

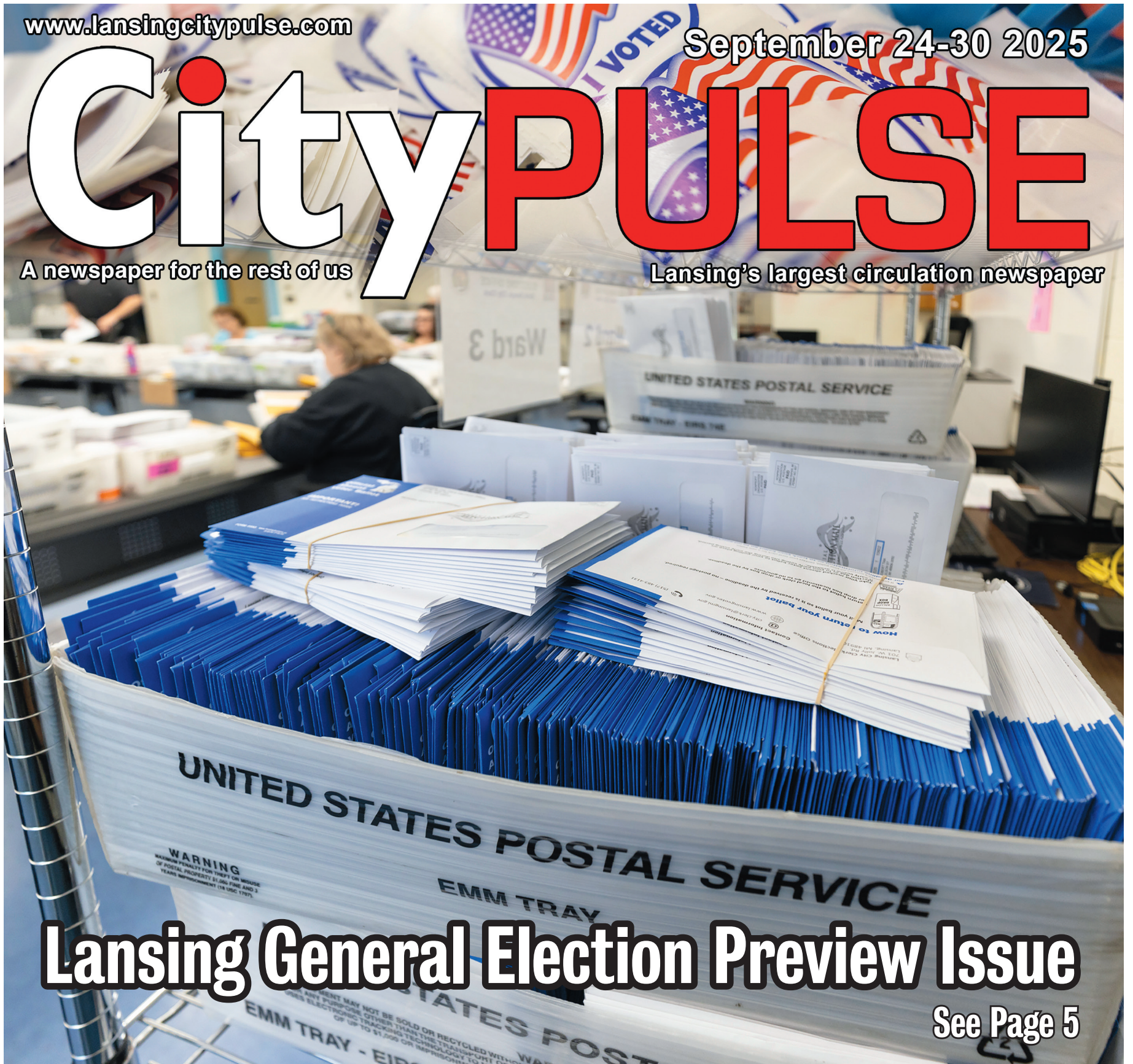
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September 24-30 2025

CityPULSE

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Lansing's largest circulation newspaper



Lansing General Election Preview Issue

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The Gospel According to MAGA: A Sermon in Hypocrisy

Brothers and sisters, gather 'round, for today we preach from the Book of Grievances, Chapter Kirk, Verse Kimmel.

Lo! The great and powerful Charlie Kirk has departed this world, and the faithful have already anointed him Saint Charlie of Turning Point. Yes, the man who sneered at empathy now receives more empathy than a Hallmark Channel marathon. They lift him up not as a podcaster with a God complex, but as a martyr, a prophet, a dignitary. Next thing you know, they'll be chiseling his face onto Mount Rushmore, right between Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt, with a MAGA cap superglued on top.

But beware, my flock, for the hypocrisy knoweth no bounds! Did not these same prophets of freedom once wail against tyranny when Obamacare suggested they get a check-up? And yet now they cheer as the government itself — the President, no less! — leans on the FCC to smite a comedian. Verily, Jimmy Kimmel cracked a joke, and the heavens shook with MAGA outrage! Thou shalt not mock Saint Charlie, lest ye be silenced by decree.

Tell me, congregation, what would they have said if Barack Obama had lifted his mighty hand against Rush Limbaugh? If Obama had dared whisper that the airwaves might be cleansed of El Rushbo's sacred rants? They would've torn their garments, rolled in the ashes, and declared the Republic dead. Fox News would still be running a chyron: "Obama Ends Free Speech: DAY 4,000."

And lo, let us not forget the scripture of Merrick Garland. For in the year of our Lord 2016, the Senate declared, "Nay, we cannot confirm a justice in an election year — it is forbidden by the Constitution of Our Feelings." But behold, four years later, they shoved Amy Coney Barrett through the door like a Black Friday sale at Walmart, shouting, "It is the will of the Founders!"

Brethren, the pattern is clear. From the moment Obama darkened the White House door with his presence, the gospel of MAGA has been this: Democrats are devils, Republicans are saints, and every rule is conditional, depending on who benefits. It is a holy contradiction, a sacred double standard, an eternal "Do as I say, not as I do."

So yes, grieve the man, comfort the family — but let no one canonize hypocrisy. For I say unto you: if hypocrisy were a religion, MAGA would not just be the Vatican. Oh no! MAGA would be the whole Holy Roman Empire, with Saint Charlie on stained glass, Jimmy Kimmel excommunicated, and the First Amendment nailed to a cross for daring to speak out of turn.

Can I get an amen?

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Get to know MSU's newest jazz studies educator

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Member, AAN



Constellation Cat Cafe finds room to grow

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A seasonal tomato recipe from a celebrity chef

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Cover photo by Raymond Holt

RAGE AT THE RAGGED

A FOX NEWS HOST RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT MENTALLY ILL HOMELESS PEOPLE SHOULD BE EXECUTED BY "INVOLUNTARY LETHAL INJECTION."

IT'S STRANGE HOW MUCH ANIMOSITY IS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE LEAST FORTUNATE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

WOULD THEY FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT SOMEONE HAVING A DIFFERENT HEALTH CRISIS IN PUBLIC?

THESE LOSERS HAVING HEART ATTACKS ON THE STREET— THEY SHOULD BE LEFT TO DIE!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD DIRECT YOUR ANGER TOWARDS THE LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND A BROKEN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

UGH, HERE WE ARE IN ANOTHER ONE OF THESE STUPID TOM TOMORROW CARTOONS!

I SUPPOSE HE'S GOING TO TRY TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE FASCISTS AGAIN!

IT'S VERY UNFAIR, LIKE NOBODY'S EVER SEEN BEFORE!

WHAT'S SO "FASCIST" ABOUT A VICE PRESIDENT ENCOURAGING A MASS DOXXING CAMPAIGN AGAINST RANDOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

WE SIMPLY WANT TO USE THE FULL FORCE OF GOVERNMENT TO ANNIHILATE THE LEFT--AS ONE DOES IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY!

WE'RE ALSO CRUSHING UNIVERSITIES AND BENDING CORPORATIONS TO OUR WILL--JUST AS THE FOUNDING FATHERS INTENDED!

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NOTHING EMPHASIZES OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION LIKE A DOMESTIC MILITARY OCCUPATION!

MEANWHILE UGH, WE'RE IN ANOTHER ONE OF THESE STUPID TOM TOMORROW CARTOONS! I SUPPOSE HE'S GOING TO MAKE US LOOK INEFFECTUAL AGAIN!

WHAT'S SO "INEFFECTUAL" ABOUT USING OUR BUDGET LEVERAGE TO POLITELY REQUEST A SENSIBLE BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE?

SOME PEOPLE ARE NEVER HAPPY!

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION



City of Lansing PREVIEW ISSUE

ELECTION

Welcome to our 2025 City of Lansing Election Preview Issue. In it, we do not attempt to cover the waterfront on either issues or biographies. Rather, our goal was to help you make up your minds by imparting a sense of how the candidates think, express themselves and what may qualify them to earn

your vote. We spent about 30 minutes with all but one, Aurelius Christian, who for reasons never explained boycotted City Pulse. Our means was to ask candidates their views on a small range of issues (preservation, homelessness, red-tagging, the City Charter and trash collection) in roughly

30-minute video meetings (all of which are available to you at www.lansingcitypulse.com). We ran out of time to get Peter Spadafore's views on trash pickup and homelessness. The candidates' thoughts also helped shape our endorsements, which follow our stories on candidates' views, broken

down by topic.

More than 22,000 absentee ballots will be in the mail shortly, hence the timing of this week's issue. We're happy to consider your thoughts on candidates via letters to the editor. Please email them to letters@lansingcitypulse.com.

Schor, Swope back proposed charter; Council candidates differ

By LEO V. KAPLAN

Two years and \$275,000 after narrowly approving the first review of Lansing's City Charter since it was adopted in 1978, Lansing voters will choose Nov. 4 whether to accept the results.

Voters narrowly approved a November 2023 ballot proposal calling for a general review. They elected nine review panel members out of 36 candidates in a May 2024 special election. The city allocated \$500,000 for the process.

About \$225,000 remains, City Clerk Chris Swope said. Voters must accept or reject the entire proposed charter in November. If it fails, the review commission can technically take another two go's at it, although the time the state allows for the process would probably limit it to one more attempt.

The charter can be amended — and has been by voters seven times in its 47 years — without a wholesale review.

Swope was an initial skeptic of a general review, but he has come around. He said it allowed considering "more options." One that was key with voters to getting the overhaul on the ballot was to consider shifting from a strong mayor system to a council-manager form of government, in which the City Council elects a manager to serve a mayoral role. In the end, after considerable debate, the commission unanimously chose the status quo.

Another was going to an all-ward Council instead of four wards and four at-large seats. Instead, the commission opted for just adding one more ward.

The lack of sweeping changes made the proposed charter controversial among candidates.

Swope and Mayor Andy Schor, who opposed a charter review two years ago, said they support the proposed charter.

"The charter commission did a lot of really good work," Schor

See CHARTER, Page 6

Major changes in the proposed Lansing City Charter

(Here are the major changes in the Lansing City Charter that are included in the charter that the elected charter commission has recommended replace the city's 1978 charter. For a more detailed look at the proposed charter, see lansingvotes.gov/yourcharter.)

- City Council would expand to nine members by adding a fifth ward to the four at-large seats.

- City Council would gain the power to suspend or remove the city attorney by a two-thirds vote. Currently, only the mayor can remove the city attorney, whom the mayor nominates and the Council appoints.

- The mayor would have to present a three-year strategic plan within a year of taking office, including "comprehensive data and analysis of the City's current situation" with specific, measurable goals. The mayor would report on these goals yearly.

- City elections would be held every four years starting in 2029, with all elections consolidated into that schedule. Beginning that year, all city Council members will be up for reelection at the same time, instead of half being elected every two years.

- The city would create an online "Tax and Debt Dashboard," including an overview of the city's "millages, assessments and debt obligations." That would include information about all millages, including their tax rates and amounts generated per year, and all bonds, including their principal amount, interest rate and maturity date. It would be "transparent and comprehensive" and updated every six months.

- A new city office, the "Office of the Independent Internal Auditor," would be created. The mayor would appoint the auditor, subject to the Council's approval, which could remove the auditor by a two-third's vote. The auditor would work independently from both. The auditor, with access

to all necessary records, would conduct an annual financial analysis of all agencies, as well as annually audit specific "high-risk agencies and/or processes," with reports to be made to the mayor and the Council. The auditor would make an annual report of the city's finances.

- The definition of "publish" would be expanded to include posting the information to the city's website, in addition to other means.

- Candidates would be barred from office if they have felony convictions in the last 20 years related to deceit or fraud while holding elected office. Currently, any felony conviction in the last 20 years bars a candidate from office. In addition, candidates must meet eligibility requirements when filing for office, rather than taking office.

- Ordinances would no longer expire every 10 years.

- Voters would choose whether to elect a charter commission to revise the charter every 16 years, rather than every 12. In addition, a commission would be elected at the same time the question is posed, rather than in a special election. If voters do not choose to revise the charter, that selection would be void.

- The "best value" bidder would be chosen when contracting with outside parties, rather than the lowest-cost.

- The Fire Department would be designated the "primary provider of emergency medical services."

- The Board of Water & Light would be required to hold two public meetings before a rate change, as opposed to one.

- Three nonvoting advisory positions on the BWL from outside Lansing would no longer exist.

- The BWL general manager or a designee would be required to meet quarterly with the public.

- The charter's language has been updated to be more inclusive.

Candidates differ on how to help homeless residents

By LEO V. KAPLAN

Lansing's purchase last month of 50 ModPod housing units to serve as transitional housing for 66 homeless residents at a time promises to make a dent in the city's homelessness problem, but not until June at the earliest.

Meanwhile, much of Lansing's homeless population is still outside — and winter is quickly approaching.

City Pulse asked mayoral and council candidates whether the city's approach to homelessness is working.

Mayor Andy Schor touted Lansing's homeless prevention efforts, which he said are not often publicized. He added there are job assistance programs through Capital Area Michigan Works, housing assistance programs including vouchers and subsidized housing, documentation assistance and funds given to shelters. He said he was "fully supportive" of the ModPods.

