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THE ISRAELI-HAMAS WAR: TAKING SIDES IN LANSING

See Page 13



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CityPULSE



THANKS, EARTHLINGS, for voting in the
16th annual Top of the Town Contest!

Winners
will be
announced
NOV. 15

- but you can find out
a day early by signing
up for the City Pulse
newsletter at

www.lansingcitypulse.com

CityPULSE

**VOL. 23
ISSUE 12**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com

A Return to Morality

WELCOME TO PUNDITSEW! WITH ME TONIGHT IS THE NEW REPUBLICAN SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE MIKE JOHNSON.

THE 18th CENTURY IS BACK!

WHAT IS THIS "TELEVISION" YOU SAY I'M ON?

SPEAKER JOHNSON, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE STATE OF AMERICA?

"EXPERTS PROJECT THAT HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE IS THE DARK HARBINGER OF CHAOS AND SEXUAL ANARCHY THAT COULD DOOM EVEN THE STRONGEST REPUBLIC."

(ACTUAL QUOTE)

AND WHAT IS BEHIND THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE?

"NO-FAULT DIVORCE LAWS!"
"THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION!"
"RADICAL FEMINISM!"
"LEGALIZED ABORTION!"

"WE'RE LIVING IN A COMPLETELY AMORAL SOCIETY."

NOW, ABOUT THAT ATTEMPT YOU MADE TO OVERTURN THE 2020 ELECTION FOR TRUMP...

"WE LIVE IN A POSTMODERN CULTURE. POSTMODERNISM IS DEFINED BY THE ABSENCE OF TRUTH."

BUT I'LL SET THINGS RIGHT!

SORENSEN

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A look inside Riverwalk's "The Trail to Oregon"

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Willie Nelson brings his weed to Michigan

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Bolster your belly with Bangos' breakfast bites

Cover illustration by Matias Brimmer

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CityPULSE

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Checks may be mailed to City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912.

THIS MODERN WORLD

NIGHT OF THE LIVING REPUBLICANS

LURCHING THROUGH CONGRESS, THEY ARE A GROTESQUE MIMICRY OF A FUNCTIONING POLITICAL PARTY!
WE DIDN'T HAVE A SPEAKER FOR THREE WEEEEEEKS!

THE GUY WE FINALLY CHOSE TRIED TO HELP TRUMP OVERTURN THE ELECTIONNN!

NEXT TIME I'LL SUCCCEEEED!

SHAMBOLIC MONSTROSITIES DRIVEN BY SHEER DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSES STALK THE NATION'S CAPITAL!
BRAINS! WE NEED BRAAAAAINS!

WE ARE CLEARLY LACKING IN THAT DEPAARTMENT!

THEIR UNREASONING MINDS CRAVE ONLY CHAOS AND NIHILISM!
WE'RE ON THE BRINK OF ANOTHER SHUTDOWNNNNN!

GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WORK AND WE'RE GOING TO PROOOVE IT!

BY TOM TOMORROW

REEKING OF EXTREMISM AND DECAY, THEY RELENTLESSLY PURSUE RIGHTS ONCE TAKEN FOR GRANTED!
ABORTION WILL BE CRIMINALIZED EEEVERYWHERE!

VOTING SHOULD BE AS DIFFICULT AS POSSSSIBLE!

MEANWHILE, EXTREMELY SERIOUS PUNDITS DECRY DYSFUNCTION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE!
OBVIOUSLY THE HIDEOUS NECROTIC ABOMINATIONS CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS!

DEMOCRATS ARE THE ONES WHO MUST COMPROMISE--FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION!

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

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PULSE NEWS & OPINION

Proposed Bill of Rights would aid Michigan's homeless population

Rep. Dievendorf says formerly homeless man inspired her to sponsor it

In the early 2000s, Mike Karl was a face among the countless homeless individuals living in Reutter Park in Lansing, struggling with alcoholism. Today, Karl is the inspiration for a bill that seeks to establish a Homeless Bill of Rights.

State Rep. Emily Dievendorf, D-Lansing, said the Homeless Bill of Rights would set a baseline for how homeless people are treated in Michigan, with a focus on addressing the social determinants of homelessness. It's a comprehensive piece of legislation that tackles multiple aspects of homelessness, from better access to permanent addresses, voting rights and medical care to protection from discrimination and safeguarding personal belongings.

The bill, also known as HB 4919, includes the following protections:

- Right to use and move freely on public sidewalks and public transportation or in public parks and public buildings
- Equal treatment by all state and municipal agencies
- Freedom from employment discrimination for not having a permanent address, or the address being at a shelter or social service provider
- Right to emergency medical care
- Right to vote, register to vote and receive identification needed to vote
- Right to confidentiality of personal records and information
- Right to reasonable expectation of privacy and personal property
- Right to school enrollment for homeless youth

The bill has already received two days of testimony in committee and has not yet been scheduled for a committee vote.

In Karl's journey out of homelessness that lasted about 10 years, he had lost his permanent address and, with it, his ability to vote. Karl, now a former homeless individual who advocates for those still unhoused, said there are thousands like him who could be regis-



Tyler Schneider/CityPulse

Mike Karl on the bench in Reutter Park in downtown Lansing that he said was his bed when he was homeless. State Rep. Emily Dievendorf cites Karl as her inspiration for her proposed Homeless Bill of Rights.

tered voters but aren't because they lack a permanent address.

In Reutter Park, where Karl sought refuge, he met the pastor from a church in Kalamazoo. The pastor provided Karl with a temporary reprieve, housing him in a hotel while he accessed community resources.

"It was on my heart to pick up (the pastor's) torch," Karl said.

As someone who had been through the system, Karl understands the importance of obtaining essential documents such as homeless ID cards, housing vouchers and military discharge certificates from the Veterans Administration. However, he lost all of his important papers, including his birth certificate, during his time spent unhoused.

Dievendorf said one of the most significant challenges faced by homeless people is the lack of proper documentation. Without these essential papers, they miss out on crucial opportunities for housing and support. This lack of documentation, as Karl pointed out, contributes to an underreporting of homelessness and a backlog in shelters.

Karl shared a story of a woman who

spent over a year in a shelter, unaware that she had a permanent supportive housing voucher, which is the highest level of support.

"I see it 10 times a day, we're paying for someone to stay in a hotel for 10 months when we could have taken that money and made them a homeowner," Karl said. "And then we've created a way out for people instead of just setting people up in a hotel with no representation, no documentation and no information."

The absence of a legal network to help navigate these situations is a significant contributor to the overcrowding in homeless shelters, Karl said. Shelters often struggle to document everyone effectively, leading to missed opportunities for those in need.

Laura Grimwood of the City Rescue Mission in Lansing said the number of nights of shelter and meals provided in the past nine months have surpassed the numbers for all of 2019 already. The City Rescue Mission is operating beyond capacity before winter temperatures have started. The mission has identified two buildings in the 400 block of West Kalamazoo Street near downtown Lansing

that it is hoping to buy and convert into additional shelter space.

"The City Rescue Mission is providing a safe haven to more individuals than ever in its 112-year history. We are grateful that this bill is bringing attention not only to the chronically homeless, but also to much of the homeless population: those who are staying at a shelter and those who may be finding temporary shelter with a friend or acquaintance," Grimwood said in a statement.

Dievendorf said her hope is that this legislation will lead to a better understanding of the obstacles these individuals face and foster long-term, sustainable solutions for homeless community members.

If the Homeless Bill of Rights becomes law, homeless people will be able to take violators to court when their belongings are destroyed or thrown away. The perpetrators could be prosecuted for destruction of property, just like for anyone else. This change would mark a significant step toward recognizing the equal rights of the homeless population,

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Homeless

from page 5

Dievendorf said, adding that this bill would achieve equal, not equitable, access to resources and services.

In Lansing, Mayor Andy Schor expressed his support for the measure's "intention."

"People should not be treated differently because they are homeless," he said by email. "Lansing allows those of need to move freely through public spaces including, but not limited to, public sidewalks, public parks, public transportation, and public buildings in the same manner as any other individual and without discrimination on the basis of the individual's housing status."

"The City of Lansing has ordinances requiring the treatment of all residents equally regardless of housing status. Our City Clerk is an elections leader and ensures voting without discrimination. Our schools ensure that youth are educated regardless of housing status," Schor added.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses expressed concerns about the employment discrimination provision that is meant to protect



One of the photos that Karl says he held onto throughout his years of homelessness.

homeless people who are turned down for jobs because they lack a permanent address. The federation said it could put small business owners in a "very difficult position" because of state and federal requirements that employees have addresses.

"While the bill is well intentioned, we are concerned that may leave small business owners with unintended consequences," said Amanda Fisher, NFIB's

Michigan director, in a statement, referring to the threat of lawsuits.

The NFIB was the only organization to testify or write in opposition.

Karl said that when he was unhoused, his personal belongings were stolen, including some photographs of his parents and son.

"I went through heaven and hell to find" the photos, Karl said. "I found these pictures in the dirt. They're still waterlogged, but I keep them on the dashboard of my truck. I have them to this day as a reminder. They stay in the truck with me so I never forget that struggle."

Dievendorf recalled a story of one of her constituents who qualified for housing based on his Social Security income, but because he didn't have a credit history or a pay stub, he was turned away.

"But he had the money," Dievendorf

said. "Consistency is shown in several different ways. If you aren't able to pay bills, you're still consistent by showing up every day at the shelter in time to get in line for the night. As I'm talking to my friend, we'll get to a point in our conversations where he'll point at his watch to signal he has to get in line."

Dievendorf said she recognizes that obtaining housing is biased towards those who are already housed, with requirements such as a good credit history and proof of payment. Dievendorf said housed individuals enjoy stability daily, a luxury that is often unimaginable for the unhoused population.

Karl said should the bill pass, he wants to establish a legal network where attorneys would offer pro bono services to help homeless people navigate the complex legal landscape they often find themselves in.

Dievendorf said in the face of the opioid epidemic, advocates for the unhoused should focus on building relationships within encampments, learning about the people's needs, and providing the necessary support and resources to address compounding issues like substance abuse.

"The significant presence of drug paraphernalia at encampments tells us that we truly can only get to the root causes of houselessness if we bring resources that will help people target the sources of their instability," Dievendorf said.

Karl said while he was homeless, this bill would have made him feel like somebody was standing up for him.

"You mean, there's a bill that's named the Homeless Bill of Rights? I have a Bill of Rights?" Karl said.

— MAGGIE GEORGE



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING
FORE MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
(CDBG) FUNDING FOR CDBG HOUSING IMPROVING LOCAL
LIVABILITY THROUGH
THE MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (MSHDA)**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE
ZONING AMENDMENT #2023-05 (PLANNING COMMISSION)
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Township Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, to hear all persons interested in the Township's application to MSHDA for funding under the CDBG Housing Improving Local Livability program.

Meridian Township proposes to request \$480,000 in CDBG funds to fund homeowner rehabilitation of existing housing to preserve the affordable housing stock in the community. All of the requested funds will be used for rehabilitation of existing homes. Including local match and local administrative costs, the project will total up to \$690,000. The entire amount is intended to benefit low to moderate income residents. No persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Further information, including a copy of the CHILL application is available for review at the Township Clerk's office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the Township Board meeting to the Township's Director of Project Management and Operations, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to massie@meridian.mi.us, or in person at the public hearing.

Citizen views and comments on the proposed application are encouraged and welcomed. For more information please contact:

Charter Township of Meridian

Melissa Massie, Director of Project Management and Operations 517-853-4456

**Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk**

CP#23-289



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 23-10 2470
BURCHAM DRIVE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE
VARIANCE REQUEST 23-10
2470 BURCHAM DRIVE PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request for a wetland setback.

East Lansing – Meridian Water & Sewer Authority is proposing to construct a water storage reservoir that does not meet the required wetland setback located at 2470 Burcham Drive. The subject site is zoned RR (Rural Residential).

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

**Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk**

CP#23-287

Sponsored Content

I went on the trip of a lifetime in October. I don't use the word "lifetime" lightly, either. I was feeling a mix of emotions before I left, while I was there, and when I got back. The reason it was a trip of a lifetime is because, for the first time in my life, I took two weeks off from work. The places we went were nice, too, but it was really the time off that made it amazing.

I spent two weeks with the person I love, doing what we enjoyed. We share common interests, but mostly we just enjoyed each other's company. It has been a very rough year for Brandi, and while I know this trip doesn't make any pain go away, it was a chance to leave everything behind for a little while. We made some memories and we thought about those that couldn't be there with us.

I also thought about the fact that probably most people never get the chance to take two weeks away from work at one time, whether they can afford it financially or not. I am not saying I feel guilt ... wait, yes I am. Guilt is definitely my most triggering feeling because as a child, guilt was the most common companion for me. So I carry it with me almost every day. But I did deserve to take this trip. I went many, many years not being able to take a vacation at all. In the last 15 years, I have worked hard, many years by myself, and that has certainly put me in a position to be able to do it.

But I also know that there are many people out there who work equally hard, and often in worse circumstances, that deserve to take this type of vacation, too. The reality is that so many people just can't do it, no matter how hard they work. In the instances in the past, when I was able to take a week off, it never felt like enough time and then it was over and right back to the grind. A week is just enough time to barely feel rested. I fully believe that everyone needs a two-week break to be able to completely reset. It is my mission to make this a reality for the people who made it possible for me.

