and momentarily chasing members of the U.S. House and Senate out of the chambers. Instead, they embarrassed the country and earned themselves criminal penalties.

Likewise, the 14 conspirators (in the best-case scenario) were only pretending to live out their frustrations. Whitmer took away their freedoms. They were going to take away hers.

Were they serious? Were they not? A federal jury in Grand Rapids said yes. A jury in Antrim County said no.

The players in those two trials were much different. The federal government wanted to prosecute the ringleaders of the bunch: Adam Fox and Barry Croft Jr.

It took them a couple of trials, but the feds got them.

The three let off the hook Friday — Michael Null, William Null and Eric Molitor — were left for state Attorney General Dana Nessel to prosecute. They may have been found guilty by juries in Oakland or Ingham County. In rural, pro-Trump Antrim County, where cynicism for higher-ranking public officials is high? The answer was going to be different.

Although she wasn't successful with the Null brothers and Molitor, Nessel had to do what she did to at least send the message.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Opinion

Like the crackpots who call in bomb threats or death threats to our elected officials, wild, loose talk about physically hurting a public official can't be tolerated.

It's quite possible the Nulls and Molitor wanted out of the scheme (as they said in the trial) when they learned the plot became more serious than they thought.

But maybe they're saying that now because they were caught. They didn't want to go to the police with their information for their own personal reasons.

I get it. You don't want to be a nark. You also don't want the state's highest elected official to be killed because you kept your mouth shut.

Nessel is frustrated. According to The Detroit News, she told a private gathering that the Antrim jury was "seemingly not so concerned" about the plot. I'm sure the jury was concerned. The prosecution got caught not providing enough context to some of the accused's recorded comments, which planted seeds of doubt.

One of those moments included Molitor's taking a slow-motion video of Whitmer's personal vacation home Up North on a surveillance trip in 2020. What the prosecution did not show — but the defense did — was Molitor's reason for doing as Fox ordered: "I just wanted to get home to my kids."

Molitor got in so deep, he was scared he'd become a victim? It's possible, I guess.

Nonetheless, Nessel proved the point in charging all of the accused conspirators: If you're not going to turn down the rhetoric, there will be charges. We can't take the chance that you're not serious.

What if, God forbid, they had been serious? What if they had succeeded? The government knew of the plot and didn't do anything?

How would that look? Could you imagine living with yourself knowing you could have prevented something by standing up and you didn't?

Nessel has made the point other prosecutors need to make. If you don't tone down the threats, we'll tone it down for you.

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

ORDINANCE 1524: AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE CITY OF EAST LANSING YOUTH COMMISSION

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

The City amends Article V, "Boards and Commissions," within Chapter 2 of the City Code. "Administration," to add new Division 14, "Youth Commission;" which reads as follows in its entirety:

Section 2-503. Purpose

The purpose of the Youth Commission is to engage the youth of the City of East Lansing by actively involving them in the functions of City government, schools, and libraries.

Section 2-504. Youth Commission Created

There is hereby created and established a City of East Lansing Youth Commission.

Section 2-505. Membership, Appointment, Qualifications, Term of Office

- The Youth Commission shall consist of 9 voting members.
- The term of office for each member of the Youth Commission shall be one year from appointment by a Resolution approved by the majority of the City of East Lansing City Council.
- Members of the Youth Commission must be a resident of the City or attend a school within the City, and be 14 to 18 years of age.

Section 2-506. Ex-Officio Members

- The City Council may designate one of its members as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Youth Commission.
- The East Lansing Board of Education may designate one of its members as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Youth Commission.
- The Director of the East Lansing Public Library or their designee may serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Youth Commission.
- The East Lansing City Manager or their designee may serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Youth Commission.
- The East Lansing Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion or their designee may serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Youth Commission.
- The Director of the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Department or their designee may serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Youth Commission.
- The Chief of the East Lansing Police Department or their designee may serve as an ex-officio nonvoting member of the Youth Commission.

Section 2-507. Vacancies

When a vacancy occurs due to removal, resignation or other cause, such vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired terms by an appointment by Resolution approved by the majority of the City of East Lansing City Council.

Section 2-508. Absences

The membership of any voting member on the Youth Commission shall be terminated if that person is absent without cause from four regular meetings of the Commission during their one year term of office.

Section 2-509. Selection of Officers

At the first meeting after the Youth Commission is appointed, and annually thereafter at its first meeting of each calendar year, the Commission shall organize by selecting one member to be president and one member to be vice-president. At the same time, a secretary, who need not be a member of the Youth Commission shall be selected. A vacancy in any such office may be filled at any time during such year by action of the remaining members of the Youth Commission.

Section 2-510. Rules of Procedure, Quorum, Subject to Open Meetings Act

- The Youth Commission shall adopt rules of procedures with respect to its meetings and shall keep a record of its proceedings.
- Five voting members of the Youth Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- The Youth Commission shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act, and City staff shall assist in the proper posting of all public meetings.

Section 2-511. Meetings

Meetings of the Youth Commission shall be held at least once a month.

Section 2-512. Advisory Board to City Council

The Youth Commission shall act as an advisory board to the City Council and shall, either upon its own initiative or upon the specific request of the City Council, conduct research and make recommendations directly to the Council in an advisory capacity as to those matters pertaining to the activities or needs of the youth in the City.

Section 2-513. Annual Report

The Youth Commission shall render annually a full report of its work to the City Council.

Section 2-514. Annual Expenses

The City Council shall annually in the preparation of the budget include provisions for payment of the reasonable and necessary expenses of the Youth Commission.

Marie Wicks
Interim City Clerk

CP#23-246

ARTS & CULTURE

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Michoacán to Michigan

Casa de Rosado kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month with two new exhibitions

By **TESSA PANETH-POLLAK**

The monarch butterflies that flit through light-filled oil paintings by artist Jaime Vanegas Castro, on view in Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center's main gallery, will soon begin their annual journey back to Mexico. In an adjoining room, a juried exhibition of thirteen calaveras submitted by Michigan-based Latinx and Hispanic artists invites the playful imagery of the upcoming holiday of Dia de los Muertos.

In Michigan, the holiday coincides with the monarchs' departure. In Mexico, it coincides with their joyous return. The monarch butterfly "is a powerful symbol of migration," said gallery founder and director Theresa Rosado. "But not only that — there are traditional beliefs that the monarch is actually a soul that's departed."

Both exhibitions will be on view 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 29.

Castro hails from the town of Senguio, in the mountainous region of the Mexican state of Michoacán. He's part of a crew of workers from Michoacán who specialize in pouring concrete for Michigan's highways. He gets most of his painting done on days when the road crew is rained out.

Castro paints the quiet streets and mountain vistas of Senguio he knows so well. The works in the show also tell a story of the environment: Scenes of jimadors harvesting agave for tequila and pulque, or agave wine, monumentalize methods and tools of traditional agriculture. But a painting of two children surveying a landscape depleted by logging warns of the threats of industrialized production.

Castro works abstractly, too — he said he prefers to, but he encounters more demand for realism. A stunning silhouette of a black cat in profile, with exaggerated curves, one large green eye and claws poised to fish, calls on Mexican folk-art traditions.

Because highway work is seasonal, Castro returns to Senguio for winter, when the

butterflies flock to their preserves. Rosado said it was Castro's ability to capture the motion of the monarch that caught her eye.

"I was really impressed by his brushwork. He paints in an impressionistic style to pull upon his memories of Michoacán," she said.

To be in the midst of the monarchs' return, Rosado said, is "incredible. They're not stationary." Castro's paintings capture the "extraordinary adventure" of such fleeting moments in nature.

The exhibitions kick off a season in which Rosado is rarely stationary herself. The time between Hispanic Heritage Month, which began Sept. 15, and Lansing's Dia de los Muertos celebrations is the gallery's busiest season.

"It gets a little crazy," Rosado said. "We go from working a normal work week to being all hands on deck. By the middle of November, we're just whipped. But it's worth it. It's one of my favorite adopted celebrations."

Rosado's own heritage is Puerto Rican and Macedonian. But she has been instrumental in reinvigorating Dia de los Muertos celebrations in Lansing since Patricia Briones and the late Lansing artist Rosa Lopez Killips invited her to collaborate in 1996. The annual celebrations have outgrown the gallery and will be held at a to-be-announced location Nov. 3 through 5.

"Calavera" means skull or skeleton, but the term connotes the anticolonial, satirical imagery of the late Mexican political lithographer Jose Guadalupe Posada Aguilar. His broadsheets, depicting skulls and skeletons sporting flouncy European fashions impractical for the Mexican heat, poke fun at colonizers and their emulators. His famous figure "Catrina La Calavera Garbancera" reminds the viewer of the impermanence of life and colonial wealth.

The contemporary interpretations of Posada's prints on view are painted in vibrant colors. A painting by Reyna Garcia features a "Catrina" whose adornments take the shape of Michigan's two peninsu-

las. She said she was inspired by watching "this amazing thing" of Michigan Latinx communities reconnecting with the holiday.

"This is a cultural heritage of Mexico. People are understanding more why it's important, and I like to see that," she said.

Spinoffs of Posada's imagery have become emblematic of the holiday in popular culture. Reproduced calaveras can be found on papel picado, traditional Mexican cut-paper folk art; handbags; candles; and even paper napkins from Target. Increased commercialization of the holiday is a mixed bag, Rosado said. It increases general awareness but also threatens connection with creative traditions.

As a counterbalance, the gallery holds drop-in sugar-skull-decorating workshops. Participants can practice adorning the traditional Mexican designs using puffy paint. Thanks to a City of Lansing grant, Rosado offers these workshops free of charge to hundreds of students in the Lansing School District. To prepare, she hosts volunteer sugar-skull-molding parties, which some workplaces attend as diversity, equity and inclusion team-building events.

At the exhibitions' opening reception Sunday (Sept. 17), Rosado announced "Join Me In This Dance," an acrylic painting by Grand Rapids artist Mirabel Sanchez, as Best of Show. Sanchez will receive \$500, and her piece will be featured on all promotional materials for Lansing's 27th Dia de los Muertos celebration.

Running the gallery since 2017 has been part of Rosado's own grieving process. Her late husband Bruce died of a glioblastoma.

"The galeria gave me a chance to connect with people and to move forward as a widow," she said.

It has also helped her to stay busy. In the early years, "After everyone left, I would just collapse and cry," she said. But it has gotten easier. The holiday allows room for her grief to be ongoing and cyclical.

"In European culture, the funeral tends to be the only ritual associated with death and grieving, but in Mexican culture, it's an annual thing," she said.

Some years, she makes an ofrenda for Bruce. She includes a pair of his hiking boots, still caked with dry mud, and his signature corduroy pants. An ofrenda includes specific objects associated with



Courtesy of Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center

Grand Rapids artist Mirabel Sanchez's painting "Join Me In This Dance" will be featured on all promotional materials for Lansing's 27th Dia de los Muertos celebration.

the departed, allowing for joy in remembrance.

"You're celebrating the joy and fun things of a person," she said.

Rosado also makes space for the community to grieve recent losses and preserve local histories. In a community ofrenda honoring deceased Lansing-area activists and artists, a photo and write-up about the late activist and activist Jeremy Hockett, who died in 2022, will join images of the late activist Mark Brown and the late Turner Street artists Robert Busby, Barbara Morris and Killips.

Casa de Rosado is a nonprofit gallery providing opportunities and material support to Michigan's underserved Latinx, Chicanx, Afro-Caribbean and Indigenous communities. Pieces in both shows are available for purchase, with all proceeds going directly to the artists. Board members are all Michigan-based Hispanic artists, putting selection "back in the hands of the artists."

Rosado sees the visual arts as an especially important means of expression for multi-lingual artists. In art, "You can convey a lot of emotions and feelings often not expressible by words," she said.

"We take pride in ensuring a better path" for these artists, she said, who face barriers to exhibiting in the mainstream art world.

This work, too, is year-round. It is crucial, she said, to "elevate our artists and our heritage — not only during Hispanic Heritage Month but all year long."



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Beat the blues with Medical Mondays at Local Roots

By LUCAS HENKEL

Michigan is one of 38 states that have legalized medical cannabis. However, only 18% of Michigan medical marijuana patients describe their primary care physician's knowledge about medical cannabis as "very good" or "excellent," according to a 2021 study published in the Journal of Cannabis Research. Although most participants disclosed cannabis use to their primary care physician, their perceptions of their physicians' knowledge ranged widely, and many patients obtained medical cannabis licenses from an outside physician.

"A big part of the consumer population is using cannabis for well-being," Dr. Evan Litinas said. When patients feel they're unable to discuss cannabis with their doctor, many visit local cannabis dispensaries in hopes that a bud-tender may have an answer for what ails them.

"Some dispensaries are excellent and try to help customers and consumers, but some don't provide the right information about a very powerful medicinal plant," Litinas said. "It can create a gap between the customer's perception of cannabis and the expectations of products."

Litinas hopes his new collaboration with Local Roots Cannabis, Medical Mondays, will help answer any questions consumers may have about cannabis. Every Monday throughout September and October,

Medical Mondays

Every Monday through Oct. 30
Noon-4 p.m.
Local Roots Cannabis
120 W. Grand River Road,
Laingsburg
517-881-0585
localrootscannabis.com

ber, Litinas will visit the dispensary from noon to 4 p.m. to address questions people may have about THC, CBD and more. He won't be offering individual medical advice but rather a general overview of the medical use of cannabis.

