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1812 war veteran finally gets a headstone

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Ray Chen has a blast with Bruch

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Hella good Tex-Mex at Hela's Kitchen

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Member, AAN

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CityPULSE

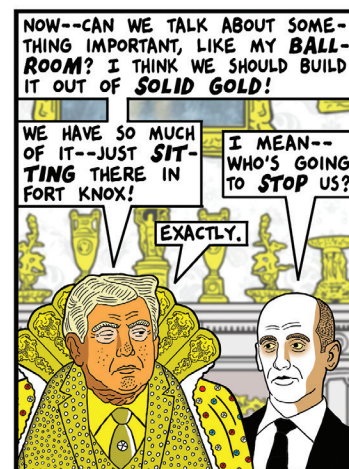
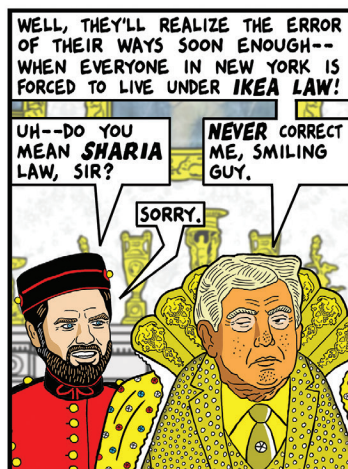
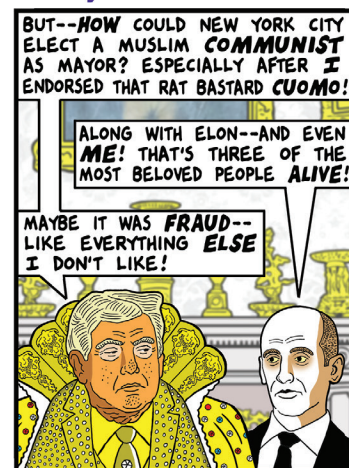
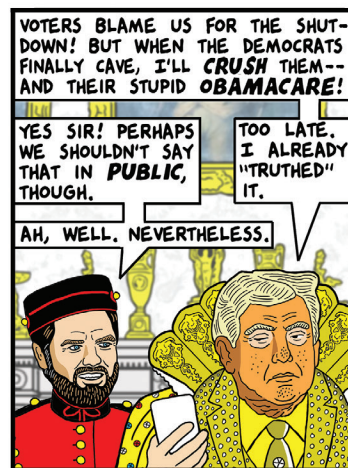
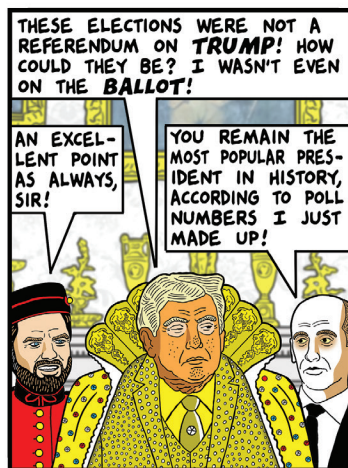
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

‘More of the same for Lansing’

Money speaks loudest as grassroots candidates lose Lansing election

Early in the evening at an Election Day party at Eastside community center The Fledge, Lansing’s more progressive candidates were having a good time.

Hosts played the movie “Mean Girls” on a projector. Mayoral candidate Kelsea Hector and friends played trading card game Magic: The Gathering, with a rabbit-themed deck. At-large city council candidate Julie Vandenoorn, 2nd Ward council candidate Erik Almquist and 4th Ward candidate Heath Lowry mingled with supporters and each other.

Around 9:30 p.m., a host leaned over a balcony, announcing that Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist, had won New York City’s mayoral race. The room erupted in cheers.

An hour later, as Lansing’s absentee results began to roll in, any excitement had faded into a bleak picture.

Vandenoorn came third in a four-person race for two seats behind Clara Martinez and Jeremy Garza. Both Martinez and Garza were endorsed by the Lansing Regional Chamber-Political Action Committee.

Almquist, who ran a spending-free campaign and was active in online political groups, got only 28% of the vote against Deyanira Nevárez Martínez, endorsed by Schor and the LRC-PAC.

Lowry lost to Peter Spadafore, a current at-large councilmember who will now serve in the 4th Ward.

And Kelsea Hector, who ran a long-shot campaign against Schor that raised under \$1,000, garnered 33% of the vote against him.