Here is the thing, though: As anxious as I was to go on this trip, and as guilty as I feel that everyone can't do this, I felt so relieved when I got back. Not relieved in the sense that I couldn't wait to get back, but relieved that I was ready to come back. I didn't feel like I needed another day or two. I was relaxed, and I was ready to be home and go back to work.

I have been back for a little over a week. While I was gone, I did not engage in politics. I limited my social media content. I participated, in the moment, with my partner and we immersed ourselves into the culture and the history of the places we visited. I saw people hustling and going about their lives with smiles on their faces, and received warm welcomes every place we went. It was mentally refreshing to see people who appeared to be enjoying themselves, either in leisure or in their work. I didn't sense the type of stress that I am used to witnessing daily. Having said all of that, during the week since I've been back I am already feeling the weight of the world again.

This weekend I had a 12-year-old boy show up at our house Friday night, in the rain, after his aunt and her boyfriend kicked him out for fighting with his 14-year-old sister. He randomly knocked on our door, not ever having met us before. We had to call the police, who spoke with the aunt to inform her that they couldn't just throw a 12-year-old out onto the streets.

The next morning, it was a brisk 45 degrees, and he was back on my porch because they had kicked him out again. Over the course of the next 3 hours, he talked to us and my heart broke and broke again as he shared bits and pieces of his life. His sister is permanently placed at his aunt's house, and he just left his uncle's house after his uncle physically beat him. I have since had much of this child's story verified after my daughter recognized some of his older sister's friends, and my own nephew's girlfriend has intimate knowledge of this family's situation. The police sent him back to his uncle's house.

My heart hurts for this child. Clearly everyone involved has issues and that is heartbreaking, too. The system is failing all of them. On a deeper level, how did we get to this place to begin with? People who are caught up in the system just didn't appear there one day; this is a systemic breakdown. It starts with poverty and lack of resources. The problem is getting worse, when it should be getting better. People here are desperate and make decisions out of emotion when they are staring at mounting bills and debt. Throw in a hospital visit, or missing work due to illness and their priorities change.

It is no way to live, and it only leads to pain and suffering. Add in taking in a nephew and niece who are 12 and 14, and I cannot imagine the thought process. Regardless, I don't know how you kick a 12-year-old out onto the streets, but this is what is happening.

My mental capacity is not well, and I don't have the challenges that so many face. I cannot imagine the life some people are enduring. Poverty is the mother of crime. When people are in survival mode, the social contract is not sustainable. How can we claim any dignity when there are people whose dignity is sacrificed in capitalism. I know what privilege is and I know not everyone has it. But I also know too many people who think it is just a term in woke culture.

The idea of individualism is overrated. None of us could accomplish anything of significance without the collective. Whether we want to admit it or not, we all need each other, as some of us who have been on the receiving end of others' compassion will attest. Altruism is a virtue.

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Notice to Creditors. Estate of William J Dyke. Date of Birth 12/29/1927. **TO ALL CREDITORS:** NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, William J Dyke who lived on 1152 E. Maide Marion Ct. Williamston, MI 48895, died 09/20/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Karen Reiff, trustee at 6174 Columbia St. Haslett, MI 48840 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 11/01/2023 Karen J Reiff, Trustee for the Estate 6174 Columbia St. Haslett, MI 48840
CP#23-285

B/24/056 VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE FOR NEW PEW PUMP as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing Wastewater Division. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on NOVEMBER 7, 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/W-BE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.
CP#23-290

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
 IN THE INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**

In re: Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property
 Case No. 23-0598- CH
 Hon. Wanda M. Stokes

Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
 COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.
 Attorneys for Petitioner
 601 N. Capitol Ave.
 Lansing, MI 48933
 (517) 372-9000

NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Bobbie Pelfery, Claudia Pelfery, and all other persons having an interest in the subject property.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of a Certain Parcel of Real Property shall be held before the Honorable Wanda M. Stokes, Circuit Judge, on Thursday, the 2nd day of November, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, in the Ingham County Courthouse, Mason, Michigan.

This Notice pertains to the real property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, legally described as:
 Lot 169, Leslie Park Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, page 2, Ingham County Records.
 Parcel ID #33-01-01-14-357-211

Commonly known as 500 S. Fairview St., Lansing, MI 48912

Notice of Pending Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure Action (Form 4329) for the subject property was recorded with the Ingham County Register of Deeds on August 28, 2023.

Judgment of the Court after this hearing may result in title to the property vesting in the Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority, 3024 N. Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906 – Telephone (517) 267-5221.

Any persons with information regarding the owner or prior owner of the subject property are requested to contact the Land Bank.

Any rights of redemption and any ownership interest in the subject property may be extinguished by the judgment of the Court.

Any person with a property interest in the property may lose his or her interest, if any, as a result of the quiet title and foreclosure hearing.

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE INGHAM COUNTY LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AND IS SUBJECT TO AN EXPEDITED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. PERSONS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRIOR OWNER OF THE PROPERTY ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AT 3024 N. TURNER ST., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906, TELEPHONE (517) 267-5221.

Respectfully submitted,
 COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.

Date: September 13, 2023

/s/ Timothy M. Perrone
 Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
 Attorney for Petitioner
 601 N. Capitol Ave.
 Lansing, MI 48933
 (517) 372-9000

CP#23-256

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
 NOTICE OF POSTED MEETING MINUTES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all meeting minutes for the Charter Township of Lansing are posted to and available on the Township's website at www.lansingtowship.org . Meeting minutes may also be obtained by emailing dptyclerk@lansingtowship.org .

Meeting minutes are also posted in, and available for inspection at, the office of the Township Clerk (located at 3209 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan) during normal business hours.

Maggie Sanders, Supervisor
 Cortney Lighthouse, Clerk

CP#22-276

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

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Building Board of Appeals on **Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, Conference Room A, Second Floor, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider the appeal of **Andrew Kraft, Director of Facilities of DTN Management regarding the property at 1031 W Lake Lansing Road, Valley Forge Apartments**, requesting a **variance to the code** regarding making extensive electrical/wall/ceiling changes that would disrupt the residence and their rental agreements with modifications creating hardship to all who occupies the space.

2006 International Property Maintenance Code

Sec.604.3. Electrical System Hazards

Where it is found the electrical systems in a structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants or the structure by reason of inadequate service, improper fusing, insufficient receptacle and lighting outlets, improper wiring or installation, deterioration, or damage, or for similar reason, the code official shall require the defects to be corrected to eliminate the hazard.

Sec. 110.3 Examination, Identification, Installation, Use, and Listing (Product Certification) of Equipment.

(B) Installation and Use. Listed or labeled equipment shall; be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling.

2. A public hearing will be held to consider the appeal of **Andrew Kraft, Director of Facilities of DTN Management regarding the property at 295 Arbor Glen Drive, Arbor Glen Apartments**, requesting a **variance to the code** regarding making extensive mechanical ventilation and ceiling changes that would disrupt the residence in their rental agreements with modifications which would create hardship to all who occupies the space.

2006 International Property Maintenance Code

Sec. 604.1. Mechanical Appliances

Mechanical appliances. All mechanical appliances, fireplaces, solid fuel-burning appliances, cooking appliances and water heating appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe working condition and shall be capable of performing the intended function.

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

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

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.

Dated: November 1, 2023,
 East Lansing, MI 48823

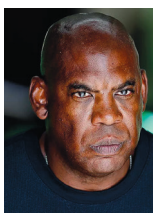
Marie Wicks
 Interim City Clerk

CP#23-291

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY TYLER SCHNEIDER



In a 73-page report, a Michigan State University hearing officer confirmed that former head football coach Mel Tucker sexually harassed and exploited rape survivor and sexual assault activist Brenda Tracy in an April 2022 phone call.

The officer determined that Tucker also made unwanted sexual advances toward Tracy before and after that call. Tucker has said the relationship was consensual, while Tracy believes he backed out of an agreement to have her speak to the team in summer 2022 because she rejected his advances. Tucker's attorneys indicated that Tucker plans on appealing this decision. He was fired in September for cause.

The Michigan State University Faculty Senate voted 52-4 Thursday to call for the resignation or removal of Trustee Rema Vassar.



On Friday, the board met for nearly four hours in its first meeting since Trustee Brianna Scott wrote a letter accusing Vassar of violating the board's rules of conduct and ethics and bullying board members and administrators. At the meeting, Trustee Dianne Byrum said she couldn't get three votes to bring a motion to the floor to remove Vassar as chair. Vassar has repeatedly stated that she won't resign.



Lansing city leaders ceremoniously broke ground on a new, voter-approved public safety complex on Thursday.

The \$175 million facilities, approved by 53% of Lansing voters last November, will be built at 2500 S. Washington Ave., the site of the city-owned South Washington Office Complex, and include the Lansing Police Department's new headquarters and lockup, a fire station and the 54A District Court. The two-year construction process has not yet begun, however. The groundbreaking ceremony was set to correspond with National First Responders' Day.

A Lansing 2-year-old has died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds sustained while he was left alone in a car Oct. 24.



The incident happened around 3 p.m. at the Sunoco filling station in the 3000 block of Dunkel Road. The toddler was flown to a children's hospital in Ann Arbor, where he remained in critical condition before dying the next day. Police said a 44-year-old man fled the scene, but he was apprehended. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the child's family and friends in this tragedy, but of course thoughts and prayers are not enough," said Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane in a statement. "We must take action, to find some measure of justice and prevent similar acts from taking more of our community's children."



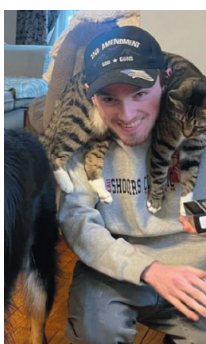
BWL fired internal auditor Frank Macciocca for allegedly making unauthorized purchases with his utility-provided credit card, WLNS reported.

Macciocca, an accountant and attorney, was hired in May 2022 and made purchases with the credit card until Feb. 21, 2023, including thousands of dollars' worth of unauthorized food, travel and educational expenses. After an internal investigation, the BWL commissioners voted unanimously to fire Macciocca in April. A new internal auditor, Elisha Franco, starts Nov. 6. The board has also changed its credit card policies to prevent future misuse.

The City of East Lansing released a statement indicating that it had been the victim of a "sophisticated" cyber-crime.



The release said the city is working with state and federal law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, to recover \$550,000 that was stolen. "The sophisticated scam involved an entity that compromised a recognized vendor email account and fraudulently changed the routing information for payment of a legitimate bill," the release said. "The criminals overcame financial validation processes in an attempt to defraud the City and its taxpayers." Added City Manager Robert Belleman, "We want to reiterate that the integrity of the City's departments was not compromised. It is thanks to the quick response and due diligence of our well-trained staff that we were able to identify this cybercrime as quickly as we did."



Seann Patrick Pietila, a 19-year-old living in Pickford, will plead guilty Nov. 13 to charges of threatening an East Lansing synagogue last summer, the Lansing State Journal reported.

Pietila, a former student at Eastern High School during the 2020-'21 school year, has been charged with two counts of transmitting threatening communications and one count of threat to kill or injure by means of fire after he sent Instagram messages on June 1 and June 2, claiming that he "had a desire and a plan to kill or injure Jewish people." Pietila was arrested June 16, and authorities found ammunition, magazines, a shotgun, a rifle, a pistol, knives, a Nazi flag, gas masks and military manuals during a search of his home. A note was also found in Pietila's phone that referenced the Shaarey Zedek Congregation in East Lansing and the date March 15, 2024. He faces up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Rashad Trice, the man charged in the kidnapping and killing of Lansing toddler Wynter Cole-Smith this year, will not face the death penalty, federal prosecutors announced.



Trice, 27, faces charges in multiple jurisdictions after a search over the Fourth of July holiday led to Cole-Smith's body being found in Detroit. The murder happened in Lansing July 2, and Trice was later arrested in St. Clair Shores. He has pleaded not guilty to federal charges of kidnapping a minor and kidnapping resulting in death.



Best Furniture Outlet plans to open Nov. 10 in the Lansing Mall space formerly occupied by Macy's.

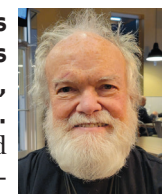
The wholesale furniture and mattress retailer has signed a five-year lease on the 100,000-square-foot space at 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy. that has been vacant since 2017. The store, which will initially be staffed with 20 employees, will include a 60,000-square-foot showroom. The remaining space will serve as a regional distribution center.

Public Safety:



Following an investigation into the murder of 29-year-old Alicia Gallegos, authorities announced that she was walking toward the downtown Capital Area Transportation Authority station at about 6:45 a.m. Oct. 16 when Jacobo Montalvo, 57, allegedly pulled her from the sidewalk near East Lenawee Street and South Washington Square. She was found dead later that morning in a wooded area off Iosco Road in White Oak Township. Police arrested Montalvo Oct. 21. ... A shooting in the 1800 block of South Cedar Street, just north of Mt. Hope Avenue, injured a 22-year-old victim at around 1:45 a.m. Sunday. ... A three-hour standoff between police and a 28-year-old man in the 5300 block of Ferris Road ended in the suspect's home early Wednesday morning after he fired multiple shots inside a nearby house while children were present. ... A fire destroyed a Lansing home in the 6000 block of Wise Road just before 6 p.m. Thursday, WILX-TV reported. ... Peter Counseller, 57, of Dewitt, pled guilty to one count of embezzlement of \$100,000 or more from an elderly victim and two counts of filing false tax returns.

A Lansing man with dwarfism has settled a federal lawsuit with his apartment management company, the Lansing State Journal reported.



