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October 8-14, 2025

CityPULSE

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LANSING'S COFFEE IN THREE ACTS

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America's selective compassion: How we found our humanity for Israel and our excuses for Palestine

It's astonishing how easily we, as Americans, divide the world into "good" and "evil," often without taking a moment to understand the people living on the other side of our headlines. Nowhere is this hypocrisy more glaring than in the way we talk about Israel and Palestine.

We've been told this is a "complicated" issue — and yes, it is. But complexity should never excuse cruelty. While we sit in comfort, debating politics and moral nuance from our couches, millions of Palestinians are trapped in what has become an open-air prison. The destruction of Gaza and the West Bank is not abstract. There is nothing left to rebuild. Entire bloodlines have been erased. Brothers have lost sisters. Mothers have lost sons. Fathers have lost daughters. Children have been orphaned. Humanity itself is bleeding out before our eyes, and yet we continue to send the bombs.

It is gut-wrenching and inexcusable that the United States — the self-proclaimed beacon of freedom and democracy — continues to fund and arm what can only be described as genocide. We can call it "defense aid" or "strategic support," but let's be honest: It's complicity. When we sell the weapons that level homes, crush schools, and bury families under the rubble of "national security," the moral high ground we claim to stand on collapses beneath us.

And let's be clear: Palestinians are not Hamas. We are all born into circumstances not of our choosing. The vast majority of Palestinians are simply people — human beings who want to live, to love, to raise children in safety. To recognize their humanity is not antisemitism. It is empathy.

Palestine's plight is unique not only in its suffering but in its isolation. They are occupied, walled in, and cut off from the world — yet expected to endure in silence. Across the globe, others are beginning to see through the narrative. In Europe, support for Palestine is rising. Italy, in particular, made a powerful statement when its navy escorted the humanitarian flotilla bringing aid to Gaza. At the same time, citizens across the country participated in a general strike that shut down transportation and vital infrastructure. The world is starting to wake up.

But here in America, we remain asleep — numbed by partisanship, guilt, and propaganda. We speak of justice but sell destruction. We claim to cherish freedom while denying

it to others. It's time to end the hypocrisy. It's time to confront the truth: You don't have to be anti-Israel to stand against oppression, and you don't have to be antisemitic to believe Palestinians deserve to live.

Compassion should never depend on geography, race, or religion. It's the one weapon powerful enough to stop this madness — if only we have the courage to use it.

And at the top of this moral vacuum stands Donald Trump, a man who has never once stood for anything other than himself. He treats the suffering of others as background noise to his own ego. To him, the world is nothing more than a mirror — and he is its only reflection. While Gaza burns, Trump rants about his imaginary grievances. He struts across the stage like a hollow god of greed, empty of empathy, hollow of soul, bloated with vanity and money — his only form of power, his only proof of existence.

He is America distilled: loud, shameless, and spiritually bankrupt. And as long as we keep following men like him, our compassion will remain selective, our morality for sale, and our humanity negotiable.

Let's be honest: This didn't start with Donald Trump. America's unconditional support for Israel has been bipartisan, unwavering, and shamefully detached from accountability. For decades, presidents of both parties have written blank checks to a government that defies international law with impunity. We've armed occupation, endorsed apartheid, and looked away when "defense" became devastation. Trump may be the moral vacuum in the spotlight right now — but he didn't invent this hypocrisy. He just amplified it, stripped it of its polish, and made it loud enough for everyone to finally hear.

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CityPULSE

**VOL. 25
ISSUE 9**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly by Berl Schwartz in 2001.

Member, AAN



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New Sean Anthony Sullivan album is rock revival



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McSweeney's publisher gets real in new memoir



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Poutine is prime at Fifth String Food Truck

Cover illustration by Lora Root

FUN TIME **AMERICA: What does not belong?**

APPLE PIE
INVADING US CITIES
BASEBALL
KINGS
STATUE OF LIBERTY
STATUE OF LIBERTY WITH HITLER MOUSTACHE
THE RIGHT TO VOTE
BOOT STOMPING ON HUMAN FACE FOREVER
COMEDIANS MAKING FUN OF PRESIDENT
PRESIDENT FIRING COMEDIANS
HOT DOGS
KING EATING ALL THE HOT DOGS AND APPLE PIES

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

SIR, THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY.

THAT MEANS I HAVE ALL THE POWER NOW, RIGHT?

THAT'S CERTAINLY MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE RULES!

OBVIOUSLY, WE BLAME THE WHOLE THING ON THE DEMOCRATS! WHAT WAS THEIR STUPID OBJECTION--HEALTH CARE? I ALREADY SOLVED THAT!

DID THEY NOT SEE THE VIDEO I POSTED OF MYSELF ANNOUNCING THE INCREDIBLE "MED BED" THAT CURES ALL KNOWN AILMENTS?

ER, THAT WAS AN A.I. DEEPPFAKE. YOU NEVER SAID THOSE WORDS. THE MED BED DOESN'T EXIST.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I SAW MYSELF SAYING IT! JUST LIKE I SAW PORTLAND BURNING!

RIGHT--AND THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY REAL, AND TOTALLY NOT FOOTAGE FROM 2020! YOU SHOULD SEND IN THE TROOPS AND CRUSH THOSE HIPPIE BASTARDS!

I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT! IT SAYS SO IN THE CONSTITUTION!

ENOUGH, YES, YES, IT DOES.

LET'S GET TO THE IMPORTANT BUSINESS! PEOPLE ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT EPSTEIN--AND CALLING ME A PEDOPHILE!

IT'S COMPLETELY IN-ACCURATE! TECHNICALLY, YOU WOULD BE AN EPHEBOPHILE!

WHAT?

SPEAKING OF OUR ENEMIES-- I THINK ANYONE WHO CALLS ME FASCIST SHOULD BE PROSECUTED FOR TERRORISM!

SURE, WHATEVER. HEY, DID YOU KNOW I CAN WALK DOWN STAIRS BETTER THAN JOE BIDEN?

WE'RE ALL VERY PROUD, SIR.

SIR--POLLS SAY VOTERS ARE BLAMING US FOR THE SHUTDOWN!

THERE'S A SHUTDOWN? WHY WAS I NOT INFORMED?

TOM TOMORROW © 2025-10-06 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Trans advocates ask City Council to step up protections

Threats at local bar fuel community concern amid continued federal attacks

Before he made the violent threats that sparked viral social media posts, ignited local concerns about violent, anti-trans rhetoric and led a dozen to speak at the Lansing City Council last week about threats to the trans community, a man outside the Avenue Café approached a group with a simple request.

“He came up and asked the group if anyone had a lighter,” said one of the two women directly threatened, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. “And I did have a lighter, so I gave it to him.”

The man said he had come out “to gauge the energy on the Charlie Kirk shooting,” she said. Kirk, a prominent right-wing influencer who repeatedly espoused anti-gay and anti-trans views, was assassinated last month.

“No one took that bait,” she said, but the man continued to elaborate on his self-proclaimed “fascist” views. At first, she was “fascinated” to learn more about his opinions. But after another person joined the debate and disparaged Kirk, the man’s tone changed.

“Immediately, he’s like, ‘So you think that Charlie Kirk deserved to die, and therefore I have the right to kill all of you right now.’”

The man doubled down, his threats becoming more direct as he alluded to “something big” happening as a result of Kirk’s assassination, according to multiple sources present.

He was eventually kicked out.

The news proliferated through social media. A TikTok video detailing the incident accumulated 200,000 views.

At last week’s City Council meeting, more than a dozen people asked for support and action from Councilmembers amid an uptick in anti-trans rhetoric fueled by the federal government.

“This is traumatizing, this is intimidation and this is terror,” said Jasper Baldwin, who said he was part of the group approached by the man. “My friends now feel unsafe in this city. We all have struggles outside of these threats, and



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Lansing’s transgender community asked the Lansing City Council for support and direct action after a man made violent threats at the Avenue Café against transgender patrons Sept. 24. The Avenue is a popular spot for Lansing’s younger queer and trans community.

our safe spaces are being threatened too.”

The Avenue, while not formally a gay bar, is a popular space for Lansing’s younger queer and trans community. Trans and nonbinary pride flags hang inside.

“Many of the people I hold close and love in some way are part of this community, and the uptick in violence against trans people is only a small part of the issues this community is facing,” Baldwin said. “As a cis white man-presenting, I want to know that our Council is going to protect my loved ones and not just me.”

Maya — City Pulse is withholding last names of trans speakers — struck a more direct tone.

“Do you have people you care about who are becoming scared or concerned?” they asked Councilmembers. “Do you participate in the local community to discover what we need and how we feel? Or do you only interact with your constituents from across this podium?”

Maya referenced racist, antisemitic and homophobic graffiti that was painted in Old Town in July as well as “white

supremacists” who recorded customers at queer-friendly coffee shop Strange Matter.

“I want to see a public statement about the transphobic violence we’ve seen in Lansing over the summer lately,” they said. “I want explanations for why my homeless trans siblings are being targeted by this government and this police force more than fascist terrorists, white supremacists.”

Isidor discussed the struggle they experienced as a nonbinary person working in the city’s sustainability office, where they said they “became aware of an internal culture of disrespect to those who do not fit in the exact mold of society’s expectations.” Isidor said co-workers made no attempt to use their appropriate pronouns and spoke disparagingly about the city’s homeless and poor residents.

“When you are constantly being misgendered with no active attempts to learn how to correct that behavior and continually being viewed in a way that does not align with how you see yourself, over time the constant disrespect of not even trying wears on you,” they said.

“My question to you is, how are we

to expect the city to proactively do the work that is necessary to protect the most vulnerable communities, when the city’s own employees do not even see the people who live here as humans, the people they’re serving?”

Atula evoked the looting of Magnus Hirschfeld’s Institute of Sexology in 1933, which was carried out by Nazi-supporting youth, not government agents.

“You might think it was done by the government, but it wasn’t,” she said. “It was done by a student union who was allowed to do this through state inaction. So, what I really want to emphasize is that we should keep these mistakes as historical mistakes and not repeat them.”

“I understand that the city of Lansing is not the state government,” said Lindsey. “It’s certainly not the federal government. Maybe you feel your hands are tied and that there’s nothing you can do. It still remains to say that this is fucking insane, what is happening.”

Khadja Erickson, executive director of the Mid-Michigan Tenant Resource Center, spoke about the city’s clearing of a Dietrich Park homeless encampment as well as anti-trans attacks, tying both to federal rhetoric.

“We are living in a time when Donald Trump openly celebrates cruelty against immigrants, against queer and trans people, against the poor,” she said.

Anti-trans rhetoric from the Trump administration dates back to his election in 2016, but his second administration has cracked down hard on trans rights. Within a month of taking office, President Trump had signed five executive orders specifically targeting transgender people.

Those orders removed Title IX protections for transgender people in schools, revoked the ability to change gender markers on federal documentation, banned transgender people from the military, banned gender-affirming care for minors and 18-year-old adults and far more. References to transgender people were scrubbed from many government websites.

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Trans advocates

from page 5

But that rhetoric has been taken a step further in the wake of two recent tragedies. Kirk's alleged assassin is a cisgender man, but his roommate is reportedly a transgender woman. Media outlets including The Wall Street Journal reported that the ammunition used in the attack was engraved with pro-trans messages, which turned out to be false. The perpetrator's partner cooperated with authorities and is not known to have been involved. Weeks earlier, Robin Westman, who at least at one point identified as transgender, killed three and injured 21 in a shooting at a Minneapolis Catholic church.

There is no evidence to support the assertion that transgender mass shooters are on the rise. Mark Bryant, executive director of the Gun Violence Archive, told FactCheck.org after the incidents there have been five confirmed transgender mass shooters since 2013 — out of over 5,700 total incidents. Around 1% of the U.S. population identifies as trans-

gender, according to a statistical model by UCLA's Williams Institute, meaning transgender people are less likely than average to perpetrate such crimes.

That hasn't stopped the federal government from capitalizing on the incidents. Major outlets reported in early September, before Kirk's shooting, that the Justice Department was considering restricting transgender gun ownership. After the shooting, Trump posted a Twitter/X poll asking, "What's the greatest domestic terror threat facing America?" with the options "ANTIFA," "TRANTIFA" and "They're the same thing." Other administration officials supported the theory.

Then the conservative Washington think tank Heritage Foundation released a proposal to designate "Transgender Ideology-Inspired Violence and Extremism" as a domestic terrorism designation. Independent journalist Ken Klippenstein reported that the FBI was considering treating transgender suspects as a subset of "nihilistic violent extremism." Late last month, Trump signed a national security directive that directed defense and law enforcement to consider "extremism on migration,



City of Lansing video screenshot

"I understand that the city of Lansing is not the state government," Lindsey said. "It's certainly not the federal government. Maybe you feel your hands are tied and that there's nothing you can do. It still remains to say that this is fucking insane, what is happening."

race and gender" as an indicator of a "pattern of violent and terroristic activities."

The attacks put a strain on transgender people, who multiple studies show are far more likely to be on the receiving end of violence.

At the end of the meeting, Councilmember Brian T. Jackson, who chairs the Council's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, announced a city meeting to discuss solutions to the issue at 4:30 p.m. today (Oct. 8).

"We hear you loud and clear, and I do agree that you should not be terrorized in your city and that there should be a forum available," he said.