As with the primary election, money separated the candidates.

Campaign finance reports show Martinez raised about \$45,700. Garza raised over \$48,000 according to his primary election report and \$12,500 according to his general.

Vandenoorn, despite a much longer list of individual donors, raised about \$17,500. She came in third place, after Garza, by fewer than 1,000 votes.

Neil Thanedar, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, said that kind of support could have made the difference.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

(From left) Daniel Mathis Spadafore, Peter Spadafore, Clara Martinez, Mayor Andy Schor, Erin Schor and Deyanira Nevárez Martínez pose together at Schor’s election watch party at the Lansing Brewing Company. Peter Spadafore, Martinez and Nevárez Martínez were endorsed by Schor and successful in their City Council bids.

“Sometimes organizational support is actually what wins these close elections,” he said.

The race was the second time in a year that Vandenoorn narrowly missed elected office. She finished 10th in the 2024 election for a nine-member charter commission. That commission’s proposed charter, which Vandenoorn opposed, passed the same night as her most recent loss.

Thanedar said Vandenoorn and at-large candidate Aurelius Christian, who dropped out of the race a month before the election, were the subject of dark money attacks in this campaign.

Mailers sent by dark money group Michigan Vindicated in June criticized Christian’s role in the Ingham Community Health Centers’ 2024 troubled budget, and phone calls targeting Vandenoorn and claiming to be from Michigan Vindicated told recipients that she was a socialist and asked them to pledge to vote for anyone else.

501(c)(4) nonprofits are often called “dark money” groups because they do not need to disclose their donors. While the donors are more likely to dictate who the ads target than the group itself, Thanedar said, the donors need the money to do so — meaning they are more likely to have a pro-business swing and target anti-establishment candidates, Thanedar said.

While money may have played a role in the mayoral election, where Schor

had over \$100,000 before the election and secured 67% of the vote, it doesn’t seem to have had much of an effect on his challenger’s chances.

In 2021, Kathie Dunbar lost to Schor with 35% of the vote with a war chest of nearly \$35,000. Hector, this year, raised less than \$1,000 and ran a relatively minimal campaign while still managing 33%, nearly as much as the better-funded Dunbar, who also spent 16 years on city council prior to her mayoral bid.

That a third of voters went for a more progressive candidate who campaigned minimally shows “growth in the anti-establishment base,” Thanedar said.

That said, he doesn’t think a more expensive campaign could have pushed Hector past the finish line.

“If someone raised \$200,000, that might change the dynamic,” he said. But, having a natural voter base as an established incumbent candidate with no major controversies, Schor would likely have triumphed even if Hector raised similar amounts to Dunbar, Thanedar said.

Mark Grebner, an Ingham County Commissioner and political consultant who was recently profiled in the New York Times, agrees.

“What she was really getting there was just the people who would have voted against any incumbent who wasn’t especially popular,” he said.

Despite an “increased anti-incumbency feel” compared to previous elections,

Grebner said the lack of a consistent anti-Schor narrative means he was always likely to win. If 10 people gathered to complain about Schor, he said, they’d all have their own reasons to dislike him.

“So there’s an incumbent, the incumbent’s done an OK job, and the city is holding together,” he said. “What you’ve got is a kind of, ‘how do you feel about oatmeal for breakfast’ question, you know? ‘Do you ever have orange juice?’ It’s that kind of election.”

Asked if he thought Christian, who received 3,500 votes despite having dropped out, was a spoiler candidate for Vandenoorn, Grebner said no.

“I don’t think that you should assume those votes would have gone anywhere under any condition,” he said, “because some of them were shared with Julie, and some of them were punk votes, and some of them were shared with the candidates who already got the other vote.”

Thanedar said the most likely reason Christian dropped out is he simply ran out of money. The primary was a crowded playing field, and Christian only narrowly scraped by into the general after raising over \$14,000, most of which was spent.

Erik Almquist, who lost in the 2nd Ward, did not report any campaign spending.

Thanedar said victory by a spending-free campaign is possible in a race of that size, but requires a lot of concerted effort.

It’s also mostly thankless, he said, though it can win over some voters.

“The vast majority of people don’t ever find out that you didn’t spend a dollar, but the people who know about it like it,” he said.

In the end, the more establishment-supported, business-friendly candidates won out in the election, Thanedar said. Whether that’s a good thing depends on whether voters believe Lansing is on the right track already.