From teaching customers how to analyze and understand lab results to discussing how specific conditions can be affected by cannabis, Litinas hopes to bridge the gaps in each customer's knowledge base. He



Courtesy photo

Dr. Evan Litinas hopes his new collaboration with Local Roots Cannabis, Medical Mondays, will help answer any questions consumers may have about medical cannabis.



also hopes that his conversations with customers will encourage them to discuss cannabis with their own primary care physicians.

Litinas has been working in the medical marijuana industry since 2011. He has more than a decade of experience, including past and present cannabis research with the University of Michigan. He was also the chief medical officer for the Ann Arbor dispensary Om of Medicine, now Mission Ann Arbor, until 2020. For years, according to his website, he was the only active chief medical officer of a dispensary, focusing on educating patients and consumers on cannabis products and their uses. His ultimate goal is to empower people through education and for them to feel confident

See Lansterdam, Page 15

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Lansterdam

from page 14

using cannabis as medicine.

While attending an event sponsored by the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association, Litinas met the owners of Local Roots, Roy Liskey and his mother, Ronda Liskey. The trio connected over their shared interest in educating consumers about cannabis. When talking about their initial meeting, Litinas said he couldn't deny there was a "synergy."

"The Liskeys are wonderful people who are trying to help the community in their own way," he said. "By working together, we can help educate the consumer about cannabis."

In a recent press release, Roy Liskey said, "Though there are no guarantees or promises that any products will for certain cure or help a medical situation, there is a lot of evidence from research that can be shared, and people can decide for themselves if they wish to try a protocol. Dr. Litinas' offering is a gift to our community, and we are grateful for his knowledge and contribution!"

GMO Crasher by Redemption Cannabis | \$25/2g at Local Roots Cannabis

Redemption Cannabis' GMO Crasher is a heavy-hitting indica with a sweet and gassy flavor. A cross between Wedding Crasher and GMO Cookies, this strain is sure to become a fast favorite of anyone looking for deep relaxation or even full couchlock. I love a good GMO strain, but Redemption's GMO Crasher surpassed my expectations. Upon opening the package, I was greeted by a gorgeous golden live resin and an aroma of garlicky goodness.

As someone who struggles with disordered eating habits, I really appreciate how GMO strains seem to kickstart my appetite. GMO strains tend to contain high amounts of myrcene, caryophyllene and limonene, terpenes that are known to cause hunger. After one dab of GMO Crasher, I felt less overwhelmed by the idea of putting food into my body. After dinner, I took another dab and was able to settle into my couch and devour the entire first season of "The Other Black Girl" on Hulu, which was a great way to kick off the beginning of the Halloween season.

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2515 N Grand River Ave, Lansing, MI 48906

COME SEE THE **Dispo** DIFFERENCE

Shopaholics shouldn't fear — the rest of the Shopping categories are here



It seems the aliens took over our brains when they landed in Lansing last week to vote in the 2023 Top of the Town contest, and the Shopping listings were cut short in our category announcement section. In actuality, it was a cut-and-paste error made over a series of layout edits, but we apologize profusely for leaving some of the categories out. Here is the full list of Shopping categories. Remember to vote for your favorites

in as many or as few of the categories as you wish by 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 3 at lansingcitypulse.com

SHOPPING

- Best Antique Shop
- Best Art Gallery
- Best Art Supply Store
- Best Asian Market
- Best Auto Dealership
- Best Beer Selection in Retail Store
- Best Bookstore (locally owned)
- Best Butcher Shop
- Best Candy Store
- Best Cheese Department
- Best Clothing Store (locally owned)
- Best Comic Shop
- Best Consignment Shop
- Best Farmers Market
- Best Florist
- Best Furniture Store
- Best Gardening Center



- Best Gas Station
- Best Gift Shop
- Best Grocery Store (locally owned)
- Best Hardware Store
- Best Hot Tub/Pool/Sauna Store
- Best Jewelry Store
- Best Lingerie Store
- Best Liquor Store
- Best Metaphysical Store
- Best Musical Instrument Store
- Best New Business
- Best Organic/Natural Market
- Best Outdoor/Camping Store
- Best Pet Store
- Best Place to Buy Mums
- Best Quality Dairy
- Best Record/CD Store
- Best Secondhand Shop
- Best Sex Shop
- Best Thrift Store
- Best Tire Store
- Best Used Car Dealership

- Best Vape Shop
- Best Video Game Store
- Best Wine Shop



We're so high we could be on "Top of the Town!"

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 More information: 517.465.9477

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DAVID SEDARIS**
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Photographer Roxanne Frith calls her photo “Let Me Tell You a Story,” which she says is a “montage of two images, of good friends walking on a stairs/walkway and the Grand River.” It is featured in the book “My Secret Lansing.”

The ‘Secret’ is out

‘My Secret Lansing’ book, writing contest reaps a rich harvest of local stories

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

If you live near Lansing, you’ve seen the state Capitol. But have you seen it through someone else’s tears? Maybe you’ve been to Cooley Gardens, a leafy, floral oasis in the concrete fastness of the city’s near south side. But have you fallen in love there? Surely, you’ve been to Curious Books in East Lansing. But why did you go and what did you find?

“My Secret Lansing,” a summer-long writing contest and wellspring of a newly published book of poems and prose with the same title, offers the rare gift of seeing familiar places and obscure corners of greater Lansing through the eyes of others.

In the following pages, City Pulse is proud to publish the five poems and five short prose pieces that were recognized as most outstanding by a blue-ribbon panel of literary lions.

The awardees will read their winning work at a re-

Infobox

My Secret Lansing Reception and performance by winners 6-8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24 Urban Beat 1213 Turner St., Lansing urbanbeatevents.com

ception at Urban Beat Saturday. Many of the 86 poems and 55 prose entries have been thoughtfully assembled into an absorbing new book that will be available at the reception (and, subsequently, in local stores).

Local poet extraordinaire Ruelaine Stokes and former Lansing poet laureate Laura Apol wanted the project to draw out hidden lives, hidden writers, and hidden local gems — places, people, things. The results surpassed their expectations.

The Lansing Poetry Club organized the project, with the support of the City of Lansing Arts Project Grant Program, funded by the city and administered by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing.

“I’m fascinated by the mixture of the ordinary and the extraordinary,” Stokes said. “The extraordinary is woven into our ordinary experience in so many ways. I guess what the book is trying to do is hold a mirror up to Lansing and say, ‘Aren’t we fascinating?’”

Stokes cast a wide net to attract as many entries as

possible. She organized 16 writing workshops in diverse corners of the Lansing area to prime the pump for over 100 aspiring local writers. She put leaflets in hundreds of shop and restaurant windows and established a strong social media buzz.

Winnowing 141 pieces of writing to 10 winners was a formidable task.

The first stage of judging was handled by two of the area’s most respected poets, former Lansing poet laureate Dennis Hinrichsen and Anita Skeen, a veteran writer and former director of the Center for Poetry at MSU’s Residential College for the Arts and Humanities.

The final judge was no less a literary lion than internationally known essayist and Milford-based undertaker Thomas Lynch, winner of the American Book Award, a finalist for the National Book Award, and subject of a PBS “Frontline” program that won an Emmy in 2008.

See ‘Secret’, Page 18

'Secret'

from page 17

Stokes and Apol were charged with an even bigger job: co-editing the resulting book. They marveled at the skill, insight and talent of the writers and quickly realized the project would require a lot more than throwing them into alphabetical order and choosing a font.

"We got so invested in how the pieces were speaking to each other, how they overlapped and filled in blanks with each other," she said. It ended up being a much bigger job than they imagined.

After a lot of thought and several false starts, they arranged the pieces into several carefully considered, creatively conceived themes that pull the reader through dozens of varied physical and interior landscapes like an expert tour guide.

Photographs by Lansing artist Roxanne Frith help to weave the book's grand tapestry together. Her photo on the cover of this week's paper is also the book's cover photo. It's a reflection in the window of her kitchen that she captured in 2020.

The roster of contributors to the book includes many names that are familiar to followers of the local poetry and literary scene, but Apol was amazed at how many contributors described themselves as non-writers, or lacked confidence about their work, despite the obvious quality of their entries.

"There are a lot of writers in the Lansing area who are very quiet about their writing," Apol said. "This really tapped into something."

Stokes and Apol hope the book will delight Lansing-area readers by mixing the comfort of recognition with the shock of a fresh perspective.

"We know about the famous places, MSU, the Capitol," Stokes said. "But what is our personal experience with other people here, with the places where we live and work? It's a very intimate relationship, when you think about it. We live here. We spend a lot of time, not only engaging with people, but with the places we love."

After reading the entries and working for months on putting the book together, Apol has a different view of her own town.

"As I'm driving through Lansing and East Lansing, I see things completely differently," Apol said. "I'm looking at places people wrote about and it just feels like I have a different connection. It's kind of uncanny."

Stokes and Apol also hope the book will give people from other places, or those who are new to the area, a sense of what it's like to live in Lansing.

"As writers, we're writing from our own personal experience," Stokes said. "But if the writing really works, it touches universal qualities of what it is to be human, living on planet Earth."

Poetry/first place

first drag show in the new city

By CONNOR BEEMAN

—after *Delicious in Old Town*

her name is Delicious, and she is wearing a gown of the heaviest jewels—

a gown of *only* the heaviest jewels, sparkling.

she is challenging you to tell her the microphone

in her hand is not real, that she is not Diana Ross.

for the next four minutes

(or six—*Delicious prefers the extended mix*)

she *is* Diana Ross.

so you tip her, and then tip her again,

a perfectly jewel-encrusted hand closing around your dollar.

Poetry/second place

Returning to Campus

By ALAN HARRIS

Next to Berkey Hall
Hollywood filmed a scene from Batman
with Ben Affleck

Bruce Wayne was there
ill-prepared for battle
in his tuxedo

Henry Cavill was ready
handsome in his cape
but too focused on the moment

as the future
called out for help
February 13, 2023

where real heroes
(Not Clark Kent nor Peter Parker)
took a bullet

Arielle
Brian
Alexandria

Today I returned to my Alma Mater
treated grandkids to ice cream
in the Student Union

solemnly walked the halls of Berkey
retracing steps decades old
listening for voices from the past

Professors Randall Robinson
Donald Koch
Bud Drake

the echoes of aged mentors
now silenced
replaced by voices forever young

Prose/first place

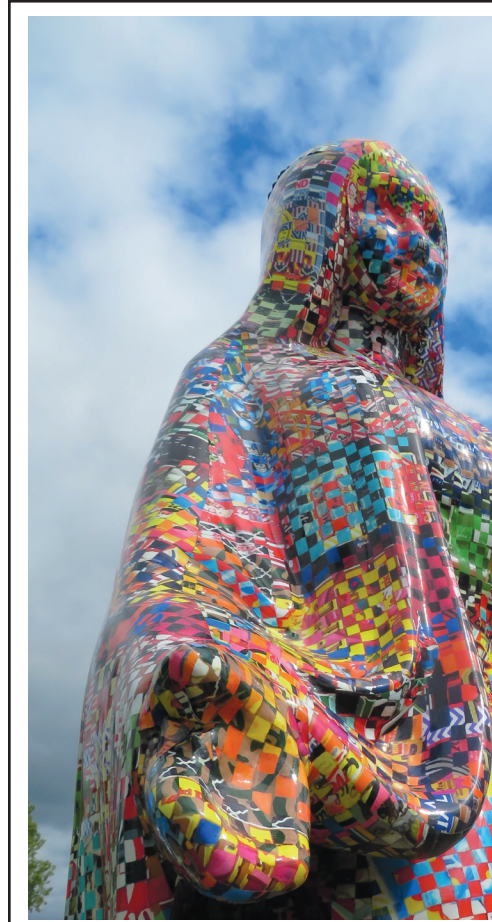
Silver Balls in the City

By CHERYL CAESAR

In the late 1970s, Jim Barnes and his partner, Mark, lived with their book-eating basset, Sammy, in a second-floor walkup on Chestnut Street. I had recently left my parents' barren suburb, and I loved everything about

Jim's old house under old trees — even the outside stairs that were so slippery in winter. I loved that Sammy was still allowed in the house despite his depredations. I loved the Christmas decorations of a few silver balls strewn over a glass pane laid across two cinder blocks. In my parents' house, Christmas ornaments were hung under my mother's rigid direction, each strand of tinsel draped, not tossed. For me, the scattered silver balls represented joy, freedom, an openness to beauty everywhere. They meant welcome.

Jim created communities, main-



"She's an unwavering apparition/with generous
Charles Lewis, "Urban Madonna."

Prose/third place

A symbol of art

BY JOE WALKER

I never knew it could be so hard to distinguish tears of joy from tears of sorrow. When faced with this discerning challenge, I wanted so badly to turn to someone, anyone, for an answer.

But I couldn't because I was alone in an uncomfortable, unprecedented silence, staring directly at the Michigan State Capitol through welling eyes.

The city of Lansing was abandoned due to the COVID-19 lockdown of 2020. There wasn't even one other car on the road as I made my way to 100 N Capitol Ave. on a cool, cloudy spring day. The outdoor conditions were non-threatening. My internal weather, however, was a severe emotional thunderstorm.