Jackson said the police have been invited. The Lansing Advocates for Trans Safety, a newly formed group including many of the people who spoke at the Council meeting, have since asked police not to be included because some trans community members may feel unsafe around officers.

Mayor Andy Schor will not attend, city spokesperson Scott Bean said.

"The chair asked for a staff member to attend and just listen," Bean said.

"We'll at least have a discussion first to hear and talk about solutions, because I can't pretend like I know what the solutions are," Jackson said at the Council meeting. "I could think of some, but that wouldn't make sense without a discussion. So, let's have that."

— LEO V. KAPLAN

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

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing, please take notice that a City General Election will be held in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

For the purposes of electing the following offices:

City Council – Two (2) Full Terms

Also, to vote on the following proposals:

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

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office, 410 Abbot Road, Room 100, East Lansing, MI 48823. Sample ballots can also be found at www.mi.gov/vote.

Polls at said election will be open at 7 am and will remain open until 8 pm.

Photo Identification OR Affidavit Required to Vote:

Under Michigan law upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters will be asked to show photo identification to vote at the polls. Voters without identification will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot.

LIST OF POLLING LOCATIONS:

- Pct. 1 - Brody Hall, MSU
- Pct. 2 - Martin Luther Chapel, 444 Abbot Road
- Pct. 3 - East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road
- Pct. 4 - Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Rd
- Pct. 5 - Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Rd
- Pct. 6 - Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road
- Pct. 7 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3383 Lake Lansing Road
- Pct. 8 - University Reformed Church, 841 Timberlane Street
- Pct. 9 - Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road
- Pct. 10 - Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road
- Pct. 11 - Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Rd.
- Pct. 12 - Union Bldg., MSU
- Pct. 13 - IM Sports East, MSU
- Pct. 14 - IM Sports East, MSU
- Pct. 15 - IM Sports West, MSU
- Pct. 16 - Wesley Foundation, 1118 S. Harrison Road
- Pct. 17 - Department of Public Works, 1800 E State Rd.

All polling places are accessible and voting instructions are available in alternative formats of audio and Braille.

In addition to regular business hours, the East Lansing City Clerk's Offices will be open on November 1st and 2nd from 8 am – 4 pm to register voters, issue and accept absentee ballots for qualified electors.

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 Regular Business Hours: Monday-Friday from 8am-5 pm
410 Abbot Road, Room 100 Additional Hours: November 1st and 2nd from 8am-4pm
East Lansing, MI 48823

To register to vote, check your voter registration information, find your polling location, or view your sample ballot check the Secretary of State Voter Information website at www.mi.gov/vote

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 a ballot at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office or MSU Communications Arts and Sciences: WKAR Studio B.

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:

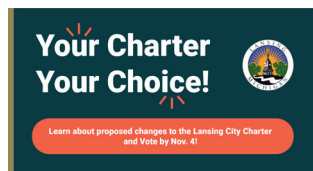
Early Voting Center Regular Hours: October 29th- November 2nd 9am-4pm
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbott Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
East Lansing City Clerk

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Lansing City Council President Ryan Kost has filed a complaint with state officials regarding a “Your Charter, Your Choice!” mailer the Lansing Charter Commission sent

to voters ahead of next month’s election. The mailer, sent to more than 21,000 Lansing households, includes Lansing’s official city seal and does not indicate who paid for it. Kost protested “extremely persuasive and problematic language” on the flyer “paid for with tax dollars,” the Lansing State Journal reported. Councilmembers Adam Hussain and Brian Jackson also expressed opposition. Commission Chair Brian Jeffries said the commission disagreed and that its legal counsel said it complied with state law. City Clerk Chris Swope said the commission spent about \$6,116 on the mailer. A proposed new charter appears on the Nov. 4 ballot.

At-large Lansing City Council candidate Aurelius Christian announced Sunday he was dropping out of the race.

Christian, who came fourth in the primary election, was endorsed by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce’s PAC. Speaking on Facebook, he endorsed the other two LRC-PAC endorsees, Clara Martinez and Jeremy Garza. The fourth candidate for two at-large seats is Julie Vandenboom. Christian was the subject of a dark-money campaign in June that brought attention to his role in the Ingham County Health Centers’ budget struggles during his time on the ICHC board. It is too late to take his name off the ballot for the Nov. 4 General Election.



Ingham County Circuit Judge Morgan Cole has denied a request by the city of Lansing to dismiss a public records lawsuit against it by the Republican National Committee.



The RNC claims that the city’s \$4,795 estimated fee to provide surveillance video of absentee ballot drop boxes from last Nov. 5’s election was excessively high. The RNC filed its lawsuit in February, then the city filed a motion to have it dismissed, saying it acted in good

faith and complied the Freedom of Information Act. Cole allowed litigation surrounding the fee to continue but dismissed a second count the RNC brought for wrongful denial of records.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor and development, construction and project partners hosted a “topping off” ceremony Friday as workers placed the final structural steel beam in the new \$40 million David C. Hollister Lansing City Hall project.

The ceremony at the building’s base included speeches, local leaders’ signing the 22-foot-long beam and workers lifting the beam from the ground with an American flag and small tree aboard. Officials expect to complete the 65,000-square-foot, three-story building at Lenawee Street and Grand Avenue, across from the CATA bus station, by the end of 2026.



The Michigan Appeals Court ruled against former MSU student Ethan Cao, who was the first individual to challenge the constitutionality of Michigan’s anti-hazing law. Cao was charged with hazing causing death in 2022 following a Pi Alpha Phi fraternity party. Prosecutors have argued that Cao and others pressured Phat Nguyen and others to drink to dangerous levels, resulting in Nguyen’s death. Cao’s attorney, Edwar Zeineh, challenged the charge, arguing that it was overly broad and unconstitutional, and said that prosecutors did not meet their burden of proof. Zeineh said he will ask the state Supreme Court to hear the case. Cao, 26, still awaits trial in Ingham County Circuit Court.



U.S. District Judge Hala Jarbou dismissed a lawsuit that the Lansing strip club Centerfolds had brought against Lansing after the city pulled its cabaret license following a February shooting that resulted in the death of Christopher Bonilla Sr., 36.



Lansing Police Chief Rob Backus asked Lansing City Council to remove the club’s cabaret license, citing insufficient security measures, which the Council did in April. The Centerfolds’ owner, CDDM Corp., then sued the city, saying it had improperly notified it of a March hearing.

Judges Daymond John and Kevin O’Leary from the ABC television series “Shark Tank” have awarded Sweet Encounter Bakery & Café owner Nikki Thompson of Lansing \$35,000 for business development after she pitched her new e-commerce concept.

They gave Thompson’s business plan their stamp of approval during the Clover x Shark Tank Summit in Las Vegas. Sweet Encounter was previously located at the Knapp’s Centre at 300 Washington Square but streamlined its operation in August to move to online sales and downsize its menu to sell various cupcakes in a jar instead of a wider variety of items.



State Sen. Michael Webber, R-Rochester Hills, and Rep. Kathy Schmaltz, R-Jackson, have proposed that a stretch of Grand River Avenue in East Lansing be named Magic Johnson Way to honor the NBA Hall of Fame basketball player who starred at Michigan State University and Everett High School.



The stretch of state road runs between Harrison Street and Hagadorn Road, much of it along the university. Schmaltz and Webber are MSU grads who witnessed firsthand some of Johnson’s spectacular achievements. Johnson is pictured with his mother, Christine.



613 Avon St., Lansing

This charred, red-tagged home, just east of Cedar Street and north of Mount Hope Avenue, has been in a state of hazardous disrepair since a fire gutted it on Sept. 27, 2024.

The 1908 home, previously owned by Stanley Bloomfield, was reported by WILX TV to be abandoned at the time of the fire. It went into foreclosure on April 1 and is one of 26 homes available for auction by the Ingham County Treasurer’s Office on Oct. 21 at the Lansing Center.

The home was previously available during the treasurer’s Sept. 18 auction and a buyer successfully bid on it — only to recant his offer when he realized the fire damage. Now, potential buyers can tour the property during an open house 4-6 p.m. Oct. 15.

“The first barrier will be the starting bid,” said Fox. “Since it’s the second auction for this house and we’re not trying to collect taxes on it, the starting bid will be lower: \$6,000.”

The city of Lansing has placed the home in a make-safe-or-demolish status but hasn’t issued a demolition order. This means that a buyer wishing to purchase it must submit an immediate plan for the property or be subject to an MSD hearing, which could result in the demolition of the property.

“The real question is how much structural damage there is and whether it might be a total loss,” Fox said. “We’ll find out during the open house.”

The 942-square-foot, story-and-a-half home is 117 years old. Prospective buyers can learn more about this and other properties available at the Oct. 21 auction by visiting bippususa.com.

— STEVE UNDERWOOD

“Eyesore of the Week” is our biweekly 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.

Sponsored Content

EPSTEIN FILES PETITION TO CONGRESSMAN TOM BARRETT

Congressman Barrett:

Nobody is fooled by your September 6, 2025 newsletter about releasing the Epstein files. Your resolution is not binding on anyone. It will accomplish nothing.

We voters urge you to sign the discharge petition for an up or down vote on the "Epstein Files Transparency Act" sponsored by Rep Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY), and Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA). This bipartisan bill has real teeth. It will mandate public release of all hidden files about the horrible crimes against children by Jeffrey Epstein and his powerful friends.

More than 90 have signed this petition, in support, including 36 here who've consented for their names to be published. Congressman, stop playing evasive games. Take REAL action and sign the discharge petition now.

Meredith Nestor
Mathias Heister
Casey White
Carly McClain
Hailey Yost
Jui Pohnerkar
Phoenix Moyer
Maxim Upright
Grady Wheeler
Oliver Jones
Bruce Baker
Matthew Stewart
Tara Vancena
Autumn Donaldson
Jadyn Long
Adrianna VanWingen
Lucas Guzman
Robert Woodcock-Valentine
Sara Dubose
Saul Castano
Sam Baum
Aliya Spiller
Nolan Livingston
Aida Baidel
Sophie Lichtenberg
Demetrius Tyson
Safiya Fakhoury
Lennon Lisk
Max Cozier
Nikolas Didocha
Max Levanduski
Elizabeth Longcore
Grace Bridgewater
Mary Spencer
Avery Hughes
David Gard

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 at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823
 For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

CP#25-309

PUBLIC NOTICE

DRAFT PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

Notice is hereby given that the draft **Williamstown Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan** is available for review and comment. A copy of the Master Plan can be viewed at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, Michigan 48895 during regular business hours (Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.). It is also available for review at the Williamston Library, 3845 Vanneter Rd., Williamston, Michigan 48895.

Comments regarding the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan may be submitted to Robin Cleveland, Williamstown Township Clerk, at the Township address noted above or by email at clerk@williamstowntownship.com

Published in the City Pulse on October 8, 2025

Posted by Robin Cleveland, Township Clerk, at the Township Hall and on www.williamstownmi.gov on October 1, 2025



Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
 Clerk, Williamstown Township

CP#25-323

CITY OF LANSING PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025, ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public test of the program, which will be used for tabulating the results of the Election to be held Tuesday, November 4, 2025, in the City of Lansing, will be conducted at the Reo Elections Office located at 1221 Reo Road on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

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

We must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at www.LansingVotes.gov or by calling 517-483-4131.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave., 9th Floor, will be open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

The Reo Elections Office, 1221 Reo Road, will be open:

- Weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, November 1 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday, November 2 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

to register voters and to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

Friday, October 31, 2025, at 5:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Monday, November 3, 2025, at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person, except for those who register to vote on Election Day.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, 2025, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office or the Reo Elections Office.

Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC
Lansing City Clerk
Phone: 517-483-4131
Email: city.clerk@lansingmi.gov
Website: www.LansingVotes.gov
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#25-326

Who are the winners and losers in the state's new budget?

Is the federal government still shut down? Well, rest assured, your state government is not.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a budget deal Tuesday (Oct. 7) that landed on her desk after sessions that ran "only" as late as 2 a.m. and endured no worse than a four-hour shutdown in the middle of the night, which impacted no one.

Compared to Washington gridlock, that's not too bad.

Each side is claiming wins. At long last, the governor scored a long-term road funding deal with the Legislature that's sufficient enough for her to claim, accurately, that she's fixed the damn roads.

The Republican House pushed the administration to wipe 1,800 vacant state government positions off the books. They also pushed Whitmer to consolidate office space so that taxpayers don't have to keep mostly empty office buildings open post-COVID.

The Democratic Senate was given the OK on a long-sought program that cuts checks to pregnant women and women with infants under 1 year old to help with the diapers and stuff that comes with having a baby.

But who were really the big winners and losers in all of this? Let's break it down.

Winner 1: The road funding lobby - No limited-time-only bonding used here. At long last, there's a new revenue stream for funding local road repairs that isn't coming from drivers' paying more at the pump.

At long last, Michigan's roads may finally be getting fixed faster than they're falling apart.

Winner 2: Medicaid recipients - With cuts projected to come rolling down from Washington, Michigan reconfigured how it taxes health services in such a way that allows it to still receive federal money for healthcare without cutting off people from services.

When the alternative is a heavy loss, this one is a big win for Democrats.

