

CityPULSE

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From prison bars to birch trees: An artist's journey

See Page 13



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Now Trending: The End of Reason

There was a time when the news didn't come screaming at you from every glowing screen. You waited for it — in print, in black and white, in the morning. You trusted, at least a little, that the people telling the story cared about the truth more than the clicks.

Of course, bias has always been part of the deal. Even in the days of Emmett Till, when the country was still pretending that Black suffering was a matter of debate, we watched the machinery of lies churn. A white woman pointed a finger, said a boy whistled at her, and that was all it took to end his life. Her story unraveled decades later, but by then, the damage was irreversible — as it always is when truth arrives too late.

Then came television. The faces on the screen became our storytellers, our priests, our moral compass — or so we thought. But when Rodney King's beating was caught on camera, some people still managed to see the violence and wonder what he did wrong. Seeing, it turned out, didn't mean understanding.

Cable television didn't just erode our faith in institutions — it eroded our attention spans. Suddenly, the country that once prided itself on hard work and reason was binge-watching chaos: "The Jerry Springer Show," Jenny Jones, Maury. We turned humiliation into a spectator sport. Capitalism, ever the opportunist, understood exactly what it was doing: giving the restless masses a distraction, something to make them feel superior for thirty minutes at a time.

Then came the smartphone — the Pandora's box of modern civilization. Now the entire world is in our pocket, and so is every lie. People with no journalistic training, no ethical guardrails, and no sense of proportion found their audience. Algorithms took care of the rest. We're now living in a custom-built hallucination, where every scroll reaffirms our worst instincts. Everyone has their own "truth," their own "facts," their own war to fight against imaginary enemies.

We've entered a kind of national cosplay, where citizens play soldier for causes they barely

understand, armed with memes instead of muskets, fighting shadowy conspiracies that only exist online. And all the while, the real problems — climate change, inequality, education, science — sit neglected, like unwanted children at the edge of a crowded room.

How do we escape this loop without surrendering to pseudoscience and magical thinking? There's only one reality that matters, and it's the one based in facts. But facts don't trend. They don't flatter our biases or soothe our fears. They demand effort, patience, humility — three things modern America seems to have misplaced.

I can't shake the feeling that something is coming. A crash, a reckoning, a moment when all this digital noise meets the hard wall of reality. And when it does, too many innocent people will pay the price.

We are our own worst enemy. Not because we lack intelligence, but because we traded curiosity for comfort. We could be devoting our collective brilliance to curing disease, saving the planet, or lifting people out of poverty. Instead, we're trapped in the narcissism of grievance, worshipping a populist who mistakes his personal vendettas for patriotism.

America once dreamed big. Now it doom-scrolls.

And if history has a sense of humor — and it always does — the last sound we'll hear before it all collapses won't be a warning siren or a speech. It'll be the gentle ping of a notification reminding us to update our settings.

Email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com

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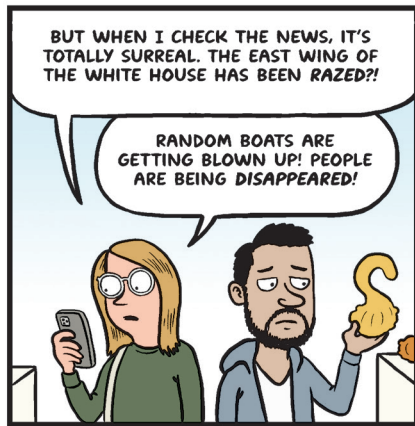
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Local woman honors her Polish heritage through art




A fresh twist on a beloved torte recipe



Popular Okemos breakfast spot gets a nearby sister location

Cover photo by Lawrence Cosentino



CityPULSE

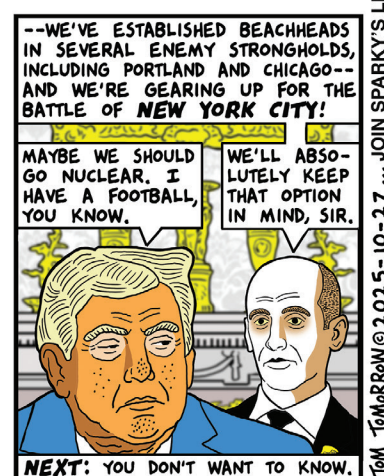
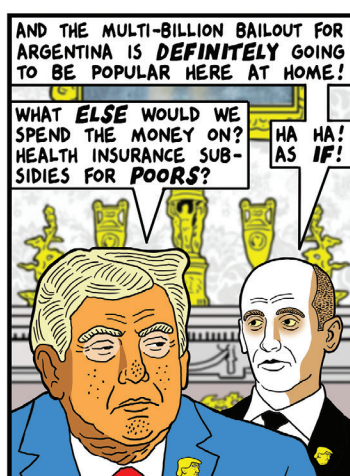
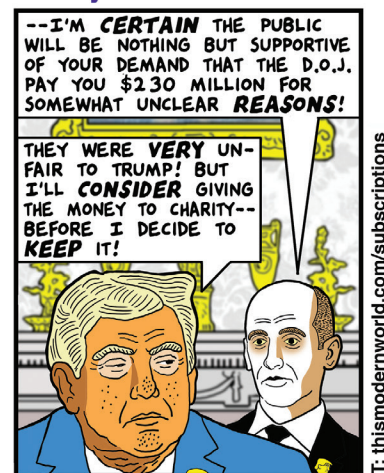
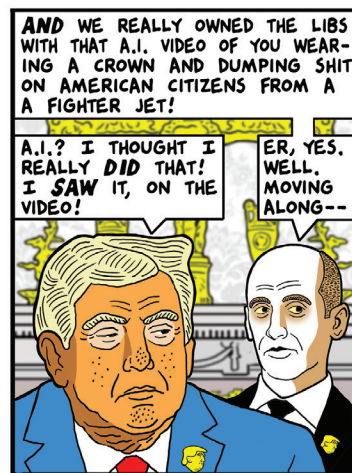
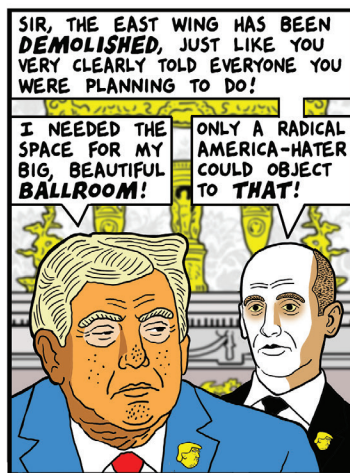
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Lansing SNAP recipients prepare for impending freeze

For some people, a \$216 loss one month means eating out less often. For Ariel “Kit” Cushman, who is currently transitioning out of homelessness, it’s a major setback.

“Other than food pantries and community gardens that some of my friends work with, I don’t know how I’m going to feed myself,” they said.

In Ingham County, 47,773 people received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in 2022, according to the most recent Federal Reserve Economic Data report. But recipients of that food assistance program may not receive their benefits in November if the federal government shutdown continues — which seems likely.

The shutdown, which resulted from an impasse in the U.S. Senate over Affordable Care Act subsidies, shows no signs of ending. Democrats and Republicans blame each other.

But in a historic first, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that “the well has run dry” for SNAP. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel joined a coalition of 22 Democratic attorneys general and three Democratic governors in suing the USDA and others for not using contingency funds to continue the program.

U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Charlotte, said in a statement that the cuts would affect “Many of Michigan’s most vulnerable families,” and blamed Democrats who “refuse to reopen the government” for the shutdown.

In the Lansing area, SNAP recipients are preparing for a rough ride. Cushman is particularly worried about homeless residents.

“I work directly with the unhoused community and a lot of addicts, and the only way they’re going to be able to take care of themselves is through the SNAP benefits,” they said. “There are going to be a lot of people on the streets that are really hungry.”

The resulting stress and malnutrition may also lead to mental health issues, Cushman said, which is a big factor behind homelessness already.

Vivienne Hazzard, assistant professor in the MSU Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health, said the public health consequences of the freeze could be far-reaching.

“The obvious answer is hunger,” she said,



Ariel “Kit” Cushman, a Lansing resident transitioning out of homelessness, stands in front of a community food stand at Urbandale, a community garden operated by the Fledge. Cushman expects to rely on resources like Urbandale amid the looming SNAP freeze.

“and stress and children not performing well in school. But we also need to be prepared for the ripple effects that folks may not anticipate.

“Based on trends that we’ve seen toward the end of the SNAP benefit month under normal circumstances, I expect that we’ll see increases in crime and also emergency room use for conditions like hypoglycemia.”

She said hunger creates stress, which can impact household dynamics and lead to increased child maltreatment and domestic violence. And, people with diabetes and other medical conditions will be especially vulnerable and in need of emergency food systems, which she worries are not ready for the demand.

“They’re just not equipped to deal with this magnitude of need.”

Katyln Cardoso, senior marketing manager at the Greater Lansing Food Bank, said the freeze comes on top of already-increased demand. She said there had been a roughly 18% increase in demand in Sept. 2025 over Sept. 2024.

“There is something to be said for the immediacy of the current challenge we’re facing, but we also know that this is one challenge of many,” she said. “Whether or not anything is going on with SNAP right now, it is just harder for people to make ends meet.”

Donations have increased to keep up

with the need, she said, though she declined to speculate on whether she expects that trend will continue. She stressed the food bank “will be here no matter what.”

Allee Redfern operates Your Mom, a Lansing-area mutual aid directory. She said the people she works with are scared.

“People don’t know what they’re going to do, especially if they don’t meet the qualifications to get a lot of funding or assistance that traditional nonprofits offer,” she said. She said she has seen particular anxiety among people who live above the poverty line but still can’t make ends meet. A temporary lapse in assistance could be enough to crumble that limited stability, she said.

Redfern has also seen an increase in support, though she said relying on community donations is not the same as the predictable infrastructure of major government programs.

“These aren’t big government companies with all this extra profit to do philanthropic endeavors, this is coming from people in our community,” she said. “I don’t think it’s realistic or sustainable for everyone to donate hundreds and hundreds of dollars for months at a time to food pantries.”

Even before the announcement, local homeless outreach organization Punks With Lunch Lansing was already dealing with “a crisis of demand,” executive director Kelsea Hector said. She expects it to get worse.

Hector said her family received SNAP benefits when she was a teenager. When those benefits disappear, she said, families have to choose which bills to get behind on in order to afford food.

“Maybe it’s only 200 bucks a month, but that 200 bucks a month has been allowing you to feed you and your kids,” she said. “Now, all of a sudden, it’s gone, so you’ve got to pull that from somewhere else. It’s the math of poverty.”

Hector said she and other local organizations received a surge in support, but that she expects demand to keep pace even if SNAP benefits return due to economic conditions.

Kari Aldrich, a South Side resident who receives SNAP benefits, said food banks can never be a true substitute for SNAP.

“My youngest was lactose sensitive, so I couldn’t just go to a food bank and get their shelf-stable milk,” she said. “Sometimes I would literally have to say to people, ‘Can you give me some money so I can go buy almond milk, so my kid can eat cereal for breakfast?’”

State benefits require regular recertifications and meetings with case workers, and Aldrich and Cushman both know what it’s like to be without benefits after losing theirs multiple times. Aldrich said she lost hers for multiple months earlier this year after recertification paperwork never got processed. She got back-pay after having her benefits reinstated, which she used to stockpile food that she plans to share with others in need during the funding freeze. She encouraged those who are struggling to tap into community networks.

Despite the challenges facing food banks, Cardoso, Hector and Redfern all encouraged struggling residents to use whatever help is available. The city of Lansing is working on a public list of resources, mayoral spokesperson Scott Bean said, and multiple departments are coordinating with each other and several outside agencies to address a growing need.

Hector said she’s ready for a massive surge in requests.

“We’re getting a lot more requests than last month, and we’re just gonna see that soar in November,” she said. “Because we know that when SNAP benefits go away, people just don’t eat. They starve.”

