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September 17-23, 2025

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Lansing's Hispanic Heritage: Food, family, history

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A Hypothetical Final Thought

As the pain spread and the world blurred, Charlie Kirk didn't see the Constitution or the flag waving above him. He saw his children — small faces at the breakfast table, backpacks by the door, laughter that now felt unbearably distant. He thought of his wife, and how unfair it was that she might be left to bury him, a martyr not for freedom but for slogans.

Then came the creeping doubt. The thought that he had spent his whole career burying under applause lines: What if he was wrong? What if more guns didn't make America safer? What if his life's work hadn't defended his family, but doomed them to the same terror that was now silencing him?

The image of a classroom flashed in his mind — his own kids crouched under desks during a lockdown drill, rehearsing survival in a country that called it liberty. For the first time, he couldn't spin it. He couldn't sell it. He could only feel the truth in his bones: the bullets never cared about his politics.

His breath rattled, his chest heaved, and in the final flicker of awareness, he realized the cruelest irony of all: he had spent a lifetime telling Americans that a few gun deaths were a small price for freedom — and now, his own life was the receipt.

I don't agree with Charlie Kirk's politics. I never have. But when I picture him in those last shuddering seconds — the world narrowing to breath and light, the sudden, terrifying awareness of mortality — whatever I think of his ideas falls away. What remains is human: a father, a husband, a person whose life and body belonged to people who loved him. That is where empathy starts, not as a repudiation of truth but as a recognition of shared fragility.

Kirk was a public figure who once dismissed empathy as "a made-up, new age term" and defended the idea that some gun deaths were an acceptable cost to

preserve the Second Amendment. Those words mattered because rhetoric has consequences: they helped shape the horizon of what a nation tolerates. But inside a hospital room, or at the instant everything goes quiet, that rhetoric doesn't answer the small, sharp questions: *Will I see my children again? Who will hold my wife's hand?*

Imagining that moment is not an endorsement of his view — it's an exercise in moral clarity. If I had to choose my last thought, stripped of posture and performance, it would be my wife's face, my children's laugh, the ordinary detail that makes life worth keeping. To place myself there is to feel the awful, immediate cost of policies and ideologies that turn abstract trade-offs into real losses. It's where political debate should meet human consequence.

So feel for his loved ones without erasing the harm his words caused. Let that compassion sharpen, not soften, our resolve to reduce the suffering we can prevent. Empathy here is not a sentimental surrender; it's a pragmatic moral engine. It says that if I don't want this to happen to my family, I must support the changes that make it less likely to happen to yours.

If anything is made plain by imagining that last thought, it's this: politics that treats people as acceptable losses has a human bill. We can honor suffering and still argue fiercely about how to stop the next one. That is the smallest, most exacting kindness — and the only honest place to begin.

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NEWS DESERTS ARE BAD NEWS

The loss of local news is linked with increased government secrecy, according to a new study conducted by the Brechner Center for the Advancement of the First Amendment at the University of Florida.

The findings lend the first empirical evidence to the connection long intuited between the declining health of local news ecosystems and decreased government transparency. They add to the growing body of research that demonstrates the impact of news deserts on democracy, including increased partisanship, lower voter participation, and diminished civic engagement.

Don't let Lansing become a news desert

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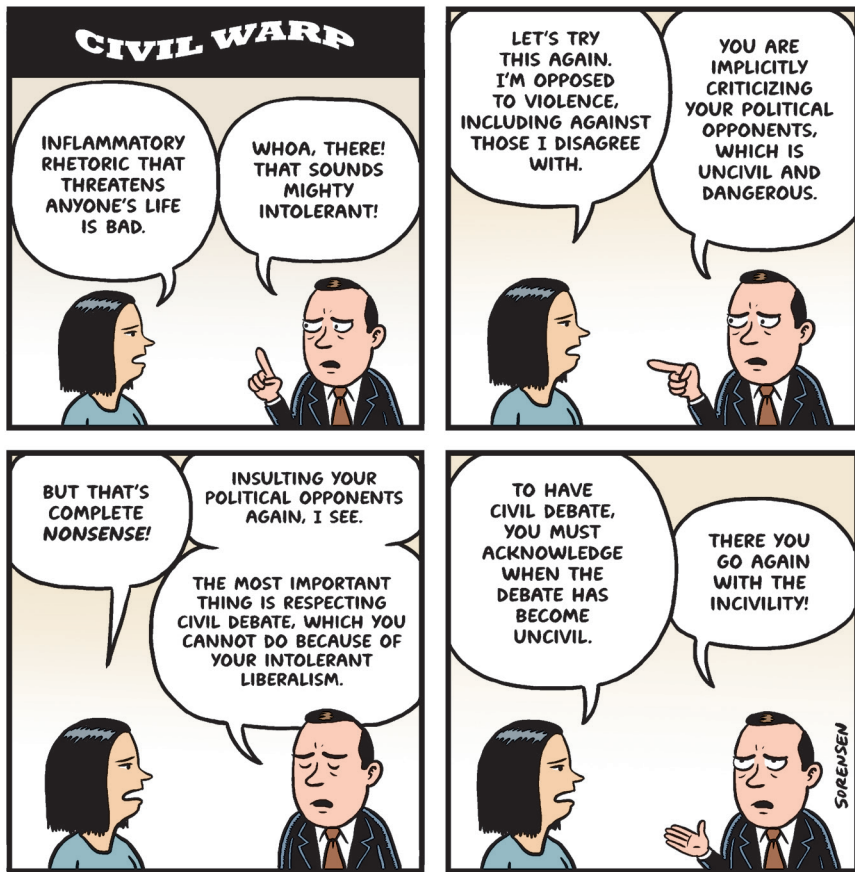
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MSU Broad Art Museum finds new director



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Viridis Labs shutdown was long overdue



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Brunch is better in Williamston

Cover artwork by Shiann Ochoa





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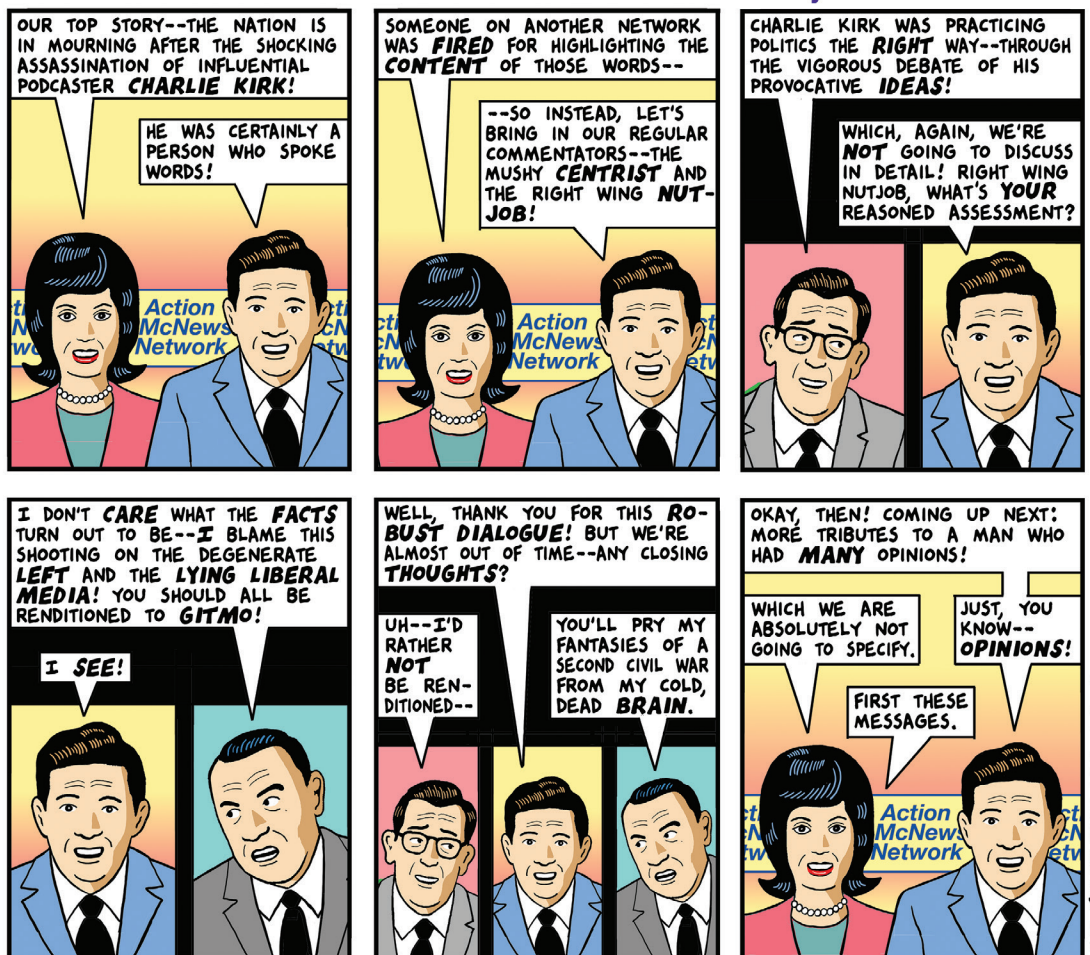
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2025-09-15

PULSE NEWS & OPINION

City can bulldoze part of north Lansing homeless camp

By KYLE MELINN

The owner of a north Lansing building supply company cut a deal Tuesday with Lansing officials on a plan to push a piece of Lansing's largest homeless encampment off his land, which is roughly located behind Piazzano's restaurant on Grand River Avenue.

Mark Kerrins of ABC Supply will allow city police to push any tents or makeshift structures off his land near Dietrich Park onto a neighboring lot. He'll then bulldoze his property of any trees or greenery, turn it into a parking lot and fence it off to prevent any further encroachment.

The deal comes after the city of Lansing roped Kerrins into a lawsuit against a next-door neighbor, Nick Yono, who has had folks living in tents behind his warehouse at JAJ Property for as long as four years. It's only been recently that the camp has spilled onto Kerrins' land.

"While everyone recognizes the unhoused in our community need help, Mr. Kerrins has the right to enjoy his own private property, be free from criminal trespassers, and to prevent unsanitary refuse dumping," said Kerrins' attorney, Michael Pattwell.

The deal marks a significant step in the city's attempt to address Lansing's largest homeless encampment, a sprawling community hidden from the public in the woods but well known by law enforcement.

Asked about Tuesday's development with Kerrins, city of Lansing spokesperson Scott Bean said, "It gets at least one of the property owners to cooperate and help clean up that property back there."

Over the years, reports of explosions, drug use, violence and sanitary complaints have stemmed from the encampment. But with few alternatives for the population, the unhomed end up here. It's completely hidden from the public. Outside of the Camelot Hills apartment complex off Sadie Court, nobody lives nearby.

Even police have steered the unhomed to the location after chasing



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Judge Rosemarie Aquilina of Ingham County's 30th Circuit Court talks Tuesday to Tony, "mayor" of Lansing's largest homeless camp, on the city's north side. Aquilina inspected the site as part of hearing a city lawsuit against two property owners. One owner reached a deal to Tuesday to clear his land.

them off public land, according to folks at the camp today.

Estimates have between 40 and 60 people living between the Grand River and Piazzano's, mostly on Yono's property. The land is overseen for Yono by Brent Cecil Morris, who told City Pulse he's been going back and forth with the city over the encampment for at least two and a half years.

"We've been trying," Morris said. "I actually got one of the police officers on video asking me, 'Are they back?' And I was like, 'Well, I never got rid of them.'

"The police just wouldn't help us."

The city of Lansing flagged him for a code violation and ordered to the encampment to be dispersed. That's where the matter sits.

But Yono hasn't exactly been compliant either. Last month, Ingham County Judge Rosemarie Aquilina ordered porta-potties be brought out to the encampment on the property owners' dime.

Aquilina also ordered Yono to get an attorney to represent him in the courtroom.

Tuesday, the judge personally

walked around the property with Assistant City Attorney Matthew Staples and several others. No porta-potties. No attorney for Yono or Kerrins.

Instead, she personally weaved around enclosures of discarded boards holding up ripped tarps. Junk and debris scattered the landscape. Dogs barked as media, attorneys and city officials followed the Aquilina around.

She twice asked a man who was fixing a chainsaw how long he'd been living at the encampment. He finally

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**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
Board Meeting September 10, 2025 Synopsis**

The Williamstown Township Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 with Supervisor Poth, Clerk Cleveland, Treasurer VanErp, Trustee Brinker, Trustee Creagh, Trustee Duffy, and Trustee Steinberg present. The Board approved the following:

- Consent Agenda
- Special Use Permit for Trevor Stratton for activity at the Williamstown Community Park
- Amendments to the Township Truck Route Ordinance
- Private Road Ordinance
- Amendments to the Park Use Fee Schedule and application
- Submission of a park tree planting grant to the DNR
- Contracting with Hayhoe Asphalt for repair & sealing of Township Hall parking lot

The next regular Board meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 in the Community Room of the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Visit williamstownmi.gov for the latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Township Clerk

CP#25-301

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

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**, at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Kevin Grech located at 419 University Avenue. The applicant request is to install a five (5) foot tall aluminum fence.
2. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Brian Bushey located at 539 Glenmoor Road, #2B. The applicant request is to replace brick and tuckpoint.
3. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Brian Bushey located at 605 Glenmoor Road, #2A. The applicant request is to replace brick and tuckpoint.
4. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Brian Bushey located at 531 Glenmoor Road, #1A. The applicant request is to replace brick and tuckpoint.
5. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Joshua Walker located at 934 Michigan Avenue. The applicant request is to install a wood fence on the west side of the garage.

Owners of structures containing more than four (4) dwelling units or other distinct spatial areas owned or leased by different persons are requested to post this notice at the primary entrance to the structure.

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

For more information on the request please contact Alycia Reiten at (517) 319-6941 or areiten@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing

City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhdc@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at ldegar-mo@cityofeastlansing.com.

Dated: September 11, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#25-300

**CITY OF GRAND LEDGE
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Grand Ledge Planning Commission will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, 02 October 2025, to consider and receive public input on a proposed ordinance to rezone the northwest 78 feet by 212 feet of Parcel #: 400-013-100-020-03 from "R-HD" Multiple Family Residential to "B-1" Highway Service. The purpose of the rezoning is to combine the subject property with the property to its north at 850 E. Saginaw Highway to create a site large enough to accommodate an automatic car wash. The proposed ordinance and additional material are available for review on the City's website at www.cityofgrandledge.com and at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://www.zoom.us> with the Meeting ID: 856 6730 9386, or by calling +309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) with Meeting ID: 856 6730 9386.

The Planning Commission invites anyone interested to attend in person and offer comments at the public hearing. Written comments can be mailed or delivered to Elected or Appointed Officials at 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, placed in the drop box in front of City Hall, or emailed to cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com. All written comments will be considered if received by 5:00 p.m. the day of the hearing. Please call (517) 627-2149 or email cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com for further information or to request accommodations for disabilities.

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

CP#25-303

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A request from Alex Siwicki on behalf of Sheetz, Inc. for approval of a Special Use Permit located at 111 E. Saginaw Street. The applicant request is to construct a 6,139 sf Sheetz restaurant with a drive through and four gas pump islands with eight pumps. The property is zoned B-2 Retail Sales Business District.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information or contact staff for more information:

Landon Bartley, AICP, Principal Planner
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6930 or lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building and Development Office, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at ldegarmo@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Dated: September 10, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#25-298

Homeless

from page 5

muttered “two years.”

Another resident recognized the judge immediately. He told her he'd been in her courtroom six months prior. He's still on a waiting list for housing, and he's insisted that he's straightening his life around.

As for the long-term solution for the population, Bean said the city has homeless outreach and social workers urging people to accept help and services. He said the City Rescue Mission is expanding and Holy Cross has room in its shelter.

(Kyle Melinn is editor of the Capitol news service MIRS and a columnist for City Pulse.)



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Some 40 to 60 unhomed residents occupy the property's on Lansing's north side near Dietrich Park.

Clarification

Additional information has been provided to City Pulse regarding an article last week about the state of local media. WILX News 10 general manager Debbie Petersmark confirmed Friday that WYSM-TV, better known as Fox 47, would remain a Fox affiliate and continue broadcasting on channel 47 under a proposed station swap between WILX owner Gray Media and WYSM owner E.W. Scripps. Under the deal, which is expected to close within six months pending regulatory approval, WYSM will fall under Gray Media's ownership and likely become part of the News 10 brand but will continue to air Fox national programming.

Additionally, the article, “Sink or Swim,” was mistakenly published without a byline. It was written by Leo V. Kaplan.

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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Two local organizations canceled events following the assassination of rightwing "influencer" Charlie Kirk.

The Hispanic Heritage Month committee postponed its kickoff program at City Hall scheduled for Monday, citing "an abundance of caution, given everything going on at this time," co-organizer Lorenzo Lopez said. Meanwhile, the Lansing Chapter of the NAACP canceled a mayoral debate and

candidate forum for City Council candidates due to "emerging safety concerns." City spokesperson Scott Bean said the police were unaware of any "credible threats." State Republicans organized a memorial gathering for Kirk on the Capitol grounds that hundreds attended without incident. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lowered the American flag on state property over the weekend after President Trump issued an executive order requiring it at half-staff on federal property to honor Kirk. Kirk spoke at Michigan State University in April. Followers held a candlelight vigil for him there Sept. 11.

Ingham County officials launched an ad campaign Monday to remind the community of Michigan's safe gun storage law that took effect in last year.

It mandates that gun owners keep their firearms unloaded and stored either in a locked box or with a trigger-locking device if a minor is likely to be on the premises. The law also applies to vehicles. Violators could face misdemeanor or felony charges. The campaign includes TV and radio spots, as well as social media. The Bureau of Justice Assistance Byrne State Crisis Intervention Grant program is funding the campaign, administered by the Michigan State Police.



Dave Logel, a Grand Ledge High School teacher and City Council member, sent an apology to the community through the Lansing State Journal following his social media comments on Charlie Kirk's assassination.

"If you posted today about the death of a fascist, not about the death of children in a school shooting, please unfollow me. Thank you," Logel had posted Facebook last week. In his

apology Monday, which followed social media users criticizing him and calling for his termination from both positions, he said that he does not support violence of any kind and just wanted to call attention to "the urgency of protecting children and other victims of gun violence."



