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Thank you to everyone who has emailed me. I haven't responded to all your messages, but please know that your kind words are appreciated, and I will hopefully have a chance to respond to all of you at some point.

The last week has honestly been difficult for me; between work, the world, and my own personal challenges, I find myself with a case of what I think they call writer's block. My mind is being pulled in too many directions right now. It feels as though the three unalienable rights, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, are no longer being protected by the government but instead are being assaulted. Make no mistake, I know that many people are struggling so much more than me, but please also understand that I am only human, and I am struggling, nonetheless.

I am going to lean on those closest to me and find my center again so that I can continue to push back against this inhumane administration. I keep waiting for someone, or many someones, in leadership roles to show their backbones and inspire us and show us that our cries are not falling on deaf ears. Unfortunately, all I am seeing are tone-deaf responses, particularly our own Senator Slotkin, who suggested we abandon our "woke" label while she creates a "war plan" to push back. Excuse me, but I am not willing to abandon who I am. I like who I am, and I am not interested in living in a society that becomes so jaded because we decided that nothing is worth fighting for.

I certainly didn't cast my vote for a candidate who has consistently voted for the appointees who are now proving they weren't worthy of the positions they are now holding. I suggest that every Democrat in office watch Pete Buttigieg's recent appearance on popular national podcasts talk about why our policies are better without sacrificing any of his core

principles. Are we willing to sacrifice what is most important to us to save our democracy? I think not. It is a slippery slope to capitulate to those who support any of this administration's policies. I refuse to compromise on fundamental human rights. What good is my dignity if I am willing to sacrifice someone else's?

I am leaving the rest of the page blank for you to either write something, or heck, get out the crayons and draw a colorful picture, but also leaving it blank to highlight the things that members of Congress have done in the last week to give the people of the United States hope: NOTHING! Miss me with the "What should they do?" I don't know, but they are collecting significant paychecks that I could only dream of, and they aren't worried about the next grocery list. They are living comfortably right now and have less to lose than most of us. Do your job, Congress. Do something that shows us you know we are struggling and scared and, most importantly, that we are being heard.

Please email me at [lansingallstar@gmail.com](mailto:lansingallstar@gmail.com)

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

GENERAL MANAGER • Steve Underwood steve@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

ARTS & CULTURE/EVENTS EDITOR • Nicole Noechel nicole@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

SENIOR STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

REPORTER INTERN • Leo V. Kaplan leo@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063

SALES EXECUTIVE • Lee Purdy lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064

Contributors: Dedria Humphries Barker, Bryan Beverly, Taylor Blair, Courtney Bowerman, Rob Breznsny, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Dana DeMink, Lizzy Ferguson, Roxanne Frith, AJ Glaub, Mark Gmazel, Raymond Holt, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Audrey Matusz, Kyle Melinn, Joan Nelson, Tessa Paneth-Pollak, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Vic Rauch, Chelsea Lake Roberts, Chris Silva, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tipica, David Winkelstern

Delivery drivers: Cindy Heistand, Curt Lauck, Terri Paine, Diane Scofield

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

WHOOPIE! WE ACCIDENTALLY SENT ANOTHER INNOCENT PERSON TO OUR SUBCONTRACTED SLAVE LABOR CAMP IN EL SALVADOR!

WELL, DOES HE HAVE ANY TATTOOS?

HE CERTAINLY DOES! AND EVEN WORSE--WE HAVE A PICTURE OF HIM IN A CHICAGO BULLS CAP!

WELL, THERE YOU GO. HE'S A NOTORIOUS MS-13 GANG MEMBER FOR SURE!

WORKS FOR ME! BUT THE SUPREME COURT ORDERED US TO "FACILITATE" HIS RETURN!

SORRY--MY HANDS ARE TIED! I CAN'T INTERFERE WITH THE JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE OF A SOVEREIGN NATION--

--AND OF COURSE PRESIDENT BUKELE HAS NO POWER TO SEND A KNOWN TERRORIST INTO OUR COUNTRY!

WELL, I GUESS NOBODY CAN DO ANYTHING, THEN!

EXACTLY RIGHT, SMILING GUY! ALWAYS REMEMBER--

--WORDS ARE JUST NOISES YOU MAKE WITH YOUR MOUTH! THEY DON'T HAVE TO MEAN ANYTHING!

SO, WHEN THE COURT RULED AGAINST US--

--THEY WERE ACTUALLY RULING IN OUR FAVOR!

NOW, LET'S TRY SENDING BUKELE SOME "HOME GROWNS"--AND SEE IF WE CAN GET AWAY WITH THAT.

ANYONE IN PARTICULAR, SIR?

EH--SURPRISE ME.

YES, SIR!

NEXT: TORTURING LOGIC UNTIL IT ADMITS WHAT IT DID!

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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Rep. Barrett promises honest answers, albeit sometimes circuitous

### One-on-one interview displays his passion for veterans' concerns

Even with a notebook full of questions, one curiosity lingered as I waited for U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Charlotte, to meet me for an interview at his hometown Biggby: what his drink order would be.

I never learned. A man in line at our meeting time stood out for wearing a suit. He turned out to be Ron Kendall, Barrett's district director, who'd arrived ahead of Barrett and ordered his drink. When Barrett arrived 10 minutes later in an Army green zip-up jacket, the table was already set with a cup of ice water and his mystery beverage.

I was nervous about meeting him. Up till now, my coverage of him had been about protests over his unwillingness to appear in person at town halls. But he sat down smiling, shook my hand and asked about my work as if it were just as important as his own work in Washington.

I started our interview off easy with the first-term congressman, who beat Democrat Curtis Hertel last November by 4%. Noting his steady rise from state representative to state senator to now U.S. representative, I asked what was different taking the big step up to D.C. He was quick to reply that he had never perceived elected office as a ladder and expressed frustration with the number who do.

"Every member of Congress seems to want to be a U.S. senator," he said. "Every senator or governor wants to be president."

One change he was happy to note was the number of post-9/11 veterans in federal office. When he was elected to the state House of Representatives, he said, he was the only Iraq War veteran there. The same situation played out in the state Senate. But in Washington, he said, "there are more Iraq and Afghanistan veterans," which he finds encouraging because "our insight on foreign policy and conflicts has been a little bit missing."



Photo by Raymond Holt

Coffee talk: U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett at Biggby in Charlotte on Friday, April 25, near the end of a two-week congressional recess.

A difference I was curious about was the makeup of his constituency. Michigan's 7th District is solidly purple, something Barrett learned firsthand when he lost it to Democrat Elissa Slotkin in 2022. At his telephone town hall April 7, Barrett bemoaned political polarization and a lack of common goals, suggesting constituents put more trust in their representative. I asked how he was working to represent all his constituents, including those who voted against him.

He answered that voters had spoken at the ballot box, and that the best he could do now was to stick to his guns.

"I can't represent every single person's viewpoint because it may be in conflict with the viewpoints I presented to voters when I was out campaigning," he said.

While some disagree with his ac-

tions, he said, no one can call him a hypocrite.

"That's something I take seriously. I never want to mislead people as to what my viewpoints are, or what I intend to do while I'm serving in office."

I asked next about a comment by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the Alaska Republican who said two weeks ago that "we are all afraid" of retaliation by Trump. I referenced other sources of fear, including the stock market's rapid fluctuations and student protesters I had spoken to who were unwilling to provide a name. Had he seen that fear, and what could the government do to mitigate it?

This was the first question Barrett did not fully answer. Rather than suggest a way out of this fear, he argued that it was irrational. "We shouldn't be reckless" with the stock market, be-

cause it is "a lot of times emotionally driven" and not a perfect economic indicator, he said. As for free speech, he referenced "a multitude of protests that have taken place outside my own district office" without incident.

I wanted to ask further about the hundreds of international students whose visas had been revoked, some seemingly over pro-Palestine stances. For the sake of time — his office had granted me 30 minutes, which stretched into 35 — I did not. Those visas were reinstated over the weekend.

Our meeting took place just hours after Trump declared that "Crimea will stay with Russia." One of four "pillars of security" he campaigned on was national security. Did he believe Trump's plan would accomplish that?

See Barrett, Page 5

# Barrett

from page 4

His answer was roundabout, at best. An active-duty helicopter pilot for more than two decades, Barrett, 44, spoke about his first Army assignment, “just a few miles south of the Korean DMZ.” He pointed out that the Korean War “never had a formalized peace treaty,” seeming to suggest Russia and Ukraine might not either. He also said the Global War on Terror taught him that “the United States’ national security interest is not to get engaged in every single foreign conflict.”

He said over 7,000 had died during the war on terror and over 30,000 had died of suicide. He said our government does not pay enough attention to the human cost of war. He asked if I’d ever seen “M\*A\*S\*H” — I hadn’t — and recalled a scene in which a character describes war as worse than hell, because the suffering in war is undeserved.

Without directly referencing Crimea, he told me there “aren’t going to be perfect solutions to every single conflict.” He was, he said, “willing to give a little bit of maneuver space to the administration” to “best achieve a durable peace.”

At this point, I had already tried to interject multiple times to clarify his stance on Trump’s plan. I pressed him here: what if the peace did not last? He said he could not hypothesize.

But, again, did he think Trump’s plan would achieve that durable peace?

“Well, I can tell you this,” he started, before firing back his own question: Did I remember who was president the first time Putin invaded Ukraine?

Barrett had a habit of quizzing me while building an argument, and I let him tell me it was Obama. Who was president next time? Biden, of course.

A minute or so into his subsequent reflections on Biden’s withdrawal from Iraq, I realized we’d reached a dead end on Crimea. I moved on.

Next, I asked about his comment to broadcast journalist Charlie LeDuff (a Michigander, by the way) that lost jobs had led to “a whole generation of young men that are living off marijuana and DoorDash and staying in their mom’s basement,” having lost “the dignity of work.” I asked him what he was doing for these young men.

Another Barrett-ism is restating his premise rather than drawing a conclusion. He said there were 7 million working-age men not in the labor market (a statistic even the libertarian Cato

Institute takes issue with, since many of those men are disabled, caretaking or in school) and that we need “a cultural recognition that the best thing for an individual is for them to achieve their highest potential.”

Yes, I asked, but how can you achieve that?

“We have to get back to an accountability where people who are capable of work are expected to support themselves,” he said. That involves “passing policies that look to benefit those who want to start a family, that make it more affordable to go out and earn a living and raise a family,” such as eliminating so-called “marriage penalties,” such as tax brackets that disincentivize dual-income marriages or federal programs available only to bachelors.

His response reminded me of another comment he made in his second telephone town hall, where he said that creating “an economy that allows people to earn a living and support their family” would reduce the need for Medicaid. I asked how he would get us there.

Again, he restated his premise, clarifying that he supported Medicaid “for those who are not capable of supporting themselves” and that his congressional colleagues agreed.

I asked again, directly, how he would create that economy. I also asked how he would ensure coverage stayed consistent as the government takes an axe to federal spending.

He did not address the first question; the second he did only to restate his intentions not to cut anyone off. He spent longer discussing those he did seek to cut off: undocumented immigrants and those who are no longer eligible but still receive benefits.

Finally, I asked about the situation some are calling a constitutional crisis, with the executive branch refusing to comply with court orders to facilitate the return of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Salvadorian citizen deported in error to an El Salvador prison. Why wasn’t this a threat to individual liberty, I asked?

Barrett repeated claims that Abrego Garcia was an MS-13 gang member and declared that “people overwhelmingly voted to see enforcement of keeping Americans safe.” He said the American immigration system “had entirely collapsed under Joe Biden” and that the wave of deportations was in line with what voters chose in November.

In terms of the Supreme Court’s order, Barrett asserted Trump has no authority to direct El Salvador to send back a Salvadorian citizen who had entered the U.S. illegally.

Before I had the opportunity to draw

a comparison to Barrett’s excursion to Mexico to secure the release of Paul and Christy Akeo, a Michigan couple who had been held in a Mexican maximum-security prison over a credit card dispute, he brought them up for me.

“Those were American citizens held in a foreign country,” he said. “This is a foreign national held in his own country. It is beyond the scope and jurisdiction of the United States.”

Though our scheduled time was up, Barrett was happy to stick around and tell me about two bills he planned to introduce.

The first would diminish barriers for veterans aiming to get into transportation and supply-chain professions. The second, which expands the Veterans Administration’s Community Care network to include hearing aid specialists,

made his eyes light up. He explained with passion that only licensed audiologists were covered, but that they were in high demand and not necessary for simple readjustments. No onlooker could have denied that Barrett is genuinely passionate about improving the VA. He serves on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

But will his intentions stand up to the chaotic dismantling of the federal government Barrett has supported? It’s hard to say.

When I shook his hand, I thanked him for his commitment to preserving Medicaid. As the only child of a single, disabled mother, I said, I was grateful to hear federal cuts would not affect her coverage.

I hope he’s right.

— LEO V. KAPLAN

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### IT CAN’T HAPPEN HERE

In the 1930’s, many good and decent Germans joined the NAZI Party. They followed a dangerously unhinged populist who promised to ‘Make Germany Great Again’. To many Germans, he seemed to have strange ideas. But people felt confident the adults in government would control his worst impulses.

Some Germans were amused when Chancellor Hitler changed his title to Der Fuhrer, ‘The Leader’. And it seemed harmless, when ending a conversation you were expected to say, “Heil Hitler”. Few people noticed that democracy and the rule of law were eroding.

The NAZI propaganda rallies drew huge numbers of true believers. The overarching theme was to blame the elites for Germany’s failings. There were shouts, “Who Betrayed Germany?” The choreographed responses: “The Social Democrats”, “The Communists”, “The Zionists”. Soon came the chants, “Hang them up”, “Bust their ass” and “Jews drop dead”.

Rumors of threats and beatings of supposed rabble-rousers and complainers were disquieting. But Hitler was only hurting the people he was supposed to hurt. Good and decent Germans had nothing to fear. They didn’t complain or question the NAZIs. Not even to family members in the privacy of their homes. Then children came home from school and their parents were gone.

The increasing demonization of the Jews was a concern. But people convinced themselves the NAZIs were only going after “money grubbing” Jews and outside agitators who were intent on destroying the country. Germans knew many Jews who were loyal citizens. Surely, Hitler wasn’t going to harm them. Then came the boycott of Jewish businesses and the purge of Jews from government.

When Hitler removed career government employees and replaced them with NAZI Party members there was no need to be concerned. Everyone “knew” that bureaucrats contributed little to society.

When Hitler replaced the generals and admirals with his loyalists, it was easy to accept. After all, Hitler had every right to bring in his own people.

When the NAZIs took control of the courts and judges, people barely noticed.

And so it went when the NAZIs suspended civil liberties for reasons of ‘national security’. It was necessary, people were told, to give up some freedom to protect Germany from outside enemies. The suspension would be temporary. Then came the banning of trade unions, the outlawing of other political parties, the censorship of newspapers, full-scale political terror, and well, you know the rest.

It took Hitler fifty-three days to end democracy in Germany.

But it can’t happen here.

Bob Parks  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
bobkaren1943@comcast.net

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



**A 15-year-old passenger died Tuesday from injuries in Thursday night's street racing crashes, the Lansing Police Department said.** He

was the only one of the 13 injured who had not been released. Two vehicles racing each other at high speeds on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near Pierce Road in south Lansing collided with a third vehicle and set off crashes involving two others. Police said the third vehicle was attempting to make a legal turn, although video suggests it may have made a rolling stop. Police Chief Ron Backus said Tuesday that the drivers were a 19-year-old man in a Chevrolet Malibu and a 23-year-old man in a Jeep Cherokee. Police have not yet made any arrests. Mayor Andy Schor said that those who caused the crashes would face "serious consequences." He added that the department would soon have more officers on the street due to new recruits and that he supports red light cameras to catch speeders.

**The Ingham County Health Department reported a second case of a child contracting measles, a 1-year-old boy who was infected following exposure to a 12-month-old girl who also has the virus.** A health officer reported the boy's symptoms as mild. The boy, who may have exposed others during an April 15 visit to Lansing Urgent Care in Frandor, was infected despite having received one dose of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. Anyone at the urgent care center from 4:30 to 7 p.m. that day is asked to monitor for symptoms of measles for 21 days from the date of exposure. They should call a doctor if symptoms develop before seeking treatment to ensure they can take precautions to prevent further exposure. At least seven other cases have been reported in Michigan this year.



**Officials have broken ground on the new 65,000-square-foot, three-story Lansing City Hall.** Mayor Andy Schor said the building will have a first-floor service center to pay taxes, bills and fines, as well as the City Council chambers. City staff will occupy the second

and third floors. It will be named after former Mayor David Hollister, as is the current building. Officials expect completion by the end of 2026.

**Former MSU Professor Iskandar Arifin, 50, has pleaded guilty to one count of possessing child pornography, with a deal that Ingham County Circuit Judge Morgan Cole will cap his minimum prison sentence at 32 months, the Lansing State Journal reported.** Cole scheduled sentencing for Arifin on June 11. MSU's website indicated that Iskandar taught



investment and finance classes at the Eli Broad School of Business. Five more counts were dismissed in the plea deal.



**A Lansing man, 50, was arrested for driving the wrong way on Interstate 94 near Battle Creek after police said he caused a crash that injured two people.** The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office said the driver, whose name was not released, was highly intoxicated as he traveled west in the eastbound lanes of I-94 as his pickup struck another vehicle near the 107-mile marker. Officers arrested him at the scene and took him to the Calhoun County Jail. Two individuals in the vehicle the driver struck suffered nonfatal injuries.

**East Lansing has hired Marcia Gebarowski to serve as the first executive director of its 39-year-old Downtown Development Authority.** Gebarowski, who began this week, is an MSU grad with a bachelor of science degree in resource development and environmental sciences. She earned a master's degree in urban planning from Wayne State University. Gebarowski was business development director for Ann Arbor SPARK. Before that, she was a senior project manager for the Michigan Economic Development Corp.