A couple days prior, I learned that one of my best friends since second grade, Arthur McLeod, had suddenly and shockingly, passed away.

When Art and I were fourth graders, we became the only two students in our entire school district to get perfect scores on the MEAP (Michigan

Education Assessment Program) test. It was such a remarkable achievement that we were invited to the Capitol to be congratulated by the governor! Art and I were so excited to share this moment together; unfortunately, I caught the flu and had to stay home.

My mother made the trip on my behalf. When she returned home, she handed me a certificate of merit and a picture she'd taken. Weak but happy, I stared at the black and white still of the governor, a couple of representatives, our school principal, my mother, and Art.

That colorless Kodak moment flashed before my eyes like lightning as I stood alone in front of the abandoned Capitol. My pupils were on fire and the flood inside them wasn't helping.

As the storm subsided and the flood calmed, I was able to take in the beauty of this magnificent building. Without visual obstruction or bustling public distraction, I marveled at the monumental structure built by Elijah E. Myers. As I wiped my eyes and smiled, I never knew it could be so hard to distinguish tears of joy from tears of sorrow. Yet, it was clear the Michigan State Capitol was a symbol of Art.

y through celebrations. Our motley group of students, artists and workers gathered for parties he called Tube hours (a reference to reefers and perhaps something more ...) We smoked weed and sometimes did mushrooms as Pink Floyd exhorted us crazy diamonds to shine on. I looked at the posters of Patti Smith and David Bowie, tried to read their faraway gazes and poised hands, and wondered what message they might hold for me. The guys would spend days on role-playing games like Consensus or Risk. I was too earnest for games, but would pick

up an acid “trip book” — line drawings, lines of insight, the occasional reminder that I could always, if I chose, see the whole thing as a “Cosmic Joke.” Once, Jim passed me as I was staring into space, observed that I had “littleorphanannieeyes.” But his house was a safe place for waifs and strays.

In the summer I worked alongside Jim at a group home for adults with mental disabilities. Breaking away from the regular staff (aka “House Mothers”), we took the residents kite-flying, organized a new-wave dance. After a visit to the State Fair,

a middle-aged resident sketched a field of ovals. “What’s that, Charlie?” asked Jim. “A picture of all the people whose faces you’ve forgotten?” He was sharing, I think, the universal human dread of oblivion.

In 1981, I left for California and then for Europe. Jim sprouted a lumberjack beard and moved Up North. He grew leaner, changed his name to Moksha and finally disappeared altogether. Remembering him, I see Charlie’s page of faces, filled in and shining like silver ornaments. Each seen, named, valued: as I was. None forgotten.

Prose/second place

Sweet & Vulnerable Earth-Loving Neighborhood in Covid Times

By SALLY BURNS

I live half a football field from Michigan Avenue. It’s the pathway to the Capitol, home of the biggest hospital complex, with a cancer ward for my partner and a heart institute for my sister. Signs proclaim: “Thank You for Your Hard Work.”

I live in a neighborhood of immigrants and grad students, beauticians and restaurant workers, lefties and queers like me. We have cheap houses and pubs. It’s home, perhaps the only place around where I can be myself and raise a messy garden, and there is a Tardis food pantry outside our local bookstore.

It is April 2020. Trump is up for reelection, and we are locked down due to Covid. Working from home, I hear a commotion and am propelled outside. Other years, I’ve cheered Take Back the Night Marches, but today I see a huge caravan with giant Trump flags, Confederate flags, Don’t Tread on Me flags. I don’t see guns, but my skin prickles.

They come from all over, militia men and partisans, with their red, white and blue. Pickup trucks flood the streets for hours, miles up and down Michigan Avenue. They block the end of my street and the streets before and after mine. They block the hospital.

Another woman comes out her door and we walk to Michigan Avenue to flip them off.

Growing in the neighborhood are chickens, and organic farms. We have tiny yards, 33 feet wide, 130 feet deep. Some older, run-down houses have been knocked down; people are raising kale and chard and tomatoes and all that. Dozens of plots are nourishing us. A neighbor picks up compostables on his bicycle and replenishes the earth. Seaweed dragged from a nearby lake makes great fertilizer, and vast areas near the freeway are going wild. It might seem we are living in ecotopia.

But what if the invaders came back, with their AR15s and orders to clamp down, enforce white supremacy and straight 1950’s values?

What will happen to the two gay couples and the woman of color who joined me in silent defiance? The single white woman who is raising a child? My boomer neighbor who marched against the Vietnam war in the 60’s and still holds the faith? The Chinese immigrant who is rehabbing the house next door? The Hispanic man in grad school, or the black guys and white guys who didn’t know each other, but are happily renting next door? My red-haired neighbor who cohabits with her Greek boyfriend?

Our sweet, earth-loving neighborhood would not go easily.

Poetry/third place

Urban Madonna

By CHARLES LEWIS

—for Jonpaul Smith’s sculpture of the Virgin Mary on Coolidge Rd

She’s a splotchy Virgin
with the spent spray paint
of her anonymous violators.

She stands always erect
surrounded by an inverted halo
of dull asphalt and cement,

in a patch of burnt grass
and a few thriving weeds.
She’s an unwavering apparition

with generous hands outstretched,
and a serene face
that looks upon but not down on

the fummy rush of traffic
ignorant of or baffled by
her incongruous and anachronistic

love.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

“her hands outstretched” —



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

“I was alone in an uncomfortable, unprecedented silence, staring directly at the Michigan State Capitol through welling eyes.” — Joe Walker, “A Symbol of Art.”



Voting is open at lansingcitypulse.com!



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

"Julia is someone who gets shit done" — Lysne Tait, "Julia Miller"

Prose/honorable mention

Julia Miller

By LYSNETAIT

Julia Miller looks like an anarchist: tight red plaid pants with straps hanging down, black zippers in strange places, and a black Misfits t-shirt with the neck cut out. Her hair could be black, with red, or pink, or green tips, and is usually tucked up under a black hat. She wears brightly-colored eyeshadow under owlish glasses, and her lipstick is always perfectly applied, either black or red.

Julia is someone who gets shit done.

In the 90s, she did food distribution to those in need with the group Food Not Bombs, and in 2015, when participation in that group dwindled, she started handing out food and clothing (socks and hats) to the people hanging around the shelter district. She learned about Punks with Lunch (PWL), a national organization that distributed food AND provided harm reduction supplies, and she said "Let's do that!" A former drug user, Julia wanted to help those who were using in a way that she hadn't been helped.

The first PWL distribution was on Thanksgiving Day in 2017. She and her partner handed out sandwiches in a local park. They had a fundraiser and found other groups they could work with to get the unhoused what they needed to survive: Narcan, fentanyl testing strips, needles, food, menstrual supplies, and safe sex kits. And they kept making sandwiches.

This went on for a few months, and then the City stepped in and shut them down, stating food safety concerns and a lack of permits. The people were still hungry, and cold. So, Julia looked into commercial kitchens that would let her make sandwiches in their spaces for free. More people started helping, permits were pulled, and the hungry people were fed.

Prose/Honorable mention

Curious Bookshop

By LUCAS WAYNE ZEIGLER

"City of a Thousand Suns," Samuel R. Delany, 1965 ... "City of Illusions," Ursula K. Le Guin, 1967 ... "City," Clifford D. Simak, 1952.

I like to think I have a good instinct for this — brevity usually speaks of confidence — so "City" is the one I pull off the shelf. The pages have ripened to a caramel tan, and the front cover is bruised and tattered, though the art hasn't lost its magic—a human figure seen in profile from the shoulders up, its green metal face framed by a space helmet. The helmet's round silhouette is a frame through which beckons a gallery of worlds: a twilight house surrounded by the veiny branches of dead trees; a colony of gargantuan ants; a shaggy black dog exhaling a pearl necklace of alien planets. A golden sticker on the back cover:

Winner of the HUGO AWARD for Science Fiction.

Never heard of it. I'm sold. But may as well clear it with the committee first.

Through the cinnamon-smelling alleys of high bookshelves, past uncountable sci-fi pulps, nonfictions, conspiracy theories, philosophical tomes, and ephemeral worlds all dissolving into sawdust at a geological pace (you can hear it if you strain your ears), I reach the front desk, where the orange lamp glow gives way to white summer light from the front windows. "Heard of this guy?" I hand City to the clerk over the counter. His answer is immediate.

"Oh yeah, Simak. He's got some great imaginative settings but his plotting isn't very good. There's this one called 'Cemetery World' where



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

"The Curious Bookshop is low and narrow, squashed between the higher, newer places" — Lucas Wayne Zeigler, "Curious Bookshop"

Earth is a giant graveyard for interstellar travelers to have the honor of being buried in, and the only things living there are the maintenance robots until a ship crash-lands and the people inside have to find a way off the planet, and then nothing interesting happens."

He meets my eyes as I take the book back, the shadow of a grin on his face. "But this one's probably his best."

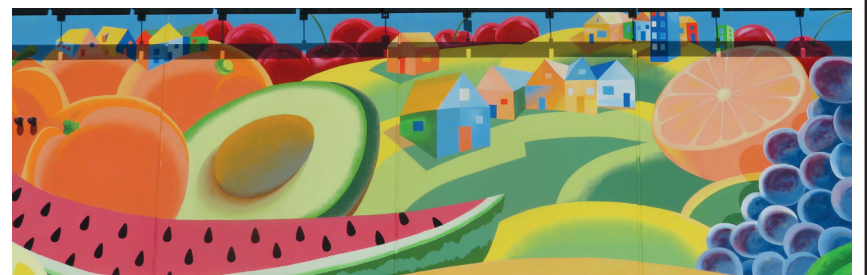
From outside, the Curious Bookshop is low and narrow, squashed between the higher, newer places, like an attic shoebox shoved there in haste and forgotten. I turn away from the sun and hold the book up to the light. The clerk takes a phone call, and for one serendipitous instant, his silhouette aligns perfectly with the spaceman on the cover. Bookkeeper, gravetender, committee of one, with words and worlds alive inside his head.

Poetry/Honorable mention

In Celebration of Our Neighborhood Market

By DANITA BRANDT

Avocados, artichokes, asparagus, apples, basil, bisque, broccoli, bread, beets, bananas, beans, bell peppers, butter, carrots, cabbage, coffee, chicken, chai, cookies, cauliflower, couscous, chili, corn, cucumbers, celery, chocolate, cheese, Danishes, donuts, downtown, eggs, eggplant, flour,



Lawrence Cosentino, City Pulse

"watermelon, wine, wraps, walking distance, yeast, yogurt, yams, yummy" — Danita Brandt, "In Celebration of our Neighborhood Market"

feta, fennel, fresh, friendly, floor-to-ceiling, garlic, green onions, grapes, ginger, grapefruit, guacamole; herbs, heirloom tomatoes, honey, hummus, iceberg lettuce, jam, kombucha, kiwi, kale, lentils, lettuce, lemons, limes, milk, mushrooms, melons, mozzarella, nectarines, nuts, onion, olives, oranges, oil, potatoes, pasta, peaches,

pears, panini press, peanut butter, pita chips, quinoa, romaine, radishes, rice, sandwiches, soups, squash, sprouts, tiramisu, tortilla chips, unusual, unique, udon, vine-ripened tomatoes, vinaigrette, vegan, watermelon, wraps, wine, walking distance, yeast, yogurt, yams, yummy, zucchini, ziti

Poetry/Honorable mention

Old Town Jazz Fest

By RYAN APPLE

Save the Bach Fest for winter,
when the icy harpsichord swirls
its counterpoint round your ears,
each note precise as a snowflake.

But now, in Lansing's sultry August air,
corner of Turner and Cesar Chavez,
improvisation's the rule
and fluidity the strong suggestion.

I once saw a trumpeter pause

mid-phrase, brush off a bee,
then pick up again with
a zig-zagging line.

I've stood 30 feet from Stanley Jordan
as he played the keys with his right hand,
electric guitar with his left,
then swapped his hands halfway through the set.

Tonight, a street artist is drenching
the brushes, daubing the paint,
and letting the shades
all lazily melt together.

Just watch as we all slip into the canvas
while one piquant chord slides into the next
and one gorgeous star in a layered skirt
achingly saunters down our horizon.

Authors explore 'Dockporter' protagonist's past

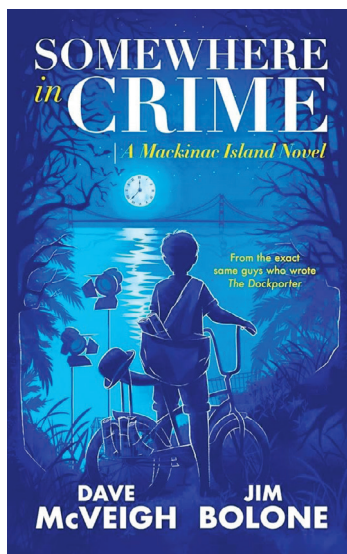
By **BILL CASTANIER**

Dave McVeigh and Jim Bolone, authors of the widely popular 2021 novel "The Dockporter," have penned an excellent prequel adventure, "Somewhere in Crime," involving Michigan's idyllic Mackinac Island, the cult film "Somewhere in Time," a cold-case murder and a young boy's coming of age.