When "you see the system not working as well as we'd like," Schor said, it is often "people who are violent or have mental health issues, or just choose not to live indoors." He called Michigan's mental health system "broken" and said more stable mental health assistance would help.

He added LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender people, often do not feel welcome at the City Rescue Mission.

His opponent, Kelsea Hector, is the executive director of Punks with Lunch Lansing, which provides resources for the homeless community.

"I would stop the sweeps," she said. "They're inhumane. They actually do not work, they kill people." She said providing resources to people in encampments helps them find housing more quickly.

She added she would like to bring together mutual aid networks, nonprofits and neighbors to work on solutions, cen-

tering the homeless population.

At-large candidate Julie Vandenboom called it "not an easy problem to solve." She added that while shelters provide housing, it often comes with restrictions such as splitting up families, not allowing pets and forcing residents to be "preached at." Shelters are "not necessarily incentivized to help those people into permanent housing" either, she said, since they are paid to provide emergency shelter, not permanent housing.

She called for a more comprehensive study of Lansing's homeless community involving more direct conversations with impacted residents than the city's previous study.

At-large candidate Clara Martinez called the ModPods "a positive step forward" but a "temporary solution." In office, she would work to bring experts on homelessness together, listen to their feedback and that of homeless Lansing residents, and work from there, she said.

At-large candidate Jeremy Garza, a 2nd Ward Council member, said, "There needs to be more programs that actually help people get out of poverty, not just put them in a warehouse with the homeless," such as programs to help people get a GED.

Asked how he would respond to a constituent saying a nearby homeless encampment made them feel unsafe, Garza said he had dealt with that situation before in the 2nd Ward. He said there was an encampment near Gardner Middle School where residents lit fires during the daytime, used intravenous drugs near the school and broke into homes. He called the police, who called the church whose property it was on. The residents were relocated with help from the city.

"You don't want to move somebody and keep moving them," Garza said.

ple with some felony convictions in the last 20 years to run for local office, saying he has seen a good candidate barred from running. If voters do not want to elect a candidate, he said, they can make that choice.

He also likes making the mayor more accountable by requiring the administration to make a strategic plan and to post more information on taxes and debts.

Council candidates were more divided. "It's a step backward for the city," said Julie Vandenboom, an at-large City Council candidate who fell just short of being elected to the Commission. She said she will vote against the charter.

Vandenboom wanted an end to at-large



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

The city of Lansing is trying to close a large homeless encampment in north Lansing near Dietrich Park. Ingham County Judge Rosemarie Aquilina has ordered the city to provide services while she tries to find homes for the approximately 60 people who live there.

"They're human beings, and I want to be empathetic to them, but there's also some bad actors in there too. You're not going to have someone that just lost their job and ended up becoming homeless breaking into people's homes."

Heath Lowry, a 4th Ward candidate, said the city's approach is not working and often involves "just moving the problem around to different locations."

He said he supports changing housing classifications to allow more density and expanding services to help people gain access to affordable housing. Ultimately, he said, the city should "defer to the experts on the ground, really working in the homelessness epidemic."

Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, a 2nd Ward candidate and an urban planning professor at Michigan State University, said homelessness is her "main research." She would focus on "the long-term, systemic issues that actually cause homelessness."

Council seats.

"The fewer individuals reporting to a single Council representative, the better the relationship that Council member is going to have with the constituents," she said.

Heath Lowry, now running for Council in the 4th Ward, also plans to vote "no." Lowry also ran well in the Commission race.

He and Vandenboom both said the mayor, being elected by the whole city, essentially occupies the at-large role, rendering at-large members moot.

Lowry's 4th Ward opponent, incumbent at-large member Peter Spadafore, supports the changes, most notably the

Finding permanent housing for homeless residents will involve "an inevitable sorting," she said, including people who "are never going to be able to pay anything for their housing" getting long-term permanent housing and others having more staggered assistance.

Her opponent, Erik Almqvist, spoke to City Pulse from Omaha, Neb., where he said he was visiting to view the efficacy of a tiny-house village like the ModPods.

He said Lansing failed to center homeless people in its efforts to curb homelessness. He champions extensive outreach, a holistic approach and "bringing the table to them," rather than bringing homeless people to the table.

He said he visited the Dietrich Park encampment last month and met a resident who could not read or write.

"We have to create a solution where someone can sit down with him and help fill all the paperwork out at one time."

fifth ward and independent auditor, which he called "really important."

"I've lost track of the number of times we've hired an internal auditor in the seven years I've been here," he said.

The 2nd Ward candidates, Erik Almqvist and Deyanira Nevarez Martínez, disagree. Almqvist opposes the charter and wishes commissioners had moved to a council-manager system. Martínez is leaning toward a "yes" vote, though she is concerned about potential "pendulum swing elections that turn over an entire Council" if the whole Council is elected at once.

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CHARTER

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said. "They made some really good updates."

Schor said he supports adding a fifth ward to void ties and that he was not worried about electing the Council all at once, as the new charter would do, because the system works elsewhere. He also commended the Commission's precision in updating outdated language.

Swope, who is also the Charter Commission's clerk per Michigan law, commended the reform that would allow peo-

CHARTER

from page 6

Jeremy Garza, the 2nd Ward member who is running at-large this time, said he “probably won’t support it.” He, too, is nervous about elections that turn the entire Council over and believes at-large seats should be done away with.

“Eight or nine wards would have made more sense to me,” he said. “Adding one ward doesn’t make any significant change.”

At-large candidate Clara Martinez said she supports the changes, saying it was clear to her that the commissioners’ work was well-researched and resulted in the best balance.

At-large candidate Aurelius Christian did not respond to repeated requests for an interview.

Schor’s opponent, Kelsea Hector, said she did not support the charter, preferring more wards. She said she was undecided on whether a city manager system would be preferable.

At an informational community meeting at Foster Community Center, commissioners said the proposed charter was based on community input and represented the results of both research and casual interviews with citizens. Despite community advocacy for a council-manager system, Commissioner Joan Bauer said most people she had talked to preferred a strong mayor.

“Talking to people in grocery stores, all the places that I run into people, I was surprised by the number of people in our city, probably because of our history of

a strong mayor, they wanted to elect the mayor,” she said. She said around 75% of community members preferred that system.

But not every community member votes. In the last mayoral election, only 18,000 did. That means a group of disproportionately civically engaged citizens will decide the proposed changes’ fate.

Despite that, Ingham County Commissioner and political consultant Mark Grebner said he thinks the charter will pass. While “two or three thousand people” are likely to share similar opinions to the candidates, he thinks most people don’t know the first thing about it.

“Roughly one quarter of the total vote on the charter is going to be people in varying degrees of cluelessness,” he said. “They barely know it’s on the ballot, probably. And for the people who are clueless, it really comes down to how they feel about the general idea of a revised charter.”

The ballot simply reads, “Shall the charter proposed by the Lansing Charter Commission be adopted?”

Doesn’t that sound like you’re supposed to say ‘yes?’” Grebner asked.

He said voters tend to accept ballot proposals when they generally trust their municipal government, whereas they tend to reject such proposals when their government has a reputation for being corrupt or untrustworthy. In Lansing, where voters tend to pass millages, he’d be surprised to see the revised charter fail.

“Let me tell you, most voters do not have an opinion about the charter,” he said.



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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 25-09
5130 COUNTRY DRIVE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request #25-09
5130 Country Drive
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from James & Jana Stewart. The applicant is proposing to construct a detached accessory structure (garage) that projects in front of the principal structure (house) at 5130 Country Drive. The subject site is zoned RR, Rural Residential.

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

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-311

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Candidates support preservation, but to differing degrees

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

If a property in a local historic district is at risk of “demolition by neglect,” Lansing’s code of ordinances allows the Historic District Commission to require owners to repair it or foot the bill for repairs ordered by the Commission.

But local historic districts in Lansing are few and far between. Old Town, arguably Lansing’s best-known historic district, has no such designation. That means derelict properties in Old Town are subject to the city’s usual “make safe or demolish” process, in which owners are given a timeline to repair the property — or demolish it. If they do neither, the city will bill them the cost of demolition.

Old Town’s historic Preuss Building is one such case of “demolition by neglect,” and now finds itself on the “make safe or demolish list.” Given extensive structural damage, its demolition is more likely. When University of Michigan Health-Sparrow demolished old Eastern High School, it claimed the building would cost \$100 million to fix.

City Pulse asked mayoral and City Council candidates about the city’s

role in historic preservation, including whether they would support a public/private fund to help maintain historic buildings.

Mayor Andy Schor said he would like to create “a committee of some sort that can get together and look at, what buildings and structures do we have that we can work with the owners before they get into such disrepair.”

While he touted successful adaptive reuse projects, he also acknowledged their cost. Rehabbing the old Walter French public school into 76 affordable housing units cost around \$40 million, including public and private funds. Schor said “outside entities” are necessary to successful preservation.

“We don’t have \$10 million to fix a building,” he said, “but there are resources that I think the historic preservation community can be able to help out with.”

Asked about establishing a fund, Schor said he had two concerns: One, that taxes were already increasing rapidly due to inflation; and two, that giving money to neglectful owners is an unjust reward. He said he would support putting a millage on the ballot to fund such

a project if there were strong community support, but that he would prefer to see preservation treated as “a tri-county issue” with collaboration across counties.

Schor’s opponent, Kelsea Hector, similarly supports a proactive approach. She did not offer a specific policy plan, but she said she would work to foster conversations between all parties when preservation or development projects were considered, so that owners looking to preserve their properties could be more easily connected with grant funds. She added ensuring community support and benefit from new developments, including community benefits agreements, would be a priority.

At-large candidate Julie Vandenoorn said the city “can and should have a means of identifying which buildings have historical significance, and there should be community input to help determine which those are, and there should be some way to plan ahead.” She offered J. W. Sexton High School as an example.

She called public assistance for historic property upkeep “an excellent idea” but said she would want to have the right people in the room to determine who would qualify.” She also said a preservation ethic could be encouraged by making the city more walkable, increasing residents’ attachment to historic neighborhoods.

Clara Martinez, also running at-large, said elected officials should empower preservationists and other experts in the field, putting them “in a position where they can influence or have direct agency to ensure that these buildings are saved.” She said she would focus on being “a bridge” between different sides of the issue.

Jeremy Garza is running for an at-large seat after serving on the Council for eight years in the 2nd Ward. He said he supports policy to preserve historic buildings and had supported the resolution to study making old Eastern a historic site.

That resolution fell off the rails after union representatives spoke against it at the City Council, worried UM-Sparrow would build the hospital elsewhere. Garza, the vice president of UA Local 333, was absent that day. He claimed he did not know about unions’ opposition.

At-large candidate Aurelius Christian did not respond to repeated requests for an interview.

2nd Ward candidate Erik Almquist said he would support preservation assistance, prioritizing “good developers.” He said he moved to Lansing in part because of its history, and that he was frus-

trated to see a lack of preservation ethic among residents.

“I love our history, I’m a huge history buff and it frustrates me that there is just this malaise about taking care of that,” he said.

His opponent, Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, supports a proactive approach. She called herself “passionate about preservation” as an urban planning professor and said she would support assistance when preservation is cost prohibitive.

In the 4th Ward, current at-large Council member Peter Spadafore is facing off against Heath Lowry. Spadafore opposed efforts to designate old Eastern as a local historic district in 2024, writing an op-ed in the Lansing State Journal that he chose “the well-being of our community over bricks and mortar.” His reference was to the psychiatric facility UM-Sparrow has proposed building where old Eastern was.

Spadafore told City Pulse he would like to see the community be more proactive with code enforcement and invest more in its facilities. Having been on the school board in 2016 when Eastern was sold to Sparrow, he said a lack of investment starting in the 1980s led to the building’s disrepair.

But Spadafore said preservation “is not something we’re hearing at the doors.”

“If we can be proactive about making sure facilities don’t fall into disrepair so that they don’t end up being more expensive to repair than rebuild, that’s one thing the city can do,” he said. “Other than that, we have to be focused on making sure people have safe places to live, our roads are clean, trash collected, those kinds of things.”

Lowry said he supports preservation and believes that, while “some of the services that are being mentioned going into these places are important,” “we have to be creative with how we maintain our city because creating these sanitized and unremarkable buildings really does harm the overall appreciation of the city.”

He said vacancy was a leading cause of deteriorating properties, and that policies that disincentivize vacancies, including a vacancy registration system that requires owners of vacant properties to register them as such with the city, would keep the city aware of vacant properties and curb demolition by neglect.

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2024-2025

Candidates agree garbage collection ordinance was premature

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

Last month, City Council members Ryan Kost and Trini Pehlivanoglu introduced a resolution to end private curbside trash collection, which would have established a city monopoly on garbage collection.

The ordinance was contentious. It surprised city residents, over half of whom would have been required to switch collectors. It was intended to reduce costs and decrease road damage and pollution by reducing the number of garbage trucks on the road, but a confusing rollout left many residents feeling like the city was taking their choice away. The ordinance was pulled a week later.

City Pulse asked this year's mayoral and Council candidates for their thoughts on the ordinance and its rollout.

Mayor Andy Schor said the proposal had precedent.

"Everyone else does it differently," he said. "In East Lansing, they say the city is doing all of it. In the townships, they say the township is doing none of it."

Despite city staff believing "this is the right thing to do," Schor said there would need to be more conversation, both with the community and waste management services. He expressed

concerns over staffing and suggested a half-and-half model, whereby the city would contract out 50% of households as a test run, an idea he said had been discussed with the Council but "wasn't really talked about."

Ultimately, though, he said a city monopoly would reduce costs, pollution and road damage, the latter of which he said was the issue he heard about most often when knocking on doors.

Schor's opponent, Kelsea Hector, agreed the proposal would benefit city roads but understands why residents were suspicious of it. She said many citizens feel the city does not adequately "take their input and their voices into consideration when they're making choices," creating institutional distrust.