— LEO V. KAPLAN

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TOWNSHIP BOARD
 Synopsis of Meetings

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascariilla, and Trustee Joshua I. Lyman. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Township Engineer Jacob Kleinhenz, Interim Fire Chief John Kahler, Captain Robert Block, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Director Marcus Kirkpatrick, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. OHM Presentation on 2025 Master Plan

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMUNICATIONS

2. Willow Hwy Update

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$39,439,901.57

4. Minutes – a. Monday, September 15, 2025

5. WRRF Asphalt Paving

6. Utility Fork Truck Purchase

7. Ultium 3 Battery Plant Water and Sanitary Sewer Service Approval of Change Items

8. Set Public Hearing for the FY 2026 Budget

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

9. Enrichment Center South Roof Replacement

10. Rezoning #PRZ2025-001 (Habitat for Humanity Capital Region), rezone two unaddressed parcels on the east side of E. Thomas L. Parkway from RM (Multiple Family) to RC (Moderate Density) Final Adoption

11. Appointment of Boards & Commissions Policy

12. Township Board Conference Attendance Policy

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

13. Public Notices

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascariilla, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman, and Trustee Karen J. Mojica. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Finance Director Courtney Nicholls, Township Engineer Jacob Kleinhenz, Sergeant Pete Walter, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. FY 2026 Budget

a. Public Hearing

b. Adoption of FY 2026

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$8,040,038.06

3. Minutes – a. Monday, October 6, 2025

4. Acceptance of One Year Fire Prevention Safety Program Grant

5. Fee Schedule

6. 2026 Employee Health Insurance Plan Recommendation

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7. Responsible Bidding/Contractor Policy

CLOSED SESSION

8. Closed Session – Materials Exempt (h)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

CP#25-347

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL
PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF EAST LANSING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM BUDGET

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 7:00PM, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823:

A public hearing will be held to consider the following substantial amendments to the City of East Lansing's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program budget:

1. Amend the scope of work for the FY2026 CDBG Sidewalk Project, which will construct new sidewalk ramps, from the following intersections:

- Elm Street and Center Street
- Oak Street and Center Street
- Elm Street and Beal Street
- Oak Street and Beal Street
- Louis Street and Elm Place

To the following intersections:

- Beech Street and Bailey Street
- Elizabeth Street and Bailey Street
- Linden Street and Bailey Street
- Sycamore Street and Bailey Street
- Ann Street and Bailey Street

2. Reallocate \$70,000 from the City of East Lansing's Homeowner Rehabilitation Program and \$100,000 from currently unprogrammed CDBG funding, a total of \$170,000, to sidewalk and ADA curb cut improvements at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center.

This public hearing will follow a public comment period on the proposed amendments. The public comment period will begin October 30, 2025, and end December 1, 2025 at 5PM.

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

For more information on the agenda item listed above, or to submit public comments during the time period listed above, please contact:

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

The public may view the above substantial amendment at the Department of Community and Economic Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm, or online at <https://cityofeastlansing.com/2458/Active-Public-Notices>.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the East Lansing Department of Community and Economic Development, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6859 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Emily Gordon
 City Clerk

Dated: October 29, 2025
 East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#25-349

Long wait for election results likely ahead for Lansing voters

Lansing voters planning to watch the election results roll in on Tuesday should prepare for a long night. The nearly-midnight primary election results in August were no fluke, Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said.

Lansing election results are reported by the Ingham County Clerk's office, which must first receive them from Swope's office. Until February of 2024, Swope's office would wirelessly send precinct results over to the county as soon as they came in — but amid growing concerns around election security, the county started doing it the old-fashioned way.

"The Ingham County Clerk, with all the security concerns, has determined that we will no longer remote any results to them," Swope said. "So the results are being physically taken to the county clerk for uploading into their election results computer."

That means an employee downloads the election results onto a storage device, seals that in a Board of County Canvassers-approved container and drives to the county's office in Mason. While the process is more secure, Swope said, it's also less incremental because it is no longer convenient to report results as soon as they come in.

Before the change, "very early in our process, we would get the results files and upload them," Swope said. "We used to have early precincts come in, and then they would just keep getting added. Now it's more likely they all get reported pretty much at the same time."

"This is definitely slowing that down."

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum did not respond to requests for comment.

While the process could theoretically mean City Clerk employees know the results long before the general public, Swope said he and staff "really don't have time" to peek at them. The absent voter counting board, which tabulates absentee ballots

2025 Lansing-area Election Coverage

on election day, stores their data on only two files, which he can read and partially upload. But the precinct results would be a headache to decipher.

"In this election, there's 22 different tapes we would have to look at and try to do math in our head," Swope said. "So those just go directly to the county and they upload them."

On Tuesday (Nov. 4), Lansing residents will choose between incumbent Mayor Andy Schor and challenger Kelsea Hector, elect two at-large City Council candidates and choose whether to adopt

the proposed city charter. The 2nd and 4th Ward City Council seats are also up for grabs.

Voters can preview their ballot and find their polling place at lansingvotes.gov. Early voting began Saturday and will take place again today (Wednesday) from 1-7 p.m. at the Lansing Elections Office at 701 W. Jolly Rd, as well as Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Despite record turnout for August's primary election, lines were relatively short at the polls due to a shift toward absentee voting, Swope said, so voters should expect smooth sailing at the polls.

Just don't expect the results fast.

— LEO V. KAPLAN



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CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1553

On October 21, 2025, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Ordinance 1533, Division 12 of the East Lansing Police Oversight Commission to include revisions that are required by the collective bargaining agreement.

Effective date: Pursuant to Charter Section 6.3, Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 1st Floor, City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Emily Gordon,
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#25-353



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**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (the "District"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 414 Baker St. Lansing, Michigan, legally described as:

W 41 FT OF N 53.06 FT LOTS 1 & 2 BLOCK 1 AMENDED PLAT OF HALLS SOUTH SIDE ADD

PARCEL NUMBER: #33-01-01-21-429-065

Approval of this District will allow the owners of real property within the District to apply for an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to their property located within the District. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Kris Klein, President & CEO, Lansing Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), 401 S. Washington Sq. Suite 101, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 599-1136.

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

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

CP#25-350

**Eagle Township, Clinton County
Board Meeting Synopsis**

October 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm - Present: Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie, Trustee M. Hoppes and 13 citizens. Absent: Supervisor Stroud

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved Trustee Currie to lead the meeting.
- 2) Approved Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority 2026 budget.
- 3) Approved payment of October 2025 bills.
- 4) Adopted Resolution 10-16-2025-01 amending the Interim Zoning Ordinance.
- 5) Approved additional miscellaneous expenditures for township hall repairs.
- 6) Approved draft of 2025 Winter Tax Newsletter.
- 7) Approved checking with Foster Swift on enforcement steps, Zoning Board of Appeals issues, and Right To Farm questions.
- 8) Approved recommendations from clerk and treasurer on internal controls.
- 9) Approved supervisor to complete future MTA salary surveys.
- 10) Approved new Zoning Verification Letter fee.
- 11) Approved update to September 18, 2025, meeting minutes.
- 12) Approved budget amendment.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is November 20, 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#25-343



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 25-10
6080 COLUMBIA DRIVE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request #25-10
6080 Columbia Drive
Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Teresa Wilborn. The applicant is proposing to construct building additions that do not meet the required side yard setback and exceed the allowed lot coverage at 6080 Columbia Drive. The subject site is zoned RB, Single Family and Lake Lansing Overlay District.

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

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-344



**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (the "District"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 1204 S. Washington Ave. Lansing, Michigan, legally described as:

S 21.5 FT OF N 65 FT OF E 100 FT LOT 1 BLOCK 194 ORIG PLAT

PARCEL NUMBER: #33-01-01-21-181-070

Approval of this District will allow the owners of real property within the District to apply for an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to their property located within the District. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Kris Klein, President & CEO, Lansing Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), 401 S. Washington Sq. Suite 101, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 599-1136.

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

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

CP#25-351

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The MSU Board of Trustees scheduled a vote for Friday on a scaled-back version of the proposed Spartan Gateway plan previously announced in April. It no longer includes a \$150 million, 6,000-seat Olympic sports arena for sports

like volleyball, gymnastics and wrestling, and would instead “explore opportunities to utilize existing facilities to support Olympic sports” and place a “stronger focus on retail, office space, dining and housing,” the Board meeting agenda states. Instead of a location at Trowbridge and Harrison roads, the university would locate the development more centrally on campus at a “scale more appropriate for the location ultimately selected via the planning process.” MSU had previously selected the Gillespie Group to develop the original plans, but would seek new bids if the scaled-back project is approved.

Eaton County Circuit Court Judge Kelly Morton sentenced Former Delta Township Supervisor Ken Fletcher, 59, to two years of probation in connection with a case resulting from an online sting. Fletcher pled guilty in September to one count of using a computer to commit a crime, a maximum four-year felony, while prosecutors dismissed a felony count of accosting a child for immoral purposes. Fletcher’s attorneys had argued that a judge should sentence him only to fines and costs, that he never tried to arrange sex with a child, and that he can’t be convicted “as if he were guilty of something he is not guilty of.” Police alleged he “engaged in sexual conversations” digitally with an undercover detective posing as a 15-year-old boy.



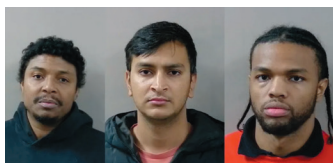
While deferring to elaborate on some of the transition details, the venue has announced 90’s alt-rock tribute band “Be Kind Rewind” will play its grand re-opening celebration Friday, Nov. 21. In the same Facebook announcement, the bar announced that it plans to be back to being open every night and intends to serve food.



The Green Door, the famed, old-school Eastside Lansing bar and live music hub that closed temporarily in June to seek new management, has announced on its Facebook page that it “has been acquired by new management who will continue to run it as a live music

bar.” While deferring to elaborate on some of the transition details, the venue has announced 90’s alt-rock tribute band “Be Kind Rewind” will play its grand re-opening celebration Friday, Nov. 21. In the same Facebook announcement, the bar announced that it plans to be back to being open every night and intends to serve food.

Ingham County deputies arrested three men in an online undercover sting operation after they arranged to meet someone they thought was a 15-year-old girl for sex. A judge arraigned Gregory Leroy Jordan III, 37, of Lansing; Syed Muhammed Zaid Alvi, 30, of East Lansing; and Kalil Davonte Brown, 24, of Farmington Hills on Friday in 55th District Court. They were each charged with



child sexually abusive activity, a 20-year felony, two counts of using a computer to commit a crime, and accosting a child for immoral purposes, a 4-year felony. Officers lodged all three at the Ingham County Jail. Jordan faces a probable cause conference on Nov. 3, while a hearing for Brown and Alvi follows on Nov. 4.



Jennifer Mora, the former chief financial officer for the Ingham County Health Department, has filed a whistleblower lawsuit, alleging the department fired her after she expressed issues with its budget. The health department

said Mora actually resigned from her position after leaving a meeting about her job performance, in a court filing responding to the lawsuit, and added that the meeting with Mora included the claim that she missed a \$4 million Medicaid settlement in her budget analysis. The department denied most of her claims and stated that the health department is protected by governmental immunity, that Mora failed to bring a claim the court could rule on, that the county had legitimate reasons for taking the steps it did, and that Mora’s “intentional” or “negligent” actions contributed to the situation.

A vehicle struck and killed a 12-year-old Grand Ledge boy on Thursday, as he was riding a bicycle in Delta Township. Emergency medical personnel pronounced the child, a Beagle Middle School student, dead at the scene. The vehicle was traveling east on Willow Highway near Interstate 96. The Eaton County Sheriff’s Office is investigating the crash and seeking information from witnesses.



pronounced him dead at a hospital. Police believe the shooting was the result of a domestic dispute and said everyone involved has been identified and is “currently with police.”



Lansing Police officers responding to a report of a shooting on the 5500 block of S. Martin Luther King Blvd., south of Jolly Road, found Nelson Pastor Silva-Gonzalez of Lansing, 60, with a gunshot wound to the chest. Medical personnel later

pronounced him dead at a hospital. Police believe the shooting was the result of a domestic dispute and said everyone involved has been identified and is “currently with police.”

The East Lansing Police Department reported that a 17-year-old male was stabbed multiple times during an altercation in the Charles Street Garage Saturday night. The teen was able to leave the parking ramp at 121 Charles St. and get help from police in the Ann Street Plaza. He was transported to an area hospital for non-life-threatening injuries that required surgery. The ELPD is investigating and interviewing suspects, but has not reported any arrests.



Downtown Lansing is awash with six freshly painted Halloween-themed windows. Window painting in downtown Lansing has become a tradition for major holidays. The first window painting project kicked off in May 2024 for 517 Day.

Six Lansing artists recently completed Halloween themed windows at the former Hallmark store, Barrons, Empire Szechuan, MLive and two windows at AT&T.

Artists include Bella Tijerina, Heather Wright, Michele Gregory, Jennifer Taggart Wilson, Erin Simonson and Genevive Richardson.

Richardson’s installation at AT&T shows a realistic pumpkin patch depicting the life cycle of a pumpkin starting with a seed. Richard is a multi-talented creative who recently played guitar at an open mic at Katalyst Gallery in Old Town.

In addition to Halloween windows, artists create displays for 517 Day and winter holidays. This year’s wintertime theme is “retro winter” with the interpretation open to the artists.

The project is sponsored by Downtown Lansing Inc. and is coordinated by local artist Robert Rose.

“The window painting gives exposure to artists with the goal of artists having fun,” Rose said. “The artists get to meet downtown shoppers or workers and hopefully the project is a launching pad for commercial work for the artists.”

Public Art of the Week rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have an idea for either, please email eye@lansing-citypulse.com or call (517) 999-6704.

Vultures circling Gilchrist, Swanson campaigns

The race to become the Democratic gubernatorial nominee in 2026 is quickly becoming uncompetitive.