"The Dockporter," set in 1999, follows the wild adventures of the men who transport luggage from ferry boats to hotels on Mackinac Island. "Somewhere in Crime" starts out 10 years later. Protagonist Jack McGuinn returns to the island with his spouse and two children for a vacation, shocking them with a story about how in 1979, he solved a murder that had occurred 20 years earlier on the island.

McGuinn takes his kids back in time to when the film "Somewhere in Time," starring the late Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour, was filmed on the island. McGuinn, then 11, was delivering newspapers to island cottages.

In the flashback, McGuinn is spending the summer on the island with his parents, who are going through some tough times. He decides to throw himself into solving a 20-year-old murder to collect a long-standing reward, hoping to send his parents on a romantic trip to patch up their marriage.



When the movie makers arrive in town, McGuinn gets to work putting together some long-lost clues, which he hopes will solve the murder. He joins forces with the daughter of one of the film's producers, along with an odd fellow who takes tickets at a haunted theater downtown. Of course, some ugly and sometimes humorous situations muck up the works.

Although the book is peppered with film stories, the movie only serves as a backdrop to this "Hardy Boys"-esque young-adult novel, which the authors say is rated PG-13, probably for language.

"I have to take credit for the title and the idea of using the filming of the movie as the setting. We had some ideas, but the film seemed to be the obvious one," McVeigh said. "I was there the whole summer of 1979, and we knew it would be a blast telling the story. I followed the movie crew around like a puppy dog. Reeve was a huge star coming off 'Superman,' and Seymour was a Bond girl."

Bolone said, "It was pretty easy writing the book, although the revisions and the editing were tedious. After all, we already knew a lot about the island, so we didn't have to fact-check that."

McVeigh agreed, "When Jack is standing at a spot speaking, we know exactly what he is looking at when he turns his head left. You are in his head."

McVeigh acknowledged that the book's strongest influence was "The Hardy Boys" series.

"I was a 'Hardy Boys' fanatic," he said.

The book may have a young-adult overtone, but it's a fun read for all ages and genders. McGuinn's summer friend is a sassy teenager, adding a humorous presence that keeps the book moving forward. And his rough-hewn, long-haired friend Blaze, the ticket taker, is a mysterious addition who adds an edge that will keep even the keenest mystery readers wondering what's going on.

McVeigh said one of the challenges of the book was to weave in the subplots of the movie-making, family drama and murder mystery without making the book "too busy."

"Of course, we made up scenes and dialogue about the filming of the movie that never happened, he said. "We did stay away from an actual murder that had occurred on the island, and the complete book, except for the setting, is fictitious."

Each fall, at the end of the tourism season, Mackinac Island hosts a "Somewhere in Time" weekend that takes guests back in time more than 100 years and includes special events where guests dress up and party like it's 1912. This year, it's set for Oct. 27 through 29. Seymour has re-



Courtesy photo

Dave McVeigh (left) and Jim Bolone, authors of the widely popular 2021 novel "The Dockporter," have penned a prequel adventure, "Somewhere in Crime," in which protagonist Jack McGuinn tells his family about the time he solved a cold-case murder on Mackinac Island.

turned for the weekend extravaganza a couple of times and still loves the island's atmosphere, which she has referred to as "pixie dust."

This year, Bolone will be hawking his and Dave's excellent adventure to the island's guests.

"He'll be one of many in a bowler hat," McVeigh said. Bolone knows it's a long shot, but he hopes he'll be able to sell books on the porch of the Grand Hotel.

ART BY NEVIN

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Old masters of Old Town

MICA exhibit recalls rough-and-ready times on Turner Street

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A lively and varied sampling of art shines from the walls of Old Town's MICA Gallery this month, like shells and stones deposited decades ago by the tide of time, still wet with life from the passionate hands that created them.

"Old Town Founding Artists," on display through the end of September, offers a glimpse of Turner Street's artistic life of 40 and 50 years ago, long before it morphed into a bustling boutique-and-restaurant district where cheap studio space for struggling artists has become a distant memory.

In the late 1970s, the energized 1980s and into the 1990s, a rotating cast of resident artists, free spirits and sympathetic instructors from Michigan State University and Lansing Community College carved garrets, studios and up to half a dozen galleries out of the crumbling brickwork, former cigar factories and rowdy bars of Lansing's oldest district.

"It was pretty much a Wild West show in north Lansing back then," artist Fred Engelgau recalled. "I traveled on the rim of that galaxy."

Engelgau made his way to north Lansing in 1979, when the art scene was beginning to flower amid the ruins. A professional set designer and fine-arts graduate of Eastern Michigan University, he now works as a print-shop technician at Lansing Community College.

"You had the Mustang Bar, the strip club — all the hookers were there, bottles being broken over people's heads all night long," he recalled. "We were in our studio spaces while all this was happening, and it all added to the ambiance. A lot of inspiration came from that, and we all just flourished."

Much of the art in the MICA exhibition comes from the collection of MICA founder and Old Town pioneer Terry Terry.

"You couldn't walk down the street without running into another artist and talking about art," Terry said. "It's gentrified now, but back then, nobody was here, studio space was cheap, and artists could hang out and influence each other."

About half the exhibit is devoted to the work of the late Barbara Morris, a



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The late John Domanski had several studios in Old Town in the 1980s and worked with a variety of mediums, from acrylic paint to metalwork.

free and talented spirit who explored many different mediums and was the subject of a fascinating full-career retrospective at Lansing's Casa de Rosado gallery in June.

Morris, who died in 2020, was a co-founder of the now-defunct Two Doors Down gallery alongside the late Old Town pioneer Robert Busby, the late Lansing Community College instructor Dave Kleis and other artists. In the 1980s and 90s, she painted her artwork in a second-floor apartment in Old Town.

Morris and Engelgau were close friends.

"It was a great time," Engelgau said. "I got into the theater scene and met Terry and Buzz (Busby) and Barb Morris and everybody. It was a swinging community, arts-wise, back then."

Morris worked several jobs in the Lansing area, including at Dart Container, where she designed cups and other products, but she poured her heart into her art.

Her work focused on human faces and bodies, intensely observed and rendered in colorful and unexpected mediums and styles. It was always on the money, artistically and emotionally.

"She was a great artist, fluent and articulate," Engelgau said. "Her art was vibrant, sometimes shocking and, most of the time, excellent."

Morris, alongside Terry, also co-founded two now-defunct galleries on Turner Street: the 1984 Gallery, where MessageMakers resides, and the Otherwise Gallery.

A highlight of the exhibit is the



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Thickly applied impasto formed two bovine blobs in the hands of the late Jane McChesney, an art instructor at Lansing Community College who supported the Old Town art scene in the 1980s.

eye-burning, drolly funny work of the late John Domanski, who had several studios in Old Town and died in 2008.

"His art was out there, like the Chicago artists of the period, and he was out there, too," Engelgau said. "He was quite vocal and well respected."

The yellow, rippling figure of a dog who looks as if he's being electrocuted and a purple portrait of a corporate-looking Mr. Potato Head offer a vivid contrast to the pensive, realistic portraits of the late Robert Weil, a trailblazing African American art professor at MSU who worked to expand access to the arts in the 1970s and 1980s and was a driving force in the Old Town arts community. Weil died in 1997.

The exhibit also includes two moody photographs taken by the late Sam Mills, known mostly as a poet. Mills helped launch the "Burning Desires" poetry series, an annual afternoon of love poetry held around Valentine's Day that's still going strong in Old Town.

The bubbly stripes, color fields and zig-zag patterns of the late Bob Sealock's art symbolically trace paths of memory and life experience. Steeped in a variety of artistic traditions from around the world, from ancient cave paintings to modernist abstraction, Sealock created images that recall the baskets, quilts and ceramics of Australian Aboriginal and Native American cultures.

A handful of canvases are glazed with the colorful, creamy, almost edible abstract icing of the late MSU art professor Clif McChesney. McChesney, who died in 2011, studied art at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. His work has been shown across the United States



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The late Barbara Morris' art takes up the lion's share of a retrospective of deceased Old Town artists at the MICA Gallery.

and is well known in Japan, but he was also an enthusiastic supporter of Old Town's art scene.

A pair of bovine blobs occupies one of two nearby canvases by McChesney's late wife, Jane, who taught at Lansing Community College and died in 2017.

Terry said he's working with Busby's daughter, Ena, to bring some of her father's uniquely personal art to the exhibit as well. Busby owned Two Doors Down and its successor, the Creole Gallery, and he's widely recognized as the guiding light of Old Town's artistic renaissance. Busby painted, sculpted and created dioramas of found objects, including his own hair.

The MICA display is a tantalizing sample, but the halcyon heyday of Old Town art — the charged collision of trained MSU and LCC artists, alongside assorted free spirits, in a uniquely dystopian yet supportive and free space — cries out for a more in-depth, deeply researched retrospective. It would make a fascinating book-length study.

"That would be stunning, especially if the book were black and white," Engelgau said. "It was highly emotional, a wild time. The artists there were just like the atmosphere. We had carte blanche to do what we wanted, and we felt like we fit in."

"Old Town Founding Artists"

Through Sept. 30
MICA Gallery
1210 Turner Road,
Lansing
517-371-4600
micharts.org

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

In the Matter of: Frost Drain

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Paulette Hatchett, Mary Pollock, Dennis Williams, and Jennie Nerkowski (Alternate), will meet on **Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Wheatfield Township Hall, 985 E. Holt Road, Williamston, MI 48895**, to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated June 26, 2023, for the maintenance and improvement of the Frost Drain, located and established in Wheatfield Township and the City of Williamston, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. You are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days after the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner, or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: September 14, 2023

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Phone: (517) 676-8395

CP#23-247

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from David Bueche for the property located at 446 Grove Street, to install outdoor ducting associated with furnace replacement.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from John Rose for the property located at 221 University Street, to replace sixteen existing wooden windows with vinyl replacement windows with aluminum finishes.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from Jon Wilcox, for the property at 525 Dorothy Lane, to replace front stoop and steps.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from Bob Martinez, for the property at 501 Hillcrest Avenue, to replace existing windows. This application was previously scheduled for the September 14, 2023 meeting but was withdrawn and rescheduled at the applicant's request.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date.

For more information on the request please contact Landon Bartley at (517) 319-6910 or lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhistoricdistricts@cityofeastlansing.com.

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 Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at rdurdial@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 E. Wicks
City Clerk

Dated: September 14, 2023
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#23-248

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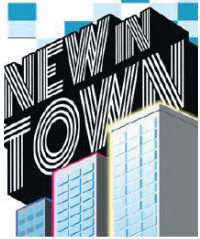
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Tiny Bit of Wood hopes to make a big impact



Tiny Bit of Wood

507 E. Shiawassee St.,
Lansing
Opening this fall —
visit [facebook.com/
tinybitofwood](https://facebook.com/tinybitofwood) or
tinybitofwood.com
for updates

By **LUCAS HENKEL**

Growing up, Megan Shannon always had a passion for art. She tried different mediums but never found one that stuck until about a decade ago, when she built a sewing table for her mother. That project was the genesis of Tiny Bit of Wood, Shannon's woodworking business that's set to open a brick-and-mortar storefront and workshop at 507 E. Shiawassee St., previously the location of Riverfront Cycle bike shop, this fall.

"My mom is a short little Italian woman, so she needed a sewing table that worked with her size," Shannon said, laughing as she recalled the table she made out of particle board and dry-wall screws. "It was terrible, but she still has it and refuses to let me fix it."

The sewing table wasn't her favorite piece, but Shannon soon realized that woodworking and creating art with her hands had sparked a deeper interest. In 2012, while working a full-time job as a special-education paraprofessional at Okemos Public Schools, she pieced together a shop of her own, Tiny Bit of Wood, to create wooden pieces that are both sustainable and affordable.

"I work with a lot of tree-trimming companies in the area. If they have any extra wood, I offer to buy it from them,

or they sometimes donate it to me after learning about what I'm doing," Shannon said. However, she produces most of the wood herself by selectively logging trees in the five acres of wood in her backyard. After moving the wood back to her 1,200-square-foot workshop, she mills and dries it. By producing 80% of the wood herself, she's able to offer furniture-making and woodworking classes at an affordable price.

In March 2021, Shannon launched a GoFundMe to start Tiny Bit of School, a program that offers basic woodworking classes to first-generation woodworkers.

"I believe in the empowering and therapeutic nature of working with one's hands," Shannon wrote on Tiny Bit of Wood's website. "That's why it is my mission to create a safe and equitable space where anyone, regardless of their identity, ability or background, can learn woodworking."

In addition to Tiny Bit of School, Shannon has collaborated with Small Talk, a Lansing-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing hope, healing and justice for victims of child sexual abuse and their families.

Once construction is complete, Tiny Bit of Wood's new location will feature a 2,500-square-foot woodworking studio and retail space. I've been enjoying watching Shannon excitedly build wheelchair-accessible workbenches and set up a variety of sit-down power tools and other accessible and inclusive workstations for her future students. Tiny Bit of Wood's new space will also include another 1,000 square feet of storage space for students who need to store



Courtesy photo

Megan Shannon, owner of local woodworking business Tiny Bit of Wood, is set to open a brick-and-mortar location on East Shiawassee Street this fall.

their projects.

With a larger studio space, Shannon hopes to expand her current lineup of woodworking, tool safety and restoration classes. When discussing the cost of classes, Shannon said, "I don't want any barriers — there's a disgusting amount of wealth and inequality every-

where." Tiny Bit of Wood will offer sliding-scale payment options for classes and will have scholarships available for those who need extra financial help.