"I would have to see a lot more accountability and feedback and a working relationship with the people and organizations, because I think that's where the hang-up comes in," she said.

Jeremy Garza is running at-large after serving two terms in the 2nd Ward. He said he prefers "to keep stuff in house, not contract positions out," but that he does not think the city has the capacity to take on the task.

He said he "couldn't support the ordinance" despite seeing the benefits, because there were too many unanswered questions.

At-large candidate Julie Vandenoob said a city monopoly would improve roads and lead to cleaner neighborhoods by eliminating the issue of people not paying for any trash services at all. But she said she would like to see a more "fleshed-out" conversation with discussion on improving city services, involving private companies and perhaps finding space for some of their employees. She said the Council suffers from a general lack of transparency, especially when decisions are made in committee meetings that few watch.

The Council records and posts its committee meetings on its own YouTube channel, but they rarely receive more than 50 views. Many receive under 10.

"I think with a little more transparency, something like this could be successful if we talked to people and found out their concerns," Vandenoob said.

At-large candidate Clara Martinez said it was too early to take a stance. She said she sees the issue through a framework taught to her by former Mayor David Hollister: "One, what is the issue or concern? Two, what is the solution for it? And three, how do we know that this is the right solution for the current problem?"

"I'm still focused on identifying what is the current problem, and how are we going to move that forward with a solu-

tion that works for people and the city?" she said.

4th Ward candidate Heath Lowry said he was "a strong supporter of CART" but would have preferred the process to be more "democratic." He said there is not enough information to take a stance on the ordinance itself.

"I want to see the hard numbers on how it would impact the city, from an environmental standpoint, a road standpoint, an economic standpoint and our relationships with Granger and the surrounding landfills," he said.

2nd Ward candidate Erik Almquist said it was an example of a continued lack of transparency from the city government.

"It was decided before it even came to City Council, the pods were decided and purchased before it even came to City Council," he said, referencing the city's purchase of 50 ModPod housing units for homeless residents. "These things are being done, and we're not having transparency."

His opponent, Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, called the proposal "premature" and said she would need to know more, especially about the long-term impacts.

"Sometimes certain proposals don't get thought through the whole way," she said.

Backlogs and bad actors: Candidates discuss red-tags

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

City Pulse reported last month that the city was making progress on red-tagged properties — but slowly. Additionally, it reported that a \$165 monthly monitoring fee for red-tagged properties was being applied even when owners were making

measurable improvements. Dale Schrader, one such owner, is being charged the fee despite putting \$150,000 and years of his time into a house and never encountering an inspector.

City Council President Ryan Kost is working on getting fee breaks to people who just bought or are

making tangible restoration efforts, he said.

City Pulse asked mayoral and Council candidates how the city could get red-tagged units back on the market more quickly amid a housing shortage, as well as about the monitoring fee.

See Red-tags, Page 10



MAYOR ANDY SCHOR

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Red-tags

from page 9

Mayor Andy Schor touted efforts underway at Sycamore Townhomes and Autumn Ridge Apartments that will bring hundreds of red-tagged units back online. He added the city has been pushing property owners to repair their properties rather than demolish them when they end up on the “make safe or demolish” list, to avoid demolitions decreasing available housing.

He said the red-tag fee has been applied to all owners equally after the Council felt too many owners were evading it by “just pulling a permit and beating the fee, and then not doing anything.” He said he would like to see a middle-ground solution.

Asked about Schrader’s never encountering an officer, he said he would “look in to see what we’re defining as monitoring.”

His opponent, Kelsea Hector, suggested “an accountability dashboard of landlords that are frequent flyers on the red-tag list” to disincentivize

poor property maintenance and help renters choose a safe home.

She said the fee piles extra difficulty on those already struggling to fix their home, and that she would like to see data on whether the fee is correlated with owners making fixes.

At-large candidate Clara Martinez said she would focus on providing resources and assuming positive intent, while still holding bad actors accountable. Regarding the fee, she said she was open to a conversation on “how we can reward the positive behavior.”

At-large candidate Julie Vandenoorn said the city should “incentivize and reward good landlords,” especially given how many landlords live out of city, state and even country.

“We should give grace and incentives to people trying to make their neighborhood a better place,” she said.

Jeremy Garza, running at-large after two terms in the 2nd Ward, said constant turnover and a huge backlog in the code enforcement department are the culprits for Lansing’s current problem. He said there should be “some wiggle room and

some leniency” for owners of red-tagged properties who are acting in good faith, and that the monitoring fee should not affect those owners, just “the people that are disregarding it.”

Peter Spadafore, running in the 4th Ward after two terms at-large, suggested “a sliding scale of violations” rather than the catch-all red-tag. He additionally suggested a fund the city could use to repair the properties of neglectful owners after they fail to do it themselves, the cost of which could then go on their taxes. He said the code enforcement department’s backlog is improving, which will facilitate more proactive interventions.

On the monitoring fee, he said he is happy to reexamine the ordinance but for now supports applying it equally to comply with the law.

His opponent, Heath Lowry, suggested temporarily hiring workers on a contract basis to work through the current backlog so that red-tags can be removed as quickly as possible. He would like to ensure the monitoring fee is not used punitively, but for the cost of monitoring.

In the 2nd Ward, Erik Almqvist said he had to cancel an inspection in July for a house he rents, only to learn the next available appointment is in November. That means more inspectors are needed to make properties available, he said. He added he was shocked to see the city take legal action against property owners near Dietrich Park who allowed a homeless encampment on their property before it took action against developers “who are not doing what they’re supposed to.”

His opponent, Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, suggested a system to create “flexibility in enforcement.” She said she worked as a consultant with the Tohono O’odham Nation in Arizona to create a small loan program for housing upgrades, which helped residents fund repairs without having to pay exorbitant interest rates on small loans.

She said she supported applying the fee on a case-by-case basis.

“If you’re already poor to begin with, and we give you a fine, you’re just gonna be more poor and less able to do the thing you have to,” she said.

Debris Buildup Stands No Chance

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Heavy leaves



Pinecones



Acorns



Pine needles

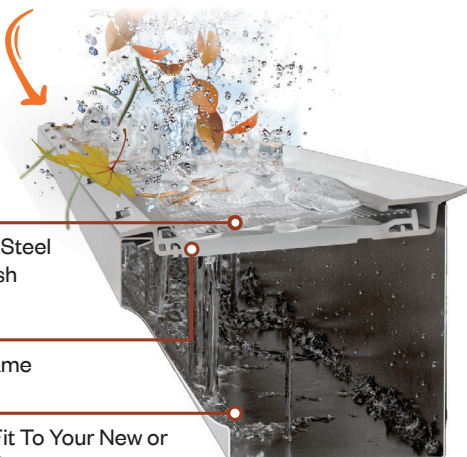


Seed pods



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Lansing City Council 2nd Ward

DEYANIRA NEVAREZ MARTINEZ



Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, 39, is an assistant professor of urban and regional planning at MSU, where she researches housing and homelessness governance. She has a doctorate in urban and environmental planning and policy from the University of California, Irvine. She is a member of Lansing's school board. She has been endorsed by Mayor Andy Schor, current Council members Trini Pehlivanoglu, Peter Spadafore and Brian T. Jackson, and the Lansing Regional Chamber-PAC.

ERIK ALMQUIST



Erik Almquist, 58, works from home as a tech support specialist for Apple. He is a former Fennville City Council member, leaving his role in 2021 to move to Lansing. He ran as a Democrat in the 80th state House of Representatives district in 2020 and lost. He is running in the 2nd Ward to replace Jeremy Garza, whom he said he admires.

Lansing City Clerk

CHRIS SWOPE



Chris Swope, 58, has been Lansing's city clerk for nearly 20 years and is running unopposed for a fifth term. He has a bachelor's degree in financial administration from MSU. He is a former Ingham County commissioner, has twice been president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and is president of the Rotary Club of Lansing.

AURELIUS CHRISTIAN



Aurelius Christian, 27, is the development programs coordinator at the Lansing Economic Development Corp. He has a bachelor's degree in advertising management from MSU. He is a board member of the Allen Neighborhood Center and serves on the Capital Region Community Foundation's Impact Grant Committee. He is a former board member of the Ingham County Health Centers. He was endorsed by the Lansing Regional Chamber-PAC.

JULIE VANDENBOOM



Julie Vandenoorn, 51, is a program re-engineering specialist with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, work-

JEREMY GARZA



Jeremy Garza, 49, is a 2nd Ward councilmember in the Lansing City Council finishing his second term. A journeyman plumber and pipefitter, he is vice president of United Association Local 333. He is running at-large so his family can move into a home elsewhere. He was endorsed by Council members Adam Hussain, Trini Pehlivanoglu and Peter Spadafore, many local politicians and trade unions, and the Lansing Regional Chamber-PAC.

ing primarily with the Office of Child Support. She has a master's degree in music performance from MSU and is a board member of the Capital Area District Libraries, East-

CLARA MARTINEZ



Clara Martinez, 33, is the dance director at Everett High School. She has a master's degree in social work from MSU, serves on the city's Arts & Culture Commission and is a board member for All of the Above Hip Hop Academy. She is the former chair of the Michigan Dance Council. She is an eastside resident. She was endorsed by Mayor Andy Schor and former Mayor David Hollister, current Council members Trini Pehlivanoglu and Peter Spadafore, and the Lansing Regional Chamber-PAC.

side Neighborhood Organization and Friends of Bancroft Park. She finished 10th last year for the nine-member Charter Commission. Council President Ryan Kost and others endorsed her.

Lansing City Council 4th Ward

HEATH LOWRY



Heath Lowry, 32, is a staff attorney and policy specialist at the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. He earned his law degree from MSU with a focus on indigenous law and policy. He is the president of the Westside Neighborhood Association and a member of the Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals. He is the former executive officer of the Ingham County Democratic Party. Council President Ryan Kost has endorsed him.

PETER SPADAFORE



Peter Spadafore, 40, is finishing his second term as an at-large Council member. He initially chose not to run for reelection, then decided to run in the 4th Ward after learning incumbent Brian T. Jackson was not running. He has a bachelor's degree in social relations from MSU and is executive director of the Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity. The Lansing Regional Chamber-PAC has endorsed him.

Lansing Mayor

KELSEA HECTOR



Kelsea Hector, 33, is the executive director of Punks with Lunch Lansing. She has a bachelor's degree in K-8 teaching from Ferris State University and co-chairs Inclusive Justice of Michigan, an LGBTQ+ rights organization.

ANDY SCHOR



Andy Schor, 50, mayor of Lansing, is running for a third term. He earned his bachelor's degree in political science and history from the University of Michigan. A Democrat, he was Ingham County commissioner and a state representative for Lansing. He was endorsed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Sens. Gary Peters and Elissa Slotkin, Pete Buttigieg and many politicians, including Council members Jeremy Garza, Trini Pehlivanoglu and Peter Spadafore.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina told Lansing homeless camp residents she visited a day earlier, north of Old Town near Dietrich Park, that they need to vacate the land and find a safer place to live before winter. She added that she doesn't support bulldozing people out of the area, but rather that they should take advantage of existing resources.

Aquilina also instructed the city to provide portable toilets, potable water and portable sinks to the camp and to retain the receipts. She added that she's willing to open her courtroom at 1 p.m. every Wednesday until each of the approximately 60 residents has found safe temporary housing.

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners approved a \$40.6 million general fund budget for the 2025-'26 fiscal year, which includes \$8.4 million in staff reductions and service cuts. A \$6.4 million reduction in personnel expenses includes the elimination of 29 positions, resulting in a decrease in the size of the county's staff from 418 to 389 positions.



However, most of those are vacant, the Lansing State Journal reported. The budget eliminated the Sheriff's Office road patrol for non-contracted areas, such as Delta Township, and MSU Extension funding, which supports the county's 4-H programs. It also reduced funds to Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Community Mental Health and the Barry-Eaton District Health Department. County voters twice rejected tax increases over the past year.

WKAR Public Media, facing budget constraints, announced



that the 11th season of "Curious Crew," its original show for kids, will be its last. The first of five new episodes premieres at 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Since "Curious Crew" debuted in

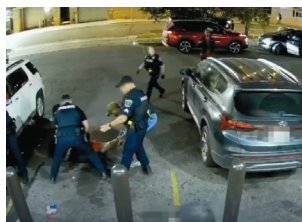
2014, 96 episodes have been produced and broadcast through this final season. "Curious Crew" has helped WKAR develop an integrated approach to our children's educational programming," said Ashlee Smith, WKAR senior director of content and education. Communications Manager Beth Young told the Lansing State Journal, "We carefully evaluate all programming to ensure the mission impact and audience needs align, especially during this time of financial upheaval for public media."

Superintendent Bill Barnes told attendees at Monday's Grand Ledge Board of Education meeting that high school teacher and City Council member Dave Logel would not lose his job for comments he made on his Facebook account after the shooting death of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Twenty-eight individuals shared their views on the issue during the public comment portion of the meeting, with some advocating for Logel's dismissal and others supporting



him. Barnes said his interpretation of board policies, handbooks, collective agreements, and applicable laws was that "they do not prohibit teachers from exercising their First Amendment rights." Logel, who did not attend the meeting, sent an apology for his comments.

GTZ Property Group, a Chicago-based company, will redevelop more than five acres of property along South Cedar Street, just north of Interstate 96, that has been vacant since University Motor Mall closed in 2015. The company said it will invest more than \$5 million to revitalize it. It will demolish three buildings there and then construct a Chick-fil-A, a fast-food chain known for years of financial support of organizations with anti-LGBTQ+ views. GTZ is marketing the remaining four acres to national and regional restaurants, as well as other retail companies.



East Lansing police arrested two people after a violent attack on a store employee at the 7-11 convenience store at Grove Street and Albert Avenue. Security video showed individuals attacking a store employee after a confrontation about theft,

then the same employee getting sprayed with a substance by another group. Police charged a juvenile with felonious assault, resisting and obstructing and issued an adult male a citation for disorderly fighting. Store owner Ali Haider told Fox 47 News that he is asking the city to reinstate a loitering ordinance.