Winner 3: Gov. Gretchen Whitmer - These budget negotiations looked like they were on the verge of collapse many, many times. Simply put, Senate Democrats were not interested in playing ball with House Speaker Matt Hall and his Trump-style big mouth.

But for the first time in her tenure,

Whitmer stepped in to play peacemaker among Republicans and Democrats. She's eased off her firebrand reputation a lot this year. She demonstrated that she can be a tension reliever and facilitate bipartisan compromise.

Loser 1: The cannabis industry - A 24% wholesale tax is going to crush the budding marijuana industry, according to the people in the business. The governor argues Michigan's taxes on legalized pot will still be lower than those of other states with recreational marijuana. Either way, \$420 million in new revenue from people smoking weed? Whoever smoked out that estimate has to be giggling, even if the people paying it aren't.

Loser 2: Transparency in the process - The House's several hearings on budgetary pork were a huge upgrade, but \$81 billion in taxpayer dollars was still granted final legislative approvals within a few hours of its release, as I projected last week.

Reporters, industry professionals, lawmakers and essentially everyone except the staff who had ironed everything out are still trying to figure out what the hell happened and how it all works.

Loser 3: The business community - The big tax write-off the Trump administration gave businesses on their equipment isn't filtering down to the state level because of what happened in this budget.

Plus, the big economic development fund Whitmer created to grease the wheels for these advanced battery and microchip factors is getting drained to pay for diapers and formula for poor mothers and their kids. It's strange to see Republican lawmakers find their traditional benefactors so expendable.

Toss-up: Schools - Let's face it, if schools aren't receiving a record per-pupil grant from the state every year, something is seriously wrong. The free lunch and breakfast program remains in effect. There's a lot more money available for at-risk school districts and for teaching English-language learners.

Still, \$400 million more from the School Aid Fund is going to the universities. It's a record amount from a governor who said on the campaign trail she was going to stop the slow bleed away from K-12 schools.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

'Woke' is an honorable word

I am tired of our current administration depicting "woke" people as enemies of our country. The term spelled "woke" was first used in the Black community as early as the 1930s to define those who were enlightened regarding racial discrimination and justice. I believe "woke" identifies one's deliberate effort to embrace equity for all. Millions of us "woke" to protect ourselves and others from segregation, discrimination in housing, jobs and more. We are not communists and/or fascists as described by those who seek to micro-manage

Letter to the editor

our society. We are awakened good people, compassionate toward the human condition. Those who are "woke" yearn for all to be prosperous and free to be themselves, without shame. We are all valuable! DEI is an investment, not charity! Erasing the history of our presence will not work. We know who we are. And we will NEVER again go back to the times we may have been ignorant! Tell your federal senators and representatives we are united in these principles of love for ourselves and others, and we will not be moved, no matter what they call us!

Donna Rose
Lansing

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 25-1425-DE, Hon. Richard Garcia. Estate of Gregory George Ezop, Deceased - Date of Birth: 6/27/57. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Gregory George Ezop, died 9/10/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Patricia Forster, 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, 10/8/2025. Attorney: Michael Forster, 1370 Lathrup Ave., Saginaw, MI 48638, 989-792-7752. Personal representative: Patricia Forster, 1370 Lathrup Ave., Saginaw, MI 48638, 989-992-3294.

CP#25-327

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for November 4, 2025 Special Election for registered voters in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, has been scheduled for Friday, October 10, 2025, at 10:00 am, in Conference Room A located at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program being used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner that meets the requirements of the law.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Emily Gordon
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#25-324

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1342

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

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#25-322



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TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene BY RICH TUPICA

THAT (NEW) OLD TIME ROCK 'N' ROLL



Courtesy photo

Sean Anthony Sullivan's "Rock and Roll Will Save Us All" LP is set to release Nov. 7.

Sean Anthony Sullivan sticks to his roots on new LP

Back in 1976, Michigan legend Bob Seger famously declared that "rock 'n' roll never forgets." Nearly 50 years later, Lansing's own Sean Anthony Sullivan is proving why we still need it. His forthcoming album, "Rock and Roll Will Save Us All," a fiery LP freshly pressed on vinyl at Third Man Records in Detroit, channels the enduring spirit of the genre.

"Rock 'n' roll has always been an outlet," Sullivan said. "It has the power to pull you out of your own head, out of the grind."

That belief fuels the 10-track record, which arrives Nov. 7. It's a loud, proud testament to the sweat and soul of Michigan's music scene, built from the same blue-collar steel that shaped the state's auto plants and dive bars. For this guitarist and vocalist, who blends the poeticism of Jackson Browne with the strut of Grand Funk Railroad, it's more than just another album. It's a revival.

If you've caught Sullivan and his

band on stage, you already know what to expect: a blur of denim, sweat and swagger. They've opened for national acts like Sponge and Ally Venable and earned a reputation as the kind of group that can turn a quiet room into a raucous one before the headliner even tunes up. The new record captures that same kinetic energy.

Recorded across three Midwest studios — Sweetwater Studios in Indiana, Willis Sound outside Detroit and Sullivan's own Sonicwagon in Lansing — the band stripped away polish and overdubs in favor of something raw and genuine.

"We don't build songs part by part," Sullivan said. "Every track begins with a live foundation: The band in a room, locked in together like it's another night on stage." He likened the process to

building a machine: Every part must fire in sequence, or it won't move. "We establish the heartbeat, then pass the baton throughout the song: a drum fill, a bass groove, a guitar riff. Each of us adds our own signature ingredients to the brew, serving the song."

With bassist Casey DeMott and drummer Luke Lindsay, Sullivan's current lineup is more focused and willing to explore than ever before, while still nodding unapologetically to pioneers like the Stones and Springsteen.

"For me, albums like 'Sticky Fingers' or 'Darkness on the Edge of Town' are the bar," Sullivan said. "They're bold and expansive, but they never lose their heart or attitude. That's what we wanted: A record that grooves, that explores, but stays rooted in who we are."

That unity was forged in countless gigs across the state, from the beer-soaked stages of Detroit and Grand Rapids to the band's home turf at Mac's Bar in Lansing.

Mac's has long helped launch local and national acts. "It's kept original rock 'n' roll alive in our city and given us a stage to carry our story forward," Sullivan said.

So central is Mac's to the band's identity that it even appears in its "Rock 'n' Roll Damnation" music video — a nod to AC/DC and the kind of high-voltage energy Sullivan and his crew thrive on.

"Covers are fun, and we'll always work them in to tip our hat to those who've shaped us," Sullivan added.

Like the region that raised him, Sullivan's music carries the DNA of Detroit steel. He calls it "forged rock 'n' roll fuel" — a sound that hums like an engine, steady and relentless.

This new full-length was made for road trips down two-lane highways. Songs like "Cry for More" chase that adventurous energy, while "99 Degrees" turns the heat up with a lust-soaked groove that could melt asphalt.

Sullivan sums up the album's tone as "swagger and soul in equal mea-

sure." Listeners might hear echoes of Led Zeppelin, ZZ Top or the Black Crowes, but the sound is unmistakably his own: distilled, urgent and made to move.

"At the end of the day, it's the 'roll' in rock 'n' roll that defines us," he said. "We want songs that groove, that lift you up, that make you feel alive and forget the day's worries. That's what we mean by 'will save us all.'"

There's a reason Sullivan keeps an Oldsmobile Rocket sticker on his Gibson SG. For him, it's more than nostalgia. It's pride.

"Growing up around Lansing means you have auto manufacturing and car culture in your bloodstream," he said. "Friends, family, neighbors, everyone's tied to the line in some way. There's pride in that. Motion, machines and music: steady, unrelenting, always moving forward."

In a world of algorithmic playlists and background noise, Sullivan's new tracklist feels defiant. It's built for turntables and hissy tape decks — meant to be played from start to finish, not shuffled.

"There's something beautiful about sitting down and leaning into a record from start to finish, going on that journey," he said. "I want to get lost in something. That's what I've always loved about album-oriented rock, those '70s records you drop the needle on and just take the ride."

He said he kept the studio approach simple: minimal overdubs, maximum feel.

"We leaned into the fun: a talk box, a Moog, some claps. But never just because we could," he explained. "Every part had to earn its place, driving the song and its spirit higher." That sense of restraint gives the album its pulse and clarity.

"This record is about urgency, about living now," he continued. "We genuinely just want to share in the love of the music together and celebrate living. I've seen it happen: Someone comes in carrying the weight of their workday grind, and by the end of the night, they're singing, moving, just letting go. If we can help someone escape like that, even just for an evening, then we've done our job."

Sean Anthony Sullivan "Rock and Roll Will Save Us All" LP

Release date: Nov. 7
Available on vinyl, cassette, CD and streaming platforms

Pat Travers Band

wsg Sean Anthony Sullivan
7 p.m. Nov. 14
The Vault
110 Florence St., Saginaw

So much civilization

Lansing Symphony opener brings science, poetry, awe

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The passage of time was the key theme in the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's cosmically scaled season opener Saturday evening (Oct. 4).

Despite the impressive choral and orchestral forces on stage and eye-catching visual input from two screens, music director Timothy Muffitt maintained a hushed, almost painful pulse of wonderment at the vastness and intricacy of the universe, and the tiny window of time we get to take it all in.

It's a good time to contemplate time. Saturday's concert kicked off Muffitt's 20th and final season as LSO maestro. 20 years? How is that possible?

Muffitt and the orchestra treated each movement of Gustav Holst's "The Planets" as a profound meditation as well as a sonic showpiece, but "Saturn" was the black hole at the center of this generally jolly galaxy. The message of "Saturn," at least until the very end, is that time sucks. The terrifying tick-tock of the ultimate clock in your deepest mind drives the music from beginning to end. The tick-tocks floated gently into audibility with flutes and harps, seductive and narcotic, until an ominous undertow of cellos signaled the awareness of mortality.

Bit by bit, each section and soloist merged delicately into the mesmerizing mindscape. A somber brass fanfare made death seem sad, but manageably so — rather distant and noble — until the tick-tocks took over again, intensifying to the urgency of an oncoming train. Merciless percussion clangs, echoed by a hyperventilating string section, reached into the audience's guts to yank out and reveal the panic we usually keep squirreled away, somewhere near the large intestine, when thoughts of death intrude. Five percussionists flitted from one piece of hardware to another to put the twinkles, booms, slaps, swishes and glimmers on top of this stupendous soundscape. Two sets of timpani, led by thundering principal timpanist Sarah Christianson, hastened the cataclysm.

The roof-rattling rumble of an organ, manned by keyboardist Patrick Johnson (who also provided celestial twinkles on the celesta), merged with a peaceful, angelic melody in the strings, hinting at a final reconciliation with death.

Might as well reconcile. Do we have a choice?

If time was a key theme of Saturday's



Photo by Olivia Beebe

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra performs Jocelyn Hagen's "The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci" at Saturday's season opener. Images from the notebooks, gently enhanced with animation, were synced up with Hagen's uplifting, lyrical music, along with scenes from the natural world.

music, timing was the key element in its execution. As some of Muffitt's greatest hits roll again this season, he again showed his mastery of compressing, accelerating or pausing big moments just long enough to let them hit home. "Jupiter," the most fun of all the planets, is the musical equivalent of a kids' bounce house, bulging with exuberant dance moves that don't even try to line up with each other. Muffitt and the orchestra gave each body its own trajectory, dialing the gravity up or down according to mass, density and velocity. Special mention should be made of the horn section, which was called upon to deliver one spectacular fanfare after another.

But fun isn't everything. At the end of "Mars," the maestro whacked out the famous five-to-the-bar military march with dryly disciplined sadism the Greek god of war surely would have appreciated and stretched out the concluding chords of fiery disintegration until your eyes watered.

Perfect timing was even more crucial to the success of the opening work on the program, Minnesota-based composer Jocelyn Hagen's "The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci."

Images from the notebooks, gently enhanced with animation, were synced up with Hagen's uplifting, lyrical music, along with film clips of a male model

embodying da Vinci's famous "Vitruvian Man" and scenes from the natural world.

It was exhilarating to see so much science, so much music, so much poetry — in short, so much civilization — crowding the Wharton Center stage.

The da Vinci visuals were crafted differently from the visuals that accompanied "The Planets," a set of film clips from various rovers and orbiters specially made by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center to accompany Holst's music.

Venus, the goddess of beauty depicted in Holst's glowing horn tones, is not quite the same entity as Venus, the superheated, sulfurous, hellish crusher of Earth-based landers.

But there was no such discrepancy in "The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci." When a drop of water fell in slow motion on the screen, the percussion plinks and the woodwind ripples were perfectly synced up.

A wordless, all-orchestral movement cranked with assembly-line vigor and Baroque intricacy through da Vinci's amazing sketches of flying machines, gears, optical experiments and other forms of fantastic apparatus.

The Michigan State University choral forces sang with passion, tenderness and, when the moment required, high drama. They articulated the words with

great care, but choral people sometimes forget that even when a text is sung in English, with impeccable diction, ordinary schmoe like me still can't understand a lot of what is being sung. I suspect that no text was included in the booklet, and no subtitles projected, to keep the audience focused on the music and visuals on stage, and it was a choice to be respected. Besides, when it really counted, the chorus made its point clear, giving its all to the thundering declamation "the greatest good of all is knowledge," with a cheek-rippling thruster on the word "all."