**An unidentified construction worker fell about 40 feet from US-127 near Trowbridge Road as the beam he was cutting broke loose.** He

fell onto railroad tracks below the highway, with the beam landing on top of him. An East Lansing spokesperson said she had no information about his injuries. The Michigan Transportation Department is rebuilding US-127 from Interstate 69 in southern Clinton County south to the southern Ingham County line.

### Public Safety

A semitrailer crashed into stopped traffic on Interstate 96 in Boston Township in Ionia County, killing an unidentified 80-year-old Okemos man and injuring several others. The Michigan State Police said the crash involved eight vehicles but did not give details on the number injured or severity of the injuries. ... A trailer in a driveway between the Spare Time Entertainment Center and the Quality Inn caught fire, which an spread to Spare Time. Lansing firefighters extinguished the blaze, with no one injured and no cause for the fire reported.



**'We that are young  
Shall never see so much, nor  
live so long'**

**King Lear**

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing has received a bust of actor John Peakes in his role of King Lear that will be displayed at the society's new headquarters in the Rogers-Carrier House at Lansing Community College.

The bust, sculpted by former East Lansing artist Nancy Leisorowitz, was displayed at Lansing's old BoarsHead Theater and later at the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. Leisorowitz has several other sculptures in the Lansing area, including "Cassiopeia" and the "Seated Girl" at the entrance to the East Lansing Public Library.

Peakes, who helped found BoarsHead, played Lear several times, first in 1966. Then he wore a fake white beard. However, 24 years later he was able to perform with a "natural white beard," a newspaper account said.

The story called Peakes "a sure-footed Lear."

BoarsHead's roots roots can be traced to the Stout Players, which performed in Grand Ledge Fitzgerald Park from 1955 to 1961. In 1970, the group adopted the name "BoarsHead," which is the British symbol of theater. In 1975, BoarsHead moved its operation to downtown Lansing, at the corner of Grand Avenue and Lenawee Street.

The theatre closed in 2009 after losing state and local funding. By then Peakes had already relocated to suburban Philadelphia. He died in 2017 at 83.

The Historical Society expects to do an exhibit on local theater in Lansing.

**BILL CASTANIER**

*(Castanier is president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.)*

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

# Barrett's absence delays the inescapable NAACP victory

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

The NAACP has been scoring against backwards-leaning politicians for decades. U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett is just the latest in a long line who thought they could beat it. He won't.

In no way does Barrett's failure to give himself permission to participate in the Lansing NAACP chapter's town hall last week mean this is over. The NAACP would not be pushed by Barrett into a "members only" event. It will neither aid nor abet the privatization of government.

Chapter President Harold Pope met twice with Barrett to invite him to appear.

We tried, Pope said, but the meetings were unproductive. See the empty chair with Barrett's name on it?

Keep trying, Harold Pope. Barrett skirted this first town hall, but history says the NAACP will succeed and grow its influence from the seven organizations that came in as co-sponsors this time.

As the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP wrote the playbook for all organizations that want to use the Constitution to shape the U.S.

In addition to creating the largest single collection of records the Library of Congress has ever acquired, NAACP records are also the most heavily used by patrons. Inquiring minds want to know.

Just the sheer number of records, documents, photographs, audio recordings, meeting minutes — 28,132 records in total — shows how patient the NAACP was over a century. It just doesn't rush out and do stuff. It plans and plots. It prepares and delivers.

At its height, the organization had 432,000 members. Put an equal sign between the NAACP and power.

The NAACP captures the imagination of the people, with how sexy a partner it is. In her 2024 novel "Harlem Rhapsody," Victoria Christopher Murray seizes on the story of W.E.B. Dubois and Jesse Redmon Fauset. He was the first African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard University, a founder of the NAACP and editor of its popular Crisis magazine. His assistant editor, Fauset, ushered in the Harlem Renaissance, the African American cultural revolution.

The Brown vs Board of Education victory, which desegregated public schools, was masterminded by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund lawyer who became the first African American U.S. Supreme Court justice. That was Thurgood Marshall.

Those who think that Marshall's legal victory to equalize education for African Americans happened in the timespan of a one-hour courtroom drama, or that the outcome was a mystery, should look for the rebroadcast. Those bent on op-

pressing the middle-class economic progress today meet NAACP resistance. Its pressure grows every day.

The NAACP is an on-the-record organization. Search online for it. Click one of the first hits, even MapQuest. In addition to office location, it describes the Lansing branch as a community organization dedicated to promoting civil rights and social justice for all individuals. In this way, the NAACP is diverse like the reparations group Justice League of Lansing.

The evidence was on display at the town hall. Twenty-eight speakers included African Americans, whites, men, women, trans, Mexicans, one

youth, people from Ingham and Livingston counties, two of the seven counties that compose the 7th District.

The Lansing branch has a fine generational pedigree. Just the term "branch" indicates a great strong family tree, but could it be that the Lansing branch of the NAACP was too cooperative with Barrett?

Back in the 1960s era of Black Power, negotiations with the powerful went like this: All the parties sat down to the table and then one of the African American men pulled out a big knife and stabbed the table hard

See Barker, Page 8



Opinion



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# Republicans were not laughing about Brixie's parking lot prank

Don't you hate it when someone double parks? The lot is packed. You're in a rush. And some joker is purposely taking up two spots.

Now, what if the double parker is in your assigned parking spot at work? How ticked would you be?

A couple of weeks ago, state Rep. Julie Brixie, D-Okemos, rolled into the Roosevelt Park ramp about half a block from the Capitol to find her Republican colleague — conservative firebrand and ultra-MAGA Republican Matt Maddock — was in her spot.

The speaker gave Maddock two parking spots in the ramp because he typically drives his large truck into Lansing from Oakland County, and it's apparently tough to squeeze it into one spot. His spots are No. 92 and 94.

But on April 17, Maddock drove his wife's BMW and misjudged his parking spots. He parked in spots No. 90 and 92 instead of 92 and 94. Brixie's spot was No. 90.

Brixie knew the culprit immediately. The BMW's personalized license plate reads "MMADD."

And, as it happens, Brixie and Maddock have a little bit of history. In their first term, Maddock proposed selling the international Blue Water Bridge and two state airports to pare down state spending.

Brixie had the Transportation Department run the numbers and discovered neither plan would yield the state much money. It would be more trouble than it was worth. She went to the press about it, and Maddock's plans quickly died.

This year, Maddock is the majority vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee, which is a big deal. House Democrats initially floated the idea of having Brixie as their minority vice chair.

But Brixie was quickly shot down behind the scenes because she does her homework, knows budgets inside and out and wouldn't have any qualms about calling out Republicans for foolishness.

In fact, she wasn't even put on Appropriations this year, where she's been for her first six years in the House.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Clearly, Brixie doesn't owe Maddock anything. So, when she saw he took her parking spot, she and a staffer wrapped Maddock's vehicle in plastic wrap. If Maddock's wife's car is precious and needs to take up two spots on the ramp, clearly it wouldn't hurt to have some added protection, right?

Brixie went to the House floor, took the microphone and announced that a car with the license plate "MMADD" was in the garage with its lights on, hood open and engine running.

Republicans weren't impressed by the prank. They called in the security video and watched Brixie and the staffer wrap the car, which they turned over to the media.

MeShawn Maddock compared Brixie to a 13-year-old girl and accused her of committing a crime.

Maddock, himself, had an arguably chauvinistic response by claiming Brixie had a crush on him and this was her way of getting his attention.

On Friday, the speaker kicked Brixie out of the Roosevelt ramp to a staff ramp on the other side of the Capitol and banned her from speaking on the floor. The staffer, who bikes to work, is no longer allowed to park under the House Office Building and must use public racks.

Back in the '90s, my Wendy's co-workers filled my Buick Skyhawk with Styrofoam balls on my last day. We also did the plastic wrap thing to a couple of the other guys on their last day.

Apparently, what's done all in good fun isn't in politics these days. Whether we're getting too hypersensitive, or everyone is looking to score some cheap political points, I don't know.

As silly and impulsive as the Brixie prank was, you'd think we'd all benefit if we'd just laugh it off. Everything doesn't always have to be so darn serious.

I guess in 2025, it does.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the Capitol news service MIRS. You can email him at [melinnky@gmail.com](mailto:melinnky@gmail.com).)

## Barker

from page 7

enough to lodge the blade tip tight in the top, while the rest of the knife shivered and quivered. Then they talked.

If that is a myth, it's one that illustrates the unrelenting reality of what abolitionist Frederick Douglass said in 1857: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

Douglass believed that with persistence, positive change would occur. And it has.

That's history, critics scoff. Where's change today? Or as Janet Jackson sang, "What have you done for me lately?"

In Lansing, the NAACP will do the tedious work: continue demanding that Rep. Barrett represent his constituents, until it happens.

Barrett answers constituents' concerns with machines and robotic humans. He's known to turn away constituents who speak up for the 30% of the federal workforce who are veterans, many of whom may find

themselves out of work due to Elon Musk's workforce reduction efforts.

The national NAACP files a lot of documents containing the word "whereas." Lawsuits have been filed to protect voting rights in two states, Georgia and Florida. It has kept up with new issues. Among its eight issue areas is environmental and climate justice. And whereas Hollywood pretty much ignored African American entertainment artists, the NAACP Image Awards have recognized our own for 56 years now.

The NAACP slogan says, "We can't do any of this important work without one important person: you."

Membership in the NAACP cost less than one month of cable television streaming service: \$30 for adults 21 years and older; \$10 for youth.

For another 10 bucks, buy a Women in NAACP — WIN — membership. For more information scan their QR code. Or call 517-299-0334.

Lansing resident Dedria Humphries Barker is the author of "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow." Her column appears monthly.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 7:00PM, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823:

A public hearing will be held on East Lansing's FY2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program budget.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for this public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to [council@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:council@cityofeastlansing.com) or by mail to: East Lansing City Council, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

For more information on the agenda item listed above, please contact:

Matt Apostle, Community and Economic Development Specialist  
517-319-6859 / [mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com)  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Materials related to this budget are available to review at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, or online at <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/2455/Applying-for-CDBG-Funding>.

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 East Lansing Department of Planning, Building, and Development, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6859 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com).

**This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and published in compliance with the City of East Lansing's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan.**

Amy Gordon  
Interim City Clerk

Dated: April 30, 2025  
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#25-134

# This time, it's personal

## City Pulse's First Annual Top of the Town People Contest Winners' Issue

Does the name Lockheed 10-E Electra ring a bell? No? How about Amelia Earhart?

What makes life fun? What makes it worthwhile? What makes it interesting? Who's flying this thing, anyway?

People are.

The highest praise we give to any encounter with an institution, from the maternity ward to the cemetery, is to say it was personalized.

That's what we've done here: personalized our popular Top of the Town awards.

We have nothing against things. Things are great. A big, juicy hamburger is a thing. So is a Stradivarius violin. But a person stacked that hamburger. An Italian guy with long, wavy hair made that fiddle. A person is driving that bus (for now), selling you insurance, teaching you yoga, poking that tattoo onto your shin. Even Godzilla was a guy in a suit (shout out to you, Haruo Nakajima).

Experts say the AI takeover, the "nerd rapture," is coming fast, so now is a good time to celebrate people, while people are still people.

Throughout the three-week contest, 2,871 people made 840 nominations and cast 11,235 votes in 55 categories. We don't have the space to profile every winner in depth, so we picked five winners who embody the personal touch in their varied lines of work.

In the following pages, you'll meet singular souls like Rodney Page, a violinist,



DJ, composer and teacher with a wide-open musical mind and a charismatic

ability to inspire and motivate young musicians. You'll meet singer-song-

writer Alex Teller, who lives out the folk tradition by roaming highways, farms, mountains and honky-tonks across the land and bringing his insights to local venues like Moriarty's Pub and the Robin Theatre.

You'll meet Clara Martinez, who, in addition to running Everett High School's Visual & Performing Arts Department and dance program, is campaigning to be a member of Lansing City Council.

You'll meet Drew Van Zee, a passionate barista who puts companionship and conversation into the coffee he serves, along with the cream. (And he doesn't even like coffee.) You'll meet Dom Haughton, a tattoo artist who specializes in weird and creepy subjects like cows with two heads and treasures the trust her clients put in her.

The list of winners includes people from many fields and walks of life. If there's a common factor, it's that they love what they do and have generous spirits.

Van Zee, the barista, has lived in Lansing all his life and thinks "everybody in it is an awesome person."

Everybody? Only a person could come up with a statement like that. No machine would touch it.

People may be a pain in the ass sometimes, but they're also irrationally, stubbornly idealistic, good-natured and just plain nice, in spite of all forces working against them. Thank you, good people of Lansing!

## Rodney Page: He gives you more

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Lansing area is blessed with more than its share of top-notch musical talent, but violinist-composer-conductor-DJ-educator Rodney Page earned the title of Best Classical Musician in City Pulse's Top of the Town People Contest for the same reason he crushes everything he does: He gives you more.

Page spreads the message of music in so many ways that his versatility is an object lesson in itself. At half a dozen welcome week teacher meetings last fall, he leveraged the audiences' narrow expectations to open up their eyes, ears and minds.

**Best  
Classical  
Musician**

"I set up my DJ equipment, and I'm dressed stereotypically like a DJ, wearing Jordans and playing Tupac, to get them to typecast me and put me in a box," he said.

Then he uncorks infinite possibilities.

He jumps with gusto from Mozart to Motown, Bach to hip-hop, Tchaikovsky to mariachi. He's at home playing country fiddle, conducting a 50-piece orchestra, DJing your kid's prom, serenading young newlyweds and comforting incarcerated people with the joy of

music.

You never know where or when you're going to run into him, but you can be sure it will change your day — and maybe your life.

Growing up in Southfield, Page sang in the church choir and stepped out occasionally as a solo vocalist. Playing the violin was his mother's idea, not his, but he took to it almost immediately.

As a composer, violinist, DJ, motivational speaker or teacher, Page loves to delight people. He got his first taste of that feeling after a Levey Middle School concert, when, to his amazement, one of his friend's parents approached him and asked for an autograph.

"That was when I felt I might be able to do it," he said.

Under the guidance of Levey Middle School orchestra director Stephanie Zer-



See Rodney Page, Page 14

Raymond Holt for City Pulse

# Drew Van Zee: Brewing up conversation

By LEO V. KAPLAN

When he began working at Blue Owl Coffee in Old Town six years ago, Lansing native Drew Van Zee saw that the employee handbook advised baristas not to serve a cup of coffee they wouldn't drink themselves. He took the guidance seriously.

"I took the extra time," he said, sipping an iced matcha tea with lemon flavoring in the store he now manages. "I'd go in the back and make myself a cappuccino and see how it was in comparison to the traditional way to make one."

But for all his skill with the steam wand, Van Zee thinks it's the atmosphere he cultivates, not the espresso he brews, that led voters to select him as the Best Barista in City Pulse's Top of the Town People Contest.

"If someone sits here for a while, I'll have a conversation with them. I won't just dart off to the back and do dishes and leave them alone," he said. "I've had multiple days where I've realized, 'Oh, shoot, we're closed' and had to tell guests, 'I hate to kick you out, but our conversation should end because we've



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

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"It's crazy, I don't like milk and I don't really like coffee, either."

Before he started working at Blue Owl, Van Zee's favorite coffee drink was a Biggby beverage he described as more akin to a milkshake than coffee. He didn't know that espresso required high pressure to brew or what it meant to "cup" coffee — that is, to evaluate the flavor and aroma of different cups.

He's still perfecting his cupping craft, but he's made and tried just about every drink a customer can order. His favorite is the lemon-matcha beverage he drank during the interview, which he called "the most refreshing drink we can make here."

Asked about his relationship with Lansing, Van Zee's eyebrows perked up.

"I've lived here my whole life, and I love this city," he said. "I think everybody in it is an awesome person."

A northsider himself, he goes to see the Lugnuts every Thursday, one of many communities that keeps him invested in the area.

"The Lugnuts community, the Old Town community, the REO Town community, all of them are so great. I love being a part of all of them," he said.

In many ways, his approach to being a barista is the same as his approach to viewing Lansing: an open mind and a zeal to learn more.

"I love meeting new people and having new conversations every day," he

said, "especially when that can be a new conversation with the same person every time I work.

But they can be wildly different. I think having that take on being a barista really invites people in and makes them want to come back for a little bit more."



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

been talking for so long and I need to do work."

Though he only works Friday through Sunday, Van Zee has a number of regulars who come just for him. They talk about everything from video games to movies to life, politics and Lansing as a whole, he said.

"It's really nice to be able to have that breath of fresh air of having new conversations with people," he said.

Of four longer comments left on the People Contest voting page, two specifically mention the quality of his coffee. All mention the quality of his conversation.

One, mentioning both, reads, "Excellent coffee, excellent service, you will leave smarter than you came and with a better drink than what you thought you wanted."

Another praises the ambiance Van Zee creates, and a third calls him "a great conversationalist."

But Van Zee's coffee skills deserve some credit, too. Not only are his shots perfectly brewed and his milk well-steamed, but he's gone out of his way to try most of the flavor combinations Blue Owl offers for those who prefer their coffee sweetened. And that's despite not being the biggest fan of coffee himself.

"I don't like milk," he said, laughing.

**Best  
Barista**

# Clara Martinez: Empowered through dance

By STEVE UNDERWOOD

In Clara Martinez's life, there have been a number of experiences and moments that very clearly led her to who she is today: the dance director at Everett High School since 2017, the chair of the school's Visual & Performing Arts Department, and now a two-time winner of Best Dance Instructor in City Pulse's Top of the Town contest.

The first few of those experiences came when she was a young child.

"My dad was a sociologist, so I grew up thinking about society as a whole," she said. "The question at the kitchen table at the end of every day was, 'What have you done for somebody else, and how are you in service for other people?'"