Judge Kristen D. Simmons has arraigned Montez Hopkins (pictured), 30, in 54A District Court on a charge of homicide and six related firearm charges in the July 20 shooting of 36-year-old DeAndre Campbell, who died the same day from his injuries. The charges included carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, carrying a concealed weapon, being a prohibited person (felon) in possession of a firearm, and three counts of felony firearm. The judge also charged him with being a habitual offender. He was arrested and returned to prison on a parole violation. Simmons has scheduled a probable cause conference for Montez Oct. 2.



Public Safety

Lansing police responded Sunday to a report of gunshots on the 5700 block of South Pennsylvania Avenue, where they found a male with a gunshot wound (age and injury information not specified). They reported the man was in stable condition. ... Lansing police also responded to a call Saturday on the 1800 block of Elizabeth Street, where they found a 22-year-old male with a non-life-threatening gunshot to the ear. Police have not yet made arrests for either incident.



122 Allen St., Lansing

For more than a year, the splintered, shattered remains of this eastside Lansing house have sat in massive heaps inside a fence that surrounds the property, located half a block south of Michigan Avenue. While the fence is high enough to keep out all but the most intrepid intruders, the property is dangerous and certainly an eyesore.

No one was inside the home when an explosion occurred on Sept. 18, 2024. Michael Andrick of the Ingham County Land Bank, which was given the property, said the Lansing Fire Department told him a gas leak caused it. A handwritten sign, attached to the fencing facing the street for months, announces that Andrick is responsible for property cleanup coordination and that work was supposed to occur over the summer.

It didn't, but it appears it will begin soon. Andrick said the Land Bank has received a demolition permit from the city of Lansing and that Bolle Contracting will be starting work in the next week or two. He added that Conney Homes of DeWitt will build on the property.

The property was previously owned by John Krohn and Philip Battiatto, according to the Lansing BS & A site. "I donated the property last November to the Land Bank," said Krohn, "which I could only do because they applied for and received federal blight elimination funds specifically for that property."

— STEVE UNDERWOOD

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Public Art, by Bill Castanier. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination at 517-999-5061.



THE PLANETS

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra.

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7:30 PM

Wharton Center

01 Masterworks Series

RESERVE YOUR SEAT

Vote for Andy Schor

Four years ago, City Pulse sat uncomfortably on the fence in the Lansing mayoral contest. Given the inevitability that Andy Schor would be reelected (as he was with 64% of the vote), our goal then was to send him a message: step up your leadership in your second term. Today, we endorse Schor for a third one (another inevitability) with more confidence in his leadership, while still encouraging more.

Our city is better off today than four years ago. The administration's biggest achievement is putting in motion a clear plan for bringing downtown back to life: give people a reason to live and visit there and they will. We think it is a winning strategy. The state may never return a full complement of workers to the Capitol complex. And even if it did, that does nothing post lunch or on weekends. Cranes are in the air. Hundreds of rental units are under construction, some new, some replacing empty office space; so is a new city hall; the land is cleared for the Ovation Center for Arts and Music. The city's biggest eyesore, the Walter Neller Building, is finally gone, thanks to administration pressure, and more residences will replace it. On the south side of 496, work is moving along on the new public safety building — a clear example of Schor's ability to lead a drive for public support to the tune of \$175 million.

The upside of Schor's get-along-go-along nature is his role in the significant state funding that came Lansing's way in his second term. A former state representative, Schor has close ties to all the Capitol powers-who-be, from the Governor's Office down, who blessed the city with hundreds of millions of dollars last session to help mend our downtown. Certainly, though, it was not just Schor's affability that made a difference. The mayor is well schooled in urban affairs, going back to his days on the staff of the Michigan Municipal League and his service representing the city as an Ingham County commissioner and in the House.

Schor's second term was not without stumbles, chief among them his failed plan to restore the historic downtown Masonic Temple as a new city hall and his sellout on old Eastern High School. City Pulse feels so strongly about the need to get historic preservation on the front burner that we may well have endorsed an opponent to Schor this year — if there were one in whom we had confidence to run the city. Don't get us wrong: Kelsea Hector, who came in a distant second to Schor in the primary, is smart, talented and articulate. However, her lack of governmental experience disqualifies her. We encourage the administration to tap into her expertise on the critical homeless issue.

In other editorials, we have spelled out what needs to be done about preservation, and we're pleased that Schor is open to our suggestions. We hope his inaugural address will announce a preservation committee, as he promised to form in his endorsement interview with us. We are reminded of a similar effort he undertook

The 2025 Lansing Elections

is his firm term: the creation of a performing arts center committee. The result is the coming Ovation Center. We hope for that degree of commitment to preservation in the next four years.

Yes: Martinez (both), Vandenboom, Lowry

Lansing voters will fill half the seats on the Lansing City Council on Nov. 4. They face difficult choices in all cases because of an unusually strong field. We recommend Deyanira Nevarez Martinez in the 2nd Ward, Heath Lowry in the 4th and Julie Vandenboom and Clara Martinez for the two at-large positions. We encourage you to learn about them in this week's issue and through their endorsement interviews, which we've posted at www.lansingcitypulse.com.

All but one candidate (the elusive Aurelius Christian) sought our endorsement. We found all of the remaining candidates thoughtful in their answers. Leo V. Kaplan reports in this issue on their views on preservation, homelessness, red-tagged properties and who should gather our trash. By and large, we endorsed based on the overall impression we gained of their abilities to think through issues and provide coherent answers, whether we agreed or not with their solutions.

However, for the incumbents, records in office made a difference as well in our choices, specifically regarding historic preservation. Thus, we oppose Peter Spadafore and Jeremy Garza for reelection. Both failed to stand up for saving Old Eastern. Spadafore went a step farther and wrote an opinion piece that fostered the false narrative that advocacy for saving the city's most historic building would cost Lansing mental health beds. As a prominent civic leader, Spadafore should have used his standing and considerable persuasive talents to try to broker a compromise that would have saved old Eastern and kept U of M's proposed psychiatric facility in Lansing. However, given that Spadafore led the Lansing school

board that negotiated Eastern's sale without contract language strong enough to preserve the building, perhaps we should not have been surprised, just sadly disappointed.

As for Garza, a self-described "union plumber" — he is safety director of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 333 — he did the unions' bidding: oppose saving Old Eastern out of the simplistic fear it would cost construction jobs. Garza says in his campaign literature that he isn't a "typical politician." If not, he is certainly a predictable one in putting his employer's desires above even a Council discussion of old Eastern's historic status.

Fortunately, in both cases, voters have excellent choices to replace Spadafore and Garza in Lowry and Nevarez Martinez. Both are intelligent, thoughtful and articulate. Both are independent thinkers. We found the same to be true of Vandenboom and Clara Martinez. Some voters expressed concerns about the Nevarez Martinez' decision to send her children to Catholic schools when she ran for the Lansing School Board. However, she assured us, they are now enrolled in the Lansing School District.

For clerk: Chris Swope

Chris Swope has once again drawn no opposition, and it's easy to understand why. Voters have come to trust the four-term incumbent's professional management of the City Clerk's Office. Voter participation trended up in this year's primary election, and the credit goes to Swope's leadership in expanding mail, absentee and early voting opportunities. Swope has served twice as president of the statewide and capital region clerks' association, and this year he is president of the community's largest service organization, the Rotary Club of Lansing. Yes, it's always better in a democracy to have a challenger, but we understand why Swope does not. We encourage voters to show their appreciation by supporting him for a fifth term.

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

Write a letter to the editor.

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- At lansingcitypulse.com

Write a guest column.

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061. (Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

The CP Edit

Opinion

Two years ago, we opposed a ballot proposal calling for a wholesale review of the Lansing City Charter because we saw no reason to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to improve a document in no major need of repair. Hundreds of thousands of dollars later, we stand by our opinion — while supporting the proposed new charter's passage on Nov. 4.

We have little argument with the changes (as outlined on Page 5 in this week's issue) recommended by the elected body that spent over a year pouring over the 47-year-old charter. Commendably, they listened to citizens, accepted some suggestions, rejected others, and acted efficiently and with restraint. Our only quibble is eliminating the three non-Lansing (and nonvoting) board members that voters added just 11 years ago to the Lansing Board of Water & Light, which seems the very antithesis of regional cooperation. We see no harm in other changes, and steps forward in a few. Among them is giving the City Council authority equal to the mayor's in firing the city attorney, correcting a balance-of-power issue. Another is requiring the mayor to deliver a strategic plan quadrennially. Still another is removing the odious ban on citizens with felony convictions from running for office. Let voters decide who represents us. We could go on.

We also like what it did not propose, chief among them abandoning the strong may-

or system for a city manager. It also showed restraint in the face of calls for eliminating all at-large Council seats, which would have made the body even more parochial. Instead, it added a ninth ward, perhaps a sop, but it does eliminate tie votes.

Voters will not see any of these changes on the ballot. They will simply be asked to vote up or down. We encourage you to study the changes elsewhere (such as lansingvotes.gov/yourcharter) and decide if you think the commission should try again, which under state law it can do twice more.

But consider this: For 47 years, we have gotten along fine making one change at a time seven times — in our opinion, better than fine, because then the ballot actually spelled out those seven proposed changes, which voters approved.

The alternative: Vote down the charter proposal and risk wasting hundreds of thousands more taxpayer dollars should the commission decide to resume its work.

Finally, one change on the ballot Nov. 4 would extend to 16 years, from 12, the frequency with which the charter could be amended through the review process. If nothing else, approve the new charter so we put off by four extra years the risk of going through this folly again.

City Charter: Yes, and let's move on

The CP Edit

Opinion

The people have spoken. Will the EPA listen?

Now that the public comment period has closed on the proposal to roll back the Endangerment Finding—the scientific determination that greenhouse gases threaten public health—the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency faces a choice: side with the people of Michigan or side with polluters.

For years, our summers have been increasingly marred by a haze of wildfire smoke — a stark reminder of climate change that chokes our skies and our lungs. This finding has been the basis of key clean air protections for nearly 20 years, upheld by the Supreme Court. It is the essential tool that empowers the EPA to restrict the pollutants driving climate change. Weakening it would ignore decades of scientific consensus, putting polluters ahead of the health of our children, seniors, and communities.

The American Lung Association warns this would be a “dangerous setback for health.” For Michigan, repeal-

Letter to
the editor

ing this finding means more lung-searing ozone pollution and more intense wildfires filling our air with smoke. It directly leads to more asthma attacks and premature deaths.

Beyond air quality, these climate impacts fuel more extreme weather across our state, causing unpredictable floods that overwhelm our sewers, longer droughts that threaten farm yields and stronger windstorms that cause widespread power outages.

The EPA has a responsibility to protect all Americans from escalating climate threats. Thousands of Michiganders have spoken. I now urge Administrator Zeldin to listen to the public, heed the science and abandon this dangerous effort to weaken the Endangerment Finding. Our health and well-being must come first.

Liz Busch
Mount Pleasant city
commissioner

John James seems to be sabotaging his gubernatorial chances

This is a story on “the race that shouldn't have been.”

U.S. Rep. John James should already be wrapping up the 2026 gubernatorial primary. The race should be functionally over, just like how Mike Rogers wrapped up the U.S. Senate nomination through good timing and decision-making.

James had everything that everybody else didn't have: A lot of money. Name ID from two highly competitive statewide campaigns. A national network to raise more money. A rockstar-like reputation among the Republican grassroots. A \$5 million independent SuperPAC funded by Dan and Pamella DeVos. Buddies with President Donald Trump.

What else does a GOP candidate need? As we saw from the results of the Michigan Republican Party's Mackinac Leadership Conference straw poll, this gubernatorial race is not over.

Instead, it's become stunningly competitive. Just as James Craig completely fumbled a clear shot at the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 2021-'22 through pure neglect and laziness, James is on track to do the same thing.

For months, candidates Senate Majority Leader Aric Nesbitt, former Attorney General Mike Cox, former House Speaker Tom Leonard, trucker Anthony Hudson, and even AxMITax advocate Karla Wagner have crisscrossed the state.

They've hit the county GOP chicken dinners. They connected (or reconnected) with the grassroots. Bounced different issues off constituents. Refined their messages. Got themselves into various mediums. Raised money from someone other than retired, out-of-state folks who watch Fox News all day.

James couldn't be bothered.

Instead, there are excuses or nothing: His schedule is busy. Been there, done that. Or he's actually doing stuff; we just don't see it.

Now the James camp is seeing what happens when GOP activists feel taken for granted.

James finished fourth in the Mackinac straw poll of 500-some GOP insiders with around 14% of the votes, behind Nesbitt, Leonard and Cox.

“So what?” you might say.

In 2021, the straw-poll winner was Craig, who screwed up his petition signatures. Second-place? Eventual nominee Tudor Dixon. In 2017, the winner was eventual nominee Bill Schuette. In 2009, the winner was eventual nominee Rick Snyder.

What happened? James failed to take care of one big housecleaning issue.

If he weren't running for reelection in the competitive 10th Congressional District, he needed to line up a quality, Trump-approved replacement.

Instead, Trump publicly questions James' choice to run for governor instead of Congress. Trump's GOP majority in the U.S. House is so dubious for 2026 that red states are redrawing their congressional lines mid-cycle to help Trump.

In response, people can hear James telling Trump off-camera that he has a candidate in MI-10.

The problem? James didn't have a candidate!

Or, if he does, we haven't seen him or her. Instead, the Republicans have a charming young man with a name 99.9% of people can't pronounce (Robert Lulgjuraj) and maybe the son of a sheriff in a neighboring county. The Dems' field is stacked with a mayor, a guy with a boatload of money, someone who ran countywide last cycle and more.

Yikes.

Now, Republican activists feel James put

Trump in a lurch. James could have made his case directly to activists, but ... see the above part of this column.

Meanwhile, James' campaign operation has been left adrift by part-time or inexperienced staff, who have made such sloppy mistakes as promoting James' candidacy with a kid's backpack giveaway (a good idea) through his congressional office (a bad idea).