Sheetz, a family-owned chain of more than 700 convenience stores in seven states, is looking to expand to the Lansing-area market. The East Lansing Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on Sheetz' proposal to build a 6,139-square-foot store, including a drive-through restaurant and eight gas pumps, at 111 E. Saginaw St., near Abbot Road. Sheetz moved into the state last year, mainly in

southeast Michigan so far. Its plans call for 50 to 60 stores state-wide. The hearing is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Hannah Community Center.

Former Delta Township Supervisor Ken Fletcher, 59, is facing up to four years in prison after pleading guilty to using a computer to commit a crime in a case resulting from an internet child sex sting.

Sentencing will be in late October in Eaton County Circuit Court. His deal means no jail time before sentencing. Prosecutors agreed to dismiss a count of accosting a child for immoral purposes. Voters re-elected Fletcher in November, even after his arraignment, but he declined to take the oath of office. Police alleged he "engaged in sexual conversations" on an LGBTQ+ social networking and dating app with an undercover detective posing as a 15-year-old boy.



MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz and spokesperson Emily Guerrant confirmed that university budget cuts are ongoing, the Lansing State Journal reported.

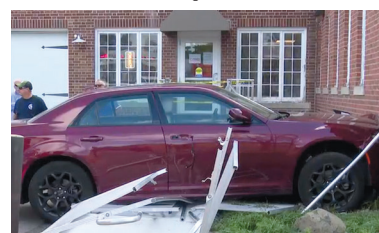
They are continuing to alert employees that they may be laid off or their positions may change as part of MSU's decision to reduce general fund spending by 6% this year. Guerrant said recent calculations showed that MSU could eliminate about 200 positions among 15,000 employees. They added that human resource officials and union representatives are part of discussions about job cuts, and they expect final numbers by October.

Representatives from MSU and the Union of Tenure System Faculty have signed an agreement recognizing its tenure-system faculty as a union.

The new union includes nearly 2,000 faculty members appointed under the rules of tenure and holding the rank of professor, associate professor or assistant professor.



The Capital Area District Library reopened its Mason location Tuesday after a car crashed into it Monday.



The crash damaged the wheelchair-accessible entrance and ramp plus a bathroom. Officials said patrons needing the ramp can temporarily use another entrance while workers make repairs.

Public Safety

Lansing police responding to a call of a shooting south of Interstate 496, near Aurelius Road and Malcolm X Street, found a 57-year-old man with a gunshot wound to the chest. Police said the man was in critical but stable condition and that they believe the victim and suspect knew each other, but have made no arrests.



Shigematsu Memorial Garden

Public art is a shapeshifter that can take many forms, including elegant garden plantings and ponds. One of the Lansing area's most distinguished and sublime meditative spaces is the Shigematsu Memorial Garden on the campus of Lansing Community College.

This traditional Japanese garden is hidden just off the 500 block of Capitol Avenue to the rear of the Herrmann House, which serves as the home of the college president, Steve Robinson.

The garden includes most of the essential elements of a Japanese garden, including a bridge, a cherry tree, a pine tree and a hill representing Mt. Hiei and Mt. Hira. The Biwako Kisen Steamship Co., in Otsu, Japan, donated it to LCC to honor the memory of its late president, Megumi Shigematsu, for his role in the school's international education program.

The most prominent element is the large pond, which is filled with multi-colored schools of tosaï koi fish with more than a dozen full-sized koi.

This past spring, the pond exploded with more than 100 koi fry. These baby fish will find homes through Preuss Pets, which keeps a watchful eye on the pond.

The garden and pond are certainly one of the most restful areas of the urban landscape, even when young children are watching the kaleidoscope display of koi as they constantly swirl in the water. The Lansing area is home to numerous gardens, including Cooley Gardens, just off Malcolm X Street and Washington Avenue. Another is Frances Park, the home of a historic rose garden, which is accessible off Moores River Drive. Beal Garden, the 4-H Children's Garden and the Horticultural Gardens and Radiology Healing Gardens at Michigan State University are all worth a visit.

BILL CASTANIER

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

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Phillip Bahar brings Chicago energy to Broad Art Museum

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Phillip Bahar has one hell of a Rolodex — if people still use such things. (He calls it “a long list of digital contacts.”)

That’s not the only asset that led to Bahar’s appointment last week as the fourth director of the Michigan State University Broad Art Museum, but it didn’t hurt.

As president and director of the Chicago Humanities Festival for the past 13 years, Bahar brought more than a thousand artists, authors, thinkers and policymakers to thought-provoking events at venues large and small across the city, from Chinese contemporary artist Ai Weiwei and performance art icon Marina Abramovi to politician and voting rights activist Stacey Abrams and punk-rock poet Patti Smith.

Bahar’s potential to activate the Broad with a panoply of special events, along with his skill at building partnerships with university and community groups, was among several attributes that gave him a clear edge in a search process that lasted nearly three years.

The Broad has burned through three directors in its 13 years, each of whom took a stab at making the museum the must-visit regional destination that its founder, the late Eli Broad, and star architect, the late Zaha Hadid, hoped it would be.

While the Broad is well established as a key academic and educational asset at MSU and a center of excellence in the realm of international art, it has yet to fulfill the grand vision expressed by architect Edwin Chan, a member of the jury that selected Hadid to design the museum, in 2007: “You’re going to need to build a bigger airport.”

Art collector Alan Ross, chairman of the Broad’s advisory board, a major donor to the museum and a member of the search committee that recommended Bahar, thinks the new director is the man to take the museum to the next level.

“We’ve finally located a leader we’ve been seeking for a long time, a leader who will bring together students, faculty and community,” Ross said.

Under Bahar, Chicago Humanities forged hundreds of partnerships with



Courtesy photo

Phillip Bahar, a veteran museum administrator and event organizer, was named director of the MSU Broad Art Museum last Wednesday (Sept. 10).

neighborhood organizations, reaching people who don’t often go to museums or downtown cultural events.

“He puts on a lot of different events, his organization is very successful and, most importantly, he reads and understands the community very well,” Ross said. “It’s going to be more than a museum for MSU. It’s going to be a destination for the community as a whole.”

A glance at the autumn slate of events Bahar put together for Chicago Humanities shows a head-spinning variety, from novelists Salman Rushdie and Margaret Atwood to comedian Cheech Marin, singer-songwriter Kurt Vile and “Parks and Recreation” actor Nick Offerman.

Bahar doesn’t yet know how that Chicago energy will plug into mid-Michigan, but he envisions a similar caliber of events happening at the Broad.

“It’s too early to say who we’ll invite, but it’s important to focus on both local issues and artists as well as national and global voices,” Bahar said. “They go beautifully hand in hand. Some people we bring in, you might never have heard of.”

Before Bahar’s stint at Chicago Hu-



Bahar plans to bring a fresh, event-driven excitement to the Broad, as he’s done at the Chicago Humanities Festival, which hosts 100 events a year. Among this fall’s events, curated by Bahar, are appearances by (clockwise from upper left) feminist Roxane Gay, comedian Cheech Marin, former “SNL” star Kate McKinnon, novelist Salman Rushdie, “Parks and Recreation” star Nick Offerman and “The Handmaid’s Tale” novelist Margaret Atwood.

manities, he was chief of operations and administration at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, a thriving hub for contemporary art that draws some 400,000 visitors a year.

Judith Stoddart, MSU’s vice provost for University Arts and Collections, credited Bahar with helping to “bring the museum into the city” and turning it into a “thriving public commons.”

Bahar said the Broad building will still be the “core” of activity, but he also plans to spin a web of “satellite experiences” that “bring the arts into the community.” “MSU is a massive campus with a lot of people and a lot of acreage,” he said. “There are a lot of ways to connect with specific departments and find artists who are interested in working with non-traditional spaces, whether it’s an industrial site or a location downtown near the Capitol.”

Devon Akmon, director of the MSU Museum and chairman of the search committee, praised Bahar as “very approachable and unpretentious.”

“We feel we got a great mix out of Phillip,” Akmon said. “He’s a very dynamic and vibrant person. Look at the work he’s doing in Chicago. To pull off a festival of that scope, working with all kinds of community organizations in so many venues, it makes you think about how he might activate the building, the staff, all these groups the museum represents.”

It’s a big jump from the towers of Chicago to the cornfields of East Lansing, but after more than a decade of event-based programming, Bahar is ready to return to his first love: museums.

“It’s what I’ve wanted to do my entire career, to be right at the intersection of art, education, experimentation and civic engagement,” he said. “Museums are my heart — what I do for pleasure, what I do for education, what I do when I’m trying to figure out something in my mind.”

Growing up in Omaha, Nebraska, Bahar wasn’t exposed to many cultural events, but he gravitated to local galleries and museums and “went down a rabbit hole” when he discovered the surreal work of Salvador Dalí.

Although he isn’t an artist himself, Bahar resolved to “be engaged somehow in the arts” in middle school.

“On a personal level, artists have changed who I am as a human being,” he said. “They’ve allowed me to understand myself differently, to engage with the community differently, to have different perspectives on the broader world. Those are the kinds of experiences I hope we can create for our visitors.”

Bahar earned bachelor’s degrees in art and psychology and worked at art galleries in Seattle while studying arts

See Chicago energy, Page 10

Chicago energy

from page 9

management. He now teaches museum studies as an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University.

Bahar's experience at the Walker showed him that a contemporary art museum can hit that sweet spot more squarely than a venerable, established museum with a broad collection.

"Contemporary artists are inspired by the world we're living in today," he said. "By nature, whether it's visible on the surface or hidden below the paint or the sculpture, our civil society and social society are baked into the arts. That's what's special about the Broad: elevating art and education in a way that lets people see the world in a new way."

Two weeks ago, Bahar visited the Broad on a game day and was pleased by the diversity of visitors.

"In the space of an hour, there was a group of older ladies, a lot of students and people in their running clothes — and I assure you, they had just been running," he said.

The sweaty runners gave him extra delight.

"Being able to feel that welcome, that



Courtesy photo

Before serving as director of the Chicago Humanities Festival, Bahar was chief of operations and administration at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, a thriving contemporary art museum that attracts some 400,000 visitors a year.

anybody across generations feels comfortable coming in, is a strong sign of the power of an institution," he said.

Each of the Broad's three previous directors has faced distinct challenges.

Founding director Michael Rush gave

the institution a vigorous start, but he fell ill and died in 2015 after three years at the helm. His successor, Marc-Olivier Wahler, left the Broad in January 2019 to be in Paris with his wife, who was seriously ill. Mónica Ramírez-Mon-

tagut had the unlucky fortune of being named director in July 2020, at the height of the pandemic shutdowns, and stayed for only two years. (Steven Bridges, a 10-year veteran of the Broad and curator of several key exhibits, took over as interim director in 2022 and is now the museum's senior curator.)

Bahar takes charge in a political and cultural climate that none of his predecessors faced.

"Nationally, it's a fraught moment, politically and socially," he said. "Our social norms are shifting. Artists are in the middle of that, and they're going to express themselves in that environment."

Anyone who assumes from Bahar's Midwestern pedigree that he will plow under the conflicts and pressures facing museums, universities and the communities they serve in the revisionist Trump era is likely to be disappointed.

"When artists express themselves in meaningful ways, that might make some of us uncomfortable sometimes, and that's an OK thing," he said. "If you're comfortable all the time, you're not actually thinking. As long as you're true to the mission, true to the spirit of the artist, and you're not actively trying to create conflict, I'm not overly concerned."

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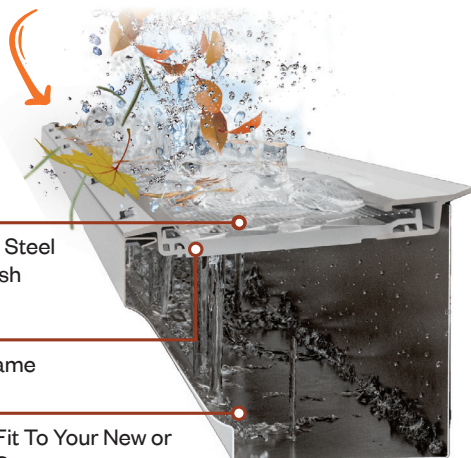


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Now it hurts, now it heals

BluesFest Michigan brings 25 diverse acts to Old Town

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

How many kinds of blues are there? It will take an extended weekend in Old Town, and three stages packed with music, to properly address this crying question.

From the gospel-soaked lyricism of singer Twyla Birdsong to the savage power chords of Just Magnetic, this year's Michigan BluesFest showcases the variety of blues experience.

The blues is a slippery concept, culturally, emotionally and musically. BluesFest co-founder and organizer Terry Terry couldn't even say for sure how long BluesFest has been going on, only that the festival evolved from its predecessor, the more rock-oriented OctoberFest, in the late 1990s. (City Pulse's archives reveal it officially transitioned in 2002.)

The blues is so deeply embedded in nearly every significant American genre of music, from country to jazz, rock and pop, that a festival devoted to blues seemed like a natural way to showcase mid-Michigan's remarkable musical vitality.

Some are hard blues cases through and through; others are multi-talented artists who play or sing in rock, jazz, pop or other bands.

"We've got an incredible range of talent," Terry said. "To me, Lansing is the musical capital of Michigan. You go to other towns, and they just don't have as much music going on. Here, we've got it everywhere."

Drawing on the expertise of the Capital Area Blues Society, and the ever-growing roster of artists who have performed at the UrbanBeat venue in Old Town, Terry and his team have assembled a slate of 25 performers and bands this year.

The bands will perform on two outdoor stages at either end of Turner Street and inside UrbanBeat, where after-hours jams will stretch into the night.

Most of the performers are local favorites, like multi-talented guitarist and singer Greg Nagy (7:30 p.m. Friday, South Stage) and rhythm and blues cover band Blue Avenue Delegates (9:30 p.m. Friday, South Stage), a staple at The Green Door for 15 years.

"They don't get together that often, and we're happy they are doing it for us," Terry said. And BluesFest would hardly seem complete without local favorites Frog & the Beeftones (10:30



Courtesy photo

Memphis, Tennessee-based musician John Németh mixes low-down country blues with fervent ballads and surprising rhythmic twists.

p.m. Friday, UrbanBeat).

But BluesFest, like UrbanBeat itself, draws musical greats from beyond the Great Lakes. Memphis, Tennessee-based singer, harmonica player and songwriter John Németh (9:30 Saturday, South Stage) brings a country blues feeling to a broad palette of melodies, moods and grooves. At first glance, Németh comes off as a bluesman in the classic mode, commanding a room with an urgent harmonica lick before cutting straight to the bone and growling out classic blues declarations like "I work for love, baby." But he has a bag of musical change-ups that are all his own. His songs pop with a surprising rhythmic variety, from reggae shuffles to street-corner improv to nimble, light-footed balladry.

The variety and musicality of Németh's brand of blues has earned him a slew of awards and the chance to open for legends like Keb' Mo' and Robert Cray.

One versatile local artist who is welcome at any event is charismatic, compelling vocalist Twyla Birdsong (7:30 p.m. Saturday, South Stage). Birdsong gives the blues a joyful, soulful spin, having grown up in the church with gospel music. She is comfortable and authentic singing everything from Billie Holiday to Motown, but she's had the blues in her blood since she was a little girl, sitting in the back seat of her dad's Olds 88 with B.B. King on the ra-



Courtesy photo

Lansing-area singer Twyla Birdsong grew up listening to the blues from the back seat of her dad's Olds 88.

dio. In 2016, she won the Capital Area Blues Society's Blues Brawl, earning a trip to Memphis to compete in an international blues competition.

Birdsong describes the Lansing sound, if there is one, as "eclectic," and this weekend's BluesFest lineup backs her up.

You could hardly find a group that more starkly contrasts with Birdsong's lyrical joy than Just Magnetic (9 p.m. Friday, UrbanBeat), a four-piece dynamo based in mid-Michigan.

Rather than massaging your woes away with melody, Just Magnetic drop-forges power chords on your head until your troubles are shaken out of your bones, clenching into an accelerated, punkish frenzy when the mood strikes. Following in Birdsong's footsteps, Just Magnetic was the 2025 Capital Area Blues Society Blues Brawl champion and people's choice award winner.

There's a reason so many blues songs start with the words "I woke up one morning" What follows is seldom good, but oh, it feels so good to share it. Sunny Bleau and the Moons (8:30 p.m. Saturday, South Stage) is a hard-working band from Oxford, Michigan, with an uncanny power to settle in and tell a story. Singer SunnyBleau (Kelly Brock) puts on the lyrics of a song like "Two Glasses of Whiskey on Ice," from the band's aptly named album "Passion & Regrets," like a second skin. Sometimes

you have to laugh to keep from crying. Bleau sings out her profound disgust at the man who not only left her, but took her dog and — worst of all — didn't put the coffee on before he left. "That, I just cannot have, oh, oh, oh," she sings.

There are many more flavors of blues to savor this weekend, but you get the idea.

As performance spaces go, it's hard to top the coziness and community feeling of the southernmost stretch of Turner Street, in the heart of Old Town. The starlit cavern of historic buildings creates a warm and lively acoustic "room," with seating in the middle of the street and ever-flowing rivers of visitors on each side, ideal for some world-class people watching.

"It's a great way to experience the arts in a community setting, perhaps meet new friends," Terry said.

In recent years, BluesFest has added a creative twist: Each artist is asked to come up with an original song or arrangement they've never played to a live audience before. According to Terry, nobody has rolled their eyes at this request yet.

"They like the challenge," he said. "Being creative is in our roots and our DNA in Old Town, and this is a way to encourage that. If you come to the festival and stay the entire time, you'll hear all these great songs for the first time. And it looks like we're dialing in some great weather."

Over the moon

Historical Society of Greater Lansing finds a dream gingerbread house

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Seconds after Lansing Mayor Andy Schor cut the ribbon Tuesday morning (Sept. 16) on the Historical Society of Greater Lansing's first-ever permanent home, the historic Rogers-Carrier House on Capitol Avenue, the ribbon was carefully curled in the hand of the organization's proud president, Bill Castanier.

"It's part of the collection now," he said with a grin. "It's part of history."

For all its well-attended events, award-winning projects and tens of thousands of followers on social media, a permanent home has eluded the Historical Society since it was founded in 1955.

Before Tuesday, Lansing was the only capital city in the nation without a permanent museum or learning center solely devoted to local history, according to Castanier.