No subtitles were needed to absorb the weird and exhilarating sight of a giant, animated da Vinci eyeball, blinking and checking out the audience as the chorus sang of wonderment beyond words: "Oooo-ooo-ooooh." When the sopranos surged upward in a spectacular spray of sound, and the ocean did the same on screen, it was enough just to get soaked in it all. These were not short pieces of music, but it was over too soon.

As usual, Muffitt made no remarks at the beginning of the concert, preferring to let the music speak for itself, but it was tempting to read a deeply coded message from all this: "With or without me, the journey continues."

Might as well reconcile ourselves to it. What other choice do we have? Or did I say that already?

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Dual MSU plays evoke deep thoughts and feelings

By **KAREN RICH**

"I'm in *mourning*. For my *life*. I'm *unhappy*." Nineteenth-century Russian literature isn't exactly known for its lightheartedness, so it should come as no surprise that after watching Anton Chekhov's 1896 play, "The Seagull," and Aaron Posner's 2013 adaptation, "Stupid F**king Bird," mere hours apart, I returned home with a somewhat heavy heart. I had feelings!

The shows are being performed in repertory by the Michigan State University Department of Theatre. "Performed in repertory" means two related plays are staged during the same time period, alternating on different days or at different times. This allows the audience to compare and contrast how similar themes are presented.

It's especially effective in this situation, considering that "The Seagull" could be described as a slow-motion group chat meltdown. Everyone seeks love and validation, and absolutely no one is happy. When you read that the cast has been working with the College of Arts and Letters' director of student wellness to "de-role" and "cool down" during rehearsals, you might roll your

eyes, but I would suggest giving yourself a day or two between shows if you intend to see both. They're both very well done and really quite intense. It's not necessary to see both plays — each stands on its own — however, for me, seeing and understanding "The Seagull" first definitely led to a greater appreciation of "Stupid F**king Bird."



Review

"The Seagull"

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9
1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12

"Stupid F##king Bird"

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8;
Friday, Oct. 10
6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12
Arena Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

thinking about the productions long after you've left the theater. Fair warning: While it's likely obvious from the title, "Stupid F**king Bird" includes language that is less than family friendly.

"Stupid F**king Bird" puts a decidedly modern twist on "The Seagull." In addition to the coarse language, characters regularly break the fourth wall, and there are many references to pop culture and current events. Whereas "The Seagull" relies heavily on subtext



Photo by Raymond Black Jr.

Preston Lyford (left) as Conrad and Tasiyah Hampton as Nina in the MSU Department of Theatre's production of "Stupid F##king Bird."

and unspoken feelings, the characters in "Stupid F**king Bird" bare all their feelings for everyone to see. And I do mean *see*. The Arena Theatre is a small venue, and the intimate setting puts the audience in very close proximity to the cast. My front-row seat for "Stupid F**king Bird" allowed me to see that Preston Lyford, as Conrad, had real tears on his face at the end of the show. His performance was brilliant and heartbreaking.

Stephanie Kroschel, who plays Arkadina in "The Seagull," was wonderful.

While her character is completely self-absorbed and is certainly not a contender for mother of the year, in either the 19th or the 21st century, Kroschel's portrayal was both sympathetic and devastating.

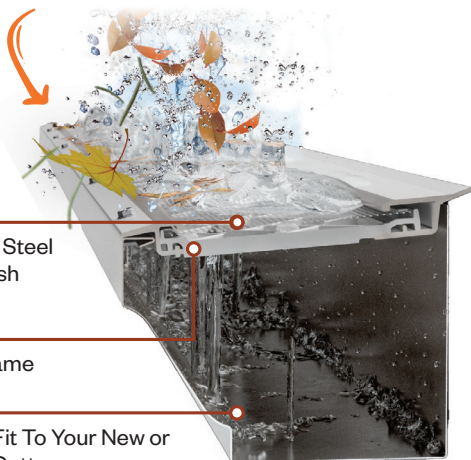
Finally, I need to shout out Matt Durland, who delivered an excellent performance as Dr. Sorn in "Stupid F**king Bird." He also sat next to me during "The Seagull" and was kind enough to explain to me exactly what it means when two plays are performed "in repertory."

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Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Eastside Strange Matter manager Gianna Taracks creates latte art on a mocha. The technique displays a barista's skill at steaming and pouring milk and is a staple of "third wave" coffee shops like Strange Matter.

Enduring traditions, modern additions

Diverse options underscore a thriving local coffee scene

By LEO V. KAPLAN

For Gianna Taracks, brewing coffee isn't just a job. It's a craft.

"It's not just beans that you grind up and pour hot water over," she said. "There's so much more to it."

The eastside Strange Matter Coffee manager has been a barista for eight years. With her experience, she can tell whether an espresso shot will turn out well just by watching someone grind the beans and tamper the grounds. She practices latte art. She knows the difference in flavor notes between different temperatures of the exact same cup of pour-over coffee. She'd like to own a coffee shop one day.

Taracks considers herself and Strange Matter part of the "third wave" of American coffee, a newer approach that generally involves lighter roasts and brewing methods meant to emphasize the flavors of unique beans. This approach differs from "second wave" coffee, distinguished by flavored drinks that either complement or cover up dark-roast espresso blends. Think Biggby or Starbucks. And while, to the uninitiated, a \$5.75 pour over from Strange Matter may be indistinguishable from a \$1 cup of joe from the Speedway across the street, the coffee aware — or coffee snobs, depending on who you ask — taste a world of difference.

But the evolution of coffee in the Lansing area has been far from linear. Good Truckin' Diner added an espresso bar at its Old Town location, while Fleetwood Diner's customers haven't even taken to flavored creamer. Biggby opened in 1995 amid a boom of jazzy coffeehouses that flourished in the evenings. The Biggby of today is vastly different from that first location, co-founder and co-CEO Bob Fish said. The chain is taking a page out of the third-wave book and focusing

on equitable, "farm-direct" beans, sourced from local roastery Paramount Coffee Co., which turned 90 this year.

If there's one thing owners and managers of roasteries, diners, chains and third-wave cafes agree on, it's that the classic cup of black coffee isn't going anywhere. And third-wave owners said there's a world of difference not just between their shops and their second-wave counterparts, but between each other.

"It's not about one being better than the other," James Defrees, co-founder of third-wave coffee shop and roastery 517 Coffee Co., said. "A lot of us are doing different things, and it's an expression of who we are as individuals and citizens of Lansing. Our personalities come out in our businesses."

The first wave

Long before the yuppies of yore began sipping espresso-and-milk concoctions with fancy Italian names, Lansing's coffee drinkers looked to diners and other restaurants open for breakfast for their morning coffee. The "first wave" of coffee consumers tended not to consider the roast type or origin. Maxwell House, Folgers and Cafe Bustelo were common fixtures, and percolators and automatic drip machines dominated.

In the 1980s and '90s, some consumers began moving to drinks brewed with espresso, a concentrated form of coffee made with a pressurized machine. But those who stuck with the classic didn't stop innovating.

Today, Lansing's first-wave coffee purveyors are still going strong. Danielle Schick, manager at Fleetwood Diner, said plenty of customers come in for nothing but coffee.



"We have several regulars that just come in for coffee, and they drink it black all day long," she said. Fleetwood's coffee costs \$3.49 and includes unlimited refills. "It'll be 10 o'clock at night, and they're still drinking a pot of coffee. Because of that, we haven't really changed our coffee much."

She said she's had customers ask about iced coffee or flavored creamers, but they've been "few and far between," and additions to the coffee menu haven't panned out.

Local convenience store chain Quality Dairy's standard coffee isn't going anywhere, but offerings are increasing, marketing manager Phil Platte said.

QD started out with only one blend of coffee, but it has added additional blends, flavored coffee, syrups

Illustrations

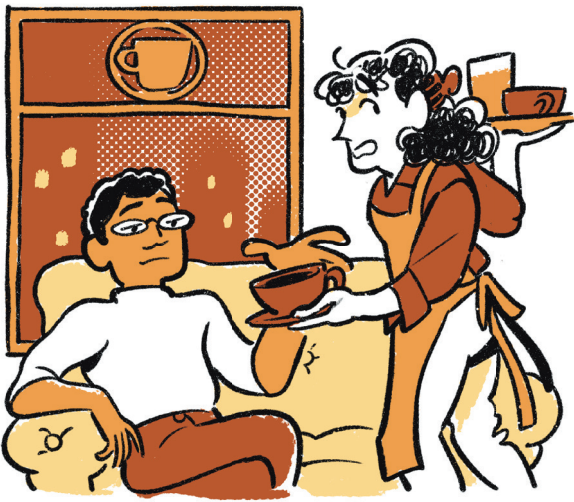
and creamers “as people have looked for more variety in what they drink in the morning,” he said. He added that the “typical black cup of coffee” is still popular, but that some people want drinks that are more of a “treat.”

Inspired by second-wave shops like Starbucks and Biggby, which Platte said “created an industry that was never there before and built a customer base that’s looking for more variety,” QD plans to introduce a machine with an iced coffee option at its Dimondale location to test the waters.

Rich Schaafsma, chief sales officer at Paramount Coffee Co., said home consumers are becoming increasingly interested in grinding their coffee themselves. This results in a fresher flavor, since pre-ground coffee goes stale more quickly. But single-pod coffee for Keurig machines is still a growing market, he noted.

“The mass market is where people want variety.”

The second wave



Fish said he was convinced Americans would never drink “quality coffee” after moving to the U.S. from Europe.

He was surprised, then, when Ann Arbor-based coffeehouse Espresso Royale opened a location in East Lansing in the late 1980s. At the time, locals still mostly drank their coffee at diners, he said. It would be a decade until Starbucks came to the area.

He was even more surprised to see more of those coffeehouses crop up in the ensuing years.

“It was actually quite unusual for Lansing,” he said. “Lansing was not a particularly progressive place, but there were more of these independent coffee shops. Starbucks had only just left Seattle, but Lansing was ahead of the curve.”

By the time he opened the first Biggby in 1995, Fish was throwing his hat into a crowded ring. A Lansing State Journal article from May 1995 reported there had been seven local coffeehouses a year prior, but that number had more than doubled.

Starbucks and Biggby may be remnants of the second wave, but today’s Biggby is a far cry from 1995’s, Fish said.

“We had 3,000 square feet with couches and fireplaces, and people held their book clubs there and so on,” he said. “Today, we’re at 450 units — going on 500 — in 13 states, and most likely, it’s a drive-thru only. As often happens in American culture, there’s a migration to convenience and price.”

Judith Bridger, who opened the downtown coffeehouse Dancing Goat in 1994 and ran it until its closure in 1998, said the business’ atmosphere was inspired by a visit to the original Starbucks in Seattle.

“We weren’t a hippie place at all, and we weren’t that obscure,” she said. “I didn’t have fancy names and strange sizes.”

Bridger said the Dancing Goat was the first downtown business to have outdoor seating, and she brought live music to the patio during some lunch and dinner hours.

Coffeehouses back then took “the traditional Italian approach to espresso,” according to Strange Matter founder Cara Nader. That meant espresso blends with as many as 10 different types of coffee, “roasted beyond anything so that they’re black and oily, and all you’re tasting is roast.”

“Coffeehouses served a very different purpose back then,” Nader said. “They were more of a gathering

place, a place where people could listen to live music, a place where you could do book readings and book signings, and coffee was kind of the background to the vibe.”

Many businesses like Bridger’s died out in the late ‘90s and early 2000s, ushering in an era dominated by Biggby and Starbucks. Biggby settled into a niche, but it didn’t stop changing. That includes its drink options — Fish said younger customers still like coffee, but they prefer it iced and with milk alternatives — and the coffee beans themselves, as consumers become more conscious of equity in coffee.

“If we talk about equity in coffee, as an example, perhaps my father couldn’t care less, you know? But my son wants to know where his coffee is coming from and what kind of impact it has, whether that impact is positive or negative,” Fish said.

To that end, Biggby is focusing on what Fish calls a “farm-direct” model, buying “directly from the producer” to eliminate “as many of the nefarious or unnecessary middlemen or hands in between” as possible and using the inevitable savings to pay producers better. Fish said Biggby is currently 50% “farm direct” and aims to hit 100% by 2028.

But even as Biggby ups its coffee game, it’s not trying to compete with independent, third-wave shops. Fish knows his consumer.

“I think somebody who goes to Strange Matter might do that when they have a moment where they can be more relaxed, take their time and so on,” he said. “It’s a real indulgence for them. And they might end up at a Biggby when they’re more hard-pressed to get to work, or they’re on the road and see something familiar.”

“Strange Matter would need to worry more if Blue Owl showed up next door than if Biggby did,” he continued.

The third wave



When Defrees first opened a bag of coffee from Chicago roastery Intelligentsia, he thought there had been a mistake. He had been gradually working his way up the coffee ladder since moving to Lansing in 2003, first experimenting with different drinks at Biggby, then switching to grinding his own beans, then moving to buying fair trade. But this was altogether different. The beans weren’t dark and oily.

“I’d never had coffee roasted that light before,” he said. “I actually thought there was something wrong with it. But I brewed it anyway, and it blew my mind. After that, I started roasting.”