James's leading advisers from previous campaigns are gone (Stu Sandler and Troy Hudson, who now works for Cox). In the void, James has what amounts to a part-time effort. Excuses are replacing real work on the faulty belief that their boss' popularity fixes everything.

What does bad staff work equal? James

going to an MMA fight instead of attending a GOP gubernatorial forum on the island in front of a few hundred devout Republicans.

The shame is that James is a great candidate. He's a quick study. He has a commanding presence. Great smile. Likable one-on-one. He could have given Republicans a real shot to take back the Governor's seat.

Maybe he still can. But unless something changes, he's not making it out of the primary.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT UPDATE
EYDE CENTRAL PARK PROPERTY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Settlement Agreement Update
Eyde Central Park Property
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in a proposed project. Continental 975 Fund LLC is submitting an application to amend an existing settlement agreement with the Eyde Company to allow the development of a medium density multiple-family community on vacant land along Central Park Drive.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing in the Department of Community Planning and Development office (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, 48864), Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, or on the Township website at the following location: www.meridian.mi.us/businesses/development-projects. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to schmitt@meridian.mi.us.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-310

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Same latitude, same attitude

'North Bird' saxophonist Erena Terakubo joins MSU jazz studies

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Erena Terakubo knew about Michigan State University before she knew about Michigan State University.

Born and raised in Sapporo, Japan, the latest addition to the MSU jazz studies faculty moved to New York in 2015 — a bold move for a young musician from way out of town. She had a bone-deep passion for jazz and blazing alto saxophone chops but no friends and few contacts.

"I was shy, so I didn't go out and talk to people," she said. "It took time for me."

As she struggled to make her mark in the Big Apple, she kept running into successful graduates of a school she had never heard of in the heart of Michigan.

"Before I knew anything about MSU, I was like, 'What's going on with this school?'" Terakubo said. "Not only can everyone play, but they're all so nice. That's what's outstanding about this program. I can tell someone went to MSU because they value community, they're always helping."

When MSU trombone Professor Michael Dease told her there would be a vacancy created by the departure this year of saxophonist Walter Blanding, Terakubo, 33, went for it right away.

Sapporo and East Lansing also happen to sit at about the same latitude, so she's already equipped for fall with a down jacket. Her next move is to buy an e-bike and hit the local trail system.

"This is a dream come true for me," she said.

Like many kids in Japan, Terakubo started playing piano at a very young age, but her local elementary school offered more than Bach and Mozart.

Her homeroom teacher, Mr. Takeda, was a jazz fan. He didn't blink at pushing his band of 8-year-old kids from Thomas the Tank Engine and "Sesame Street" to hard bop trumpeter Lee Morgan's saucy 1964 hit, "The Sidewinder."

When Terakubo was little, she fixated on a toy her dad brought home, a candy jar shaped like an M&M playing a saxophone. When her parents took her to a local jazz concert, she was even more fascinated by the actual instrument. She borrowed her older cousin's saxophone and started woodshedding.

She earned a spot in the Sapporo Junior Jazz Orchestra, a popular ensemble that drew from schools around the city and performed at many venues and festivals in the region.

"These were 8- and 9-year-old kids," she said. "We had no idea how to improvise, but we did it anyway. Our approach was, 'Jazz is expression.' I really got into it."

Audiences loved the ensemble's energy and appreciated the members' talent.

"I would hit a high note, and the audience would go crazy," Terakubo said. "I really loved that interaction with the audience."



Courtesy photo

Saxophonist Erena Terakubo, the latest addition to the MSU jazz studies faculty, was born in Sapporo, Japan, and recorded her first album with jazz greats Kenny Barron, Christian McBride and Peter Bernstein while still in high school.



Courtesy photo

Terakubo performs with her big band at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola.

Word of the group's acumen spread, and soon the kids were getting in-person lessons from giants like saxophonist Sadao Watanabe (still swinging at age 92), arguably the most famous Japanese jazz musician. Herbie Hancock, a pioneer of electrified jazz, sat at the keyboards one weekend.

"Back then, I was into jazz fusion,

and my idols were playing right in front of me," Terakubo recalled. "I was very inspired."

By the time she got to high school, she had thousands of hours of practice and performance under her belt.

"I really had chops," she said. "I was able to play fast and hit high notes, and I got many opportunities to play."

Word of Terakubo's talent quickly reached record producer Yasohachi Itoh, known as "Mr. 88." Another high-level supporter, adventurous jazz pianist Yōsuke Yamashita, asked Terakubo whom she'd want to play with on her first album. (Yamashita famously played a burning piano for a film of the same name in 1973. He recreated the event in 2008, and the short film on Vimeo is a shocker.)

For her first album, "North Bird," Terakubo asked for the moon and got it. In 2010, while still in high school, she found herself on a plane to New York to record with veteran pianist Kenny Barron, bassist Christian McBride, guitarist Peter Bernstein and drummer Lee Pearson.

To her surprise, Barron, the elder statesman and most distinguished of the group, was the only one who asked for a chart.

"He wanted to practice before the session," she recalled with amazement. "I was only 17. My chart looked like an elementary school student wrote it, but I gave it to Kenny. He rewrote it himself and brought it to the recording."

"North Bird" reached No. 1 on the Japanese jazz charts and earned jazz magazine *Swing Journal's* Gold Disc Award.

The "North Bird" recording session — and the prospect of a tour with Barron — shifted Terakubo's center of gravity to the busiest jazz hub on Earth, New York.

"I had always wanted to go to America, but New York was beyond my imagination," she said. "It kind of naturally happened, but I never thought I could make a living in New York back then."

Besides keeping up her own performing schedule, she toured with Barron's quartet, playing Blue Note Tokyo, the Kennedy Center, the Hollywood Bowl and even the United Nations.

For Terakubo, joining a jazz studies faculty doesn't mean settling in and getting comfortable. With her career still in the ascendant, she plans to continue performing and touring while anchoring her musical life at MSU.

"I've wanted to teach for a long time because so many mentors and teachers helped me," she said. "But it's inclusive. I can do both, and both things help each other."

She'll ground her students in the traditions of alto greats like Charlie Parker and Sonny Stitt, but they will be free to take the music wherever they want. Terakubo herself is still evolving as an artist, as her precocious beginnings give way to a new phase of maturity.

"I try not to show off because I did that so much when I was a kid," she said. She hears the excess in some of her old recordings. "After about five seconds, I think, 'That's too much.' Music should be creative, and it should make people happy. But if you scream and make a lot of noise, sometimes it gets to people, but not all the time."



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CityPULSE

Fewer Americans are reading for pleasure, study finds

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Avid readers know the excitement that comes from taking a good book to bed and getting so involved you can't put it down — “just one more chapter.”

I recently learned from a study by the University of Florida and University College London that the percentage of people who read for pleasure daily in the United States has declined precipitously, falling from 28% in 2004 to 16% in 2023. And the study had a liberal definition of what constitutes “reading material,” including newspapers, books and magazines in any format, even audio.

In just two decades, America has become a nation of non-readers. The sharp drop in daily readership is



Alpha Foxtro: November Echo/eBay



The Historic Trading Post/eBay

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of East Lansing will hold a City General Election on November 4, 2025.

For the purposes of electing the following non-partisan offices:

City Council – Two (2) Full Terms

Also to vote on the following proposals:

Proposed East Lansing City Charter Amendment to Allow a Dedicated Parks and Rec Millage Not to Exceed 2.0 Mills

Any qualified elector who is not already registered may register to vote at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk; the office of their County Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch Office, or other designated state agency. Qualified electors who have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID may register online at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>. Registration forms may be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed or dropped off at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the East Lansing City Clerk's Office is October 20, 2025. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

East Lansing City Clerk – City Hall 410 Abbot Road, Room 100 East Lansing, MI 48823	<u>Regular Business Hours:</u> Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm Additional Hours: November 1st and 2nd from 8am-4pm
---	--

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. You may apply online at www.mi.gov/vote or at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, November 4, 2025, are eligible to receive an Absent Voter Ballot at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

EARLY VOTING CENTER

The Early Voting center is for all City of East Lansing registered voters. For the November 4, 2025, election, the Early Voting Center will be held at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, 48823. Hours are posted below:

Early Voting Center Hannah Community Center 819 Abbott Road East Lansing, MI 48823	Regular Hours: October 29th- November 2nd from 9am-4pm
---	---

Emily Gordon
East Lansing City Clerk
CP#25-312

In the mid-20th century, children were encouraged to read by a simple competition hosted by the Library Club of America. Similar to scout merit badges, kids could earn a plastic button for reading four books or a bronze-coated pin for reading 10 books.

alarming on many counts. The most obvious concerns are that fewer books will ultimately be written, the publishing industry will shrink, the population of the United States will be dumbed down, and the universe of ideas will be constricted.

In medieval Europe, the wealthy royalty controlled the populace by limiting what they could read. The nobles were afraid an educated populace would overthrow them if they were literate. It wasn't until the advent of the movable-type printing press that an informed — and entertained — reader emerged.

As an example, in the mid-1800s, Charles Dickens' books were published in serial form, and readers on both sides of the Atlantic followed him passionately. His impatient fans would gather at the docks in Boston and New York, waiting for the next chapter to drop.

During the pandemic, as more and more bookstores shuttered and book clubs could only meet using Zoom, readers began to lose connection with one another, and the slow decline of readership accelerated. We also became more isolated from authors as they paused their promotional events and book tours. One would think that reading is a solitary activity, but the facts show otherwise. How many times have you heard the phrase, “What are you reading?”

One of the most challenging, but not surprising, discoveries in the survey was that “highly educated people were twice as likely to read as the least educated.” A similar finding was that wealthy individuals were 1.5 times more likely to read than lower-income people.

So, what's the solution? The study, which analyzed data from the national Labor Statistics and Census bureaus' American Time Use Survey, didn't ask

that question.

One clear answer is that it's necessary to capture readers early, when they're in grade school or younger. One disturbing detail from the study was that only 2% of subjects regularly read with a child.

When I was a youngster, my literacy was enriched by story time with my grandmother and weekly trips to the library, where I could wander freely.

Each summer at the library, until sometime in middle school, children were encouraged to read by a simple competition designed by a book manufacturer. The creator of what was called the Library Club of America, which focused on kids exclusively, said, “You've got to get to the child. The thing to sell is the reading habit early.”

The competition was similar to scout merit badges. Students could earn a plastic button for reading four books, and for reading 10 books, they would be awarded a bronze-coated pin. These prizes were highly sought after, and the more you read, the more you received. I still wear mine when I attend library events.

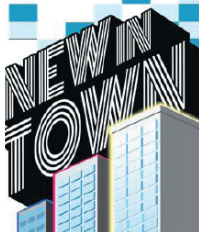
An educational change that I believe does not bode well for future generations of readers is that more and more, middle school, high school and college classes aren't requiring students to read complete books, instead opting for excerpts.

I'm not going to dwell on it too much, but frankly, the publishing industry hasn't been able to come up with a string of blockbusters that pull long-term readers in lately. Where's Harry Potter when you need him?

Some experts have pointed to reading as an elixir for mental health woes. Think about the times you've turned to fiction to get through a difficult time. Read more — and get your kids involved.

Constellation Cat Cafe brings cuddles and coffee to Old Town community

By LEO V. KAPLAN



Constellation Cat Cafe

1041 N. Cedar St., Lansing
 Noon-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday
 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday
 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday
 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday
 (517) 918-4919
 constellationcatcafe.com

Any cat owner who has rented a home knows the fear of their pet scratching away the security deposit. It should come as no surprise, then, that Constellation Cat Cafe's leadership was anxious to move out of their former East Lansing location, which they rented, and into a building they owned.

That process took nearly three years as the new location, Old Town's former Su Casa boutique, underwent extensive renovations. A car crashed into the building in 2023, damaging the structure and necessitating further fundraising and repairs.

"The building was built in the 1800s, so it needed a lot of updates and TLC," executive director Savannah Segueda said. "It did cost quite a bit to renovate, but now that we own it, we don't have to pay rent and are able to make it specifically what we need."

The nonprofit reopened its doors Aug. 30. As with its previous location, customers can rent time in a room with 15 to 30 cats, all of which are available for adoption. But the new space has allowed staff to set up a room tailor-made for the cats, with tall windows, wooden perches along the



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Savannah Segueda, executive director of Constellation Cat Cafe, holds a resident feline, Wylie, at the new Old Town location. Because the nonprofit owns the building, it was able to install more amenities for the cats, such as wooden perches along the walls.

walls and sisal scratching posts.

More importantly, Segueda noted, the cat cafe has seen increased traffic since the move.

"We're getting more publicity at this location, and it's more centralized," she said. "We're seeing more adoptions, which is fantastic, since that's our ultimate goal and we've already been able to succeed at it."

While Constellation's obvious focus is the cats, the cafe aspect is much more than an afterthought. "Purristas" use 517 Coffee Co. beans and syrups that are mostly homemade. Non-coffee offerings range from standards like matcha and hot chocolate to seasonal drinks like pumpkin chai and apple cider.

Moving to Old Town has also fostered collaboration with other businesses, especially Preuss Pets, which is right down the street.

"Preuss has specifically reached out to


say, 'Anything you need, we'll work with you,'" Segueda said. "They provide a free bag of food, the type of food we provide the

cats, upon adoption."

She said Constellation is focused on supporting local businesses, "even if it's not necessarily the cheapest option, because we believe they're what helps the economy turn." The nonprofit purchases its cat food from Preuss Pets and cleaning products from Clean Refillery, for instance.

Constellation will celebrate its grand reopening and sixth anniversary Saturday (Sept. 27), in conjunction with a broader Downtown Day celebration in Old Town. Segueda said local businesses have helped spread the word about the new location's participation.

"It's been wonderful posting that event and seeing a lot of Old Town businesses repost it in support of us," she said. "It's really great to be part of a community where we're all supporting one another."