At the same time, Martinez loved to express herself, and dance was the vehicle.

"My mom always told a story of me doing this hula hoop dance while three to four other kids were crying on stage. I was smiling and loving it. I've always been a dancer."

Martinez said it took her a while to figure out how to marry those two things: growing up dancing and being expressive, while having a familial duty to serve others. "How do those things come together?" she asked herself.

When her family moved to East Lansing after her freshman year of high school, Martinez immersed herself in dance but also things like Model United Nations. She discovered the local dance company Happendance and eagerly joined.

"It totally changed my perspective on



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

how to be a working artist and made dances about real things. That's why I feel so passionately about student choreography at the high school level. It's really the place you can find your voice in a way that maybe you haven't gotten the opportunity to do yet."

After graduating, she attended Ohio State University, which has one of the top three public-school dance programs in the country. Then, her mother died during her senior year.

"So, instead of moving to New York and becoming a modern dancer, I decided to come home and just get my footing and be close to my family," she said. "That's when my whole world changed, and I feel like I found myself."

"I was always fascinated with Lansing," she added. "From when we moved here in 2007, I really couldn't get away from it in a lot of ways."

At first, Martinez was a teaching artist with short-term residencies at Lansing elementary schools. She was "amazed" by that experience.

"I loved the conversation about how we can make dance more accessible, how we can take these concepts of high art and give them back to the people they belong to," she said.

She also worked for AmeriCorps VISTA, which she said brought her back to the question, "What are we doing for each other, as opposed to my being a dancer and making art for myself?"

The Everett position opened up in 2017 when program founder Karen Sprecher retired. Martinez made sure she was ready to do justice to Sprecher's legacy.

"Karen and I had coffee a lot that summer, and I met with alumni and current students," she said. "I learned that I was coming into a place that is beloved. All I have to do is facilitate and provide opportunity for it to continue to elevate itself and make sure the stu-

dents feel supported to be artistically free."

In 2024, Martinez celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dance program with her students in a renovated dance studio she calls "world-class." The district also produced a documentary on the program.

Despite her busy role at Everett, Martinez was able to go back to school for three years, earning a master of social work from Michigan State University to enhance her ability to work holistically with her students.

"Social work is all about agency, all about empowerment, all about dignity of the person first," Martinez explained. "If I want you to express yourself in dance, I have to acknowledge the preciousness of your dignity and honor that. Then I can give you the tools to express yourself, to feel safe, yet be challenged and grow."

To the many other hats she wears, Martinez aspires to add Lansing City Council at-large member. She became a candidate in this fall's election, she says on her website, "because I believe leadership should be about listening, advocating, and fighting for the people who make Lansing great."

**Best  
Dance  
Instructor**



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

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# Dom Haughton: 'One of the weirdos'

By NICOLE NOECHEL

A satanic My Little Pony. A cow with two heads. A sexy plague doctor. A tarot card depicting an open set of skeletal jaws and a spider building a web on the inside. When it comes to creating macabre art, 24-year-old Dom Haughton, also known as Moonflaws Tattoos, is as passionate as they come, and she loves making it permanent on people's bodies even more.

After just three years as a tattoo artist, Haughton has been selected as the best in the Lansing area in City Pulse's Top of the Town People Contest, which she enthused is "a really cool feeling." But what's cooler to her is just having the job.

"This is the dream. I feel very lucky that I get to put art on people — my art — and they trust me enough to live with that forever," she said. "You make people feel really good about themselves. Truly, there's nothing I don't like. It's a really cool experience."

Becoming a tattoo artist wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision for Haughton. She's aspired to this career since she was 12 years old.

"My dad got me stuck on 'Ink Master,'" she said. "And I was always a very artsy kid. I was the weird art kid in school. I didn't do sports, I didn't do anything like that. I was always drawing, coloring, painting. That's always been my passion for as long as I can remember."

"I also love really severe body modi-



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

fications and the alternative world, so it just kind of made sense," she added.

**Best  
Tattoo  
Artist**

She began working at Ink and Needle in Frandor as a receptionist and stayed in that role for about a year and a half before starting an apprenticeship. She said she was able to learn the ins and outs of the industry before she ever picked up a tattoo gun.

also does a lot of fine-line and stipple-shading work.

When asked what draws her to spooky designs, she said, "I'm definitely one of the weirdos, and I like meeting other weirdos about it."

People Contest voters praised her style, leaving several comments. One voter proclaimed that she's "the absolute best at black ink work!" while another noted, "I've gotten many pieces from her, and each one of my pieces is exceptional. She came up with a design for my feet tattoos that I never fail to receive compliments on!"

While she's not one to brag, Haughton credited her People Contest win to her ability to connect with her clients.

"Speaking from my own experience as a client, I know how important it is to build a connection with your tattoo artist," she said. "It's important to make sure the client is comfortable and getting exactly what they want — they're not scared to speak up if they want anything. At the end of the day, it's on them forever, not me, so I want to make sure someone leaves here really happy."

When not tattooing — or spending time with her husky — Haughton also models. The shoots are typically just as spooky as her tattoos.

"To me, that's another art form that I do. It's the same thing as tattooing," she said. "I also do a lot of the weird, creepy horror stuff in my modeling. So, that's just another way to express my art in a little bit of a different way."

She's also an avid live music fan, with a wide-ranging taste spanning from "really heavy metal" to EDM.

"I've even gone to a country festival," she said. "I just love to experience it, and again, it's about community."

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Raymond Holt for City Pulse

# Alex Teller: True to the road

By AJ GLAUB

Singer-songwriter Alex Teller has a sound that would be equally at home in another time.

“It’s very vintage sounding,” he said, “like something that could’ve been written 50-plus years ago. I usually say 1920 to ‘73 because most of my musical taste — the records and things I seem to favor — came out in that time frame.”

Think classic country vocals riding over warm, resonant mahogany guitar.

Lansing audiences voted Teller as the Best Folk Artist in City Pulse’s Top of the Town People Contest, a win he didn’t expect.

“I didn’t even know I was nominated,” he said. “It just kind of happened. It feels thoughtful, like people are rooting for me without me having to push for it.”

After sharing stages with some of the region’s top folk players, Teller might appear to be rooted in the Mitten. He still frequents local open mics, including Wednesdays at Moriarty’s Pub, hosted by Jen Sygit. More often, though, he’s traveling the country in his 1998 Toyota Tacoma named Alberta, weaving stories for strangers in distant bars and serenading Texas dance floors.

Originally from Florida, Teller moved to Michigan at 19 and discovered folk music soon after by way of Jerry Garcia’s acoustic side projects.

Starting with the Grateful Dead, he dug into Garcia’s pedal-steel work with New Riders of the Purple Sage, then Gram Parsons and the Flying Burrito

Brothers, and finally the raw country of Townes Van Zandt, Doc Watson and John Prine.

Van Zandt was particularly inspiring. Teller immersed himself in songwriting, studying every detail of Van Zandt’s, Prine’s and Watson’s music.

“I was like, ‘That’s what I want to do. I want to write songs that people are listening to for a long time,’” Teller said.

In 2021, Teller hit the road with his guitar and his Tacoma, which doubled as his home while he farmed, played shows and lived a nomadic life.

“That’s kind of how it all started,” he said. “When I came back to Michigan and started playing open mics again, I started getting real affirmation that what I was doing was good. I realized that maybe these road trips could actually be tours.”

Teller’s music has found a home on the dance floors of Texas two-step, a world apart from Michigan’s folk scene.

“Musically, I’ve actually felt more at home in Texas,” he said. “I can just be up there with a guitar, and people are already dancing: two-stepping, waltzing, all of it.”

“Dancing’s just part of the culture,” he continued. “It’s not about trying to meet someone or impress someone romantically. It’s just something people do. Michigan just doesn’t really have that.”

He often travels the same routes his heroes once did.

“I drive through Raton, New Mexico — Townes has that song ‘Snowin’ on Raton.’ The chorus goes, ‘Snowin’ on Raton / Come mornin’ I’ll be through them hills and gone.’ When you’re on that road, you can just imagine it.”

For Teller, time on the road is part of the tradition.

“When I think of country music, it’s about the places, people, politics, culture, landscapes and things like that,” he said. “In order to write about that stuff, I have to really connect with it, get to know the highways, the mountains, the rivers and really put myself in the place of those artists.”

As much as Teller is rooted in tradition, he’s also exploring new territory. His next album, recorded with Greg Baxter at Second Story Sound in Grand Rapids, features a bigger sound and collaborations with Drew Howard, Rachael Davis, Lindsay Lou, Peter “Madcat” Ruth, Kyle Tuttle and other



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

**Best Folk Artist**



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

artists. The first single drops this summer.

This summer also brings a long list of tour dates across Michigan and beyond, but one room still stands out.

“When I think about my favorite place to play, it’s the Robin,” Teller said.

The Robin Theatre has seen Teller through early gigs and sold-out crowds. It welcomes him back May 29, with special guest Jack Straw.

“Even if I’m touring, even in Texas, nothing beats a Robin Theatre show,” Teller said.

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## ARTS

### Best Artist

1. Jennifer Taggart Wilson
2. Ryan Holmes
3. Steph Joy Hogan



Jennifer Taggart Wilson is a retired forensic scientist who creates colorful and unique art, including pet portraits, woven fiber wall hangings, large-scale

fiber portraits and tufted rugs.

### Best Classical Musician

1. Rodney Page
2. Sergei Kvitko
3. Alexis Anne Wright

(See profile of Rodney Page on page 9)

### Best Club DJ

1. Cutt-Nice
2. Mary X

### 3. Metro Melik



Brian Payne, aka DJ Cutt-Nice, is a veteran turntablist from Lansing and founder of F.T.H. Entertainment. One voter called him the “best DJ in the 517 for over 30 years.”

### Best Country Artist

1. Sadie Bass
2. Keegan Jacko
3. Cooper Johnson



Sadie Bass is a Bath native who moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 2020 to pursue her country music career. She’s released eight singles and opened for dozens of national acts.

### Best Drag Artist

1. Alicia Boom Boom Chablis
2. Mag N. Cheez
3. (tie) Cocoa Cola Caliente and Mackenzie Derhammer (Sapphire Shade)



Known as “Michigan’s sexiest grandpa,” Alicia Boom Boom Chablis performs throughout the

state. Chablis was voted second-best drag artist and entertainer in the 2023 Top of the Town contest and was able to take the crown for best drag artist in the People Contest.

### Best Folk Artist

1. Alex Teller
2. The Devil You Don’t
3. Kitty Donohoe

(See profile of Alex Teller on page 13)

### Best Hip-Hop Artist

1. James Gardin
2. The Back of the Class
3. Taylor Taylor



Hailing from Lansing, James Gardin is known for his infectious grooves, uplifting messages and undeniable stage charisma. His songs fuse rap, funk and danceable production.

### Best Jazz Musician

1. Jim Alfredson
2. Jonathan Evans
3. Reuben Stump



Jim Alfredson of Lansing is a keyboardist, music engineer, producer and songwriter. He’s performed in the R&B band Root

Doctor, jazz trio organissimo, progressive-rock band THEO and as a solo artist.

### Best Local Author

1. Jenn Carpenter
2. John K. Addis
3. Lori Nelson Spielman



Jenn Carpenter, a self-proclaimed true-crime junkie, is the author of “Haunted Lansing,” “Hardwood Floors” and “The Cereal Killer Chronicles” as well as the owner of Deadtime Stories in REO Town.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE



### Best Advocate/Activist

1. Tom Izzo, MSU basketball coach
2. Jerry Norris, the Fledge
3. Mike Karl

See Contest winners, Page 15

## Rodney Page

from page 9

by, he saw the impact a great music teacher can make.

“She made it fun and exciting,” he said. By the time Page finished high school, multiple schools, including Michigan State University, beckoned with scholarships. The choice wasn’t hard.

“MSU’s string education program is one of the best in the country,” he said.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in music education, Page taught fifth- and sixth-grade strings at public schools in East Lansing and St. Johns from 2000 to 2009.

“It was a very fulfilling experience,” he said. “I loved my co-workers, and the kids were so high energy. They were so curious about how to get better on their instru-

ments.”

He’s still a strong supporter of music education and especially ensemble work in public schools.

“You need to do your particular job and yet coexist to produce this wonderful sound,” he said. “Tubas, violas, woodwinds — you need everybody.”

Music also opens doors to other cultures. Page recently attended a program in El Paso, Texas, his wife’s hometown, to learn the rudiments of teaching mariachi music. “Mariachi music wasn’t prevalent in Southfield,” he said with a laugh. “Delving into the culture, their pride in that genre, helped make me a better musician.”

Page liked teaching in public schools, but in 2009, he left his regular teaching job to be a stay-at-home dad while his wife, Kimberly, kept her position as the director of MSU’s Student Parent Resource Center.

He decided to break out on his own as a musical entrepreneur, adding DJing and public speaking to his violin gigs and private lessons.

Since then, his musical adventures have taken him all over the state and beyond, from New Orleans to the Apollo Theater in Harlem.

At professional venues such as the Michigan Music Conference, he gives a presentation called “From Bach to Hip-Hop,” offering tips on how to integrate hip-hop into strings curricula.

At the request of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan, he conducted a 50-piece orchestra at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day luncheon in January 2018. He DJed for the Detroit Pistons throughout the team’s 2012-13 season at the now-defunct Palace of Auburn Hills and regularly DJs at

Stober’s Bar in Lansing. In the summer, he fiddles with the Jack Clarkson Band, a five-piece country ensemble.

Classical is still his favorite kind of music (and Tchaikovsky is his favorite composer), but he urges audiences at his various presentations to keep their minds open and not to judge.

He backs it up with music, weaving a Baroque partita with Stevie Wonder’s “Higher Ground,” Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believin’,” a Patsy Cline song and — now that he’s in the know — a morsel of mariachi music, along with anything else that’s dancing in his head.

The sea of amazed faces reminds him that he’s in the right line of work.

“Music is something everyone likes,” he said. “You might like different genres, but everyone in the world is listening to music.”

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# BEETHOVEN'S EMPEROR CONCERTO

MAY 9 | 7:30PM | LANSINGSYMPHONY.ORG

## Contest winners

from page 14



Tom Izzo isn't only MSU's Hall of Fame basketball coach, but he's also an advocate for local causes. He and his wife, Lupe, have raised more

than \$750,000 through the annual Izzo Run/Walk/Roll.

### Best Librarian

1. Heather Goupil, CADL Mason
2. Mark Buzzitta, CADL Downtown Lansing
3. Cassie Veselovsky, CADL South Lansing

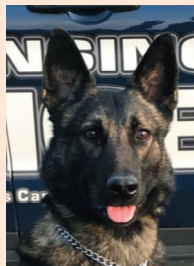


Heather Goupil is the head librarian at the Mason Library. Voters said she's "a great advocate for SO many important community services/

resources!" and that "she kept the library open and functioning in spite of a massive 13-month complete renovation!"

### Best Police Officer

1. Lansing Police Department Canine Unit
2. DJ Rudd, Lansing Police Department
3. (tie) Matt Shutes, Mason Chief of Police and Melissa Congleton, MSU Police Department



The LPD Canine Unit was formed in 1985 and today has five working teams, one of the largest canine units in the state. Canines are assigned to every shift and are available

24/7.

## EDUCATION/INSTRUCTION

### Best Academic Advisor

1. Patricia Sanchawala, East Lansing High School
2. (tie) Eva Menefee, Lansing



Community College and Evan Dubey, Everett High School



Patricia Sanchawala is chair of the special education department at ELHS. One voter said she "works tirelessly to guide students from

where they're at to where they need to be."

### Best College Instructor

1. Jon Whiting, MSU
2. Emily Conroy-Krutz, MSU
3. (tie) Robin McGuire, MSU and Teagan Dixon, MSU



Jon Whiting is an Emmy Award-winning television producer and professor of practice at MSU's College of Communi-

cation Arts and Sciences, working primarily as an instructor for audio production courses.

### Best Dance Instructor

1. Clara Martinez, Everett High School
2. Bella Guerrazzi, Premier Dance Co.
3. Tiffany Nordé, Rock the Block Studio

(See Clara Martinez profile on page 11)

### Best High School Coach

1. Ray Mitchell, East Lansing High School
2. Chris Tyler, Waverly High School
3. (tie) Deleon Dearing, Sexton High School and Rod Watts, Waverly High School



Ray Mitchell has been the head boys' basketball coach at ELHS since 2018, coaching the Trojans to the 2025 MHSAA Division I state

championship, in which the team won its first title since 1958.

### Best High School Teacher

1. Kevin Tobe, Haslett High School
2. Ben Billings, Everett High School
3. Dave Larzelere, East Lansing High School



Kevin Tobe has been teaching math at Haslett for 25 years. One voter said, "Kevin is an outstanding teacher who gives of himself

tirelessly. He puts students first and always engages them in creative ways to maximize their learning."

### Best Personal Trainer

1. Michael Uren, State of Fitness
2. Raneka Buggs, M43 Fitness
3. Keri Morrison, Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club



Michael Uren has been a trainer at State of Fitness since 2018. One voter said, "He can work with anyone and tailor workouts

to meet their needs. Super knowledgeable and very experienced. Best trainer in town!"

See Contest winners, Page 16

Thank you Lansing for voting me a TOP 3 author for the second year in a row!



Celebrate with me and use the code CITYPULSE to receive 20% off all titles from my website!



johnkaddis.com

# Contest winners

from page 15

### Best Yoga Instructor

1. Rachel Troisi Sciberras, Lovelight Collective
2. Jennifer Cousineau, East Lansing Hot Yoga
3. Matt Gleason, East Lansing Hot Yoga



Rachel Troisi Sciberras began teaching yoga around 2007. She loves all things yoga and helping others find their own

love for yoga. Her classes focus on traditional movements and postures.