The green gables and gingerbread-like Queen Anne stickwork of the Rogers-Carrier House will provide a perfect setting for the group's many activities — "just what you would want for a historical society," Schor said at the ribbon cutting.

The Historical Society has been talking with the house's owner, Lansing Community College, for years about using the space, but LCC President Steve Robinson said it took longer than expected to refurbish the gorgeous 1891 edifice, designed by Lansing architect Darius Moon.

Moon, a self-taught architectural genius, designed many landmark buildings in mid-Michigan, including the Turner-Dodge House and the looming R.E. Olds residence, demolished in 1971, but the Rogers-Carrier House is

among the most spectacular examples of his epic whimsy.

Lansing Community College bought the house in 1966. It's been used as a bookstore and an office space over the years, but Robinson said it has "no real college use right now."

In the 1980s, LCC welding students and faculty built a new "witch's hat" turret to replace the original one, which had been demolished for scrap by the previous owners. Since 2022, the college has invested more than \$600,000 in exterior and interior work to bring the building to modern standards.

In exchange for use of the space, the Historical Society has agreed to work with LCC on local history classes and serve as a meeting space for history-related projects such as genealogy groups.

"We don't need rent from them," Robinson said. "The vision from the beginning was that this would be a partnership."

The society has already hosted its first local history class, led by LCC Professor David Siwik, with many more to come. A more ambitious slate of classes with area public schools is also in the works.

"The history faculty at LCC is a really engaged bunch," Robinson said. "They do a lot of programming, and they've been excited about this for a long time."

Robinson also pointed out that the permanent presence of the Historical Society on the historic Capitol Avenue stretch of buildings aligns with the col-



Credit: Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The 1891 Rogers-Carrier House, part of the Lansing Community College campus since 1966, became the first permanent home of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing Tuesday.

lege's vision "to keep this block looking authentic."

Robinson himself lives in the 1893 Herrmann House, next door to the Rogers-Carrier House, and joked at Tuesday's event that if anyone "needs a cup of sugar," they can pop over.

Filling the beautiful but small house with local treasures will not be difficult. Two massive stone eagles flank the front door, salvaged from Ransom E. Olds' office and donated to the Historical Society by Michigan State University. A glowering bust of BoarsHead Theatre thespian John Peakes (as King Lear) gives you the side eye as you walk through the door.

Inside, glass display cases — also donated by MSU — are packed with Lansing artifacts that will be featured in the society's first exhibit in its new home, "50 Objects that Say Lansing,"

beginning Saturday (Sept. 20).

The quirky trove includes a 1928 tea towel from the Kerns Hotel, a promotional ashtray for Adams potato chips, World War II food ration coupons and an eyepatch and sales receipt from Lansing's own Snugfit Eye Patch Co.

The gingerbread house has already hosted six Historical Society events, centered on topics such as American Indian boarding schools, World War II manufacturing in Michigan and the Mackinac Bridge, with each event topping 60 attendees. Walking tours of various Lansing neighborhoods regularly draw 50 to 100 or more visitors.

On Tuesday, Castanier pointedly asserted that the Historical Society will continue to tell "everyone's stories." Recent events and exhibits suggest that the society is unlikely to settle into a sedate sewing circle of civic celebration.

The society won a national award in 2024 for "They Even Took the Dirt," a documentary about the devastation inflicted upon Black neighborhoods in Lansing when Interstate 496 was built.

The next themed exhibit will be "The Public Square," a photographic history of the many rallies, demonstrations and public gatherings that have been held on the nearby state Capitol grounds over the decades. The exhibit is planned to go up in spring 2026.

"Everybody has a story, and every story should be told," Castanier said. A forthcoming T-shirt will bear the Historical Society's informal motto: "The truth, the whole truth, so help me history."



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Community, collaboration form Lansing's Hispanic heritage



Courtesy of Capital Area District Library, from the Caterino Postcard Collection

A 1960 postcard depicts a sugar beet factory in North Lansing, now Old Town. The factory employed a sizeable Mexican labor force in the 1940s and 1950s, helping lay the foundation for the neighborhood's Hispanic community.

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

Emilio Garcia helped settle Lansing. Garcia was about 14 when he moved here from Mexico around 1940 with his two brothers, recalled his son Joe.

"They would travel here, work for eight, nine or 10 months, basically live on nothing and take back as much as they could to their families," he said. He added his father had "several opportunities" to settle permanently in the U.S. but that he was uninterested in doing so — to start off.

"What happens over time is that you go, you come back, and you start getting familiar," he said. "You meet one or two folks, you end up going to church, you meet this other social group, you get older and want to start a family. There's less opportunity in Mexico, or you glorify your time in the States, and say, 'I'm gonna come now with my family.'"

The legacy of collaboration, community organizing and mutual aid in U.S. Hispanic and Latino communities predates Lansing's first Mexican settlers. But, like the "mutualistas" that cropped up in the late 19th century to provide Mexican immigrants services like healthcare and legal advocacy, Lansing's own Hispanic communities made their roots here — then helped others to do the same.

Hispanic people began to trickle into Michigan in the early 20th century, though most were migrant workers in the sugar beet fields, or betabeleros. They worked for as many as 10 months in the fields, but they took their earnings home to Texas or Mexico for the winter and had no intention of settling down in Michigan. By 1924, there were enough migrant workers that the Lansing State Journal reported there were reports coming out of Houston that southern Texas was being deprived of its own Mexican laborers by Michigan contractors, including the

Michigan Sugar Co.

The practice of importing Mexican contract laborers, like Emilio Garcia, to spend most of the year working in Michigan was controversial, with some lawmakers concerned their temporary residences would become permanent. Thankfully for the city's culture, that came to fruition in the 1940s and '50s.

Historian Dennis Nodín Valdés backs that up in his 1991 book "Al Norte: Agricultural Workers in the Great Lakes Region, 1917-1970." He argues that, unlike the European immigrants who settled in the Midwest, Mexican farmworkers did not come with the intention of settling but developed a social network that created the conditions for settlement. In the 1950s, as beet harvesting became increasingly mechanized, that settlement became "very rapid" as former farmworkers took up work in most of the city's 15 factories.

The most prominent of those factories in Lansing was the Michigan Sugar Co.'s in North Lansing, where the Hispanic community began to coalesce. Most were Mexican, though Puerto Ricans, who were granted American citizenship in 1917, also immigrated to the U.S. after World War II. By 1963, 114 Cubans had also settled in Lansing following the Cuban Revolution, according to historian David A. Badillo.

The community in North Lansing, now called Old Town, continued to evolve as immigration continued.

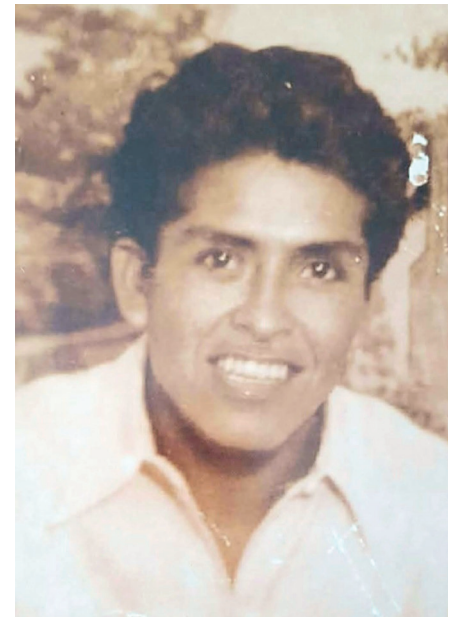
"You're talking about recruitment that occurred through the larger farming community from Michigan, down to the villages in Mexico, asking people to come to Lansing," Garcia said. "And the added story to that, once it was 'come to Lansing,' is, 'Drive to the northern part of town and go through the neighborhoods until you find

somebody who looks like you and ask for help."

"They knew that these people traveling in cars could only bring what they had in their cars, and if they're coming from a warm place, they were not thinking about flannels in the morning, or if they're bringing a child, they're not thinking about a crib or a highchair," he continued. "But a lot of those established families saved items in their garages and basements, so that when these people came, they could be charitable."

Because these communities were Catholic, their communities and mutual aid efforts were closely tied to church. That led the Catholic Diocese of Lansing to establish Cristo Rey Church in 1961. The church began in a former Methodist church on what is today Malcolm X Street and served as a community center for much of Lansing's Hispanic community. Increased community aid efforts and collaborations with other entities, including the Ingham County Health Department, eventually led the community center and church to split into separate entities in 1968. The Cristo Rey Community Center merged with St. Vincent Catholic Charities last year to form the Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties, of which Garcia was the CEO until this month.

While the church and community center remain, the original location was demolished in 1965 to make way for Interstate 496. It eventually reopened in south Lansing, driving a geographical wedge in the Latino community. An alternate community center called Quinto Sol opened in North Lansing in 1970, the same year a bilingual newspaper, *El Renacimiento*, began publishing there. The neighborhood continued to serve as a cultural hub for Lansing's Latino community, with a 16.7% Latino pop-



Courtesy Joseph Garcia

Emilio Garcia



Joseph Garcia

ulation in 1990 compared to an 8% Latino population in Lansing overall, according to a 1998 Julian Samora Research Institute study.

Hispanic Lansing residents have continued to make history in the 21st century. Tony Benavides became Lansing's first Hispanic mayor in 2003. Following multiple attempts at renaming the former Grand River Avenue in Old Town to César E. Chávez Avenue in honor of the famous labor leader who made multiple visits to Lansing in the 1970s and '80s, the street was renamed in 2018.

And those stories, and the legacy of mutual aid they recall, are still important to members of the community, like Joe Garcia. His dad died in 2012 at the age of 84 after raising seven children.

"You can figure out on a map how to get to Lansing, but once you get to Lansing, make these other connections, and that's where a lot of the stories began," Garcia said.

Regional dishes showcase diversity of Mexican cuisine in Lansing

By **NICOLE NOECHEL,**
STEVE UNDERWOOD
and **VIDALIA WENZLICK**

As you may have learned on the previous page, Lansing has a rich Mexican heritage, which is evident in the scores of Mexican restaurants scattered around the area. Many serve a Tex-Mex style of cuisine, which utilizes shredded cheese, sour cream, flour tortillas and corn tortilla chips to add an American flair to traditional Mexican fare. However, some have individualized their menus with staple dishes from the region of Mexico most familiar to them — or, in some cases, mashups of Mexican dishes with other global cuisines. City Pulse writers have gathered six examples of regional dishes at local eateries for those who would like to fully explore all the Mexican food scene has to offer.



Mulitas — northern Mexico

Taqueria Monarca
1801 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing

Though Taqueria Monarca was named after the monarch butterfly, which spends the winters in the western Mexican state of Michoacán, where co-owner Mario Quintero is originally from, the food truck specializes in northern Mexican and Tex-Mex cuisine. This can be credited to Quintero's wife, Ana Cavazos, who grew up in the border city of Laredo, Texas.

One northern Mexican staple Cavazos brought to the menu was the mulita, a street food that originated in Tijuana. Monarca's mulitas comprise two corn tortillas, filled with cheese and a choice of meat. They're griddled in oil until crispy and served with on-

ions, cilantro, a lime wedge and salsa on the side.

"It's basically like a small quesadilla," Quintero said.

While the mulitas are popular, Quintero noted that the food truck's burritos, also a mainstay of northern Mexican cuisine, are the fan-favorite menu item.

"On the border, a lot of people know burritos," he said. "In the south, you're going to see a lot of tacos and quesadillas and things like that, but you're not going to see too many burritos on the menus. It's a northern thing."



Birria — western Mexico

La Catrina Mexican Food Truck
2778 E. Grand River Ave.,
East Lansing

La Catrina food truck is a slice of Guadalajara in front of Whole Foods Market in East Lansing. The truck has a regular menu that includes Mexican classics such as tacos, burritos and tostadas, but it also has a special menu for its birria.

Birria is red meat — in La Catrina's case, beef — that's stewed in chili peppers, herbs and spices for several hours. The meat is shredded and served with the broth of the stew. On the birria menu, customers will find a three-taco dinner special with rice and beans, a quesadilla, burritos, nachos and beyond.

Luis Anaya opened La Catrina two months ago. He said he "wanted to do something for myself and my family." They're from the state of Jalisco, where birria originated.

"I think I managed to make it taste like Jalisco," Anaya said, "a very difficult thing to do."



Chicken mole poblano

— south-central Mexico

Pablo's Mexican Restaurant
311 E. César E. Chávez Ave.,
Lansing

2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Pablo Maldonado, owner of two Lansing restaurants, originally hails from the south-central Mexican state of Puebla. When he opened his first eatery in Old Town in 2005, he sought to share dishes he'd grown up eating — most importantly, mole poblano.

The term "mole" has come to define a range of Mexican sauces, but perhaps the most popular in the United States is mole poblano. This variety, made from a blend of dried chili peppers and chocolate, among various other ingredients, is thick, rich, earthy and sometimes spicy.

"The Chicken mole poblano has five to eight ingredients for the mole sauce," Maldonado told City Pulse in 2023. "It's very popular in Puebla. Probably one of the most successful dishes over there. So, we decided to bring it here."



Panuchos/Cecina — southern Mexico

Maria's Cuisine
516 E. César E. Chávez Ave.,
Lansing

Maria's Cuisine offers food from southern Mexico, specifically from the state of Campeche, which is part of the Yucatán Peninsula. Generally, the region's cuisine is influenced by Mayan traditions, Spanish and Caribbean flavors and seafood, given the coastal location.

Two of owner Maria Sotelo's specialties from her native region are panuchos and cecina. Panuchos are made in different ways, she said, but "we deep fry masa (dough made from corn) in a tortilla shape, but much thinner — to a golden crisp." They're topped with refried beans, meat, lettuce, tomato, pickled red onions, avocado, sour cream and queso fresco.

Cecina, meanwhile, is thinly sliced — and very flavorful — cured beef. "We prepare it by sautéing it with onions and serve it with a little lettuce, pico de gallo, slices of avocado, rice, beans and tortillas," Sotelo said. Cecina can also be added to the restaurant's tacos.



Wet burrito — Michigan

Alicia's Authentic Mexican Deli & Catering
5025 N. Grand River Ave., Ste. 3,
Lansing

Alicia Gonzales, owner of Alicia's Authentic Mexican Cuisine, grew up in Texas. Many of her recipes originate from her Mexican-born grandmother, who taught her mother. Gonzales said that if she had to assign a category to her cuisine, it would be Tex-Mex. Her most famed and beloved offering, however, might be her wet burrito, which the Beltline Bar in Grand Rapids claims to have created in the 1960s.

The inspiration for Gonzales' specialty came from her pre-restaurant-owning days. She had a co-worker who often wanted to go out to eat at bars that offered "their version" of wet burritos.

"They were so disgusting," she said.

Her secrets for a great wet burrito include placing the lettuce, tomatoes and other veggies on the outside, where they can stay fresh and crisp. Another is her homemade sauce or gravy — the same as her enchilada sauce — which includes flour that has been browned and a moderate amount of chili powder among the spices.

"The key to the whole thing is the sauce," she said.



Birria ramen — fusion

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South Stage

John Németh

John Németh is an electric blues and soul harmonicaist, singer, and songwriter. He has received five Blues Music Awards for *Soul Blues Male Artist*, *Soul Blues Album*, *Traditional Blues Album of the Year*, *Instrumentalist - Vocals and Instrumentalist - Harmonica*. He has recorded ten albums since 2002, having also backed Junior Watson, Anson Funderburgh and Elvin Bishop. He has opened for Robert Cray, Keb' Mo', and Earl Thomas.



FRI SEPT 20 • SAT SEPT 21

**JOHN NÉMETH • JEFF BALDORI BLUES BAND
TWYLA BIRDSONG • VINCENT HAYES • GREG NAGY
BLUE AVENUE DELEGATES • TINY ISLAND BLUES BAND
SUNNY BLEAU & THE MOONS • GAVIN McDONNELL
KATHLEEN & THE BRIDGE STREET BAND • ANN BELL
MANDALYN & THE HUNTERS • TOM DUFFIELD
THE LYNX BLUES BAND • FROG AND THE BEEFTONES
JUST MAGNETIC • BIG B & THE ACTUAL PROOF
GENERATOR • SASSIETY TRIO • CLIQUE VOCALS
BLUE DENIM • SCHOOL OF ROCK • and more!**

AFTERGLOW › at UrbanBeat from 10:30pm-12:30am *Limited Seating*

MICHIGAN BLUESFEST

2025 • SEPT 17-20

IN OLD TOWN LANSING

WED SEPT 17 • KICK OFF CONCERT

GAVIN MCDONNELL
6:00pm | UrbanBeat Stage
1213 Turner

Gavin McDonnell is a multi-talented young musician who performs with the band Four More Shapes and is also regularly featured at UrbanBeat as a solo act.



TOM DUFFIELD
7:30pm | UrbanBeat Stage

Tom Duffield's piano work has been a staple of Michigan's jazz and blues scene for decades. His repertoire includes unique interpretations of the standards as well as some fun surprises.



THUR SEPT 18 • BENEFIT CONCERT

Support the next generation of musicians through KidzBeat, which provides music and arts programming for young people all year long. The mission of KidzBeat is to instill musical creativity and inspiration in young music lovers while encouraging healthy, constructive life choices.



CLIQUE VOCALS
6:00pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner met as members of Singers on the Grand, and their similar approach to performing and a shared love of singing led to the formation of Clique in 2016. The duo will perform blues songs arranged in a unique style with tight harmonies. Their mesmerizing performances are a must-listen.



JEFF BALDORI BLUES BAND
7:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

Singer, guitarist, songwriter and pianist Jeff Baldori began his career studying classical, jazz, and boogie-woogie. He performed many times with Chuck Berry. Kick off your BluesFest weekend with a spark from the Jeff Baldori Blues Band, including Mike Daniels, Mike Skory, and Mike Smalley.

FRI SEPT 19



SCHOOL OF ROCK › Adult Band
5:30pm | South Stage

School of Rock East Lansing's Adult Band delivers a revolutionary music program to students from Lansing and surrounding communities. Hear fresh sounds from up-and-coming musicians. Catch them live to experience the magic firsthand.