While living in a federally subsidized apartment at Capital Commons Apartments and Townhomes at 600 S. Sycamore St., tenant Daniel Black requested a roll-in shower and an accessible electric entrance door for his rental unit under the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act. When he wasn't accommodated, Black filed a federal lawsuit against the company and the Lansing-based First Housing Corp. in Dec. 2022. The suit was dismissed Sept. 20 with an undisclosed settlement between parties. The requests have since been granted.

Neighborhoods and corridors depend on each other

By **JOAN NELSON**

Corridors serve as the front door to neighborhoods.

They feature businesses, hospitals, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, fitness studios, churches, doctors' offices, repair shops, and nonprofits. They

often serve as the cultural and economic heart of the neighborhood. Think 2000 block of East Michigan Avenue or Cesar Chavez Avenue in Old Town.

As described by the Urban Institute, they are "the epicenter of local entrepreneurship, employment, and wealth creation, and they provide intangible benefits through services, amenities, cultural identity, and social capital."

The vitality of a neighborhood and its corridors are inter-dependent. That is why it makes sense for businesses to figure out creative ways to engage the people living in the neighborhoods that they abut. Years ago, The Avenue



Opinion

owner Colleen Kelley told me that she was putting in a seating and gathering space behind her establishment because it faced the neighborhood, whose consistent support she appreciated!

Conversely, we residents who enjoy easy walking and transit access to employment, services and gathering spots

would do well to spend our dollars in ways that keep the small businesses in our commercial districts thriving. In agreement is Rebecca Douglas, who lives in REO Town's Riverpoint Neighborhood. She notes that several neighbors own businesses or work on Washington Avenue. "I love living in the neighborhood because I really feel like I am a part of something bigger than myself, a community of folks from all walks of life, in a walkable business district with wonderful shops and restaurants."

Corridors are getting significant attention these days. In Lansing, there are now four corridor improvement authorities: East Michigan, West Saginaw Street, South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and North Grand River. (I sit on the Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority.) These state-authorized authorities are

intended to help communities plan for and fund corridor improvements. Much like downtown development authorities, they receive funding from tax increment financing, corporate or private donations and grants. The overall goals are to help support economic development and stop deterioration.

For instance, Michigan Avenue's is laying the groundwork for façade improvements on several businesses on the north side of the 2000 block, across from Strange Matter. A few years ago, the authority helped drive the development of the art and lighting project "Under the Bridge" under the U.S. 127 overpass. Beautification projects, tree planting, sidewalk improvements and other amenities are in the Michigan Avenue plan, available on the City of Lansing website. (Search for Corridor Improvement Authorities.)

The city's website also features information about the other corridor improvement initiatives, their board members (a combination of property and business owners and residents), and each district's plan.

According to Aurelius Christian of Lansing Economic Development Corp., the West Saginaw authority is focusing

on communications, branding and identifying assets and opportunities. Authority Chair Tiffany Dowling notes that there is good momentum and growing business activity on West Saginaw. She pointed to the new mixed-use development of the former Park Furniture building in the 900 block. "This project will make a huge difference, and will help define what this corridor can be."

Price Dobernick, who chairs the South MLK authority, explained that his group is working to increase the number of art-covered CATA shelters. Important, it is also focusing on Logan Square, having invested funds into the city-initiated study that will inform the plan for future investment there. Finally, Price notes that they are looking to "work with the county and city to remove blighted buildings" along the South MLK corridor.

The North Grand River authority is just forming, building up its board and beginning development of its plan.

I've been thinking lately about the redo of Michigan Avenue planned for next year. The patronage of neighbors within walking distance of avenue businesses will be that much more important during a time of red cones and redirected traffic of the sort that discourages vis-

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Building Bridges in East Lansing

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
OR BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

ENDORSED BY ALL OF HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE CITY COUNCIL:

MAYOR RON BACON
MAYOR PRO TEM JESSY GREGG
COUNCILMEMBER DANA WATSON
COUNCILMEMBER GEORGE BROOKOVER

AND ENDORSED BY:

GREATER LANSING LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO
LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GREATER LANSING BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL
GREATER LANSING ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL 333

PAID FOR BY NOEL GARCIA FOR EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL,
1777 FOXCROFT RD., EAST LANSING, MI 48823

Michigan Republican Party members moving toward ousting Chair Karamo

Members of the Michigan Republican Party's 100-some-member state committee are "well on their way" to collecting the signatures needed to bounce Chair Kristina Karamo, an unprecedented move in state partisan politics.

After roughly eight months at the helm, Karamo has lost the party's state headquarters, lost money at its biennial Mackinac Island leadership conference and cycled through staff.

Dan Lawless of Oakland County is trying to get at least half of his fellow GOP state committee members to sign a petition calling for a special meeting to vote out Karamo and General Counsel Dan Hartman. I'm told he's "well on his way" to getting the number.

Once a meeting is called, at least 75% of those present need to vote for removal.

An increasing number of state committee members are seeing what I wrote about in this space this past July. The party apparatus is disintegrating into dysfunction. They're begrudgingly realizing that tossing around ideological banter among themselves isn't raising money, and it's not growing membership.

When asked during a recent event how much money the Republican Party currently has, Karamo was captured on video standing in silence for 40 uncomfortable seconds until the next question was asked.

The best spin she had for the low-attendance Mackinac conference was, "We considered it a very successful event because of what it inspired people to do, and we didn't lose a lot of money in the process."

When asked if the party was prepared to support its state House nominees in 2024, the first words Karamo shared were, "Of course, we're not where we want to be."

She wants to be sitting on an army of grassroots volunteers winning Michigan for Republicans one neighborhood at a time.

It all sounds great if you're a Republican, until she conceded that "we've hit a wall" with volunteers. The members it does have are "aging out" or quitting, like former 5th Con-

gressional District Chair Jon Smith, who said his workload as a volunteer was becoming a 12-hour-a-day commitment.

Fewer people are interested in serving in party politics, meaning more work for those who remain.

By Smith's estimation, 10 of 13 state congressional chairs, five of the six co-chairs and at least half of the state committee are "up in arms" and would probably vote to remove the former secretary of state nominee if a vote were held today.

"I love Karamo as an individual. She's a great person who means well, but I have to think about the party," Smith said. "She should step aside and pass the baton to someone else."

Outside of ostracizing the old guard of the GOP that brought in the bucks that allowed Republicans to do things like win races, Karamo is isolating different factions and has ignored those who voice any bit of criticism, inside sources tell me. Her circle of supporters is growing tighter as more people question the party's finances.

Dawn Beattie, Karamo's former executive administrator, wrote this last week in a group email:

"Calling for the removal of an inept chair isn't personal, but necessary and our job. We were elected to a position to provide checks and balances to the administration ... Any disastrous outcome in 2024, due to a lack of urgency and action on our part, will lie at our feet."

Former candidate Scott Greenlee, a long-time MIGOP operative who has caché with enough of the party factions to at least get everyone rowing in the same direction, appears to be the most likely replacement. At the very least, he wouldn't stick his nose in internal county spats as Karamo & Co. did in Kalamazoo and elsewhere.

Whether he could raise the new volunteers and cash needed to make the party become even a factor in 2024 is hard to tell. For now, the question is how long it will take for Karamo to cut out enough of her supporters to make a switch imminent.

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



KYLE MELINN

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itors from afar. The re-do will ultimately benefit all sectors of the neighborhood by increasing walkability, making biking safer, improving transit options and slowing traffic. Andy Kilpatrick, Lansing's public service director, notes that "the new configuration from the center of the right of way will be vehicle lanes (two heading west, one heading east, plus a center turn lane), parking, parkway/buffer strip (for signs, light poles, trees/landscaping, etc.), bicycle track, sidewalk, and building." These changes will enhance what we have always loved about the "spine of the east side": a distinctive quality of place, easy access to goods and services, and a good time!

The Michigan Avenue authority has just launched a website, dotheavenue.com, to promote businesses and happenings. Over the coming year, the website will also keep you posted on construction progress and offer fun suggestions for ways to amp up support

for our institutional neighbors during this tricky time.

So, give some thought to how you, your neighbors and perhaps place-based organizations you belong to might better support the Michigan Avenue corridor and others that run through your neighborhood. On the east side, some groups are already brainstorming about adopting a business or a block each month during next year's construction. As Margaret Tassaró, an eastside resident and activist living north of Michigan Avenue, points out, "This is a great time to strengthen the relationship between those of us that live here and the people who operate businesses in our neighborhood. When patrons from outside the east side might be reluctant to face construction blockages and parking challenges, nearby residents, in whose long-term interest it is that businesses survive, can make a point of supporting our commercial neighbors."

(Joan Nelson was the founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center on Lansing's east side. Her column appears monthly.)

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Act-4-2023 Sale of City-owned Property, 425 S Grand Ave.

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, to consider a resolution selling the parcel at 425 S Grand Ave., commonly known as Parking Lot 1.

Details of the sale are on file with the City Clerk's Office and are available at Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. or www.lansingmi.gov/clerk. For more information about this sale, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177.

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

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

CP#23-292



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: ZONING AMENDMENT #2023-05 (PLANNING COMMISSION)

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE ZONING AMENDMENT #2023-05 (PLANNING COMMISSION) PUBLIC HEARING

The Township Board at its regular meeting on November 6, 2023 approved for introduction and subsequent adoption Ordinance 2023-05 to amend several sections of the Zoning Ordinance to comply with the requirements for the Township's Redevelopment Ready Community renewal, updating standards throughout the Zoning Ordinance.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Community Planning and Development office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517-853-4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

CP#23-288

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

A show of firsts

Riverwalk presents an experimental, musical road-trip comedy in its Black Box

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

When a family of five heads down the Oregon Trail in what director Ayden Soupal calls “pioneer times,” hilarity, death and family values are all part of the journey.

If you’ve never played the beloved video game that inspired the musical, “The Oregon Trail,” fear not. Soupal said, “I’ve never played it. But it’s not an adaptation of the game, it’s a road-trip comedy.” Sure, there are references and easter eggs for gamers, but the script is designed to work for all audiences.

Soupal chose the script and is excited to be directing his first musical after directing his first production last year, Riverwalk’s “Misery.” His theater training began about 10 years ago with All-of-Us Express Children’s Theatre in East Lansing. He credits the program with giving him a well-rounded understanding of different theater roles, which is key for a director.

“I’ve always wanted to direct a musical,” he said. “Being able to convey the plot and push the story along through music is a feat. Sure, there are jokes about pooping your pants and horny oxen, but the show is about loving your family, working together and knowing that everything is going to be okay.”

Soupal’s entire family is involved in this production, with his parents, Derek and Kat, responsible for set design and his sister responsible for costume design. He’s especially proud of his dad, who won a Barney Award from Riverwalk this summer for his behind-the-scenes work in “Misery.”

“It was his first time ever doing a set, and there was a special effect required with a trap door. He won the award for that, and I’ve got to give that to him. These shows are a family affair,” Soupal said.

At 22 years old, Soupal isn’t sure if he’s the youngest director at Riverwalk, but he can’t think of anyone close to him in age who’s currently directing.

“This is very much my sense of humor, not that I’m always this juvenile,” he said



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

The cast of Riverwalk Theatre’s production of “The Trail to Oregon.” From left: Kaela Panicucci as Daughter, Quentin Villa as Father, Taren Going as Mother, Dale Wayne Williams as Grandpa and Xia Skowronek as Son.

of the musical. “But it’s the perfect small-scale yet very impactful show.”

But don’t expect to just sit back and relax. The show requires some audience participation at the beginning and the end, and, as a result, it will be slightly different

each time it’s performed. The audience will help the actors choose their names during the opening number, “Gone to Oregon.”

“The audience has to shout the names they want the characters to have. It hypes up the audience at the beginning

of the show, and then the actors have to maintain that throughout the night,” Soupal said.

Actor Taren Going plays the Mother character in the show.

“She’s the stern one. She loves her family a lot, but she’s very much the ‘straight man,’” Going said.

Going has performed in plenty of musicals and comedic productions, but “this show is nothing like anything I’ve ever done before,” they said. “It’s extreme goofiness.”

“Actually, I’m not ever the straight man,” they added. “I’m usually the goofy one, and everyone else has to act normal around me.”

Going especially appreciates the set de-

sign, saying, “Our scenic background was painted to look a lot like the stills in the background of the video game.” Laughing, they added, “I definitely played the game. Sometimes I didn’t make it to the end, and we starved or died of dysentery.”

When asked what’s so enduring about the video game, Going replied, “I think we all like having the ability to test things. You reset and choose again. If you die, you just go back to the beginning, and you think, ‘I will not make that mistake again.’”

Going is excited to see what happens when the show opens.

“It’s going to be interesting to try and maintain my character. The show is different every night because of what the audience brings to it,” they said.

Their advice to the audience is, “Come prepared for a good time — and lots of silliness.”

This is the first time Riverwalk will stage a musical in its Black Box space. Soupal said, “Usually, the point of the Black Box theater is to do a smaller, intimate or more experimental show.”

He said the show has faced the typical trials and tribulations of theater but that “the cast and crew have been phenomenal. I’m very excited for people to see it. Once the cast hears the audience’s laughter, they won’t want it to stop.”