## FOOD & DRINK

### Best Barista

1. Drew Van Zee, Blue Owl Old Town
2. Dusty Salyer, BAD Brewing Co.
3. Trisha Kosloski, the Hob Nob

(See profile on Drew Van Zee on page 10)

### Best Bartender

1. Jennifer Hunter, Wooden Nickel II
2. Dusty Salyer, BAD Brewing Co.
3. Amanda Haite, Tippy Nickel Bar & Grille



While a co-worker called her “as much an excellent bartender as she is a mother hen,” customers praised Jennifer Hunter’s kindness

and ceaseless smile.

### Best Brewer

1. Peter Martin, Boss Cider
2. KJ Rowan, BAD Brewing Co.
3. Jeremy Sprague, Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale



One voter said they “haven’t found a brew I didn’t like at Boss.” Having worn many hats at Boss Cider, these days, Peter Martin thinks

up new brews.

### Best Chef

1. Chris Corrette, Boss Cider
2. Steve Swart, Ruckus Ramen
3. Sean Zellmer, Henry’s Place



While one voter praised Chris Corrette for the “great pride” he takes “in his food and trying new things,”



others praised his kindness.

### Best Food Delivery Person

1. Jesse Lovejoy, Domino’s Pizza
2. BreeAnn Hooker, Barnhill’s Westside Deli
3. (tie) Brayden Ely, Door Dash and Jayden Oliver, DoorDash & Instacart

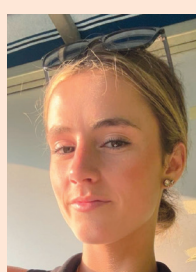


East Lansing Domino’s employee Jesse Lovejoy made headlines in 2020 by buying pizzas and delivering them for free to the

community. The community still remembers.

### Best Restaurant Waitstaff

1. Emily Price, Watershed Tavern/Grill
2. Madison Beene, Boss Cider
3. Alisa “Cheese” Kowalski, Cooper’s Hawk Winery & Restaurant



Emily Price is a graduate of Grand Ledge Public Schools and a resident of Haslett. One voter said, “She smiles and laughs

and builds a great bond with customers. Consider her family at this point!”

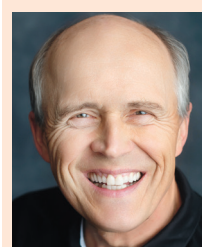


Dr. Rick J. Smith has provided top-of-the-line cosmetic procedures for over 25 years. One voter said, “I was happy

about the surgery I had with him, have healed well, and don’t have any scars!”

### Best Dentist

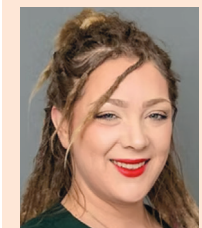
1. Dr. Timothy Zielinski, Zielinski Dental
2. Dr. James Peters, Mason Family Dentistry
3. Dr. Kristina Palmer, Oak Bark Dental



Dr. Timothy Zielinski has served the Mason community since 1981. His background and experience, including continuing education courses in “every aspect of dentistry,” allow him to perform almost all procedures in-office.

### Best Massage Therapist

1. Tiffany Adams, Renewed Spirit Spa
2. Mack Cornelison, Element Massage LLC
3. Bee Queener, Bee Queener Massage Therapy



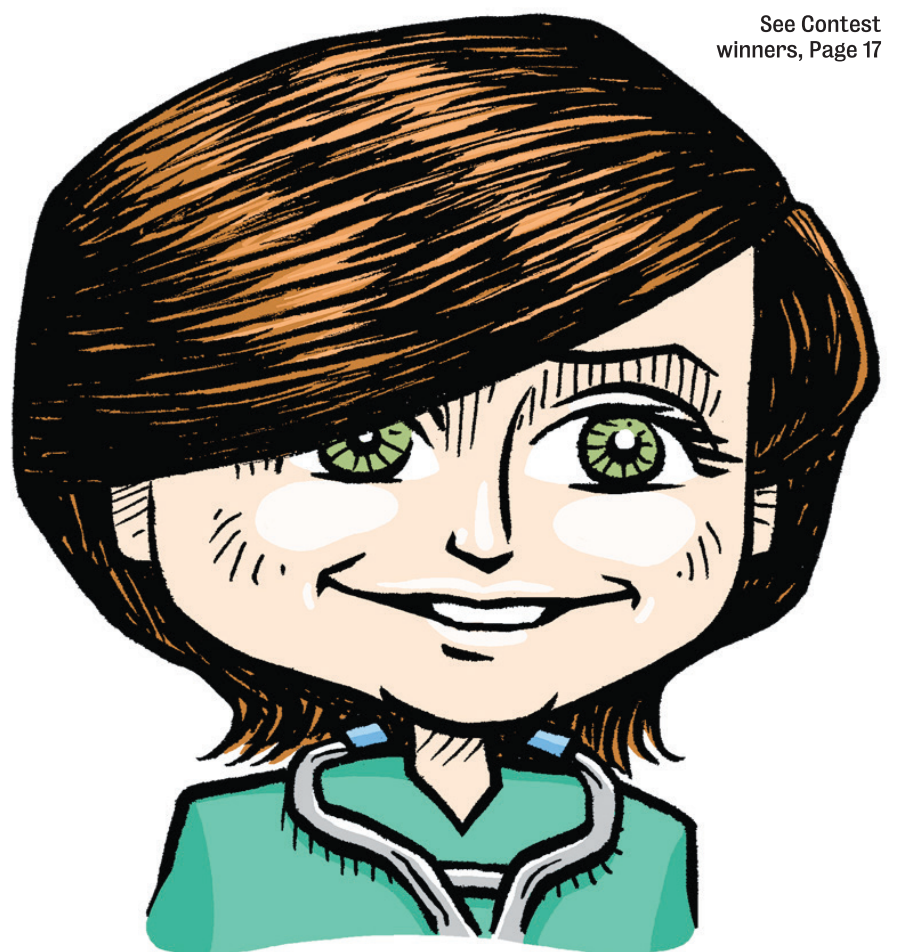
Tiffany Adams is trained in a variety of massage modalities, specializing in pain and stress release. “She’s so welcoming, calming and caring,” one voter said. “She pays attention to my needs and has healed my fatigued, sore muscles.”

See Contest winners, Page 17

## HEALTH CARE

### Best Cosmetic Surgeon

1. Dr. Rick J. Smith
2. Dr. Ahmed S. Sufyan, Mid-Michigan Ear, Nose, & Throat
3. Dr. Andrew Zwyzghuizen, U-M Health Sparrow Hospital





## Contest winners

from page 16

### Best Optometrist

1. Dr. Brian Beissel, Rule Eye Care Associates
2. Dr. Holly Swartz, MyEyeDr.
3. (tie) Dr. Chad Linsley, Mason Family Eye Care and Dr. Jeff Rule, Rule Eye Care Associates



Dr. Brian Beissel is a general eye care professional specializing in fitting contact lenses, pre- and post-LASIK care, cataract management, glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic eye disease.

517 Day celebration and Metro Melik 517, a brick-and-mortar clothing, jewelry, art and gift shop turned webstore.

### Best Entertainer

1. Metro Melik, Stacks 92.1
2. Kristin Marie, With Me Entertainment
3. Whitney Spotts, Starfarm

### Best Local TV Personality

1. Sheri Jones, WLNS
2. David Andrews, WILX-TV
3. Katie Nickolaou, WLNS-TV



Sheri Jones has been a WLNS-TV news anchor since 1989 and the spokesperson for the station's Crime Stoppers program since 1994. Retiring

May 9, one voter said she's a "local legend" who "will be missed."

### Best Radio DJ

1. Metro Melik, Stacks 92.1
2. Terry Stevens, Q106 WJXQ
3. Stephanie McCoy, 94.1 Duke FM

## MISCELLANEOUS



Metro Melik is a videographer, photographer, actor, emcee and DJ. He hosted a live, call-in TV talk show for more than 13 years before being

invited to be the afternoon radio host on Stacks 92.1, where he can be heard from 3 to 7 p.m. weekdays. He's also the founder of the annual

### Best CATA Bus Driver

1. Ron DeLeon
2. Lamar Braggs
3. Aaron Aikman



Ron DeLeon has been driving for CATA for 27 years. One voter said, "Ron is always friendly, patient, and consistently goes above and

beyond to make passengers feel safe and welcomed. His professionalism and positive attitude make a big difference."

### Best Customer Service Worker

1. Kathleen Krancich, St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
2. Kelle Vicknair, Splash of Color Tattoo & Piercing Studio
3. (tie) Samantha Olson, Evergreen Cemetery and Skylir Maloney, Pristine Cleaning & Home Services LLC



Of Kathleen Krancich, a family service adviser at St. Joseph Cemetery, voters said, "As customer service reps go, or just people

in general, no one cares about people like Kathleen does!" and "She is literally the best!"

### Best Farmer

1. Rebecca Titus, Titus Farms
2. Tom & Ashley Butcher, Butcher Farms
3. Nate Kermiet, Magnolia Ave Farms



Rebecca Titus is the "manager of many things, mostly planning, plants and people" for the farm her parents started in 1982. She

founded a community-supported agriculture program there in 2005.

## PERSONAL CARE

### Best Barber

1. Brandon Becerril, Blessed Barber Club
2. Pedro Estrello, Hair & Co. Downtown
3. Alexander Dominguez, Loyalty Barbershop



Brandon Becerril is the owner of Blessed Barber Club in East Lansing. With more than a decade of experience, he specializes in fades, tapers, scissor work

and intricate hair designs.



### Best Esthetician/Cosmetologist

1. Craig Holly, Douglas J Salon & Med Spa
2. Holly Roth, PURE Skincare & Acne Spa
3. Jennifer Edwards, Rick J. Smith, MD



Craig Holly offers laser treatments, facials, peels, Botox, IV infusions and makeup artistry. One voter said, "His work shows how dedicated and passionate he is about wellness!"

and passionate he is about wellness!"

See Contest winners, Page 18

## We want to say a Big Thank You

to everyone who voted for us to make it into the Top 3 of Best Dance Instructors in Lansing!!!

We appreciated the support!  
**ROCK THE BLOCK Studio**



## Tiffany & David Nordé

Make sure to follow us at **@rocktheblockstudio** on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.

Or, visit our website:  
[www.dancingwiththenordes.com](http://www.dancingwiththenordes.com)



## City Pulse needs a Delivery Driver.

Interested? Call 517-999-6704  
or email [steve@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:steve@lansingcitypulse.com)

**CityPULSE**

## Contest winners

from page 17

### Best Hairstylist

1. Timothy Walkinhood, Holiday Hair House
2. Renee Gonzales, Hair by Renee
3. Nickie, Hair by Nickie



With more than a decade in the industry, Timothy Walkinhood is dedicated to delivering the latest trends in hairstyling, specializing

in shags, bobs and long bobs, plus fringe and face framing.

### Best Nail Technician

1. Tori Rice, Studio XO
2. Vic Vix'n, the Honeycomb Salon & Spa
3. Wendy Ghinelli, Salon 130



Tori Rice loves to create art on tiny canvases. One voter said they drive over an hour for her services, and that she's "beautiful inside and out."

### Best Piercer

1. Alexis "Alix" Mercer, Ink Therapy
2. Aaron "Malibu" Wood, Local Tattoo and Laser Co.
3. Danny Aybar, Be-You-tiful Body Piercing & Fine Jewelry



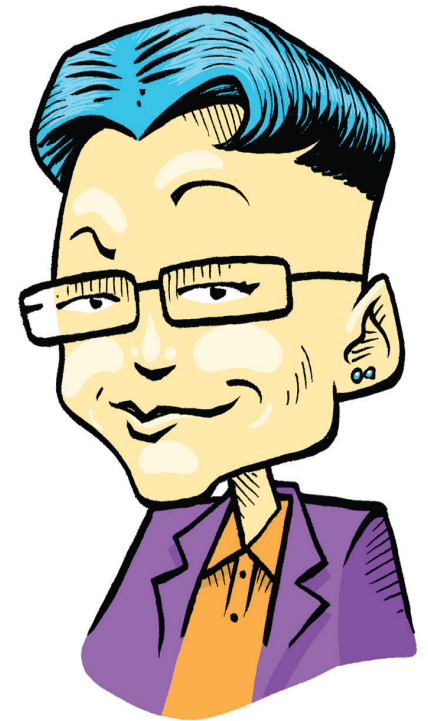
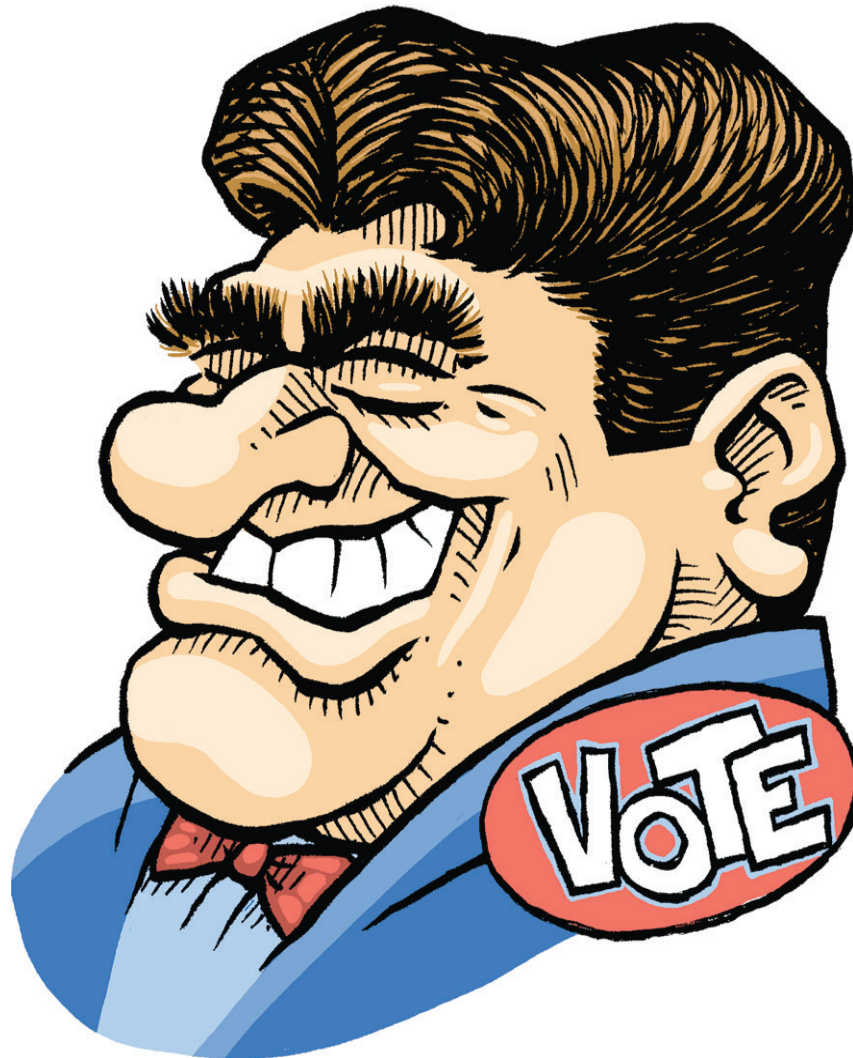
After dreaming of becoming a piercer since she was 11, Alexis Mercer was hired as Ink Therapy's head piercer in 2020. Voters praised her

knowledge of her craft, with one saying she "takes her time and does everything to make her clients feel comfortable."

### Best Tattoo Artist

1. Moonflaws Tattoos, Ink Therapy
2. Sarah Fuller, Van Gogh Tattoos
3. Shawn Farr, Ink Therapy

(See profile of Moonflaws Tattoos on page 12)



## PROFESSIONAL

### Best Accountant/CPA

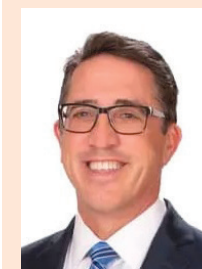
1. Michael Scheetz, Plante Moran
2. Nikali Luke, Simplified Tax
3. Shelly Madery, Freedom Tax Services



Michael Scheetz specializes in tax planning, strategy and business advisory at Plante Moran and told City Pulse he's passionate about money-saving strategies.

### Best Attorney

1. Andrew Abood, Abood Law
2. Rhonda Kunkel, Knaggs Brake PC
3. Ernschie Augustin, Augustin Law Offices



It's hard to pick favorites among family, but trial attorney Andrew Abood of family firm Abood Law bested his brother, divorce attorney Jeffrey Abood, this time.

### Best Developer

1. Matthew Hagan, Hagan Realty
2. Jesalee Jones, Honey Home Interiors
3. Brent Forsberg, T.A. Forsberg Inc.

## POLITICAL

### Best Local Politician

1. Sarah Anthony, state senator
2. Andy Schor, Lansing mayor
3. Ryan Kost, Lansing City Council



"Sarah is so hard-working," one voter said of the Democratic state senator. "She meets so frequently with her constituents, she really has a PULSE on what's going on!"

### Best State/National Politician

1. Gretchen Whitmer, governor
2. Elissa Slotkin, U.S. senator
3. Sarah Anthony, state senator



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer "truly cares about Michigan and its people. All of them," according to one voter. Another said, "Gonna miss you when your term is done!"

### Worst Local Politician

1. Tom Barrett, U.S. representative
2. Andy Schor, Lansing mayor
3. Jeffrey Brown, Lansing City Council



"worst" list.

An unwillingness to hold an in-person town hall and accusations of being a rubber stamp for Trump put Charlotte Republican Tom Barrett atop the

### Worst State/National Politician

1. Donald Trump, U.S. president
2. Gretchen Whitmer, governor
3. Tom Barrett, U.S. representative



and blamed it on everyone else," one voter said.

A chaotic few months have marked Donald Trump's return to office, and TOTT voters aren't happy. "He's bombed the economy



## Contest winners

from page 18



Matthew Hagan told City Pulse he takes pride in “doing things the right way” as part of a locally owned and operated family business.