TINY ISLAND BLUES BAND
6:00pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

This four-piece band has been playing their mix of blues, rock, and funk all over the state of Michigan for the past seven-plus years, playing some original songs and covering some familiar tunes by the likes of Etta James and Albert King, as well as some more obscure offerings that audiences have thoroughly enjoyed. The band hails from all over the state of Michigan, from Detroit to Grand Rapids.



KATHLEEN AND THE BRIDGE STREET BAND
6:30pm | North Stage

Kathleen & the Bridge St Band brings to the stage high-energy blues and soul covers as well as original blues rockers and sultry ballads. The Bridge St Band includes some of mid-Michigan's finest musicians, including Doug Fritch on guitar, Steve Dely on guitar, Mike Lynch on keyboard, Tim Brouhard on bass and harmonica, and Eric Payne on drums. If you love your blues with a shot of soul, you will love Kathleen & the Bridge St Band.



THE LYNX BLUES BAND
7:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

The Lynx Band is a 5-piece powerhouse bringing you classic blues with a rockin' edge! Get ready for gritty guitar riffs, smoky vocals, soulful harmonica, and nonstop energy that'll have you grooving in your seat—or dancing on your feet. Blues never felt this alive!



GREG NAGY
7:30pm | South Stage

Greg Nagy is a unique, soulful, compelling, and powerful performer whose records have garnered the praise of industry heavies, and his live shows are not to be missed! A multi-faceted artist in the most classic sense, his songwriting, singing, and guitar playing beautifully reveal Nagy's personalized music, refreshingly and honestly infused with elements of soul, r&b, rock, and gospel.



MANDALYN & THE HUNTERS
8:30pm | North Stage

With her 3rd Place finish at the 2024 International Blues Competition, Mandalyn has proven to be a tremendous force in the world of blues, enthraling listeners with her powerful storytelling and soul-stirring performances. Her songs remind us of the blues' timeless capacity to touch our souls and mend our hearts, and they stand as a tribute to that power. Her new breakout single, "WRECKED", is a sultry mix of powerhouse vocals, crying strats, and an overall seductive blues sound that will leave you breathless.



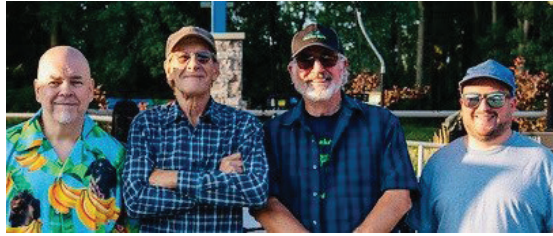
JUST MAGNETIC
9:00pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

2025 CABS BluesBrawl Champion and People's Choice Award winner, Just Magnetic is a high-energy blues-rock band based out of Lansing. A foot-stomping 4-piece, a smooth groove, catchy hooks and soaring guitar solos are staples of Just Magnetic's sound. Blues artist Greg Nagy called the new album "raw, gritty and organic!"



BLUE AVENUE DELEGATES
9:30pm | South Stage

A long-standing Michigan-based rhythm and blues band, formed in 1980, Blue Avenue Delegates are known for their extensive repertoire and live performances without setlists. With a lineup of top-tier musicians, every reunion is a rare and unforgettable celebration of pure musical talent.



AFTERGLOW • FROG AND THE BEEFTONES

10:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner > *Limited seating*

One of Michigan's favorite bands, Frog & the Beeftones, can be seen rocking mid-Michigan's nightclub and concert stages every week. High energy, high musical proficiency and an off-the-gauge fun factor add up to a great time for both the band and their listeners. It's a 100% all-beef musical menu, and the audience never leaves hungry. The band will perform from 10:30pm-11:30pm, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:00 am.



CLIQUE VOCALS

4:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner met as members of Singers on the Grand, and their similar approach to performing and a shared love of singing led to the formation of Clique in 2016. The duo will perform blues songs arranged in a unique style with tight harmonies. Their mesmerizing performances are a must-listen.



TWYLA BIRDSONG

7:30pm | **South Stage**

Twyla's rich, resonant voice strikes a balance between diva and divine, connecting her with audiences through the soul of her song and her presence on stage. The force that is Ms. Birdsong bears a striking resemblance to distinguishable female vocalists before her with the same synergy between self and song. Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald, Etta James - women who fill your heart with their voice.

SAT SEPT 20

KIDZBEAT > South Stage

1:30pm | **Instrument Petting Zoo & Harmonica for Kids**

Children and adventurers of all ages can try their hand at stringed instruments, keyboard, harmonica and percussion in this playful experience with encouraging musicians, led by Roger Gentry and friends.



SASSIETY TRIO

3:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

This all-star trio blends blues, soul, and sass with amazing vocals and serious talent. Featuring Renee Rose on drums and vocals, David Winkelstern on bass and vocals & Nick Pigeon on guitar and vocals; each a standout on their own, even better together.



BIG B & THE ACTUAL PROOF

5:30pm | **South Stage**

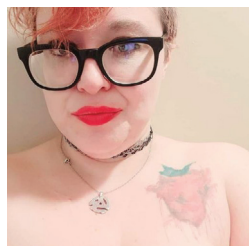
Big B and the Actual Proof are an inspired fusion of modern blues, film noir soundtracks, and psychedelic rock. 2021 Capital Area Blues Society Band Challenge winners, their original music features dynamic arrangements fueled by powerful, emotional guitar; clear, convincing vocals; wailing saxophone; jazzy, atmospheric keys; and a rhythm section that booms, rattles and shakes.



SUNNY BLEAU & THE MOONS

8:30pm | **North Stage**

Sunny Bleau and The Moons is a band from Oxford, Michigan, led by vocalist Sunny Bleau (Kelly Brock) and guitarist/composer/producer Nicholas Cocco. They perform jazz, blues, blues rock, traditional blues, and acoustic blues. Since 2021, they have released four full-length studio albums and multiple singles, receiving positive press and radio play. They perform over 60 shows per year across multiple states.



ANN BELL & FRIENDS

6:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Ann Bell is a multi-talented musician and activist from Detroit who is regularly featured at UrbanBeat.



VINCENT HAYES

9:00pm | **UrbanBeat Stage**

Hayes is a smart guy with a fresh approach to songwriting from which other lyricists would do well to draw inspiration. His solos and vocals are impassioned and burn with the heat of a man who has walked through fire, and his fat Fender tones and flowing fretwork conjure the spirit of Stevie Ray, the way Stevie tipped his hat to Albert King and Lonnie Mack.



SCHOOL OF ROCK > Kids Band

4:30pm | **North Stage**

School of Rock East Lansing's Kids Band delivers a revolutionary music program to students from Lansing and surrounding communities.



GENERATOR

6:30pm | **North Stage**

Generator is a seven piece band with music based on blues, funk, rock and soul. Their specialty is taking familiar songs and recreating them in a "Generator style". Generator has a strong rhythm section, experienced soloists, and vocalists who reflect various singing styles. With these combined components, Generator's music truly resonates with various audiences. These members have honed their craft and look forward to entertaining at BluesFest.



JOHN NÉMETH

9:30pm | **South Stage**

John Németh is an electric blues and soul harmonicist, singer, and songwriter. He has received five Blues Music Awards for Soul Blues Male Artist, Soul Blues Album, Traditional Blues Album of the Year, Instrumentalist - Vocals and Instrumentalist - Harmonica. He has recorded ten albums since 2002, having also backed Junior Watson, Anson Funderburgh and Elvin Bishop. He has opened for Robert Cray, Keb' Mo', and Earl Thomas.



AFTERGLOW • BLUE DENIM

10:30pm | **UrbanBeat Stage**
Limited seating

Get ready to move and sing along with this dynamic quartet! David, Jack, Jeff, and Eric bring the heat with killer grooves, smooth vocals, and feel-good vibes. Catch them this Saturday at the Afterglow inside UrbanBeat, where classics meet fresh beats and the dance floor never quits! The band will perform from 10:30pm-11:30pm, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:00 am.



Portions of the festival will be livestreamed on vimeo.
LIVESTREAM • [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/EVENT/5335104](https://vimeo.com/event/5335104)

MICHIGAN BLUESFEST 2025 • SEPT 17-20

The mission of the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, is to create spaces where people can come together, meet old friends, and make new friends, and to serve as a catalyst for positive community transformation through the arts.

MICA's year-round exhibitions in the visual arts and programs in music, performance, film, and literature provide opportunities to entertain, educate, and inspire. For more, see micharts.org.

IN OLD TOWN, LANSING • ON TURNER ST AT CESAR CHAVEZ AVE



*Map is subject to change

E César E. Chávez Ave

WED • SEPT 17 FREE KICK OFF CONCERT

- UrbanBeat 6:00 Gavin McDonnell
- UrbanBeat 7:30 Tom Duffield & Friends

THUR • SEPT 18 BENEFIT CONCERT FOR KIDZBEAT

- UrbanBeat 6:00 Clique Vocals
- UrbanBeat 7:30 Jeff Baldori Blues Band

FRIDAY • SEPT 19

- South 5:30 School of Rock Adults
- UrbanBeat 6:00 Tiny Island Blues Band
- North 6:30 Kathleen & the Bridge St Band
- UrbanBeat 7:30 The Lynx Blues Band
- South 7:30 Greg Nagy
- North 8:30 Mandalyn & the Hunters
- UrbanBeat 9:00 Just Magnetic
- South 9:30 Blue Avenue Delegates
- UrbanBeat 10:30 Frog and the Beeftones

SATURDAY • SEPT 20

- South 1:30 Instrument Petting Zoo
- UrbanBeat 3:00 Sassiety Trio
- North 4:30 School of Rock Kids
- UrbanBeat 4:30 Clique Vocals
- South 5:30 Big B & the Actual Proof
- UrbanBeat 6:00 Ann Bell & Friends
- North 6:30 Generator
- UrbanBeat 7:30 Tom Duffield
- South 7:30 Twyla Birdsong
- North 8:30 Sunny Bleu & The Moons
- UrbanBeat 9:00 Vincent Hayes
- South 9:30 John Németh
- UrbanBeat 10:30 Blue Denim

*Program subject to change



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On Mexican cuisine: ‘Without corn, there is no country’

By LORENZO LOPEZ

Growing up here in Lansing, one of the things I looked forward to coming home from school were the homemade flour tortillas my mother would make. They were warm, and we would heap butter, potatoes mixed with eggs, beans or whatever we were having at the time on them.

Another family favorite was fideo, which means noodle or a pasta. It is made with chicken broth, pork or chicken, bell pepper, diced tomato, garlic, cumin and salt to taste. We would have that with fresh beans and, again, flour or corn tortillas. We preferred the flour since my mother made them from scratch.

My parents came from Texas from predominately Mexican American communities, speaking mostly Spanish and preparing all kinds of Mexican food but other foods as well. It wasn't until my mother had gotten older that I began to cook. I would watch my mother make enchiladas, tacos, tostadas, carne guisada, mole, frioles/beans, arroz/rice, salsa, taquitos and more. I had her teach me to make all of that exactly how she did. As we grew up, my brothers and sisters and I became very particular about how the Mexican food we were accustomed to was made. Most of the families I grew up with were involved in the original Cristo Rey Church, the Mexican Patriotic Committee, Cristo Rey Community Center and also the Mexican American baseball team, Los Cardinales. We would end up at either the Villarreal's house, or the Hernandezes' or Montalvos'. All of the mothers were excellent cooks.

One day, my family and I were celebrating a birthday or a holiday, and I prepared the dinner. It was mole, rice and beans with corn tortillas. After all was said and done, my older brother JR. got up went to the kitchen and started opening cupboards, doors etc., and I asked him what he was looking for. He wanted to know if I had had the dinner catered. That meant I had arrived. My food was as close to my mother's as I was going to get.

The diversity of Mexican cuisine is expansive. A taco made in one state, region, city or neighborhood is made somewhat differently based simple on traditions. Of course, the taco today in the United States is as American as apple pie. After all, we do have taco Tuesday. The corn tortilla was the primary base of foods. The cultivation of corn goes back 6,500 years to the Maya. Also cultivated were tomato, squash, beans, vanilla and cacao (chocolate). The corn tortilla remains an important element of Mexican cuisine. Here is a saying from Mexico: “Sin maiz, no hay

pais.” (The headline translates.)

The ancient tamal, which dates to Mexico's pre-Columbian civilization, is an art form. As an artist creates a painting, a poem, a sculpture, or a dancer creates choreography, I feel the same way about the making, preparing and cooking of tamales. My very good friend Lupe Castillo, born and raised in Michigan, is well recognized as one of the best tamale makers in Lansing. This is not to say that others in Lansing who make them are not up to her standard; I am sure they are. What is crucial in making of tamale is the masa, which is corn that has been cooked in a lime water solution. Lupe does not use chili powder, she uses chili ancho, giving it a richer flavor. Three important cooking utensils during the Mesoamerican era are the metate, comal and molcajete. They are made from stone.

Lupe would watch her sister as a young lady make tamales for a church fundraiser. According to Lupe, her sister made the best tamales. Eventually Lupe would experiment in making tamales. For example, using just the right amount of lard, or “manteca” in Spanish, or using the actual chili ancho and not chili powder. Ultimately, she perfected her masa, and the meat she uses today is what I consider art in the making of a tamal. Lupe sells her tamales to hundreds of people in Lansing and the surrounding area.

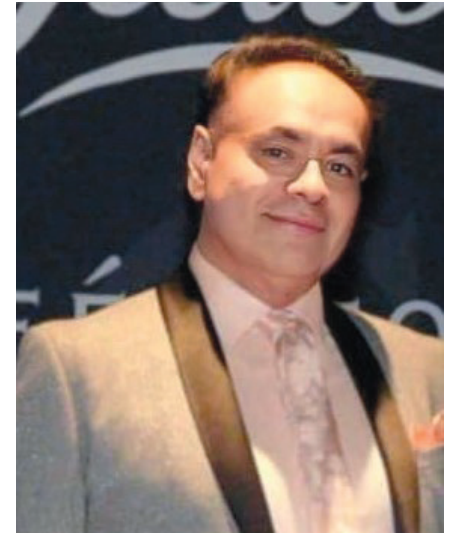
For those who love to cook and, in this case, Mexican, do not be afraid to experiment, to create something different. Use a different pepper, add more garlic or cumin. Try making your own sauces and see what you come up with. Use a spice you never used, be imaginative, you will love the result.

Mexican cuisine has played an important role of influencing not only the eating habits of Americans but also people all over the world. United Nations Educational Scientific & Cultural Organization, or UNESCO, in 2023 defined Mexican cuisine as a world cultural heritage.

Mexican cuisine as we understand it originated from culinary traditions of



The late Edelmira “Delma” Lopez, a leading activist in Lansing’s Hispanic community. The traditional dishes she made for her family of eight children inspired the writer.



Lorenzo Lopez

Mesoamerican food, techniques, combined with culinary techniques of the Spanish and ingredients from Africa, influenced by the enslaved Africans, such as rice, plaintain, coffee, tamarind, jaimica etc. Mexico has 31 states, and from state to state, food is made differently.

Mexican food is culture, is history ancient and modern. It brings families together, brings community together. Mexican cuisine is made with love, pride and a shared heritage for all.

(Lorenzo Lopez is an activist in the Hispanic and LGBTQ+ communities in Lansing.)

the indigenous of Mexico such as the Aztec, Mayan Olmeca, Tolteca — in short Mesoamerica. It is the fusion of

The artwork on this week’s cover is by Shiann Ochoa, courtesy of Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center, created for its Hispanic Heritage Month workshops, Sept. 20–Oct. 19, and Lansing’s 29th Día de Los Muertos Celebration, Nov. 1–2. This fall, the gallery is offering free, donation-based weekend workshops

for the community, including a pan de muertos (bread of the dead) workshop at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, at which families will learn about the tradition of making the “bread of the dead” as an offering placed on ofrendas to welcome the spirits of loved ones and share it together.

Mexican cuisine

from page 14

the flavors of the southwestern Mexican state of Guerrero and the central state of Guanajuato to the Lansing community — with a twist. The menu features a variety of customizable Mexican-style dishes, both traditional and non-traditional.

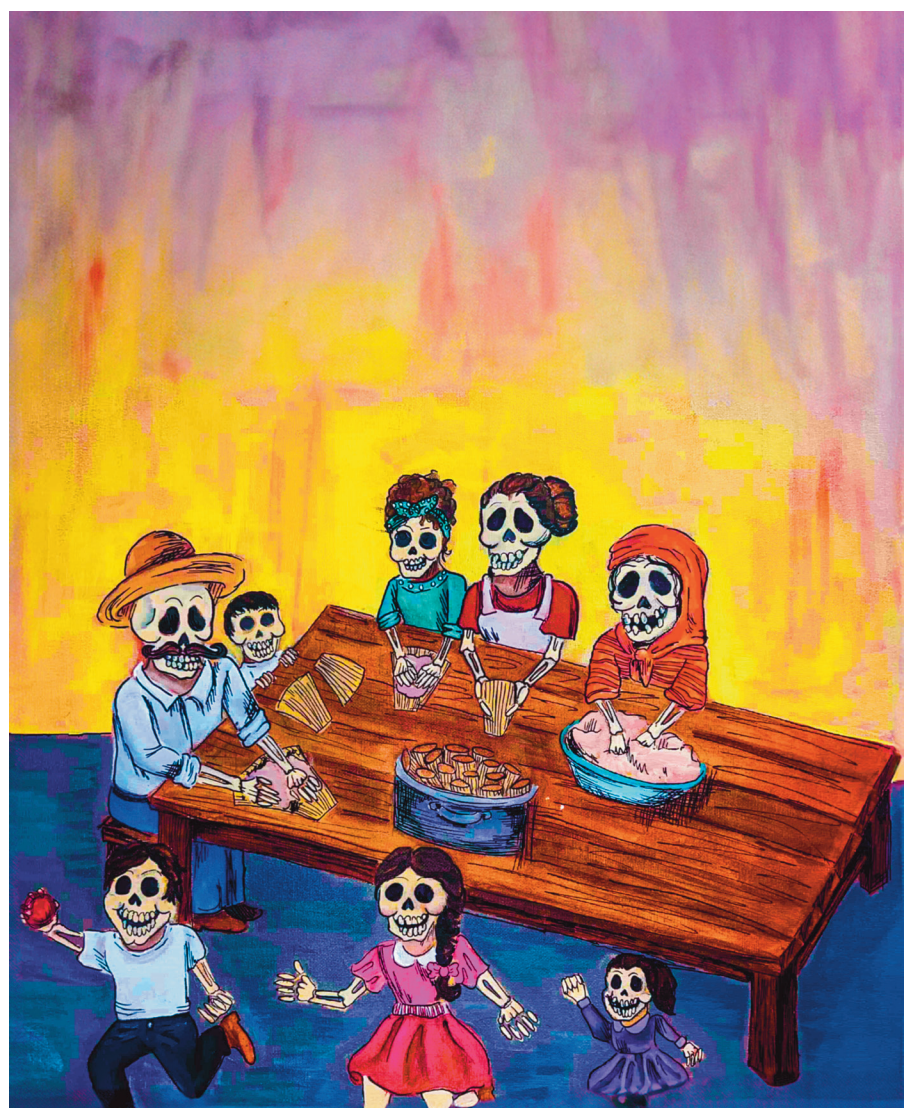
“It’s a mix of what I grew up eating, and then there’s some Tex-Mex and newer fusion as well,” Vera said.