In 2014, he founded 517 Coffee Co. and began selling his products at farmers markets. At first, customers frequently requested dark roasts. But they’ve since gotten the bug. Natural process coffee beans, which are allowed to ferment in the coffee cherry before being extracted, are now popular for their fruity flavor.

The aughts in Lansing were mostly dominated by chain coffee shops as third-wave cafes began to emerge in bigger cities. People like Defrees and Nader brought third-wave techniques to Lansing after learning them from outside cafes and roasteries.

Nader’s first job brewing coffee was at the cafe in the Traverse City Borders bookstore. Back then, she drank “horrible” sugary beverages, even earning the nickname “extra-stirred girl” among her coworkers. But as she continued working at other cafes, she developed a fascination with the

craft behind coffee and eventually began competing in national barista competitions.

“When I started doing that, I started to really appreciate more traditional coffee beverages,” she said. “So many folks think you’ve got to add sugar, cream, all this stuff, and that’s really what you need to do with bad coffee. Good coffee tastes great without any of those additives.”

After she tried pour-over coffee and was blown away by the experience, she convinced the owners of the coffee shop she was working at to add it to the menu.

Despite the fancy techniques, Lansing’s third wave has partly been a return to tradition. Nader said Strange Matter serves traditional macchiatos — unsweetened espresso with a small dollop of milk foam — as opposed to the sugary caramel beverage of the same name invented by Starbucks.

That means third-wave shops are more competitive with each other than with the chains.

“There’s very little overlap,” Nader said. “There’s a whole demographic of folks who keep Starbucks and Biggby afloat, and then there’s a completely separate group of folks that are like, ‘That’s way too much money. I’ll stick with my diner or Speedway coffee.’”

“If you’re paying a dollar for coffee and you like it, you’re not going to just suddenly be like, ‘Oh, I’ll go to this coffee shop and spend \$6 for a coffee that’s half the size.’”

But even the third-wave shops are at a surprisingly happy medium.

“I think Strange Matter does an amazing job with everything they do, which is why I don’t do a lot of the things they do,” Trisha Koloski, owner of The Hob Nob coffee shop downtown, said. “Every time anybody asks me for a pour over, I point my finger that way.”

Koloski and her friends used to frequent second-wave East Lansing coffeehouse Caffe Latte in the evenings.

“Not only could you still smoke cigarettes in the place at that point, but there was always live entertainment, be it an open mic night or a little jazz band,” she said. “That was the place to go after 7 o’clock at night.”

The Hob Nob opened in 2022, at a time when “overly complicated, sweet, whipped-up beverages” were becoming less dominant, Koloski said. She takes inspiration from coffeehouses and even from diners.

“When I opened up The Hob Nob, we were geared more toward that classic cup of coffee, your classic cappuccino, your classic latte,” she said. “Sure, you can add flavors to those things if you want, but what about a flat white? What about just espresso? What about an actual macchiato?”

Kolski said she’s glad to see a healthy environment for independent cafes, as well as a model that “is not, like, ‘How many ice cream flavors can I make your drink taste like?’ It’s more like, ‘Can I give you a really good cup of coffee every time?’”

Today’s coffee scene has something for everyone. Château Coffee Co. eschews tradition with a medium-light-roast espresso, courtesy of 517 Coffee Co. Strange Matter specializes in pour overs. Blue Owl flavors its drinks with honey and essential oils. Constellation Cat Cafe makes its own syrups — and, of course, has a room full of cats.

Last year, 517 Coffee Co. began hosting an annual coffee tour called The Grind, inviting consumers to purchase beans and brews from several local cafes. It’s a reminder of the Lansing coffee scene’s diversity, with each shop offering something special.

“When I first moved here, you mostly just had the chains,” Defrees said. “But when you walk in here, you’re going to get a different overall experience than you would at Constellation or Château or Blue Owl. And that’s what I really want people to see and appreciate.”

by Lora Root



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CityPULSE

‘Darkly absurd’ memoir tackles dysfunctional childhood

By **BILL CASTANIER**

What happens when a hapless dreamer marries an inveterate hoarder? Their daughter, Amanda Uhle, the successful publisher and executive director of McSweeney’s, takes readers on the wild ride of a lifetime in her debut book, “Destroy This House,” as she describes growing up with her dysfunctional family in the ‘80s and ‘90s.

McSweeney’s is an American publishing company founded by superstar Dave Eggers, author of “A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius,” the 2010 Michigan State University and East Lansing’s annual One Book, One Community selection.

Uhle is no stranger to Michigan. For 11 years, she served as executive director of 826michigan, a nonprofit tutoring and writing center for school-aged students in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti.

I was able to catch up with Uhle amid her cross-country promotional tour. She was coming off a successful reading at San Francisco’s City Lights, the venerable bookstore founded by poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

“It was standing-room only,” she said. One wonders how many of the attendees had personal experience with a hoarder.

Those who have hoarders or schemers in their family will likely find themselves immersed in Uhle’s book, which tells the story of living with both with no varnish.

As you read Uhle’s family tell-all, you can’t help wondering how something like this happens. Uhle candidly admits,

“I don’t know.”

Her father, Stephen, was an ill-fated inventor, coming up with ideas like a toilet seat to prevent HIV and a newfangled soap dispenser, which was mildly successful. His life was filled with get-rich-quick schemes, and despite many failures, he always moved on to the next big idea. His final scheme was serving as a pastor of a church he founded.

Uhle’s mother, Sandra, despite being a talented and classically trained clothing designer, worked mostly out of her home, selling cleaning products.

But her real career, as Uhle relates, was shopping and accumulating. Sandra’s first foray into hoarding involved buying clothes — lots of them. Though she was a gifted seamstress, her sewing projects were seldom completed, and piles of unopened packages containing fabric would pile up.

Then she began hoarding food products.

“It wasn’t a dozen eggs, it was 48 eggs,” Uhle said. “She would buy dozens of extra things. It was always more stuff.”

In her book, Uhle often describes her parents as creative and humorous, with the ability to manufacture tall tales. As she grew older, she realized her family

was always on the move, one step ahead of bill collectors. It was daunting growing up in such a household, especially as she became a teenager.

“I didn’t have friends over. I had such shame about the hoarding and was embarrassed about it,” she said.

“As time went on, it got worse and

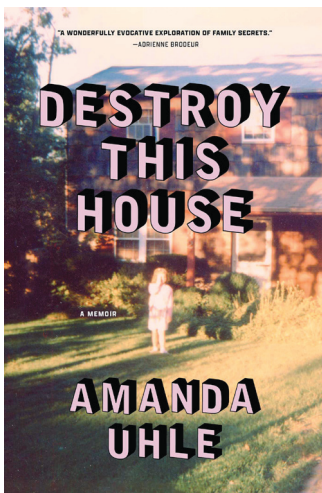


Photo by Melanie Maxwell

Amanda Uhle, publisher and executive director of McSweeney’s, takes readers on the wild ride of a lifetime in her new memoir, “Destroy This House,” as she describes growing up with an ill-fated inventor for a father and a hoarder for a mother.

worse, and I had to start dealing with it,” she continued. She started cleaning, but that didn’t work — it often doesn’t, instead fueling a hoarder’s need to fill space with new items.

Today, Uhle said, she’s careful about accumulating.

“At readings, people ask for advice. I don’t know what to tell them. It’s so complex,” she said. “I have no idea what causes it. I wish I understood my mother better. She was so inscrutable when she was alive.”

Uhle understands that she has written a “darkly absurd” memoir.

“I often saw my parents as funny characters, and our life was a load of fun,” she said.

But as she confronted writing the last parts of the book, she realized her parents “were awful.”

“Toward the end, I was on a precipice. It was the worst time. The ending is what the book is about,” she said.

It takes a lot of courage to write about a dysfunctional family, but Uhle has managed to pull it off with aplomb. She tells her story with honesty and forthrightness, but it might make you want to get rid of some stuff.

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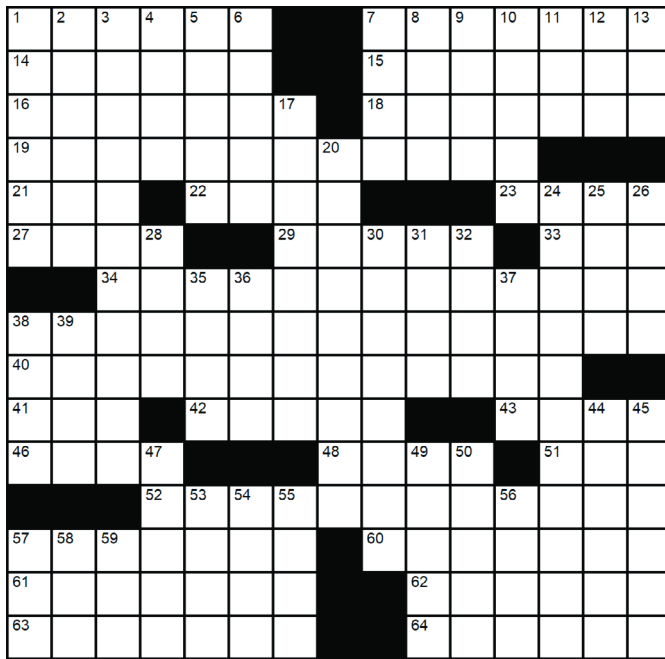
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Verbal Playground” -- it’s themeless time again.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Part of a media campaign
- 7. Arrive
- 14. Oil used in perfumery
- 15. Galaxy alternatives
- 16. Like the first woman to win the Fields Medal
- 18. Show how it was
- 19. 2007 documentary featuring members of Green Day, Black Flag, Fugazi, and the Sex Pistols
- 21. Cardiac readout
- 22. Silicon Valley industry, briefly
- 23. Ripening medium
- 27. House document
- 29. “Everybody Talks” band Neon
- 33. Scope opener
- 34. French politician whose commission was key in creating the euro and modern European Union
- 38. Features of many TV dramas
- 40. Big number presented to the audience?
- 41. Bendy pipe
- 42. Promotional piece
- 43. Couple
- 46. 1990s “Bond girl” portrayal
- 48. Feet, slangily
- 51. Academic suffix
- 52. 1965 John Coltrane album set up in four parts



- 57. Personalize, perhaps
 - 60. Shout of respect
 - 61. More catchy, as music
 - 62. Midwest state capital not on the Interstate Highway System
 - 63. Words of regret
 - 64. Became a snooze
- DOWN**
- 1. Threw barbs
 - 2. Powdered wig
 - 3. Wobbly citrusy option
 - 4. Rolling Stones hit “Honky ___ Women”
 - 5. Top roster
 - 6. Steak namesake
 - 7. Prepare (oneself)
 - 8. Olympic gear that weighs about 27 ounces
 - 9. “Queer as Folk” actress Gill
 - 10. Accord promoter
 - 11. “Coronation Street” character
 - 12. DVR button
 - 13. Suffix for record holders
 - 17. Specialty of Chopin or Fauré
 - 20. Close NASCAR position that may result in a photo finish
 - 24. 1990s “murder ballad” by the then-Dixie Chicks
 - 25. French 101 word often seen after d’
 - 26. “Dress for Less” chain
 - 28. “The BFG” author
 - 30. “Morbis” director Daniel
 - 31. Change copy
 - 32. Casual meetup?
 - 35. ___ Tower (Telegraph Hill landmark)
 - 36. Je ne sais ___
 - 37. Install, in a way
 - 38. Follow
 - 39. Pale green shade
 - 44. Reverse
 - 45. Faced off, maybe
 - 47. Silent comedian who wasn’t in silent films
 - 49. Nervous noises
 - 50. Blackjack option
 - 53. Hibernation location
 - 54. Transcending
 - 55. So
 - 56. Mother of Zeus and Hera
 - 57. Prefix for glottis
 - 58. When repeated, biting commentary?
 - 59. Nav need

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

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

Oct. 8-14, 2025

ARIES (March 21–April 19): No relationship is like any other. The way we bond with another has a distinctive identity that embodies the idiosyncratic chemistry between us. So, in my view, it’s wrong to compare any partnership to a supposedly ideal template. Fortunately, you Aries are in a phase when you can summon extra wisdom about this and other relaxing truths concerning togetherness. I recommend you devote your full creativity and ingenuity to helping your key bonds ripen and deepen.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Poet Rainer Maria Rilke advised, “Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves.” These days, dear Taurus, that’s your power move: to stay in conversation with mystery without forcing premature answers. Not everything needs to be fixed or finalized. Your gift is to be a custodian of unfolding processes: to cherish and nourish what’s ripening. Trust that your questions are already generating the early blooms of a thorough healing.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): I am a great admirer of Bart Simpson, a fictional fourth-grade student on the animated TV show “The Simpsons.” He is a constant source of unruly affirmations that we could all benefit from incorporating into our own behavior when life gets comically weird. Since I think you’re in such a phase now, Gemini, I am offering a batch of Bart-style gems. For best results, use them to free yourself from the drone of the daily routine and to scramble your habitual ways of understanding the world. Now, here’s Bart: 1. “I will not invent a new religion based on bubble gum.” 2. “I will not sell bottled ‘invisible water.’” 3. “I will not try to hypnotize my friends, and I will not tell co-workers they are holograms.” 4. “I will not claim to be a licensed pyrotechnician.” 5. “I will not use the Pythagorean theorem to summon demons.” 6. “I will not declare war on Thursdays.”