This week's campaign finance reports paint a dire picture for Garlin Gilchrist, Michigan's absentee lieutenant governor, and the charismatic but-in-over-his-head Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson.

A couple other people are claiming to be running for the Democratic nomination, too, but unless someone else of stature and/or independent wealth gets into this race, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is your winner next August.

Here's the cash-on-hand number from this week: Benson \$2.982 million, Gilchrist \$378,457 and Swanson \$385,189.

On its face, these numbers aren't good for anyone not named Jocelyn Benson.

Barring something seismic next August, Benson will be nominee, and it goes beyond the above-mentioned numbers.

Let's start with Gilchrist. His only job, according to the state Constitution — which he's paid \$111,510 to do — is to preside over the state Senate.

Of the 98 times the Senate has gavelled into session this year, Gilchrist has been there five times. That's it. Five.

Look, Michigan's last three lieutenant governors also ran for governor in their final terms. In the year before their presumed campaign year, John Cherry, Brian Calley and Dick Posthumus held the gavel in the Senate for at least two-thirds of those sessions.

Gilchrist said in a September statement that he's off having "conversations about housing, health care, affordability and the economy," but it's not clear where those conversations are taking place.

Gilchrist's gubernatorial campaign showed signs of life with several events in one week earlier this month, but other than that ... crickets.

He's not holding fundraisers. This week's reports show he's done six all year. One of which his mom threw for him. By comparison, Benson has had 33 across the country — and she has a state department to run.

Gilchrist is not in Lansing, offering commentary to the Capitol Press Corps. The governor's office quit sending advisories alerting the media of his whereabouts a few months ago. He's nowhere to be found.

Gilchrist is trying to raise money through the same type of ActBlue online networking scheme that nearly all major Democratic candidates use, but the amounts he's netting are small and barely paying the expenses of keeping a campaign going.

Swanson's campaign, on the other hand, is not staying afloat. His last campaign finance report showed he's spending more money than he's taking in, and there's little hope that it'll turn around.

He's milked his Genesee County connections, and he's struggling to expand beyond that. Personally, Swanson is an energetic and instantly likeable person, but Benson is running circles around him in every way possible.

Benson is acting like a general election candidate, and she has every reason to be.

She added \$562,207 to her cash-on-hand total in the last three months, more than anyone else running for governor. She only spent 54% of what she raised, the lowest burn rate of any other candidate who didn't give personal money to their campaign.

The secretary of state literally has connections everywhere, and she's using them. California, Colorado, Washington D.C., Illinois, wherever. Benson is raising

money in 10 U.S. states.

Celebrities, high rollers and regular hard-working people are all cutting Benson checks. Also in her corner is billionaire Stephen Ross, for whom she worked 10 years ago as his philanthropic investments adviser. (Super PAC coming?)

The filing deadline is April 21, so it's still possible another Democratic candidate with some independent wealth or significant name ID gets in, I guess. Attorney General Dana Nessel is still out there.

But Democrats, et al., are looking

ahead to a general election battle against a well-funded Republican AND and well-funded independent in Mike Dugan. They don't see an expensive primary as being particularly necessary.

Benson's resume is good. Her views are properly inoffensive to your run-of-the-mill Democrat. Barring a scandal, there's no need to disrupt the inevitable.

And at this point, Benson's nomination looks inevitable.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Port Lansing Next Michigan Development Corporation NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING IS TO CONSIDER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND THE CONSIDERATION OF A NIOWAVE INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES TAX EXEMPTION, PUBLIC ACT 198, ESTABLISHED 1974, IN MICHIGAN, AS AMENDED.

The Port Lansing Next Michigan Development Corporation Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Capital Region International Airport, 4100 Capital City Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the Port Lansing Next Michigan Development Corporation, other interested persons, and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the consideration of a Niowave Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (PA 198) application and the establishment of a new Industrial Development District (IDD) within the boundaries of the Port Lansing Next Michigan Development Corporation. The subject parcel lies between two adjoining parcels, the legal descriptions of which are set forth below.

OLD PARCEL NUMBER 050-031-100-005-00 ALL OF SEC 31 T5N-R2W, LYING N OF PM RR EXC THE W 450 FT OF N 1/2 OF FRL NW 1/4 THEREOF

AND

OLD PARCEL NUMBER 050-032-300-005-00 ALL OF THE SW 1/4 SEC 32, T5N-R2W

The request, including supporting documentation and other related documents, are posted here: <https://tinyurl.com/3uyss999> and are available for public inspection at 1000 S Washington Ave #201, Lansing, MI 48910. All aspects of the request for the Niowave Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption (PA 198) application and the establishment of a new Industrial Development District will be open for discussion at the public hearing. For more information, please contact Devon Pingel, Economic Development Manager for Clinton County at: Devon@purelansing.com or 517-881-0189.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on business days if received before 12 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the Capital Region International Airport, 4100 Capital City Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan or Devon@purelansing.com.

CP#24-348

VOTE ANDY SCHOR FOR MAYOR OF LANSING

ON OR BY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

ANDY SCHOR IS FOCUSED ON GROWING LANSING FOR ALL:

- Investing in roads and sidewalks without raising taxes
- Safe neighborhoods and speeding reduction
- Millions in investments for jobs, vitality, and business districts
- Housing options for all incomes, all families

ANDY
SCHOR
FOR LANSING MAYOR



Paid for by Schor for Lansing | PO Box 13073, Lansing, MI 48901

ARTS & CULTURE ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Egg-cellent artistry

Jozefa Rogocki wins Midwest Culture Bearers Award

By NICOLE NOECHEL

Decorating eggs is a common tradition for many Americans around the Easter season. However, Lansing artist Jozefa Rogocki takes that process several steps further with her pysanky eggs, a traditional Slavic folk art.

Pysanky involves layering wax to create intricate designs on eggshells. The shells are dipped in dye between layers to create a multicolored effect.

“The process of making a pysanky egg is fascinating, and for some people who come to my workshops, it can be quite obsessive,” Rogocki, 68, said. “Depending on the number of colors that you’re working with on the egg, it can go through four, five, even six layers. It’s fascinating. Your egg is then completely covered with black wax, and it isn’t until you wipe all that wax off that the beautiful design you have underneath is revealed.”

Rogocki was honored for her art earlier this month with a Midwest Culture Bearer Award from nonprofit arts organization Arts Midwest. She was one of nine recipients — and the only from Michigan — chosen from a pool of more than 365 applicants. The award, in its sophomore year, celebrates Midwestern folk artists and cultural practitioners across a range of mediums, including visual art, poetry and dance. Recipients are given \$5,000 to further their practice.

“Winning the Culture Bearer Award is such an honor,” she said. “The people who were selected for the awards represent such an amazing breadth of creativity. It’s so marvelous to be a part of that group. And, for myself, it’s just such an honor because it makes you feel like you’ve been seen and that your community is being honored as well.”

Rogocki was born in the United Kingdom to a Polish father and an English mother. She said art has always been a part of her life, and her work has always reflected her Polish heritage. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in fine art and was an installation and community artist before moving to the United States in 1999.

“My father came to England from Po-



Courtesy photo

land and brought with him his knowledge and understanding of his family. It’s a way in which you keep your roots and understand your identity,” she said. “My family in Poland is from the northern part, which is Pomerania, and they’re Kashubian. They have their own particular folk art from there as well, so I try to reflect that.”

Upon arriving in Michigan, Rogocki found a large Polish community in Hamtramck and was introduced to pysanky. She shaped her technique under master pysankarka Helen Badulak.

“They had resources, and they had culture. It was such a wonderful community,” she said. “I was able to learn that particular art, and I’ve done that ever since.”

Many of Rogocki’s patterns are unique to her, but she also has extensive knowledge of the designs specific to various regions of Poland and Ukraine.

“There are so many resources out there. So much work has been done to catalog the traditional designs that are pre-Christian. Some of these ancient designs reflect Slavic mythology,” she said. “They’re very unusual patterns and symbols that represent different meanings, and a person doing a pysanky egg will draw on those resources, that tra-

dition, and make endless variations of these particular symbols and patterns.”

She aims to work sustainably, using chicken and goose eggs from local providers as much as possible and experimenting with natural dyes, which have taken a back seat to chemical dyes in the modern age. She utilizes leaves, flowers and other plants from her garden to create the dyes.

“I have a large garden here in Lansing, and many of the plants that will give you dyes are native and also a little invasive,” she said. “You can collect plant material that will give you different colorings from many, many sources. This fall, I was able to gather walnuts — I have black walnut trees. My golden rod is very abundant, as is wormwood. These are all plants that will give you dyes.”

The process is time consuming, she explained, but it’s worth it for the effect.

“The colors are just so rich and deep and varied. It’s a very, very lovely process,” she said.

Pysanky isn’t the only traditional European art form Rogocki practices. She also enjoys marbling, which originated in Turkey.

“They have specific ways of working where you’re floating paints on top of a



Courtesy photo

Rogocki leads a workshop on marbling in May 2023.

gel surface. And there are many traditional patterns, again, that were used in the marbling of paper that would then be used in bookmaking and bookbinding,” she said. “So, I’ve explored a lot of that. I actually got a grant from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing to explore more of that particular art form.”

She leads workshops on both mediums at local libraries and Polish centers. She also exhibits and sells her work at craft fairs and cultural festivals. Upcoming events include a holiday bazaar Nov. 23 at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy and an art sale called “Art for the Soul” Dec. 6 and 7 at 2719 Mount Hope Road in Okemos. More information is available at jozefa-rogocki.weeblysite.com.

“I’ve always been working toward creating accessibility in the arts,” she said. “I try to reach out to as many places as I can to bring these activities to a wider audience. In England, I was able to work with people to create a community art center. Here in America, there are so many people working to bring the arts to a wide audience, and you have so many art fairs and events around the area, so I try as much as possible to participate in those.”

“My goal is really just to bring awareness to as many people as I can,” she continued. “And with the award, I think that’s given me an opportunity to reach even more people.”



Local muralist Brian Whitfield learned to rappel to paint this piece.



Flames N' Dames brought fire dancing to the grand opening of the new waterside venue.

Entertainment returns to Brenke Fish Ladder with the opening of Fish Ladder Music Park

By MIKE ELLIS

The giant crane he rented wasn't going to cut it, so muralist Brian Whitfield had to learn how to rappel to paint his latest vision, dangling by ropes above the Grand River this summer.

Whitfield put the finishing touches on a \$3.6 million park renovation, and now his mother calls him "Spiderman" because of his new skills.

The more intricate details on Whitfield's mural — a colorful band of aquatic creatures jamming out — start to fade as it reaches the water. For effect, of course, and also it was a lot tougher to rappel there, Whitfield said with a laugh.

Lansing's newest park upgrade adds the Fish Ladder Music Park to the Brenke Fish Ladder. The music part is an amphitheater built into an odd river feature: a 1981 concrete fish ladder with staggered rising pools so salmon and other fish can navigate the dam on the Grand River just outside the Old Town neighborhood in Lansing.

"For too long, we've turned our back on the riverfront," Laurie Strauss Baumer, president and CEO of the Capital Region Community Foundation, said. "Now it's our front porch."

The multi-million-dollar amphitheater, largely funded by the private foundation, will be home to the annual Dam Jam, as well as concerts, theater and other performances. About \$1.7 million came from a state grant in 2023. The city will pay to redo the connected Lansing River Trail paths.

A bunch of new concrete added near the still-operating fish ladder has created stadium-style seating for several hundred people, with built-in electricity and a sound system.

Strauss Baumer said the stage is the big feature, but even with someone hired on a contract basis to promote events, and even when there are multiple events in a week, the area will spend more time functioning as a park than as a music venue.



Fish Ladder Music Park, an addition to the Brenke Fish Ladder, features an amphitheater with seating for several hundred people and a built-in sound system for performances.

To help fill the park the rest of the year, there are permanent metal instruments, elevated bench swings that overlook a fence-free vision of the river, a working fireplace and picnic tables.

The project is part of the Com-

munity Foundation's long-term goal of promoting the river, Strauss Baumer said, and follows work on Rotary Park (2019) and the Play Michigan! accessible playground (2023). She said the foundation will soon consider its next steps.

Photos by Raymond Holt
for City Pulse



**RAY CHEN
PLAYS
BRUCH**

02 Masterworks Series

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra.

November 7th
7:30 PM Wharton Center

RESERVE YOUR SEAT



In “Your Journey,” a mural completed this month at the Ingham County Parole Office, Grand Ledge artist Martín Vargas visualizes the grueling path from prison to parole.

Masterpiece in the parole office

Artist Martín Vargas paints a parolee’s torturous journey

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

The mid-October sun stole past the blinds of the Ingham County Parole Office on Lansing’s south side. Martín Vargas sat silently in a hard chair, his back to the window, making use of the valuable afternoon light. There were scraps of paper on his lap and paints and brushes on the chair next to him. A ladder was set up nearby.