“It looks like it will be more of the same for Lansing,” he said.

— LEO V. KAPLAN

160 years later, local veteran's service honored

Local genealogy hobbyist secures headstone for fourth-great grandfather

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

Obediah Sheldon's marble headstone, in mint condition, stands out amid the historic Mount Hope Cemetery's field of graying granite.

It looks nothing like the other stones dated in the 1800s.

His military service of two centuries ago, in the War of 1812, contrasts with his new, pristine, stone.

Sheldon, a Vermont native, died in 1865 in Lansing. He was buried in an unmarked grave for over 150 years before his great-great-great-great granddaughter, Leslie Murray, found him by accident while looking for other relatives' burial sites.

Having already secured a military headstone for fourth-great grandfather, Peleg Sweet, alongside other family members in 2022, Murray knew what to do.

She and her nephew contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Sheldon was honored with a military headstone on Oct. 7, 2025.

Having now helped mark two previously unmarked graves, Murray said she will continue researching her family's history.

"It really doesn't end," she said. "I have family traced all the way back to the Mayflower. It just keeps going, and you've got to just not give up and keep looking for those records. Because they're there."

The headstone isn't as important, she said, as asking fundamental questions about people that may



Photo by Leo V. Kaplan

not have crossed anyone's mind for years: "Who were they, what were they like, what did they do, how did they live?"

"I just really like to tell people's stories that might otherwise have been forgotten," Murray said. "Like Obediah. He's been gone for 160 years, but he was somebody. He was important. He was someone's family,

someone's father, husband, brother, son ... he was a human being, and he deserves to be remembered."

Not all the stories Murray has unearthed have been happy. Her distant family tree includes two separate instances of a parent taking their own and their children's lives via carbon monoxide poisoning, for instance. In both of those cases, Murray started

with Census records and eventually found the concerning details after learning some had died on the same day.

But telling stories of the deceased, even sad ones, is important, Murray said.

"They were still here, and they still had a story to be told," she said. "They still deserve to be remembered."

That focus on remembering others stems from her father, who worried about being forgotten. She keeps people's memories alive by doing genealogy research, adding information to findagrave.com and visiting burial sites.

Murray doesn't have an end goal in mind, except to help fill out the historical record and assist others in looking for relatives. She meticulously fact-checks information and adds it to Find A Grave to help fill out little biographies that dot the site.

For Obediah, or "Obed," as he was often called, Murray's work showed up in a physical reminder of him. The most important part of the headstone, Murray said, was that it helps tie the past to the present, reminding her where she, and others, came from.

"Now people can go to the cemetery," she said, "honor him and see that he was a part of where we are today."

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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Lansing City Council members voted unanimously Monday to remove a make-safe-or-demolish order for 108-110 S. Martin Luther King Boulevard, WKAR News reported, following weeks of advocacy from property owner Alesia Flowers. In May, Flowers told City Pulse that her E.M. Cannon Designs LLC in Dimondale purchased the property, which had been twice featured in City Pulse's Eyesore of the Week, at auction in 2019, and launched a long-term restoration project. Flowers said

that her plan for the two-story, 3,000-square-foot house — the first built by famed Lansing architect Darius Moon (1851-1939) — is for two two-bedroom units on the top floor and a common area on the first floor for offices or, perhaps, a bakery. She told Council that she has already invested more than \$80,000 in restoring the house and has more funding lined up, including a \$500,000 grant. It may be the first time in at least the past two decades that Council members have rescinded a make safe or demolish order.

Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Wanda Stokes gave Assistant Ingham County Public Defender Stephen Milks 10 days to get Marcus Lee Hayes examined after an attorney said he has serious concerns about his client's mental competency ahead of a Dec. 9 trial on murder and mutilation charges, the Lansing State Journal reported. Milks told Stokes that he believes there's a potential for manipulation and that Hayes hasn't been honest about some things. Hayes and his brother, Leonard Felton III, are accused of killing and dismembering Zaccary Marquise Taylor, 25, of Battle Creek in Lansing in May 2024. Officials allege that Taylor was strangled in an apartment on Georgetown Boulevard in Lansing and dismembered in a basement on W. Malcom X Street.



The Ingham County Board of Commissioners plans to consider a resolution on Wednesday that would approve providing \$25,000 from its contingency fund to county food banks to help offset the impact on residents from the loss of SNAP funding. The resolution also said the county's controller's office and health department would work to identify food banks that would receive the funding.