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



November theater productions

“The Prom”

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
Nov. 2–5 and 9–12
7 p.m. Thursday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Stage One Performing Arts Center
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
peppermintcreek.org

“The Trail to Oregon”

Nov. 9–12 and 16–19
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
riverwalktheatre.com

“Sense and Sensibility”

LCC Performing Arts
Nov. 10–12 and 17–19
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

“Much Ado About Nothing”

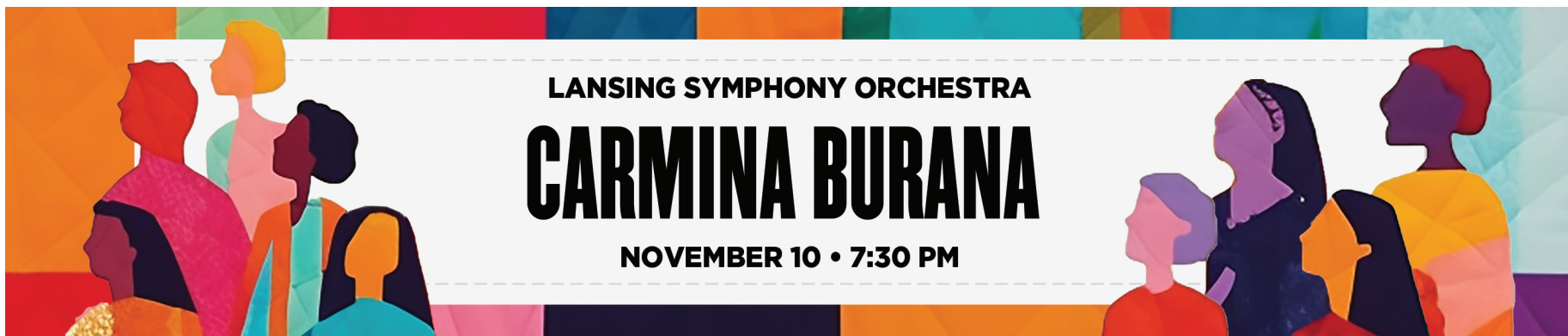
MSU Department of Theatre
Nov. 10–19
7:30 p.m. Wednesday–Thursday
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday; Nov. 18
Arena Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

“Murder for Two: Holiday Edition”

Nov. 16–Dec. 23
8 p.m. Thursday–Saturday; Dec. 20
2 p.m. Saturday–Sunday (Saturday matinees begin Nov. 25); Nov. 24, Dec. 13 and 20
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

“MSU UnScripted”

MSU Department of Theatre
Nov. 30–Dec. 3
7:30 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday–Sunday
Studio 60 Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu



Courtesy MSU Hillel

Michigan State University students and others gather for an on-campus vigil on Oct. 9, two days after Hamas' attack.



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

MSU students of Palestinian descent and others gather at the state Capitol on Sunday to protest Israel's bombardment of Gaza.

MIDEAST CONFLICT BRINGS OUT EMOTIONS ON BOTH SIDES

For MSU students, Hamas attack sparks fear and fury

By STEVE UNDERWOOD

Josie Shapiro, a first-year Michigan State University student who is Jewish, is "furious" as she considers her feelings and reactions and how they've evolved in the three-and-a-half weeks since the Hamas attack in Israel.

"I started off feeling such fear and concern for Israel, and while that is still present, I am angry at Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, the terrorist organizations responsible for Israel's current state," Shapiro said, the depth of emotion coming through. "There is no way a compromise can be brought forth anymore, not when so many innocent people are dead, not when so many people, even ones I called my best friends, have turned against me, only reading the parts of the news that antagonize Israel, the very country being destroyed."

Hence, her fury.

Going back to the days of the Vietnam War in the 1960s and '70s and the Cold War in the 1980s, there have always been groups of college students whose burgeoning ideals would lead them to protest government military actions and policies, imploring the older generation to enact more peaceful solutions. But the long history of conflict between Israel and Palestine, its effect on innocent civilians on both sides, and the continuing impact of the Oct. 7 large-scale strikes by Hamas and the war that has followed have left many students angry and struggling to maintain any hope.

"I wish peace could be achieved, but as long as Hamas remains in control of Palestine, there will be no safety for the Jews, and I will continue



MSU student Josie Shapiro

For Palestinians at MSU, war on Hamas is 'annihilation'

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Standing at the steps of the state Capitol on Sunday, Michigan State University senior Omar Mahmoud's thoughts turned to his Palestinian grandmother. "She was one of the 750,000 who were kicked out of their homes in 1948," Mahmoud said, referring to the year Israel entered into statehood.

"She still stands with us today," he said to applause from the crowd of hundreds who attended a Justice for Palestine rally.

Mahmoud, the vice president of Students United for Palestinian Rights chapter at Michigan State University, was born and raised in East Lansing, "but my roots go back to Palestine."

Mahmoud accused Israel of "apartheid ethnic cleansing war crimes."

Over the two-hour protest, Mahmoud and other speakers demanded that U.S. politicians call for a ceasefire in Gaza. At times, the crowd chanted, "Netanyahu you can't hide, we charge you with genocide," referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The gathering was just the latest and most visible example of local activism on behalf of the Palestinian people since Oct. 7, when the terrorist group Hamas attacked Israel.

On Friday, the MSU Muslim Studies Program hosted a virtual teach-in, "Understanding Palestinian Perspectives on Gaza." One of the speakers was Waseem El-Rayes, an MSU political theory professor who hails from a family with "roots that go back to Gaza for 10



MSU student Omar Mahmoud

ISRAEL

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to live in fear,” Shapiro said.

Another Jewish MSU student, Matthew Zivian, remembers first learning about the attack that Saturday during a charity golf outing before he returned home, when the details, depth and gravity of the situation began to hit him.

“I started calling my parents, my brothers, slowly piecing together what’s going on and trying to get through the wave of fear that initially hit us,” he said. “We understood that this was the largest attack on Jewish civilians since the Holocaust.”

So, it was vitally important for Zivian, Shapiro and their community two days later when the MSU chapter of Hillel, the nation’s largest Jewish student organization, and the Jewish Student Union at MSU held a candle lighting on campus around the Sparty statue. Hundreds of students attended, with Zivian, who is vice president of the Jewish Student Union, and others speaking to the group.

“It was huge for the community to come together that quickly, especially when the trauma was all very new and we were still learning details about what was going on.

“It gave a lot of people reassurance that no matter scary things might get, we still have each other on campus,” Zivian said.

It was a very clear message to the greater university community that the Jewish community is one that supports each other, outwardly, and loves each other. It was a great display of emotion that night.”

Added Shapiro, “It was a very somber but powerful experience that made me feel so seen and cared for. We could all feel our fear, sadness, and anger together, praying for those we know and love to stay alive and mourning over those who were murdered. I was so surprised about the number of people that showed up, and it made me feel so protected in a way I hadn’t felt ever before.”

Still, Zivian said he has seen a wide variety of reactions from other students and groups on campus, and that some of it concerns him.

“The response I’ve seen really depends on who I talk to, because given how much I do on campus, I unfortunately see a lot of the negative side of everything,” he said. “Fortunately, I’ve had a lot of friends reach out to me and made sure that I’m doing OK and offer their support. They’ve been amazing.

“But I’ve also seen a lot of students on



Matthew Zivian



This image of Adolph Hitler was displayed during a football game at Spartan Stadium in October as part of a trivia quiz.

campus glorifying the attacks, spreading a lot of misinformation, trying to say that some of this attack was deserved and that things that Israel had done in the past warranted this malicious and horrifying attack on Jewish civilians. Some of them have been very scary and have added to the trauma of everything that I’ve seen.”

There have been other reasons the trauma these students feel has been compounded. On Oct. 19, the Associated Students of MSU passed “Resolution 60-30, a bill to ‘Advocate for ASMSU and MSU to Address the Ongoing Palestinian Crisis and Support Palestinian Students.’” This action took place after a Zoom meeting of ASMSU members and representatives.

MSU Hillel posted a statement on social media the next day from its executive director, Robyn Hughey, saying, “We are collectively hurt and deeply concerned by the passage of a resolution that was rid-

“Being a Palestinian from Gaza is an essential part of who I am, but I’m also a U.S. citizen,” he said. “My tax money pays for the bombs the U.S. ships to Israel. I voted for the politicians who have signed off on the leveling of my relatives. This is actually America’s war now. Without our support and weapons, this would not be happening.”

Stephen Gasteyer, an MSU sociology professor who has lived and conducted research in Gaza on-and-off since 1985, spoke at both events.

“I’ve had the privilege of joining Gazans as they thought about how to do the concept of community development in Gaza,” Gasteyer said, adding that development in any capacity



Courtesy MSU Hillel
A vigil at Michigan State University on Oct 9 organized by MSU Hillel, Jewish Student Union, MSU Chabad and Spartans for Israel.

dled with factual inaccuracies, anti-Israel rhetoric, and antisemitic undertones.” She also applauded the “bravery of our student leaders for their grace under pressure during the nine-hour meeting, which included countless public comments and vitriol.

“Speaking up in that room and sharing their perspectives took courage, determination, and an immense amount of strength,” her post said. “When we stand together, our community is stronger than antisemitism and hate.”

Then two days later at Spartan Stadium, an image of Adolf Hitler appeared on the huge video board before the MSU-Michigan game, part of a pregame video trivia quiz that asked his birthplace. It had not been fully vetted by university officials, who later made profuse public apologies.

But it still felt like another attack to Zivian. As something of a student spokesperson for MSU Hillel, he is fre-

quently interviewed by the media, including during the above events and even back in February, when he was among students taking cover in darkened classrooms during the terrifying on-campus mass shooting incident nearby.

He acknowledges the wide variety of reactions among his peers, while still believing they ultimately want peace to prevail. “That’s one of beautiful things about Jewish community, there’s a diversity among us,” he said. “I’ve seen people who are calling for the military to completely wipe out Gaza, and I’ve seen people who want a ceasefire now and to put down all guns. There’s a broad spectrum.

“Referring to the Jewish Student Union, he said, “We just want everybody on both sides, no matter where you are, to lead a safe, healthy, happy life. By and large, everybody wants peace, but the means of getting the peace is where there are diverse opinions.”

PALESTINE

from page 13

generations.”

“Right now, as we speak, I’m looking at the bombing of my town, where Israel has cut off all communication. I don’t know what’s happening to my 88-year-old uncle and his wife, who is like a mother to me,” El-Rayes said.

In several powerful moments during the 90-minute session, El-Rayes described the current bombardment of Gaza as “the annihilation of my past and future” and cited the United States’ support of Israel as “the language of the perfect victims and perfect villains.”

was often difficult because the Israeli government frequently places restrictions on whocould enter or leave the city And what could be brought in or out.

Now, these restrictions are being tightened. Gasteyer, whose work has included studies on water justice, said that most Gazans are now drinking water that is unfit for consumption.

“Water alone has been a problem, but you can add to that the reality of economic development,” Gasteyer said, citing Gaza’s 45% unemployment rate, which the United Nations says is among the highest in the world. He also pointed to Gaza’s high density of population.

Hiba Mukhal, a third-year law stu-

dent at MSU and president of the Middle Eastern Student Law Association, declared her frustration “because we’re constantly having to prove that we, too, are human beings.”

She took a moment to offer some clarity on what Palestinian supporters hope to achieve. “When we say, ‘Free Palestine,’ it means open Gaza’s borders so that the 2.2 million people who live there can go out and live a normal life. It does not mean that I’m antisemitic. It’s just a call for self-determination, for dignity, for respect — because Palestinians deserve that, too,” Mukhal said.

See PALESTINE, Page 15

PALESTINE

from page 14

These sentiments were echoed Sunday at the Capitol by a cast of speakers that included Abraham Aiyash, the first Arab American to serve as the Democratic majority leader in the Michigan House of Representatives; Sheikh Abdullah Waheed, a co-founder of the Miiftaah Institute, an educational nonprofit organization in Warren; Nelson Brown, co-chair of the Peace Education Center of Greater Lansing, and Saba Saeed, vice president of the MSU Arab Culture Society.

Near the end of the rally, Saeed told the crowd she was “out of tears” for her people. Like her fellow speakers, she added that she was not satisfied with statements from President Joe Biden, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, MSU interim President Teresa Woodruff and others who she said have shied away from calling for a ceasefire in the Gaza strip.

As she spoke, Saeed looked down to the first several rows of steps leading up to the Capitol’s entrance, where dozens of children adorned in Palestinian flags and attire had congregated.

“It’s just disappointing that these kids know what’s up, but the grown people up there don’t,” she said, referring to the lawmakers who work out of the building that now served as a backdrop for her cause.

Thasin Sardar, a trustee with the Islamic Society of Greater Lansing, who helped organize the rally, said the turnout exceeded expectations, which he said was 300 people.

“We wanted to get our lawmakers’ attention,” he said, adding that while it was an encouraging turnout, “we still have a long way to go in educating the people.”

In his quest to increase public



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Organizers said more than 300 attended the rally on Sunday at the state Capitol.

awareness surrounding the Palestinian struggle, Sardar noted that the younger generations seem to “be able to see through it more clearly on the Palestinian side.”

“If there was a little bit of activism on campuses before, that has expanded now. There are many more allies. We’ve had social Democrats come and support these rallies, we’ve had Black Lives Matter members supporting us across the country, as well as other student groups,” he said.

Mukhal and Mahmoud are key contributors to that youth movement in Lansing.

“As a Muslim, as a Palestinian,

as an American, I value every single individual human life, because no human life should be cut short,” Mukhal said. “It’s so disheartening I can’t even formulate the words to express how I’m feeling. So, I want to remind everyone to be extra kind to one another, because an act of kindness goes a long way. And I hope one day the children of Gaza can wake up to a world of peace.”