### Best Handyman

1. Jerimiah Vongphachanh, MyBoyfriendLLC
2. Megan & William Dowell, Do-Well Remodel
3. Ross Yednock



Jerimiah Vongphachanh said working with his hands and with other people are his true passions.

One voter said he provides “amazing service” and shows “great customer care.”

### Best Tailor/Seamstress

1. Sue Nguyen, S & Sue’s Cleaners & Tailors
2. Nu the Tailor
3. Kelly Wheaton, Fantastic Alterations

Sue Nguyen of S & Sue’s Cleaners & Tailors has been in the business for over 20 years in Mason.

*Nguyen declined to be photographed for this edition.*

## SALES

### Best Auto Salesperson

1. Matt “Mojo” Lersch, Team One Chevrolet Buick GMC
2. (tie) Devan Reed, Kia of Lansing and Troy Andrews, Shaheen Chevrolet



Alongside his work as an auto salesman, Matt “Mojo” Lersch is a former radio DJ for Q106 WJXQ and an advocate for mental health.

### Best Insurance Agent

1. David Finkbeiner, Rathbun Agency
2. Ben Rathbun, Rathbun Agency
3. Craig Winston, Meemic Insurance Winston Agency



David Finkbeiner, the “definition of a stellar insurance agent,” according to one voter, retired March 31 but was still selected as No. 1. Another

voter said he truly cared about his clients.

### Best Realtor/Agent

1. Ricardo Gutierrez, Premier Oasis
2. Lauren Flannery, Howard Hanna
3. Alison Alfredson, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices



Alongside being a real estate agent in the Greater Lansing area, Ricardo Gutierrez makes content for homebuyers on TikTok and YouTube.

### Best Retail Salesperson

1. Jenn Carpenter, Deadtime Stories
2. Jamie Ring, Becky Beauchine Kulka Diamonds and Fine Jewelry
3. Summer Schriener, Grace Boutique of Old Town

Jenn Carpenter, owner of Deadtime Stories in REO Town, received a second TOTT People Contest nod for her service at the spooky bookstore. She plans to open a second location this summer in Charlotte.

# Thank You For Voting Me Best Insurance Agent!

## Ben Rathbun



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www.rathbuninsurance.com | 517-482-1316

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## In Fowlerville, a stage big enough for everyone

By AJ GLAUB

In Fowlerville, Friday nights usually belong to football. This weekend, however, a different kind of team is suiting up.

Fowlerville Community Theatre will stage “The Music Man,” co-directed by Becky Frank and Kristel Hatt, Friday (May 2) through Sunday (May 4) at Fowlerville High School’s Alverson Center for Performing Arts. The cast of 47 people ranges in age from 6 years old to adult.

“The Music Man,” first staged on Broadway in 1957, follows a fast-talking con man who arrives in a small town with plans to scam the residents out of their money. (Fans of “The Simpsons” will recognize the trope: “Marge vs. the Monorail” was Conan O’Brien’s homage.)

In November, Fowlerville made national headlines when masked demonstrators waving Nazi flags showed up outside a Fowlerville Community Theatre production of “The Diary of Anne Frank.”

They didn’t break the theater’s spirit — or the audience’s. The community rallied around FCT, which was able to keep the doors open.

Founded as a nonprofit in 2012 by a handful of locals, Fowlerville Community Theatre has always been an example of the Greater Lansing community’s ability to come together and support a cause.

“Our theater is totally volunteer-based,” Frank, FCT’s treasurer, said. “We have sponsors, community support from businesses and, of course, ticket sales.”

FCT’s mission is twofold: Beyond bringing culture to Fowlerville, it gives people a space to learn, try and be a part of something.

“It’s not just about producing the very best with the very best people who have done so many things before,” Frank said. “It’s really about teaching, learning and bringing

### “The Music Man”

May 2-4  
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
Fowlerville High School  
700 N. Grand St., Fowlerville  
(810) 207-5126  
fowlervilletheatre.com



Photo by Sarah Harvey

Kelley Versin (left) and Aaron Franks as leads Marian Paroo and Harold Hill in Fowlerville Community Theatre’s production of “The Music Man.”



Photo by Sarah Harvey

Summer Harvey in character as Winthrop at the Fowlerville District Library.



Photo by Sarah Harvey

The full cast of “The Music Man.”

people together who want to have fun and enjoy.”

Brandon Johnson, who drives in from Dimondale, is the theater company’s secretary as well as an actor, director and prop master. For “The Music Man,” he’s pulling double duty backstage and on stage as Marcellus Washburn.

“We try to have something for everybody: adult dinner theater, musicals for the whole family, that kind of stuff,” Johnson said. “And we’re

really starting to develop some new directors. You want to make sure that those new directors have the tools to succeed.”

He said newcomers are welcome, no matter their experience level.

“You don’t have to be a triple threat by any means,” he said. “If you can get on stage and move around, that’s really what we’re looking for. We really try to be a learning theater.”

Rehearsals, he said, are “organized chaos, but that’s true of every show.”

When he fell behind pulling props

together for “The Music Man,” he said other members of the cast stepped up to help without being asked.

“I had some personal stuff going on, and people found items, went to businesses to borrow props — they were just super willing to help out,” he said.

Fowlerville resident Sarah Harvey, a board member and the producer of “The Music Man,” said the familial feeling is a big part of why the theater works.

“It’s just one big family,” Harvey said. “It’s so nice to see the teens come alongside the little ones and help guide them and direct them and kind of care for them so their parents don’t have to worry.”

Harvey and her 10-year-old daughter, Summer, were inspired to get involved after seeing an FCT production of “Beauty and the Beast” in 2022.

“Like my mom said, it feels like a big family,” Summer said. “Other kids and people who have been in another show can help you out.”

Summer started out with smaller parts in 2023, singing in the town scenes of “Aladdin Jr.” and picking up a few lines in “The Grunch.”

In “The Music Man,” she plays her first major role: Winthrop, a shy boy with a lisp.

“Some people think I mess up, but I’m supposed to mess up,” she said. “He’s a very shy kid, and he doesn’t really want to talk a lot because he’s nervous about his lisp and everybody calling him names.”

One moment in the show stands out for her: when Winthrop finally sings during “The Wells Fargo Wag-on.”

“It’s my character singing out to the crowd in a solo part,” she said. “It’s kind of heartbreaking.”

Harvey said it’s been rewarding to see how much her daughter has grown.

“Seeing her remember her lines, sing her songs and do it with confidence and grace, I’m just so proud of how far she’s come,” she said.

# Recommendations for reading your way through the Vietnam War

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Today, April 30, is a monumental day in American history: the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, 20 years after it officially started.

The death of a classmate from my high school, Gerald Collier, on Oct. 15, 1966, brought the war home for me and the other residents of my small town in the Thumb. More than 6,300 U.S. service members died that year. The bloodiest years were yet to come.

Throughout the war, approximately 3.4 million Americans were deployed to Southeast Asia, and 58,220 died. More than 400,000 Michiganders served, and around 2,650 died. They're remembered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington and on the grounds of Michigan's state Capitol complex.

Though the war is in the rearview mirror, one way to not lose track of its impact is to read about it. Here are some recommendations.

Numerous combat veterans turned authors have written dramatic and intense novels and memoirs including Phil Caputo's "A Rumor of War"; Tim O'Brien's "If I Die in a Combat Zone, Box Me Up and Ship Me Home," "The Things They Carried" and "Going After Cacciato," which won a National Book Award; Karl Marlantes' "Matterhorn"; and Denis Johnson's "Tree of Smoke," which won a National Book Award and was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize. These books are often brutal in their depictions of the horror and surrealism of war.

I would be remiss not to mention East Lansing author Bill Murphy's fine book "Not for God and Country," about his experiences as a Marine in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. When I interviewed Murphy, he told me, "I've looked down at my hands countless times and wondered how these hands could've done the things we did."

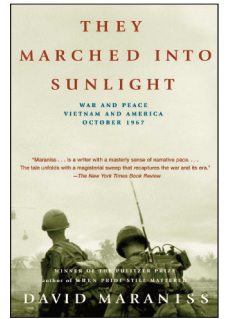
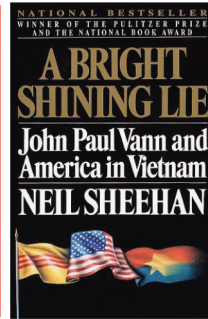
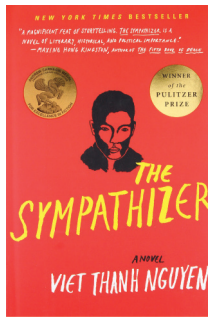
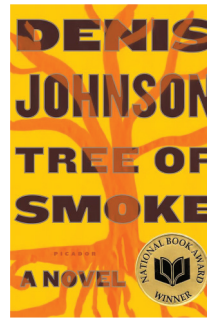
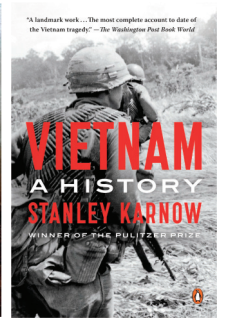
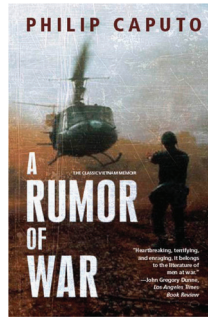
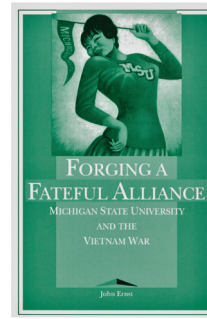
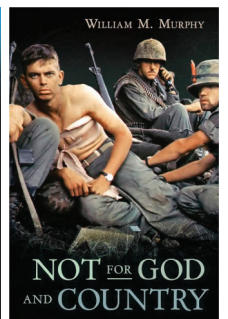
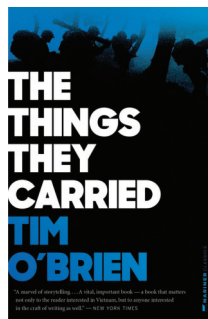
There's no shortage of books on the causes, history and impact of the war that provide a context for what has been called the "never-ending war." Neil Sheehan's "A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam," which won a Pulitzer and a National Book Award, and Stanley Karnow's "Vietnam: A History" are a good place to begin.

Two books that have a local connection are John Ernst's "Forging a Fateful Alliance: Michigan State University and the Vietnam War," a detailed look at MSU's entanglement with the Diem regime of South Vietnam, and Frances Fitzgerald's "Fire in the Lake," which won her a Pulitzer for her undaunted look at the backstories of the Vietnam War. Fitzgerald married another Vietnam War reporter, Jim Sterba, who was an editor at The State News and went to Vietnam as a correspondent for The New York Times three years after graduating from Michigan State.

A fictionalized version of the early days of U.S. intervention, Juris Jurjevic's "Red Flags," follows an Army cop sent to investigate corruption in South Vietnam. Jurjevic was a refreshing voice until his death in 2018.

Another fictional work I recommend is Viet Thanh Nguyen's "The Sympathizer," a Pulitzer-winning spy novel from the point of view of a communist sleeper agent who, following the war, becomes part of the United States' Vietnamese community and works on a "Platoon"-like Hollywood version of the war story.

Different points of view on the Vietnam War have been probed with books like Kristin Hannah's "The Women," which provides a compelling look at the role of nurses in Vietnam; Wallace Terry's "Bloods," which was one of the first books to cover what the war meant to Black service members;



and former Detroiters Eli Greenbaum's "Hell, No, We Didn't Go," by former Detroiters Eli Greenbaum, retells first-person stories of conscientious objectors to war.

Another former Michigander, David Maraniss, details the bloody battle of Ong Thanh and antiwar demonstrations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in his 2004 book, "They Marched into Sunlight."

Other books on the Vietnam War I recommend are Doug Stanton's "The

Odyssey of Echo Company"; former U.S. Sen. James Webb's "Fields of Fire"; Larry Heinemann's "Paco's Story"; James Crumley's "One to Count Cadence"; Max Boot's "The Road Not Taken"; Mark Bowden's "Hue 1968"; and Robert Mason's "Chickenhawk."

**ART BY NEVIN**

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# Michigan's cannabis industry isn't a lost cause — yet

By CHRIS SILVA

Michigan's legal cannabis market is teetering on the brink of collapse. Drowning in a self-inflicted tidal wave of oversupply, thanks to the state's rubber stamping of cultivation licenses, and besieged by the parasitic growth of an unregulated black market, the industry is screaming for a lifeline. But are Lansing's deaf ears finally ready to listen?

Long gone are the rosy predictions of endless profits. The reality is a brutal Darwinian struggle where licensed operators, burdened by crippling taxes and suffocating regulations, are being systematically undercut. Prices have cratered, profit margins have sunk, and for countless cannabis entrepreneurs, the American dream is dissolving into a dystopian nightmare.

## The regulatory deluge: A self-inflicted wound

The core of the crisis lies in a regulatory framework seemingly oblivious to basic economics. The state's Cannabis Regulatory Agency, bound by its operational guidelines, continues its relentless approval of cultivation licenses, even as the market drowns in excess product. This commitment to licensing more and more cultivators, irrespective of market saturation, feels less like oversight and more like a deliberate dismantling of the legal cannabis market. The sheer volume of cultivation licenses has created an artificial glut, driving down wholesale prices to unsustainable levels and jeopardizing the viability of legitimate businesses.

## The shadow economy: A two-pronged attack

The struggles of the legal industry are further compounded by the persistent and evolving threat of the black market. Traditional illicit channels continue to operate even with a legal market, leveraging their freedom from taxation and regulation to offer prices that licensed businesses simply cannot match. This undermines the very purpose of legal-



aleksandarlittlewolf/freepik

With the state's legal cannabis market facing a tidal wave of oversupply and ever-shrinking profit margins, industry leaders are calling for an immediate halt to the issuance of new cannabis cultivator licenses, which would provide a crucial window for businesses to drop out of the market naturally and a much-needed stabilization of supply and demand.

ization: to bring cannabis commerce into a regulated and taxable framework.

However, a more insidious challenge has emerged in the form of the booming hemp-derived THC market. Exploiting a loophole in federal law, intoxicating hemp products are readily available in mainstream retail environments like gas stations and vape shops, bypassing all the rigorous testing, labeling and age restrictions mandated for legal marijuana. This unregulated sector not only steals market share from licensed operators but also poses a significant risk to public health due to the lack of quality control and transparency.

## Industry plea: A desperate call for sanity

Faced with this existential threat, industry leaders are making an urgent and unambiguous demand: an immediate halt to the issuance of any new cannabis cultivator licenses. This isn't

a plea for protectionism but a necessary measure to allow the oversupplied market to find an equilibrium. A pause in licensing would provide a crucial window for businesses to drop out of the market naturally and a much-needed stabilization of supply and demand.

## Beyond the freeze: Dismantling the unregulated threat

The call for action extends beyond a simple licensing moratorium. There's a growing and forceful demand for the state to address the burgeoning issue of unregulated hemp-derived THC products. The industry insists on bringing these intoxicating substances under the same regulatory umbrella as marijuana, subjecting them to identical standards for testing, labeling and sales. Failure to do so would not only perpetuate unfair competition but also continue to expose consumers to potentially unsafe and misrepresented products.

## A crossroads for Michigan cannabis

Michigan stands at a critical juncture.



The state can continue its current trajectory, allowing bureaucratic inertia and unregulated competition to decimate a once-promising industry, paving the way for a strengthened black market and jeopardizing consumer safety. Alternatively, policymakers can demonstrate decisive leadership by implementing a temporary licensing freeze and enacting robust regulations on all intoxicating cannabis products, regardless of their origin. The future of Michigan's legal cannabis market — and the economic benefits and consumer protections it promised — hangs precariously in the balance. The time for decisive action is now, before the green gold rush turns into an irreversible economic blight.

### CITY OF EAST LANSING

#### EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

#### RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PUBLIC HEARING ON PRELIMINARY FY2026 BUDGET AND TAX RATE

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed budget for the City of East Lansing is required by City Charter and the State Budget Law; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing is required under the provisions of the Truth in Taxation Law; and,

WHEREAS, the general appropriations act must set forth the total number of mills to be levied and the purposes for the millage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of East Lansing does hereby establish the date of Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road in East Lansing, Michigan, as the date, time, and place for the required public hearing; and be it further resolved that for the purposes of the hearing it shall be assumed that the total tax rate will be **16.3552 mills consisting of 12.5362 mills for operating purposes, 1.8250 mills for solid waste, and 1.9940 mills for the Library pursuant to section 1 of 1877 PA164.**

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

The budget is available for public inspection at the Finance Office at City Hall; along with the City's website: [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com) under Finance.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Additionally, members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the Interim City Clerk, Amy Gordon, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, [agordon@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:agordon@cityofeastlansing.com), or visit the City's public meeting portal, <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>, for electronic access information. Written comments or questions for City Council may be emailed to [council@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:council@cityofeastlansing.com) in advance of the meeting.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting upon seven (7) calendar days' notice to the City of East Lansing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should write or call: City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 319-6920, [mpaoletti@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mpaoletti@cityofeastlansing.com).

This notice is published by Amy Gordon, Interim City Clerk, City of East Lansing, Michigan, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6891.

In the matter of Leon Joseph Feldpausch, Deceased: TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: and creditors (known and unknown) whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: The Settlor, Leon Joseph Feldpausch (DOB 11/03/1930) who lived at 110 East Elm Street, Westphalia, MI 48894 died on 01/20/2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against Leon Joseph Feldpausch will forever be barred unless presented to Dale Feldpausch, Successor Trustee of The Revocable Living Trust Agreement of Leon J. Feldpausch and Theresa M. Feldpausch dated December 4, 2000, at 11401 Blue Spruce Dr., Fowler, MI 48835 within four months after the date of publication, 4/23/2025. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Attorney: Benjamin L. Cwayna, #P70266, 11973 Sweetwater Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Petitioner: Dale Feldpausch, 11401 Blue Spruce Dr., Fowler, MI 48835, 989-640-8103.