For him, the most important menu

item is the taquitos — rolled, fried tortillas with a meat or veggie filling — made the way his grandmother taught him.

“The taquitos are where it all started,” Vera said. “They were my grandma and grandpa’s go-tos whenever we would go over to their house.”

The restaurant’s most popular menu item, the birria ramen, fuses Mexican and Japanese staples. Served in an instant ramen cup, the dish contains noodles cooked in birria broth, shredded birria meat, onion, cilantro and two cheese taquitos.



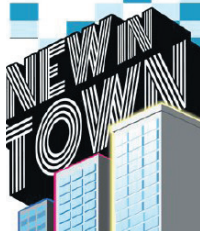


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CityPULSE

GiantMouse Knives cuts out a niche in Old Town



GiantMouse Knives

1131 N. Washington Ave., Lansing
Open by appointment
(989) 494-1866
giantmouse.com

By LEO V. KAPLAN

For 10 years, Jim Wirth has run his luxury knife brand, GiantMouse Knives, without a showroom.

The Michigan native was living in California when he started the company with Danish knife designers Jens Anso and Jesper Voxnaes in 2015. Initially meant as a side project between friends, the brand

has evolved into an international operation with a dedicated online fan base that combines outdoorsy types and connoisseurs of high-end craftsmanship.

In 2020, Wirth moved his family back to Michigan when one of his sons decided to attend Michigan State University, his own alma mater. In the years after, he operated the company out of a warehouse at the Lansing airport.

Then, in January, he bought a storefront on Washington Avenue in Old Town, securing a more comfortable office space for the staff and the brand's first-ever showroom. The brick and mortar opened Aug. 23 and is open by ap-



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Jim Wirth explains the intricacies of different GiantMouse knives in the brand's new Old Town showroom.

pointment for customers to explore the curated shelves of knives.

The knives primarily cater to outdoorsmen, although the brand also has a kitchen knife line that's currently out of stock. Wirth said he's not the most adventurous type, but the knives still come in handy.

"Many of our knives are great for everyday carry," he said. "I'm not an avid fisherman, hunter or camper, but I carry a knife because there's always something I have to cut open."

While a GiantMouse knife will cut a package open much easier than the keys on a keyring, it'll also cost \$200 or more

— for the lower tier. Wirth said many customers appreciate the knives for their craftsmanship as much as or more than their utility.

He said GiantMouse customers have a lot of overlap with artisanal watch fans. He even struck up a conversation with Anso and Voxnaes, whom he had originally met just to buy a knife from, because they were wearing the same watch brand as him.

"Many of the collectors that we sell to aren't really avid outdoor lifestyle people. They are just people who love fine things — fine craftsmanship, quality and construction — and brands that tell a story."

GiantMouse's storytelling comes through in the little things — multiple versions of the same knives with subtle differences in the logos, for instance, or knives designed for specific collaborations. The knives are sold in two lines: the GM line, a series of limited-edition releases, and the ACE line, which is primarily sold in the showroom. Most of the knives in the ACE line are named after dive bars, including The Riv, which pays homage to the East Lansing watering hole.

Wirth said he loves Old Town, particularly the "vintage, antique vibe" of the repurposed district. He also said the foot traffic is a huge bonus, especially because he is "toying" with the idea of opening up the showroom for retail or even expanding to a larger space, which would allow him to showcase more brands. Whatever his next steps may be, his focus will remain on quality craftsmanship.

"We have this bigger dream. We see there's a big opportunity with no small outdoor retailer in Lansing or East Lansing," he said. "We have very good friends at a number of other companies that we think would be a really good fit to bring into a bigger retail space that would offer not only GiantMouse's knives, but a sort of curated collection of products from other brands we really like."

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Keisha

Sponsored by Anne and Dale Schrader

Keisha

is a teenage husky/cattle dog mix who came to us from another shelter. She likes other dogs but can be a bit pushy so will need a tolerant male friend. She is a little worried right now and is looking for someone with some dog experience to help her see that the world isn't so scary. Right now we are recommending no tiny people in the home (she doesn't seem to be the kind of girl who will tolerate being hugged or grabbed by a tiny human). She's on the smaller side and is cute as can be. She just needs the right person to set her up for success!



Charlie McCarthy

Sponsored by "The Fonz" Charlie

is a sweet, easygoing boy who loves people and is happiest when he gets to go on walks and sniff all the wonderful scents the world has to offer. He enjoys the company of other dogs, though he'd prefer a gentle playmate who matches his relaxed style. With his friendly nature and laid-back charm, Charlie is ready to be someone's loyal companion for life's adventures and cozy evenings alike.



Nightshade

In memory of Rodica's Cats

Nightshade

My name is Nightshade, my foster Mom calls me Itty Bitty Kitty Boy because I was so tiny when she took me home. I'm a really good kitty boy! I am fun and friendly and love playing with my toys... my favorite toy is all of them! I also like playing with my humans and with dogs and cats! My other attributes are: I'm good at using the litter box, I'm not a picky eater, and I'm cuddly at naptime. I will be timid at first in my new home, but I will warm up by the next day and become adventurous and start running around and playing!

FROM FOSTER MOM: This little kitty is terrific! He is lovable, entertaining and friendly. He will make a great pet for any home.



Tommy Turtle

Sponsored by Kato and Mouse

Tommy

is a handsome guy who came to us from another shelter. We haven't had him long enough to get to know him but they tell us that he's the strong silent type who isn't pushy about asking for attention but once he's comfortable he loves to give gentle head butts asking for more! They say he's the perfect mix of low key and lovable with no drama or chaos. Just a home with a window to curl up next to and sun himself and someone to give him some love!

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Ads appear in the 3rd issue of each month. The next deadline is October 10th.

Riverwalk's 'Legally Blonde': Many cheers and (almost) no whining

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Finding a parking spot for Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Legally Blonde" can be a nightmare. Because so many people find the musical thoroughly enjoyable, it has been selling out. Anyone who doesn't arrive especially early will have trouble snagging any nearby parking.

That's it, I'm done whining. There is nothing else noteworthy in the play or its presentation for me to grumble about. In fact, there is much to love about the 2007 musical, adapted from the 2001 film, which itself was based on a novel by Amanda Brown. And every facet of Riverwalk's version is to be admired.

The colorful mainstage set, with its expansive, decorative floor and faux-brick proscenium with full curtains, immediately suggests Riverwalk's rendition of the show might be exceptional. The professional, eight-piece orchestra, led by Angie Schwab, booms magnificently from somewhere above, making that idea even more plausible. When colorfully costumed actors explode onto the stage, singing potently and dancing energetically, it's confirmed that Riverwalk has a hit.

The energy rarely lets up in the two-and-a-half-hour (with intermission) show. Brian Farnham's creative direction and spirited choreography keep the audience captivated. Animated characters appear on the runways above the audience, in the side turrets and among the seated patrons. Short scene changes feature clever distractions and always include stirring, orchestral interludes. There's never a tedious lull.

"Legally Blonde" is the story of Elle Woods' journey from a blonde sorority girl who gets into Harvard Law School to please an undeserving boyfriend to an empowered woman respected for her brilliance, despite her Malibu appearance. The plot is predictable, but the fast-moving ride is enjoyable anyway.

What's surprising is that much of the mostly young cast and production team are Riverwalk mainstage newcomers. Although Tess Klygis is a first timer, she wins the crowd's hearts as Woods and confidently carries most of the scenes and songs. All 22 of the often-operatic voices, lively dancers and convincing actors — no matter their age or experience — are suited for a major city stage. The 10 ensemble chameleons are always more than background pawns.

Farnham, a Riverwalk veteran, deserves another nod for his casting and coaching.



Review

"Legally Blonde: The Musical"

Sept. 18-21
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive,
Lansing
(517) 482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com

Kameron Going, who plays Professor Callahan, demonstrates why he keeps getting asked back. Going gives a likable performance as a loathsome character. Another standout is Lindsey Parr Hemming as loveable hairdresser Paulette Buonufonte. Live puppies Cookie and Ger-tie, as Bruiser and Rufus, had the audience cooing whenever they appeared. Ron Meyer's humorous portrayal of Kyle the delivery guy had the packed crowd howling.

Howls and screams of de-

light from the audience are frequent during "Legally Blonde" — especially after songs. Numbers like "So Much Better," "Positive," "Bend and Snap" and the catchy "Legally Blonde" warrant the roars that follow each rendition. And when the "Find My Way" finale is over, the deafening standing ovation is well deserved.



Photo by Aniriko Artistry

Ron Meyer (right) as Kyle the UPS guy and Lindsey Parr Hemming as Paulette Buonufonte in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Legally Blonde: The Musical."



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The unraveling of Viridis: A legacy of deception and greed



Courtesy photos

After reaching a settlement with the Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency, Viridis Laboratories' Lansing license was revoked, its Bay City license was transferred to its minority investors, and its founders — Greg Michaud (left), Todd Welch (center) and Michele Glinn — were banned from participating in the state's cannabis market.

By **CHRIS SILVA**

The recent and long-overdue revocation of Viridis Laboratories' licenses is a landmark moment for Michigan's cannabis industry. After years of legal battles, a settlement with the Cannabis Regulatory Agency has finally brought an end to what can only be described as a cynical exploitation of a fledgling market. This isn't just a story of one company's missteps; it's a cautionary tale about the dangers of prioritizing profit over public trust and a stark reminder that some figures simply shouldn't be allowed to operate in a regulated industry.

At the heart of Viridis' rise and fall is its founding triumvirate: Greg Michaud, Todd Welch and Michele Glinn. Their shared background as former Michigan State Police laboratory staffers was initially touted as a testament to their credibility. In reality, it was a veneer that hid a pattern of behavior that was anything but scientific. Michaud, the former director of the MSP's forensic science division, was a particularly troubling figure.

In a scandal that came to be known as

"The Great Cannabis Crime Lab Frame-Up," Michoud was at the center of a controversial policy change that predated his involvement with Viridis. He was reportedly pressured to implement a new, unpublicized policy where the crime lab would report THC found without other plant material simply as "THC," rather than "marijuana." This was a pivotal change because it enabled prosecutors to pursue harsher felony charges for synthetic drug possession, which carried a two-year prison sentence, against medical marijuana patients who would have otherwise faced a misdemeanor.

According to a Leafly investigation, this policy was implemented despite internal opposition from some lab analysts who were concerned about the ethical implications and the potential for wrongful convictions. These analysts were allegedly silenced by superiors who made it clear that the policy was to be followed without question. This incident, which reportedly contributed to Michoud's departure from his MSP leadership role, highlighted a willingness to manipulate scientific reporting for legal advantage, a pattern that would later be repeated at Viridis.

Viridis' alleged crimes were not a series of isolated incidents, but a systemic pattern of noncompliance. The CRA's investigation, which spanned years, alleged the company was using unapproved testing methods, manipulating data and deliberately inflating THC potency results.

The motivation was simple and predatory: Higher THC content commands a higher price on the market. By providing growers and dispensaries with artificially inflated results, Viridis gave them a competitive advantage, effectively pushing honest labs to the brink of collapse. Competitors who were following the rules found themselves unable to compete with Viridis' suspiciously high numbers.

The CRA investigation also alleges that Viridis failed to follow standard operating procedures when testing for the presence of banned pesticides and other contaminants in samples. In one egregious instance, an administrative law judge found that technicians misidentified visible mold on a sample and approved it for sale, allegedly referring to the mold as "mite poop."



The settlement that finally brought Viridis to its knees is a decisive victory for the CRA and a testament to the perseverance of a regulatory body facing down a determined legal challenge. The permanent ban on Michoud, Welch and Glinn from the state's cannabis industry sends an essential message: Those who exploit the system for personal gain will not be given a second chance.

For far too long, Viridis operated with a brazen disregard for the rules, all while leveraging a background in law enforcement to project an image of authority and expertise. The closure of its labs is not a tragedy; it's an act of justice. The Michigan cannabis industry is now stronger for it, having shed a parasite that was preying on its integrity. Let this be a lesson to all: In a market built on trust, there is no room for those who have a history of breaking it.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION By Order of the County Treasurer of Eaton County Thurs., October 16, 2025 Registration: 5:00 PM; AUCTION: 6:00 PM Location: Eaton County Governmental Complex 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813 Detailed info on parcels and terms at www.BippusUSA.com

CP#25-296

The proposed budget of the Ingham Conservation District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, will be presented to the Ingham District Board for final approval at the regular monthly meeting at 6pm, on September 25, 2025. The public is invited to comment on the proposed budget at this time. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the Ingham Conservation District Office, located at 1031 W Dexter Trl. Mason, MI 48854

CP#25-297

State of Michigan Probate Court, County of Ingham, Publication of Notice of Hearing, Case No. 25-1094-GM. In the matter of Elaina M. Lodbell: To all interested persons, including Elaina Lodbell, Teha Jones, Eric Lodbell, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: Take Notice: A hearing will be held on Oct. 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI before Judge Dunnings for the following purpose: Guardianship. Date: 9/17/2025. Petitioner: Susan Jones, 918 Pierce Rd., Lansing, MI 48910, 517-885-0894.

CP#25-307

REAL ESTATE AUCTION By order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County Tuesday, October 21, 2025 Registration: 8:30 AM - Auction 10:00 AM Location: The Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing MI Alan Fox, Treasurer, Ingham County 341 S. Jefferson St. Mason MI 517-676-7220 Detailed info on parcels and terms at www.BippusUSA.com

CP#25-299

Lansing Lit encourages reading in a book-burning climate

By **BILL CASTANIER**

A recent federal study called The Nation's Report Card found reading and math scores for K-12 students have reached an all-time low. Many experts blame the growth of smartphones as a contributing factor.

A T-shirt I saw being worn by a retired teacher might have the answer: "Read a book," it repeated a dozen times.

That's the implied message of this week's Lansing Lit Festival, featuring authors, a boozy book crawl, poetry readings and a book scavenger hunt, among many other events.

Numerous area bookstores, literary organizations, nonprofits and businesses are sponsors, including City Pulse. Check our back cover this week for the schedule or go to lansinglit.com.

Lansing Lit's second year coincides with Christian Cooper's appearance as part of the citywide reading program called One Grand Read. His memoir, "Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in a Natural World," details his life as a gay man and how it intertwines with his passion for birding. He also includes a tempered retelling of the Central Park fiasco, where he confronted a dog walker for not following leashing regulations in certain areas of the park. The woman called the police to report she was being confronted by a Black man. Unfortunately for the woman, Cooper had used his phone to record the entire interaction and posted it online.

Cooper will appear at the MSU Library at 3 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 20).



Courtesy photo

Graphic novelist Jeffrey Wilson discusses his book "We Live Here: Detroit Eviction Defense and the Battle for Housing Justice" at Hooked bookstore during the inaugural Lansing Lit Festival in 2024.

The event is free, as are all Lansing Lit events.

Poets will take the stage several times during the three-day excursion. A Novel Concept will host Olivia Gatwood for a poetry reading at 7 p.m. Friday. At the same time, Lansing Community College will host a reading for its own home-grown poets at Dart Auditorium in downtown Lansing.

One interesting twist will occur at Robin Books, which is asking patrons to come prepared to talk about their favorite book. It's kind of like a high school book report but a lot more fun.

Schuler Books in Okemos is hosting

local author, illustrator and lawyer Amy L. Dua for a story time at 11 a.m. Saturday. Dua has written an engaging series of four children's books called "Woe is Me."

REACH Studio Art Center will take participants on a journey to learn how to create zines, which is still a powerful medium for thoughtful topics and just fun and wacky things. For the uninitiated, zines are the precursor to blogs and podcasts.

Events continue through Sunday, culminating in an appearance at Hooked by Greta Lynn Uehling, author of "Decolonizing Ukraine: How the Indigenous

People of Crimea Remade Themselves After Russian Occupation." Uehling is a cultural anthropologist who teaches at the University of Michigan and spent decades working in Ukraine. She is also the author of "Everyday War: The Conflict over Donbas, Ukraine."

Beginning at noon Sunday, REO Clubhouse will host what the festival is calling "bookish vendors," who will sell their wares throughout the day.

This year's Lansing Lit Festival comes at a time when a "Fahrenheit 451" burn-the-books approach is growing. Recently, The New York Times reported books in federally designated historic sites were being removed from gift shops because they covered topics such as slavery. And just this month, an Indiana school district banned "Forrest Gump" and "The Handmaid's Tale," among others, on the grounds of portraying explicit sex.