Their elders agree.

“We all want peace, I want to reiterate that,” El-Rayes added. “But peace that is not based on freedom and equality is just subjugation. Whatever happens, going back to the status quo is not going to be possible. This is the moment where we ceasefire and find a political solution, because there is no military solution.”

**COUNTY OF INGHAM
NOTICE OF APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING
FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
Housing Improving Local Livability (CHILL) Program Funding**

County will conduct a public hearing on November 8, 2023 at 6:30 pm to be held in Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, MI for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to submit comments and receive information on the application for CDBG CHILL Grant.

The CDBG grant application will request \$500,000 in funding for homeowner improvement project activities at to-be-determined properties within non-entitlement areas of Ingham County, and redevelopment activities in the City of Leslie managed by the Ingham County Land Bank. No less than 51% of beneficiaries of CDBG funded projects will be low to moderate income individuals at or below 80% of Area Median Income. No individuals are to be displaced as a result of these projects.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the project in person at the public hearing. Citizen views and comments on the CDBG application are welcome.

Diana Bartlett, Housing Trust Fund Coordinator
Ingham County
(517) 483-6155

CP#23-286

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Z-9-2023, Vacant lot south of 1917 Osband Avenue
Rezoning from “IND-2” General Industrial to
“R-6A” Urban Detached Residential

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider a request to rezone the vacant property (parcel #: 33-01-01-28-103-098) located south of 1917 Osband Avenue from “IND-2” General Industrial to “R-6A” Urban Detached Residential. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the construction of a single-family residential home on the subject property.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, November 27, 2023 at the City Clerk’s Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#23-293



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1800 N Grand River Ave Lansing, MI

Willie Nelson launches Michigan cannabis line with Lansing grower

By CHRIS SILVA

Lansing has long been an important place for the Michigan cannabis industry. The capital city once supported a reported 90 caregiver retail stores before the Medical Marijuana Facility Licensing Act fully reigned in caregiver markets. This reporter got his start in the cannabis industry in Lansing back in 2014 while also serving as campaign manager for the ill-fated MI Legalize ballot campaign committee.

Lansing's tolerant attitude toward weed has made it a great environment for top-notch cannabis entrepreneurs like Hilary Dulany, a partner of Lansing-based cannabis grower Aardvark Industrees, which just launched a new line of products under musician Willie Nelson's Willie's Reserve brand in recreational retail locations across the state. The new line, Nelson's first foray into the Michigan cannabis market, offers five strains that range from about 24 to 30% THC, with pre-packaged flower and pre-roll options available. Dulany told me demand has been high and that Lansing-area consumers can find the products at Lake Life Farms when it opens its Lansing facility on Michigan Avenue this fall.

I first became aware of Dulany during the caregiver days while working for the now-defunct medical cannabis retailer Kind Provisioning on Michigan Avenue. She was already a well-known and connected cannabis entrepreneur and advocate. Dulany and her team have years of caregiving experience under their belts and have proved savvy business operators, successfully navigating the turbulent state-regulated market.

The business has partnered with some of Michigan's premier craft cultivators in an effort to ensure top-quality products, while also supporting operations run by former caregiver and legacy operators. Dulany has a sincere respect for the advocates who have paved the way and made our industry possible. Aardvark allows small operators to make a big impact, pairing with one of the most well-known and trusted names in Michigan cannabis.

Far too regularly, celebrity brands go directly to corporate-funded mega-growers to get their often pre-remediated products to consumers. Willie's Reserve is working with Aardvark to allow the brand to be successful in Michigan, where both quality and price need to be on point. Aardvark



Courtesy of Willie's Reserve

Musician Willie Nelson's cannabis brand, Willie's Reserve, has launched its first line of Michigan cannabis products in collaboration with Lansing-based grower Aardvark Industrees.

has been handling Michigan growing operations for another celebrity brand, comedian and actor Cheech Marin's Cheech's Stash, since 2022.

Aardvark will be able to leverage years of know-how and grit to ensure the new products aren't just high-quality but successful at the bottom line, too, something not many of the big boys can say yet. Aardvark stands as the exception, not the rule. I'm impressed with the quality and worldview attached to this venture, and I see it as a shining example of some of the things we've gotten right in our industry. I'm hopeful I can use my new position as the author of this column to help highlight these kinds of operators that have strong roots in our cannabis community and help enrich the community as a whole.

This marks my second Lansterdam in Review column, and I wanted to take a minute and introduce myself to help set the context for this column moving forward. I've worked in the cannabis industry since 2014 for a few different Lansing-based companies, including Homegrown Cannabis Co., Kind Provisioning, Rebel Industries (lol, yeah, that guy) and Redemption Cannabis. In addition, my time as an activist and cannabis consultant has given me a context that I hope can create some value for readers.

One note: I'm currently employed by Evolution Brands. I think it's important to be completely transparent to you, the reader. I won't be reviewing any of my company's products for

this column.

My goal with Lansterdam in Review is to inform and educate our cannabis community so that we can all



ensure we have an industry that best represents our values and goals as a community of patients, advocates, consumers and industry operators. I'm an advocate for a more equitable and sustainable cannabis industry that aims to increase access to legacy and small operators.

City Pulse has always had a special place in my heart. I remember counting on the Pulse to keep me up to date on the ever-changing cannabis scene in the times before legalization. I take my responsibility seriously and will diligently look out for consumers and patients above all else. During the caregiver years, there was a defined sense of community in Lansing's cannabis scene, and I'm hoping to speak to that legacy and help ensure its traditions survive the oncoming corporate cannabis onslaught as our industry trudges on toward full maturity.

From the page to the silver screen

'The Marsh King's Daughter' hits theaters this weekend

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Bringing "The Marsh King's Daughter" to the big screen has been a long and winding road, but the book's author, Michigan writer Karen Dionne, has been pretty cool about it.

From the start, Dionne has been laid back about the movie, which is based on her 2017 thriller set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Thousands of books are optioned that never see the flicker of the big screen, so it was long odds to begin with.

Maybe it's Dionne's age. She didn't get her major book contract until she was middle-aged, after writing two environmental thrillers that didn't gain much traction.

That wasn't the case with "The Marsh King's Daughter," the publishing rights to which were sold at auction in 2017. Some major publishers ran the price up to \$1.3 million. Now, with the movie only a few days from its first showings on Friday (Nov. 3), it's like Dionne has won the lottery on back-to-back days.

Early on, there was discussion that the movie would be shot in the Upper Peninsula, but the location was changed to an area in Canada that was almost untenable due to its remote wilderness. Filming was completed in 2021 near North Bay, Ontario, and other nearby areas.

I know this is heresy, but moviegoers won't notice the film was shot in Canada. However, they will be blown away by the beauty of the Canadian wilderness, which is the body double for the Upper Peninsula's Seney National Wildlife Refuge. Canada's monetary enticements for movie locations helped tip the scales from the UP.

The 108-minute movie follows the book's plot reasonably closely, but Dionne stresses not to get caught up in the differences and just appreciate it for what it is. The tense plot is sure to keep audiences on the edge of their theater seats.

The book takes readers on a deadly cat-and-mouse hunt as a father and daughter try to be the first to find and kill the other. The daughter, Helena, is the child of a teenage mother who was kidnapped and hidden deep in the woods of the Upper Peninsula. When Helena turns 12, she escapes, and her testimony puts her father in the Marquette Branch Prison.



Afterward, Helena moves on with her life. She's running a thriving natural food business and is married and

raising two children when she learns her father has escaped and is coming for her to exact his revenge. Helena is forced to become a huntress, using the outdoor survival skills she learned from her father. She may be the only one with the skills to find him.

What makes the book stand out is the authenticity Dionne offers in writing about the northern woods of Michigan. The author and her husband were part of the countercultural back-to-the-land movement of the 1960s and '70s. In early 1974, the couple bought 10 acres in the Upper Peninsula just off M-28 near Seney. The idea was to live off the land and sell her husband's pottery. They ended up living in the Upper Peninsula for more than 30 years before moving back to the Lower Peninsula.

The movie definitely has the star power to succeed when it opens. It stars "Star Wars" actress Daisy Ridley and Marvel actor Ben Mendelsohn. It was adapted for the screen by Mark L. Smith of "The Revenant" fame and directed by Neil Burger, who also directed the "Divergent" film series, another book adaptation.

Dionne was disappointed that she was unable to watch any of the filming, the vast majority of which was completed during the COVID-19 pandemic, causing the Canadian border to be closed.

She's since been able to watch the movie on the small screen about nine times.

"There's nothing like it. It's amazing," she said. "I was like a little ball of jelly, and seeing my name on the big screen will be like ... wow."

To celebrate the movie's release, which coincides with the ongoing



Courtesy of Karen Dionne

"There's nothing like it. It's amazing," Michigan author Karen Dionne said of watching the film adaptation of her novel "The Marsh King's Daughter." She has done so about nine times so far, with plans to travel to New York City to watch it on the big screen.

SAG-AFTRA strike, Dionne said she and her husband are flying to New York City to watch the movie just off Times Square at the AMC Empire 25 theater.

If the movie is a success, Dionne's literary lottery luck may hit again when the book is reissued with a cover tying it to the film. The book was originally published in more than 27 countries and was a bestseller in Sweden, so its legs could take it a long way.

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After one year of operation, Art Williamston continues to grow

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

Prior to October 2022, Williamston didn't have a dedicated space where local artists could display their work. There were a few galleries run by local artists who exhibited their own work and taught art classes, but the majority of creatives had to venture to other parts of Greater Lansing if they wanted their pieces to be featured in a gallery.

"Williamston has a lot of artists, a lot of really creative people, and we didn't have any place to display anything. A woman named Michelle Eichler came up with the idea of creating an art gallery," said Marlene Epley, a member of the Art Williamston gallery's Board of Directors. "The Capital Area District Library is in the same building as the middle school, and there was extra space that wasn't being used, so we got permission to use that space."

Open the same hours as the library, the Art Williamston gallery offers a new exhibition quarterly, or about every three to four months. Some exhibitions, like its first, "Unveiling Our Heritage: Introducing Artists of Williamston," fo-

cus on a diverse range of subject matter, mediums and styles, allowing a variety of local artists to contribute. Others, like its last two exhibitions, "Love Is in the Air" and "Autumn Gothic," focus on a specific theme, but creators are welcome to submit pieces as long as they're relevant.

"Our goal is to promote and display work by local artists and get people familiar with how much talent there is in Williamston. Well, in the Williamston area, because we've had artists from Owosso and surrounding areas display things in the past," Epley said.

The gallery hosts an opening reception for each new exhibition on the first Saturday it's open, which Epley said are typically well-attended.

"The first one was quite large. There were 100-and-some people there. The second one, which was the love-themed one, was almost the same. The last one

had a little less, but I'm pretty sure it was because we opened it in August, and that's vacation month," she said.

The next exhibition, "Colors of Celebration: An Artistic Tribute to Global Holidays," will focus on different winter holidays celebrated around the world. The opening reception, running 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 18, will be larger than usual since it's doubling as the gallery's first anniversary celebration.

"We'll have a whole new display, and since it's our first anniversary, we're hoping to have some extra activities," Epley said. "This isn't positive yet, but we're talking about possibly having a caricaturist and maybe a face painter. We have one person who's on our board, Scott Van Allsburg, who sets up a big mat, and people coming in can contribute to it. They can use the paints that are supplied, and at the end of the day, we'll see what we have."

Though the receptions have been

popular, Epley said the gallery's main goal is to let as many people as possible know it exists.

"We still have a lot of people, even just in Williamston, saying, 'Oh, I didn't know that was there.' And the more we get the word out, the more we can get participants from all around the area and draw in more of the local artists," she said. "Williamston doesn't have an art gallery. It has a history museum, but it doesn't have many other galleries, so our goal is just awareness and participation and appreciation of what we have in the area, in terms of artistic talent."

Community members can help with this goal in a variety of ways, Epley said.

"They can visit the gallery, we always have a suggestion box, and our board meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend and see what we're doing. We would also love for anybody who's an artist in town or in this area to submit their artwork to be displayed in the gallery."

See Art Williamston, Page 20

Art Williamston gallery first anniversary party and "Colors of Celebration" opening

Nov. 18
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
3845 Vanneter Road,
Williamston
facebook.com/
ArtWilliamston

University Weiner zeroes in on late-night dogs

By **TYLER SCHNEIDER**



University Weiner

551 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
5-10:30 p.m. Tuesday
5 p.m.-2:30 a.m.
Wednesday-Friday
8 a.m.-2:30 a.m.
Saturday
Noon-10:30 p.m.
Sunday
517-580-8169
facebook.com/
universityweiner

Michigan State University students Ben Pikus and Louis Azor, owner of More Than Vintage clothing store and café in East Lansing, were on a trip to Nashville, Tennessee, when a new business idea took shape.

"There are a lot of street vendors there with hot dog carts. We saw how excited people got about the simple wiener, nothing too crazy," Pikus said. "Then the name University Weiner came up,

and after that, it was like, 'Alright, we have to do it.'"

The duo opened the hot dog shop at 551 E. Grand River Ave., near the Bailey Street intersection, in late August.

"We were thinking that this city really needed that late-night spot, and we wanted to bring that to the community," Pikus said. "It was cool for us because we're also students. We saw the potential for an affordable spot for students

to eat at night. That's really how it came to be, and we were really fortunate with the spot we ended up in."