Vargas was immersed so deeply in a well of focus that a visitor to the office, perhaps on the way to a nerve-racking meeting with a parole officer, could easily walk past him to the inner door without noticing he was there.

But the art on the wall was impossible to miss.

On Oct. 15, Vargas finished a 34-foot-long, multilayered vision, full of tiny details and sweeping symbolism, that dramatizes the parolee’s journey from bleak, gray-walled prison to bright, blue-sky paradise.

In the past three months, parole office supervisor Abigail Callejas watched the mural take shape.

Every day, she came into the lobby and teased Vargas with the same question: “Aren’t you finished yet?” (According to Vargas, she started doing that on the first day.)

Today, it really was finished. The only thing left to do was sign it and add

the title letters Vargas was sketching out on his lap: “Your Journey.”

“It’s beautiful,” Callejas said.

In June 2025, state Department of Corrections staff discussed ways to make their bare-bones offices more inviting. The project quickly grew into something more personal. Vargas, 71, was sent to prison at 17 and lived out the journey from darkness to light that he passionately poured into his mural.

“The goal wasn’t just to put a commercial picture here and there,” Callejas said. “We wanted to celebrate people coming back, being released into

the community, and show what they can do.”

The project has won Vargas a lot of new fans, including Steven Bridges, senior curator at the MSU Broad Art Museum. Bridges worked with Vargas several years ago for an exhibit of art by incarcerated people. At Vargas’ invitation, he attended a September event for parolees at the south Lansing office and was floored by what he saw.

Bridges described the mural as “moving and poignant and incredibly impactful, yet done in a quiet and understated way.”

“I was captivated by the work and his artistic vision,” Bridges said. “It

See ‘Your Journey,’ Page 14

Photos by **Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse**



The mural “reads” from left to right, beginning with grim, monochrome images of isolation.



In the mural’s middle section, prison bars morph gradually into tree trunks, but the transition swirls with the confusion, disorientation and hidden pitfalls of re-entry into the community.



The mural is full of large and small details, like this vigilant nighthawk, which represents officers who knock on the door — often unannounced — to check on parole violations.



The mural's symbolic journey ends in an imaginary landscape Vargas calls "a perfect, serene environment."

'Your Journey'

from page 13

transforms that space into one of healing and recovery."

'Nothing is solid'

Vargas moves with a sense of quiet purpose and conserves his energy for things that matter.

One of his favorite words is "avoid."

Avoid trouble.

Avoid drawing too much attention to yourself.

But when he stood in front of the turbulent heart of the mural, the middle section, his passion outran his caution. He grabbed a pen and traced a web of prison bars bending, spiraling, morphing and melting.

"This is the re-entry phase of you coming out of prison," he said. "Nothing is solid. It isn't stable. You need home placement. You have to go through parole programs, and if you don't ..."

Some of the bars curve back, as if pulled by dark gravity, toward the murk of the prison cell at the far left of the mural.

"... you go back there again."

While painting the mural this summer and fall, Vargas saw people enter the office, disappear inside the back room and come back into the lobby in handcuffs.

"They go back to prison because they violated parole," he said. "This phase goes so fast, and if you don't watch your step, you can end up in chains."

Vargas calls his style "photorealistic," and in this section of the mural, he somehow managed to photograph a nightmare.

In the ambiguous area where the prison bars begin to morph into the trunks of birch trees, a vigilant bird is roosting in the thicket. Vargas painted the bird — a common nighthawk — realistically, but it's also a symbol.

"Nighthawks are parole agents, policemen, corrections staff who come in when you're not expecting them, in the middle of the night, banging on

the door," he said. "They search your house, go through everything, to see if you have any drugs, weapons, anything you're not supposed to have."

The comfort and shelter of the forest beckon, but hidden chains and trapdoors line the dangerous transitional zone.

Some of the twisting bars appear to be melting — or crying.

"There are a lot of tears in this part," Vargas said. "Everything is coming down on you so quick. The parole agents want you to complete this and complete that. 'Don't do that, don't go to bars, don't hang out with your friends,' even though the only people you may know are people who have been in prison, and it's your community."

As he acted out the drama embedded in the mural, a man waiting for his parole appointment watched with quiet fascination. When Vargas explained the tears, the man broke his long silence.

"Oh, so that's what that is?"

"Yes, it's very symbolic," Vargas replied. The artist took a step to his right, closer to the promised land. "You're getting closer. The trees aren't bending as much. They're more realistic."

Vargas' vision of paradise, complete with a waterfall and sylvan pond, is cleverly positioned at the far right, just above two drinking fountains.

"This is whatever you want to say is your peaceful place," he said. "It could be your backyard, it could be a community park, it could be a sofa — anything you want it to be."

Carving initials

The Ingham County Parole Office isn't the most sociable space in town. You get your business done, get the day's good or bad news and move on.

But people often approached Vargas to offer comments as he worked.

"They'd ask me, 'Did you do this yourself?'" Vargas said. "All kinds of compliments would pour out."

Vargas wasn't sure his symbolic imagery would get the point across, but he found that people understood the

story embedded in the art right away.

"People would point to different spots and say, 'I know what that is, what this is,'" Vargas said.

If the conversation was going well, Vargas would ask them where they would place themselves in the symbolic journey he mapped out on the wall. He "carved" their initials into the prison bars or tree trunks near the spot they pointed out.

Some of the stories he heard weren't as hopeful as others. He talked with one parolee who had spent decades in prison and was finally on the out-

side, due to be fully discharged in six months.

He asked the man where he thought he was in the mural's symbolic landscape, expecting him to point to the happy ending on the right.

Instead, the man pointed to the darkest part of the prison cell.

"I don't feel free," he told Vargas. Yes, he was out of prison, but he was having trouble hanging on to his job and getting his bearings in a strange new world.

"Nobody out here remembers me," the man explained. "My family and friends are all dead."

It was a reminder to Vargas that not everyone has been able to come out of the maze and find their "peaceful place."

"Even though you go through all this madness, this confusion, this chaos, you don't see it in your head that peace and tranquility can be a part of your life," he said.

One of the last elements Vargas added to the mural is easy to miss: an orange, bird-like figure breaking through the top of the frame, out of the forest and onto the office wall above.

Vargas added the mythical symbol of rebirth, the phoenix, on his last day of painting to commemorate a fellow artist and parolee, Curtis Stevenson, who died in a car accident Oct. 9 at age 44.

"He successfully completed parole. He had the paperwork in his hand. Then a few days later, at two o'clock in the morning, speeding down the road, he wrapped himself around a tree and died," Vargas said.

Stevenson and Vargas briefly collaborated on the mural in its early stages.

"He had a lot on his plate: court issues, family issues, parole issues," Vargas said. "He wanted to do it, but he couldn't commit, so I did the whole thing."

See 'Your Journey,' Page 15



On his last day of work on the mural, Vargas painted a phoenix escaping the frame, a tribute to fellow artist and parolee Curtis Stevenson, who died Oct. 9 in a car accident.



As Vargas worked on the mural, he asked visitors to the parole office where they saw themselves on the symbolic path from prison to freedom and “carved” their initials in the appropriate spot.

‘Your Journey’

from page 14

They also had artistic disagreements. Stevenson wanted a bright orange phoenix somewhere in the mural, but Vargas didn’t think it would go with the design and color scheme. Stevenson also wanted to add elements outside the frame, and Vargas didn’t.

After Stevenson died, Vargas not only added an orange phoenix to the mural but painted it coming out of the frame and onto the wall, as Stevenson wanted.

“I felt bad about it,” Vargas said. “He was a good artist, and I really appreciated his friendship.”

A taste of art

When talk turns from his art to the details of his own life, Vargas reverts to his customary caution. He likes the word “avoid.”

He’s content to render his life experience on the wall in symbolic and universally understood visual language that other parolees can quietly share. He insists the journey is theirs, not only his.

“I want to live my life as I’m living it now, not as it was in the past,” he said. “I went to prison when I was 17 years old, following the biggest monster in the world: peer pressure. I was very much influenced by my peers to do something I wouldn’t do on my own. I learned that wasn’t me. The worst thing you ever did in life does not define you.”

He paused for a moment, pondering how much to add, how much to explain.

“In the past, I had no problem telling people what I did, how much time I did and who I used to hang out with because it was a part of my life then,” he said. “Now, if I were to talk about that, people wouldn’t see me for who I am now. They would see me for who I was then.”

He pointed to the darkest part of the mural.

“That brings me back here,” he said, “when, actually, I’m over here.” He swung his arm across the office, to the waterfall and the blue skies.

His interest in visual art was sparked, ironically, by a music class. Vargas was born in San Antonio in 1954, the second oldest of 13 kids. He went to a school “where you couldn’t speak Spanish on school grounds or you’d get whacked in the back of the head.”

There weren’t enough instruments for every kid, so the teacher suggested that Vargas fashion some drumsticks



Courtesy photo

Vargas included subtle traces of his prison experience (upper left) in this idyllic portrait of himself and his wife, Barbara, relaxing at their home in Grand Ledge.

out of scrap wood at home and bring them to class.

He carved two drumsticks out of a broom handle.

“My mom was mad: ‘No, not my broomstick!’” he recalled. He dipped the drumsticks in white paint and watched the paint drip.

“For some reason, I was engrossed by that,” he said. “It looked like ice cream. I even tasted it.”

It was, literally, his first taste of art.

He spat it out, but he never lost his fascination with paint. He discovered a talent for drawing, painting and graphic art that made him unexpectedly popular. Friends, family and fellow students asked him to letter signs, design tattoos and make greeting cards. The greeting cards got bigger and more elaborate, with pullouts and foldouts.

“Art was a hustle for me,” he said. “I could do things other people couldn’t do.”

He had no problem creating graphics to order, but when someone asked him for “something to hang on the wall,” he was taken aback.

On the wall? That would be — well, art.

“I had no idea what to do,” he said. “It was a struggle.”

He picked up a pencil and drew a snowy egret crossing a stream.

“Next thing you know, I got all these compliments,” he said.

His artistic skills came in handy in prison as well.

“I could get cigarettes, food, marijuana, coffee, dope, books, shoes, anything,” he said. He got his first art sup-

plies, a sketchpad and a set of pencils, from a deal he made in exchange for a drawing.

It took a while for Vargas to appreciate art’s potential to be more than just a hustle.

“I grew up in prison,” he said. “I

didn’t like the environment, the people. I had to go through so many internal conversations. I spent months just looking at the ground. I’d look at myself in a water puddle and say, ‘Who am I? What do I want? This place is not me at all.’”

A mental escape hatch appeared quietly, without fanfare. When someone asked Vargas who he was and what he did, he found himself declaring, “I’m an artist.”

“When I gave myself that label, all of a sudden it clicked,” he said. “I liked that label. This is me. This is who I am. Eventually, I realized it wasn’t a hustle anymore. Art has enabled me to find a purpose in my life, to define my identity and to create good pieces of art that speak to a lot of people.”

Rise of the pudgies

The parole office mural is not Vargas’ first symbolic depiction of the parolee’s torturous journey. The other one is in the possession of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

When Sotomayor came to speak at the University of Michigan in 2017, Aaron Dworkin, former dean of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance, asked Vargas to create an artwork to

See ‘Your Journey’, Page 16

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'Your Journey'

from page 15

present to her.

"I was like, 'Of course I can. I'm an artist, I can do anything,'" Vargas said, shaking his head at his own chutzpah. "But a week or so after that, I was like, 'Why in the hell did I do that? Now what am I going to do?'"

He spent 235 hours painting a dizzying labyrinth of stairways and doors, in the manner of M.C. Escher. It takes sharp eyes to spot the artist's own stick-like, stooping figure barely negotiating the maze. When Vargas got the call from Dworkin, he had already started the painting, but he took a break to read Sotomayor's autobiography and found they shared some of the same challenges,



Courtesy photo

Over the years, Vargas has painted dozens of creatures he calls "pudgies," clay-like figures "who do everything humans do."

especially in childhood. He included visual references to her life that he thought she would recognize.

Vargas treasures a photo on his phone of Sotomayor smiling broadly in front of the painting.

Over the years, Vargas has amassed a large portfolio that includes landscapes, portraits, still lifes and fantastic dragon-like creatures, rendered in his favored "photorealistic" style. The cover of the February 1998 "Prisons and Corrections" issue of the Michigan Bar Journal featured Vargas' symbolic vision of a man cut into pieces, each piece floating in a bubble.

A triple portrait of himself, his wife and his dog in the sunroom of their home in Grand Ledge appears serene and ordered, but a closer look reveals traces of gray prison bars in the upper left-hand corner. He's been married for 31 years to his wife, Barbara Levine Vargas, and has known her for 50 years.

Vargas has taken no classes or formal training, but he has read hundreds of how-to art books and was influenced by a Grand Rapids artist, the late Herschell Turner, whom he met in 1994.

"I saw him creating some great pieces with pastels, and I wanted to try to get these bright, striking colors you get with pastels," Vargas said. "I tried it, and I flunked. I ended up with pastels all over the walls, my face."