CP#25-128

CP#25-138

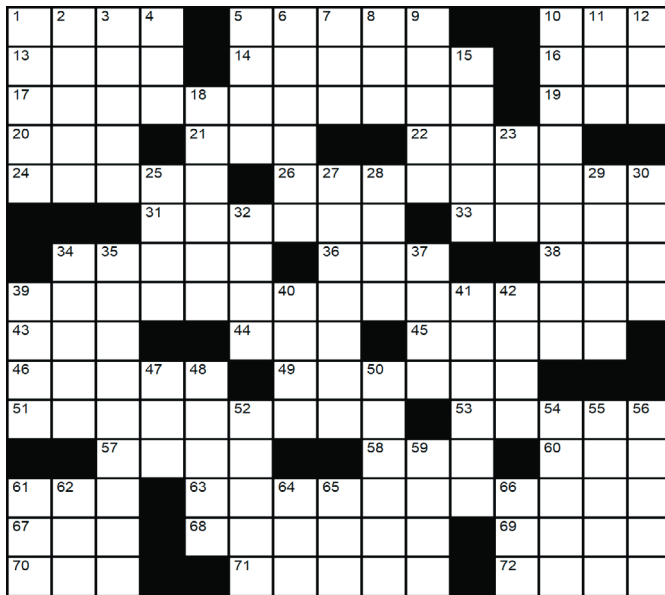
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Ee-Aw" -- some donkey noises, completed.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2025 Matt Jones

## ACROSS

1. Low-lying region
5. Building girder
10. Petition
13. The big screen?\*
14. "A Confederacy of \_\_\_" (John Kennedy Toole book)
16. St. crosser
17. Property purchased with Qatari currency?\*
19. Pickleball divider
20. Hit the buffet
21. "Boo-\_\_\_!"
22. Regretted
24. Words to a song
26. Shared billing for Etta and Celine?\*
31. "\_\_\_ & Greg" (late '90s sitcom)
33. Extremely successful, in Variety
34. Singer Lily
36. Military packaged meal, for short
38. Granola grain
39. Performed in front of a pharaoh?\*
43. Pretty great
44. It may be original
45. "C'mon, please?!"
46. Defunct channel that aired "Felicity"
49. Elegant detail
51. A pleased 500e, maybe?\*
53. Paul of "Breaking Bad"
57. "The Wire" character
58. Tajikistan, for short,

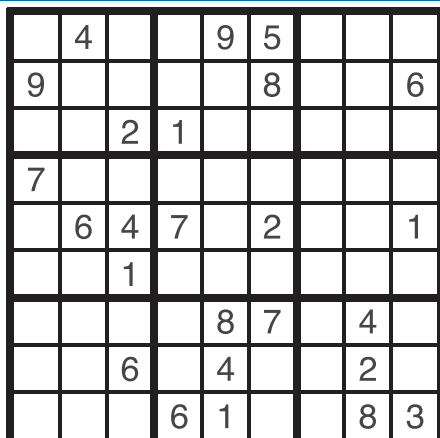


- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| once  | 9. London length   | England                                |
| 60. Wondrous feeling                        | 10. Crash, for one   | 37. "Behold!" to Caesar                |
| 61. Mellow like cheese                      | 11. The night before   | 39. Hiking trail                       |
| 63. Food served up for some rock Kings?*    | 12. Understand   | 40. Word at the end of a French film   |
| 67. Tattletale                              | 15. "Yertle the Turtle" author   | 41. 1962 John Wayne film set in Africa |
| 68. Of the lower back                       | 18. Chinese fruit  | 42. New Age Irish singer               |
| 69. Like some sporting equipment            | 23. Tokyo's former name  | 47. Typing speed acronym               |
| 70. "The Amazing Race" network              | 25. Without doing anything   | 48. "___ means!"                       |
| 71. Photographer                            | 27. Household cleaning chemical  | 50. Diagnostic image, for short        |
| 72. Extremely                               | 28. Johnny of The Smiths and Modest Mouse                                | 52. Psychoanalyst Sigmund              |
| DOWN  | 29. Giraffe's relative   | 54. Increase                           |
| 1. All over the web                         | 30. Forget-me-___ (certain flowers)                                      | 55. Deed holder                        |
| 2. Cake component                           | 32. "No ifs, ___ , or buts"  | 56. Requiring attention                |
| 3. Prefix that follows giga, tera, and peta | 34. Waimea Bay greeting  | 59. "Yeah, whatever"                   |
| 4. Notion                                   | 35. Group including Wordsworth and Coleridge, based on their location in | 61. Part of a circle                   |
| 5. Another nickname for Dubya               |  | 62. Talk a lot                         |
| 6. Sinus doc                                |  | 64. "Cheerleader" singer of 2015       |
| 7. 2010 health legislation, in brief        |  | 65. Pelicans' org.                     |
|   |  | 66. Bronco or Equinox, e.g.            |

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Answers on page 30

## SUDOKU



## 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 Breznsky

April 30-May 6, 2025

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** To create microgardens, you plant vegetables and herbs in small containers on your porch, balcony, window sills and kitchen counter. Lettuce, peas, spinach and basil might be among your small bounties. I encourage you to use this practice as a main metaphor in the coming weeks. In other words, gravitate away from huge, expansive visions and instead work creatively within existing constraints. For now, at least, "less is more" should be your operative motto. Meditate on how apparent limitations might lead to inviting innovations. Seek out abundance in unlikely places.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Taurus author Nellie Bly (1864-1922) was a daring trailblazer. It was almost impossible for a woman to be a journalist in the 19th century, but she did it anyway. One of her sensational, groundbreaking stories came when she did an undercover assignment in New York's Women's Lunatic Asylum. Her reporting on the neglect and brutality there prompted major reforms. I nominate Bly as your role model for the foreseeable future. You are, I believe, poised for epic, even heroic adventures in service to a greater good. (PS: Bly also made a solo trip around the world and wrote 15 books.)

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Gemini painter Henri Rousseau (1844-1910) never saw a jungle in person. In fact, he never left his native country of France. But he painted some of modern art's most vivid jungle scenes. How did that happen? Well, he visited zoos and botanical gardens, perused images of tropical forests in books and heard stories from soldiers who had visited jungles abroad. But mostly, he had a flourishing imagination that he treated with reverent respect. I urge you to follow his lead, Gemini. Through the joyful, extravagant power of your imagination, get the inspiration and education you need. The next three weeks will be prime time to do so.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** No, ruby-throated hummingbirds don't hitch rides on airplanes or the backs of geese. They make their epic migrations completely under their own power. To get to their wintering grounds, many fly alone from the southern United States to the Yucatan Peninsula, crossing the 500-mile expanse of the Gulf of Mexico in 20 hours. I don't recommend you attempt heroic feats like theirs in the coming weeks, Cancerian. More than usual, you need and deserve to call on support and help. Don't be shy about getting the exact boosts you require. It's time to harvest the favors you are owed and to be specific in articulating your wishes.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** The golden pheasant is dazzling. Among the bright colors that appear in its plumage are gold, red, orange, yellow, blue, black, green, cinnamon and chestnut. In accordance with astrological omens, I name this charismatic bird your spirit creature for the coming weeks. Feel free to embrace your inner golden pheasant and express it vividly wherever you go. This is a perfect time to boldly showcase your beauty and magnificence, even as you fully display your talents and assets. I brazenly predict that your enthusiastic expression of self-love will be a good influence on almost everyone you encounter.

**VRIGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Virgo poet and visual artist Dorothea Tanning (1910-2012) had a few mottoes that endlessly nurtured her abundant creative output. Here's one: "Keep your eye on your inner world and keep away from ads, idiots and movie stars." As excellent as that advice is, it's a challenge to follow it all the time. If we want to function effectively, we can't always be focused on our inner worlds. However, I do believe you are now in a phase when you're wise to heed her counsel more than usual. Your soul's depths have a lot to teach you. Your deep intuition is full of useful revelations. Don't get distracted from them by listening too much to ads, idiots and celebrities.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Ribonucleic acid is essential for the functioning of your body and every other animal's. It carries instructions about how to build proteins, and your cells are full of it. We humans can't edit this magic substance, but octopuses can. They do it on the fly, enabling them to adapt quickly to changing environmental conditions. Even though you Libras can't match their amazing power with RNA, you do have a substantial capacity to rewrite your plans and adjust your mindset. And this talent of yours will be especially available to you in the coming weeks. Your flexibility and adaptability will not only help you navigate surprises but may also open up exciting new opportunities.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Is there a sanctuary you can retreat to? A relaxing oasis where you can slip away from the world's colorful madness? I would love for you to be bold enough to seek the precise healing you need. You have every right to escape the rotting status quo and give yourself full permission to hide from pressure, demands and expectations. Is there music that brings you deep consolation? Are there books and teachers that activate your profound soul wisdom? Keep that good stuff nearby. It's time for focused relief and regeneration.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** The chemical element known as arsenic is notoriously toxic for humans but has long been useful in small amounts. Ancient Chinese metallurgists discovered that blending it with copper and tin made the finest, strongest bronze. In modern times, arsenic fortifies the lead in car batteries. People in the 19th century sometimes ingested tiny doses as a stimulant. In this spirit, Sagittarius, I invite you to transform potentially challenging elements in your life into sources of strength. Can you find ways to incorporate iffy factors instead of eliminating them? I assure you that you have the power to recognize value in things others may neglect or reject.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Renowned Capricorn author Henry Miller (1891-1980) had to wait far too long before getting readers in his home country, the United States. American censors regarded his explosive texts as too racy and sexy. They forbade the publication of his books until he was 69 years old! His spirit was forever resolute and uncrushable, though. In accordance with astrological omens, Capricorn, I recommend you adopt his counsel on the subject of wonders and marvels. Miller wrote, "The miracle is that the honey is always there, right under your nose, only you were too busy searching elsewhere to realize it." Here's another gem from Miller: He advised us "to make the miracle more and more miraculous, to swear allegiance to nothing, but live only miraculously, think only miraculously, die miraculously."

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** For now, everything depends on your foundation, your roots and your support system. If I were you, I would devote myself to nurturing them. Please note that you're not in any jeopardy. I don't foresee strains or tremors. But your graduation to your next set of interesting challenges will require you to be snugly stable, secure and steady. This is one time when being thoroughly ensconced in your comfort zone is a beautiful asset, not a detriment to be transcended.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** The coming weeks are a favorable time for you to build symbolic bridges. I hope you will link resources that aren't yet linked. I hope you will work to connect people whose merger would help you, and I hope you will begin planning to move from where you are now to the next chapter of your life. I advise you not to model your metaphorical bridges after modern steel suspension bridges, though. Instead, be inspired by the flexible, natural and intimate bridges made by the ancient Incas. Woven from ichu grass via community efforts, they were strong enough to span rivers and canyons in the Andes mountains.

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

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://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, April 30

**"A Course of Love" Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucille Olson and Bill Diedrich** - Group reads a section of the book each week and discusses the insightful ideas. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids** - 15-week class. Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**Beginning Ballet for Adults** - 6:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. [dancesingact.com](http://dancesingact.com).

**Beginning Tap Dance for Teens & Adults** - 7:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. [dancesingact.com](http://dancesingact.com).

**Bingo** - Every Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bingo cafe 5 p.m. Early bird 6 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. [facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter](http://facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter).

**Black Violin** - Step into Black Violin's "Full Circle" tour, where Grammy-nominated duo Wil Baptiste and Kev Marcus redefine the possibilities of music by merging classical depth with hip-hop's pulse. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

**Bookend Gallery Display** - Maureen Ryan is sharing some of her oils, acrylics and mixed-media pieces this month at the Haslett Library's Bookend Gallery. Noon-4 p.m. 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Building a Better World, One Building at a Time** - Hear how Grand Ledge architect Todd Gute has traveled the world leading humanitarian construction projects. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Crawl, Walk, Run, Fly & Swim Dinner Pairing** - Enjoy five flight-glass pours of select craft beers and wines paired with chef Moyer's five-course dinner. 7 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. [lookingglassbrewingcompany.com](http://lookingglassbrewingcompany.com).

**Evan James Live at Dublin Square** - 9 p.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. [facebook.com/dublinsquare](http://facebook.com/dublinsquare).

**"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through May 2. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Goat Yoga** - Let it all "goat" while making cherished memories! No yoga experience needed. 6 p.m. Hilltop Views Farm, 161 E. Frost Road, Williamston. [lansingmichigan.goatyoga.net](http://lansingmichigan.goatyoga.net).

**Improv Acting for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts

Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, hosted by Starlight Entertainment** - 7-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Lansing Live Open Stage Night** - Whether you're experienced or just starting out, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Lake County Captains** - Game highlight: Every Wednesday home game, dogs are welcome at Jackson Field. 11:05 a.m. 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [milb.com/lansing](http://milb.com/lansing).

**Lansing Roller Derby Adult Boot Camp** - Four-month roller derby training course focused on developing skaters to their full potential, regardless of prior skill or experience. 8-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](http://lansingrollerderby.com).

**Life Drawing at REACH Studio Art Center** - You'll receive constructive feedback as each session moves from quick warm-up drawings to longer poses with our partially clothed model. No experience needed. 6 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar Series: Goal Getters** - Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Ages 8-19. 6:30 p.m. Virtual - register at [canr.msu.edu/youth\\_business\\_guide\\_to\\_success/index](http://canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success/index).

**Mason Jar Wind Chimes Craft** - Give Mason jars a new purpose by turning them into wind chimes. Intended for adults. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**MiCorps Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program Volunteer Training** - Training is required for new participants and anyone signing up for a new parameter. It's also beneficial for those curious about how CLMP may help protect their favorite lake. 9 a.m. Virtual - register at [canr.msu.edu/lakes\\_streams\\_watersheds/index](http://canr.msu.edu/lakes_streams_watersheds/index).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://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. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing.

**"Patterns in Nature"** - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Tap II for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Wheel of the Year: Beltaine and Family** - Join us on-line or in person every Wednesday for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**"Where the Light Gets In"** - Public art installation on view daily from dusk to dawn at the northeast corner of Trowbridge and Harrison Roads in East Lansing, just west of Holden Hall. [sciencefestival.msu.edu](http://sciencefestival.msu.edu).

### Bare Minimum art sale

7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30

MICA Gallery

1210 Turner St., Lansing

For the better part of a century, artists and art enthusiasts have gathered weekly at Michigan State University's Kresge Art Center to sit in a silent semicircle around a nude model and sketch various poses.

"It's calm, it's nice," Gabriel Gonzalez, a local tattoo artist, said. "No matter what, people are just enjoying the craft."

Each year, the artists sell their signed work at the group's Bare Minimum fundraiser, named for the \$10 price tags on the art, with all proceeds benefitting the host venue, as well as the complimentary beer and the nude models themselves. This year's sale runs 7 to 9:30 p.m. tonight (April 30) and will benefit the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art in Old Town.

Area artist Doug DeLind, who's been a member of the group for 50 years, said it caters to people of all skill levels.

"There are several professional artists that come," he said, "and then there are several people who come just because they want to draw. It's non-challenging, there's no instruction."

Attendees pay \$10 per session, or \$5 for MSU students, so that the models can be fairly compensated at \$80 per session. The fee nets them three five-minute drawing sessions, one 15-minute drawing session and two half-hour drawing sessions. The group meets every Wednesday during the MSU school year since many attendees are students.

DeLind said the models' pay is well-earned.

"It's hard to sit still for half an hour," he said. "I don't know how they do it."

Louise Westcott has been involved with the group for more than two decades. She said she loves the challenge it offers.

"If you draw a tree and get a limb in the wrong place, nobody cares, nobody knows," she said. "But if you put an arm or a leg in the wrong place, it's readily apparent. There's a real art to seeing how the body fits together."

Jim McClurken, who's been modeling for the group since 2015 and eventually began organizing the models, as well as participating in the drawing sessions, said he's impressed by how dedicated it is.

"It's the oldest continuous figure-drawing session in the city," he said. "We even managed to keep it going through the pandemic by moving to the Fledge for a couple of years."

While he was anxious to model the first time, McClurken has long since become comfortable. He now poses for other drawing groups around the state and said the MSU group has become "a close circle of friends" for him.

"It's a night off, it's a vacation every single week," he said. "And there's no hangover at the end."

DeLind said despite being its most senior member, he "doesn't take very much responsibility" for the group. If anything, he's still dedicated to improving his craft after all these years.

"It's funny about drawing," he said. "You never get it right."



**Wine Down Wednesday** - Enjoy \$1 off glasses of wine all day! Come wine down with us! Noon-7 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 14461 Woodbury Road, Haslett. [facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs](http://facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs).

Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 8 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**"Baba"** - Audience favorite Sarab Kamoo portrays both characters in a tender and touching father-daughter tale. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

### Thursday, May 1

**Acting 101 for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing

## Events

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**Capital Area Modelers Society Meeting** - Learn about building scale models, display what you're working on and get to know others interested in the hobby. 6:30 p.m. Judson Baptist Church, 531 Glendale Ave., Lansing. capitalareamodelerssociety.wordpress.com.

**College Night at Lansing Shuffle** - Free shuffleboard with student ID, half off well drinks, \$5 pitchers. 7-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansing-shuffle.com.

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

**"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**From Inbox to Impact: Optimize Email Marketing & Website Performance** - This crash course will guide you through creating impactful email campaigns using 2025's best practices. 10 a.m. Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 200, Lansing. members.lansingchamber.org/event-calendar.

**Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Spring Sale** - Find an array of handmade ceramics, including items for the garden, vases for spring flowers and classic dishware. New items are put out each day. 5-8 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. greaterlansingpottersguild.org.