CANCER (June 21–July 22): During its entire life, the desert plant Welwitschia mirabilis grows just two leaves. They never wither or fall off but continually grow, twist, split and tatter for hundreds of years. They keep thriving even as their ends are worn or shredded by wind and sand. I love how wild and vigorous they look, and I love how their wildness is the result of their unflinching persistence and resilience. Let’s make Welwitschia mirabilis your inspirational symbol in the coming weeks, Cancerian. May it motivate you to nurture the quiet, enduring power in your depths that enables you to express yourself with maximum uniqueness and authenticity.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Have you been to Morocco? I love that so many houses there are built around spacious courtyards with intricate tilework and lush gardens. Sooner or later, of course, the mosaic-like floors need renovations. The artisans who do the work honor the previous artistry. “In rebuilding,” one told me, “our goal is to create new magnificence that remembers the old splendor.” I hope you pursue an approach like that in the coming weeks, Leo. The mending and healing you undertake should nourish the soulfulness you have cultivated, even as you polish and refine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Virgo novelist Agatha Christie often planned her elaborate plots while cleaning her house or washing dishes. She said such repetitive, physical tasks unlocked her creativity, allowing ideas to emerge without force. I suggest you draw inspiration from her method in the coming weeks. Seek your own form of productive distraction. Instead of wrestling with a problem in a heroic death match, lose yourself in simple, grounding actions that free your mind to wander. I am pretty sure that your most brilliant and lasting solutions will emerge when you’re not trying hard to come up with brilliant and lasting solutions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Libra architect Christopher Alexander developed a sixth sense about why some spaces feel comfortable, while others are

alienating. What was the source of his genius? He avoided abstract principles and studied how people actually used spaces. His best architecture soulfully coordinated the relationships between indoor and outdoor areas, private and public zones, and individual needs and community functions. The “quality without a name” was the term he used to identify the profound aliveness, wholeness and harmony of spaces where people love to be. In the coming weeks, Libra, I hope you access your own natural gift for curating relationships and cultivating balance. Your solutions should serve multiple needs. Elegant approaches will arise as you focus on connections rather than isolated parts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Some medieval mystics claimed that angels spoke in paradoxes because the truth was too rich for simple logic. These days, I believe you Scorpios are extra fluent in paradox. You are raw yet powerful, aching and grateful, confounded but utterly clear. You are both dying and being reborn. My advice: Don’t try to resolve the contradictions. Immerse yourself in them, bask in them and allow them to teach you all they have to teach. This may entail sitting with your sadness as you laugh and letting your desire and doubt interweave. The contradictions you face with openheartedness will gift you with sublime potency and authority.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): The ancient city of Petra, built in sandstone cliffs in what’s now Jordan, was mostly hidden from the outside world for centuries. In 1812, Sagittarian Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt rediscovered it by disguising himself as a pilgrim. He trained extensively in the Arabic language, Islamic culture and local customs so he could travel incognito. You Sagittarians can benefit from a similar strategy in the coming weeks. Life will conspire to bring you wonders if you thoroughly educate yourself about the people and situations you would like to influence. I invite you to hike your empathy up to a higher octave, cultivate respect for what’s unfamiliar and make yourself extra available for exotic and inspiring treasures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): During the 1800s, countless inventors chased the impossible dream of perpetual-motion machines, contraptions that would run endlessly without any fuel source. Every attempt failed; such devices bucked the fundamental laws of physics. But here’s good news, Capricorn: You are close to cracking the code on a metaphorical version of perpetual motion. You are cultivating habits and rhythms that could keep you steady and vital for a long time to come. I predict the energy you’re generating will be self-sustaining.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Octopuses have three hearts and blue blood. They taste with their skin, solve puzzles and squeeze their entire bodies through coin-sized holes. No wonder they are referred to as the aliens of Earth, just as you Aquarians are the aliens of the zodiac. According to my analysis, now is a perfect time for you to embrace your inner octopus. I authorize you to let your strangeness lead the way. You have the right and duty to fully activate your multidimensional mind. Yes, you may be misunderstood by some. But your suppleness, radical empathy and nonlinear genius will be exactly what’s needed. Be the one who sees escape routes and paths to freedom that no one else perceives. Make the impossible look natural.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Dear Pisces, it’s like you’re in one of those dreams where you’re exploring the attic or basement of your home and discover secret rooms you didn’t realize existed. This is good! It means you are finding uncharted frontiers in what you assumed was familiar territory. It suggests you are ready to see truths you weren’t ready for before. Congrats! Keep wandering and wondering, and you will discover what you didn’t even know you needed to know.

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, Oct. 8

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.

Adult Bingo - Join us for a fun afternoon of bingo, complete with light refreshments and prizes for the winners! 2:30-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allen-neighborhoodcenter.org/allen-farmers-market.

Arts Impact Grant Workshop - Arts Council membership and program manager Taylor Haslett will walk participants through the ins and outs of the two-part 2025/2026 grant application process. 4:30 p.m. 311 Abbot Road, Ste. 301, Lansing. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

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.

Cello Plus: Jazz Infusion - Grammy-winning pianist Taylor Eigsti joins MSU's Rodney Whitaker, alumna Marta Bagratuni and guests for a genre-blending concert reimagining chamber music through jazz. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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.

Connecting Small Businesses with Procurement Opportunities - A unique opportunity for small businesses to engage directly with public procurement professionals and small business resource providers. 8:30-11:30 a.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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

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

Ghostly Campfire Paint Night - Get spooky with us at Buddy's in Okemos! Painting will be on an 11-by-14 canvas. We'll walk you through it step by step. 6-9:30 p.m. 2010 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. paintyourpoison.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.

Halloween Psychic Fun Night - Talented psychic Robert Taylor will present various techniques of divination. Audience participants will choose one of the techniques for an individualized reading! Registration req. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

How Much Home Can You Afford? - Looking to buy a home? Learn how to calculate how much home you can afford based on your current income during this one-hour class. Noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth/index.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, with Big Man Genesis - 9-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Lansing Collage Club - Join fellow collage enthusiasts for an evening of cutting, pasting and creating! Bring supplies to share or come as you are. Free. 6-9 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/HookedLansing.

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.

Don Was and the Pan-Detroit Ensemble

7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9
Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing



Six-time Grammy Award-winning producer, musician, songwriter and Blue Note Records president Don Was is hitting the road with his band, the Pan-Detroit Ensemble, for a six-state tour celebrating the release of the group's debut album, "Groove in the Face of Adversity," out Friday (Oct. 10). At each show, including Thursday's Lansing date, the band will perform songs from the new album, as well as the entirety of The Grateful Dead's "Blues for Allah" LP, which turns 50 this year. Tickets are available at hall224.com.

The Pan-Detroit Ensemble is a nine-piece "soul jazz" group, in Was' words. Members include Southeast Michigan jazz veterans Jeff Canady on drums, Vincent Chandler on trombone, Steffanie Christi'an on vocals, John Douglas on trumpet, Wayne Gerard on guitar, Mahindi Masai on percussion, Dave McMurray on saxophone and Luis Resto on keyboards.

"We're the Pan-Detroit Ensemble, and we are on a mission to promulgate the music of our hometown," Was said in a news release.

The album blends "steamy jazz, juke joint blues and loose-limbed funk," encompassing the sounds fans have come to know and love from Was over the years.

"I see us as ambassadors of this thing, and I don't think anyone else is really doing that," Was said. "And I'm proud of the fact that it's not just a museum of sounds. We've taken all these fundamentals we've learned and are creating something new and fresh with it."

In his more than five decades in the industry, Was has produced albums for The Rolling Stones, Bonnie Raitt, Bob Dylan, John Mayer, Willie Nelson, Elton John and beyond. He was a founding member of the pop-rock band Was (Not Was) and has toured extensively with Wolf Bros, a rock band led by Grateful Dead guitarist and vocalist Bob Weir. He hosts the annual Detroit All-Star Revue, as well as leading the house band. He has two radio shows, "The Don Was Motor City Playlist" on Detroit NPR affiliate WDET and "Dinner with Don Was" on SiriusXM, and several film credits as a music director or consultant for hits such as "Thelma and Louise," "The Rainmaker," "Toy Story" and "The Paper."

See Events, Page 19

LANSING'S BEST CIDER & DONUTS

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Events

from page 18

Lansing People's Assembly: What's at Stake in Public Education? - An interactive virtual event – listen, learn and share. We need to understand the education system, organize to make sure it is best supporting our children and communities, and hold leaders accountable. 6 p.m. Register at peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Lena's Story: Exploring Trauma, Neurodivergence and Mental Health - MSU School of Social Work trauma-informed care certificate elective. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Michigan Public Health Institute, 2436 Woodlake Drive, Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/msu-school-of-social-work-44929438833.

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

Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol - From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., visit educational booths hosted by Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, alumni and staff. We'll hold a brief program at noon. Refreshments will be served. Heritage Hall, 323 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. canr.msu.edu/4h/index.

MMAG Fall Art Show - The artists of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invite the community to visit their "Black and White" exhibition, featuring art created with just those colors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Savvy Caregiver Program - Are you caring for a loved one with memory loss? Attend a six-week workshop to help reduce caregiving stress. 1:30-3:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@coa.org.

Selling MI Honey & Maple Syrup - Learn how to safely handle, package and store honey and maple syrup and understand the exemption guidelines for selling these products in Michigan. Noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/isabella/index.

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

Weaving the Web: Law of Return - 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.

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. 9

2025 MSUBA Homecoming: Annual Membership Meeting - This in-person or virtual gathering is your chance to stay connected, honor our legacy and ignite our future together. 7-9 p.m. Doubletree by Hilton, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. msuba.org.

20th Century Masterworks for Flute and Harp - Absolute Music Chamber Series blends music with community by adapting the traditional European soirée format to a modern setting. 7:30-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatvents.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Celebrating Michigan Auto Heritage at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum - We're fostering the next generation of automotive enthusiasts by providing free youth admission to the museum from Oct. 9-12. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

CMPSRA Professional Development Day & PACE Awards - Hear from experts on PR trends and how to improve your performance. The event will continue in the evening with the PACE Awards, recognizing PR practitioners. 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. cmprsa.com.

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

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

"Every Brilliant Thing" - Based on true and untrue stories, "Every Brilliant Thing" is a life-affirming story of how to achieve hope through focusing on the smallest miracles of life. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Fraud Prevention 101: What Everyone Should Know - A loss prevention specialist from LAFCU will

Ken and Sandy Beall Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8
Fairchild Theatre

542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10
Cook Recital Hall

333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing



The Michigan State University College of Music's annual Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival unites faculty artists, alumni and guest musicians in intimate and inventive concerts, aiming to showcase chamber music at the highest level. Directed by MSU cello Professor Suren Bagratuni, two shows remain in the three-show series. Tonight's "Jazz Infusion" concert brings together Grammy winner Taylor Eigsti on piano, MSU jazz studies director Rodney Whitaker on bass, MSU alumna Marta Bagratuni on cello and other instrumentalists for a performance that utilizes improvisation, rhythm and harmony to "reimagine chamber music through the lens of jazz." Friday's "Gems for Cellos" concert will highlight the instrument's "expressive versatility and resonant sound" with works by Bach, Fauré, Tchaikovsky and beyond, performed by an all-cello ensemble. The evening will also include a performance of Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 1 by faculty members Suren Bagratuni on cello, Dmitri Berlinsky on violin and Yvonne Lam on viola, joined by special guest Dmitri Vorobiev on piano.

"Each year, Cello Plus offers our audiences something truly distinctive," Bagratuni said. "This season, we're blending the elegance of classical traditions with fresh perspectives that show the remarkable breadth of chamber music. It is a joy to collaborate with such talented musicians and to share this festival with the MSU and Greater Lansing community."

Tickets for each show, along with additional information, are available at music.msu.edu.

share simple, proven tips to help you better safeguard your personal and financial information in today's digital world. 7-8 p.m. Virtual — register at LAFCU.com/security.

GL-UNA Java Cafe Global Conversation - For 35 years, the international legal community has been attempting to control the emissions of greenhouse gases by treaty and declaration. The attempts have failed — is there hope for the future? 6:30-8:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Gothic Elegance: Acrylic Painting Night for Adults - Paint a gothic scene or portrait based on a number of displays and photos. Canvases, paint and brushes will be supplied. Registration req. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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.

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.

Lightning Talks: "Mekong Voices" - Join us in the galleries for a series of 10-minute talks by graduate students researching the Mekong River. Set within the exhibition "Mekong Voices," these research snapshots amplify the river's many voices — human and non-human. 11 a.m., 2 p.m. or 4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

See Events, Page 20



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Events

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MELT Thursdays - UrbanBeat turns up the heat with a weekly electronic music series. Featured artists TBA. No cover. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

MMAG Fall Art Show - The artists of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invite the community to visit their "Black and White" exhibition, featuring art created with just those colors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Hockey vs. University of New Hampshire - 7 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

Paul McKenna - The Paul McKenna Band is a staple of Scottish folk music. This show is a mid-week stop on a rare solo tour by one of Scotland's biggest voices. Think Martin Sexton or Stan Rogers. 7:30-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

"Ravenscroft," by Don Nigro - This psychological drama is a thinking person's Gothic thriller, a dark comedy that's both funny and frightening. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

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

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

Thomas Mapfumo & the Blacks Unlimited - Hailed as "The Lion of Zimbabwe," Mapfumo is a musical visionary, fearless social critic and one of the greatest African bandleaders of the past century. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

Friday, Oct. 10

2025 MSUBA Homecoming: 45th Anniversary Celebration - Join us for an evening of music, memories and Spartan pride — while supporting scholarships for the next generation. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Doubletree by Hilton, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. msuba.org.