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE 2025-06
REGULATION OF ROOSTERS


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Zoning Amendment #2025-06 (Rooster Regulation)

The Township Board at its regular meeting on September 2, 2025 approved for final adoption Ordinance 2025-06 to amend the Zoning Ordinance at Section 86-368, One-Family Rural Residential District to update the regulations for roosters in the Township.

A complete copy of the amendment may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.


Angela Demas
 Township Clerk

CP#25-308



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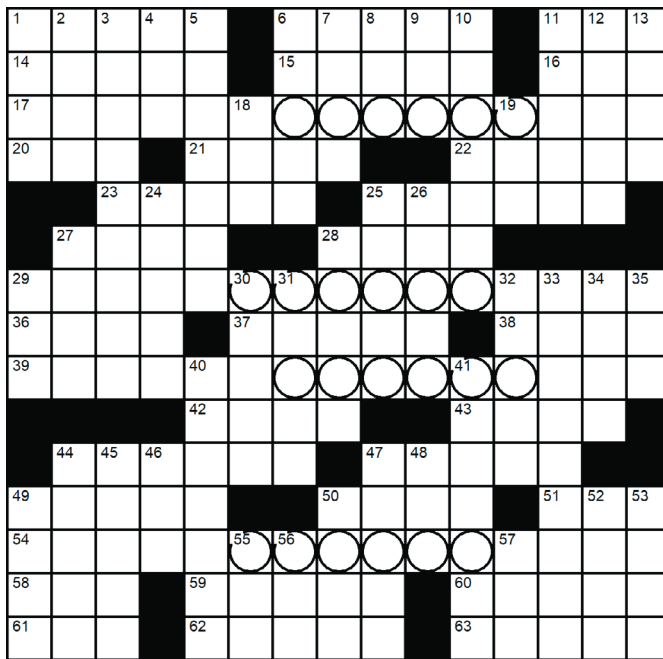
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Seasons Change”
-- yet it seems like
yesterday.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Can't refuse
- 6. Small change?
- 11. Ride from the airport
- 14. Colorado skiing town
- 15. "It was ___ and stormy night"
- 16. Swatch selection
- 17. They encapsulate the story
- 20. Duke U.'s conference
- 21. Hit song of 1979
- 22. Perspire
- 23. Classic Jaguar model
- 25. Finds loathsome
- 27. Salt-N-Pepa, originally
- 28. Potato, on Indian menus
- 29. Kitchen utensils often linked in a group of 4-6
- 36. 800, in Roman numerals
- 37. Bony beginning
- 38. Obey Bob Barker, in a way
- 39. L.A. art gallery home to van Gogh's "Hospital at Saint-Rémy"
- 42. Oboist's need
- 43. Julep flavoring
- 44. Burrowing rodent
- 47. Dustup
- 49. Chop into little bits
- 50. Apple variety
- 51. Wedding music providers, sometimes
- 54. Baked breakfast item with a pair of main ingredients



- 58. Snacked on
- 59. About to blow
- 60. Stash of treasure
- 61. Alto instrument
- 62. Yawning chasm
- 63. Colts' fathers
- 11. Stadium sound
- 12. Atmospheres
- 13. Of the highest quality
- 18. Mischievous sort
- 19. Tango number
- 24. NYU's ___ School of the Arts
- 25. "Ragged Dick" author Horatio
- 26. "___ Buddies" (Tom Hanks sitcom)
- 27. Silicon Valley industry, briefly
- 28. Added to the pot
- 29. Santa Fe summer hrs.
- 30. Mercutio's friend
- 31. "In Britain, any degree of success ___ with envy and resentment": Christopher Lee
- 32. "Grumpy Old Men" actor Davis
- 33. Performed before
- 34. Astro ender
- 35. Prefix with metric or phonic
- 40. Azerbaijan neighbor
- 41. Bits of metal?
- 44. Mazda model introduced in 1989
- 45. Add, as territory
- 46. Big initials in early TV
- 47. Pairs up
- 48. Shade-providing tree
- 49. Business degrees
- 50. Bravado
- 52. Hipster's jargon, once
- 53. "Donkey Kong Country" console
- 55. Certain trader, casually
- 56. No vote
- 57. Part of WTF?

DOWN

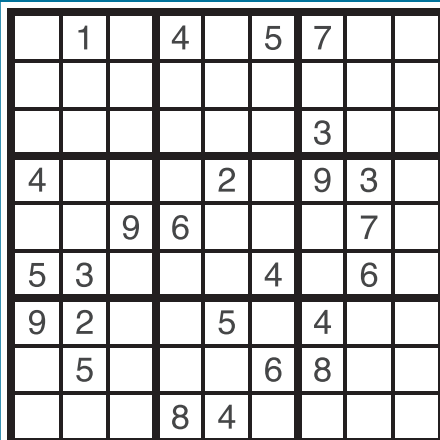
- 1. Nelson Muntz catchphrase
- 2. "Hey, wait ___!"
- 3. Old U.S.-Soviet scientific rivalry
- 4. "Chopped" host Allen
- 5. Person who "can make the darkness bright," in a Platters hit
- 6. The Robot, e.g.
- 7. It's the thought that counts
- 8. Yawning chasm
- 9. Mess up
- 10. Place to purchase boots and bindings

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Answers on page 26

SUDOKU

Intermediate



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Sept. 24-30, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In Tonglen, a Tibetan Buddhist meditation, you visualize yourself breathing in the suffering, pain or negativity of other people and breathing out relief, healing or compassion toward them. The practice can also be done on your own behalf. The goal is to transform tension and stress into courage, vitality and healing. I recommend this practice, Aries. Can you turn your scars into interesting tattoos? Can you find mysterious opportunities lurking in the dilemmas? Can you provide grace for others as you feed your own fire?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In a YouTube video, I watched Korean artisans make hanji paper in the same way their predecessors have for 1,300 years. It was complicated and meditative. They peeled off the inner bark of mulberry trees, then soaked it, cooked it and pounded it into pulp. After mixing the mash with the aibika plant, they spread it out on screens and let it dry. I learned that this gorgeous, luminous paper can endure for a thousand years. I hope you draw inspiration from this process, Taurus. Experiment with softening what has felt unyielding. Treat what's tough or inflexible with steady, artful effort. Be imaginative and persistent as you shape raw materials into beautiful things you can use for a long time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Legendary jazz musician Sun Ra was a Gemini who claimed to be from the planet Saturn. He aspired to live in a state of "cosmic discipline" — not just in his musical training but in his devotion to self-improvement, aesthetic exploration and a connection to transcendent realities. He fused outrageous style with sacred order, chaos with clarity. I invite you to draw inspiration from him. Put your personal flair in service to noble ideas. Align your exuberant self-expression with your higher purpose. Show off if it helps wake people up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In Inuit tradition, "qarrtsluni" means "waiting in the darkness for something to burst forth." It refers to the sacred pause before creativity erupts, before the quest begins, before the light returns. This is an apt description of your current state, Cancerian. Tend your inner stillness like a fire about to ignite. Don't rush it. Honor the hush. The energies you store up will find their proper shape in a few weeks. Trust that the silence is not absence but incubation. Luminosity will bloom from this pregnant pause.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're feeling the stirrings of a desire that's at least half wild. A surprising vision or opportunity has begun to roar softly within you. But here's key advice: Don't chase it recklessly. Practice strategic boldness. Choose where and how you shine. Your radiance is potent, but it will be most effective when offered deliberately, with conscious artistry. You're being asked to embody the kind of leadership that inspires, not dominates. Be the sun that warms but doesn't scorch! PS: People are observing you to learn how to shine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If humans ever perfect time travel, I'm going to the Library of Alexandria in ancient Egypt. It was crammed with papyrus scrolls by authors from all over the world. It was also a gathering point for smart people who loved to compare notes across disciplines. Poets argued amiably with mathematicians. Astronomers discussed inspirations with physicians. Breakthroughs flowed freely because ideas were allowed to migrate, hybridize and be challenged without rancor. Consider emulating that rich mélange, Virgo. Convene unlike minds, cross-pollinate and entertain unprecedented questions. The influences you need next will arrive via unexpected connections.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The ancient Mesopotamians believed each person had a personal god called an "ilu" who acted as a protector, guide and intercessor with the greater gods. You're in a phase when your own ilu is extra active and ready to undergo an evolutionary transformation. So, assume that you will be able to call on potent

help, Libra. Be alert to how your instincts and intuitions are becoming more acute and specific. If you feel an odd nudge or a dream insists on being remembered, take it seriously. You're being steered toward deeper nourishment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In Venice, Italy, floods periodically damage books at libraries and bookstores. Trained volunteers restore them with meticulous, hands-on methods. They use absorbent paper and towels to separate and dry the pages, working page by page. I offer this vignette as a useful metaphor, Scorpio. Why? Because I suspect that a rich part of your story needs repair. It's at risk of becoming irrelevant, even irretrievable. Your assignment is to nurse it back to full health and coherence. Give it your tender attention as you rehabilitate its meaning. Rediscover and revive its lessons and wisdom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In classical Indian music, a raga is not a fixed composition but a flexible framework. It's defined by a specific scale, characteristic melodic phrases and a traditional time of day for performance. Musicians improvise and express emotion within that expansive set of constraints. Unlike Western compositions, which are written out and repeated verbatim, a raga has different notes each time it's played. I think this beautiful art form can be inspirational for you, Sagittarius. Choose the right time and tone for what you're creating. Dedicate yourself to a high-minded intention and then play around with flair and delight. Define three non-negotiable elements and let everything else breathe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In medieval European monasteries, scribes left blank pages in certain texts. This was not done by accident, but to allow for future revelations. Later readers and scribes might fill these spaces with additional text, marginalia and personal notes. Books were seen as living documents. I recommend a metaphorical version of this practice to you, Capricorn. You will thrive by keeping spaces empty and allowing for the unknown to ripen. You may sometimes feel an urge to define, control and fortify, but acting on that impulse could interfere with the gifts that life wants to bring you. Honor what is as-yet unwritten.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In West African Vodún cosmology, the deity named Lègba guards the crossroads. He is the mediator and gatekeeper between the human world and the spirit realm. He speaks all languages and serves as the first point of contact for communication with other spirits. In the weeks ahead, Aquarius, you may find yourself in Lègba's domain: between past and future, fact and fantasy, solitude and communion. You may also become a channel for others, intuiting or translating what they can't articulate. I won't be surprised if you know things your rational mind doesn't fully understand. I bet a long-locked door will swing open and a long-denied connection will finally coalesce. You're not just passing through the crossroads. You are the crossroads.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 1977, NASA launched two Voyager spacecraft into the abyss. Both carried a message in the form of a golden record to any extraterrestrial who might find it. There were greetings in 55 languages, natural sounds like whale songs and thunderstorms, music by Chuck Berry and over a hundred images and diagrams explaining how to find Earth. It was science as a love letter, realism with a dash of audacity. I invite you to craft your own version of a golden record, Pisces. Distill a message that says who you are and what you are seeking: clear enough to be decoded by strangers, warm enough to be welcomed by friends you haven't met. Put it where the desired audience can hear it: portfolio, outreach note, manifesto, demo. Send signals that will make the right replies inevitable.

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. 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.

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. 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.

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.

Western Wednesday at Dublin Square - A two-for-one special with the Evan James band in the back room and North of Five in the front room. 9 p.m.-midnight. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. facebook.com/dublinsquare.

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.

Climate Change Theatre Action

1-4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26
Beal Botanical Garden

330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27
Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center
9422 E. Herbison Road, Laingsburg



Kelly Richmond, Michigan State University's inaugural 1855 professor of arts and climate justice, said art has always been a part of social and conservation movements.

"We don't necessarily tend to think about art when we think about climate change. We tend to think about science and technology and infrastructure," she said. "If we're engaging in real practices of relationship and care, especially with our non-human neighbors, art is a core part of that. We write poetry, we write music, we make paintings, we create theater pieces. Humans have expressed their love and care for nature through art for all of human history."

The international Climate Change Theatre Action festival, a biannual event that combines five-minute plays by global authors and local climate activism, aims to recenter the narratives people hold about the climate crisis and conservation efforts, according to Richmond.

"What we're used to seeing in the media is that this is the apocalypse. Everything is gloom and doom," she said. "Theater action is really thinking about how we can pivot that type of storytelling and also pivot how we think about the role of arts in activism. How can a festival be a gathering place that is full of joy and also action?"

Richmond is the director of MSU's branch of the festival, which will feature seven short plays, staged by MSU students and staff, as well as presentations by and discussions with climate researchers and environmental organizations. - Both dates are free to attend, though registration is required at elansingclimateaction.art.

The theme of this year's festival, the 10th anniversary, is "The Time Is Now."

"When we look at the most recent climate goals that have been set internationally, a lot of them are focused on decreasing carbon emissions to set thresholds by 2030. For example, the city of Lansing's goal for decreasing carbon emissions from 2019 levels, I believe, is to get down 59% by 2030," Richmond said. "We're halfway through the decade, so 'The Time Is Now' is sort of thinking about 2025 as a moment for activation. We're also in a really exciting moment in terms of the development of renewable technologies, especially solar technologies. The energy transition is coming, and that's very clear on an international level. So, it's also a celebration of that."

Some of the local organizations that will be represented at the festival include the Michigan Environmental Council, Capital Area Friends of the Environment, the MSU Water Alliance, the Mid-Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Nature Association, the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy and Woldumar Nature Center. Richmond said the list is constantly growing.

"Every time I talk to someone about this project, they want to be involved. That's been an exciting part of it," she said.

She hopes the festival will serve as a call to action for audience members.

"What's really interesting about creating public art around the climate crisis is that two-thirds of Americans are climate concerned. But two-thirds of Americans also say that they don't talk about the climate crisis with friends and family on a regular basis," she said. "So, the majority of the population is basically feeling alone in their fear. What I hope happens at the festival is it's a chance for people to share their feelings in public, in a safe space, and to sort of move from a space of 'I don't know what to do, I just know I'm worried' to 'I'm with a group of people who also care, and together, we have some tangible steps that we can take to move forward.'"