Turner urged him to stick with it. "He taught me not to be scared of colors," Vargas said. "Use them. They're your friends."

He struck a rich vein of originality while preparing a donation to a fundraiser for Mid-Michigan for Central America, a nonprofit raising funds to help Caribbean communities devastated in 1998 by monster Hurricane Mitch.

The deadline for the fundraiser was tight, so Vargas bypassed his usual realism in favor of thick, heavy figures that recall the work of Colombian artist and sculptor Fernando Botero.

"I remember reading a book about him, and I'm pretty sure it stuck in my head," Vargas said.

He came up with 30 rough pastel sketches of plump, nearly featureless yet strangely charming figures caught in various forms of work and play. He told the nonprofit he would paint finished versions of the two or three they liked best in his usual realistic style.

To his surprise, they took the sketches as they were, blobby beings and all. All of them sold, raising considerable funds for the cause.

Vargas sensed he was on to something. He calls the figures "pudgies," human forms that appear to have been sculpted roughly out of clay.

As the "pudgies" got more exposure, people contacted Vargas with all kinds of commissions.

"They'd ask for one playing basketball, walking dogs, gardening, biking, hiking, on a boat, in blue, in yellow," he said.

It sounds like straight-up kitsch, but Vargas' "pudgies" offer a profound commentary on what it means to be human. Utterly lacking in gender, race and other prejudicial signifiers — even clothes — they not only retain their individuality, but they short-circuit the viewer's judgmental eye. You just root for them to do their own thing, be their own color, thrive and continue.

"They're nude and come in all these

different colors because there's nothing threatening, nothing to judge," Vargas said. "In an artist's mind, I wish we could all feel safe, secure and comfortable with everybody."

Letting go

As the afternoon of Oct. 15 dimmed to early evening, Vargas was ready to sign the mural. A parole office secretary maneuvered into position to immortalize the moment with her phone.

Callejas is slightly disappointed she can't tease Vargas about finishing the mural anymore, but she's already witnessed its positive impact on visitors.

"A lot of people ask who did it," Callejas said. "When we say it's someone who was inside, they say, 'Oh.' It resonates with most of the people who come here. We wanted to say, 'Yes, you were inside, but now you're out, and you have skills and abilities that you may have even used in prison. Let us support you and bring that out.'"

Vargas folded his lean frame next to the drinking fountain and signed the mural in bold black letters underneath the waterfall. He planned to return to the office one more time to inscribe the title, "Your Journey," at the top of the mural.

He's clearly proud of his work — and of another journey successfully completed — but from now on, this vision belongs to others.

"This is for that community, for the people sitting in those chairs," Vargas said. "It's not for me. They're the ones who are actually going through this madness."



Vargas signs the finished mural on Oct. 15.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 25-12
4990 MARSH ROAD
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request #25-12
4990 Marsh Road
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Bill Carr Signs. The applicant is requesting an additional wall sign at 4990 Marsh Road. The subject site is zoned C-2 Commercial.

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

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-346

‘Devouring Time’ details Jim Harrison’s ravenous life

By **BILL CASTANIER**

This is the first installment of a three-part story on Todd Goddard’s biography of Jim Harrison, leading up to Goddard’s appearance at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Library of Michigan. The event is free, and books will be available for purchase. Goddard will be interviewed by Leslie McRoberts, head of Michigan State University’s Special Collections.

Jim Harrison grew up in Reed City and rural Haslett, graduated from MSU after flunking out several times, swam in the Great Lakes, dipped a line in countless Michigan streams and rivers, had homes in three different states and wrote 21 works of fiction and 14 books of poetry, which he drafted on legal pads. He led a life of excess by any measure: sex, food, fishing, hunting, friendships and ribald humor.

You could say Harrison led a ravenous life, so it’s fitting that Todd Goddard’s biography of the writer, “Devouring Time,” begins with a retelling of the 37-course lunch he consumed with friends and other gourmands in Burgundy, France, in 2003. Harrison wrote about the lunch in a notorious New Yorker article, “A Really Big Lunch,” which shocked many readers. Goddard writes in his book, “Jim remained thoroughly unrepentant.”

In a conversation with Goddard from Utah Valley University, where he teaches literary studies, he said it seemed fitting to start the book with that story “since the through line of the book is about Harrison ‘devouring time.’” Goddard’s book delivers a factual, no-nonsense account of the life and career of one of the 20th century’s greatest writers, who first and foremost called himself a “P-O-E-T,” according to his good friend and fellow traveler John “Bud” Schulz of St. Johns. Harrison’s first book, published in 1965, was the poetry collection “Plain Song.”

The first third of the book is about Harrison’s childhood, teen years and the zig-zag path he took

to graduate from Michigan State University.

If you’re a fan of Harrison, who died in 2016 at age 78 while writing (some friends say), you’ll recognize the stories of his early years. It’s still painful to read about him getting his eye poked out by a girl while playing doctor. Later, he fictionalized the loss in a children’s book and embraced his ocular deficiency by frequently signing his books with an oddly gimlet-eyed caricature of himself. He once told an Esquire journalist he wouldn’t have become a poet if he hadn’t lost his eye.

In the biography’s early chapters, we learn about Harrison’s restlessness as a teen, hitchhiking across the country to the West Coast and to Boston and New York City, where he lost his virginity once or twice. Goddard pulls no punches as he retells Jim’s cringeworthy visits with prostitutes.

Goddard also covers Harrison’s battle with depression, which covered him like a wet blanket his entire life, and his early romancing of Linda, a Natalie Wood lookalike who would become his spouse.

In the first third of the book, Goddard takes readers right up to Harrison’s explosion in the literary world with the publication of “Legends of the Fall” in 1979, which would become an exclamation mark on his career when it was made into a movie in 1994.

When I talked with Goddard, my first question was, “How did an obscure college professor come to write the biography of one of the nation’s most famous contemporary writers?” In a gutsy move, Goddard reached out to Harrison’s family.

“I made a cold call to Jamie Harrison, Jim’s oldest daughter,” he said. “I shot her an email, and she got right back to me and said something like, ‘I’ll talk to the family.’” Later, she gave him a tentative go-ahead, on the condition that he “move slowly.”

Goddard dug right in, paying

many visits to Grand Valley State University, where Harrison’s papers are archived.

On one of his early visits, he serendipitously ran into Joyce Bahle, who served as Harrison’s administrative assistant and effective gatekeeper for 37 years. It’s fair to say no one knows more about Harrison’s writing career and personal life than Bahle. She said, “Let’s have lunch.”

The pair clicked, and from there, the seven-year writing project moved forward.

Goddard spent months researching at Grand Valley, often spending entire summers there. He said it took an additional six months to read and annotate Harrison’s voluminous correspondence, contained in 72 boxes.

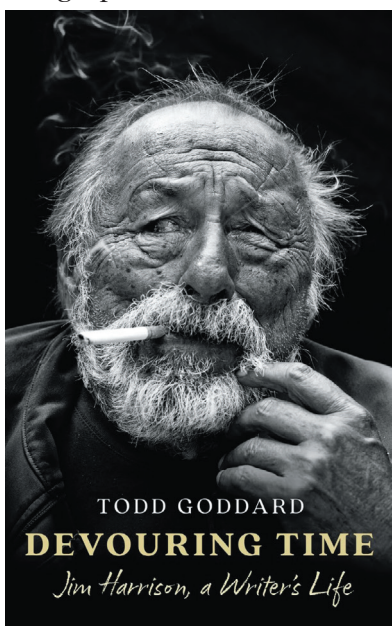
A breakthrough occurred when Goddard gained access to the 60 years of letters between Harrison and his friend Tom McGuane. The two of them had met in college, but their friendship developed after graduation, when both were on the way to becoming major writers. Their candid letters to each other had been sealed, reposing at MSU’s Archives until Goddard sent a cold e-mail to McGuane asking for permission to read them and for an interview.


See ‘Devouring Time,’ Page 18



Photo by Jon Margolis

Literary studies Professor Todd Goddard’s debut book, “Devouring Time: Jim Harrison, a Writer’s Life,” covers one of the 20th century’s greatest authors.





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Rescheduling cannabis: The potential collision of federal reform and Michigan's legal reality

By CHRIS SILVA

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's proposed rule to move marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act is poised to become the most significant regulatory action in the industry's history. If finalized, the proposal would acknowledge for the first time that cannabis has an accepted medical use and a moderate to low potential for abuse. However, for a mature market like Michigan's — where annual cannabis sales already exceed \$3 billion — the pending change presents a complex mix of financial relief and regulatory uncertainties.

The Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency submitted formal comments to the DEA, warning that the federal government must provide clear, "whole-of-government guidance" or the rescheduling could "wreak havoc" on successful state programs.

Federal recognition validates Michigan's patient base

The DEA's proposal rests on recognizing medical utility, a point strongly supported by Michigan's regulated data. The CRA presented this data to the federal government to reinforce the scale and patient need already established in the state.



• **Patient base:** Michigan has 129,099 registered, qualifying patients and 11,554 primary caregivers.

• **Medical need:** The vast majority of patients seek relief from chronic conditions. The most common debilitating conditions cited by patients are chronic pain (62.98%) and severe and chronic pain (41.52%).

The CRA deemed the move to Schedule III a "meaningful, paradigm-altering change" in federal policy, validating over a decade of state action and scientific consensus.

The economic game changer: Section 280E relief

The most substantial and immediate financial benefit for Michigan's cannabis industry could be the effective repeal of Internal Revenue Code Section 280E. As a Schedule I substance, cannabis businesses have been unable to deduct ordinary business expenses — like payroll, utilities, and rent — resulting in staggering federal effective tax rates, often exceeding 70%.

If cannabis is reclassified to Schedule III, 280E would no longer apply. This single administrative action could free up billions in capital for Michigan businesses, enabling them to reinvest, hire more workers and become more competitive against the illicit market. The CRA has called for the U.S. Department of the Treasury to issue "clear guidance" on the implications of rescheduling for banking services and taxation.

Regulatory tensions: Compliance and standards

The CRA's comments emphasize that a "whole-of-government approach" is critical for successful implementation. Since Schedule III drugs typically require a prescription, adherence to federal dispensing regulations and robust recordkeeping, the CRA raised core concerns about implementation.

• **Dispensing rules:** The agency noted that more than 35 states are already operating mature medical marijuana programs, "none of which likely comply with the requirements for Schedule III drugs." Clear federal guidance is needed to prevent the disruption of the existing system of state-licensed dispensaries.

• **Safety standards:** The CRA is urging the Food and Drug Administration to consult with state regulators on how new federal standards for labeling, packaging and product safety testing will align with Michigan's established, comprehensive



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The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has moved to reschedule marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act, which presents a complex mix of financial relief and regulatory uncertainties for a mature market like Michigan's.

regulations for contaminants and purity.

• **Transportation:** The CRA specifically requested guidance from the Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies regarding the transportation of medical and adult-use marijuana by aircraft or watercraft, a federal prohibition that could change with rescheduling.

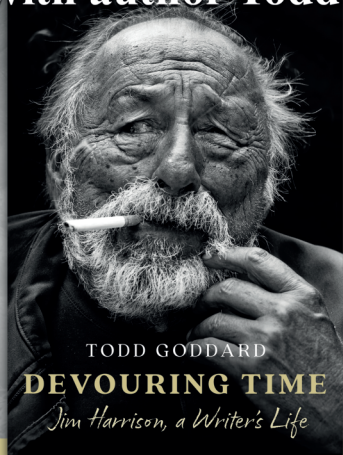
The unresolved justice gap: The fate of Danny Trevino

Crucially, the proposed rescheduling of cannabis contains no provision for criminal justice reform. It will not automatically expunge records or free those incarcerated for nonviolent cannabis crimes.

The case of Danny Trevino serves as a stark, local reminder of this injustice. Trevino, a Lansing-area entrepreneur who successfully operated state-legal medical marijuana businesses in Michigan, was federally prosecuted. He was sentenced in January 2020 to nearly 16 years in federal prison for conspiracy and trafficking. This sentence was delivered under the Schedule I classification during the first Trump administration, which maintained a strict stance on federal cannabis enforcement.

Advocates are urgently calling for broader pardons and commutations for nonviolent federal cannabis offenders like Trevino. His continued incarceration while others in the state build massive, profitable empires under what would be the new federal rules highlights the urgent need for justice to accompany the administrative reform.