To stay up to date on the opening of Tiny Bit of Wood, follow the business at facebook.com/tinybitofwood or visit its website, tinybitofwood.com.

Ingham County Animal Shelter

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

Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.



Radcliffe came to the shelter with his sister Lilith Fair when their owner could no longer care for them. They are both very sweet seniors who would love to be adopted together, but it is not required. Radcliffe is morbidly obese and will need a family committed to helping him on his weight loss journey so that he will live a long, healthy life!



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515 Lansing St.



Mothman came to the shelter with several other cats and dogs because they were not being well cared for. They are a little crusty from fleas, and some are missing hair, but all are doing well and are ready to find new homes. Mothman had to have most of his teeth removed and will need wet food but will do well in just about any home! **Sponsored by Schuler Books**



Aye-Aye is a sweet, bouncy mess of a border collie/poodle mix. (Our best guess, but who knows!) He was covered in fleas and missing some hair, but he has the best personality! He'd love an active family with a big yard or one that enjoys long walks. He's about 9 months old, so he'll need someone with the time to train him and keep him busy. **Sponsored by Anne & Dale Schrader**



Lilith Fair is a sweet senior beagle who came to the shelter with her brother Radcliffe when their owner could no longer care for them. Lilith is a typical beagle: friendly, loves to follow her nose, and will sing the song of her people when happy or excited. She's going to be a great little dog for a hound-loving family! **In Memory of Mimi, Sponsored by City Pulse**



Woodstock is a sweet senior front-declawed tabby who was brought to the shelter with an injury to his head. It is healing up nicely, and he's ready to find his new home! He's a friendly, outgoing guy who wants nothing more than for you to give him love and attention. He should do well in just about any ginger-loving home! **Sponsored by Ioana Sonea**

Clarion call

LSO season opener was pure caffeine and sunshine



Photo by Olivia Beebe

Guest soloist Claire Huangci was all smiles after her performance of Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major at Thursday's Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert.

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

There was nothing tentative about the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's 2023-'24 season opener Thursday (Sept. 14). A bulked-up, trimmed-down, energized, REM-sleep-refreshed orchestra and its ramrod-vigorous music director, Timothy Muffitt, left all the settling in and throat clearing to the audience and got right down to carpet-peeling, rafter-rattling business.

The horn section all but stole the show, earning a whooping standing ovation for its efforts. In the evening's closer, Antonin Dvorak's "New World" symphony, they weren't just horns — they were Matterhorns, flawless and forthright, opening up a silvery portal into the infinite and flooding the hall with the aural equivalent of caffeine and sunshine.

The "New World" is a familiar work — and a pretty conservative choice for an orchestral concert in 2023 — but people love it for good reason. But it wasn't enough for Muffitt and the orchestra to merely cover the same old ground. They mounted the old warhorse as if it were Bucephalus and rode forth strictly to conquer like Alexander the Great.

It felt as if Muffitt was daring the audience to relax, thinking that they

knew the music already — the better to open the trap door and remind everyone of its sonic power and emotional impact. The "New World" is famous for its use of folk-inspired material, but it's not folksy. Thursday's performance exposed the steely superstructure that supports the symphony and gave full scope to its stormy, minor-key paroxysms and cataclysms.

It doesn't hurt that in his 13th season as music director, Muffitt is still incapable of phoning in a sandwich order, let alone an orchestral performance. Appearing more eager than ever to make the case, not just for this symphony but for orchestral music in general, he pushed, pulled, prodded and pirouetted to get the maximum out of every section and soloist. In the finale, when all the pterodactyls flew home to roost in a single dinosaur stampede, the maestro sprang two extra limbs and transformed into an arthropod — a six-legged creature, to non-specialists. His top arms exhorted the brass, his middle arms cued the woodwinds, and his bottom arms stirred the violins, cellos and basses. That's what I saw, anyway. Maybe we should call in the military.

The middle work on Thursday's slate, Maurice Ravel's Piano Concerto in G major, was a more subtle

and delicate affair — sort of. Guest piano soloist Claire Huangci and the orchestra deftly navigated the tricky, circus-like first movement, full of brassy sonic tricks and stylistic flip-flops. I don't appreciate it when someone slips a mouse into my boxer shorts, snaps the elastic band in triumph and suddenly turns romantic and serenades me with a love song, but maybe that's just me. In any case, that's nobody's fault but Ravel's, whose unearthly harmonies and

melodies are so divine the rest of the time that we forgive him for the mice in our shorts.

Fortunately, Huangci played with crisp precision and a clear sense of where it all was going, and that made it easier to surrender to the music's twists and turns. She proved a perfect tour guide, exulting in the music but never losing herself completely. She didn't milk the gorgeous and songful slow move-

Review

See Clarion call, Page 26



TOP OF THE TOWN
2023
BEST OF GREATER LANSING





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Off to the races

Riverwalk skewers white privilege in suspenseful black comedy

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

Riverwalk Theatre's 35th season opener had me on the edge of my seat from beginning to end. The 75-minute show galloped through a hilarious, harrowing story of an elite white liberal family's hypocrisy and the incredibly high price of transforming our world for the better.

Originally produced in 2018 in New York City, Joshua Harmon's script won multiple awards, even as national reviewers labeled the show as "aggressively provocative," unacceptable and generally upsetting. After the murder of George Floyd, and in the capable directorial hands of Bob Robinson, I found this production to be an incisive inquiry not only into race and privilege but into the incredible promise and terrifying pitfalls of youth.

The show opens with a metaphor for the larger issue at hand: The admissions catalog for an elite prep

school is not racially diverse enough. Admissions officer Sherri Rosen-Mason (Emily Clark) has spent her career working to increase the percentage of students of color at her school. Her colleague Roberta (Jane Zussman) "doesn't see color," and their funny, offensive and awkward conversation is just the beginning of a show that sparkles with anger and urgency as it reinvents the classic living-room drama for a new generation.



REVIEW

One of the paradoxes of this play is that it poses a serious question about racial representation, but every character is white. That means that the cast grasps at an elephant that never actually enters the room. Far from a failure of the script, this presents a meaningful and unique opportunity to analyze the way white people approach — or run from — racial equity work.

Heath Sartorius shines as young Charlie, the son of two white pro-

gressives who angrily and doggedly tries to make sense of his privileged upbringing and the complex reality of race in the run-up to the 2016 election. His teenaged tirades are, at times, disgusting expressions of white supremacy — I heard more than a few gasps in the audience — but the actor's command of his character's vulnerability and fragility manage to arouse both empathy and fear. He's just a stupid kid, yet he's so dangerous. His character's arc has a surprise twist, and it's one of the most interesting stories I've seen all year.

Charlie's parents, played by Clark and Jeff Kennedy, are the foil to their son's anger in their self-assured, middle-aged comfort. But even their calm confidence begins to crack as they have to face what will become of their only child. Neighbor Ginny Peters (Colleen Bethea) plays the white mother of a biracial son who is Charlie's best friend. Bethea's acting wows as her character goes toe-to-toe with Clark, and the two women show us how and where white people draw lines when it comes to race.

Kudos to Riverwalk for expert production, casting and script selection. I highly recommend you see this show before the theater moves on to the next.

"Admissions"

Sept. 21-24
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive,
Lansing
517-482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. An application from the Lansing Board of Water and Light to rezone 1.029 acres at 683 Stoddard Avenue and two adjoining Burcham Drive vacant parcels from R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential to C, Community Facilities.
2. An application from the Lansing Board of Water and Light for site plan approval to convert the former substation building at 683 Stoddard for purposes of a training facility and associated parking.
3. An application from Mister Car Wash for a site plan and special use permit for the property at 2110 Merritt Road to construct an approximately 6,530 square feet car wash facility with vacuums and associated parking.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact Landon Bartley, the Planning and Zoning Administrator, or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information:

Landon Bartley, Planning and Zoning Administrator
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6910 or lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date.

For more information on the request please contact the Planning and Zoning Administrator, Landon Bartley, at the contact info above. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelplanningcommission@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 Planning, Building and Development Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at rdurdial@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 E. Wicks
City Clerk

Dated: September 14, 2023
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#23-249

Clarion call

from page 25

ment, but she didn't hurry it, either. Her extended slow dance with LSO English horn master Gretchen Morse drifted through the hall like pristine mountain air — or cigarette smoke in a Paris bistro, if that's your preferred milieu for romance.

The "New World" symphony is ready for a long rest, no matter how well it's done, and Ravel is a very old friend, however urbane and stimulating. That left the thrill of hearing something fresh to newly appointed composer-in-residence Jared Miller, and he came through with a wild curtain raiser. "Surge and Swell" felt like getting into an elevator with a maniacal massage therapist whose meds are quickly wearing off — and I mean that in the best possible sense.

It started with a jaunty, twinkly jingle, played mostly by high woodwinds and mallet percussion. The innocuous, lilting figure gradually came unmoored from itself, splitting into syncopated splinters and rousing the rest of the orchestra to come out of hibernation like a wintering bear. Layer by layer, the whole orchestra stirred to life, from timpani

to strings to soaring brass, all to the beat of a bass drum, relentless as the heartbeat of a whale.

Miller is a master of a 21st-century style of orchestral music, with roots in 20th-century minimalism, that bypasses the usual labyrinths of symphonic structure to press directly on the pleasure centers of the brain.

At one point, a three-note chime, similar to the old NBC chime on network TV, took over completely, announcing itself not as a prelude or afterthought to anything else but as a pure wellspring of sonic satisfaction.

If committed conductors like Muffitt are still passionately making the case for orchestral music by keeping classics like the "New World" fresh and alive, composers like Miller are looking for new ways to delight and communicate, using one of the most intricate, powerful and expressive toys in the rusty old box of Western civilization.

One of the handiest things about having a composer in residence is that they give you fresh ways to wake people up with exhilarating works like "Surge and Swell" instead of trotting out the customary bloviating overture. Here's hoping it's the first of many wonders Miller will produce during his two-year appointment with the LSO.

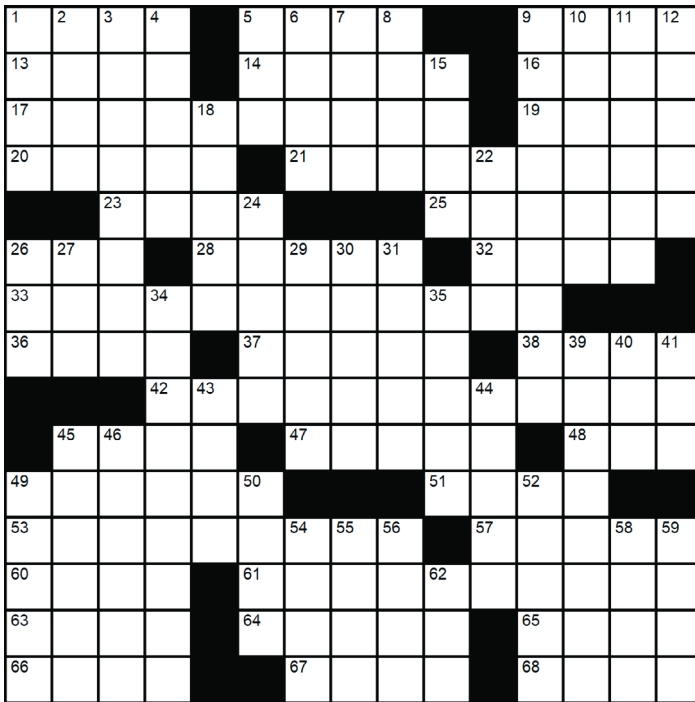
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Do You Mind?"
-- if you were on the
London Underground.
by Matt Jones
© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

1. The work of groan adults?
5. "Futurama" co-creator Groening
9. Actor B.D. of "Law & Order: SVU"
13. "Need ___?" (possible truck service tagline)
14. Push rudely
16. Food Network initialism
17. Bumble and Hinge, e.g.
19. "___ la vie!"
20. "Princess of Power" of Saturday mornings
21. Stereotypical event for fraternities in movies
23. Substack offering, maybe
25. Northwest Mexican state
26. Abbr. in a military address
28. Castle protectors
32. "Dang it!"
33. Fruit suitable for making pies (rather than, say, a Red Delicious)
36. Type of bar with mai tais
37. Finland-based communications company
38. French silk city
42. Ripping to shreds
45. On the ocean
47. Braying equines
48. "Go, team!"
49. Putin predecessor Medvedev
51. Slide on something slippery
53. Apparel for striking poses?