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Events

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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.

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/summerlands-brewing.

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.

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.

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

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

Fall Fungi Foray - Join Michigan Wildlife Conservancy director Drew Monks and MSU researcher Jud Van Wyk to learn about and search for Michigan's fall mushrooms. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. facebook.com/miwildlife.

Fiscally Ready Communities: Getting Grant Ready - A webinar designed to help local government officials navigate the full lifecycle of grants, from identifying the right opportunities to ensuring compliance and successful reporting. 10 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/fiscal_management/index.

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.

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.

J.C. Vande Zande Author Visit - Vande Zande will give a brief presentation on the characteristics of gothic horror and read from his novels, followed by a Q&A. Copies of his work will be available for purchase. 6-7 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Jessey Adams Live at the Graduate Rock Bar - 8-10 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

Ladies' Night Make-and-Take Workshop - During this workshop, participants will learn to make a two-color screen print using a manual printing press and a custom wine tote by layering different patterns and graphics. 6-8:15 p.m. ALT Printing Co., 109 E. South S., Lansing. altprintingco.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. ladiesilverblades.org.

Market Walk Finale Art Fair - This fair will highlight Lansing-based artists. This is your chance to learn about Market Walk, sign up for next year's email list and earn Market Walk dollars! Free. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Hunter Park, 500 Clifford St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenNeighborhoodCenter.

MELT Thursdays - UrbanBeat turns up the heat with a weekly electronic music series. Featured performers: KDubbz, Frankie Far, Big Sherm. No cover. 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.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. lapsq.org.

"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. peppermint-creek.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.

Sarah Elizabeth Wallace: "The Lion — She Roars!" - Known for her powerhouse vocals and dynamic stage presence, Wallace delivers a performance that captivates and inspires. Opening the evening is Clique Vocals, setting the tone with their own distinctive sound. 6-10:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

The Shuffle Jazz Band & Cocktail Class - 7-10 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

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

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. spiritofmichigan-chorus.com.

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

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

Friday, Sept. 26

Aleksi Campagne - Ten Pound Fiddle fans may remember that tall, dynamic fiddler in Connie Kaldor's family band. Now out on his own, Aleksi is taking the folk music world by storm, winning several newcomer awards from Canadian and U.S. music organizations. 7:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.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.

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. B's Artistic Studio, 1699 Lansing Road, Ste. 3,

Charlotte. eventbrite.com/o/beach-glass-crafting-party-77050402593.

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.

Broad Underground: Global Groove, Moving Time - Featuring Nam June Paik's video "Global Groove" and a selection of works from the 2015 "Moving Time" exhibition, this event travels through time and time-based media to celebrate 10 years of Broad Underground. 7-9 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

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

Craft Club - Create a ghost family portrait! Grades 4-12. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Cruise to Holt - All types and years of cars, trucks and bikes welcome. No entry fee! Spectators encouraged. 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.

Five-Star Friday - Let's gather at Sleepwalker to write thoughtful five-star reviews for our favorite small businesses! 5-7 p.m. 1101 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/drinksleepwalker.

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

Jesus & Justice: Young Adult Advocacy Conference - This three-day event is designed to teach college students and other young adults how to enhance their advocacy skills, especially when speaking out for social justice. 4-8 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. pcusa.org.

Krosby's Conspiracy Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Enjoy rock 'n' roll hits from the '70s to today! 7:30-10:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

LAFCU Heritage Fest - Come together with neighbors, friends and family for a free community celebration that embraces culture, unity and the vibrant diversity of our region. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. lafcu.com/heritagefest.

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QD Quality Dairy

NEW - OLD FASHIONED CINNAMON ROLLS!

FARMHOUSE Cinnamon Rolls

GREAT SERVED WITH QD CIDER!

IN A 4 COUNT TRAY

PUMPKIN APPLE LOAF BACK IN STORES!

Apple Cider

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 (200g)		Calories 120	
% Daily Value*		% Daily Value*	
Total Fat	10g	Total Carb	25g
Saturated Fat	5g	Fiber	1g
Total Fat	10g	Total Sugar	20g
Cholesterol	5mg		
Sodium	10mg	Protein	2g

Events

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Martini & Rossi Live at Graham Vineyards - 6-9 p.m. 8920 W Britton Road, Laingsburg. 517-741-0805. facebook.com/grahamvineyards.

Nic Vansteenbergh - Nic from "Love Island" takes over Grewal Hall to host the ultimate party! Ages 18+. 7 p.m. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Night Out in Nature for Kids - No need to book a sitter! Send your kids (ages 5 - 10) to Harris Nature Center for a fun night out. We'll explore the trails, enjoy nature activities and meet live animals. Pizza dinner included. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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.

"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. peppermint-creek.org.

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.

Tap Monkeys - Join us for a night of powerhouse blues, rock and funk as the Tap Monkeys take the stage. 5-8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Tech Tear-Down - Kids will learn and have fun as they disassemble tech devices in this hands-on workshop! Ages 8+. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Saturday, Sept. 27

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.

Babysitting Workshop - Learn emergency procedures, discipline techniques, age-appropriate activities and basic first aid skills needed while babysitting. Ages 12+. Registration req. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Billy Joe Hunt live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 4-7 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-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Classic Albums Live Performs Fleetwood Mac: "Rumours" - For the first time in popular music, "Rumours" is recreated live on stage by some of the best musicians performing today. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

Dad & Daughter Tea Party at Playing Picasso - Spend some quality time together painting an adorable tea set while enjoying snacks and refreshments! 9:30 a.m.-noon. 300 N. Clippert St., Ste. 15A, Lansing. playingpicasso.com.

Divination Roundtable - Learn a new divination method, get a reading and compare notes with

others in your field. All readings free, all systems of divination welcome. 5-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Farmers' Field Day - Celebrate the opening of Choice Farm Market's corn maze and fall adventure from noon-8 p.m. Enjoy wine, wine cocktails and wine slushies in the tasting room. Dine on ox roast and other local food. Shop from vendors showcasing unique goods and treats. Cruise-in from 5-8 p.m. 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

First Presbyterian Church of Dimondale 150-Year Anniversary - Join us for an open house and free lunch celebration featuring historical displays and a kids' tent with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, face painting and stickers. 1-3 p.m. 162 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. fpcdimondale.org.

Foster Fall Festival - Join us for a memorable day of seasonal delights. Festivities will include a performance by local singers Tom & Mary, games, crafts, stories, live animals and refreshments. 1-3 p.m. Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. cadl.org/about/our-locations/foster.

Girls Night Out the Show - This high-energy performance combines dance, music and nonstop excitement for a night you won't forget. Gather your friends, sip cocktails and enjoy the show that's been thrilling audiences across the country. Ages 21+. 8-10:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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.

Jesus & Justice: Young Adult Advocacy Conference - This three-day event is designed to teach college students and other young adults how to enhance their advocacy skills, especially when speaking out for social justice. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. pcusa.org.

Mabon Ritual - Join us in person or on Zoom as we celebrate the Second Harvest with our Mabon feast and ritual. Bring sunscreen, bug repellent, food, drinks and anything else you may need to enjoy an evening in the woods. 1-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center Scout campground, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Mastermind Prayer Circle on Zoom - Support each other in envisioning our hearts' desires. Facilitator Lisa Schmidt. 8 a.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

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

MSU Women's Volleyball vs. University of Michigan - 8 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

New Beginnings: "Together We Walk the Road to Recovery" - Join Recovery Worx for our first annual New Beginnings rally and walk, a free and fun way to support addiction recovery in our neighborhood. Registration opens at 10 a.m., walk begins at 11 a.m., rally activities (speakers, booths and more) begin at noon. Rotary Park, 107 E. Railroad St., St. Johns. 989-640-8712.

North-Central International Miniature Aerobic Club Regional Championships - Join us for fun and fellowship at our final contest of the year! Registration opens at 8 a.m. Flying will start at 9. CARDS RC Field, 8328 Otto Road, Grand Ledge. modelaircraft.org/events/north-central-imac-regional-championships.

"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.

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

Salamander Survey - With help from expert guides and naturalists, we'll search for local salamander



Photo by James Lenon

Dam Jam Music Festival

5:01 p.m.-11 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25-Saturday, Sept. 27
Rotary Park

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing

Due to a delay in the renovation of Old Town's Fish Ladder Music Park, which was originally scheduled to open this month, Lansing 5:01's 10th Dam Jam Music Festival will return to the event's original stomping grounds: downtown Lansing's Rotary Park.

Across three evenings, the festival will feature performances by a varied and vibrant roster of Michigan-based bands and solo acts, including R&B ensemble Mystur Love & the Trilogy Band, "dream-rock" duo Hail Your Highness, singer-songwriter Hannah Laine, folk-rock band Cold Leather Seats, brass-focused bedroom-pop artist falooshh, jazz/R&B fusion ensemble Caleb Robinson & Reaching, psychedelic folk band The Ruppel Brothers and many more. DJs Nikkie Nocturnal, Big Sherm and @\$!O will provide additional tunes. The Ovation Center for Music and Arts, the festival's music sponsor, has created a Spotify playlist (bit.ly/47vKfdH) to get attendees pumped up and ready to sing along.

Between sets, attendees can peruse a selection of local vendor booths and food options. Community partner MP Social, located in the nearby Marketplace Apartments, will offer a special signature cocktail: a whiskey sour with cherry preserves.

Admission to the festival is free, but registration is required at damjam.eventbrite.com.

species while learning about their behaviors, habitats and vital role in our ecosystem. 2-4 p.m. Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

She Confidence! 2025: Redesign & Refine Your Life, NOW! - Just like a designer cuts a pattern to create something bold and beautiful, this women's empowerment event is your chance to tailor a life that fits YOU — mind, body, and spirit. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Delta Community Center, 7550 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com.

Taste of Woodworking: Long-Grain Cutting Board - Learn the basics of using the woodworking equipment at Lansing Makers Network and leave with a project everyone will be jealous of! 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. lansingmakers-network.org.

Youth Dungeons & Dragons Campaign - Our youth campaign offers new and experienced players a chance to meet every other week for adventure. Ages 11-14. 12:30-3:30 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. homebrewgamelounge.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. 11:30 a.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Sunday, Sept. 28

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.

Blazing Bachata #101, Starting the Fire - Learn basic bachata in just one day in this intensive mini bootcamp! 2-5 p.m. La Mulata Restaurant & Bar, 5334 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. sultrysalsa.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.

Historic Chapel Open House - Learn about the fascinating history of the chapel, built in 1887, as well as the columbarium. Free ice cream treats for all ages. 2-4 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 N. Meridian Road, Williamston. facebook.com/stkatherinesepiscopalchurch.

Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

Jesus & Justice: Young Adult Advocacy Conference - This three-day event is designed to teach college students and other young adults how to enhance their advocacy skills, especially when speaking out for social justice. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. pcusa.org.

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Events

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Mushroom Night Sky Paint Party - Grab some friends and get creative in Dansville! Local artist Ashley will guide you step by step. 2:30-4 p.m. Wooden Nickel II, 1029 Jackson St., Dansville. paintyourpoison.com.

North-Central International Miniature Aerobic Club Regional Championships - Join us for fun and fellowship at our final contest of the year! Registration opens at 8 a.m. Flying will start at 9. CARDS RC Field, 8328 Otto Road, Grand Ledge. modelaircraft.org/events/north-central-imac-regional-championships.

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. peppermint-creek.org.

Shape Shift: The Art of Coming Undone - In connection with the exhibition "unbecoming," this three-part studio series invites us to explore transformation through artistic practice. In this session, we'll explore creative movement with dance/movement therapist Kellyn Uhl. 2-4:30 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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. 29

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.

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.

Culver's Share Night: Fundraiser for Friends of Greater Lansing CROP Hunger Walk - Support the walk that raises funds to alleviate hunger and poverty. Culver's will donate a percentage of all sales from 5-8 p.m. 3440 Okemos Road, Okemos. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Department of Public Works Meeting - 5:30 p.m. City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. 517-651-5374. laingsburg.us.

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: Teaching Kids Mindfulness - 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/stress_less_with_mindfulness/index.

Paint a Fall/Halloween Sign - Using boards, stencils and paint, create your own festive sign! Ages 13+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.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.

Scrapbooking Open Crop - A fun-filled event dedicated to scrapbooking, crafting and connecting with fellow creatives. You bring your projects and supplies, we provide the space! 10 a.m.-8 p.m. CCAC Gallery, 215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. facebook.com/ClintonCntyArts.

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. 30

"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.

Al-Anons 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.

Beneath the Same Stars: A Quest for Peace - We'll meet and welcome this year's MSU Humphrey Fellows, then head into the planetarium for "Living in Balance: Anishinaabe Star Knowledge," exploring constellations indigenous to the Great Lakes region. Free. 6-8 p.m. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.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.

CDBG Community Workshop - This workshop will focus on how CDBG funds may be used to improve public infrastructure in low- and moderate-income areas of East Lansing. 6-8 p.m. Hannah

Harvest Party

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27
Downtown St. Johns

Downtown St. Johns is a great spot to be on Saturday, with the convergence of a Harvest Party, a chalk art competition and an anniversary celebration for a local store.

The Harvest Party will feature pony rides, free line dancing, autumnal games, craft vendors, a chili cookoff, a cinnamon roll bake-off and fall treats like cider and donuts.

On the sidewalks, local artists will unveil chalk illustrations they've created for the Clinton County Arts Council's Chalk It Up! competition. The top three artists, selected by a panel of three judges, will receive cash prizes. The people's choice winner, selected by Harvest Party attendees, will win a local gift certificate.

Alongside these events, paper crafting shop Nina's Notions will celebrate its second anniversary from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with make-and-take crafts, sidewalk sales, giveaways, cupcakes and cookies, special discounts, free gifts and more.

For more information, visit facebook.com/stjohnsareachamber, clintoncountyarts.org/art-walk-chalk-it-up and ninasnotions.shop.



Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.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.

Dine & Discovery: Knife Skills, with Chef Matt Jones - You'll learn safe knife handling, essential techniques, proper care and how to choose the right knives. You'll also get hands-on practice by making an autumnal soup with roasted veggies. 6-9 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

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

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.

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.

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.

L'Invenzione: "In the Shadow of Vesuvius" - Experience the vibrant musical world of 17th- and 18th-century Naples in a program that captures the drama and brilliance of the Neapolitan Baroque. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Name, Image, Likeness 101: Education, Empowerment & Economic Impact - This foundational session will provide a comprehensive overview of the NIL landscape and its implications for local businesses. 10-11:30 a.m. Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. 200, Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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.

The Poetry Room Open Mic Presents: Sea Son Ate - Whether you're a seasoned poet or stepping onto the stage for the first time, this is your platform to share your words, thoughts and emotions with a supportive audience. 7-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom.

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.

R.E. Olds Transportation Museum Share Night at Culver's - A portion of all sales from 5-8 p.m. will be donated to the museum! 8488 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

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State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 24-001411-P33, Hon. Shauna Dunnings. Estate of Janis Ann Thomas – Date of Birth: 5/27/52. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Janis Ann Thomas, died Sept. 1, 2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Tiffani Thomas, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 9/24/2025. Attorney: Charles A. Lawler, #P65164, 215 S Washington Sq, Ste. 200, Lansing MI 48933, 517-318-3100. Personal representative: Tiffani Thomas, 9524 W. Camelback Rd, C130-155, Glendale, AZ 85305, 480-800-1054.

CP#25-313

Buckle your seatbelts, 'Ride the Cyclone' is a heart-thumping adventure

By DANA DEMINK

After reading a plot synopsis of "Ride the Cyclone," Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s first show of the season, I was skeptical that the production would be compelling. The gist: Following a tragic rollercoaster accident, six deceased teens from small-town Saskatchewan are in a state of limbo at the carnival grounds. They meet the Amazing Karnak, an animatronic fortune teller who introduces a game of life and death in which one by one, the teens must reveal information about their life, hopes and dreams through song for a chance to live again. Karnak prophesies, "The one who wants to win it the most shall redeem the loser in order to complete the whole." Honestly, I was gearing up for something rote and clichéd. However, this energetic and outrageous musical was anything but that.

This show would be nothing without its stunning talent. There wasn't just one stand-out performance; everyone in the cast was stellar. Fenton High School student Izzy Edmonds-Hogan (Jane Doe) impressed with her vocal versatility and range. It was difficult to take my eyes off Zoë Schultheiss (Constance Blackwood), whose vulnerability and inner light glowed in each scene. Mason Olvera's (Noel Gruber) shapely, fishnet-stockinged legs pulsed in time to his catchy cabaret number. Christopher Pongracz (Mischa Bachinski) dazzled with his mercurial rapping, and Robert Mueller's (Ricky Potts) sexy space-age bachelor performance in "Ricky Sting" had the audience laughing out loud.



Review

"Ride the Cyclone"

Sept. 25-28
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
peppermintcreek.org

After seeing "Ride the Cyclone," I wonder if it will one day have a cult following similar to that of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." The eclectic music, ranging from hip-hop to rock to cabaret, had the audience dancing in their seats. Each performance had a campy and absurd glam-rock element but also told a story with deep emotional relatability. Under music director John Dillingham, director James Aaron Curtis, sound designer Nathan Tykocki and choreographer Karyn Perry, this production hums like a fine-tuned machine.



Photo by Trumpie Photography

From left: Robert Mueller, Meghan Malusek, Christopher Pongracz, Izzy Edmonds-Hogan, Zoë Schultheiss and Mason Olvera in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of "Ride the Cyclone."

The theme of Peppermint Creek's 2025-'26 season is "Based on a True Story." A literal interpretation of this theme makes it difficult to see how "Ride the Cyclone" fits in with the rest of the season. However, the story celebrates the unexpected and spontaneously excellent inner lives of people you may see every day at school, work or the grocery store. As each teen tells their startling, hilarious and tragic

story, we're reminded that every life around us is just as vibrant and courageous as the next. In turn funny, poignant and tragically sad, the play depicts young lives cut short before they had the opportunity to "be." Like the final song, "It's Just a Ride," "Ride the Cyclone" reminds us to embrace every beautiful, complicated, uncomfortable and sublime moment because they won't last forever.

Events

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Rio Da Yung OG - Flint rapper Rio Da Young OG brings his "Welcome Home" tour to Lansing, with support from The Player and Deonte Hall. 7 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall1224.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.

Walk with Ease - Walking exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. Group will meet Tuesdays at Briggs District Library through Nov. 4. 1:30-2:30 p.m. 108 E. Railroad St., St. Johns. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 1

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. cmialan-anon.org.

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

Artist Talk: Pao Houa Her - Join Hmong Amer-

ican artist Pao Houa Her for a conversation on artistic practice and legacies of landscape, portraiture and documentary photography. 7-8:30 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Broadway Jazz Dance 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 MSU Focus Group - This focus group aims to garner input from MSU students and stakeholders on how East Lansing CDBG funding can be utilized to benefit low- and moderate-income students. 5-7 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.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/learnocoding.

Financial Literacy Workshop: The Informed Renter - This free workshop will equip you with valuable information about the rental process. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.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.

Flamy Grant at The Robin Theatre - Grant blends country, folk, gospel and roots music to deliver a theatrical, therapeutic and wholly original experi-

ence of intrepid storytelling, shared through the art of drag. 7:30 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Gavin McDonnell - Stick around after Lansing Live for a special late-night set with Gavin McDonnell. No cover! 9:30-11:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.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.

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.

Magic: The Gathering Club - We invite players of all skill levels to join us. Cards not provided. This is a drop-in adult program. 5:30-8 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

PEARS Deeper Dive: Quarterly Efforts - This Deeper Dive can be attended after taking the PEARs Crash Course. Learn how to enter a quarterly effort report. 9-10 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od/index.

River Walk Trash Cleanup - Join us in caring for the Earth and her waterways by picking up trash along the Lansing River Trail and the areas around

our building! 11 a.m.-noon. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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

Weaving the Web: Water - 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.

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.

Yoga For Peace, with Shiloh - An all-level yoga session that plants seeds of peace within. 6 p.m. Peoples Yoga Studio, 1146 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

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, Oct. 2

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. cmialan-anon.org.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Pho So 1's sandwiches are a satisfying steal

By LIZY FERGUSON

I had many aspirations for my week-long staycation, but on my final day off, I found myself having done almost nothing on my to-do list. I'd managed to get groceries that morning but couldn't bring myself to actually make anything. I decided to treat myself one more time, after a week of treating myself, because isn't that what vacation is for?

Treat-yourself weeks are expensive, so I initially wanted to be budget-conscious. I decided on one of the radically low-priced banh mi sandwiches from Pho So 1 in Hannah Plaza. At the last minute, however, I added an order of pho in which to dip my sandwich. Because I'd already decided to treat myself one last time, I might as well.

A banh mi is a Vietnamese sandwich traditionally consisting of French bread filled with pork, pickled vegetables, cu-

cumber, cilantro, mayo and pâté. The bread and pâté come from the French colonization of Vietnam, which ended after the Second World War. There are many variations — the one I chose from Pho So 1 had tofu instead of pork, no pâté and bread that was more like a grocery store “French” loaf than a fresh baguette. That aside, I'm pretty sure it's the best sandwich you can get in the area for under \$6.

The golden-brown fried tofu provided a satisfying, dense texture and an earthy flavor that was accentuated by the tang of pickled daikon radish and carrot, the bright-green bite of cilantro and the crunchy spice of fresh jalapeño slices. Adding a richness to tie everything together was a generous smear of mayo on the toasty bread, which, though not a baguette, was not without its charms.



Tofu banh mi

\$5.99

Pho So 1

4790 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing

11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

(517) 333-6683

phoso1el.com



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Pho So 1's banh mi sandwiches are delicious on their own, but when dipped in aromatic pho broth, another level of perfection is reached.

This sandwich was perfectly satisfying on its own, but when dipped in the aromatic, beefy pho, another level of perfection was reached, like when Remy bites into the cheese and the strawberry in “Ratatouille.” The warm, broth-soaked bread caused all of the disparate flavors to meld together, and it made me wish that every banh mi came with a cup of pho, like a French dip, so I

wouldn't have to get a whole order just to get my fix.

All's well that ends well, though, since I was able to have the pho for dinner, allowing me to push off real-life responsibilities for one more meal. Check out Pho So 1's banh mi sandwiches the next time you want a delicious treat at a price that's incredibly easy to justify.

Toasting tomatoes with Todd English

By ARI LEVAUX

This is a fun time of year to be chef Todd English. Which, chances are, you aren't. But you can still enjoy this sunny moment, the cusp where summer meets autumn, in the same ways the four-time James Beard Award-winning chef, restaurateur and cookbook author does. For one, we can finally eat tomatoes, as well as cook them, dream about them and, best of all, not frown upon them.

For English, even after decades of immersion in the tomato lifestyle, the magic that began in his grandmother's kitchen still hasn't faded.

“It's one of the most beautiful fruits. And it's a vegetable. It's savory and sweet. It goes with aioli, mayonnaise

and other sauces, and it pairs with so many foods,” said English, who refuses to serve tomatoes out of season due to his “loyalty to their perfection.” The names of his restaurants, like Olives and Fig, portray his fiercely ingredient-forward approach to cooking, which is less about fancy footwork and more about expressing the inner beauty of his raw materials.

These days, English and his chefs have been plunging deep down the fresh tomato rabbit hole, cranking out jam, leather, gazpacho, soup (aside the occasional grilled cheese sandwich), smoked heirloom tomato sauce, bloody Marys and many variations on English's all-time favorite pairing: tomato and blue cheese. He mentioned a particular heirloom to-

mato sandwich with whipped gorgonzola as being the absolute pinnacle but emphasized that any blue cheese, in any context, should work.

“Gorgonzola, Roquefort, Stilton, Maytag, it doesn't matter. Blue cheese with tomato is one of the greatest things in the world to eat,” he said.

I told him a story about a farmer friend who, at the end of a market, offered me as many heirloom tomatoes



Photo by Ari LeVaux

Roasted yellow heirloom tomato sauce, ready to be blended with basil into the finished product.

as I wanted. These soft, cracked, thin-skinned balloons of juice were too ripe to store until the Tuesday market and

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too cumbersome for the food bank people. Thus, they were destined for compost. Through the phone waves, I could feel the chef nodding gravely at the tragedy.

“Heirloom tomato sauce freezes really well,” he offered. I was kicking myself for not having already tried it. English promised me a recipe, which I will pass along to you at the end of this column. I ended up making several quarts of it after bringing home about 15 pounds of free yellow and red heirlooms.

Years before launching his storied 45-year career in the restaurant industry, young English would peel and can tomatoes with his grandma. Today, his professional focus has shifted away from opening restaurants and more toward the impact of diet on longevity. He has served in advisory roles for several initiatives and educational programs aimed at understanding and spreading information about blue zones, the places on the planet where people seem to live the longest.

Specializing in Mediterranean cuisine has made English an authority on olive oil-based eating. But while fat choice is a crucial dietary consideration, blue zones are about lifestyle as much as diet, he said, about the company around the table as much as what's on the table. And, ideally, about the work that went into putting the food there.

“The blue zone lifestyle includes eating food in season. Natural. Unprocessed. Rich olive oil or high omega-3 fatty acids,” he said. “It's about community. Enjoying each other. How you help each other out. That's what's keeping the centenarians out working in the fields.”

The more he discussed the blue zone lifestyle, the more I thought about his attitude toward the tomato and the respect for the tomato lifestyle he learned from his grandmother. It's the simple things, done humbly, that keep us going.

Another reason why it's good to be Todd English these days is the artichokes, which, like tomatoes, he refuses to deal out of season.

“I used to go to an artichoke festival in Campania,” he said. “They would build a bonfire 10 feet long, 3 feet wide, and pour olive oil, garlic and nepitella — an extra-fragrant, oregano-like mint — over the artichokes, then bury them in the coals below spits of roasting lamb.” As the lamb cooked, the drippings would soak into the artichokes below. When the coals died, they would dig up what was left of the artichokes, cut off the blackened parts and serve the lamb-fattened hearts with olive oil, lemon juice and meat.

If that doesn't make you live 100 years, I don't know what will.

Roasted yellow heirloom tomato sauce

Here is the aforementioned recipe for yellow heirloom tomato sauce. It has so much flavor, despite having so few ingredients. In other words, a Todd English recipe. If using it on pasta, you can simply simmer the pasta in the watery sauce and skip the boiling water.

3 pounds yellow heirloom tomatoes (halved or quartered, depending on size)

One large, sweet onion, sliced

Six cloves garlic, peeled

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon white balsamic vinegar (or champagne vinegar for brightness)

1 teaspoon sea salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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H	A	S	T	O	D	I	M	E	S	C	A	B			
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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

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1 teaspoon sugar (optional, balances acidity)
One small bunch fresh basil (about 1/2 cup leaves, loosely packed)
One sprig fresh thyme or oregano (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. **Arrange vegetables:** Spread tomatoes (cut side up), onion slices and garlic cloves on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
3. **Season:** Drizzle with olive oil and vinegar. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and sugar (if using). Scatter thyme/oregano if desired.

4. Roast: Bake for 35 to 45 minutes, until tomatoes are caramelized and slightly blistered, onions softened and garlic golden.

5. Blend: Transfer everything to a blender or food processor. Add fresh basil and blend until smooth (or leave a little chunky if you prefer a rustic texture).

6. Simmer (optional): Pour into a saucepan and simmer gently for 10 to 15 minutes to deepen flavors. Adjust seasoning to taste.

Finishing touches

For a silky sauce, strain through a fine mesh sieve.

Stir in a touch of butter or olive oil before serving for extra richness.

If pairing with seafood, finish with a squeeze of lemon juice for brightness.

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