You are invited to an extraordinary evening with author Todd Goddard



Mr. Goddard will be interviewed by Leslie McRoberts, Director of the MSU Special Collections



Thursday, November 13, 2025 - 7pm

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

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'Devouring Time'

from page 17

Goddard said McGuane's initial reactions to his requests were

"no and no." However, he was persistent, and McGuane eventually consented to opening the treasure trove of a lifetime. The book is peppered with information from those letters. McGuane also ended up sitting for hours of interviews.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"My Wish List" -- some numbered items.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

Across

- 1. Hand-craft?
- 5. "Get outta here"
- 10. Burt's Bees target, sometimes
- 14. A head
- 15. Justice Kagan
- 16. Red-wrapped cheese
- 17. Wee
- 18. Used an e-cig
- 19. "Could ___ ... Satan?" (mid-1980s "SNL" catchphrase)
- 20. "First, a favorable lottery ticket would be nice ..."
- 23. Organ with a hammer
- 24. Words before "the world on a string," in a song
- 25. "Next, I'd like something hand-written ..."
- 31. ___ Sophia (Istanbul landmark)
- 32. Secret competitor
- 33. Tennis feat
- 36. Measure of land
- 37. Kenneth ___, theater critic and co-writer of "Oh! Calcutta!"
- 38. Shortstop great Vizquel
- 39. Boot point
- 40. Media attention
- 41. Best Picture of 2024
- 42. "A little later, I'd like my own aviary ..."
- 44. Lunar stages
- 47. Highway warning

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21						22			
			23						24					
25	26	27				28	29	30						
31						32					33	34	35	
36						37					38			
39					40						41			
					42						43			
44	45	46							47					
48						49	50	51				52	53	54
55						56					57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

- sign, for short
 - 48. "And further down my list, a beautiful panoramic view"
 - 55. Gillette razor option
 - 56. Dentist's directive
 - 57. "Banana Boat Song" refrain
 - 58. Arena level
 - 59. HBO series set in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina
 - 60. "___ three ships ..."
 - 61. Staircase part
 - 62. More offbeat
 - 63. Calligrapher's supply
- Down**
- 1. Free version
 - 2. Pour down
 - 3. Dermatology concern
 - 4. Some formal wear

- 5. ___ tire damage (warning sign topic)
- 6. Acknowledge the performers
- 7. Defaulter's risk
- 8. Over again
- 9. Arrived, but barely
- 10. Songwriting partner of Stoller
- 11. Suitcase label
- 12. Literature Nobelist Neruda
- 13. Refine, as ore
- 21. Funny response
- 22. Road-tripped, in a way
- 25. "Um, [points to an item out of range]"
- 26. Site of Baylor University
- 27. Fiend of fairy tales
- 28. Blanket
- 29. Physicist Mach
- 30. Litter
- 33. Love, in Lima
- 34. King or queen
- 35. Times for Swifties?
- 37. Gives for safekeeping
- 38. Bowful at a party
- 40. Frost or Pound, e.g.
- 41. Not just ready and willing?
- 42. Musical neighbor of G
- 43. Artist known for tessellations
- 44. Fuel sources
- 45. "Now play!"
- 46. Say "My sentiments exactly!"
- 49. Like some water or time
- 50. Looked over
- 51. "My sentiments exactly!"
- 52. Facility
- 53. Director Coogler
- 54. Cries of pain

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Answers on page 24

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Oct. 29-Nov. 4, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): On the outskirts of a village in Ghana, a healer gathers plants only when the moon says yes. She speaks the names of each leaf aloud, as if to ask permission, and never picks more than needed. She trusts that each herb has its own wisdom that she can learn from. I invite you to emulate her approach, Aries. Now is a good time to search for resources you need to heal and thrive. The best approach is to be receptive to what life brings you and approach it with reverence and gratitude. Halloween costume suggestion: herbalist, traditional healer, sacred botanist.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A well-cut ship's sail is not a flat sheet. It has a gentle curve that the sailmaker crafts stitch by stitch, so the wind will catch and convert invisible pressure into forward motion. Too taut, and the cloth flaps, wasting energy; too loose, and power dissipates. The miracle lies in geometry tuned to an unseen current. I invite you to be inspired by this approach, Taurus. Build curvature into your plans so that optimism isn't an afterthought but a structural feature. Calibrate your approaches to natural processes so movement arises from alignment rather than brute effort. Make sure your progress is fueled by what you love and trust. Halloween costume suggestion: wear a sail.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): All of us can benefit from regular phases of purification — periods when we dedicate ourselves to cleansing, shedding and simplifying. During these intense times of self-healing, we might check our integrity levels to see if they remain high. We can atone for mistakes, scrub away messy karma and dismantle wasteful habits. Here's another essential practice: disconnecting ourselves from influences that lower our energy and demean our soul. The coming weeks will be a perfect time to engage in these therapeutic pleasures, Gemini. Halloween costume suggestion: purifier, rejuvenator, cleanser, refiner.

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22): Deep in the Pacific Ocean, male humpback whales sing the longest, slowest, most intricate love songs ever. Their bass tones are loud and strong, sometimes traveling for miles before reaching their intended recipients. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to compose and unleash your own ultimate love songs, Cancerian. Your emotional intelligence is peaking, and your passionate intensity is extra refined and attractive. Meditate on the specific nature of the gifts you want to offer and receive in return. Halloween costume suggestion: singer of love songs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Between 1680 and 1725, Italy's Antonio Stradivari and his family made legendary violins that are highly valued today. They selected alpine spruce trees and Balkan maple, seasoned the wood for years and laid varnish in painstaking layers that produced sublime resonance. Their genius craftsmanship can be summed up as the cumulative magic of meticulousness over time. I recommend their approach to you, Leo. Be in service to the long game. Commune with people, tools and commitments that age well. Act on the theory that beautiful tone is perfected in layers. Halloween costume suggestion: a fine craftsperson.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Trained women dancers in Rajasthan, India, perform the ancient art of bhava. As folk music plays, they balance on the dull edge of a sword and hold up to 20 clay pots on their head. They sway with elegance and artistry, demonstrating an ultimate embodiment of "grace under pressure." I don't foresee challenges as demanding as that for you, Virgo. But I suspect you will have the poise and focus to accomplish the metaphorical equivalents of such a feat. Halloween costume suggestion: regal acrobat or nimble dancer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In 1968, researchers at Stanford conducted the "marshmallow test." Children were offered a single sweet treat immediately. But if they didn't quickly gobble

down the marshmallow, thus postponing their gratification, they were awarded with two candies later. The kids who held out for the double reward didn't do so by sheer willpower alone. Rather, they found clever ways to distract themselves to make the wait more bearable: making up games, focusing their attention elsewhere and adjusting their surroundings. I advise you to learn from their approach, Libra. Cultivate forbearance and poise without dimming your passion. Harness small triumphs of willpower into generating big, long-term gains. Diligent, focused effort invested now will almost certainly lead to satisfying outcomes. So, please prioritize incremental, systematic grunt work over stunts and adrenaline. Halloween costume trick: carry two marshmallows.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the late 18th century, Balloonomania came to Paris. Large crowds gathered to watch inventors and impresarios send hot-air balloons into the sky. Spectators were astonished, fearful and filled with wonder. Some wept, and some fainted. I suspect you're due for your own exhilarating liftoff, Scorpio — a surge of inspiration that may bewilder a few witnesses but will delight those with open minds. Halloween costume prop: wings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be too shocked by my unusual list of raw materials that might soon turn out to be valuable: grime, muck, scuzz, scum, slop, bilge, slime and glop. Amazingly, this stuff may conceal treasures or could be converted into unexpected building materials. So, I dare you to dive in and explore the disguised bounty. Proceed on the assumption that you will find things you can use when you distrust first impressions and probe beneath surfaces. Halloween costume suggestions: sacred janitor, recycling wizard, garbage genius.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In the tidepools of America's Pacific Northwest lives the ochre starfish, a keystone species that keeps mussel populations in check. Remove the starfish, and the ecosystem collapses into imbalance. Let's make this creature your power symbol, Capricorn. The visible effect of your presence may not be flashy or vivid, but you will hold a stabilizing role in a group, project or relationship. Your quiet influence can keep things harmonious. Your gift is not to dominate the scene, but to keep the whole system alive and diverse. Halloween costume suggestion: ochre starfish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): For hundreds of years, the Blackfoot people of North America built buffalo jumps. These were steep cliffs where herds of bison could be guided and driven over the edge during a hunt. It required elaborate cooperation. Scouts tracked the herd, decoys lured them toward the drop, and prep teams waited below to process the meat, hides and bones for the whole community's sustenance. I hope you will engage in smaller versions of this project. Now is an excellent time to initiate, inspire and foster shared efforts. Make it a high priority to work with allies you trust. Halloween costume suggestions: shepherd, sheep dog, cowboy, vaquero.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In the ancient Greek world, oracles spoke in riddles. This was not because they were coy, but because they understood that truth must often arrive obliquely. Directness is overrated when the soul is in motion. Mythic modes of perception don't obey the laws of logic. In this spirit, Pisces, I invite you to make riddles and ambiguities be your allies. A dream, an overheard conversation or a misheard lyric may contain an enigmatic but pithy code. You should be alert for messages that arrive sideways and upside down. Tilt your head. Read between the flames. You will understand when your heart recognizes what your mind can't name. Halloween costume suggestion: oracle or fortune teller.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Oct. 29

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

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

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

andPlay: "Drifting Landscapes" - New York duo andPlay — violinist Maya Bennardo and violist Hannah Levinson — perform a bold program of contemporary chamber music exploring texture and resonance. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Beach Glass Windows - Create an eye-catching beach glass wall hanging, the perfect addition to any Michigan home. 6-8 p.m. Nina's Notions, 104 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. eventbrite.com/o/beach-glass-crafting-party-77050402593.

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.

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/learn-coding.

Downtown Eaton Rapids Trick or Treat - The first 100 kids in costume at City Hall get a free trick-or-treat bag! 5-7 p.m. facebook.com/CityOfEatonRapids.

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.

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

Group Dance Class: Beginning Hustle - The hustle originated in the 1970s, closely tied to the disco music craze of the era. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Ignite Talks MSU - Hosted by the MSU Museum, Ignite Talks MSU allows students from across campus to share their passions, research and discoveries — in just five minutes and 20 slides. 7-8:30 p.m. 311 Abbot Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/MSUMuseum.

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. 6-8 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.

Michigan's Dark Places: Murder, Mystery & True Crime - Using archival photographs, crime-scene sketches and documents, author Tobin T. Buhk will guide attendees on a journey to the most infamous spots in the Great Lakes State. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Mindfulness Lunch & Learn: Laughter is the Best Medicine - Explore the social, emotional, mental and physical benefits of laughter. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/stress_less_with_mindfulness/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.

Pumpkin Decorating - Supplies provided while they last. Paint a pumpkin, do some grocery shopping and check out the Allen Farmers Market! 3-6 p.m. ELFCO, 1605 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. elfco.org.

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

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

Understanding Extremism - Learn to identify the hidden signs of extremism. Presented by Michigan Country and the Community Advisory, Resource and Education (CARE) Centers. 5:30-8 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

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

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

Thursday, Oct. 30

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.

All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre Presents: "A Wrinkle in Time" - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. alofusexpress.org.



Halloween Bar Crawl

4 p.m.-midnight Friday, Oct. 31-Saturday, Nov. 1
Multiple locations

Crawl with US, the largest bar crawl company in the country, will host a Halloween-themed event Friday and Saturday evenings, spanning seven bars across Lansing. On Friday, participants should check in from 4 to 6 p.m. at Lansing Brewing Co. On Saturday, check-in will run from 4 to 6 p.m. at Lansing Shuffle. Additional venues include Midtown Brewing Co., Nuthouse Sports Grill, Stober's Bar, Art's Pub and The Comfort Zone. Guests can make their way from venue to venue at their own pace, with a mid-event party each night from 7 to 9 p.m. and an afterparty from 10 p.m. to midnight. Each venue will offer exclusive themed drinks, and some will have food specials. Guests will also receive vouchers for three free shots per night. Tickets are \$30 for individuals or \$24 each for groups of four or more and are good for admission both evenings. For more information, visit crawlwith.us/lansing/halloween.

Ashland Craft - Rising country star Ashland Craft brings her "Dive Bar Beauty Queen" tour to Lansing, with support from Caleb Lee Hutchinson and Cooper Johnson. 7 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. Hall224.com.

Author Talk, with Historian Nicholas Gentile - Gentile will discuss his new book, "Enemies to Their Country." The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation. Registration req. 6-7:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13105 Schavey Road, DeWitt. dewittlibrary.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.

Class Series: Beginning Ukulele for the Family - Participants will learn a brief history of the instrument and all the basics they need to get started playing. Ages 8+. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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

Don Julin's Jazz Standards Trio - This trio brings a fresh twist to the scene, blending the elegance of classical chamber music with the raw soul and improvisational spirit of jazz. 7:30-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Group Dance Class: Beginning Rhumba - Learn the basic steps of this very easy Latin dance. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Group Dance Class: Beginning West Coast Swing - Have fun, learn a social skill and meet new people! 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.

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.