Pikus grew up in the north Chicago suburb of Vernon Hills, where the mustard runs like tap water and wieners are known to be a way of life.

"We definitely wanted to keep it super focused on wieners because it's University Weiner, not 'University Late Night Grub,'" he said.

The menu features eight signature dogs, plus the Weiner on a Stick. Those craving simplicity might opt for the Raw Dog (no toppings), while hardliners may choose the Detroit Dog (chili, mustard and onion) or the Windy City Weiner (mustard, onion, relish, pickle spear, tomato, sport peppers and celery salt, served on a steamed poppy seed bun).

More exotic options include the Spartan Sizzler, topped with bacon, cream cheese, hot sauce and sautéed peppers and onions, and the Slaw Dog, bolstered with pulled pork, slaw, shredded pickles and barbecue sauce drizzle. Vegetarians and vegans have the option to substitute meat for the Plant Weiner, and gluten-free buns are also available.

By far, though, the most popular entry has been the MAC Ave, with bacon, mac and cheese, crushed Barbecue-flavored Lays chips and barbecue sauce drizzle.

"That's definitely kind of our staple at this point, without us really even realizing that would take place. The MAC Ave has taken that lead by a mile," Pikus said.

University Weiner sources its Vienna-style and 100% beef hot dogs, as well as its chili, from Koegel Meats Inc. in Flint.

"They're a well-known, dominant brand in Michigan. We're proud to carry their wieners," Pikus said.

Shortly after opening, Pikus and Azor had a run-in with Joey Chestnut, the 16-time Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest champion and one of the world's leading authorities on wieners.

"That was probably one of the funniest, coolest things that could've happened. We had no plans to meet; we didn't even know he was in town," Pikus said. "We met him at a Lugnuts game and asked him, 'Are you willing to just try one of our wieners?' I think for him, it was cool to see two young adults with the kind of drive and ambition we have."

Chestnut was impressed. "That's a good hot dog. A damn good hot dog," he said in a video posted on the University Weiner Facebook page.

"I wouldn't necessarily say he brought in more business. I think it just kind of contributed to the brand we're build-



Courtesy of University Weiner

University Weiner's menu features eight signature hot dogs, ranging from the completely bare Raw Dog to the bacon, mac and cheese and potato chip-loaded MAC Ave dog, plus the Weiner on a Stick.

ing," Pikus said. "That's something that we really pride ourselves on. Not just being a place that sells really good hot dogs but becoming a staple in the community. We want to do things with the school and the wider community. We want to give back."

Early efforts toward this goal have yielded a partnership with the Mady Sissoko Foundation, the namesake charity organization of MSU senior basketball player Mady Sissoko. University Weiner donates a portion of its proceeds to help Sissoko's organization build schools in his home country of Mali, a landlocked nation in western Africa.

"That's super cool for us because it's not like we're giving to a charity that's massive. With this, it's super concentrated," Pikus said.

Lansing Town Hall series celebrates 70 years of speakers

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

The Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series began in 1953 as a fundraiser to benefit the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. The intent was “to bring celebrity speakers to the Lansing area to share their talents and add culture to the area,” said publicity chair Susan Ellsworth.

That mission continues today, and the series is responsible for contributing approximately \$20,000 each year to the LSO. Ellsworth said, “We don’t sponsor a specific program. They use the money however they need to.”

On Monday (Nov. 6), the series will bring Michigan State University alumnus Molly Fletcher to the Eagle Eye Banquet Center in Bath. Fletcher, 52, is an entrepreneur and motivational speaker. She was one of the first female sports agents, described as the “female Jerry Maguire” by CNN. For 20 years, she represented both athletes and coaches, including Tom Izzo. She’s been authoring self-help books about career advancement since 2011, and her ideas and commentary have been featured in major media outlets like Forbes, Fast Company and Sports Illustrated.

Fletcher is one of four speakers Lansing Town Hall has booked for its 70th season, which began last month with

a presentation by Steve Hartman, who hosts a segment called “On the Road” on the CBS Evening News.

Ellsworth said she enjoyed learning new things about the CBS storyteller and left the event feeling inspired.

“I learned that he has a ‘Kindness 101’ show on CBS on Monday mornings,” she said. “It’s about four to five minutes, and his two children are involved. I watched a few episodes on YouTube, and it’s really cute.”

Ellsworth called the talks “an enriching opportunity,” saying, “You feel good when you leave because you’ve just experienced another person’s wealth of expertise. You learn something new that you didn’t know before.”

When Ellsworth retired a few years ago, her friend suggested that she get involved with volunteering for the speaker series. After attending a talk, she was hooked.

“I thought, ‘This is great! What a great group of people. I like this.’ It’s nice to hear someone who comes from a different part of the United States sharing on different topics or just entertaining us,” she said.

Although there are volunteers who have been involved for 40 years, this is only Susan’s fourth. She started volunteering just before the COVID-19 pandemic, and after riding out a few years of Zoom meetings, she’s chairing the

publicity committee during the series’ second season back in person.

“It’s nice to hear someone kind and down to earth just speaking from the heart. That’s what I really enjoy about the speakers,” she said.

Past speakers have included PBS travel show host Rick Steves, political comedy troupe The Capitol Steps, Michigan-based musical group Three Men and a Tenor and many more. This season, after Fletcher’s talk, Lansing Town Hall will welcome The New Yorker cartoonist Tom Toro on April 15, 2024, and Harvard-educated law professor and policy advisor William Burke-White on May 6, 2024.

The programs begin at 11 a.m. and are followed by a luncheon and Q&A with the presenter from noon to 1:30 p.m. Individual lecture tickets (\$45 each) and luncheon tickets (\$27.50 each) are sold at the door on the day of the lecture but are subject to availability. Tickets can also be reserved over the phone by calling ticket chair Margaret Hedlund at 517-323-1045.

Ellsworth said that one focus for the next season will be making the ticketing process more accessible. For 70 years, the organization has collected payment by check.

“You call a number and mail in a check,” she said. I clarified by asking if 300 to 400 audience members do that for a typical speaker event. She confirmed, “Yes. Everyone mails in a check.”

Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series: Molly Fletcher

Monday, Nov. 6
11 a.m.
Eagle Eye Banquet
Center
15500 Chandler Road,
Bath
517-323-1045
facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066385607610



Courtesy of Molly Fletcher

Molly Fletcher, an entrepreneur, motivational speaker and one of the first female sports agents, will present at Bath’s Eagle Eye Banquet Center 11 a.m. Monday (Nov. 6) as part of the Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series

Next year, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra will help the series launch an online payment system. For now, the series’ Facebook page, facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066385607610, has the most up-to-date information.

Art Williamston

from page 19

Those interested in submitting work for the upcoming holiday exhibition are encouraged to reach out to Matt Mulford at 517-485-6277 or Epley at 517-749-0352. There’s also a submission form on the gallery’s Facebook page, facebook.com/ArtWilliamston. Typically, submissions can be entered through the gallery’s website, artwilliamston.com, but it’s under construction.

Williamston Community Schools students also have opportunities to get involved with the gallery and create art, Epley said.

“The ceiling tiles are gradually being painted by students. Every time we have a new opening, there’s another new painted ceiling tile added, which is kind of cool. We’re also going to dedicate a space on the gallery wall for student work,” she said.



Courtesy of the Art Williamston gallery

Marlene Epley (left) and Scott Van Allsburg, members of the Art Williamston gallery’s Board of Directors, pose with art they created for the gallery’s first exhibition, “Unveiling Our Heritage: Introducing Artists of Williamston.”

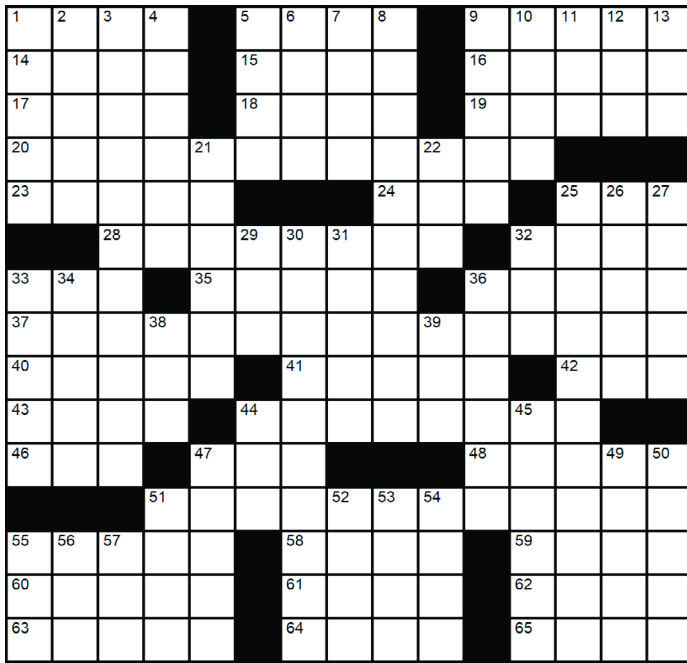
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"A Mild-Mannered Introduction"-- sounds like I've heard this before.
by Matt Jones
© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

1. Sulk around
5. Quid pro quo
9. Fictional college in "Animal House"
14. Ugandan dictator exiled in 1979
15. Prefix meaning "half"
16. Vibrant
17. South African cash
18. One requiring tech support
19. "For real"
20. Silent K?
23. More than important
24. Pet diversion
25. "Ghosts" ainer, originally
28. More abrasive
32. Two-dimensional figure
33. Fictional (or is she?) conductor Lydia
35. College freshmen, usually
36. Watchful
37. Silent W?
40. Desirable brownie parts, for some
41. "Ocean's Eleven" job
42. Calendar page, sometimes
43. Stir turbulently
44. In dire straits
46. Paid player
47. Abbr. on maps, until 1991
48. Romantic poet Rainer Maria ____
51. Silent G?
55. Show with a libretto



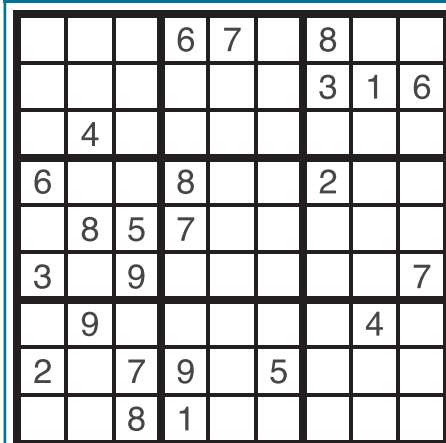
58. Yemeni port
 59. "Coldest drink in town" brand
 60. Stand-up kind of person?
 61. "The Legend of Zelda" hero
 62. Calls, in poker
 63. Tree part
 64. Calls at Wimbledon
 65. Prefix with while
- DOWN
1. 1970s Lincoln Continental
 2. Sultanate inhabitant
 3. White wine grape that's usually harvested early
 4. Dove's stance
 5. Avoid
 6. Sunset direction
 7. Pt. of MPAA
 8. "Our Flag Means Death" craft
 9. Like Michelin-starred restaurants
 10. Additive in some moisturizers
 11. Ballpoint pen maker
 12. Actress Mendes
 13. Sales position
 21. Best of the best
 22. Conjunction with neither
 25. Bakery device
 26. "It's deja vu all over again" sayer
 27. Spiteful
 29. It might be unsweetened
 30. Game using a rope
 31. Spy's collection
 32. ____-weekly (newspaper category)
 33. Annoying pest
 34. Burning desire
 36. To the back of the boat
 38. K-____ (big name in record compilations)
 39. Subj. for new citizens' night classes
 44. Actress Stephanie of "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
 45. "Forrest Gump" actor Gary
 47. Food on a short plane ride, maybe
 49. "Head, Shoulders, ____ and Toes" (____ and toes)
 50. Get rid of, metaphorically
 51. Joker's permanent look
 52. Actress Falco
 53. Well-mannered bloke
 54. Squid sprays
 55. Pumpkin-carving mo.
 56. ____ favor (please, in Spanish)
 57. Flightless ratite

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Answers on page 24

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!