Celebrating Michigan Auto Heritage at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum - We're fostering the next generation of automotive enthusiasts by providing free youth admission to the museum from Oct. 9-12. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Cello Plus: Gems for Cellos - Experience the resonant sound of an all-cello ensemble, as well as Brahms' Piano Quartet No. 1, performed by MSU faculty artists and guests. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Church of the Resurrection 90th Annual Ox Roast Festival - Featuring the original ox roast sandwich and delicious homemade soup, plus a pub, a DJ, live entertainment, hourly 50/50 drawings and raffles! 4-11 p.m. 127 Rumsey Ave., Lansing. corlansing.org.

"Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties" - Five different women named Betty collide at the intersection of anger, sex and the "thea-tah." 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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.

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.

"Every Brilliant Thing" - Based on true and untrue stories, "Every Brilliant Thing" is a life-affirming story of how to achieve hope through focusing on the smallest miracles of life. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.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.

Five Elements Dance & Drum - Intuitive movement and music in a supportive, sober environment. Bring a yoga mat, dancing socks/slippers and a

Shadow Season

Through Oct. 31
Downtown Charlotte

Back for a second year, Charlotte's monthlong Shadow Season celebration will transform the city into a Halloween oasis, offering spine-tingling fun for the whole family. Activities include a haunted pub crawl Saturday (Oct. 11), featuring scary stories and a signature drink at each stop; a spooky charcuterie board competition Oct. 18, sponsored by Love4Charlotte; a monster masquerade ball, also on Oct. 18, offering a bonfire, yard games, music, oddities vendors, dark stories, finger food and a themed bar; a jack-o'-lantern carving contest, a glow-in-the-dark 5K and a trivia-heavy pub crawl Oct. 24; a kids' Halloween party Oct. 25, featuring games, crafts and snacks; trick-or-treating at downtown businesses Oct. 27; and citywide trick-or-treating Oct. 31. Some events require fees or pre-registration. For more information, visit shadowseason.org.



drum or rattle if desired. 6:30 p.m. The Light House Chapel, 1501 Windsor St., Lansing. facebook.com/lansingighthousechapel.

Fundraiser Fish Fry - Served takeout style with seating available. We may close early if we run out. There will also be a bake sale on the main floor. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wacousta-DeWitt Masonic Lodge, 9030 Herbison Road, Grand Ledge. wacousta.net.

Going to Pieces Quilt Show - Capitol City Quilt Guild show with over 200 quilts on display. There will also be a boutique of handmade items, a silent auction, raffles and a variety of vendors. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. capitolcityquiltguild.org.

Kait Rose & Co.: Fleetwood Mac Tribute - Experience the unforgettable songs that defined a generation, performed with all the energy and soul you love. 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Kindergarten Craft Club - Create a flexible straw hand! Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

MMAG Fall Art Show - The artists of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invite the community to visit their "Black and White" exhibition, featuring art created with just those colors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Hockey vs. University of New Hampshire - 7:30 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

MSU Women's Volleyball vs. University of Iowa - 7:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

"Ravenscroft," by Don Nigro - This psychological drama is a thinking person's Gothic thriller, a dark comedy that's both funny and frightening. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Ray Kamalay and His Red Hot Peppers - Led by acclaimed guitarist/vocalist Ray Kamalay, this group brings the spirit of 1930s small-band jazz to life with soulful ballads, hot improvisation and stories that swing. 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Red Cedar Friends Rummage Sale - Multi-household rummage sale to benefit the Tiny Food Pantry. A wide variety of items will be available, including toys, books, tools, craft supplies and more. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.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.

See Events, Page 21

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Events

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Saturday, Oct. 11

2025 MSUBA Homecoming Tailgate - Enjoy music, vendors and vibes with DJ Butcher, Bruce Bailey and DJ Kutz. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. IM East field, 804 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. msuba.org.

Automotive History Storytelling Event and Craft - In honor of the 122nd anniversary of the first Oldsmobile cross-country drive, we invite kids to learn about the first attempts at conducting a transcontinental drive and build their own toy car. 1-3 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Mall Walk - All are invited to walk the hallways of the Lansing Mall, showing support in honor of Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness months. 10 a.m.-noon. 5742 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. againstaloddsfoundation.com.

Breathe, Learn, Grow: A Morning of Mindful Connection for Moms - This unique experience blends gentle self-care with practical parenting wisdom, creating space for you to unwind while learning easy ways to support your child's early development. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Nurture Studios, 257 S. Bridge St., Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/compassionately-bri-53247017153.

Bright Blooms STEM Lab - Join us one Saturday each month for three hours of hands-on STEM play and exploration designed for curious, creative little minds! 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lil Sunflowers Learning Academy, 638 S. Grand Ave., Fowlerville. islearningacademy.com.

Celebrating Michigan Auto Heritage at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum - We're fostering the next generation of automotive enthusiasts by providing free youth admission to the museum from Oct. 9-12. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Church of the Resurrection 90th Annual Ox Roast Festival - Featuring the original ox roast sandwich and delicious homemade soup, plus a pub, a DJ, live entertainment, hourly 50/50 drawings and raffles! 2-11 p.m. 127 Rumsey Ave., Lansing. corlansing.org.

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

"Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties" - Five different women named Betty collide at the intersection of anger, sex and the "thea-tah." 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Dine & Discovery: Pot Pies, with Chef Eric King of Poppa's Cookbook - Learn how to make pot pies, the classic comfort food in a crust! 5-5 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenNeighborhoodCenter.

"Every Brilliant Thing" - Based on true and untrue stories, "Every Brilliant Thing" is a life-affirming story of how to achieve hope through focusing on the smallest miracles of life. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Going to Pieces Quilt Show - Capitol City Quilt Guild show with over 200 quilts on display. There will also be a boutique of handmade items, a silent auction, raffles and a variety of vendors. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. capitolcityquiltguild.org.

Graveyard Shift Cruise-In - Join us for the final cruise-in of the season at the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum! Open to all makes, models and years. Participating drivers and a passenger receive free admission to the museum, as well as coffee, cider and donuts. 9 a.m.-noon. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Heather Lake Bays: Jazz That Birthed Broadway

- With a voice that has echoed through Disney theme parks, film scores and even Carnegie Hall, Bays brings her talent to Lansing for a powerful tribute to the roots of jazz and the showstopping magic it inspired. 7:30-9:30 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.

Meet the Author - Meet Nicholas W. Gentile, the local author of "Enemies to Their Country: The Marblehead Addressers and Consensus in the American Revolution." 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.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 Football vs. UCLA - Noon. Spartan Stadium, 325 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/football.

Open House - Mason residents are invited to a fun and informative event! Meet city staff and learn about city services! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/city.of.mason.mi.usa.

Parent 2 Parent Sale - Sell or shop for gently used children's items. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Delta Community Center, 7550 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/deltatowship.

"Ravenscroft," by Don Nigro - This psychological drama is a thinking person's Gothic thriller, a dark comedy that's both funny and frightening. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Red Cedar Friends Rummage Sale - Multi-household rummage sale to benefit the Tiny Food Pantry. A wide variety of items will be available, including toys, books, tools, craft supplies and more. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org.

Second Saturday Divorce Workshop - Join us for a supportive and informative workshop designed to help you navigate the complexities of divorce. 9 a.m.-noon. 2139 Commons Parkway, Ste. B, Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/kylee-mohammed-chfc-cdfa-77498789483.

Spook Fest - A spooky craft and vendor show. Bring items for our Toys for Tots drive! 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/kellyhumeeventsllc.

Stitching the Next Chapter: Seams Grand Reopening - Expect hands-on vibes, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and speeches by our founder and local leaders. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Seams Sewing and Mercantile, 204 E César E. Chávez Ave, Lansing. seamsfabric.com.

Village Crafters Craft Room Cleanout - A room full of artists and crafters will sell their no-longer-needed items at rock-bottom prices! Art supplies, fabric, yarn, baking molds, Christmas ornaments and so much more! 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Masonic Lodge, 840 E. Columbia St., Mason. facebook.com.

Youth Dungeons & Dragons Campaign - New and experienced players can 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, Oct. 12

Capital Pro Wrestling - 3-6 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. 517-894-4589. americanluchalibre.com.

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EXHIBITION ON VIEW OCTOBER 3 TO FEBRUARY 6, 2026



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EUROPE AND EMPIRES OF THE EAST — OTTOMANS, SAFAVIDS, MUGHALS — ENCOUNTERS AND EXCHANGES, 1400–1800



Thursday, October 16 | 5:30–7:00 p.m.
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366 West Circle Drive, East Lansing MI 48824



Join us for a short video introduction to the exhibit and books, followed by presentations and a reception to celebrate the inauguration of the Jyotsna G. Singh Endowment in Early Modern Studies.

RELATED LECTURE by Dr. João Vicente Melo
Portuguese Encounters with the Indo-Persian
Islamicate World: The Mughals and Safavids
Thursday, October 16 | 3:30–5:00 p.m.



Libraries
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Exhibition co-curated by Prof. Emerita Jyotsna G. Singh, MSU Dept. of English, and Tad Boehmer, Curator of Rare Books, MSU Libraries.

Events

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Celebrating Michigan Auto Heritage at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum - We're fostering the next generation of automotive enthusiasts by providing free youth admission to the museum from Oct. 9-12. Noon-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.



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"Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties" - Five different women named Betty collide at the intersection of anger, sex and the "thea-tah." 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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.

"Every Brilliant Thing" - Based on true and untrue stories, "Every Brilliant Thing" is a life-affirming story of how to achieve hope through focusing on the smallest miracles of life. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Greater Lansing CROP Hunger Walk - Walk and raise funds in support of our neighbors near and far facing hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. 1 p.m. Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. events.crophungerwalk.org.

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.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra Piano Trio - 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, Molly Grove Chapel, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

MSU Jazz Orchestras, with Sean Jones - A former lead trumpeter with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and a passionate educator, Jones bridges the jazz tradition with innovative performance. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

MSU Women's Volleyball vs. Indiana University - 1 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

Museum Tour: Deep-Rooted with Beal Botanical Garden - Join Beal education director Maeve Bassett for an immersive tour unearthing the historical, social and political narratives growing within works of art from the Broad Museum's collection. 1 p.m. 517 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

"Ravenscroft," by Don Nigro - This psychological drama is a thinking person's Gothic thriller, a dark comedy that's both funny and frightening. 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

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.

Witchin' Halloween Paint Party - Painting will be pre-traced for your ease. Learn some new skills and have fun with your friends! We'll also be offering themed trivia. 2-4 p.m. Chengdu Teahouse, 100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. paintyourpoison.com.

Monday, Oct. 13

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

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.

Dementia Caregiver Series - Three-session series intended to reduce stress for those caring for a person with dementia by providing useful tools and information. 1-2:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Doll Head Planters - Make a creepy succulent planter out of upcycled doll heads. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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.

MMAG Fall Art Show - The artists of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invite the community to visit their "Black and White" exhibition, featuring art created with just those colors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

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

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

Tuesday, Oct. 14

21st Century Americana - Trombonist Kenneth Thompkins, joined by fellow MSU artists Zhihua Tang and Gwen Dease, presents a dynamic program of 21st-century American works. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

See Events, Page 23

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GENERAC

Events

from page 22

“Beauty and the Beast” - This enchanting and timeless tale will fill your heart with joy and Disney magic. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.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.

Dying to Know Festival - This unique community gathering is designed to take the fear out of end-of-life decisions by offering education, discussions, entertainment and tours. 1-5 p.m. Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes, 1730 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. facebook.com/GorslineLansing.

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.

LAGE Game Night North - Lansing-Area Games & Events offers free board/card gaming experiences for diverse people and cultivates a safe, inclusive,

fun community. 6:30-11 p.m. Reno's Sports Bar, 16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing. meetup.com/lansing.

LAGE Game Night West - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing.

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.

Minecraft Mania - An evening of fun and friendly competition. We'll have our Minecraft server set up and laptops ready to go. Ages 8-12. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

MMAG Fall Art Show - The artists of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invite the community to visit their “Black and White” exhibition, featuring art created with just those colors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

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

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

Swiftie Celebration Night - Get ready to shake it off and celebrate the power of Girl Scout sisterhood! Join us for an evening filled with friendship, creativity and music. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Camp Wacousta, 13287 Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge. gshom.org.

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. 15

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.

“Beauty and the Beast” - This enchanting and timeless tale will fill your heart with joy and Disney magic. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

Blue Denim - Formerly known as The Local Group, Blue Denim 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.

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.

Capital Area Modelers Society Build Night - Join fellow modelers to share tips, tricks and stories. Bring your current project or let us know that you need something to build. 6:30-8 p.m. Evolution Games, 932 Elmwood Road, Lansing. capitalarea-modelerssociety.org.

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

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex

Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

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

Harvest Festival at Allen Farmers Market - This year, our Harvest Festival will feature craft vendor Tano Studio and sponsor McLaren Health Plan! 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/allen-farmers-market.