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Events

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The Ringing 2: Shadows Rise - Celebrate Halloween with eerie melodies and familiar favorites, played on MSU's 49-bell carillon. 9 p.m. Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

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

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. 31

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

Halloween with Weavers: A Night of Magick & Mischief - A laid-back, drop-in evening with craft and game stations, treats and tricks galore, and plenty of witchy vibes. 4-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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

MELT Halloween - Enjoy music by KIWI!, Frankie Far, Chad Hammond, Rob Powell and Big Sherm, plus a costume contest. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Michigan Paint Horse Club Fall Color Classic - Four

judges, includes the Fall Color Classic Futurity. 4 p.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. facebook.com/groups/MichiganPaintHorseClub.

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

A Night at the Soul Lounge Halloween Party - Enjoy sounds by Kaels, Ozay Moore and DJ E-Nyce, plus a costume contest. 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. soulounge517.com.

The Official Halloween Bar Crawl (Fri & Sat) - Round up your boo crew and prepare for a night of creepy cocktails, chills and unforgettable bar-hopping fun! 4 p.m.-midnight. Check in at Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. crawlwith.us/lansing/halloween.

Patio, Paws, and Potions - You and your dog are invited to explore our corn maze and take part in our doggy/parent costume contest, with a prize for the best duo costume! Humans can relax with a glass of wine on our patio. \$1 from each ticket sold will be donated to a local rescue. 3-5 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

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

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show" - Hosted by Riverwalk Theatre, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is coming to Grewal Hall on Halloween night in celebration of its 50th anniversary! 6 or 9 p.m. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

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

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

Saturday, Nov. 1

All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre Presents: "A Wrinkle in Time" - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. allofousexpress.org.

Alternative Holiday Gift Fair & Bake Sale - Find items made by survivors of abuse or human trafficking, as well as artisans from around the world. Bake sale benefits S. Lansing Ministries' food pantry. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Grace UMC, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. facebook.com/LGUMC1.

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

Contra and Square Dance - No partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Caller: River Abel. Music: Robins Nest String Band. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Citizens for Prison Reform's Annual Celebration - Honor the strength of families impacted by incarceration and raise support for the work ahead. Guests can enjoy appetizers, dinner, inspiring speakers and our Prison Creative Arts Project art auction. 4:30-8 p.m. Union Missionary Baptist Church, 500 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. micpr.org.

Cristo Rey Catholic Church Christmas Bazaar - Crafts, baked goods, direct sales vendors and more. Breakfast and lunch will be available. Santa will visit from 1-2 p.m. Event runs from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. cristokeychurch.org.

The Dinner Detective - We offer an amazing murder mystery experience paired with a fantastic dinner. Anyone in the room can end up being part of the show, including YOU! 6:30-9:30 p.m. AC Hotel, 3160 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. thedinnerdetective.com.

Fall to Black: A Black and Bling Affair - An evening of elegance, fashion and celebration with a purpose. VIP cocktail hour 7-8 p.m., regular event runs from 8 p.m.-midnight. Hilton Garden Inn, 633 N. Canal Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/summer-breeze-productions-66291574313.

Family Day: FLOW - Make art that twists, turns and flows, inspired by the exhibit "Mekong Voices." 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

The Further Adventures of FatBoy and JiveTurkey - Led by Benjamin Hall, a man with a voice like honey over razor blades, this band digs deep into the American soul, then drags it back out, howling. 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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Red Cedar spirits[®]

DISTILLERY & COCKTAIL

CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN WITH US!

Our high quality spirits make delicious cocktails.


WE HAVE HALLOWEEN DRINK SPECIALS ALL WEEK.

Enjoy live music at Red Cedar on Friday and Sunday evenings.



A casual setting to relax and enjoy!
See our music schedule in Facebook.

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Closed Monday -- call for parties: 517-908-9950
Thurs, Fri, Sat: 4 - 11 p.m Sun, Tues, Wed: 4 - 9 p.m



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 25-11
4650 MOORE STREET
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request #25-11
4650 Moore Street
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Foresight Super-sign. The applicant is proposing to construct a freestanding sign that does not meet the front yard setback at 4650 Moore Street. The subject site is zoned PO Professional Office.

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

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-345



A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

Events

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Healing Gemstone Bracelet Make & Take Class

- Create your own healing stone bracelet for additional physical, emotional or spiritual support. 11 a.m. Art & Soul Gallery, 215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. facebook.com/ClintonCntyArts.

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.

Meridian Township Farmers Market

- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

Michigan Paint Horse Club Fall Color Classic

- Four judges, includes the Fall Color Classic Futurity. 8 a.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. facebook.com/groups/MichiganPaintHorseClub.

MSU State Singers and University Chorale

- Enjoy a powerful program of choral music, featuring von Martines' "Dixit Dominus," Renaissance works by Casulana and di Lasso and contemporary pieces by Antognini and Bonds. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

MSU Women's Volleyball vs. Rutgers University

- 7 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

The Official Halloween Bar Crawl (Fri & Sat)

- Round up your boo crew and prepare for a night of creepy cocktails, chills and unforgettable bar-hopping fun! 4 p.m.-midnight. Check in at Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. crawlwith.us/lansing/halloween.

Peace Education Center 50th Anniversary Celebration

- The Lansing Area Peace Education Center celebrates its 50th anniversary with protest songs, reminiscing and fun. Dress in your best hippie clothes. 7-9 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. peaceedcenter.org.

Personalizing with Patches

- Learn how to revive old favorites (or customize a new canvas pouch) with iron-on patches, embroidery and fabric scraps. 4-5:30 p.m. Dear Ollie & Co., 222 S. Washington Square, Lansing. dearollie.com.

Pumpkin Chuck

- Bring your out-of-season pumpkin and catapult it goodbye, or roll it down our smashing course. Refreshments and beverages will be served. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Fitzgerald Park, 133 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. facebook.com/EatonCountyParks.

The Record Lounge Presents: Sean Anthony Sullivan

Acoustic In-Store Performance - Join us for a performance by Sean Anthony Sullivan and his band in celebration of their upcoming record, "Rock and Roll Will Save Us All." Free. 1 p.m. 1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/therecordlounge.

River Walk Trash Cleanup

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

Rock City's Thriller Night

- With DJ Rock City and Starfarm. Ages 21+. 7 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Samhain Ritual

- Celebrate the Final Harvest with a ritual to honor our ancestors of blood, spirit and tradition. After ritual, we'll break bread together. Bring your own food for our shared feast. 4-9 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Saturday Night Social Club

- If you'd like to meet some new folks and play a few games, stop on by. \$10. 7-11 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. homebrew-gamelounge.com.

Tiger and Dragon Kenpo Martial Arts Training

- Based on a variety of martial arts systems, tiger

and dragon kenpo is designed to develop self-confidence in the warrior. 1 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Sunday, Nov. 2

All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre Presents:

"A Wrinkle in Time" - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. allofussepress.org.

Bengel Wildlife Center Volunteer Restoration Workday: Spooky Season Edition

- We'll meet at the circle drive and head out on the trails to clear brush, pick up trash and remove invasive plants. Afterwards, stick around for a free hot dog cookout! All ages welcome. 9 a.m.-noon. 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. facebook.com/miwildlife.

Finders Keepers

- Join us for an exciting event with over 150 vendors! Kids can take photos with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (Early bird entry at 10 a.m.) Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. finderskeepersvintagemarket.com.

First Start Sunday

- Monthly blacksmithing workshop for beginners. Learn the fundamentals of the craft, including tool use, safety and how to complete a simple project yourself. 3-6 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Churchill Road, Leslie. artfiremichigan.com.

Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers

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

Last Fall 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.

Michigan Paint Horse Club Fall Color Classic

- Four judges, includes the Fall Color Classic Futurity. 8 a.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. facebook.com/groups/MichiganPaintHorseClub.

Plain White T's & We the Kings

- Presented by Emo Nite. 7:30 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

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. redcedar-friends.org.

Monday, Nov. 3

AI-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.

Crafty Story Time

- Preschool-aged children and their caregivers can enjoy fun activities, stories and a craft. 11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 South Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Dementia Caregiver Series

- Three-session series intended to reduce stress for those caring for a person with dementia by providing useful tools and information. 1:30-3 p.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.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.

See Events, Page 23



Pumpkin Chuck

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1

Fitzgerald Park

100 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge

Eaton County Parks and Recreation invites attendees of all ages to "get some aggression out in style and safety" at its second annual Pumpkin Chuck. Guests can bring their Halloween pumpkin or purchase one for \$2 and either catapult it across the park, smash it with various tools or send it down a smashing course. Hammond Farms will collect all of the pumpkin guts and compost them. Free pumpkins will be available for those who bring recyclable plastic, metal, paper and glass items for the Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery or non-perishable food for the Helping Hands Food Pantry. There will also be pumpkin painting, a scavenger hunt for mini pumpkins and a pumpkin dunk, in which attendees can send Grand Ledge Schools Superintendent Bill Barnes into a tank of water. Jump Start DJs will provide music, and food will be available for purchase from The Fry Guy and Olly's Donuts. For more information, visit facebook.com/EatonCountyParks.

Love,
jealousy,
& betrayal.

OTHELLO

By William Shakespeare

Nov 7 – 16 | Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center

 MSU Students get in free!

whartoncenter.com

Events

from page 22

Ghost Hunting - Join the Capital Area Paranormal Research Society to learn more about paranormal experiences. Ages 13+. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Colgate University - 7 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

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.

Shape Note Singing - First and third Mondays, free, loan books available, beginners and the curious are welcome. 7-9 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. fasolamichigan.org.

Spartan Spectacular - A beloved tradition since 1971, Spartan Spectacular unites the Symphony Band, Spartan Marching Band and guest artists for an electrifying performance. 3 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" - International Chamber Soloists, a string ensemble of MSU students from across the globe, brings expressive flair to this timeless masterpiece. Program also includes Piazzolla's "Four Seasons of Buenos Aires," performed by MSU pianist Derek Polischuk. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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, Nov. 4

"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.

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

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

Finance Committee - 6 p.m. City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. laingsburg.us/park-committee.

Greater Lansing History Book Group - 6:30-7:45 p.m. Big Boy, 1408 Old U.S. 27, St. Johns.

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.

Mama's Broke Live at Elderly Instruments - Join us in store for a performance by Mama's Broke, a unique folk duo that interweaves age-old music forms and traditions with original compositions. 6-8 p.m. 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.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 Women's Basketball vs. Mercyhurst University - 6:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

PEARS Deeper Dive: Direct Contacts and the CRM - Participants should have attended the PEARs Crash Course. Learn how to enter direct contacts and how to use the Community Relationships Module. 2 p.m. Virtual — register at cann.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/pears-deeper-dives.

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! 6:30-8 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.

Sightlines + Soundscapes - What does a building sound like? What does a sculpture hear? Join MSU College of Music students as they perform site-specific compositions shaped by the walls of the Broad Art Museum. 6-7 p.m. 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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@coa.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 5

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

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

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

'Holiday Along the River'

Sunday, Nov. 2-Dec. 31

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Noon-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

Shiawassee Arts Center

206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso



The Shiawassee Arts Center's 37th annual "Holiday Along the River" exhibit and market will offer an opportunity to purchase original work, unique gifts and holiday decorations from more than 90 Michigan artists. To help guests ring in the season, Sunburst Gardens will deck out the outdoor space with themed decorations. Mini paintings will also be available for purchase for \$50 each in the Hebert Gallery. An opening reception for the public will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, featuring complimentary refreshments and book signings by authors Piper Brewer and Julie Wenzlick. Arts Center members are invited to a special reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday and will receive 15% off one purchase. Throughout the exhibit's run, the Arts Center will offer several holiday art classes for children and adults. For more information, visit shiawasseearts.org.

Artist Talk: Diana Al-Hadid - Unravel what you know about paintings and sculpture. Join artist Diana Al-Hadid for a conversation on her artistic process, research and visual language. 7-8:30 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Beach Glass Christmas Trees - Each participant will be given a personalized kit with step-by-step instructions and all necessary supplies. 6-8 p.m. Sunnyside Cafe, 725 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. eventbrite.com/o/beach-glass-crafting-party-77050402593.

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.

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.

See Events, Page 24

16th Annual JAMM Tribute

Nov 9th @ 3:30p

Friendship Baptist Church, Lansing

2025 JAMM Honorees
Lois Mumma & Gregg Hill



Info & Tickets www.jazzjamm.org

Events

from page 23

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 Hustle - The hustle originated in the 1970s, closely tied to the disco music craze of the era. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

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

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

Mindfulness Lunch & Learn: Begin with a Breath - Begin with a Breath introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness, with a goal of reducing stress. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/stress_less_with_mindfulness/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.

PEARS Crash Course - In this training, you'll learn what goes where in PEARS, where to find self-paced training materials and tips for data entry. 9-11:30 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/pears-crash-course.

Percussion Ensemble - MSU's Percussion Ensemble presents a dynamic program of contemporary works, showcasing a range of sounds through varied instrumentation. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Pre-Coding Skills: Step It Out! - Learn the basic skills and concepts needed for computer coding through stories, songs and fun activities. Please plan to attend all three sessions. Ages 3-6. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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.

