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LIVINGSTON DAILY

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HAMBURG TOWNSHIP



Mela's Filipino/American Smokehouse celebrated a soft opening March 27 at 5589 M-36 in Hamburg Township. MAKAYLA COFFEE/LIVINGSTON DAILY

A new smokehouse in a familiar spot

Makayla Coffee
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

There's a new eatery open in the former Smoke Doctor at 5589 M-36 in Hamburg Township. Mela's Filipino/American Smokehouse celebrated a soft opening March 27. Melarin Jaynes is serving a mix of smoked barbecue in the storefront, as well as Filipino dishes. Customers can

order appetizers, sandwiches, burgers, soup, salad, meats and some of "Mela's Creations," which include brisket spring rolls, pork spring rolls, veggie spring rolls and stick pork barbecue. The Smoke Doctor shuttered locations in Hamburg Township and Howell in February. The latter is transforming into Howell Tavern. Jaynes said the new eatery offers American barbecue favorites while in-

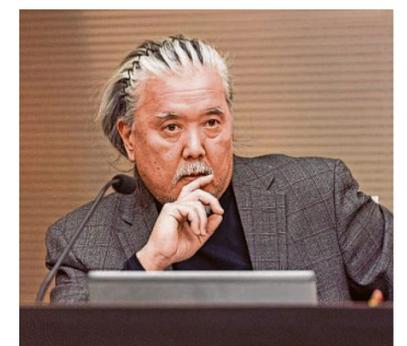
roducing residents to unique food they might not have tried before. She wrote the restaurant's opening day was "fantastic" on social media and thanked the community and other Filipinos in the area for their support. Mela's Filipino/American Smokehouse is open daily 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Learn more on Facebook under Mela's Filipino American Smokehouse. — Contact reporter Makayla Coffee at mcoffee@livingstondaily.com.

Nakagiri draws ire over millage proposal

Tess Ware
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Livingston County voters will decide in August whether to renew a dedicated veterans millage after weeks of tension over a last-minute push to shrink the tax rate and move the proposal to November. The dispute began during a meeting of the Livingston County Finance and Asset Management Committee on March 9, when officials reviewed proposed ballot language. According to reporting from WHMI, committee chair Wes Nakagiri rewrote the language to reduce the request from 0.1127 mills to 0.1117 mills and move the vote to November. Livingston County residents initially approved a dedicated millage for veterans services in 2014. While the department has never levied the full millage, the 0.1127 ask was approved by voters in 2022 with 63.79% approval. Director of Veteran Services Ramon Baca pushed back on the changes March 9, arguing the original resolution had been drafted by himself and the

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Commissioner Wes Nakagiri attends a meeting of the Livingston County Board on Jan. 27, 2025. ADAM VANDER KOOP/LIVINGSTON DAILY

Brighton Area Schools fights 'misinformation' on bond proposal

Evan Sasiela
Livingston Daily
USA TODAY NETWORK - MICHIGAN

Brighton Area Schools is working to combat misinformation about an upcoming bond proposal.

BAS has placed a \$156 million bond proposal on the ballot for May 5. The district is requesting an increase of 1.08 mills from 2025-2026, for a total of 4 mills through 2026-2032. BAS has the lowest capital millage rate among districts in Livingston County at the cur-

rent 2.92 mills and the proposed 4 mills, according to a district news release. The district hosted a community Q&A session March 23 at Brighton High School. Superintendent Matthew Outlaw and other leaders provided information to about 45 people in attendance,

according to the release. BAS has added a "fact or fiction" section to the bond webpage at brightonk12.com/district/bond-information, where voters can share a rumor they've

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