ART BY NEVIN

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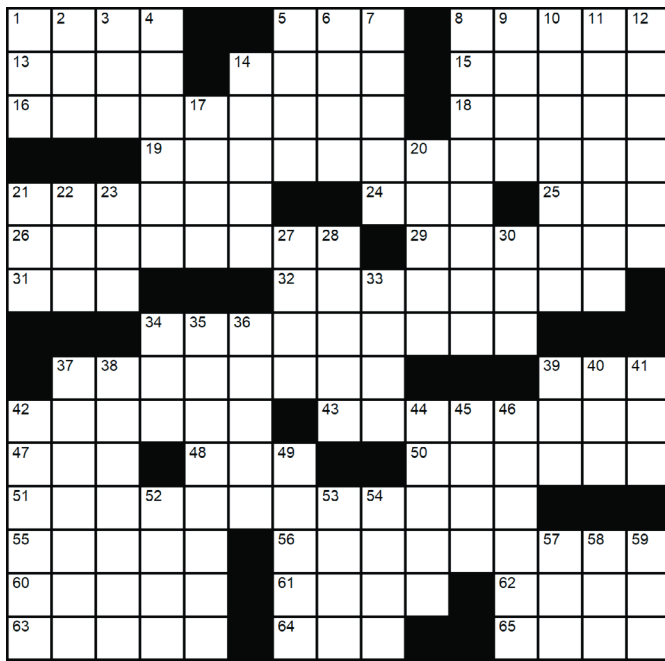
MichiganFlyer

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Oh, It's Ong” -- or is it awn?
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

- ACROSS**
- Get from _____ (progress slowly)
 - Simple sandwich
 - Janssen who played a “GoldenEye” Bond girl
 - Gujarat wrap
 - Cookie that has a “List of varieties” Wikipedia page
 - Greg Evans comic strip
 - Young deer named after Ulysses Grant's real first name?
 - Element #18
 - From one edge of the grass to the opposite edge?
 - Musical homage to Napoleon
 - Psi preceder
 - Alias letters
 - Holy swimmer?
 - Adult
 - Detonation maker
 - Suggestion to put in more quarters?
 - Starting points of a new car scratch era?
 - 1964 Lennon/McCartney song that's nowhere near the Beck song
 - TV alien
 - Chaotic end (but not beginning)?
 - NYC publisher of Kurt Vonnegut, Stephen King, and Edith Wharton
 - Prefix for center
 - Cash quantity
 - Leisurely tempo
 - Like some platters with cocktail sauce?
 - Alaska Highway, formerly

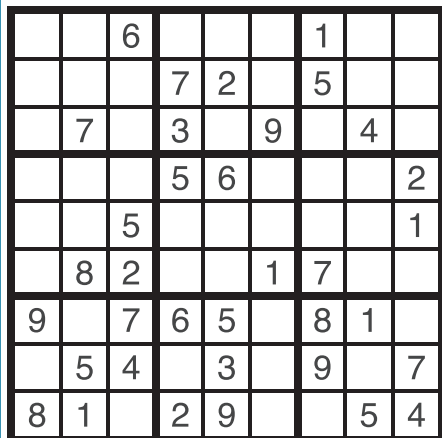


- Author who's up on her Philly slang?
- Anti-inflammatory drug acronym
- “Jokes ____ Can't Tell” (recurring “Late Night” segment)
- Cartoon canine
- Bubbly Nestle bars sold in England
- Took a break
- Lightning zigzag
- Power player
- Metal attachment to a giant door
- Group of nine
- “Cry ‘Havoc!’, and let slip the dogs ____” (“Julius Caesar” quote)
- Armor-busting weapon
- Shakespeare's “The Taming of the ____”
- Medevac worker
- Operated
- 10th mo.
- Custard ingredients
- Puts away, as cargo
- Colorado NHL team, in headlines
- Fashion designer Jacobs
- Indian dish with lentils
- Symbolic bringers of bad fortune
- “For real”
- Driving force
- Location of letters on a train
- “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” director Lee
- Aloha gift
- To and ____
- Week, in Oaxaca
- Sauce made with buttermilk
- Concept
- Poor performance
- Attire
- “Dynamite” singer Cruz
- General vicinity
- '80s skating champion Katarina
- Much fuss
- Actor Wheaton
- Ice hockey goal

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SUDOKU

Beginner



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

Sept. 17-23, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Hindu goddess Durga rides a tiger and carries weapons in her 10 hands, including a sword, axe and thunderbolt. Yet she wears a pleasant smile. Her mandate to aid the triumph of good over evil is not fueled by hate but by luminous clarity and loving ferocity. I suggest you adopt her attitude, Aries. Can you imagine yourself as a storm of joy and benevolence? Will you work to bring more justice and fairness into the situations you engage with? I imagine you speaking complex and rugged truths with warmth and charm. I see you summoning a generous flair as you help people climb out of their sadness and suffering. If all goes well, you will magnetize others to participate in shared visions of delight and dignity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Born under the sign of Taurus, Maya Deren first expressed her extravagant creative urges as a writer, poet, photographer, clothing designer and dancer. But then she made a radical change, embarking on a new path as an experimental filmmaker. She said she had “finally found a glove that fits.” Her movies were highly influential among the avant-garde in the 1940s and 1950s. I bring Deren to your attention, Taurus, because I suspect that in the coming months, you, too, will find a glove that fits. And it all starts soon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In medieval times, alchemists believed mercury was a sacred substance and divine intermediary. They knew that it's the only metal that's liquid at room temperature. This quality, along with its silvery sheen (why it's called “quicksilver”), made it seem like a bridge between solid and liquid, earth and water, heaven and earth, life and death. I nominate mercury as your power object, Gemini. You're extra well-suited to navigate liminal zones and transitional states. You may be the only person in your circle who can navigate paradox and speak in riddles and still make sense. It's not just cleverness. It's wisdom wrapped in whimsy. So, please offer your in-between insights freely. PS: You have another superpower, too: You can activate dormant understandings in both other people's hearts and your own.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In the western Pacific Ocean, there's a species of octopus that builds its lair from coconut shells. The creature gathers together husks, dragging them across the seafloor, and fits them together. According to scientists, this use of tools by an invertebrate is unique. Let's make the coconut octopus your power creature for now, Cancerian. You will have extra power to forge a new sanctuary or renovate an existing one, either metaphorically or literally. You will be wise to draw on what's nearby and readily available, maybe even using unusual or unexpected building materials.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I invite you to contemplate the meaning of the phrase “invisible architecture.” My dream told me it will be a theme for you in the coming weeks. What does it mean? What does it entail? Here are my thoughts: Structures are taking shape within you that may not yet be visible from the outside. Bridges are forming between once-disconnected parts of your psyche and life. You may not need to do much except consent to the slow emergence of these semi-amazing expressions of integrity. Be patient and take notes. Intuitions arriving soon may be blueprints for future greatness. Here's the kicker: You're not just building for yourself. You're working on behalf of your soul kin, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A supple clarity is crystallizing within you. Congratulations! It's not a brittle or rigid certainty but a knack for limber discernment. I predict you will have an extra potent gift for knowing what truly matters, even amid chaos or complication. As this superpower reaches full ripeness, you can aid the process by clearing out clutter and refining your foundational values. Make these words your magic spells: quintessence, core, crux, gist, lifeblood, root.

PS: Be alert for divine messages in seemingly mundane circumstances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The ancient Mesopotamian goddess Inanna was called “the queen of heaven.” Her domains were politics, divine law, love and fertility. She was a powerhouse. One chapter of her mythic story tells of her descent into the underworld. She was stripped of everything — clothes, titles, weapons — before she could be reborn. Why did she do it? Scholars say she was on a quest for greater knowledge and an expansion of her authority. And she was successful! I propose we make her your guide and companion in the coming weeks, Libra. You are at the tail end of your own descent. The stripping is almost complete. Soon you will feel the first tremors of return — not loud, not triumphant, but sure. I have faith that your adventures will make you stronger and wiser, as Inanna's did for her.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In ancient Rome, the dye called Tyrian purple was used exclusively for garments worn by royalty and top officials. It had a humble origin: murex snails. Their glands yielded a pale liquid that darkened into an aristocratic violet only after sun, air and time worked upon it. I'm predicting you will be the beneficiary of comparable alchemical transformations in the coming weeks. A modest curiosity could lead to a major breakthrough. A passing fancy might ripen into a rich blessing. Seemingly nondescript encounters may evolve into precious connections.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Bees can see ultraviolet patterns in flowers that are invisible to humans. These “nectar guides” direct bees to the flower's nectar and pollen, functioning like landing strips. Let's apply these fun facts as metaphors for your life, Sagittarius. I suspect that life is offering you subtle yet radiant cues leading you to sources you will be glad to connect with. To be fully alert for them, you may need to shift and expand the ways you use your five senses. The universe is, in a sense, flirting with you, sending you clues through dream logic and nonrational phenomena. Follow the shimmering glimmers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): At the height of her powers, Egyptian pharaoh Hatshepsut declared, “I have restored what had been ruined. I have raised up what had dissolved.” You now have a similar gift at your disposal, Capricorn. If you harness it, you will gain an enhanced capacity to unify what has been scattered, to reforge what was broken and to resurrect neglected dreams. To fulfill this potential, you must believe in your own sovereignty — not as a form of domination, but of devotion. Start with your own world. Make beauty where there was noise. Evoke dignity where there was confusion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the high Himalayas, there's a flower called Saussurea obvallata — the Brahma Kamal. It blooms only at night and for a short time, releasing a scent that legend says can heal grief. This will be your flower of power for the coming weeks, Aquarius. It signifies that a rare and time-sensitive gift will be available, and that you must be alert to gather it in. My advice: Don't schedule every waking hour. Leave space for mystery to arrive unannounced. You could receive a visitation, an inspiration or a fleeting insight that can change everything. It may assuage and even heal sadness, confusion, aimlessness or demoralization.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The human heart beats 100,000 times per day, 35 million times per year and 2.5 billion times in an average lifetime. It's the most reliable “machine” ever created, working continuously and mostly without special maintenance for decades. Although you Pisceans aren't renowned for your stability and steadiness, I predict that in the coming weeks, you will be as staunch, constant and secure as a human heart. What do you plan to do with this grace period? What marvels can you accomplish?

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

Wednesday, Sept. 17

"A Beautiful Noise" - Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, "A Beautiful Noise" is the true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, show-stopping rock icon. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

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

Apple Festival at Allen Farmers Market - Celebrate apple season with us! This year's festival is sponsored by BWL, and we'll have craft vendor Herding Cats indoors. 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/allen-farmers-market.

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

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.

Bingo Night Cruise-In - All drivers and passengers will receive bingo cards so they can play along, plus free admission to R.E. Olds Transportation Museum. Our cruise-ins are for all makes, models and years! 5-7:30 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Bookend Gallery Display - The Bookend welcomes Sue Wittick to our gallery wall for the month of September. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Broadway Jazz Dance Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 7-8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

CDBG Community Workshop - This workshop will focus on how CDBG funds may be used to support public service activities that benefit low- to moderate-income East Lansing residents. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Class: Pumpkin Trio w/ Elements Specialty Glazes - Paint three ceramic pumpkins, each in a different faux-knit style. We'll be using our Elements specialty glazes. 6-9 p.m. Playing Picasso, 300 N Clippert St., Ste. 15A, Lansing. playingpicasso.com.

Code Club - Learn to make apps, animations and more! No coding expertise necessary. Drop-ins welcome. Grades 3+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org/project/learncoding.

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

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

Group Dance Class: Beginning Salsa - Salsa is a dynamic, vibrant dance characterized by its energetic

footwork, fluid turns and rhythmic hip movements. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Ingham County Democratic Party Community Meeting - Please join fellow Democrats interested in electing accountable leaders who truly represent the people. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fiesta Charra, 2706 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. inghamcountymodemocrat-icparty.net.

Ingham County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post Open House - For young adults (ages 14-21) interested in criminal justice. Meet current explorers and advisers, and learn how to become a member. 6-8 p.m. Ingham County Sheriff's Office, 630 N. Cedar St., Mason. 517-676-8224.

Jessey Adams Live at Dublin Square - 9 p.m.-midnight. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. facebook.com/dublinsquare.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, with Big Man Genesis - 9-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansing-shuffle.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. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Latino Night - Enjoy live music, drink/food specials and an exclusive food menu. Net proceeds benefit St. Vincent De Paul Cristo Rey Church. 6-10 p.m. The Irish Pub, 1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. facebook.com/IrishPubLansing.

The Lemmon Slave Case and the Fight for Freedom: Constitution Day Event - Former judge and author Albert M. Rosenblatt, author of "The Eight: The Lemmon Slave Case and the Fight for Freedom," will speak alongside the descendants of "The Eight" involved in the case. 10:45 a.m.-noon. LCC Gannon Building, 600 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc1957.wufoo.com.

Meridian Summer Concert Series: Frog & the Beftones (blues rock) - Free. 6:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

Michigan BluesFest Kickoff Concert - Featuring performances by Gavin McDonnell and Tom Duffield & Friends. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

National Voter Registration Day - We'll have registration information and public computers to help process your registration. We can check polling locations and other civic information. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Observational Drawing, with Caitlin Schneider - In this four-part class, we'll cover the fundamentals of how to slow down and draw from life observation to make an accurate representation. 6-8 p.m. Tiny Bit of Wood, 507 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. tinybitofwood.com.

Protecting Your Identity from Theft - In this one-hour session, we'll discuss how to spot and stop identity theft, as well as what you can do if your identity has already been stolen. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

517 Hispanic Heritage Weekend

Thursday, Sept. 18-Sunday, Sept. 21
Downtown Lansing

The Ourspace Foundation will help kick off Hispanic Heritage Month with its annual Hispanic Heritage Weekend, bringing four days of cultural entertainment and education to downtown Lansing.

The weekend begins with a wellness seminar at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at City Hall, welcoming four panelists to share insights on mental health, financial growth, professional development and cultural pride. Speakers include Adriana Lopez-Ellis, the Lansing Economic Area Partnership's small business liaison; Alejandra Rojas, the founder of Brown Way to Money, a financial education platform for women entrepreneurs; Rafael Gonzalez, a financial and housing counselor; and Trini Lopez-Pehlivanoglu, an at-large member of the Lansing City Council. The discussion will be moderated by Yesenia Murillo, the leader of the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services team that administers the statewide minority health program.

A Latin dance class at 6 p.m. Friday on the Lansing Shuffle Patio will teach beginners the basics of salsa and bachata, with a mixer and dance party featuring beats by DJ E-Nyce to follow.

The weekend's biggest event, the Taste of Hispanic Heritage Festival, runs from 3:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday in front of the Capitol, offering more than 50 Hispanic vendors and food trucks, a liquor trailer, a kids' zone, luchador wrestling, performances by the CasArt Foundation dancers, live music by BachaPopi and the Meche Trejo Band, and additional music by DJ Dolo.

The weekend wraps up with a Latin jazz night at 6 p.m. Sunday on the Lansing Shuffle patio, featuring "a captivating blend of salsa, Latin jazz and Afro-Caribbean rhythms" by Michigan State University's Salsa Verde ensemble and DJ Dolo. Attendees are invited to grab a drink and relax to the soulful sounds or get up and groove on the dance floor.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit 517hispanicheritage.com.



Puppy Yoga - Get ready to downward dog with adorable puppies running around, bringing joy and relaxation to your yoga practice. 7:15 p.m. Canines for Change Training and Enrichment Center, 5573 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. shorturl.at/AQ3nQ.

Tap II Class for Teens & Adults - 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Weaving the Web: Spiral Path - Join us online or in person every Wednesday for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Wine Knot - Love knitting, crocheting, weaving or other forms of fiber art? Love wine? This is the event for you! Connect with others and work on projects while sipping wine! 5-7:30 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Women's Healing Circle - A space for women to share their stories, inspire each other and lift each other up. 8:30-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Youth Group Dance Class: Beginning East Coast Swing - East Coast Swing is considered a relatively easy swing dance to learn, making it popular for beginners. 4 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Thursday, Sept. 18

"A Beautiful Noise" - Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, "A Beautiful Noise" is the true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, show-stopping rock icon. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Acting 101 Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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Events

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Al-Anon Meeting - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. cmialanon.org.

Al-Anon Meeting - 8 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cmialanon.org.

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

Bang the Pots! Stop Starvation in Gaza! - Bring a pot and a wooden spoon to bang with; bring signs with the message. Gazans are starving, and our government is largely responsible. 5-6 p.m. Grand River median at Abbot Road in East Lansing. Sponsored by the Palestine Interfaith Network.

Bath Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath.

Ben Awrey Live at Dublin Square - 9 p.m.-midnight. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. facebook.com/dublinsquare.

Bike Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Stop by for a bit and relax with some great food and drink specials! It's also Taco Thursday! 6-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Bookend Gallery Display - The Bookend welcomes Sue Wittick to our gallery wall for the month of September. Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Charlotte Community Library Board Meeting - The board meets the third Thursday of every month in the library's Spartan Room. 7 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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.

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1-3:30 p.m. McLaren Greater Lansing Event Center, 3101 Discovery Drive, Ste. 200, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Dimondale Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Village Square, 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. facebook.com/dimondalefarmersmarket.

ENERGO Boiler System Treatment Seminar - 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/energo-corporation-299323287219.

Escape the Fate - Post-hardcore outfit Escape the Fate hits Grewal Hall, with support from The Haunt. 7 p.m. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Grand River Country Club: Fall Edition - Glow golf is back under the evening sky, with glow-in-the-dark balls, LED targets and glow swag for every player. 8-10:30 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing/ballpark/golf.

Group Dance Class: Beginning American-Style Rhumba - A rhythmic dance with a "slow, quick, quick" step pattern, emphasizing hip movements and a flowing, rocking motion. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Hello Fall Pumpkins Paint Party & Fundraiser - Choose a pallet cutout or an 11-by-14 canvas for this design. This is a fundraiser for JCI Lansing. 6:30-9 p.m. Buddy's Pizza, 2010 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. paintyourpoison.com.

Henry Herig Live at Cleats Bar & Grille - 6-9 p.m. 5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. 517-574-4008. cleatsbarandgrille.com.

International Peace Day Celebration - An engaging conversation including UN sustainable development goals and interfaith dialogue. 4:30-6 p.m. Alumni Memorial Chapel, 636 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Intro to Acting/Improv Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4-4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Ladies' Silver Blades - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Biggby Coffee Ice Cube, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

Midwest Dermatology Institute Two-Year Anniversary Party - Enjoy live Botox and SkinPen demos, skincare spotlights from EltaMD and PCA, games, prizes, giveaways and light bites. 5-7 p.m. 2133 University Park Drive, Okemos. mwderminstitute.com.

MELT Thursdays - UrbanBeat turns up the heat with a weekly electronic music series. Featured performers: DJ ClubKid, Chet Dez, Big Sherm. No cover. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Michigan BluesFest Benefit Concert for KidzBeat - Featuring performances by Clique Vocals and the Jeff Baldori Blues Band. 6 p.m. urbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

MSU Volleyball vs. Binghamton University - 6 p.m. Jenison Field House, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

Open Jam! | Third Thursday of Every Month - Whether you play guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dobro, bass or another instrument, you're invited to join in — even if you know only a few songs or chords. 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Rock-Steady Boxing - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Pasta for Patriots - The public is invited to enjoy a delicious pasta dinner (\$10 per meal) while helping support hospitalized veterans. Guests are encouraged to bring supply donations such as new men's clothing, hygiene items, gift cards, snacks and more. 4-7 p.m. American Legion, 5480 Clark Road, Bath. bathlegionaux@gmail.com.