Thursday, Nov. 6

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.

African Diaspora Percussion Ensemble - Members of MSU's Percussion Ensemble explore the vibrant drumming traditions of the African diaspora, performing traditional Congolese and Cuban rhythms on culturally unique instruments. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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.

Arts Council Grant Chat - Stop by Foster Coffee Co. to discuss your grant questions and creative ideas with membership & program manager Taylor Haslett. She can provide information on local grant opportunities and assist you in planning your applications. 3-4 p.m. 196 Albert Ave., East Lansing. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

Blue Denim - Formerly known as The Local Group, this Lansing-based band blends blues, rock, R&B, funk and jazz into one dynamic live performance. No cover! 7-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Capital Area Modelers Society Meeting - Learn about building scale models, display what you're working on and get to know others interested in the hobby. 6:30-8 p.m. Judson Baptist Church, 531 Glendale Ave., Lansing. capitalareamodelerssociety.wordpress.com.

Class Series: Beginning Ukulele for the Family - Participants will learn a brief history of the instrument and all the basics they need to get started playing. Ages 8+. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Clayworks Holiday Pottery Sale - Noon-7 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. clayworkspottery.net.

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.

Drum Circle at Bath Community Center - Join the Greater Lansing Area Drummers for a fun and energetic evening of rhythm and drumming. All ages and experience levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Fall Sale - 5-8 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. greaterlansingpottersguild.org.

Group Dance Class: Beginning Rumba - Learn the basic steps of this very easy Latin dance. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

Group Dance Class: Beginning West Coast Swing - Have fun, learn a social skill and meet new people! 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.

MACC Chamber Mixer - Network and mingle over light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. We'll have a 50/50 drawing and prizes to give away. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Mason Area Historical Museum, 200 E. Oak St., Mason. facebook.com/masonchamber.

MELT Thursdays - UrbanBeat turns up the heat with a weekly electronic music series, hosted by Big Sherm. 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.

Rittz - Hip-hop artist Rittz brings his "Night Owl" tour to Lansing, with support from Michigan Misfits, Knowledge da MC, Leukotomy and Wuzee. 7 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.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.

SamRose Entertainment Presents: IS Evolution - Fronted by the powerful voice of Inohs Sivad, IS Evolution blends heavy grooves and sharp riffs into a sound that's both unrelenting and undeniable. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

"Shrek the Musical" - Presented by Williamston High School Music Theater Club. 7 p.m. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston. gofan.co/app/school/MI3814_4.

Silent Book Group - Bring your own book to discuss, then read in companionable silence. Some attendees break off for private socializing. 6:30-9 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

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.

Stretch & Meditation - Join us at Chrysalis Enrichment Center LLC for a rejuvenating experience filled with gentle stretches and calming meditation. 6:15-8 p.m. 2380 Science Parkway, Ste. 108, Okemos. facebook.com/ChrysalisReflexology-Hypnosis.

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.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**SLU-1-2025, 3011 Turner Street
Special Land Use Permit – Adult Foster Care Small Group Home**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider a request for a special land use permit to permit a state-licensed adult foster care small group home for 7 to 12 residents at 3011 Turner Street.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, November 17, 2025 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

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Lansing, MI, 48906

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Open your eyes (and mouth) to Grains Indian Cuisine

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Taking a bite of a menu item from Grains Indian Cuisine doesn't just excite taste buds. It also raises eyebrows. Since its opening a couple of months ago, the new eatery, which took over the former Flap Jack Restaurant on South Waverly Road, has been serving food delicious enough to elicit wide-eyed reactions.

The vegetable pakora appetizer, for example, surprises with its extra-crunchy and flavorful shell. Biting into the tasty crispiness is a delight, as is the contrast of the soft, warm and tangy inner filling. Each bite is a multifaceted and delicious explosion.

The deep-fried coating is made with a



Aloo gobi

\$14.95

Vegetable pakora

\$7.95

Hara bhara kebab

\$7.95

Grains Indian Cuisine

1601 S. Waverly Road, Lansing

11 a.m.-3 p.m., 5-10 p.m.

Sunday-Thursday

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 5-10:30 p.m.

Friday-Saturday

(517) 855-0648

grainsindiancuisine.com

seasoned lentil batter. The spiced vegetables inside are blended into a multicolored mash that seems to have infinite flavors. These are probably the best pakoras I've tasted.

The hara bhara kebab appetizer is similarly impressive. The potato-and-spinach patties are the antithesis of bland. The spicy amalgamation is lightly fried and then drizzled with a peppery condiment. Grains' kebabs are solid and satisfying.

Appetizers are served with two traditional sauces. The green sauce is tangier, and the dark tamarind sauce is sweet and sour. Both are yummy and complementary dips.

The aloo gobi entrée combines tender potatoes and cauliflower florets that are sautéed with tomatoes and onion slivers. Garlic and ginger are added in just the right amounts to not be overpowering. The sauce is thick and not a touch soupy.

All the items served at Grains are fresh and clearly homemade. The distinctive Indian dishes have an authentic taste and include leafy bits (such as cilantro) that seem to have just been picked. Diners can choose between five spice levels, from mild (which still has a bit of a kick) to "Indian hot." I always order a side of the yogurt-based raita as a cooling condiment; of course, it's refreshingly delicious.

Entrées are served with a choice of soup or salad, basmati rice and naan. The rice is fluffy and comes in a generous-sized bowl. The naan is warm and soft yet has just the right amount of chewiness.



David Winkelstern for City Pulse

Grains Indian Cuisine's vegetable pakoras (above) and hara bhara kebabs, served with two traditional sauces.

Grains also offers lamb, chicken, goat and seafood dishes, as well as several dessert options. It has a full bar and a variety of lassi drinks, a cold, yogurt-based Indian favorite. To-go and takeout options are available, but that means skipping the pleasant waitstaff, who provide excellent service.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 RESTAURANT WINE LISTS

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

1. Bowdie's Chophouse

Upscale restaurant serving steaks, small plates and drinks
320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 580-4792
bowdieschophouse.com
5-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
5-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

2. Bridge Street Social

Snug eatery known for its charcuterie, smoked meatloaf, wine and craft cocktails
107 S. Bridge St., DeWitt

(517) 668-1837

bss517.com

5-10 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

3. Dusty's Wine Bar

American/Italian bistro offering upscale food and wine
1839 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
(517) 349-8680
dustyscellar.com
Closed for updates — reopening in "mid to late November"

4. Soup Spoon Café

Colorful and cozy café serving homemade soup, homestyle eats and boutique wines
1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 316-2377
soupspooncafe.com
8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday

5. Toscana Kitchen & Wine Market

High-end Italian restaurant known for its pasta, steak, seafood and long wine list
3170 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 246-4980
toscanalansing.com
4-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
4-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Prune plum torte report

By ARI LEVAUX

If you pull up the search engine of your choice and type "Marian B," the autofill will complete your query: "Marian Burros plum torte." Suffice it to say, I am not the first person to write about this spell-binding dessert, which seems to have more fans than the Boston Red Sox. The recipe was first published by The New York Times in 1983 and republished by the paper every fall for the next dozen years.

The recipe calls for Italian prune plums. Also known as purple plums, these small, tart fruits don't often make it to supermarket shelves. It has always been a mystery to me why the torte is so popular when its key ingredient is so niche and hard to find for most people.

I once attempted to make the torte with the incorrect type of plum, thinking I could somehow defy a physical law of the universe that dictates otherwise. Instead of purple Italian plums, which have firmer flesh and a lower moisture content, I used the kind of big, sweet, round plums that one typically finds at the grocery store. My wrong-plum experiment was a failure. It was decidedly inferior to a correctly made torte that had been frozen for a year, which says as much about the torte's storability as its dependence on only this type of plum.

But in a major shake-up of the Marian B plum torte universe, I have recently discovered that it can also be made with strawberries. This makes it





Photos by Ari LeVaux

Marian Burros' famous torte, made with prune plums (left) and strawberries (right).

Flash

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accessible to the masses, rather than the few of us lucky enough to live in

some charming small town with an abundance of backyard plums.

This revelation happened at a food festival in Whitefish, Montana, where one stand was serving elk sausage pizza. There was a strawberry torte in the

Marian Burros' original plum torte

This recipe must be made with either Italian prune plums or strawberries. These are the only known fruits with the correct balance of sweetness, tartness and moisture content.

Being a torte, there is no crust to worry about. The batter has enough butter that it wouldn't dream of sticking to the pan, and when sliced, it holds together just fine.

The quantities listed are for one 9-inch torte. You will need a 9-inch springform pan to make it.

- 1 cup all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- One stick butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup sugar
- Two eggs
- 12 Italian prune plums, pitted or split in half; or 2 pints strawberries, sliced in half

2 teaspoons sugar + 1 teaspoon cinnamon (to sprinkle on top)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Combine the flour, baking soda and salt in a medium-sized bowl.

Cream the sugar and butter in a cake mixer. Add the eggs, followed by the dry ingredients. Mix until fully combined.

Spread the batter into a 9-inch springform pan. Arrange the plums atop the batter in concentric circles, skin side up. Or, if using strawberries, place them cut side down.

Sprinkle the top of the torte with the extra sugar and the cinnamon.

Bake the torte for 40 minutes. If it starts to brown before that time has passed, test the batter with a toothpick. If it comes out clean, the torte is done.

Allow it to cool for 20 minutes and enjoy. If you wish to freeze it, let it cool overnight, wrap it in foil and seal it in a plastic bag.

pastry case, and I ordered a slice. At this point, I was unsuspecting. However, when I bit in, I immediately recognized it as the one true torte, only made with strawberries rather than purple plums. This rendition was absolutely amazing, every bit as impressive and perfect as the original. In fact, my kids even prefer the strawberries.

Given how popular this recipe became, even when it required an ingredient that most Americans could never find, the news that it can be made with strawberries is a game changer. Nobody has any excuses. Everyone should make lots of tortes.

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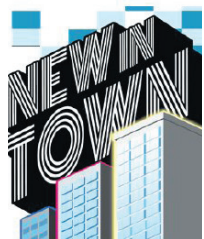
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‘Inclusive’ Michigan diner opens second Lansing–area location



By LEO V. KAPLAN

Josh Beckett was a regular at the original Anna’s House location in Grand Rapids before he bought it.

“I’d come sit at the counter and Becky Miller — I’m still good friends with her — wanted to sell it,” he said. “And I just said, ‘Hey, I’ll give it a shot.’”

The diner was established in

Anna’s House

644 Migaldi Ln, Ste. 700,
Grand Ledge
annashouseus.com/
grand-ledge-mi-
restaurant
7 a.m.–3 p.m. daily

in 2003, and Beckett bought it in 2005. It wasn’t until MLive dubbed it Michigan’s best breakfast joint in 2013 that Beckett decided to grow the business.

On Tuesday, Beckett celebrated the opening of the 13th Anna’s House location. The Grand Ledge location is Greater Lansing’s second, following a popular Okemos location that often has a wait during peak breakfast and lunch hours. The brand offers an “inclusive” menu with options for several dietary restrictions, something Beckett said is often lacking outside of bigger cities.

“If you’re going out with friends or family, if anybody’s got a nut allergy, if you’re dairy-free or vegan, or you just want to eat gluten-free because it makes you feel better, we celebrate those things,” he said.

In the kitchen, separate from the main line, kitchen staff work on a Celiac-dedicated station away from the regular grill to ensure there is no cross-contamination.

“A lot of restaurants will put something on the menu, but they don’t have a separate space,” Beckett said.

He said he was inspired to focus on an “inclusive” dining experience after dealing with health issues in 2013.

“Ten years ago, you couldn’t get gluten-free anywhere,” he said. “So we really leaned into that and focused on it, so that’s (what) we’ve gone with — a brand that anyone can go out to breakfast.”

The restaurant’s retro atmosphere belies its recent remodel. The location, a former Tin Can Bar, appealed to Beckett for the same reason the Okemos location, a former Pizza hut, did.

“We like going into old, distressed buildings and bringing them back to life,” he said, “bringing them back to a great place the community wants to come and enjoy again.”

Beckett said his approach differs from other brands that tear down the buildings they buy, something he called wasteful.

He added Delta Township officials were flexible, friendly, communicative and generally “great to work with,” and encouraged any business looking to expand to set their eyes there.

Anna’s House may have a classic look, but it has some new tricks. Alongside its focus on dietary restrictions, the restaurant features an espresso bar, so diners can enjoy a latte with their meal (compete with alternative milk options, of course). Their drip coffee is a house blend, which customers can buy bags of. Meal offerings extend from a classic diner breakfast, to sweet crepes, to a veggie hash — to a classic diner breakfast except totally vegan, complete with “eggs” and “sausage.”

“You can’t tell it’s not there,” Beckett said.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Josh Beckett, CEO of Anna’s House, stands at the counter of the newly opened Grand Ledge location.

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