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.

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

MMAG Fall Art Show - The artists of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invite the community to visit their “Black and White” exhibition, featuring art created with just those colors. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers - Caregiving is rewarding but can also be stressful. Attend a six-week workshop that can help. 1:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

See Events, Page 27

Eagle Township, Clinton County Special Board Meeting Synopsis

September 25, 2025, at 6:32 pm - Present: Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie, Supervisor Stroud and 1 citizen. Absent: Trustee M. Hoppes

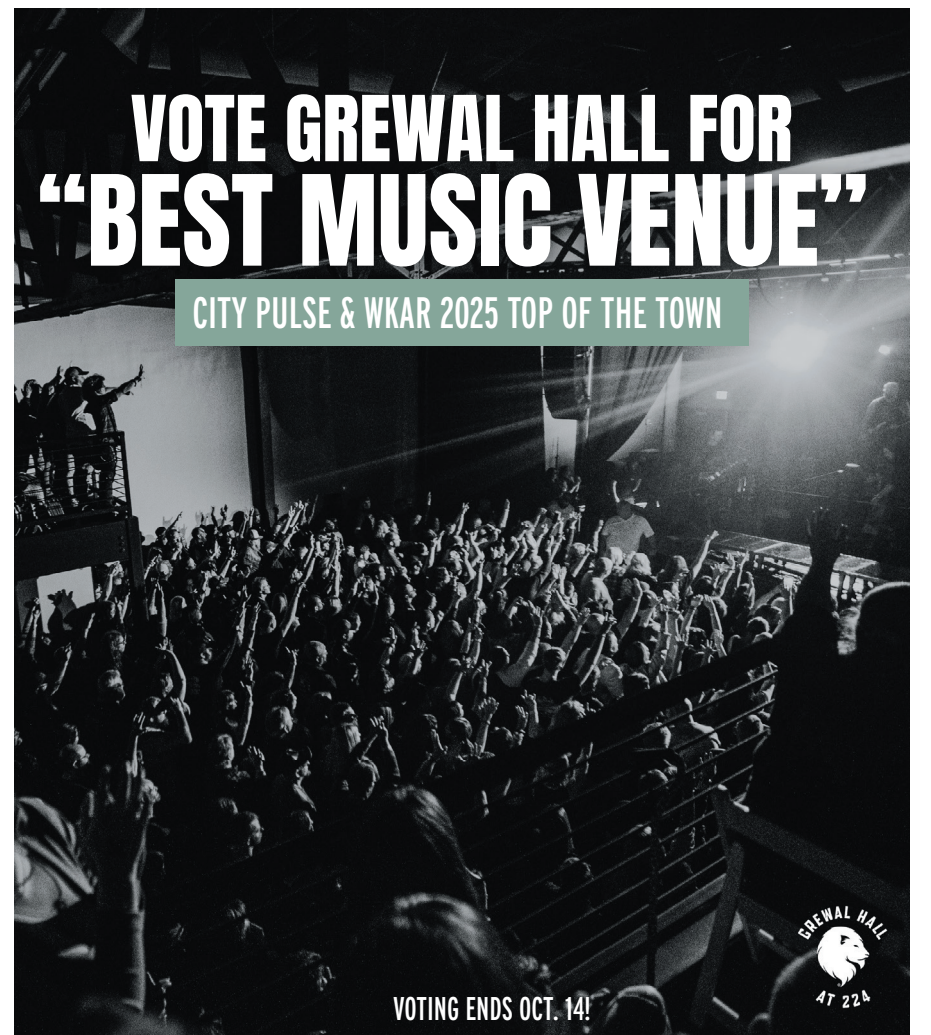
Board Actions:

1) Adopted Resolution 09-25-2025-01 Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming License to approve Believer's Food Pantry of Grand Ledge/Eagle as a recognized nonprofit organization.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is October 16, 2025, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#25-320



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 17

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SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 17

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



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FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

'Taste and understand' at new East Lansing cheese shop

By LEO V. KAPLAN



The Cheese Lady

2200 Coolidge Road,
Ste. 12, East Lansing
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday
(517) 258-3023
eastlansing.
thecheeselady.net

When April Robart and her family lived in Kalamazoo, they loved visiting the local Cheese Lady location.

"We would go out on an afternoon walk and go there to sample the cheeses," she said. "We'd end up just blown away, and that's why we always wanted to open one."

The Kalamazoo location was the first franchise of the

Muskegon-based specialty cheese company. Robart's children were younger at the time, and she and her husband, Forrest, were too busy to open their own. But with their children out of the house, they decided now was the perfect time.

Robart is now the proud owner of the eighth Cheese Lady location, which opened Sept. 4 in East Lansing. The shop sells 127 specialty, cut-to-order cheeses and is adding more every week, with a goal of eventually reaching 200. It also offers imported items like Italian pasta and Spanish crackers. Robart said the shop appeals to those who are well traveled and seeking hard-to-find cheeses, as well as to cheese newcomers looking to learn more.

"For people who aren't exposed to it, it's nice to kind of educate them and



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

April Robart, owner of the new East Lansing Cheese Lady location, shows off her favorite products: an aged, gouda-like Belgian cheese called OG Kristal and a Dutch gouda called Prima Donna.

then look them in the eye when they try it," Robart said. "Because they've always paid \$10 for cheese at Costco, and it's good, right? Until they try the cheeses here, and they're like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm never going to buy grocery cheese again.'"

For Ian Whipp, a cheesemonger at the shop, cheese is a passion. He studied with author and cheesemaker David Asher and talks excitedly about the history and art of cheesemaking.

"It's about learning the stories around the food that you eat just as much as anything else," he said. "It's a food that's rich in history."

Asked how a first-time customer would be greeted, Asher cut off a sample of BellaVitano garlic-and-herb cheese and said, "like this."

"We don't just sell cheese, we sell an

experience," Robart said. "People always say, 'Are you worried about Whole Foods? Are you worried about Horrocks?' I'm not worried.

"You don't just go in and buy something that's wrapped in plastic," she continued. "We cut from the wheel, and you get to sample everything."

Cheese Lady cheeses are never allowed to touch plastic. There is no science to back up the idea that shrink wrap changes the flavor of the cheese, Robart said, but they do it out of an abundance of caution, wrapping the cheeses first in parchment and then plastic.

While the East Lansing shop is a franchise, Robart said Cheese Lady locations have local owners.

"I hate saying 'franchise' because it has a bad connotation. It's still running

like a family business," she said. "And 'corporate,' in Muskegon, is a couple of owners plus the original owners, and they're very supportive.

"Most franchises are cookie-cutter," she continued. "They have to be, that's how they want to run. But if you go to each Cheese Lady store, they don't look the same. Kathleen, our original founder, wants her own stamp and for each owner to have their own stamp in each store."

Alongside the shop, Robart also sells cheese at local farmers markets to get the word out.

"The site itself is more of a destination than anything, so we get a lot of people familiar with the stores. They've been to the Traverse City store, they've been to the Grand Rapids store," she said. "But then there are a lot of people out there who have never heard of it, and the farmers market is one of our ways to get out there and introduce people to the brand."

Whipp said learning more about the cheesemaking process makes for a more enjoyable snack.

"A lot of it is being able to hear about what exactly goes into the cheese that our customers are buying," he said. "Being able to understand what it is that adds such a rich flavor. It's more than just getting to sample it."

He said anyone curious about the shop should just come in and try a few samples.

"Samples are the biggest selling point," he said. "Come taste and understand."

TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 RAMEN

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

1. Bento Kitchen Cravings

Korean-fusion restaurant noted for bulgogi burritos, bento boxes, rice bowls and ramen
310 N. Clippert St., Ste. 6, Lansing
(517) 580-8103
bentokitchencravings.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Noon-8 p.m. Sunday

2. Ruckus Ramen

Food spot inside the Avenue Café offering ramen, rice bowls and small plates
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 999-7549

facebook.com/ruckusramen
4-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday

3. Sapporo Ramen & Noodle Bar

Casual eatery known for ramen bowls, including gluten-free options
317 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing
(517) 580-4251
facebook.com/SapporoRamenBar
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

4. Sushi Moto

Japanese restaurant offering a variety of sushi rolls, plus ramen,

bento boxes and teriyaki
436 Elmwood Road, Lansing
(517) 580-4321
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday
Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

5. Uni Sushi and Ramen

Laid-back restaurant with a large menu of Japanese cuisine
2843 E. Grand River Ave., Ste. 180, East Lansing
(517) 332-8866
unisushiramen.com
11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
Monday-Thursday
11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday


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Fifth String Food Truck is first rate

By **LIZY FERGUSON**

The chili cook-off may have been taking place at Jackson Field last Saturday, but it seemed a little warm to me for a piping hot bowl of beans and beef. I opted instead for Fifth String Food Truck, parked across the street at American Fifth Spirits. I had been wanting to give the truck a try since it began operations about a year ago, and I'm so glad I finally got around to it.

The menu may only have had four options, but it still would have been hard to choose! Thankfully, that wasn't an issue, since my dining companion and I decided to just get one of everything to share. Pictured here is the jalapeño popper poutine, which I found the most photogenic, but it was far from the only delicious dish I sampled.

Starting with the poutine, a bed of golden, hand-cut fries lay beneath a generous helping of peppery cheese sauce, house-made ranch, cheese curds, crispy pork belly, jalapeños and red onions. It tasted like the famous bar snack, made even better by the fresh peppers and velvety cheese sauce. For vegetarians, there is also a tasty mushroom poutine with a mushroom-miso gravy, a fried egg

and those irresistible cheese curds.

The star of the show was the braised beef sandwich, which had horseradish sauce, sauerkraut, sour apple, roasted red onions, arugula and white cheddar on a ciabatta roll. The beef was tender, juicy and bursting with a savory and caramelized flavor that paired perfectly with the apple and sauerkraut. The pork sandwich was delicious as well, topped with a squash-apple chutney, but by the time I had

a bite, the beef one had already knocked my socks off and stolen my heart.

The food is fresh, with interesting combinations and big, shareable portions. It's reasonably priced and served by friendly folks. In operation for about a year now, Fifth String is the brainchild of chef Matt Jones, who works a day job at Allen Neighborhood Center as the kitchens and facilities coordinator. Through his connections with farmers and food producers, he tries to source as many ingredients as he can locally. You can follow Fifth String on Instagram and/or Facebook to stay current on its upcoming locations.



Jalapeño popper poutine

\$10

Fifth String Food Truck

See Instagram or Facebook for upcoming locations



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Fifth String Food Truck's jalapeño popper poutine is a fresh take on a north-of-the-border staple.

Events

from page 23

Robot Day! - We'll explore the exciting world of robotics during Code Club using programmable robots from our Library of Things. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.org.

Showcase Series: American Modern Ensemble - American Modern Ensemble brings its dynamic, New York-based artistry to MSU, performing bold contemporary works by living composers. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Talib Kweli - The legendary Talib Kweli is bringing his lyrical fire to Grewal Hall, with support from Kwaj, James Gardin and Studda Jay. 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

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

Vintage Truck Fall Bounty Paint Class - You're going to want to get this one out every fall! Pre-traced canvas for your ease. 6:30-9 p.m. Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. paintyourpoison.com.

Weaving the Web: Patrons - 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.

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. 16

A Night to Remember - Embark on the Great Club Quest at this year's A Night to Remember dinner! Guests will enjoy an evening filled with adventure, inspiration and community — all in support of the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing. 5-7:30 p.m. 4315 Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing. facebook.com/bgclansing1.

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.

Anthony Stanco Quintet - Trumpeter Anthony

Stanco, a protégé of Marcus Belgrave and Rodney Whitaker, has performed worldwide as a State Department cultural ambassador and leads the acclaimed group The Crucial Elements. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

"Beauty and the Beast" - This enchanting and timeless tale will fill your heart with joy and Disney magic. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

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

Chilling Tales and Haunted Trails - Join us for an evening of scary stories with storyteller Steve Daut! Afterwards, participants are invited to explore a spooky StoryWalk designed for an older audience. 7:30 p.m. Riverside Park, 405 S. Bridge St., DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org.

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Fall Salads

- VEGAN BUTTERNUT SQUASH WITH CRANBERRY SALAD**
Caramelized onion tossed in butternut squash with a maple sage dressing. **7.99**
- VEGAN KALE CHICKPEA SALAD**
Kale with shredded carrots, onions roasted chickpeas, vegan parm, and a caper dressing **8.99**
- VEGAN FALL PURE PROTEIN SALAD**
Fresh cranberry, brussel sprouts, sweet potatoes, and apple-pumpkin vinaigrette **9.99**

Fall Cookies

- VEGAN PUMPKIN SPICE PROTEIN COOKIES**
with Truvani Protein **2.39**
- FLU FIGHTER VEGAN COOKIES**
Gluten free cookie with ginger, lemon, probiotics, and mixed nuts **2.49**

Fall Dishes

- VEGAN SEAWEED, KELP, CHICKPEA MEATBALLS** **14.99 LB**
- VEGAN GLUTEN FREE TORTELLINI DISH** **14.99 LB**

OR TRY THE PUMPKIN BISQUE FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER AT OUR SOUP BAR

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**Remember to cast
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