A collective of Lansing-area churches, food pantries and non-profit organizations will host a food drive at Central United Methodist Church on Friday, Nov. 21, as part of the Silver Bells in the City celebration. Volunteers will be at the church to collect food and other donations from 1-9 p.m. Friday, and from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. "Families have been hungry for a while, and the uncertainty in Washington is making it worse," Susan Grettenberger, a congregational leader at the church, told WLNS News. "No matter how and when the politicians resolve their differences, help is needed now."



Lansing Mayor Andy Schor city officials activated a Code Blue plan Sunday evening in response to an unusual early November temperature drop. The Code Blue remained in effect for about 36 hours and has since been lifted; it will be back on the coldest days this winter. The designation allows additional hours and, when possible, temporarily increased capacity at local shelters. The Lansing Board of Water & Light does not do electric shutoffs due to non-payment when the city declares a Code Red or Code Blue status.

Potter Park Zoo officials held a ribbon-cutting Thursday for a new \$6.5 million, 6,000-square-foot Animal Health Facility, dedicated to animal care and education. The Potter Park Zoological Society began the process of securing public and private funding just over four years ago and broke ground in May 2024. The facility includes dedicated surgery and treatment areas, a laboratory, a necropsy area, and an animal holding area, as well as cameras and lights above operating and treatment tables so veterinary students and the public can view procedures.



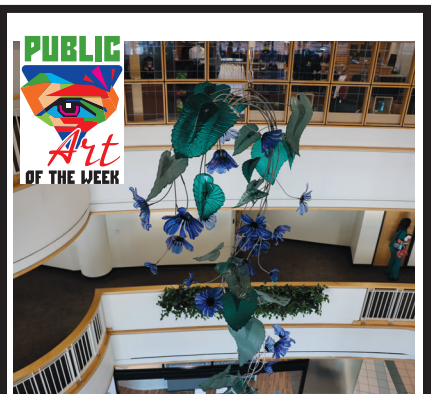
Lansing resident Joanne Galloway has urged residents to attend a Wednesday (Nov. 12) meeting of the Lansing City Council's Committee on Development and Planning, as part of a campaign to protect mature trees at Fenner Nature Center from a Consumers Energy natural gas line project. Consumers Energy wants to remove 24 trees within a 15-foot easement for a project to install a 12-inch natural gas line near the Mt. Hope entrances to Fenner and Evergreen Cemetery, beginning next May. City Council President Ryan Kost said the 24 trees marked are smaller and not of historic significance, but acknowledged there are others very close by, and the committee has asked city attorneys to put in an agreement with Consumers that any changes or modifications—such as clearing historic trees—would require Council's review.

Public safety

Lansing police are investigating after an 18-year-old was found unresponsive following a shooting Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 11), according to a report from WILX.

A large number of police vehicles were at the Arbors at Georgetown apartment complex following the reported shooting.

Police did not immediately release information about the incident.



Public art in Lansing keeps rolling like a river. Two recent public art installations were recently added to the city's growing number of spectacular visions of art in the city. Muralist Brian Whitfield recently finished his mural at the Brenke Fish Ladder in time for the grand opening of the Fish Ladder Music Park just south of Old Town on the banks of the Grand River.

Whitfield's depiction of jamming fish and turtles adds a colorful touch to once drab fish ladder which was constructed in 1981 to allow salmon to migrate upstream.

When Whitfield began the project he thought he would be able to complete the project using a crane but soon learned it was too cumbersome to use in the odd configuration so he turned to rope rigging to move around on the uneven surfaces.

The modernization of the area is part of a long-term plan by the Community Foundation of Greater Lansing which focuses on creating a dynamic riverfront where people will gather for community events. So far the Foundation has helped transform Rotary Park adjacent to the Lansing Center and construct Play Michigan!, a playground that features accessible features which is on the corner of Grand Ave and Saginaw.

Even if you are not sick it's worth a visit to University of Michigan Sparrow where local glass artist and sculpture Craig Mitchell Smith recently installed a massive glass sculpture in the lobby of the UM-Sparrow Professional Building in the complex on Michigan Ave. The floral installation called "A Moment's Pause" features 30 glass leaves and 30 flowers. Previously, Smith installed a large sculpture in the Herbert Hermann Cancer Center on Michigan Ave., which is hung from the ceiling of the lobby. The piece "Lifted" is constructed with more than 100 iridescent pieces of wavy glass.