57. Come after
 60. ___-Lenape (Delaware tribe)
 61. Small spaces between areas, or what's represented in the long entries
 63. The Weeknd, a.k.a. ___ Tesfaye
 64. California berry farm founder
 65. Yale students
 66. Washington, D.C., baseball team, familiarly
 67. Art sch. study
 68. "Divorce Capital of the World," once
- DOWN
1. Launching platforms
 2. "Spiral Jetty" state
 3. Small laptop
 4. Soft serve machine option
 5. Food additive initials
 6. At the drop of ___
 7. ___ Chico ("Agua Mineral" brand)
 8. "Young Sheldon" rating
 9. Ad tagline for the frustrated and confused
 10. Put one ___ (fool)
 11. ___ account (term for a bank's holding at a different bank)
 12. "Now I understand"
 15. Those things, in Spanish
 18. Actress Watts
 22. Table game
 24. "Haters ___ hate"
 26. Several scenes, sometimes
 27. Luau dish
 29. Ancient Greek gathering spot
 30. Chips brand with a "Blue Heat" flavor
 31. "Press Your Luck" turns
 34. Attachments for a seaside hobby, perhaps
 35. Volume count
 39. Rummage event
 40. Singer Rita
 41. Furthest degree
 43. Wild West Wyatt
 44. Lopsided
 45. One-celled protozoan
 46. Official seal
 49. "Blowin' in the Wind" singer
 50. American, in England
 52. Actress Stevens of '60s TV
 54. Mom's mom, in some places
 55. Sci-fi movie with a "Legacy" sequel
 56. Mle., in Monterrey
 58. ___ arms
 59. Old U.S. gas brand
 62. Mel of baseball

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

September 20-26, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Author Diane Ackerman says it's inevitable that each of us sometimes "looks clumsy or gets dirty or asks stupid questions or reveals our ignorance or says the wrong thing." Knowing how often I do those things, I'm extremely tolerant of everyone I meet. I'm compassionate, not judgmental, when I see people who "try too hard, are awkward, care for one another too deeply or are too open to experience." I commit such acts, so I'd be foolish to criticize them in others. During the coming weeks, Aries, you will generate good fortune for yourself if you suspend all disparagement. Yes, be accepting, tolerant and forgiving — but go even further. Be downright welcoming and amiable. Love the human comedy exactly as it is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus comedian Kevin James confesses, "I discovered I scream the same way whether I'm about to be devoured by a great white shark or if a piece of seaweed touches my foot." Many of us could make a similar admission. The good news, Taurus, is that your anxieties in the coming weeks will be the "piece of seaweed" variety, not the great white shark. Go ahead and scream if you need to — hey, we all need to unleash a boisterous yelp or howl now and then — but then relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Here are famous people with whom I have had personal connections: actor Marisa Tomei, rockstar Courtney Love, filmmaker Miranda July, playwright David Mamet, actor William Macy, philosopher Robert Anton Wilson, rockstar Paul Kantor, rock impresario Bill Graham and author Clare Cavanagh. What? You've never heard of Clare Cavanagh? She is the brilliant and renowned translator of Nobel Prize Laureate poet Wisława Szymborska and the authorized biographer of Nobel Prize Laureate author Czesław Miłosz. As much as I appreciate the other celebrities I named, I am most enamored of Cavanagh's work. As a Gemini, she expresses your sign's highest potential: the ability to wield beautiful language to communicate soulful truths. I suggest you make her your inspirational role model for now. It's time to dazzle and persuade and entertain and beguile with your words.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I cheer you on when you identify what you want. I exult when you devise smart plans to seek what you want, and I celebrate when you go off in high spirits to obtain and enjoy what you want. I am gleeful when you aggressively create the life you envision for yourself, and I do everything in my power to help you manifest it. But now and then, like now, I share Cancerian author Franz Kafka's perspective. He said this: "You do not need to leave your room. Remain sitting at your table and listen. Do not even listen, simply wait. Do not even wait, be quite still and solitary. The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked. It has no choice. It will roll in ecstasy at your feet."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Let's talk about changing your mind. In some quarters, that's seen as weak, even embarrassing. But I regard it as a noble necessity, and I recommend you consider it in the near future. Here are four guiding thoughts. 1. "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." —George Bernard Shaw. 2. "Only the strongest people have the pluck to change their minds, and say so, if they see they have been wrong in their ideas." —Enid Blyton. 3. "Sometimes, being true to yourself means changing your mind. Self changes, and you follow." —Vera Nazarian. 4. "The willingness to change one's mind in the light of new evidence is a sign of rationality, not weakness." Stuart Sutherland.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "The soul moves in circles," psychologist James Hillman told us. "Hence our lives are not moving straight ahead; instead, hovering, wavering, returning, renewing, repeating." In recent months, Virgo, your soul's destiny has been intensely characterized by swerves and swoops. And I believe the rollicking

motion will continue for many months. Is that bad or good? Mostly good — especially if you welcome its poetry and beauty. The more you learn to love the spiral dance, the more delightful the dance will be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you have ever contemplated launching a career as a spy, the coming months will be a favorable time to do so. Likewise if you have considered getting trained as a detective, investigative journalist, scientific researcher or private eye. Your affinity for getting to the bottom of the truth will be at a peak, and so will your discerning curiosity. You will be able to dig up secrets no one else has discovered. You will have an extraordinary knack for homing in on the heart of every matter. Start now to make maximum use of your superpowers!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Have you been sensing a phantom itch that's impossible to scratch? Are you feeling less like your real self lately and more like an AI version of yourself? Has your heart been experiencing a prickly tickle? If so, I advise you not to worry. These phenomena have a different meaning from the implications you may fear. I suspect they are signs you will soon undertake the equivalent of what snakes do: molting their skins to make way for a fresh layer. This is a good thing! Afterward, you will feel fresh and new.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): According to legend, fifth-century Pope Leo I convinced the conquering army of Attila the Hun to refrain from launching a full-scale invasion of Italy. There may have been other reasons in addition to Leo's persuasiveness. For example, some evidence suggests Attila's troops were superstitious because a previous marauder died soon after attacking Rome. But historians agree that Pope Leo was a potent leader whose words carried great authority. You, Sagittarius, won't need to be quite as fervently compelling as the ancient Pope in the coming weeks. But you will have an enhanced ability to influence and entice people. I hope you use your powers for good!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Singer-songwriter Joan Baez has the longevity and endurance typical of many Capricorns. Her last album in 2018 was released 59 years after her career began. An article in The New Yorker describes her style as "elegant and fierce, defiant and maternal." It also noted that though she is mostly retired from music, she is "making poignant and unpredictable art," creating weird, hilarious line drawings with her non-dominant hand. I propose we make Baez your inspirational role model. May she inspire you to be elegant and fierce, bold and compassionate, as you deepen and refine your excellence in the work you've been tenaciously plying for a long time. For extra credit, add some unexpected new flair to your game.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian author and activist Mary Frances Berry has won numerous awards for her service on behalf of racial justice. One accomplishment: She was instrumental in raising global awareness of South Africa's apartheid system, helping to end its gross injustice. "The time when you need to do something," she writes, "is when no one else is willing to do it, when people are saying it can't be done." You are now in a phase when that motto will serve you well, Aquarius.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I invite you to spend quality time gazing into the darkness. I mean that literally and figuratively. Get started by turning off the lights at night and staring, with your eyes open, into the space in front of you. After a while, you may see flashes of light. While these might be your optical nerves trying to fill in the blanks, they could also be bright spirit messages arriving from out of the void. Something similar could happen on a metaphorical level, too. As you explore parts of your psyche and your life that are opaque and unknown, you will be visited by luminous revelations.

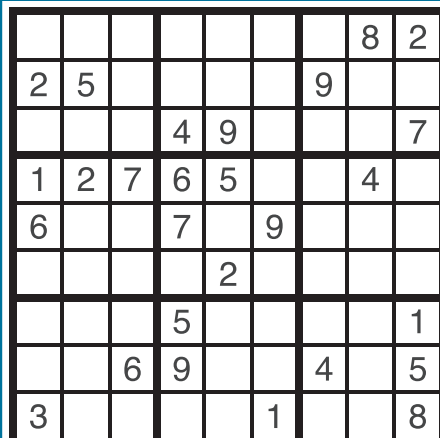
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

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Answers on page 30

SUDOKU

Intermediate



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Sept. 20

"A Course of Love" Book Study, Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Bookend Art Gallery Display by Raechel Decker - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Anti-Violence Initiative - Seven-week program for teens ages who have faced violence or bullying due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. 4-5:30 p.m. Salus Center, 408 S. Washington Square, Lansing. saluscenter.org/programs/calendar.

BTBL Library Services for Print Disabilities - Learn how individuals who can't comfortably read print materials can access audio and Braille books. Registration req. 1 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. 517-669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

Cars & Coney - Bring your classic car, grab a coney dog and enjoy the company of others who love cars. 5:30-8 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-372-0529. reoldsmuseum.org.

Darin Lerner, Jr. at the Graduate Rock Bar - 8 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

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

"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.

Friends of the Lansing Regional Trails Annual Meeting - Presentations on regional trail projects, both current and upcoming. 5:30 p.m. Grand Trunk Railroad Depot, 1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lansingtrails.org.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

It's Elementary - Discover science in the world around you with experiments, crafts, activities and more. Grades 3-6. Registration req. 2:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jumbo Board Games - Play your favorite games in giant mode! Grades 4-12. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Live Performance and Artist Talk - Artist Andrea Canepa and a group of dancers explore the exhibition "As we dwell in the fold." 6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-

884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

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.

Open Mic, hosted by Rick Hansel - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians of all ages. Doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Switch Gaming: "Mario Party" and 3D Printing Demo - Learn about 3D printing from local business Layered. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

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

Wednesday Night Free Concerts - Tony Thompson & Friends - 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. meridian.mi.us/calendar.

Wheel of the Year: Mabon & Mystery - 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.

"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Thursday, Sept. 21

2023 MI Open Horse Show Championships - 11 a.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. mohsc.com.

"A Course in Miracles," Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Aaron Johnson at Old Bag of Nails Pub - 6 p.m. 210 Cascade Blvd., Lansing. 517-826-6266. facebook.com/oldbagofnails Lansing.

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Bath Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. 517-641-6728. shopbfm.org.

Bookend Art Gallery Display by Raechel Decker - Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Darin Lerner Jr. at Cleats Bar & Grille - 6 p.m. 5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. 517-574-4008. cleatsbarandgrille.com.

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

Eloquents Toastmasters Weekly Meeting - Safe and positive environment to practice public

MSU Wind Symphony

Sunday, Sept. 24

3 p.m.

Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

The Michigan State University College of Music will kick off its 2023-'24 band concert series with a performance by the Wind Symphony 3 p.m. Sunday at the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall. The symphony will be accompanied by featured guests Doreen Ketchens, a New Orleans-based jazz clarinetist, and Gwendolyn Dease, an award-winning chamber musician and MSU professor of percussion.

Ketchens, alongside the ensemble, will perform works including "What a Wonderful World," by George David Weiss; "When the Saints Go Marching In," by James M. Black; and the traditional folk song "House of the Rising Sun."

Dease will aid the ensemble in performing "Touch and Go: Concerto for Percussion and Wind Ensemble," by Paul Lansky.

In addition, the symphony will also perform "Fanfare," by Arthur Wang; "Manifestos," by Paul Dooley; and "Tango Oscuro," by Kevin Day, which was composed in just five days and depicts a dark, wild, passionate dance between two lovers.

"We have loved working with faculty artist Gwen Dease, and welcoming Doreen Ketchens to the stage will be a treat for both student performers and audience members. She is energetic, fun and a fantastic clarinetist," said Kevin Sedatole, MSU's director of bands.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors 60 and older and free for students and those under 18. They can be purchased at the door, at music.msu.edu or by calling 517-353-5340.



speaking and leadership skills. 6:30 p.m. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. eloquents.toastmastersclubs.org.

Fused-Glass Plate-Making Workshop - 6-8 p.m. Art Unlimited, 4692 Okemos Road, Okemos. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Higher Ground Enrichment Time - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

Jazz/Hip Hop II Class - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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

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.

LEGO Palooza - Each child will get a tray of LEGO bricks to build their most fantastic creation! 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District

Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Organic Yoga with Maja McKeever - 6 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

REACH Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People - 4 p.m. Zoom meeting ID: 828 0808 9879. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Repurpose Your Old Computer - Discover the ways you can reuse your older computer. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

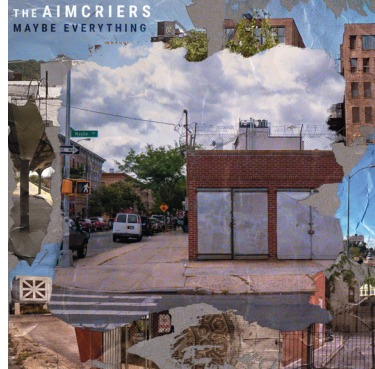
"Searching for Peace" - William A. Root, a 100-year-old Navy veteran, former U.S. State Department diplomat and local activist, will present. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Burcham Hills Retirement Center, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

THE AIMCRIERS DELIVERS 'MAYBE EVERYTHING'



Courtesy photos

The Aimcriers will perform its new record, "Maybe Everything," Sept. 30 at Flat, Black and Circular in East Lansing.

Grand Ledge band returns with dynamic new LP

On its new 10-song album, The Aimcriers delivers another dynamic blast of classic-country-tinged, storytelling rock 'n roll. The LP, "Maybe Everything," issued by Bijilak Records, was released Tuesday (Sept. 19) on CD and across streaming platforms. Guitarist and vocalist Johnny Aimcrier chatted with City Pulse about the new record. The disc features guest spots by Tim Layman, pedal-steel master Drew Howard and members of local out-

fits like the Stick Arounds and Harborcoat. The harmony-vocal-soaked first single, "All Away," is a certified earworm.

What inspired this new batch of tracks?

Johnny Aimcrier: The songs for 'Maybe Everything' were written over the last eight years or so. 'Overwhelmed By The Mainstreet' was written and recorded 10 years ago but never released, so we updated and re-recorded it. The inspiration for these

songs ranges from disillusionment with our government to real-life events to failed love affairs to wisdom sharing. The album's title represents the varied themes across this batch of songs.