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

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Lake County Captains** - Game highlight: Every Thursday home game, enjoy \$3 domestics (cans/drafts), \$5 seltzers and \$3 16-ounce soft drinks! 6:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

**Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Mixer** - Network and mingle! Enjoy refreshments and light hors d'oeuvres while learning more about Thrivent Financial, one of our MACC board members' businesses. 5:30 p.m. Location TBA. Facebook.com/masonchamber.

**May Day Celebration at the Lavender Farm** - Sample lavender drinks, dance around the May Pole, start seeds for your garden, participate in a scavenger hunt around the farm, paint your own pottery plant markers and more. 2-8 p.m. Lansing Lavender Co., 1204 Cleveland St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/well-planted-60597079943.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

**"On the Exhale"** - When an act of violence changes her life forever, a liberal college professor finds herself inexplicably drawn to the very weapon used to perpetrate the crime. 7 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

**Parkinson's Exercise: Rock-Steady Boxing** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

**"Patterns in Nature"** - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Preserving MI Harvest: Tools of the Trade** - Explore the variety of equipment and tools needed for canning, freezing and dehydrating food safely at home. 1 or 6 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/food\_preservation/index.

edu/food\_preservation/index.

**River Walk Trash Cleanup** - Join us in caring for the Earth and her waterways by picking up trash along the Lansing River Trail and the areas around our building! 11 a.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble for All Ages** - 15-week class, meets biweekly, 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Salsa Verde** - Made up of MSU student and faculty musicians, Salsa Verde performs music by legends like Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony, Tito Puente and Gloria Estefan, with many original arrangements by the band. 8:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Savvy Caregiver Program** - Six-week workshop designed to reduce stress for those caring for a loved one with memory loss. 1 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email hist-edc@tcoa.org.

**Spirit of Michigan Chorus Rehearsal** - We're an inclusive community of women who sing a cappella in the barbershop style. We welcome all levels of musical experience. 6:45 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

**Summerlands Brewing Co. Crossword Challenge** - Each team is given a copy of the same crossword puzzle. The first team to complete the crossword correctly wins a \$10 certificate valid for a future visit. Start at 7 or 8 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

**Thursday Night Open Forge** - Try your hand at blacksmithing and create your own metal masterpiece! 6-9 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Churchill Road, Leslie. artfiremichigan.com.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly** - Weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. facebook.com/HaslettTops.

## Friday, May 2

**All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre Presents: "Holes"** - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. allofusespress.org.

**"Baba"** - Audience favorite Sarab Kamoo portrays both characters in a tender and touching father-daughter tale. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Country Night at Lansing Shuffle** - Enjoy line dance instruction from 8-9 p.m., followed by modern country music playing until midnight! We'll have drink specials all night. No cover! 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

**Craft Club Jr.** - We'll be making May Day cones and flowers. Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**Euchre with the Kiwanis Club and Unity** - Euchre games with the Kiwanis Club and Unity! Tournament, cash prizes and potluck. 6:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

**"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through May 2. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Spring Sale** - Find an array of handmade ceramics, including items for the garden, vases for spring flowers and classic dishware. New items are put out each day. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. greaterlansingpottersguild.org.

## Mother's Day for Peace

7-9 p.m. Saturday, May 3

Allen Neighborhood Center

1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing

The Lansing-area Peace Education Center's third annual Mother's Day for Peace fundraiser will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday (May 3) at the Allen Neighborhood Center. Proceeds will benefit not only the PEC but also HEAL Palestine, a nonprofit providing medical services in Gaza.

Sistrum, a Lansing-area treble choir, will provide music. Maysoun Hamad of HEAL Palestine's Detroit chapter will discuss the organization's work.

The event's name echoes Mother's Day creator Julia Ward Howe's original proclamation for a "Mothers' Day for Peace." An actor will portray the 19th-century feminist. The event aims to bring attention to the original intent behind the holiday: Women united for world peace.

There's a suggested donation of \$25 for single attendees or \$45 for groups of two. For more information, visit [peacedcenter.org/event/mothers-day-for-peace-2025](http://peacedcenter.org/event/mothers-day-for-peace-2025).



## Homeschool Fridays at Launch Trampoline Park

Join us from Noon-3 p.m. on Fridays. Just \$10 for two hours of play. Add on laser tag for \$5. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. launchfamilyentertainment.com/lansing.

**Iann Dior** - Multi-platinum rapper and singer Iann Dior hits Grewal Hall on his "Nothing's Ever Good Enough II" tour. 8 p.m. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Lake County Captains** - Game highlight: teacher appreciation night. 6:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

**"Love/Sick"** - Set on a Friday night in an alternate suburban reality, this collection of nine slightly twisted and completely hilarious short plays explores the pain and the joy that comes with being in love. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

**MSU Baseball vs. University of Oregon** - 6 p.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/baseball.

**"On the Exhale"** - When an act of violence changes her life forever, a liberal college professor finds herself inexplicably drawn to the very weapon used to perpetrate the crime. 7 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.


## Open Old-Time Jam | First Friday of Every Month

Join the legendary Mike Ross for an old-time-centric jam. Even if you don't play, feel free to listen along! 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com/collections/events.

**Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

**Parkour for Littles at ALIVE** - You and your little one will learn to safely maneuver obstacles using the whole body. Build strength, balance, focus and problem-solving skills after listening to related stories. Ages 3-6. 10 a.m. 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. Myalive.com.

**"Patterns in Nature"** - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.



# Sistrum

Lansing Women's Chorus

## SPRING CONCERT

# OUR MOTHER OUR HOME

MAY 9TH, 2025 AT 7:00 PM  
MAY 10TH, 2025 AT 3:00 PM

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKEMOS  
2258 BENNET RD, OKEMOS MI 48864

SPRING SILENT AUCTION AT INTERMISSION

# SISTRUM.ORG

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# PRESTON ART & COLORING BOOKS



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See more art in the Albums on The Preston (*Like my stuff?*) Page on Facebook

## Events

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**The Paxton/Spangler Band** - The Ten Pound Fiddle wraps up its 50th year with a party featuring classic blues, swing and world jazz, courtesy of Detroit's Paxton/Spangler Band. 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing.

**Williamstown Township Fine Art Sale & Studio Tour** - A rare opportunity to tour renowned Williamstown-area artist studios and purchase pieces directly from the artists. Proceeds from ticket sales provide playground updates for Williamstown Township parks. 5-9 p.m. For a map of locations, visit [williamstownmi.gov/2025-williamstown-township-fine-art-sale-studio-tour](http://williamstownmi.gov/2025-williamstown-township-fine-art-sale-studio-tour).

### Saturday, May 3

**All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre Presents: "Holes"** - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [allofusexpress.org](http://allofusexpress.org).

**"Baba"** - Audience favorite Sarab Kamoo portrays both characters in a tender and touching father-daughter tale. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Beltaine Ritual** - Join us in person or on Google Meets as we celebrate the fullness of spring with our Beltaine ritual, followed by a shared feast and a teacup raffle. 4 p.m. Fenner Nature Center scout campground, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Contra and Square Dance** - Caller: River Abel. Band: Askin' for Trouble. Come early — at 6:30 p.m. — for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**Comedy at the Creek: The Final Hoorah!** - All good things must come to an end, and Comedy at the Creek is no exception. One last time, 10 of our favorite comedians will hit the stage to share some laughs. 6 p.m. Country Creek Reception Hall, 5859 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. [countrycreekreceptionhall.com](http://countrycreekreceptionhall.com).

**Family Day: Research** - Explore what different things art materials can do, inspired by the MSU students' work in the 2025 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Spring Sale** - Find an array of handmade ceramics, including items for the garden, vases for spring flowers and classic dishware. New items are put out each day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [greaterlansing-pottersguild.org](http://greaterlansing-pottersguild.org).

**Hoods Up! at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum** - We'll have the hoods up on almost all our vehicles, with all sorts of engines on view. Docents will be on hand to give you the scoop on our vehicles. Regular admission prices apply. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. [reolds-museum.org](http://reolds-museum.org).

**Intermediate Ballet for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Kentucky Derby Party** - Enjoy an exciting evening of games and contests, live music, themed food and drinks, and live race coverage on five TVs and a big screen. 4-7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Lake County Captains** - Game highlight: In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, we'll

have pre-gate, pre-game and in-game performances by Ballet Maria Luz, plus \$5 margaritas! 4:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [milb.com/lansing](http://milb.com/lansing).

**LCC Concert Choir** - Join us for a choral spring celebration, featuring students enrolled in LCC's Concert Choir. Free. 3 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. [lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo).

**"Love/Sick"** - Set on a Friday night in an alternate suburban reality, this collection of nine slightly twisted and completely hilarious short plays explores the pain and the joy that comes with being in love. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. [lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo).

**Lower Michigan Horse Association May Show** - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. [facebook.com/LMHAAHorseShows](http://facebook.com/LMHAAHorseShows).

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

**Mother's Day for Peace** - Fundraising event for the Lansing-area Peace Education Center and HEAL Palestine, a national organization that provides medical care for victims of the war in Gaza. Musical guest is choral group Sistrum. 7 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. [peacecenter.org](http://peacecenter.org).

**MSU Baseball vs. University of Oregon** - 3:30 p.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. [msuspartans.com/sports/baseball](http://msuspartans.com/sports/baseball).

**"Nashville Roots: Sounds of Americana"** - Join Singers on the Grand as they celebrate the many genres of uniquely American music, performing songs by Johnny Cash, Gordon Lightfoot, Tina Turner, Jon Bon Jovi and many more. 7 p.m. Portland Community Theater, 321 Maple St., Portland. [singersonthegrand.org](http://singersonthegrand.org).

**Old Town Spring Clean Up** - As we gear up for a busy season of events, we need your help to make Old Town shine. Volunteers will assist with picking up trash, pulling weeds, planting flowers and other projects. 9 a.m.-noon. Old Town Commercial Association, 1232 Turner St., Lansing. Register at [iloveoldtown.org](http://iloveoldtown.org).

**"On the Exhale"** - When an act of violence changes her life forever, a liberal college professor finds herself inexplicably drawn to the very weapon used to perpetrate the crime. 2 and 7 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org).

**Red Cross/Eastern Star Blood Drive** - To schedule an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: easternstar) or call 1-800-733-2767. 9 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Wacousta United Methodist Church, 9180 Herbison Road, Eagle.

**Spring Native Plant Sale** - Find Michigan-native sedges, grasses, wildflowers, ferns and complete garden kits. All plants are grown locally. Proceeds benefit Harris Nature Center. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. [meridian.mi.us/hnc](http://meridian.mi.us/hnc).

**Tiger and Dragon Kenpo Martial Arts Training** - Based on a variety of martial arts systems, tiger and dragon kenpo is designed to develop self-confidence in the warrior. 1 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Tumbao Bravo** - Join us for an unforgettable evening of Latin jazz with the award-winning Tumbao Bravo! 8:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Williamstown Township Fine Art Sale & Studio Tour** - A rare opportunity to tour renowned Williamstown-area artist studios and purchase pieces directly from the artists. Proceeds from ticket sales provide playground updates for Williamstown Township parks. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For a map of locations, visit [williamstownmi.gov/2025-williamstown-township-fine-art-sale-studio-tour](http://williamstownmi.gov/2025-williamstown-township-fine-art-sale-studio-tour).

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# Events

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## Sunday, May 4

**“A Course in Miracles” Study Group, with Dan and Carol Maynard** - Noon. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**All-of-Us Express Children’s Theatre Presents: “Holes”** - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [allofousexpress.org](http://allofousexpress.org).

**An Afternoon of Poetry and Jazz** - Enjoy performances by poets Shelia Burks, Lisa Sarno and Ruelaine Stokes, plus a jazz trio featuring Hank Horton on bass, Steve Talaga on keyboard and Larry Ochletree on drums. Free. 3-5 p.m. Blue Owl Coffee, 1149 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub](http://facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub).

**“Baba”** - Audience favorite Sarab Kamoo portrays both characters in a tender and touching father-daughter tale. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Bottle and Can Collection for Williamston Farm & Artisan Market** - We collect your Michigan-returnable bottles and cans from your trunk while you stay warm in your vehicle. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. [easterninghamfarmersmarket.org](http://easterninghamfarmersmarket.org).

**Cat Yoga** - Join us for a purrfectly relaxing session of yoga where you can stretch and unwind while surrounded by rescue cats! 4 p.m. The Cat Connection, 621 S. Grand Ave., Fowlerville. [eventbrite.com/o/the-cat-connection-65515147103](http://eventbrite.com/o/the-cat-connection-65515147103).

**Drum Circle at Bath Community Center** - Join the Greater Lansing Area Drummers for a fun and energetic afternoon of rhythm and drumming. All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. [facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers](http://facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers).

**Euchre** - 5:30-8 p.m. Sir Pizza, 201 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. 517-484-4825.

**Eaton Rapids Spring Plant Exchange** - Bring a plant, leave with a different plant! Free. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Howe Memorial Park, 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. [facebook.com/CityOfEatonRapids](http://facebook.com/CityOfEatonRapids).

**Family Brunch & Lunch at Lansing Shuffle** - Featuring free shuffleboard for kids, video game tournaments, cornhole, giant Jenga and two-for-\$10 mimosas. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**First Start Sunday** - Monthly blacksmithing workshop for beginners. Learn the fundamentals of blacksmithing, including tool use, safety and how to complete a simple project yourself. 1 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Churchill Road, Leslie. [artfiremichigan.com](http://artfiremichigan.com).

**Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers** - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. [mikemarhanka@gmail.com](mailto:mikemarhanka@gmail.com).

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Lake County Captains** - Game highlight: Entertainment for kids throughout the game and an opportunity for kids to run the bases after the game. Plus, show your ticket stub at Capital City Market for 25% off your purchase and free ice cream! 1:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [milb.com/lansing](http://milb.com/lansing).

**Lansing Roller Derby Adult Boot Camp** - Four-month roller derby training course focused on developing skaters to their full potential, regardless of prior skill or experience. 2-4 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](http://lansingrollerderby.com).

**LCC Rock Band Concert** - Join us for this end-of-semester event in which students will perform rock classics and original work. Free. 6 p.m. The Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo).

**Lower Michigan Horse Association May Show** - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. [facebook.com/LMHAAHorseShows](http://facebook.com/LMHAAHorseShows).

**Mason Orchestral Society Spring Concert** - The Mason Symphony and Philharmonic will perform works by Johannes Brahms, Max Bruch, John Williams and more. 3 p.m. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. [maso-norchestras.org](http://maso-norchestras.org).

**MSU Baseball vs. University of Oregon** - 11:30 a.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. [msuspartans.com/sports/baseball](http://msuspartans.com/sports/baseball).

**“On the Exhale”** - When an act of violence changes her life forever, a liberal college professor finds herself inexplicably drawn to the very weapon used to perpetrate the crime. 2 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org).

**“Piano Monster”** - “May the fourth be with you” as MSU faculty-artist pianists play four grand pianos on the same stage in a program inspired by the iconic beauty of films like “2001: A Space Odyssey,” “Star Wars” and more. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

**Quaker Meeting for Worship** - Rich communal silence that invites thinking deeply, developing spiritually, loving fully, speaking our truths. 10:30 a.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. [redcedarfriends.org](http://redcedarfriends.org).

**Summerlands Sunday Brunch** - Noon-4 p.m. Summerlands Brewing Co., 1957 Cedar St., Holt. [facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing](http://facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing).

## Monday, May 5

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 8 p.m. St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. [cmiala-non.org](http://cmiala-non.org).

**Art Ability Crafts for Adults** - Bath Township Public Library’s Neurodivergent Mondays program offers craft activities for all adults who may be on the spectrum, seniors, and anyone who is differently abled. 1-2 p.m. 14051 Webster Road, Bath. [bathtownshippubliclibrary.org](http://bathtownshippubliclibrary.org).

**Auditions: 10-Minute Play Festival** - Eight to 10 actors (any age, gender or ethnicity) are needed to perform in five 10-minute plays. Auditions will consist of cold readings and theater games. 6-8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. [facebook.com/LCCPerformingArts](http://facebook.com/LCCPerformingArts).

**Bingo Night at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - Free to play, with fun prizes every game! 8-9:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. [facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing](http://facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing).

**Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Crafty Story Time** - Preschool-aged children and their caregivers can enjoy fun activities, stories and a craft. 11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 South Bostwick St., Charlotte. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Euchre** - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. [facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter](http://facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter).

**Fiber Circle** - Knitters, crocheters and stitchers of all ages and skill levels welcome. Although formal instruction isn’t provided, attendees assist each other with techniques and skills. 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion from 9-10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Improv Acting for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

## Riverbend Voices spring concert: ‘Poetry, Prose, Proverbs & Psalms’

3 p.m. Sunday, May 4

Central United Methodist Church  
215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing

Riverbend Voices’ spring concert has a unique touch this year. Keeping with the “confluence” theme of its 2024-’25 season, the Capital City Music Collective’s premier group will perform poems, psalms and even nonsense prose set to music. The concert is intended to explore the relationship between texts and choral music.

Artistic Director L. Harrison Brown will conduct the choir through the music of Jean Berger, Johannes Brahms, John Corgilano and others. The music will be accompanied by poetry by Dylan Thomas, Naomi Shihab Nye, James Agree and Peshla Gertler as well as Psalms 51, 69 and 71. Janice Hammond will sing in the concert’s final act, backed by a chamber orchestra of harp, strings and piano.

The show begins 3 p.m. Sunday (May 4) at Central United Methodist Church. Admission is free, though donations will be accepted. For more information, visit [facebook.com/CapitalCityMusicCollective](http://facebook.com/CapitalCityMusicCollective).