— BILL CASTANIER

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.

Clarification: Parole office mural story raises questions

City Pulse's Oct. 29 cover story, "Masterpiece in the Parole Office," drew a strong response from the family of Eugene Curtis Stephenson, a Lansing artist and formerly incarcerated person who worked on a mural recently completed on the walls of the Ingham County Parole Office at 5341 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in south Lansing.

Stephenson's sister, Autumn Vanasse, said artist Martín Vargas's account of the genesis and completion of the mural, as reported in the story, was "inaccurate."

The 34-foot-long mural symbolically depicts the parolee's journey from gray prison bars to a serene landscape of trees and blue sky.

Vanasse said Vargas minimized her brother's role in painting the mural.

Stephenson died in an auto acci-

dent Oct. 9, a week before the mural was finished.

Vanasse said Stephenson was juggling work on the mural with a full-time job and family responsibilities.

"Martín said he did the whole thing himself, and made my brother sound non-committed and reckless, and that's not the case," she said. "My brother was there more times than Martín has led everyone to believe."

Vargas said he worked on the mural 65 days and Stephenson worked on it "maybe 10 days."

Photos and TikTok videos show the two artists working together, with Stephenson working on trees at the center of the mural.

"He was a beautiful artist, and they both did a wonderful job," Vanasse said. "But Martín did not do this alone, as the article made it out to sound."



Artists Martín Vargas (left) and Eugene Curtis Stephenson (right) working together on the mural recently completed at the Ingham County Parole Office.

Lansing superintendent headed to Seattle

By MIKE ELLIS

Lansing School District Superintendent Ben Shuldiner is expecting to move to Seattle within months.

He has been named as the sole finalist for the same job for Seattle Public Schools and is negotiating his start date but has indicated to Lansing officials that he expects to leave around the end of January or early February, said school district spokesperson Ryan Gilding.

Since last week's announcement, Shuldiner remains active daily in Lansing's district and his final days could be sooner, depending on the negotiations, Gilding said.

The Seattle board voted unanimously Nov. 5 to name Shuldiner as their only finalist.

"Once a contract, including salary and start date, is finalized, the board will vote once more to complete the hire," the Seattle district said in a statement announcing the decision. The next scheduled Seattle school board meeting is Nov. 19.

The Lansing School District has a regular board meeting scheduled for Nov. 20. A special Nov. 20 board meeting, intended to start Shuldin-

er's routine self-evaluation process, has been cancelled. Shuldiner's 2025-2026 salary is \$265,000, Gilding said.

First Deputy Superintendent Jessica Benavides is the next-in-line at the school district, Gilding said.

He said the school board would make any decisions about interim or permanent replacements and will detail the next steps.

The Lansing School District's Board of Education is beginning plans to transition to an interim leadership and start a superintendent search, according to a statement.

"The district remains focused on maintaining high educational standards and supporting students, staff and the community as we move forward in selecting the next superintendent," the board said, in a statement.

Shuldiner has led the district since 2021. In the last year, he has been named as a finalist for superintendent jobs near Las Vegas and Louisville, Kentucky.

The Lansing School District has more than 10,000 students, Seattle has around 50,000.

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held at City Hall, Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers located at 124 W. Michigan Avenue, on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public input for the 2026-2030 Parks 5-Year Master Plan.

For more information, please call Parks and Recreation Department 517-483-4277. These documents are available for review at the City Clerk's Office or at any of the community centers listed below during regular office hours.

Foster Community Center: 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
Gier Community Center: 2400 Hall St., Lansing, MI 48906
Schmidt Community Center: 5825 Wise Rd., Lansing, MI 48911
Letts Community Center: 1220 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915

The draft plan is also available online at www.lansingmi.gov/clerk under the heading of Documents Placed on File.

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., the day of the hearing, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
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CP#25-367

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Pursuant to Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act), the Williamstown Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at its regular meeting on **Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** at the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, Michigan 48895.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comments on amendments to Section 4.01, subsection (F)(1)(c), of the Zoning Ordinance, which regulates where recreational vehicles may be parked on residentially used property. The proposed amendments, if adopted, would limit the applicability of the regulations to only residential subdivisions and site condominiums. Furthermore, the amendments would clarify the required setbacks for recreational vehicles on corner lots.