Pour Decisions Trivia Night - Gather a team of four, grab a drink and enjoy a fun-filled evening of laughs and friendly competition. Enjoy \$1 off glasses of wine during the event. 6-8 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Roy Book Binder at The Robin - Join us for a performance by master storyteller and fingerstyle blues guitarist Roy Book Binder! BYOB from Sleepwalker. 8 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble: Performing Group for All Ages - Meets twice per week. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Feeders Pet Supply parking lot, 5016 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. facebook.com/SouthLansingFarmersMarket.

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 Live Concert Series: Mason High School Marching Band - Free. 6:30 p.m. Ingham

Cracked Pot Studio Tour

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday,
Sept. 20-Sunday, Sept. 21
Multiple locations

The annual Cracked Pot Studio Tour returns this weekend, inviting art enthusiasts to explore several local ceramic artists' and sculptors' studios on a self-guided driving tour, encountering art displays, demonstrations and opportunities to chat with the artists along the way. Much of the art will be for sale, with proceeds directly benefiting the artists. Host artists include Nancy and Lee Kronenberg, Jim Feldkamp, Virginia Casaday, Doug DeLind, Bill Selanders, Marie Gougeon, Ned Krouse, Suzanne and Mike Amann, Jane Hildebrand and Mary Fritz, though many more local creatives will exhibit their work throughout the weekend. The tour will take participants across the Lansing area, from Laingsburg to Howell. Admission is free. For a map of locations, a full list of participating artists and a detailed schedule of demonstrations, visit crackedpotstudiotour.com.



County Courthouse lawn, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason. facebook.com/masonchamber.

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

Friday, Sept. 19

"A Beautiful Noise" - Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, "A Beautiful Noise" is the true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, show-stopping rock icon. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

Bookend Gallery Display - The Bookend welcomes Sue Wittick to our gallery wall for the month of September. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Candlestick Holder Workshop, with Debbie Carlos - Participants will learn a couple of simple hand-building techniques to create the basic form, and the rest is up to your imagination. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tiny Bit of Wood, 507 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. tinybitofwood.com.

Cecilia - This Canadian trio brings the best of many musical worlds together in its explorations of traditional Celtic and Quebecois music. 7:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

The Coffeehouse at All Saints - Monthly showcase of Michigan-based musical and spoken-word talent. Bring a snack/drink to share. Free. 7:30-9:30 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/TheCoffeehouseAtAllSaints.

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.

Cruise to Holt - All types and years of cars, trucks and bikes welcome. No entry fee! Spectators encouraged. Food truck on the first and third Friday of the month. 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market parking lot, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

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

Full House Band Live at Mash Bar - 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

Garage Sale Band Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - GSB rocks the house with some great rock 'n' roll tunes from the '70s to today. 7:30-10:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Grand River Country Club: Fall Edition - Glow golf is back under the evening sky, with glow-in-the-dark balls, LED targets and glow swag for every player. 8-10:30 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing/ballpark/golf.

Lansing LIT - A weekend-long celebration of Lansing's exceptional literary scene, featuring live performances, author visits, a bookstore crawl and more. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Various locations — see schedule at lansinglit.com.

Michigan BluesFest - Experience the rhythm and heart of the blues across three stages in beautiful Old Town, Lansing. 5-11 p.m. micharts.org.

Michigan Heritage Rodeo - Featuring top rodeo contestants from coast to coast, Michigan Heritage Rodeo will offer thrilling competitions, cultural and educational exhibits, music and engaging activities for all ages. 7 p.m. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. michiganheritagerodeo.com.

Minecraft Club - Join other kids and play Minecraft on the Library's private server. Laptops will be provided. 4-5 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

MSU Volleyball vs. Bowling Green State University - 6 p.m. Jenison Field House, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

Open Irish Jam! | Third Friday of Every Month - Open jam session focusing on Irish traditional music. All skill levels welcome. Bring your instruments and we'll share some tunes. 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Pokémon Pottery Painting Workshop - We'll have a few adorable samples that you can use as inspiration, or you can make something new! All ages welcome. 6-9 p.m. Playing Picasso, 300 N. Clippert St., Ste. 15A, Lansing. playingpicasso.com.

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Events

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“Ride the Cyclone” - This popular musical is a funny, moving look at what makes a life well lived. 7 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Rory Nevins Live at the Peanut Barrel - 8-10 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

Sultry Salsa Fridays - Dance salsa, merengue, bachata, cumbia, cha-cha and a touch of reggaeton to songs by the hottest Latin music DJ, Incognito. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. La Mulata Restaurant & Bar, 5334 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. sultrysalsa.com.

TGIF Demin & Diamonds Dance Party - Doors 7 p.m., line dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dance 8 p.m. to midnight. DJ Jim Kitchen in the house. Dinner buffet provided. Cash/credit bar available. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

Triple Lindy Live at Pins & Pints - 7-9 p.m. 2120 E. Saginaw Hwy., East Lansing. 517-337-7000. pinsandpints.net.

Saturday, Sept. 20

“A Beautiful Noise” - Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, “A Beautiful Noise” is the true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, show-stopping rock icon. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

A Curious Celebration - Dig out your yellow hats and join us for a celebration of everyone’s favorite curious monkey! Ages 3-12. Registration req. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

Bonsai Show - The Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club presents a large display of expertly crafted bonsai trees, plus on-site bonsai demonstrations and vendors offering trees, tools and supplies. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Van Atta’s Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett. midmichiganbonsai.com.

Bookend Gallery Display - The Bookend welcomes Sue Wittick to our gallery wall for the month of September. Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Brush Drop-Off - 8 a.m.-noon. Recycling Center, 1418 Grovenburg Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

Capital City River Run - Half-marathon and 5K begin at 8 a.m. in front of the Lansing Center (333 E. Michigan Ave.). Kids’ race begins at 11 a.m. at Impression 5 Science Center (200 Museum Drive). runsignup.com/ccrr.

Capo the Second Live at Pins & Pints - 7-9 p.m. 2120 E. Saginaw Hwy., East Lansing. 517-337-7000. pinsandpints.net.

Captain Fantastic Detroit: Tribute to Elton John - Ron Foss’s piano style and vocals will have you thinking you’re at a real-life Elton John concert. 7 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. facebook.com/charlottepacmi.

Cocaine Anonymous Meeting - “We are here and we are free.” 10 a.m. St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing.

Contra and Square Dance - All dances taught. No partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

The Dangling Particles Live at Graham Vineyards

- 6-9 p.m. 8920 W Britton Road, Laingsburg. 517-741-0805. facebook.com/grahamvineyards.

Fall Electronics Recycling Day & Coat Collection - In addition to recycling unwanted electronics, Meridian Cares will accept new and gently used coats, snow pants and boots for its annual coat drive. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Fall Forward — Equinox Sound Guided Meditation - Through reflection and intent, aided by the peaceful, haunting sounds of the Native American flute in a natural setting, explore what we need to surrender and harvest to harmoniously navigate the coming changes. 1-3:30 p.m. To confirm your spot and get the location, text 517-242-6076.

Free Zine Workshop at REACH Studio Art Center - Learn how to make your own magazine and browse unique reads at our pop-up bookstore, hosted by Socialight Society. All are welcome! 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/REACHStudioArtCenter.

Game Night - We’ll provide a selection of games, but you’re welcome to bring your own to share and teach. You can also bring snacks or drinks for yourself or to share. 5-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Grand River Country Club: Fall Edition - Grand River Country Club has created a unique nine-hole, 27-shot experience that spans the entire 360-degree concourse. 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing/ballpark/golf.

HearseFest - We’ll have our usual costume contest, pinebox derby and loads of vendors both indoors and outdoors! Only \$2 for spectators. No fee for participating hearse drivers and passengers. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fowlerville Fairgrounds, 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. facebook.com/justhearsenaround.

Intermediate Ballet Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Ishi Odamttan Foundation Charity Golf Tournament - Enjoy 18 holes of golf while supporting a great cause. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Prairie Creek Golf Course, 800 E. Webb Drive, DeWitt. eventbrite.com/o/ishi-odamttan-foundation-29475265611.

Lansing LIT - A weekend-long celebration of Lansing’s exceptional literary scene, featuring live performances, author visits, a bookstore crawl and more. 9:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Various locations — see schedule at lansinglit.com.

Locked In: The Last Bar Bender - A high-octane gathering of emcees, vocalists and DJs, each bending their own style to ignite the stage. 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Sirens Bar, 119 E. Walker St., St. Johns. brownpapertickets.com/event/6687019.

Mashville Country Takeover, with the Evan James Band - Throw on your boots and grab your hat, Nashville comes to Mash Bar. 7:30-11 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

Meet and Greet with Actor Alphonso Settles - Mingle, take photos and maybe even snag an autograph. Don’t miss out on this chance to meet a rising star in the entertainment industry! 4-6 p.m. Paint with Monet, 909 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/chelsea-lawson-111691065641.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

Michigan BluesFest - Experience the rhythm and heart of the blues across three stages in beautiful Old Town, Lansing. Noon-11 p.m. micharts.org.

Michigan Heritage Rodeo - Featuring top rodeo contestants from coast to coast, Michigan Heritage Rodeo will offer thrilling competitions, cultural and educational exhibits, music and engaging activities for all ages. 7 p.m. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. michiganheritagerodeo.com.

Mike Arnold Live on the Patio at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Arnold will perform some great clas-

sic rock and country tunes. 5-8 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

MSU Volleyball vs. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville - 6 p.m. Jenison Field House, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

Oktoberfest Dinner and Dance - Delicious German food, beverages, music, dirndls and lederhosens! 5-10 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. facebook.com/LansingLiederkrantzClub.

One Grand Read Author Visit: Christian Cooper - Join Cooper for a discussion of “Better Living Through Birding,” a story of birds, identity and resilience in America. 3-5 p.m. Kellogg Hotel, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. onegrandread.com.

Parents’ Night Out: Martial Arts & Magick - Drop your child off at Keys to Manifestation for an immersive evening of martial arts training, mythic storytelling, magical games and crafts. This high-energy night is designed for pagan kids ages 5 and up. 6-10 p.m. 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Plant for Peace - David Caszatt and Don Dickman will share information on their work to transform 125 acres inundated with Buckthorn, an invasive species. The day will include a few hours of work freeing trees from protective tubes and fencing them in. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet at corner of Margate Lane and Horizon Drive, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

“Ride the Cyclone” - This popular musical is a funny, moving look at what makes a life well lived. 3 and 7 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

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.

University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Hair-a-Thon - If you care to share your hair for kids in need, volunteer stylists will be on site to provide free cuts for donation. 9 a.m.-noon. Herbert-Herman Cancer Center, 1140 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. uofmhealthsparrow.org.

Village Crafters Homemade Happiness Craft Show - Mason Girl Scouts will serve lunch and sell baked goods. Our service project will benefit Mason Community Services. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/villagecraftersgroup.

Youth Group Dance Class: Beginning East Coast Swing - East Coast Swing is considered a relatively easy swing dance to learn, making it popular for beginners. 11:30 a.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Sunday, Sept. 21

\$5 Chop Shop: Lansing Makers Network Fundraiser - Project Stuck? Need something cut? Metal or wood, panels or pipes, let us help. We’ll cut, trim, or drill your items for just \$5 each. Noon-4 p.m. 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingMakersNetwork.

“A Beautiful Noise” - Created in collaboration with Neil Diamond himself, “A Beautiful Noise” is the true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, show-stopping rock icon. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 1-5 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

Auditions: “The Best We Could” (a family tragedy) - Show dates: Nov. 7-9 and 13-16. 6-9 p.m. Sycamore Creek Church, 1919 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. facebook.com/peppermintcreek.

Bonsai Show - The Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club presents a large display of expertly crafted bonsai trees, plus on-site bonsai demonstrations and vendors offering trees, tools and supplies. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Van Atta’s Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett. midmichiganbonsai.com.

Book Show & Tell - Remember the joy of sharing your favorite things with the class during show and tell? We’re bringing that feeling back — with a grown-up twist. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/TheRobinTheatre.

Conversations with the Runes: Spirits, Symbols and Practice - This ongoing workshop series is designed to deepen your connection with the runes through history, storytelling, animism and hands-on practice. 3-5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Drum Circle at Lake Lansing Park North - 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. 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket.

Grand River Country Club: Fall Edition - Grand River Country Club has created a unique nine-hole, 27-shot experience that spans the entire 360-degree concourse. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing/ballpark/golf.

Green Man Work Day - We’ll get together and take care of some projects that need doing, either at the church building or on our property. We’ll finish the day with a shared feast. Noon-5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers - Jugglers meet
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EVERY BRILLIANT THING

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DUNCAN MACMILLAN
WITH JOHNNY DONAHOE

OCT. 2 - 26, 2025



A deeply moving play
about life’s simple joys.
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

WILLIAMSTONTHEATRE.ORG

Events

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at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

Lansing LIT - A weekend-long celebration of Lansing's exceptional literary scene, featuring live performances, author visits, a bookstore crawl and more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Various locations — see schedule at lansinglit.com.

Mega Mall Outdoor Flea Market - There will be tons of vendors, antiques and unique finds, plus food vendors and a DJ. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 15487 Old U.S. 27, Lansing. 517-487-3275.

Peace Sunday: Sermon on Peace, by Okemos Community Church Senior Pastor Dillon Burns - All are welcome. 10 a.m. 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Pretty Shaky String Band Concert - The Shakeys are a fun-loving band serving up old-time and traditional music from Appalachia, the Midwest and beyond. 2 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 N. Meridian Road, Williamston. facebook.com/stkatherinesepiscopalchurch.

Quaker Meeting for Worship - Rich communal silence that invites thinking deeply, developing spiritually, loving fully, speaking our truths. Children's program provided. 10:30 a.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org.

"Ride the Cyclone" - This popular musical is a funny, moving look at what makes a life well lived. 3 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Sing Out for Peace! A Singalong and Concert for All - Come together to sing or just to listen. There will be songs that inspire peace — some that you know, and some that are new. 6:30 p.m. Red Cedar Friends Building, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Sound Bowl Immersive Experience - This immersive sensory journey uses the soothing vibrations of singing bowls to create a calming soundscape that helps quiet both mind and body. 4 p.m. Nurture Studios, 257 S. Bridge St., Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/compassionately-bri-53247017153.

Sultry Salsa #101, From the Beginning - Learn the basics of salsa dance in this intensive mini boot-camp! 2-5 p.m. La Mulata Restaurant & Bar, 5334 S. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., Lansing. sultrysalsa.com.

Sun Day Fest: Utility Affordability and Energy Transformation - Food, music, art, information, assistance. Featuring discussion of water and energy affordability and key state programs that can make our homes safer, more comfortable and better for the environment. 2-4:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Welcoming the New Neighbor: A Christian Dialogue on Refugees and Immigrants - This six-week session is facilitated by Stephanie Nawyn, an MSU associate professor who specializes in migration and refugees, human trafficking and resettlement. 11:30 a.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Williamston Farm & Artisan Market - Shop for produce, baked goods, handmade artisan products and more while enjoying live music, craft activities for the kids and interactive art. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. williamstonfarmmarket.org.

Monday, Sept. 22

Al-Anon Meeting - 8 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. cmialanon.org.

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of

media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

Auditions: "The Best We Could" (a family tragedy) - Show dates: Nov. 7-9 and 13-16. 6-9 p.m. Sycamore Creek Church, 1919 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. facebook.com/peppermintcreek.

Bookend Gallery Display - The Bookend welcomes Sue Wittick to our gallery wall for the month of September. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Broadway Jazz Dance Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 7-8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 7 p.m. City Hall, 259 Kent St., Portland. 517-647-5027. portland-michigan.org.

Euchre - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/Eaton-RapidsSeniorCenter.

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. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Improv Acting Class for Teens and Adults - 8:30-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Level I Dance Class for Kids - Ages 5-8. 4-5 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Mindfulness Lunch & Learn: Sleep Basics - 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/stress_less_with_mindfulness/index.

NAFSA Joint Fall Meeting - NAFSA: Association of International Educators invites all to this special online discussion. Noon-1 p.m. Zoom ID: 937 0082 8179. Passcode: 732031. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Parkinson's Exercise: Yoga - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space allows. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble: Performing Group for All Ages - Meets twice per week. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

The Weekly Crunch - Laugh your ass off with the best local comedians every Monday night. 8 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. crunchyseastlansing.com.

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

Tuesday, Sept. 23

"A Course in Miracles" with Lisa Schmidt - Each week, the group reads a passage together from the book and discusses its meaning and how to apply it to real-life situations. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting 101 Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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



pvproductions/freepik

Latino night

6-10 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17
The Irish Pub
1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing

The Irish Pub will hold a special concert tonight in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, featuring performances by Ray Rodriguez, blues musician Stan Budzynski, keyboardist/accordionist Kookie Hernandez and blues/rock/R&B group Bear Band, which will be joined by special guests. The pub will offer a special food menu and deals on food and drinks. Net proceeds from ticket sales will benefit St. Vincent de Paul Cristo Rey Conference, helping support its mission to feed, clothe, house and heal local individuals and families in need. Tickets are \$20 at the door. For more information, visit facebook.com/IrishPubLansing.

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

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

Bookend Gallery Display - The Bookend welcomes Sue Wittick to our gallery wall for the month of September. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Calling All Hunters - Chad Stewart, Michigan DNR deer biologist, teams up with Portland-area outdoors writer Tom Huggler to share information on local hunting and answer your questions. 6:30-8 p.m. First Congregational Church, 421 E. Bridge St., Portland. portlandmi.recdesk.com.

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.

Family Happy Hour - Join us every Tuesday for a free, all-ages playgroup in our safe and welcoming space. 4-7 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Football Trivia Night at Playing Picasso - Get ready for a night of themed trivia and pottery painting fun. Gather your friends, test your knowledge and unleash your creativity! 6-9 p.m. Playing Picasso, 300 N. Clippert St., Ste. 15A, Lansing. playingpicasso.com.

