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LIVINGSTON DAILY

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



MK Cannelle is set to open a retail location in Brighton, according to owner and chef Matt Knio. PROVIDED BY KATHERINE K. CAGLE

Brighton to welcome new French patisserie

Makayla Coffee

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brighton will soon get a taste of France as a popular patisserie plans to open a new location.

MK Cannelle is set to open a retail location in a multi-unit building at 116 W. Grand River Ave. — according to owner and chef Matt Knio, who said plans involve remodeling the entire building, in-

side and out. (Approval for that renovation was expected to go before Brighton City Council on March 2.)

When finished, the top floor will hold an apartment and the main floor will offer space for the business. The bakery will join other retail locations in Detroit, Birmingham, Ann Arbor, Farmington, Keego Harbor, Northville and Rochester.

MK Cannelle is known for artisanal pastries and baked goods. The menu includes a variety of croissants, cakes,

tarts, sandwiches, breads, coffee and more. Knio said the brand gives customers a chance to “experience being in France (while) in Michigan.”

The new location will be filled with items made at the company’s kitchen — Golden Wheat Bakehouse — in Warren.

Knio launched MK Cannelle in 2003 and has expanded exclusively in Michigan. Knio wasn’t familiar with Brighton

See MK CANNELLE, Page 2A

Advocates: Whitmer’s literacy plan has major gap

Beki San Martin

Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

In a bid to raise Michigan’s low student reading scores, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s recent budget proposal asks the Legislature for a \$600 million investment in literacy.

While early childhood advocates celebrated the proposal as a general success for Michigan’s children and families and lauded the \$200 million for expansion of the state’s universal pre-K program, they say it doesn’t reach Michigan’s youngest in some crucial ways.

See LITERACY, Page 2A



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer visits with first-grade students at Forest Park Elementary in Eastpointe in August 2023. Whitmer’s recent budget proposal asks the Legislature for a \$600 million investment in literacy.

RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Melissa Borden accepts plea deal ahead of second jury trial

Tess Ware

Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

The owner of a local animal rescue and rehabilitation facility has accepted a plea deal ahead of her second jury trial.

Melissa Borden, 52, was scheduled for trial March 9 on a felony charge of abandonment/cruelty to 4-10 animals. According to court records, she accepted a plea deal Feb. 27 and is now scheduled for sentencing March 19 before

Judge Suzanne Geddis in Livingston County’s 44th Circuit Court.

During her first trial in October 2025, Borden was found guilty of a felony count of abandonment/cruelty to 25 or more animals. She was sentenced in December to six months in the Livingston County Jail, plus five years’ probation. She was also ordered to pay \$102,000 in restitution.

Who is Melissa Borden?

Borden is the owner of The Devoted



Borden

Barn, a program of Ortonville-based nonprofit Devoted Friends Animal Society.

More than 60 farm animals kept on vacant land in Tyrone Township were seized and relocated in January 2024, including sheep, goats, pigs, donkeys and an alpaca. Some of the animals were allegedly living without adequate veterinary care, and four pigs were euthanized. Borden surrendered ownership of the surviving

animals to Livingston County.

In May 2024, more animals were seized from a farm on Mack Road in Oceola Township, including two horses, a pony, a sheep and a goat.

Borden faced a similar charge in Genesee County in connection to a dog rescue she ran off East Hill Road in Grand Blanc. According to court records, that case was dismissed without prejudice, meaning the charges can be refiled.

— Contact reporter Tess Ware at tware@livingstondaily.com.

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