A complete copy of the proposed amendments may be examined at the Township Hall during regular business hours, Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Wednesday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Interested persons are invited to attend the public hearing or submit written comments to the Planning Commission at the address noted above.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Township Clerk

Individuals needing special services to fully participate in the meeting may contact the Township Office at (517) 655-3193 at least 5 days prior to the meeting to request necessary assistance.

CP#25-362

Bill would let tenants pay their own water bills if desired

By **FINN MILLS**
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

LANSING — A state House bill would require property owners to transfer water bills to tenants' names upon request.

The bill would ensure tenants can pay their water bills if the property owner fails to pay them on time, according to lead sponsor Rep. Jimmie Wilson Jr., D-Detroit.

"Reliable and safe access to water in Michigan homes is essential," Wil-

son said.

In past years, tenants in Detroit and other Michigan cities have lost access to water in their homes despite continuing to pay rent, simply because the homeowners failed to pay the water bills, he said.

Wilson noted one instance in which tenants in a Detroit duplex were left without running water for several weeks in 2024 because their property owner hadn't paid their water bill since 2020.

The latest U.S. Census Bureau data shows that Detroit's poverty rate in 2024 was 34.5%, an increase from 31.9% a year earlier.

Some property owners and other utility managers have claimed that their systems don't allow them to transfer water bills over to tenants' names, according to co-sponsor Rep. Natalie Price, D-Berkley.

In other Midwest states, though, such as Indiana, it is possible for a property owner to legally transfer

water bills to tenants' names, Price noted.

This bill has 16 sponsors, all of whom are Democrats, including Penelope Tsernoglou of East Lansing, Kara Hope of Holt, Carrie Rheingans of Ann Arbor and Dylan Wegehli of Garden City.

It's part of a larger package of legislation titled the Affordable Water Now Package.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Regulatory Reform.

Be it resolved? From ceremonial to political, a look at Michigan lawmakers' resolutions

By **ERIC FREEDMAN**
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

LANSING — From a proposed cigar bar at Detroit Metropolitan Airport to the ill-fated t.S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, from presidential impeachment to Michigan's automobile heritage, lawmakers have been opining, congratulating, commemorating, posturing, praising, chiding and deriding — all in the form of resolutions.

Among them, senators condemned "political violence in all forms, regardless of political party or ideology" in a resolution from Winnie Brinks, D-Grand Rapids, and memorialized the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald in Lake Superior with a resolution from Sen. John Damoose, R-Harbor Springs.

Resolutions are not binding laws. Rather, they merely express the sentiments of the Legislature or deal with internal operations of the Senate and House.

So far this year, representatives have introduced more than 200 resolutions and senators more than 80.

Add to that more than 20 joint resolutions, including proposals to amend the Michigan Constitution to eliminate the State Board of Education and to immediately remove from office public employees and officials convicted of felonies.

Many resolutions are commemorative, introduced at the behest of constituents and adopted unanimously.

This year's calendar dates include Scottish-American Heritage Month, Patriots' Day, Community College Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Great Outdoors Month, and National Flag Week.

Some noncontroversial resolutions highlight health issues, such as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week,

Black Maternal Health Week, Brain Cancer Awareness Day and Autism Awareness Week.

Even health can be controversial, however.

A House resolution now stuck in committee would call on the Wayne County Airport Authority to drop plans for a cigar bar, calling it a health risk. The resolution from Rep. Stephanie Young, D-Detroit, highlights the risks of second-hand smoke and says the facility would require an exemption from the state's smoke-free air law prohibiting indoor smoking.

Partisan political screeds also appear in both the GOP-led House and the Democratic-led Senate.

For example, Democrats led by Rep. Noah Arbit of West Bloomfield sponsored a resolution "to urge the Trump-Vance Administration to cease and desist from their radical policies of state socialism, including the partial nationalization of Intel Corp., and encourage the federal government to refrain from any further nationalization of private corporations, so that free market capitalism may flourish in Michigan."

It's stuck in a Republican-dominated committee, as is one from Rep. Dylan Wegera, D-Garden City, urging the U.S. House of Representatives to impeach President Donald Trump for the "high crimes and misdemeanors of repeatedly undermining the Constitution."

From the other side of the aisle, the House adopted one by Rep. Brian BeGole of Perry commending the president for "his leadership and accomplishments during his first 100 days in office, recognize the positive impact of his actions on Michigan and the nation, and extend to him our gratitude and best wishes for continued success."