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

November 1-7, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your victories-in-progress are subtle. They may not be totally visible to you yet. Let me describe them so you can feel properly confident about what you are in the process of accomplishing. 1. A sustained surge of hard-earned personal growth is rendering one of your problems mostly irrelevant. 2. You have been redefining what rewards are meaningful to you, and that's motivating you to infuse your ambitions with more soulfulness. 3. You are losing interest in a manipulative game that doesn't serve you as well as it should. 4. You are cultivating more appreciation for fascinating and useful problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus physicist Richard Feynman was a smart and accomplished person who won a Nobel Prize. He articulated a perspective that will be healthy for you to experiment with in the coming weeks. He said, "I can live with doubt and uncertainty and not knowing. I think it's much more interesting not knowing than to have answers that might be wrong. I have approximate answers and possible beliefs and different degrees of certainty about different things, but I'm not absolutely sure of anything, and there are many things I don't know anything about." Give Feynman's approach a try, dear Taurus. Now is an excellent time to explore the perks of questioning everything. I bet you'll be pleased with how free and easy it makes you feel.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): To earn money, I have worked as a janitor, dishwasher, olive picker, ditch digger, newspaper deliverer and 23 other jobs involving hard labor. In addition, I have done eight artistic jobs better suited to my sensitive temperament and creative talents. Am I regretful or resentful about the thousands of hours I toiled at tasks I didn't enjoy? A little. But I'm mostly thankful for them. They taught me how to interact harmoniously with a wide array of people. They helped forge my robust social conscience. And they motivated me to eventually figure out how to get jobs I really loved. Now I invite you to take an inventory of your own work life, Gemini. It's an excellent time to evaluate where you've been and where you want to go in the future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There are so many kinds of sweetness. Zesty, spicy sweetness. Tender, balmy, fragrant sweetness. Sour or bitter sweetness. Musky, piquant sweetness. Luscious, succulent sweetness. One of my favorite types of sweetness was described by Cancerian poet Stephen Dunn. He wrote, "Often a sweetness comes as if on loan, stays just long enough to make sense of what it means to be alive, then returns to its dark source. As for me, I don't care where it's been or what bitter road it's traveled to come so far, to taste so good." My analysis of the astrological omens suggests to me that you are about to commune with at least three of these sweetnesses, Cancerian. Maybe most of them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Author Dan Savage advocates regular indulgence in sloth. He notes that few of us can "get through 24 hours without a little downtime. Human beings need to stare off into space, look out the window, daydream and spend time every day being indolent and useless." I concur, and I hope you will indulge in more downtime than usual during the coming weeks. For the sake of your long-term mental and physical health, you need to relax extra deeply and strongly now — to recharge your battery with delicious and delightful abandon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): According to my deep and thorough analysis of your astrological rhythms, your mouth will soon be a wonder of nature. The words emerging from your lips will be extra colorful, precise and persuasive. Your taste buds will have an enhanced vividness as they commune with the joys of food and drink. And I suspect your tongue and lips will exult in an upgrade of aptitude and pleasure while plying the arts of sex and intimate love. Congratulations, mouthy maestro!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In addition to being a

masterful composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) played the piano, violin, harp, bassoon, clarinet, horn, flute, oboe and trumpet. His experience led him to believe that musicians best express their skills when they play fast. It's more challenging to be excellent when playing slowly, he thought. But I will invite you to adopt the reverse attitude and approach in the coming weeks, Libra. According to my astrological analysis, you will be most successful if you work gradually and incrementally, with careful diligence and measured craftiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In my horoscopes for Scorpios, I tend to write complex messages. My ideas are especially thick and rich and lush. Why? Because I imagine you as being complex, thick, rich and lush. Your destiny is labyrinthine and mysterious and intriguing, and I aspire to reflect its intricate, tricky beauty. But this time, in accordance with current astrological omens, I will offer you my simplest, most straightforward oracle ever. I borrowed it from author Mary Anne Hershey: "Live with intention. Walk to the edge. Listen hard. Play with abandon. Choose with no regret. Continue to learn. Appreciate your friends. Do what you love."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In her poem "Requiem," Anna Akhmatova says, "I must kill off memory ... and I must learn to live anew." I think most of us can benefit from periodically engaging in this brave and robust exercise. It's not a feat to be taken lightly — not to be done more than once or twice a year. But guess what: The coming weeks will be a time when such a ritual might be wise for you. Are you ready to purge old business and prepare the way for a fresh start? Here are your words of power: forgiveness, clearing, cleaning, release, absolution, liberation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): We need stories almost as much as we need to breathe, eat, sleep and move. It's impossible to live without them. The best stories nourish our souls, stimulate our imagination and make life exciting. That's not to say that all stories are healthy for us. We sometimes cling to narratives that make us miserable and sap our energy. I think we have a sacred duty to de-emphasize and even jettison those stories — even as we honor and relish the rich stories that empower and inspire us. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Capricorn, because you're in a phase of your cycle when you will especially thrive by disposing of the bad, old stories and celebrating the good ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I could be wrong, but I don't think so: You are smarter and wiser than you realize about the pressing issues that are now vying for your attention. You know more than you know you know. I suspect this will soon become apparent, as streams of fresh insights rise up from the depths of your psyche and guide your conscious awareness toward clarity. It's OK to squeal with glee every time a healing intuition shows up. You have earned this welcome phase of lucid certainty.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In Indigenous cultures throughout history, shamans have claimed they have the power to converse with and even temporarily become hawks, coyotes, snakes and other creatures. Why do they do that? It's a long story, but one answer is that they believe animals have intelligences that are different from what humans have. The shamans aspire to learn from those alternate ways of seeing and comprehending the world. Many of us who live in Western culture dismiss this venerable practice, although I've known animal lovers who sympathize with it. If you are game for a fun experiment, Pisces, I invite you to try your own version. Choose an animal to learn from. Study and commune with it. Ask it to reveal intuitions that surprise and enrich you.

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

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, Nov. 1

2023 Athenian Bake Sale ordering opens - The Philoptochos (Ladies' Aid Society) of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church announces the 2023 Athenian Bake Sale. Order online beginning Nov. 1. Pick up on Nov. 11, 14, 16 or 18. holytrinity-lansing.org/store-1.

"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. allenneighborhood-center.org/market.

Beginning Salsa Group Dance Class - 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Clay Day - Make your own clay pins and other cute creations. Grades 4-12. 4-5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradi.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.

Innovate State: The Challenge of Healthcare Innovation - Fireside chat-style interview with Todd Dunn, vice president of enterprise innovation at Advocate Health. 6 p.m. Minskoff Pavilion Entrepreneurship Lab, 651 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. entrepreneurship.msu.edu/innovate-state.

Introduction to Watercolor with Rhonda Sherwin - Learn about watercolor techniques and create a painting of your own. 15+. 4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingart-gallery.org.

It's Elementary - Join us for a tasty time as we investigate the science that happens in our kitchens. Snack included. 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.

LBCA Meeting - 7:30 a.m. Pine Hills Golf Course, 6603 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg.

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.

River Walk Trash Cleanup - Pick up the trash on the Lansing River Trail and the areas around our building. We'll walk for about 30 minutes. 11 a.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Switch Gaming - "Mario Strikers: Battle League" - Feel free to bring your Switch to play between turns, plus 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.

Virtual Life Drawing (nude model) - Join us online for a virtual drawing session to participate in the tradition of drawing nude models. Sign up at reachstudioart.org for a Zoom link. 6 p.m. 517-999-3643.

Wheel of the Year: Samhain and Ancestors - 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.

Thursday, Nov. 2

"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.

Broad Underground: Record, Recollect, Repatriate - Short film screenings programmed in response to the CORE at the Broad Art Museum. 7-9 p.m. Wells Hall Room B122, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Eloquents Toastmasters Weekly Meeting - Safe and positive environment to practice public speaking and leadership skills. 6:30 p.m. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. eloquents.toastmastersclubs.org.

Farm Labor and Michigan Agriculture - One-day conference focusing on labor challenges facing U.S. agriculture. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. canr.msu.edu/events/farm-labor-and-michigan-agriculture.

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. laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1.

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

Lansing Día de Muertos celebration

Nov. 3-5
3-7 p.m. Friday
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday
Noon-3 p.m. Sunday
Lansing Mall (former Blockbuster store)
5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing



Lansing's 27th Día de Muertos celebration runs Friday (Nov. 3) through Sunday (Nov. 5) at the former Blockbuster store in the Lansing Mall, offering free fun for the whole family in recognition of the traditional Mexican holiday, which honors loved ones who have passed away. The store will be decorated with marigold flowers imported from Mexico; papel picado, or traditional Mexican cut-paper folk art; and giant calaveras, or decorative sugar skulls.

The celebration begins 4 p.m. Friday with a blessing of community-made ofrendas, or offerings for the deceased, which will be on view throughout the weekend. Attendees are welcome to add a photo or note to a loved one. In addition, there will be sugar-skull-decorating sessions each day while supplies last, and Casa de Rosado Galeria and Cultural Center's "¡Calaveras!" exhibition, featuring whimsical figures of skeletons joyously living life made by Michigan-based Hispanic and Latinx artists, will also be on display at the store.

Participants can drop off entries for the sugar-skull-decorating contest on Friday, with winners announced and prizes awarded 5 p.m. Saturday. Also at 5 p.m. Saturday are dance performances by Ballet Folklórico de Mi Terra and El Grupo Fiesta and a Catrin and Catrina sugar-skull costume contest with a \$100 prize. Visitors can enjoy complimentary Mexican hot chocolate and pan de muertos, a sweet yeast bread.

For more information about all of the weekend's happenings, visit facebook.com/casaderosado.

REACH: Arts Incubator for Young People - Teens can learn new art-making techniques and develop core skills while hanging out with other young people! 5 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.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.

Stitch 'n Bitch - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

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.

Friday, Nov. 3

Baked Shrimp w/ Jay Cotter and Birds Eye View at Mac's Bar - 8 p.m. 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Ballroom Dance Social - Practice skills you've learned in class, meet new friends and have fun at this dance party. All are welcome. Registration req. 6:30-8:45 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

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

Craft Club Jr. - Create a fall-themed placemat. Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet with bellydance artist Gemhara Almaz - 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.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.

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.

Homeschool Fridays - Area homeschool families receive a discount on regular admission prices. Noon-3 p.m. Launch Trampoline Park, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. launchtrampolinepark.com/lansing.

Life Drawing (Clothed) - Drawing session with a live model or still life, taught by artist and educator Elyse Gambino. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Events

from page 22

Main Street Dueling Pianos at Lansing Brewing Co. - Doors 6 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.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.

Saturday, Nov. 4

Abstract Watercolor Landscape Painting (Two-Part Workshop) - Learn about watercolor techniques and explore washes, glazes and dry brush methods. 10:30 a.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Cityscapes with Steph Joy Hogan - Create layered cityscapes with cut and torn paper and a variety of drawing tools. 18+ . 10 a.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

Contra & Square Dance - All dances taught. No partner needed. Come at 6:30 for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. 7 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-614-5858. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Creative Tots (B) (Four-week class) - Young artists create process-focused art with their parent/caregiver under the guidance of teaching artist Meghan Andrews. 10:30 a.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Dinosaur Camp - Enjoy dinosaur-themed stations, from sand excavation to arts and crafts. 11 a.m.-noon. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

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

Family Day: FLOW - Go with the flow! Explore art materials that blend, glide and swirl. All ages welcome. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E.

Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friends of the Haslett Library Semi-Annual Book Sale - Most books 50 cents or \$1. Silent auction of book baskets. Proceeds support the Haslett Library. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Family History Event - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. mimgc.org.

Samhain Ritual - Celebrate the Final Harvest with a ritual to honor our ancestors of blood, spirit and tradition, plus a raffle and a feast. 4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Sunday, Nov. 5

"A Course in Miracles," facilitated by Dan and Carol Maynard - Noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org

GLAD Drum Circle - All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-803-2392. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Holiday Bazaar - Handmade crafts, holiday items, bake sale and luncheon of brats, German potato salad and sauerkraut. Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-882-6330. facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub.

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

MSU Student Family Weekend - Choose your own adventure in our galleries and make some art with our MSU Broad Art Museum Student Creative Council. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Museum Tour: By Students, For Students - Walk

through the museum with our student staff, who will share why our building looks the way it does and their favorite works on view right now. 1 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship - 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org/join-us-for-worship.

Sunday Brunch - Visit lookingglassbrewingcompany.com for menu. Noon-5 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., Dewitt. 517-668-6004.

Monday, Nov. 6

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

Beginning Ukulele for the Family (six-week class) - Taught by Michigan's ukulele ambassador, Ben Hassenger. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Burger Night - Choice of hamburger, cheeseburger or olive burger, plus fries. Dine in or take out. \$8. 5-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

Crafty Story Time - Fun activities, stories and a craft. For preschool-aged children with a caregiver. 11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Finance Committee - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., 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.

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.

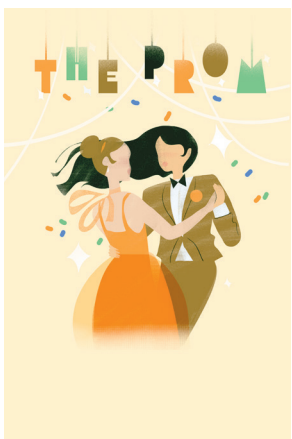
Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

See Events, Page 24

"The Prom"

Nov. 2-5 and 9-12
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Stage One Performing Arts Center
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing



Beginning tomorrow evening (Nov. 2), Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. presents its rendition of the Broadway musical "The Prom." It's the company's first show at its first permanent home base, the new Stage One Performing Arts Center at Sycamore Creek Church's Eastwood branch.

"The Prom' is a Tony Award-nominated musical that follows the hilarious and heartwarming journey of four Broadway stars whose glamorous careers take an unexpected turn. When their self-involved celebrity activism backfires, they find themselves in a small Indiana town rallying behind a high school girl who just wants to bring her girlfriend to the prom," the theater wrote in a press release. "This heartwarming and uplifting musical promises an unforgettable experience, blending humor, passion and an electrifying soundtrack that will leave audiences dancing in their seats."

Director Chad Swan-Badgero, Peppermint Creek's artistic director, said the show fits well with the company's mission to address and create a dialogue around current issues.

"The Prom' couldn't be timelier and more important as a celebration of love, inclusion and the power of individuals to make a positive change. We are thrilled to share this uplifting story with the Lansing community and hope that audiences leave the theater with a renewed sense of joy and acceptance," he said.

Tickets are \$20 for the public and \$15 for students, seniors ages 65 and older and military veterans. They can be purchased online at peppermintcreek.org or at the door the night of the performance.

LANSING'S 27th

CASA DE ROSADO GALERIA & CULTURAL CENTER

DÍA DE NOV 3-5 MUERTOS

LANSING MALL



Mirabel Sanchez

Events

from page 23

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.