**Jazz/Ballet II for Kids** - 15-week class. Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series: Elliott Engel** - Having taught at universities and written both books and plays, Engel has been inducted into England’s Royal Society of Arts. He’ll present on “The Wizardry of Oz: L. Frank Baum and His American Fairy Tale.” 11 a.m. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. For ticket info, call 517-543-3041.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**Parkinson’s Exercise: Yoga** - Free exercise class

for people with Parkinson’s and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. [lpsg.org](http://lpsg.org).

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble for All Ages** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Shape Note Singing** - First and third Mondays, free, loan books available, beginners and the curious are welcome. Annual all-day sing is May 10 at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos. 7 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. [fasolamichigan.org](http://fasolamichigan.org).

See Events, Page 28

### CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1330

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 684, Section 684.04 - Use of restrooms intended for opposite sex.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MIPMC  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](http://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#25-133

### Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

April 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie and 8 citizens. Absent: Trustee M. Hoppes  
Board Actions:

- 1) Approved bills for April, 2025.
- 2) Approved contribution to City of Portland Recreation program.
- 3) Approved updated Right of Burial Certificate for Niles Cemetery.
- 4) Approved maintenance to columns at Niles Cemetery.
- 5) Approved budget amendments.
- 6) Approved online payment agreement with BS&A software.
- 7) Approved to request return of unrestricted funds from Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is May 15, 2025, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See [www.eagletownshipmi.gov](http://www.eagletownshipmi.gov) for latest updates.

Prepared by: Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Eagle Township Clerk  
Approved by: Troy Stroud, Eagle Township Supervisor

CP#25-135

# Peppermint Creek's 'On the Exhale' is a painful but important experience

By **DANA DEMINK**

It's 2 o'clock Sunday morning. After one too many glasses of wine, my husband and I are ruminating on how someone could develop an obsession with guns. The conversation quickly turns into one of our familiar dystopian dread spirals: cybersecurity, the Signal chat and what happens if a terrorist group can shut everything down, like our phones, access to our money, the electric grid and GPS systems, à la 2023's "Leave the World Behind."

We talk about going off the grid, living off our nonexistent vegetable garden, the potassium iodide tablets we should buy and the family members we would care for. We speculate that there would be people competing for resources. We would need to protect ourselves and the kids. What kind of firearm would we need? Where would we store it so that the kids wouldn't have access

to it, but we could get it quickly if we needed it? How did the conversation turn to firearm ownership so fast?

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of "On the Exhale," by Martin Zimmerman, explores a single parent's obsessional anxiety about being the victim of gun violence at the hands of one of her disgruntled college students and what this would mean for her young son, who would have no one to care for him. This dread transforms into the searing pain of loss when a gunman obliterates her son's elementary school classroom. Her debilitating suffering morphs into an obsessional interest in holding, owning, shooting and hiding a semi-automatic weapon. She's maniacally amused by how easy it is to procure one of these things. She returns to work too soon and normalizes this emotional dissociation by escaping to the shooting range during her workday.



Review

## "On the Exhale"

May 1-4  
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood  
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing  
peppermintcreek.org



Photo by Trumpie Photography

Heather Lewis in Peppermint Creek's production of the one-woman show "On the Exhale," running Thursday (May 1) through Sunday (May 4) at Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood.

pare these two women? It's beneficial to remind us that tragedy happens to real people who live among us, but it's my hope that the director will decide to move the PSA to the end of the show and give Lewis the space she needs to be the emotionally nimble actress she is.

## Events

from page 27

**Women's AA Meeting** - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. lansingdistrict6.org.

### Tuesday, May 6

**"A Course in Miracles" Discussion Group, with Lisa Schmidt** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**Acting 101 for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 9 a.m. Alano Club South, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cmialanon.org.

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 7 p.m. St. Jude Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. cmialanon.org.

**Arts Council Grant Chat** - Discuss your creative ideas with membership and program manager Taylor Haslett and AmeriCorps membership support coordinator Shari Merten, who can provide information on local grant opportunities and assist you in planning applications. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Blue Owl Coffee, 1149 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

**Compulsive Eaters Anonymous-HOW Meeting** - Meets in person and virtually. 5:30 p.m. St. Jude Catholic Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. For Zoom info, call 989-620-0448 or go to ceahow.org/en/find-a-meeting.

**Grand Ledge Open Interviews: Utilities Operator** - The city of Grand Ledge is hiring for a utilities

operator. Those with a mechanical aptitude are encouraged to apply. Please bring a resume to the open interview session. 5-7 p.m. City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge. cityofgrandledge.com/jobs.

**Intermediate Ballet for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Citizens for Prison Reform's Legislative Education Day** - An annual platform for families, advocates, community members and policymakers to come together and discuss urgent issues surrounding rehabilitative justice. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. micpr.org.

**Level I Dance for Kids** - 15-week class. Ages 5-8. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Matter of Balance** - Eight-session workshop designed to improve balance, flexibility and strength, helping older adults reduce fall risks and become more active. 10 a.m. St. John's Lutheran Church, 511 E. Sturgis St., St. Johns. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

**Michigan Cottage Food Law** - Learn how to prepare and sell foods to the public under Michigan's Cottage Food Law. Topics include preparing, packaging, labeling, storing and transporting cottage foods. 10 a.m. Virtual - register at canr.msu.edu/cottage\_food\_law/index.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

**MSU Baseball vs. Eastern Michigan University** - 6 p.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/baseball.

**Parkinson's Exercise: Balance, Conditioning and Strength** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsq.org.

**Trivia at Lansing Shuffle** - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. lansingshuffle.com.

### Wednesday, May 7

**"A Course of Love" Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucille Olson and Bill Diedrich** - Group reads a section of the book each week and discusses the insightful ideas. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids** - 15-week class. Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. cmialanon.org.

**Beginning Ballet for Adults** - 6:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. dancesingact.com.

**Beginning Tap Dance for Teens & Adults** - 7:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. dancesingact.com.

**Bingo** - Every Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bingo cafe 5 p.m. Early bird 6 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

**Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com

**"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion from 9-10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian-50plus.com.

**Holt Education Foundation's 30th Annual Commu-**

**nity Recognition Awards** - Help us celebrate this year's cohort of outstanding school employees, alumni and community members. 6 p.m. The Hidden Gem, 4230 Charlar Drive, Holt. facebook.com/HoltEducationFoundation.

**Improv Acting for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, hosted by Starlight Entertainment** - 7-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

**Lansing Live Open Stage Night** - Whether you're experienced or just starting out, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Lansing Roller Derby Adult Boot Camp** - Four-month roller derby training course focused on developing skaters to their full potential, regardless of prior skill or experience. 8-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

**Life Drawing at REACH Studio Art Center** - You'll receive constructive feedback as each session moves from quick warm-up drawings to longer poses with our partially clothed model. No experience needed. 6 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring 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. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing.

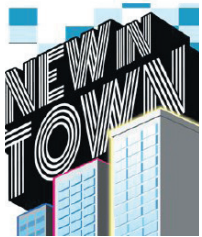
**Spring Salad Luncheon** - Luncheon features brats, a variety of salads, coffee, tea and desserts. The bar will serve nonalcoholic beverages. \$15 per person, cash only. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub.

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### ‘Good food in the neighborhood’: D’Nulffos opens in East Lansing

By LEO V. KAPLAN



#### D’Nulffos

1351 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
5–10 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday  
(517) 483–2793  
dnulffos.com

Tucked away behind The Morning Post, a casual East Lansing breakfast spot with a newspaper theme, is a seafood restaurant and chophouse with chandeliers, curtains and a full bar.

Originally meant to open in tandem, a paper-work issue held D’Nulffos up for four months after its sister restaurant’s December opening. Now, the breakfast-dinner combo is open in full.

Co-owner Dan Tyler said he’s had the idea for “the better part of 10 years.”

“My retirement plan was a breakfast place, and I’ve always wanted to have a steakhouse,” he said.

With its dim lighting, selection of high-end wines and steaks ranging from \$32 to \$77, D’Nulffos hardly feels like a logical companion to the casual diner

that closes at 2 p.m. Tyler said D’Nulffos was meant to feel like a speakeasy and that charging as much as he does encourages him to provide the best possible experience he can.

“That’s my biggest deal,” he said. “I’m asking you to spend a decent amount of money in this place. Maybe it’s \$90 a person, maybe it’s \$80, so I’d better give you a well-rounded experience from the time you walk in.”

Tyler said the restaurant’s “intimacy” is what sets it apart from the crowd.

“What makes us different is our ability to create on a daily basis,” he said. “Our menu is very small, so we’re gonna do features. We don’t have to buy large quantities, so we can be more sustainable and buy higher quality.”

The seating is limited, but Tyler said that’s intentional. His vision for a customer’s experience is very deliberate: “You walk through the breakfast place at night, and then you walk in this weird back room, and you’re like, ‘Holy crap, a speakeasy in the back room!’ Then the server walks up in their attire, and the way they speak to you, they make you feel welcome.

“It’s not just going out to dinner here,”



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

D’Nulffos, a high-end seafood restaurant and chophouse, is tucked away behind The Morning Post, a casual breakfast spot in East Lansing.

he added. “It’s an event, it’s an experience. That’s why I don’t have 700 seats. This ain’t about money, it’s about what I can do to make your night out or your breakfast the best experience it possibly can be.”

When asked what the principle behind D’Nulffos is, Tyler was blunt: “The principle is, can we just get a good

place?”

“It’s a nice restaurant, but it’s still in the neighborhood,” he said. “Why do I have to go downtown or to the east side or Detroit? Why can’t I just go down the street to that weird little plaza, and in the back of it, there’s this cool-ass place and a guy cooking up some good food?”

## Sultan’s off to a promising start in Delta Township

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

My family and I used to frequent Zaytoon Mediterranean Grill. It was one of the many eateries we ordered from during the COVID lockdown — that is, until the allegations about the workplace came out. It was very disappointing to hear negative information about a restaurant I liked, especially when there weren’t many other Mediterranean restaurants in Delta Township.

Yet when Zaytoon finally closed for good last summer, Sultan’s Mediterranean Cuisine announced it

would be moving into the vacated space. While I was aware of the East Lansing location, I’d never eaten there. Nevertheless, every time I passed by the former Zaytoon building as it was prepared for the new restaurant, I found myself increasingly curious to try it out.

After months of renovation, Sultan’s opened its doors in the first week of April. At first glance, the building didn’t seem that much different from when it was Zaytoon. Other than a paint job and a new sign, there were no noticeable changes on the outside. However, upon entering to pick up my food,



**Chicken shawarma combo**  
\$12.90

Sultan’s Mediterranean Cuisine

940 Elmwood Road, Lansing  
11 a.m.–8 p.m. Monday–Thursday

11 a.m.–9 p.m. Friday–Saturday

(517) 333-9970

sultansmediterranean.com

See Dish, Page 30



Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

The chicken shawarma at the new Sultan’s Mediterranean Cuisine location in Delta Township is a tantalizing treat for the taste buds.

# TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

## TOP 5 FAST FOOD

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2024 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!!

### 1. Chick-fil-A — both locations

Fast-food chain serving chicken sandwiches and nuggets, along with salads and sides

For locations, hours and phone numbers, visit [chick-fil-a.com](http://chick-fil-a.com)

### 2. Culver's Okemos Road

Fast-food chain specializing in frozen custard and signature burgers made with Midwest beef and dairy  
3440 Okemos Road, Okemos

(517) 993-6960  
[culvers.com](http://culvers.com)  
10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

### 3. Culver's Eastwood

3115 Centre Blvd., Lansing  
(517) 374-1301  
[culvers.com](http://culvers.com)  
10:30 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

### 4. Nip N Sip Drive In

Old-school drive-thru joint serving classic American eats like burgers, wings, subs and shakes  
2603 N. East St., Lansing  
(517) 372-3734  
[nipnipsdrivein.shop](http://nipnipsdrivein.shop)  
10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday

### 5. 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](http://olympicbroil.com)  
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

## THE PULSIFIEDS

Assistant Professor

The Michigan State University School of Planning, Design and Construction seeks qualified candidates for the following full-time position:

Assistant Professor (East Lansing, MI) Classroom teaching of students in Urban and Regional Planning, and related courses. Course preparation; review, grade assignments; provide advice to students; conduct/supervise research. Qualified candidates will possess a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning, Urban Informatics, or closely related field. To apply for this posting, please go to [www.careers.msu.edu](http://www.careers.msu.edu) and search for posting number 1031560. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

Staff Engineer

The Michigan State University Facility for Rare Isotope Beams seeks qualified candidates for the following full-time position:

Staff Engineer (East Lansing, MI) Develop, maintain, oversee implementation of Accelerator Operations quality system. Qualified candidates will possess Master's Degree in Materials Science and Eng + 3 years' exp as Engineer or any related position in eng. Must have 3 years' exp in operations and operations management of complex facilities, research and development in Material Science and Eng; material characterization and testing. Must have exp. with external regulatory compliance, safety, or quality framework. To apply for this posting, please go to [www.careers.msu.edu](http://www.careers.msu.edu) and search for posting number 1030452. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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| V | A | L | E | I | B | E | A | M | B | E | G |   |   |   |
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| A | T | E | Y | A | H | R | U | E | D |   |   |   |   |   |
| L | Y | R | I | C | J | A | M | E | S | D | I | O | N |   |
|   |   |   | D | H | A | R | M | A | S | O | C | K | O |   |
|   |   |   | A | L | L | E | N | M | R | E | O | A | T |   |
| P | L | A | Y | E | D | F | O | R | C | H | E | O | P | S |
| A | O | K |   | S | I | N | C | A | N | T | I |   |   |   |
| T | H | E | W | B | N | I | C | E | T | Y |   |   |   |   |
| H | A | P | P | Y | F | I | A | T | A | A | R | O | N |   |
|   |   |   | O | M | A | R | S | S | R | A | W | E |   |   |
| A | G | E | L | E | O | N | C | U | I | S | I | N | E |   |
| R | A | T | L | U | M | B | A | R | U | S | E | D |   |   |
| C | B | S |   | D | I | A | N | E | V | E | R | Y |   |   |

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

## Dish

from page 29

I found the interior was very clean and much brighter, with renovated booths and tables. Since it was the first official week of business, I knew the staff would still be trying to find their way around the lunch and dinner rush. Despite that, they were friendly and helpful.

Like Zaytoon, Sultan's offers typical Mediterranean entrees like shawarma, kafta, kabob, falafel and pita wraps. All combo options are served with a side of hummus, pita bread, yellow rice and a choice between soup or salad. I ordered the chicken shawarma combo with the vegetable soup.

I've noticed that some Mediterranean restaurants make their chicken shawarma spicier than others. Fortunately, Sultan's isn't one of these places. The chicken was perfectly marinated and had plenty of flavor without being spicy. It was a perfect complement to the rice, which was also delicious.

The soup, on the other hand, had a definite kick to it. There are only two soup choices on the menu: vegetable or lentil. Both are vegetarian, but I was enticed by the blend of carrots, zucchini, cauliflower, cabbage and yellow peppers in the former. Those who are seeking something less spicy should probably pick the lentil soup instead. If nothing else, at least the hummus was there to cool my tongue af-

terward.

With good food and good service, Sultan's Mediterranean Cuisine is off to a promising start in Delta Township. Westside residents who are in the mood for Mediterranean food should definitely check it out. I know my family definitely will be coming back for more

## Did you know?

Tea has been enjoyed as a beverage for thousands of years and has featured prominently in many cultures during that time. The cultural practice of drinking tea is believed to have originated in ancient China. Although there are many different types of tea, the World Tea Council says black tea is the most consumed tea across the globe, comprising around 75% of total tea consumption. The most popular type of black tea is Assam tea, which is grown in India. The second-most widely consumed tea is green tea, which accounts for approximately 20% of total tea consumption.

### METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION



## NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025 WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

### TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP:

Notice is hereby given that a special election will be held for Williamstown Township voters residing in the **Perry School District** on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, **at Perry Township, 2770 W. Ellsworth Rd., Perry, Michigan**. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Perry Public Schools will be voting on the following millage proposal as presented and listed below:

*Shall Perry Public Schools, Shiawassee and Ingham Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Nineteen Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$19,650,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, in one or more series, for the purpose of: erecting, furnishing, and equipping an addition to the middle and high school building; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings, including for school security; acquiring and installing instructional technology; erecting, furnishing, equipping, preparing, developing, and improving athletic fields and facilities, playgrounds, and sites?*

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the Williamstown Township Clerk's Office, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, MI 48895, telephone (517) 655-3193. A sample ballot may be viewed at [Michigan.gov/vote](http://Michigan.gov/vote).

Absentee ballots are available; registered voters in Williamstown Township may contact the Clerk's office to obtain a ballot.

Persons needing accommodations to vote, such as those with disabilities, should contact the Clerk's office prior to the election.

**Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC**  
Williamstown Township Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, INGHAM COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 25-556-DE - Estate of Nancy K. Gender – Date of Birth: July 30, 1944. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Nancy K. Gender, died 2/14/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Don B. Rydahl, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 4/30/2025. Attorney: Thomas E. Woods, P22543, 421 W. Ionia St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-487-0800. Personal representative: Don B. Rydahl, 2111 Straight Tow Blvd., Crystal, MI 48818. 517-348-7520.

CP#25-129



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
 LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 25-03  
 2299 WEST GRAND RIVER AVE.  
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
 LEGAL NOTICE  
 Variance Request 25-03  
 2299 West Grand River Avenue  
 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, May 21, 2025 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 from Playmakers Inc. The applicant is proposing to repair/maintain a nonconforming sign at 2299 West Grand River Avenue. The subject site is zoned C-2, Commercial.

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.

Angela Demas  
 Township Clerk

CP#25-137

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY  
 meridian.mi.us

**READ**

**Joan Nelson's  
 column on neighborhoods  
 in next week's City Pulse**



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# City PULSE

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It's baseball season in Greater Lansing, and City Pulse needs a home run in these challenging financial times. Your donation can enable us to hit all of the bases in delivering news, in-depth features and the best in arts & culture, dining and event coverage.

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