Often, resolutions urge other gov-

ernmental units, such as federal and local agencies, to take a particular action that's outside the Legislature's authority.

Among them, House Republicans successfully pushed a resolution from Rep. Josh Schriver of Oxford, urging county sheriffs and local police to sign agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement "to enhance immigration enforcement and public safety."

Another one from Rep. Jason

Woolford, R-Howell, would ask the U.S. Armed Forces "to expand the use of medical waivers for recruits with food allergies, including allergies to peanuts." It's mired in committee.

And Rep. Gregory Markkanen, R-Hancock, wants the federal government to buy the former Ojibway Correctional Facility in Gogebic County and "turn it into a detention and deportation center for Immigration and Customs Enforcement." The state closed the prison in 2018.



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Saturday 10-4

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Ten Pound Fiddle Concert featuring folk musician Chris Walz!

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Veterans Day reminds us what service means

By **MATT MAASDAM, NAVY SEAL, VETERAN AND MI-07 CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE**

On Veterans Day, I want to say thank you to all the veterans who have served our country. The United States is safe today because you put the country over yourself, and I want you to know how much America appreciates your service.

Today, I'm reminded of when I met with Vietnam veterans at the local VFW in Brighton. Many from that crowd don't speak much about their service; neither their time in-country nor their homecoming was easy. But they still show up for their communities, and they need to know their country is so proud of them.

Decades after they served, I raised my right hand and swore an oath to defend the Constitution. I became a Navy SEAL, served under presidents of both parties, and deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and the Pacific. And in all those years, none of my buddies ever asked what political party I belonged to. What mattered was the mission and the team beside me.

In the SEAL Teams, we have a saying: Team, platoon, buddy, self. That's the order of what matters. Every role – the mechanic who fixes the vehicles, the logistician who makes sure we have the right gear, the cooks who keep us fed and healthy – is just as important as the next to keep the team functioning. You can have the best-trained combat soldier in the world, but the mission fails if even one link in that chain breaks.

That team-first mindset is exactly what's missing in Washington today.

Too many leaders serve their party, their donors, or themselves instead of the American people. Politicians use their power to reward their friends rather than solve problems. Members of Congress chase headlines instead of results. They've forgotten who they're there to serve: the American people.

In the military, you don't get to pick your team. You show up, put the mission first, and get to work. That's how the government should operate, too. When the overwhelming majority of Americans say costs, and in particular health care costs, are crushing them, our leaders should listen and act. That's not partisan; that's pure service.

Service doesn't end when the uniform comes off. I've seen veterans come home and keep serving – as teachers, small-business owners, coaches, and community volunteers. My wife, Laura, was a Navy helicopter pilot; we met during POW survival training. We're trying to raise our two boys with that same spirit of service,

with a heavy helping of grit and teamwork.

For me, my service continues by running for Congress in Michigan's 7th District. Our country needs leaders who will put duty to the American people over politics, country over personal ambition, and teamwork over finger pointing. We need to find a way to get shit done.

This Veterans Day, I'm grateful to everyone who answered America's call. The mission isn't over, it's just changed. Our country still needs us to listen, lead with integrity, to put the team first, and to continue building a nation worthy of the oath we swore to defend.



Matt Maasdam in Afghanistan in 2003



Matt Maasdam photographed by Raymond Holt for City Pulse

2025

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ROUND!

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

In re: Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property

Case No. 25- 5771- CH
Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina

Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.
Attorneys for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Chad J. Devries, Estate of Michael J. Mandeville, Wesley Patrick Mandeville, Kevin Patrick Mandeville, Denice M. Ballard, Estate of Tamara D. Hicks-Syron, Todd Hicks, and all persons having an interest in the subject properties listed in Exhibit A

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property shall be held before the Honorable Rosemarie E. Aquilina, Ingham County Circuit Judge, at the Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

This Notice pertains to the real property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, as set forth in Exhibit A.

Notice of Pending Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure Action (Form 4329) for each of the subject properties was recorded with the Ingham County Register of Deeds on October 22, 2025

Judgment of the Court after this hearing may result in title to the property vesting in the Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority, 3024 N. Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906 – Telephone (517) 267-5221.

Any persons with information regarding the owner or prior owner of the subject properties are requested to contact the Land Bank.