What was it like having Grammy and Emmy winner Glenn Brown mix and master the new record? He's a local legend who's worked with many big names, like Billy Strings.

It was eye- and ear-opening — he mastered our last album. He then offered his services to mix and master this one, and his ability to listen to tracks that were already recorded and suggest different types of effects and mix levels was stirring. We had so many opportunities to color each song, so following the title, we tried a bit of everything across the mixes. We did gravitate toward a secret sauce of compression, reverb and echoes on vocals, with variations between songs. Glenn's talent with discussing options is commendable — he never came at us with a level of authority, though he's earned that, but with a sense of collaboration while still honoring what we were looking for. We purposely mixed the album to sound good on systems with quality subwoofers and on small Bluetooth speakers. Again, the credit goes to Glenn for that.

How does this record compare to your previous LP? Any new directions?

Sonically, our last album, 'Solid State World,' had banjo, mandolin and a folkier mix and presentation. It also had a drier vocal delivery within the mix. 'Maybe Everything' has lots of 12-string work, both

acoustic and electric, and a much more affected vocal mix. The rock guitars have more crunch, and there's a much more deliberate use of backing vocals. The alt-country songs are country, and the rock songs are rockier. The songs on our last album had intentional themes of redemption, while the songs on 'Maybe Everything' run the gamut. There are love songs, break-up songs and story songs. Not every ending is tied up in a bow.

Is there a release show for the new record?

We plan to rip through our album in 35 minutes as a tight three-piece at Flat, Black & Circular in East Lansing on Sept. 30. We will have time to hang out afterward to chat and buy vinyl.

We'll be supporting the album throughout the next year at shows across the Midwest, with plans to play in Chicago and New York in 2024.

What's an album you're loving right now? Want to recommend any listens?

Honestly, I've been playing the crap out of a best of Freddy Fender album — the one where it looks like he's humping a saguaro cactus on the cover — and listening to a bunch of Tejano music. Another one that I'm playing a lot is "Hang on to Nothing," by the Pistoleros, and I'd also recommend "Dang!" by the Cartwheels, if you can find it.

Follow the Aimcriers at facebook.com/TheAimcriers and listen at theaimcriers.bandcamp.com.

Events

from page 28

Take Off Pounds Sensibly - Weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1536 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. facebook.com/HaslettTops.

"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Friday, Sept. 22

2023 MI Open Horse Show Championships - 9 a.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. mohsc.com.

Bookend Art Gallery Display by Raechel Decker - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

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

"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.

Five 'N' Dime Poets Vinyl Release Show - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Higher Ground Enrichment Time - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

Homecoming Performance: "And Those Spartans Play Good Ball" - Performance installation focused on the intersection between sports, art and community building. 2-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Mark Collins at Harrison Roadhouse - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

Meridian Senior Center Euchre Tournament Fundraiser - 50/50 drawings, light snacks and refreshments. 5:30 p.m. 2050 Kinawa Drive, Okemos. 517-706-5045. meridian.mi.us.

Michigan Apple Blossom Classic Open Horse Show - 7 p.m. MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Peace Vigil - Noon-1 p.m. Michigan Capitol, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

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

Time2Play - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Saturday, Sept. 23

2023 MI Open Horse Show Championships - 8 a.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. mohsc.com.

Bookend Art Gallery Display by Raechel Decker - Noon-2 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Carl Pawluk at Lansing Shuffle - 7 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Comedy Through the Looking Glass - 8:30 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co, 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. 517-668-6004. lookingglassbrewingcompany.com.

See Events, Page 30

Vote for the Record Lounge as Lansing's Best Record Store in the Top of the Town Contest!

THE RECORD LOUNGE
REOTOWN

Located Inside
REO Town Marketplace

1027 S. Washington Ave
(517) 862-1976

www.therecordlounge.reotown.com



Events

from page 29

Fall Electronics Recycling & Coat Collection Day - In addition to recycling unwanted electronics, Meridian Cares will be accepting new and gently used coats. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Chippewa Middle School, 4000 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-853-4466. meridian.mi.us.

Homecoming Performance: "And Those Spartans Play Good Ball" - Performance installation focused on the intersection between sports, art and community building. Noon-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Intermediate Ballet Class - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Its All A Burr: Ice Breaker Homecoming - Celebrating 25 years of the Zeta Delta chapter, come out and enjoy this Homecoming celebration with the Michigan State Alphas. 10 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. 517-574-4214. thejunctionmichigan.com.

Jenn's Apartment at The Avenue Cafe - WSG No Fun Club, The Fabulous Vans and Pet Me! 9 p.m. 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-999-7549. avenuecafelansing.com

Mabon Ritual - Feast, ritual, teacup raffle. 4-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center Scout Campground, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. weaversoft-heweb.org.

Mason Farmers Market - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lee Austin Park, corner of Lansing and Ash streets, Lansing. facebook.com/masonfarmersmarketmi.

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.

Michigan Apple Blossom Classic Open Horse Show - 8 a.m. MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

PTXD (emo/pop-punk tribute) - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

Sing Out for Peace! A Community Singalong - 7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Storybook Art: A Cosmic Smashbook Journey Series - Join Kendall Scott for three Saturdays to connect with your current story through collage and mixed media. 10 a.m.-noon. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansing-artgallery.org.

Uncle Zeke's Fall Festival - Displays and model trains 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Games, food and craft booths 2-6 p.m. Kids' tractor pull 2-4 p.m. Raffles and giveaways. First Baptist Church, 11068 S. DeWitt Road, DeWitt. 517-669-3851. fbcdeWittmi.org/fallfestival.

"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Sunday, Sept. 24
2023 MI Open Horse Show Championships - 8 a.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. mohsc.com.

"A Mother's Perspective" Roundtable - Those featured on the podcast "A Mother's Perspective" participate in a roundtable discussion. 11:30 a.m. Litten Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingfirstpres.com.

Aaron Johnson at Lansing Shuffle - Noon. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansing-shuffle.com.

Chamber 1: String Quartet - 3 p.m. Molly Grove Chapel, First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

CommUNITY Wholistic Health Day - Free afternoon of health and healing with LiveWELL.

'Where ART Thou?? Playful Reflections on Religion and Scripture'

Through Dec. 7

10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday

The Peoples Church of East Lansing
200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

Lansing artist Chance Liscomb's newest exhibition, "Where ART Thou?? Playful Reflections on Religion and Scripture," is on view at The Peoples Church of East Lansing through Dec. 7. The exhibition includes assemblages, paintings and small sculptures that "highlight various messages from the Bible and provide a tongue-in-cheek look at religious ceremony, scripture and pomp and circumstances," according to a press release.

"I love the Lord and God and the Holy Spirit completely. I love the truth and the way and the light. I know God had a grand sense of humor, and to me, humor is a great tool to get people to laugh, let go and move on," Liscomb said. "My intentions are to have a humorous show about religion and how we see passages in the Bible and how they are interpreted and understood. My goal is to inspire, contemplate and strengthen faith through good Christian humor and folly."

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Visitors can pick up an exhibition catalog at the northwest entrance of the church.



Experience peace and some of the holistic therapies they offer. 2-4 p.m. Islamic Center of East Lansing, 920 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.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.

Exhibition Tour: "Resistance Training" - Registration encouraged. 1 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Felix Hell Organ Recital - 3 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lansingcentralumc.net.

How to See a Star Explode from Underground - 1 p.m. Online. Visit frib.msu.edu/events/index.php for registration link.

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

mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

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

Michigan Apple Blossom Classic Open Horse Show - 8 a.m. MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

"Warrior Lawyers" Documentary Screening and Producer Discussion - 7 p.m. Red Cedar Friends Meetinghouse, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

World Rhino Day Celebration - Learn about rhinos at our conservation tables, play rhino-themed games and see our resident black rhinos, Doppsee and Phineus. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Worship Service Centered on Peace - 10 a.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org

Monday, Sept. 25

3D Printing 201 - View demonstrations and take home a 3D-printed item. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladd.org.

Ballet II Class for Kids - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Beginning West Coast Swing Dance Class - 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Bookend Art Gallery Display by Raechel Decker - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Culver's Donate While You Dine Fundraiser for Greater Lansing CROP Hunger Walk Planning Team - 5-9 p.m. Culver's, 5140 Times Square Drive, Okemos. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

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From Pg. 27

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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3	9	5	2	4	1	6	7	8

Events

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Downtown Development Authority meeting - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Road, Laingsburg.

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

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

Higher Ground Enrichment Time - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

"Letting Go," by David Hawkins: Book Study with Lucille Olson - 1:30 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Voter Registration and Information Day - Access voter registration materials and information on new voting laws. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Tuesday, Sept. 26

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

After-Dinner Stroll - We'll walk for about 30 minutes. 6:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Bookend Art Gallery Display by Raechel Decker - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Brewer's Dinner at Lansing Brewing Co. - Five delicious courses paired with five different LBC brews. 21+. 6 p.m. 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Downtown Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Reutter Park, 400 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. downtownlansing.org/downtown-farmers-market.

Higher Ground Enrichment Time - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

Intermediate Ballet Class - 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Intro to Acting/Improv for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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

Level I Dance Class - Introduction to theater dance using ballet, tap and jazz. Ages 5-8. 4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Michigan Clean Energy Future Day of Action - Climate rally + festival with guest speakers, food, live music and an opportunity for direct engagement with legislators. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. State Capitol lawn, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Organic Yoga with Maja McKeever - 6 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

Wednesday, Sept. 27

"A Course of Love" Book Study, Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Anti-Violence Initiative - Seven-week program for teens ages who have faced violence or bullying due to their sexual orientation or

gender identity. 4-5:30 p.m. Salus Center, 408 S. Washington Square, Lansing. saluscenter.org/programs/calendar.

Bookend Art Gallery Display by Raechel Decker - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

CharLit Adult Book Club - 6:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.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.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Lucky Penny at Cleats Bar & Grille - 6 p.m. 5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. 517-574-4008. cleatsbarandgrille.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

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.

Open Mic, hosted by Rick Hansel - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians of all ages. Doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Overbooked Book Club - "Chain Gang All Stars," by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah. Intended for adults. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

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

Weaving the Web: Spiral Path - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations

'Slow AF Run Club' Book Tour

Saturday, Sept. 22

5:15-8:30 p.m.

Playmakers

2299 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos

Martinus Evans, a native Detroit, founder of the Slow AF Run Club and author of "Slow AF Run Club: The Ultimate Guide for Anyone that Wants to Run," will visit Playmakers in Okemos 5:15 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 22) for book signings, a Q&A and a 5K or 2-mile run/walk.

In 2012, Evans was 360 pounds and suffered from persistent hip pain. His doctor told him that if he didn't lose weight, he would die. The same day, he bought a pair of running shoes and decided to train for a marathon.

Since then, he has completed eight marathons and more than 100 other long-distance races. He founded the Slow AF Run Club, the world's largest online community for "back-of-the-pack" runners, to help change the perception of what a runner is supposed to look like.

His new book is a "body-liberation manifesto and guide to running, aimed at inspiring those who may think they can't be a runner, empowering them to embrace the body they have right now, lace up their shoes and move," according to a press release.

The events begin with a book signing at 5:15 p.m., followed by a 5K or 2-mile run/walk at 6 p.m., a Q&A at 7:15 p.m. and another book signing at 7:45 p.m. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit slowafclub.com/events.



and more! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaver-softheweb.org.

Wednesday Night Free Concerts - Dedfoot Duo - 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. meridian.mi.us/calendar.

"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Thursday, Sept. 28

"A Course in Miracles," Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

See Events, Page 34

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

Whenever I tell an uninitiated member of the Greater Lansing community about People's Kitchen, I have to start with the pancakes. I always describe them the same way. I never cared about pancakes before, I say. I like a protein-forward breakfast — a poached egg, a yogurt bowl, a cheese-and-mushroom omelet. But these

are extraordinary. I have truly never had better pancakes. They are perfectly griddled, just crispy on the lacy edges and pillow in the center, so you can dunk bite by delicious bite into the lemon-butter syrup. If Lansing had a signature breakfast dish, the Really Good Fu%@ing Pancakes (\$13) would be it.

On a recent brunch visit, Mr. She Ate had the Chicken & Waffles (\$15). The wedge of fried chicken was fat and juicy, lightly breaded but not too light to withstand the pressure of the thick waffle wedges it was paired with. My 3-year-old daughter must have liked the ginger-maple butter because she sidled up to her dad and batted her blue eyes, and he handed over his entire plate, just like he always does. We have resigned ourselves to many more years of eating whatever is deemed “too spicy” for our children — or simply being left to clean up their leftovers.

My entrée choice was the Quiche Latifa (\$14) because I love a side breakfast salad and a female icon of hip-hop. Had the restaurant offered a Lil' Kim-chi taco, I would have tried that as well. This deep-dish quiche, stuffed with chicken, slightly spicy andouille sausage and gouda cheese, checked all the boxes for me, and the well-dressed side salad gilded the lily.

On a lunch visit, my colleague unknowingly mimicked Mr. She Ate and ordered the Chicken & Waffles, which she proclaimed to be “the best” chicken and waffles of her life. However, she is not yet 30 years old and presumably has a lot of years left to enjoy savory-sweet breakfast combinations on her quest for the world's best.