Group Dance Class: Beginning Hustle - The New York-style hustle is an energetic partner dance characterized by its fluid movements, intricate turns and strong lead-follow connection. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Group Dance Class: Beginning West Coast Swing - West Coast Swing is a fun social dance consisting of 6- and 8-count patterns. No partner needed. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

HELLO Club Welcome Luncheon - Member welcome luncheon and fundraiser for Haven House. Must be a member to attend. Visit heloclub.org to access the membership form and luncheon registration instructions. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath.

Intermediate Ballet Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Level II Dance Class for Kids - Ages 9-12. 4-5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Mindful Self-Care for Health and Well-Being Series: Be Kind to Your Mind - In this hands-on session, we'll dive into mindful attention to thoughts, helping you recognize and challenge negative patterns of thinking. 6:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mindfulnessforbetterliving/index.

Mushroom Night Sky Paint Party - Grab some friends and get creative in DeWitt! Local artist Ashley will guide you step by step. 6:30-9 p.m. Tin Cup Cafe, 121 E. Main St., DeWitt. paintyourpoison.com.

My Big Fat Gyro Drive-Thru Fundraiser - Freshly prepared gyros will be packaged in to-go containers and delivered directly to patrons in their vehicles. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1701 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. holytrinity-lansing.org.

Open Mic Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Whether you're a seasoned performer or stepping onto the stage for the first time, we provide a welcoming environment for you to showcase your talent. 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Parkinson's Exercise: Balance, Conditioning and Strength - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space allows. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

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Events

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

Quiz Bang Trivia - Join us at UrbanBeat for a fast-paced, high-energy game that'll test your brains and strategy! 6-7:30 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Service Industry Night at UrbanBeat - 50% off for hospitality professionals. One verified industry discount per check. Please present proof of employment. 7-11 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

Wednesday, Sept. 24

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

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

Allen Farmers Market - Live music by The Instigators. 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/allen-farmers-market.

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

Avoid Medicare Fraud & Scams/Be Ready for Open Registration - Adults: Have questions about Medicare/Medicaid? This education session is for you! 2:30-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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.

Blue Denim - Formerly known as The Local Group, this Lansing-based band blends blues, rock, R&B, funk and jazz into one dynamic live performance. No cover! 9:30-11:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Bookend Gallery Display - The Bookend welcomes Sue Wittick to our gallery wall for the month of September. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Broadway Jazz Dance Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 7-8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

CharLit Adult Book Club: "Blood Over Bright Haven," by M.L. Wang - 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Class: Antique Haunted House - Create a spooky haunted house lantern! We'll provide step-by-step instructions, and you can customize the piece to your liking! 6-9 p.m. Playing Picasso, 300 N. Clippert St., Ste. 15A, Lansing. playingpicasso.com.

Code Club - Learn to make apps, animations and more! No coding expertise necessary. Drop-ins welcome. Grades 3+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org/project/learncoding.

Double D String Band - Join us for a relaxed evening of dinner and live music, featuring the Double D String Band. No cover! 9:30-11:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

Group Dance Class: Beginning Salsa - Salsa is a dynamic, vibrant dance characterized by its energetic footwork, fluid turns and rhythmic hip movements. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

It's Elementary - Learn how your heart rate, respiration and body temperature are affected by exercise. Attendees will participate in moderate physical activity. Registration req. Grades 3-6. 2:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

John Showman and Chris Coole - Banjoist extraordinaire Chris Coole teams up with fiddler John Showman to present new material and creative renditions of old-time classics. 8 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. ten-poundfiddle.org.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, with Big Man Genesis - 9-11 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. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Melanie Morrison Book Talk and Signing - Morrison will discuss and sign copies of her new book, "Becoming Trustworthy White Allies." 7 p.m. Edgewood UCC, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. edgewooducc.org.

Meridian Summer Concert Series: Justin Holcomb (singer-songwriter) - Free. 6:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

Michigan Cottage Food Law - Learn how to prepare

and sell foods to the public under Michigan 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 Genealogical Society - Brit Quarnberg will present a program on current advancements in AI in genealogy. 7-8 p.m. FamilySearch Center, 431 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing. mmgs.wordpress.com.

Parkinson's Social Lunch - Join us for a relaxed social time. Order off the menu and pay your own bill. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Coral Gables, 2838 Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-449-1722. lapsg.org.

Tap II Class for Teens & Adults - 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Wheel of the Year: Mabon & Mystery - Join us online or in person every Wednesday for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Wine Down Wednesday - Enjoy \$1 off glasses of wine all day! Come wine down with us! Noon-6 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Women's Healing Circle - A space for women to share their stories, inspire each other and lift each other up. 8:30-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Youth Group Dance Class: Beginning East Coast Swing - East Coast Swing is considered a relatively

easy swing dance to learn, making it popular for beginners. 4 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Thursday, Sept. 25

Acting 101 Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Meets twice per week. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Al-Anon Meeting - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. cmialanon.org.

Al-Anon Meeting - 8 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cmialanon.org.

Art Exhibition - The Lansing Women Artists Collective presents an exhibition featuring a variety of media, from acrylics to zentangles. All art is for sale. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420.

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

Beach Glass Christmas Trees - Each participant will be given a personalized kit that includes step-by-step instructions and all necessary supplies. The project is self-guided, so you can go at your own pace while talking with friends. 6-8 p.m. Nina's Notions, 104 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. eventbrite.com/o/beach-glass-crafting-party-77050402593.

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, October 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**, at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

1. A public hearing to receive comments on Ordinance 1554, a proposed rezoning of four vacant parcels owned by the East Lansing Downtown Development Authority: 314 Evergreen Avenue (PN 33-20-01-13-228-015), 328 Evergreen Avenue (PN 33-20-01-13-228-014), 334 Evergreen Avenue (PN 33-20-01-13-228-008), and 340 Evergreen Avenue, aka 344 Evergreen Avenue (PN 33-20-01-13-228-007), from RM32 City Center Multiple-Family Residential to B3 City Center Commercial.

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

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may also participate virtually via Zoom. Please contact City Clerk Emily Gordon at 517.319.6891, emily.gordon@cityofeastlansing.com, (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) for additional information. Visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> for electronic access information.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to council@cityofeastlansing.com

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Council's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6869 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at sbent@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Dated: September 15, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#25-306

CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 24

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SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 24

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

In the early years of my marriage, before our shared Google Calendar became filled with soccer practices, dance classes, piano lessons, county commission meetings and all of the other activities that color the Lawrence life, Mr. She Ate and I used to visit Williamston

regularly. We liked the restaurants, the movie theater, the specialty shops and the farmers market. We still do, but priorities have inevitably shifted as our family has changed, and we no longer find ourselves in Williamston as frequently as we would like. (Although we did take the kids to see “The Wild Robot” at the movie theater, and it was wonderful.)

The business hours at That New Place are tricky, and the restaurant was a bit challenging for me to locate in the first place. It’s only open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We took advantage of a weekend morning and loaded the kids up, along with a doll who travels with her own pillow, several small dinosaur figurines and an “Elephant and Piggie” book to read while we waited for our food. I read over the menu before our visit and was concerned at the lack of particularly kid-friendly choices, but we decided to make the best of it.

Immediately upon entry, we were met with a large bakery case full of pastries. Fair enough — even if the kids didn’t get any protein, they could fill up on muffins and cookies while Mr. She Ate and I enjoyed our breakfast. My son became heavily interested in hot chocolate this year (Cracker Barrel has his favorite version) and was excited to try the offering at That New Place. It was presented to him in an oversized mug with a large dollop of whipped cream, and he spent the next 20 minutes slurping happily.

I debated between the quiche special (\$20), which included lobster meat, sweet potato and gruyere, and the succotash (\$15). A slice of quiche with a green salad is one of my all-time favorite meals, and it won the day. This was the largest, puffiest slice of quiche I’ve ever seen in my life, flan-like in its jiggliness and swoon-worthy in its flavor. I wanted to save room to eat half of my kids’ breakfasts, so I packed up the rest for lunch the next day.

Our dancing queen loves a waffle, so we ordered the whole-grain waffle (\$13) for her to try. The order comes with three vegan waffles, made with flaxseed, whole-wheat and oat flours. I regularly see Instagram posts of people sneaking healthy ingredients into their kids’ favorite foods and have always told myself that my children would certainly taste a difference and reject the pasta sauce with spinach in it (or whatever), but damned if home-girl didn’t polish off an entire waffle before coming up for air. Granted, it was swimming in maple syrup,

That New Place’s baked goods and breakfast bites are brilliant

every time I’ve visited — which, because of my daughter’s athletics, has been a lot recently. Shops, eateries and public parks make the space walkable and consumer friendly. The Sun Theatre, an

old-school movie theater, brings entertainment to the community, as does Williamston Theatre, a fine attraction for those seeking live comedies, romances or thrillers. The town’s vibe is equal parts nostalgic and familiar, like a Hallmark Channel holiday special in living color.

Such is the vibe that this month’s subject of review, That New Place, revels in. From the lunch counter seating options to the tables decorated with ceramic miniatures to the deli case filled with delectable pastries, the eatery is simultaneously fresh and reminiscent of past eras. The staff welcomes you in unison and ushers you out the door with well wishes for your return. If you visit on the weekend, be prepared to wait, since this has become a popular destination for the Williamston community and surrounding locales alike.

The restaurant was opened in 2023 by delightful and warm owners Carrie Ballou and Ray Priebe. They took over the space from a bakery, and the tradition of scratch-baked treats serves as a foundation for That New Place’s breakfast and brunch flavors. The menu options are abundant, and the daily specials offer something for everyone.

What’s good

I visited That New Place on a Friday afternoon with one of my best friends, who was in town from Atlanta to visit family. It was busy, and Ballou expressed her apologies for the delay in the delicious blueberry-peach crumble cake’s (\$8) arriving at our table. She was so sincere that I couldn’t help but offer grace. The cake was scrumptious and light but could have been just a touch warmer.

My bestie ordered the mixed-greens salad with mojito chicken (\$15). The tender cuts of chicken thigh were sweet, having been soaked in an orange-based marinade, and the lemon vinaigrette provided a citrusy bite of sourness. The only drawback was that the mixed greens were nearly all spinach.

I had the same protein on the mojito chicken sandwich (\$15), which was served open faced atop garlic toast with a spread of hot honey ranch and house-made coleslaw. This sandwich was a hit. All of the components complemented each other in terms of flavor and texture.

What’s really good

My first visit was mid-week, and I sat at the counter. At first, it seemed like I was the only one who didn’t know anyone because the conversations between staff and guests were boisterous and gleeful. Then I realized that’s just the culture of That New Place — no one leaves as a stranger.



Beverly

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

That New Place
146 W. Grand River Ave.,
Williamston
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday
(517) 242-1810
facebook.com/
ThatNewPlace517



Bryan Beverly for City Pulse

Williamston’s That New Place offers an abundance of fresh-baked pastries, from cookies and cakes to scones and tarts.

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE**

On September 10, 2025, Williamstown Township adopted an Ordinance to Amend the Truck Route Ordinance, supplementing the Truck Route Ordinance in Williamstown Township.

Effective date: The Ordinance to Amend the Truck Route Ordinance will be effective on October 17, 2025.

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the Williamstown Township Clerk's Office, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, Michigan.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Williamstown Township Clerk

CP#25-304

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
SUMMARY OF ADOPTED PRIVATE ROAD ORDINANCE**

On September 10, 2025, Williamstown Township adopted a Private Road Ordinance. This Ordinance is intended to protect and promote the public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare of the Township by regulating the location and design of private roads and establishing minimum standards and specifications for the construction of private roads. It also provides for procedures to be followed and enforcement actions that will be taken, if necessary.

Effective date: The Private Road Ordinance will be effective on October 17, 2025.

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the Williamstown Township Clerk's Office, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, Michigan.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Williamstown Township Clerk

CP#25-305

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Monday, September 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan for the purpose of considering:

An ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Chapter 887, by adding a new section 887.10 to provide for a service charge in lieu of taxes in the amount of eight percent of shelter rents for not less than 618 workforce multi-family dwelling units in a project known as Evergreen Park Apartments and Townhomes, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, as amended, MCL 125.1401, et seq.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TDD (517) 483-4479) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

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

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

CP#25-295

She Ate

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but I felt like an accomplished parent that day.

My son, the pickier of the two, chose the baked French toast (\$15), which came with candied bacon on the side. Unfortunately, he doesn't love blueberries, and they were baked right into the bread. We let him get away with hot chocolate and a chocolate-zucchini mini bundt cake (again with the hidden health food!) while I ate most of his French toast. The bacon, on the other hand, had multi-generational appeal, in no small part due to the addition of finely chopped rosemary.

Mr. She Ate had the biscuits and gravy (\$15), having ridden his bicycle 30 miles that morning and needing something that would stick to his bones. While the menu boasts that the biscuits are made with scallions and parmesan, he didn't notice the presence of either flavor. The biscuits were remarkably dense, and the gravy had a rich, hearty flavor.

We took home a molasses cookie, a house cookie (essentially a chocolate chip cookie with nuts) and a muffin stuffed with more healthy grains and dried cherries (\$5 each). The muffin was good the next morning with a cup of coffee, but the molasses cookie was incredible that night with an episode of "The White Lotus" on the couch after bedtime. Here's to a moment of zen and trying to get back to Williamston more than twice a year.

He Ate

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I ordered several items à la carte: two eggs (\$4), chicken breakfast sausage (\$5), pork bo ssam (\$6) and hot potatoes (\$5). Every bite was a triumph over the previous. The eggs were fluffy and cheesy. The chicken sausage was flavorful, savory and perfectly crispy when I bit into it. The bo ssam — shredded pork shoulder prepared in a traditional Korean fashion with notes of ginger, star anise, garlic, onion and black tea — was awesome. It's not the first thing that comes to mind when you think about breakfast, but maybe it should be. Still, the potatoes were even better, spiced with red pepper flakes, garlic, onion and fresh herbs and slathered with the same hot honey ranch that cuddled the chicken sandwich. I'll be trying to recreate that dressing in my own kitchen soon enough.

Best bite

The pastries. Period. They're worth braving the construction-induced detour around Grand River Avenue. I mentioned the crumble cake before, but on another visit, I ordered two scones (\$5) and wish I'd had the courage to take some home. The first, a peach and candied ginger flavor, was soft and sweet in all the ways a breakfast pastry should be. Its blueberry-thyme counterpart was also soft, but the savory thyme played so perfectly with the fruit that I could picture this scone starring on a stage in town as the crowd chants for an encore. Bravo!



TOP 5 PHO

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

1. Asia's Finest

Unpretentious eatery with a large menu of pan-Asian specialties
6443 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 393-1688
asiastfinestlansing.com
11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Noon-8:30 p.m. Saturday
4-8:30 p.m. Sunday

2. Capital City BBQ

Homey restaurant serving traditional American barbecue dishes alongside Vietnamese classics
1026 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
(517) 721-1500
facebook.com/capitalcitybbq
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday

3. King Pho

Casual spot offering Vietnamese comfort food such as pho and banh mi
4749 Central Park Drive, Okemos
(517) 977-1520
kingphookemos.com
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Saturday
Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

4. Pho 777

Vietnamese restaurant serving homemade pho and other traditional dishes
4758 Marsh Road, Okemos
(517) 897-7182
pho777okemos.com
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday

5. Pho So 1

Vietnamese eatery offering 14 varieties of pho, plus banh mi sandwiches, vermicelli noodle bowls and more
4790 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing
(517) 333-6683
phoso1el.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

**Coming Oct. 1:
Top of the Town 2025**

LANSING LIT
START BOOK CRAWL

EVENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

11 - 4	The Reading People Book Giveaway	Other	Cap. Area Literacy Coalition
5:00	Boozy Book Fair	Book Fair	Hooked
5:00	Many Voices Open Mic	Community	Everybody Reads
7:00	A Night with Olivia Gatwood (w/ The Poetry Room)	Poetry Performance	A Novel Concept
7:00	"An Evening with Stars" LCC Faculty Show	Poetry Performance	LCC, Dart Auditorium
7:00	Deadtime at Bedtime	Night shopping	Deadtime Stories

SATURDAY

9:30	Community Craft Day	Other	Wayfaring Booksellers
10:00	Scavenger Hunt: Day 1	Other	Curious Book Shop
10:00	Zine Workshop at REACH & Socialight Pop-up Bookstore	Workshop/Pop-up Shop	REACH Studio Art Center
11:00	Amy Dua Storytime	Youth / Kids	Schuler Books Okemos
12:00	Holly Mayes Author	Author Event	Hooked
12:00	Ambient Annotations (experimental music showcase)	Other	The Robin Books
1:00	MSU Libraries x The Poetry Room Present: Olivia Gatwood	Poetry Reading	MSU Main Library
2:00	Cornerstone Press Open House	Meet & Greet	A Novel Concept
3:00	One Grand Read 'Better Living Through Birding'	Author Event	Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
5:00	Cornerstone Press Reading	Author Event	A Novel Concept
7:00	Author & Reader Soiree	Soiree	Hooked

SUNDAY

11:00	Free cider & donuts	Other	Deadtime Stories
11:00	Book Show and Tell + Book Bingo	Other	The Robin Books
12 - 4	Merchant Market (bookish vendors + Socialight Society)	Pop-up market	REO Town Clubhouse
12:00	Scavenger Hunt: Day 2	Other	Curious Book Shop
1:00	Decolonizing Ukraine	Author Event	Hooked

THIS WEEK-END

SEPT. 19-21, 2025

IN PARTNERSHIP W/

- Curious Book Shop
- the poetry room
- EVERYBODY READS books and stuff
- ARTS COUNCIL greater lansing
- Libraries MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
- socialight society
- REACH
- SUMMIT COMICS AND GAMES
- CityPULSE
- THE READING PEOPLE CAPITAL AREA LITERACY COALITION
- SCHULER BOOKS
- THE ROBIN BOOKS
- ONE GRAND READ
- wayfaring BOOKSELLERS
- Hooked
- DEADTIME STORIES EST. 2020 BOOKS & GIFTS
- NOVEL CONCEPT LANSING, MICHIGAN
- OTHERS

BOOK CRAWL!
FRI + SAT, 11-5 PM
VISIT EACH SHOP, WIN
A LANSING LIT BOOK TOTE!

DETAILS/UPDATES: LANSINGLIT.COM