Tuesday, Nov. 7

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.

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.

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 - 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.

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

Preschool Family Storytime - Join us for stories, songs and a simple craft! Ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Preteen Reads Book Club - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 4-6. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

StressBusters: Positive Mental Health for Kids - 3 p.m. session for ages 3-6 and caregivers, 4 p.m. sessions for ages 7-10 and 11-14. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-346-8094. gladl.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

“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.

Beginner Italic Calligraphy with Kate Darnell - 15+. 10 a.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingart-gallery.org.

EYES Optometry Boutique's 2023 Fall Frame Show - Frame choices for men, women and petites. Free prize giveaways. 221 S. Bridge St., Grand

Ledge. 517-236-7090. eyesoptometryboutique.com.

Fall Ombre Candle Holders - Paint a fall ombre design on a clear vase for a seasonal centerpiece. Intended for adults. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

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

Has the Ingham County Public Defender's Office Made a Difference? - Public Defender Keith Watson will describe the Office's work as we seek to know whether it has made a difference. 7 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. 517-332-8693.

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

The International All Things Bovine Leukemia Virus Conference - 7 a.m. James B. Henry Center for Executive Development, 3535 Forest Road, Lansing. canr.msu.edu/blv/Meetings/all-things-blv-2023.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

M	O	P	E	S	W	A	P	F	A	B	E	R
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

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An Evening of Rock 'N' Roll with Second Hand Mojo and Sean Anthony Sullivan

Saturday, Nov. 4
Doors 7 p.m., music 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Join Lansing's Sean Anthony Sullivan and Canton's Second Hand Mojo for an evening of rock 'n' roll 8 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 4) at Mac's Bar.

"Concertgoers can look forward to two electric performances, with original and familiar tunes primed for an engaging and absolutely electric atmosphere," Sullivan said. "Both Michigan artists, intent on keeping the classic-rock sound alive and fresh through new music, deliver their songs with a nod to the timeless and enduring genre."

Second Hand Mojo will be making its Lansing performance debut. The group has opened for plenty of larger rock acts, including Jackyl, Humble Pie, The Babys, Brother Cane and more. Its single "Kiss My Baby Tonight" has garnered attention throughout the country, gaining more than 400,000 views on YouTube and charting in the Top 50 on Spotify for New Classic Rock in North America. The band just dropped another new single, "Good Vibes," on Oct. 27.

Sean Anthony Sullivan, who grew up in Charlotte and returned to the Lansing area from Oregon during the COVID-19 pandemic, is influenced by rock 'n' roll legends such as Bob Seger, Bruce Springsteen and The Black Crowes. Two of his songs have been featured in the video game series "Rock Band," and he's joined in performances by Charlotte-based bassist Casey DeMott and Michigan State University graduate and drummer Lucas Lindsay.

Tickets are \$10 at the door, and the show is open to ages 21 and up. For more information on the performers, visit seananthonyullivan.com and secondhandmojo.com.

Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Family History Seminar

Saturday, Nov. 4
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Michigan History Center
702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing

Each fall, the Michigan Genealogical Council, alongside the Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan, presents a daylong seminar focusing on various genealogical topics.

This year's keynote speaker is Michael L. Strauss, an accredited genealogist who works as a research manager and senior genealogist for AncestryProGenealogists, Ancestry's research division. He's also a United States Coast Guard veteran, published author, national genealogical lecturer and faculty member at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh and Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, where he coordinates military history courses.

Strauss will cover four topics throughout the day, including an introduction to military genealogy research, a deep dive into records from the Civil War and the Great Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps and advice for researching ancestors' work history.

Guests can also choose to attend additional presentations during two of Strauss' sessions. Kris Rzepczynski, a senior archivist at the Archives of Michigan, will discuss how to research ancestors from Michigan who served in World War I, and Matt Pacer, a reference librarian at the Library of Michigan, will detail the library's military history resources.

There will be a lunch break from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Attendees can either pre-order a lunch from Grand Traverse Pie Co. or bring their own.

The seminar is available either in person or via Zoom. To register and view the full schedule, visit mimgc.org.

FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Sophisticated simplicity

By LIZY FERGUSON

Former food truck Bangos' long-awaited conversion to a brick-and-mortar space has come at last, and Lansing-area foodies — myself included — are rejoicing. Recently opened inside the downtown Lansing Strange Matter Coffee location, my social media feed as of late has been punctuated by many an effusive post, featuring enticing photos of its breakfast-focused offerings alongside heart-eye and weeping emojis.

Though I've long been a devotee of its younger sister, the sandwich shop Babe's Corner, I had yet to sample Bangos until one slow Thursday morning when my coworker made the brilliant suggestion of ordering it in. As luck would have it, the shop was featuring biscuits

that week. That's part of the fun of both Babe's and Bangos: sudden specials that appear as quickly as they vanish, lending a feeling of luck when you're able to catch them in the act.

Even so, Bangos' base menu leaves nothing to be desired, touting a variety of breakfast sandwiches, burgers and wraps, with vegan and vegetarian substitutes for pretty much everything. I chose the Maple Boy — on the featured biscuit, of course — which comes with egg, sausage, cheddar cheese and maple syrup. Pretty simple, right? To do it this well, though — that's what all the fuss is about.

The biscuit (vegan, by the way), was

golden brown and savory all on its own, with a bit of a crunch giving way to a crumbly interior. It was soaked half-way through with real maple syrup and piled high with a delectable sausage patty, an over-hard egg and melted

cheddar that had an actual bite to it. Sweet, salty, creamy, crunchy, meaty, chewy — the sandwich hit every flavor note except for spicy, which was quickly remedied by my side order of Nasty AF potatoes.

Bangos' fried redskin potatoes are dressed in degrees of "nastiness," and though the Nasty AF potatoes are already topped with curry powder, garlic, paprika, melted cheddar, green onions and bang bang sauce (a spicy, piquant mayo), I added cilantro

at the suggestion of my more well-informed friend. The potatoes were crispy and seasoned to the gods, the best bits being those stuck to the bottom of the container, entombed by globs of that quality cheddar and zingy bang bang.

I also had a bite of my pal's cauliflower wrap with pickled red cabbage, and I've got to give that a shoutout as well — not just for being a vegan option but for simply being tasty ... AF. With this breakfast, Bangos joined Babe's as one of my most beloved Lansing food spots. Both exemplify a concise vision of what people want to eat, carried out with thoughtfulness, care and just the right amount of flare.



Maple Boy (w/ biscuit upcharge)
\$9.50

Nasty AF potatoes
\$6

Bangos
331 S. Washington Square,
Lansing
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday
bangosbangosbangos.com



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Sweet, salty, creamy, crunchy, meaty, chewy — Bangos' Maple Boy sandwich hits every flavor note except for spicy, which can be remedied with a side order of Nasty AF potatoes.

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 OLIVE BURGERS

- 1. Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shop**
1920s diner with a collection of antique Kewpie dolls serving burgers, homemade root beer and shakes
118 S. Washington Square, Lansing
517-482-8049
westonskewpee.com
10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday
10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
- 2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill**
Casual American mainstay with handcrafted burgers and grill fare and sports on TV

2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
517-374-0390
dagwoodstavernandgrill-alternate.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

3. Olympic Broil
Casual fast-food outpost offering hefty burgers, coney dogs, wraps and sandwiches
1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
517-485-8584
olympicbroil.com
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

4. One North Kitchen & Bar
Scratch kitchen and diverse menu in a casual, entertainment-based environment
5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
517-901-5001
onenorthdining.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday
10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday

5. Harry's Place
Century-old bar and restaurant offering beer-battered cod, burgers, sandwiches, pizza and more
404 N. Verlienden Ave., Lansing
517-484-9661
facebook.com/HarrysPlaceLansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

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No-frills French onion soup

By ARI LEVAUX

I made it surprisingly far through life without thinking deeply about onions. It took an acid trip in college, during which I watched my friend Wayne fry an onion that had been cut in half. We stood transfixed as it slowly melted in the pan. I could feel that it was a profound moment, but it would be years before I understood the onion's many layers of flavor and its fundamental importance to cooking.

The power of an onion is enhanced by its dual personality. While a well-cooked onion gives its flavor selflessly, bringing harmony to a dish, raw onion is about contrast. Its presence is more of a fiery assault by an army of white lightsabers.

Sometimes I find myself running to the cutting board, mid-chew on a delicious mouthful of food, where

there is always an onion in some state of disrepair — hopefully a juicy salad onion. I'll add a piece to my mouthful to enjoy the raw onion's sharp, sweet flavor and crunchy texture.

When cooking for my son, who purports to hate onions, mincing is mandatory so they disappear completely into the dish. His little brother, who is the chef in the family, acknowledges the value of an onion that's "cooked for a very long time." Generations of French onion soup makers agree.

Legend has it French onion soup was invented in a hunting cabin, by the king, of course, when he discovered the cupboard bare of everything but onions and bread. If that wasn't really what happened, it could have been. Nobody should be surprised when an onion carries the day. Especially an onion that's cooked for a very long time.

Recently, in the kitchen of the old chef who taught me how to cut an



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Although the cooking time is brief, French onion soup takes time to prepare. It's perfect for a cold winter day, when the process can heat the entire house.

onion, I watched him prepare an eggplant-and-tomato recipe into which onions would disappear. Forgotten but not gone, those onions would hold together the flavor with an unseen force more likely to be missed than appreciated.

I asked the chef, "If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have one vegetable ..."

"I would take the onion," he said gravely before I could finish.

See Flash, Page 27

Not all peanut butters are created equal

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Modern grocery stores put their predecessors to shame with the number of items available for purchase. Gone are the days when grocery stores featured roughly 12 aisles and stocked shelves primarily with food and beverages. Modern grocery stores are much larger and feature everything from traditional groceries to kitchen essentials, clothing and more.

Consumers undoubtedly prefer there to be more choices at the grocery store, but it can be difficult to make decisions when presented with so many options. Such is the case when picking out peanut butter. Modern grocery stores typically feature an array of peanut butters in various styles (creamy, chunky, etc.) and others with packaging noting ingredients that the average consumer may know little about. That can make it hard to decide which peanut butter to bring home and which to leave behind on the store shelf.

According to the National Peanut Board, regulations established by the United States Food and Drug Administration mandate that any product labeled as peanut butter must contain



Metro Creative Connection

With so many options available on grocery store shelves, it's important to know exactly what sets different varieties of peanut butter apart so you can make the most informed decision.

at least 90% peanuts. Products that fall short of that benchmark must be labeled as peanut butter spreads. Recognition of that regulation can help consumers rest easy knowing that whichever peanut butter they choose, the product is almost entirely peanuts.

So, is all peanut butter effectively the same? No. Many natural peanut butters contain exclusively peanuts, which might make them preferable to health-conscious consumers who want to limit their consumption of salt and sweeteners that can be found

in products that qualify as peanut butter but don't qualify as natural peanut butter.

Reading ingredient lists on product labels can help consumers make the most informed decision when choosing which peanut butter to purchase. The United States Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Database notes some significant distinctions between natural peanut butter made from only peanuts and alternative peanut butter with additional ingredients. For example, the National Peanut Board reports that, according to USDA data, a 2-tablespoon serving of natural peanut butter contains zero milligrams of sodium and 1 gram of sugar. By contrast, the same serving of an alternative peanut butter contains 5 milligrams of sodium and 3 grams of sugar. Natural peanut butter also contains less saturated fat and more protein than alternative peanut butter. Some consumers may deem these differences negligible, while others may appreciate the nutrition profile of natural peanut butter.

Peanut butter lovers seemingly have more options to choose from than ever before. Knowledge of the differences between products and recognition that peanut butter and peanut butter spreads are not one and the same can help consumers make the most informed decision.

Flash

from page 26

French onion soup

Although the cooking time is brief, this soup takes time to prepare. It's perfect for a cold winter day, when the process can heat the entire house.

French onion soup is traditionally served au gratin, which means "with a browned crust." Many cooks add cheese to the gratin, which I think confuses the issue since there is already so much butter. Whether you toast the bread under the broiler as directed here or dip your untoasted bread as my kids do, bread just goes with this dish. I prefer white, crusty sourdough.

The soup is traditionally made with beef stock, but chicken and veggie

work as well, as do mushroom and clam stocks. Onions play well with everything. When it's done, you'll have an onion stock that will be useful as a soup base for other dishes, to deglaze a pan and anything else you would do with a dark, sweet stock full of earthy flavors.

Serves six

2 pounds peeled yellow onions, ends removed and sliced from tip to tip

1 stick butter

1 bottle white wine

2 bay leaves

1 gallon stock of your choice

1 tablespoon thyme or herbs

de Provence

Crusty sourdough

Minced onion for garnish

Place the onions on a cookie sheet and bake them at 300 degrees, flat-side down in butter, "for a very long

period of time," as my young chef will sometimes say.

Add a half cup of wine every hour. When the onions begin to melt, use a spatula or wooden spoon to press down and smear apart the layers. After about three hours, when they are deliciously sweet and browned but not burnt, transfer the onions and all pan juices to a pot of stock. Add bay leaves and herbs and the rest of the wine and simmer for about three hours, seasoning with salt and pepper as it cooks.

At serving time, heat the onion broth under the broiler in personal-sized bowls. Slice the baguette, butter the slices and set aside. When the soup is hot, add the bread, buttered sides up, and broil until they are toasted. Garnish with raw onion.

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