Over gossip about our mutual employer, I shoveled in bites of my Fresh Perch Sandwich (\$18) that came with crispy, salty, slightly smashed Yukon Gold potatoes. The dining room was solidly busy, especially for a weekday afternoon, which I loved to see. People's Kitchen is in kind of a challenging location, one that might be intimidating if you don't know exactly where you're headed. But once you get the hang of it, it is an eminently approachable restaurant.

If you are lucky enough to sit outside during the next few weeks, you will enjoy one of Lansing's most beautifully lush patios. The landscaping is fresh and fragrant, and the restaurant has done its best to provide seating in the shade — which isn't possible all of the time, of course. Inside, there's lots to look at, both in terms of décor and people. I've had board meetings, girls' nights, family brunches and date nights, all at People's Kitchen.

My most recent visit was a quick takeout dinner. I used the seamlessly easy ordering system and picked up the Wagyu Coulotte (\$46), scallops (\$40) a kids' grilled cheese (\$7) and a kids' cheeseburger (\$8).

See *She Ate*, Page 33

Treat yourself to some of the best food in town

Asian delights, from sushi to Malaysian dishes; olive burgers; kebab takeout; barbecue spots; crab boils; and old-school diners.

The culinary landscape is alive, and much of the attitude and

creativity can be attributed to food trucks, where chefs push the envelope with menus and cultivate a foodie following that they attract in far-reaching parking lots. Several of these trucks have made the leap to brick-and-mortar locations, offering their clientele a chance to dine properly — sometimes even with a fork and knife.

Such is the case with People's Kitchen, with lineage not only hitched to a food truck but also linked to a well-known breakfast eatery just north of Old Town. The Street Kitchen food truck roamed the roads from 2017 until People's Kitchen's brick-and-mortar restaurant was ready for patrons in spring 2019.

The proudly eclectic restaurant is equal parts bohemian, hipster and blue-collar. It's a place where young people will find fare that's Instagram-worthy, but the portion sizes and menu descriptions won't find the meat-and-potatoes crowd looking for the exit. With its dim lighting and drive-through-window neon light, People's Kitchen makes an ideal backdrop for a romantic date night. During the daytime, the graffiti art and the upcycled oil company signage offer chic flair for the brunch crowd. And both menus are on point.

What's really good

People's Kitchen is known for its Really Good Fu%@ing Pancakes (\$13), and they couldn't be more appropriately named. Seriously. They're fluffy and large, and the compound butter with charred lemon is out of sight. The star of the show, however, is the butter syrup. You'll definitely want to take some home with you. As I was eating, I found myself imagining what else I had in my refrigerator that I could pour the concoction over.

For brunch or breakfast, you'll also want to try the Still Ain't Broke combo (\$12), which comes with two eggs, potatoes and a choice of meat. Instead of basic home fries, you'll receive bulbous Yukon Gold potatoes that have been parboiled, slightly smashed, and then pan-fried to a nice crisp and topped with sea salt. And then there's the house-made sausage. Punchy with flavor but not overpowering, you'll want another one just for the pancakes.

What's incredible

Date night with my better half is a rare occasion. Our four girls keep us running when our jobs don't. So, when we get even a few moments to share with just one another, we like it to be more meaningful than a trip to Target. (Though, somehow, we usually end up there anyway.)

This month, we decided to dine at People's Kitchen, as did several other tables of couples, both young and old. Best I could tell, none of us were disappointed. The music was great — just loud enough to be entertaining but not loud enough to have us yelling at one another across the table.



Beverly

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**



Bryan Beverly/City Pulse

If Lansing had a signature breakfast dish, People's Kitchen's Really Good Fu%@ing Pancakes, pictured here alongside the Still Ain't Broke combo meal, would be it.

See *He Ate*, Page 33

She Ate

from page 32

Right off the bat, the kids' cheeseburger had no business being that good. And neither of my children would touch it. I did manage to convince the older child that french fries come from potatoes, so I sliced up some of the Yukon Golds that also came with the kids' meals and — knock me over with a feather — he ate them. What a time to be alive.

While he was discovering potatoes, I was splitting the two entrees and having a battle with myself over which was better. I have to give the edge to the scallops because they are such a

fickle mistress and so easy to overcook if your dog barks and drags you away from the stove for the exact wrong 10 seconds. These were perfectly cooked and nestled on top of a bed of polenta with fresh corn. Excuse me while I kiss the sky. Mr. She Ate gave honors to the steak, but I'm in charge here.

We've lost some great local restaurants in the last few months. I know it's hard. It's expensive. You're busy. The kids. A babysitter. I know. But go have lunch or breakfast. Or get an appetizer — or even just dessert. And if you're going to make all that effort, you might as well go to People's Kitchen and have some of the best food in town.

He Ate

from page 32

We shared the Grilled Caesar salad (\$15) with added chicken. The chicken is juicy and flavorful, a nice supplement to the half of a head of romaine lettuce that has a solid char on it. The cherry tomatoes were a joy for my companion, who said they taste like they're picked fresh from the garden. I was a fan of the dressing, less so of the croutons, but I feel the salad would be better served with a steak knife.

My partner loved her entrée, the Gnocchi Carbonara (\$27), which consists of plump pan-seared potatoes in a light-

ly buttered sauce with ramps, cured yolks and savory, salty bites of guanciale, or cured pork cheeks. I also enjoyed the Blue Crab Fritters (\$20), where the fried balls of crab meat are allowed to shine through, even among the accompanying artichoke hummus and lychee puree.

Best bite

The Pub Burger (\$18) is a lesson in handheld perfection. Oozing with flavor and served on a pretzel bun, this burger is IT. Celestial toppings include mustard aioli, caramelized onions and maple-bourbon-bacon jam. Yes, maple, bourbon AND bacon. Together on a burger. And then there's pub cheese to dip the burger or the Yukon Golds into. Get yourself one soon.

Did you know?

According to the Columbia University Irving Medical Center, cooking over an open flame exposes individuals to two main carcinogens: heterocyclic aromatic amines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Studies have shown they can develop in meats cooked over an open flame and cause changes in DNA that may increase cancer risk. Grilling in moderation and shortening the amount of time meat is exposed to open flames may reduce the risk of exposure.

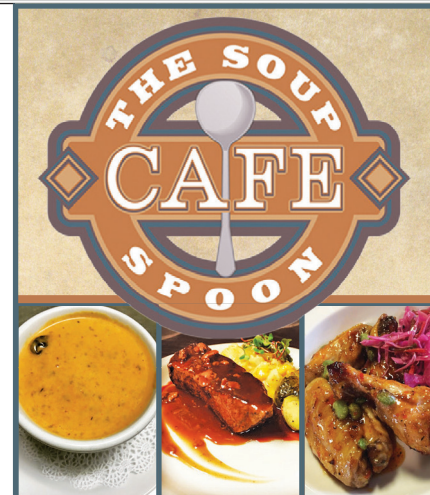
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TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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 MEXICAN CHAIN RESTAURANTS

1. Cancun Mexican Grill

Mexican restaurant chain serving tacos, enchiladas, burritos and other Mexican-American staples
Multiple locations — visit cancunmxgrill.com, cancunmxgrilljolly.com or cancunmxgrillwm.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

2. Fiesta Charra

Mexican restaurant chain offering combo platters and other affordable options
Multiple locations — visit facebook.com/p/Fiesta-Charra-East-Lansing-100057087444800 or facebook.com/FiestaCharraMI for locations, hours and phone numbers

3. Los Tres Amigos Hacienda

Mexican restaurant serving cocktails, beer and traditional Mexican-American fare
5010 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
517-327-0545
lostresamigosonline.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

4. Los Tres Amigos Holt

Festive Mexican restaurant known for homemade salsas and imported beers
2457 Cedar St., Holt
517-393-4100
lostresamigosonline.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

5. Barrio East Lansing

National chain offering signature and build-your-own tacos, plus cocktails
202 Albert St, East Lansing
517-679-0063
barrio-tacos.com
3-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

Vote for your favorite restaurants in the 2023 Top of the Town contest!

Tony M's
Vote for us for Lansing's best pizza, lasagna, wings, burgers, family-friendly restaurant, banquet center, caterer, and Italian restaurant.



3420 S Creyts Rd Lansing, MI 48917



Events

from page 31

All-American Buckskin Horse Congress - MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

Bookend Art Gallery Display by Raechel Decker - Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Bath Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. 517-641-6728. shopbfm.org.

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

Drawing Marathon - Drawing stations, guided and collaborative drawing, costumed models and more. Afterparty at (SCENE)Metrospace from 7-9 p.m. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broad-museum.msu.edu.

Eggplant vertigo

By ARI LEVAUX

Imam bayildi is an eggplant dish named for its ability to separate a man from his consciousness. The Turkish phrase means, “The imam fainted,” and the implication is that the decadent and aromatic experience of eating this glorious dish knocked the imam out cold.

There are other theories for the origin of the dish’s name, such as that the imam fainted when he realized how much olive oil his wife used to make it. Or maybe it’s a reference to some potentially psychoactive business going on. Eggplants are one of the more enigmatic members of the already enigmatic nightshade family, which includes tobacco. Most nightshades are either poisonous, hallucinogenic, medicinal, inflammatory or any combination of the above, depending on the dosage. Eggplants, tomatoes, potatoes and peppers are pretty much the only edible species in this family, and they have small amounts of nicotine and other alkaloids, a type of molecule that’s diversely represented in the nightshade family. While tomatoes, potatoes and peppers all come from the Americas, the enigmatic eggplant was domesticated in Asia. So, maybe the imam got a weird eggplant?

My friend Ray Risho is a Syrian-American chef, restaurateur and lifelong scholar of Old World cuisines. He grew up in an eggplant-friendly household in 1950s Providence, Rhode Island, and to this day, during the peak eggplant months of late summer and early fall, he goes on a seasonal binge. He brings home armloads of the classic fat, purple eggplant from the farmers market and prepares them in various ancient, succulent, fragrant ways. Risho’s rendition of imam bayildi will make you bliss out, if not pass out.

The trick, aside from unholy amounts of extra virgin olive oil, is to use a baharat spice blend. Being a black belt in spice blending, Risho mixes his own, but it’s available online and in most Middle Eastern stores. When purchasing baharat or any spice mix, Risho advises, read the ingredient label carefully. You only want the spices — no flour, salt, sugar, oil or any other filler that would dilute the impact. You can add salt later.

“The idea is to get the onions, tomatoes and eggplant to melt,” Risho said.

Like the imam, we presume. He lays eggplant halves in a cast iron skillet, blankets them with an onion-and-tomato mix that’s heavily seasoned with baharat, and then bakes the skillet, covered, until its contents are a savory pudding.

When the dish is done, the kitchen will fill with baharat aerosol, and you will have to restrain yourself to let it cool to a reasonable temperature so you don’t burn your mouth. Room temperature or slightly warm is perfect. My mom hung onto con-



Courtesy of Ari Levaux

Be careful — the decadent and aromatic experience of eating imam bayildi, a Turkish eggplant dish, may knock you out cold.

consciousness but ate so much that she got heartburn. Me, if I had passed out and woken up on the floor, it wouldn’t have surprised me in the least. The only surprise would have been if I’d stopped chewing.

Imam bayildi

The baharat spices are magical in this dish, pulling it together into a tightly woven yet luxuriously soft magic carpet ride of a meal.

Serves six

- 2 pounds of eggplant, trimmed and sliced in half lengthwise
- 1 pound of tomatoes, cut into ribs (see below)
- 1 pound of onions, cut into half ribs
- 2 tablespoons baharat (recipe below)
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 3 teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon tamarind paste
- 1 tablespoon dried mint
- 1 head of garlic, chopped coarsely
- 1/4 cup lemon juice

Slice off a thin piece of skin on the underside of each eggplant half so it sits flat. Fill a cast iron pan or other baking dish with eggplant halves, trimming as necessary so they fit in the pan as snugly as possible with no empty spaces. If there are lots of gaps, cut an eggplant into pieces that fit. With a sharp-point knife, score a crosshatch pattern into the upward-facing sides of the eggplants, about a quarter-inch deep, so the cut halves look like they have been overlaid with graph paper.

To make onion ribs, cut an unpeeled onion in half from end to end and lay

one of the halves flat-side down. Slice off both ends, slip off the skin and slice thinly along the axis between the two trimmed ends. Finally, make one slice across the middle, 90 degrees from the others, so all the ribs are cut in half. Cut the tomatoes into ribs, but don’t cut them in half.

Combine the tomatoes and onions. Add the salt, olive oil, baharat powder, lemon juice, garlic, mint and tamarind syrup, then stir them into a caramel-hued mix. Spread this mix evenly atop the eggplant. Bake, covered, at 350 degrees for two hours. It should be succulent and soft but not collapsed and mushy.

Baharat

Imam bayildi is hardly the only dish this mix will spice up. It’s used in dishes throughout the Mediterranean and Arabian Peninsula.

Makes 1/2 cup

- 1 tablespoon whole cumin seeds
- 1 tablespoon peppercorn
- 1 tablespoon coriander
- 1 tablespoon cloves
- 2 tablespoons nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom

Toast the cumin, peppercorn, coriander, cloves and cardamom in a dry pan. Grind and mix with the other ingredients.



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