Any rights of redemption and any ownership interest in the subject properties may be extinguished by the judgment of the Court.

Any person with a property interest in the subject properties may lose his or her interest, if any, as a result of the quiet title and foreclosure hearing.

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE INGHAM COUNTY LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AND IS SUBJECT TO AN EXPEDITED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. PERSONS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRIOR OWNER OF THE PROPERTY ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AT 3024 N. TURNER ST., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906, TELEPHONE (517) 267-5221.

Respectfully submitted,
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.

Date: October 23, 2025

/s/ Timothy M. Perrone

Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
Attorney for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

EXHIBIT A

Individual parcels of property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, legally described as:

1. North 30.55 feet, Lot 130, Torrance Farm Addition, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-21-484-095
Commonly known as 1814 Bailey St., Lansing, MI 48910
2. Lot 5, Block 6, Manufacturer's Addition No. 2, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Liber 5 of Plats, Page 45, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-22-129-131
Commonly known as 1239 Climax St., Lansing, MI 48912
3. East 97.5 feet, Lot 21, Block 9, Manufacturer's Addition No. 2, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-22-131-211
Commonly known as 1006 Parker St., Lansing, MI 48912

CP#25-359

In the matter of Walter LaVerne Eschtruth, deceased; TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:* and creditors (known and unknown) whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE:* The Settlor, Walter LaVerne Eschtruth (dob 11/06/1939) who lived at 111680 Millstone Drive, Oneida Township, MI 48837 died on Oct. 15, 2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against Walter LaVerne Eschtruth will be forever barred unless presented to Philip Eschtruth Harrison, Successor Co-Trustee of The Walter and Ann Eschtruth Trust No. 1, dated Oct. 31, 1989, at 222 Village Park Dr., Ashland, OR 97520, within four months after the date of publication, 11/12/2025. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Attorney: Benjamin L. Cwayna, P70266, 11973 Sweetwater Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Petitioner: Philip Eschtruth Harrison, 222 Village Park Dr., Ashland, OR 97520, 541-778-5354.

CP#25-366

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held 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 Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 654 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances Sections 654.02, 654.03, 654.05, 654.07, 654.08, 654.13, and 654.14 to establish that the City of Lansing's regulations regarding noise applies to all properties within the City, with limited exceptions, and to amend how such noise in the City is evaluated, by removing references to decibel levels and instead adopting a plainly audible standard at various distances depending on the time of day.

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

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

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

CP#25-363

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held 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 Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 294 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances Section 294.02 (k) to encourage the retention of the top official of the Fire Department and Police Department by extending eligibility for retirement service credits for those officials up to 30 years, and to correct internal cross-references without any substantive revisions.

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

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

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

CP#25-364

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Artworks break free from behind bars

By MARY CUSACK

People who have never been inside a prison might imagine that life inside is a daily fight for physical survival, like it is on shows like “Oz” or “The Mayor of Kingstown.” To be sure, violence does happen in carceral settings, but the critical battles are often not physical; rather, they are mental, emotional and spiritual.

Entitled “Bridging walls [-] different worlds,” the current exhibit at the LookOut Gallery at Michigan State University’s Residential College of Arts and Humanities (RCAH) is an opportunity for the outsider, everyone outside of incarceration, to experience prison life through the art and poetry created by people incarcerated in Michigan.

The exhibit combines the outreach efforts of several organizations and builds another bridge, this one between state rivals MSU and the University of Michigan. The Prison Creative Arts Project (PCAP), housed within U-M’s Residential College and under the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, began in 1990 with a single theatre workshop taught at a prison. PCAP itself is a bridge between two worlds, bringing college students and faculty into prisons for workshops in visual arts, writing, music and theatre.

PCAP also organizes the Annual Exhibition of Artists in Michigan Prisons, featuring hundreds of works by artists incarcerated within the Michigan Department of Corrections. Because of space limitations in prison cells, incarcerated artists are typically not allowed to keep their works for long. Most artists send their work home to

family or friends or sometimes donate it to criminal justice reform non-profits for fundraisers. Some of the work is donated to PCAP. The work presented at the LookOut Gallery was curated by MSU faculty members Steve Baibak and David McCarthy and three students from RCAH using the PCAP archives.

The limitations imposed on incar-



Photo by Steve Baibak

Doc Collison’s “Upon Pain of Imprisonment” artwork.

cerated artists push their imagination and creativity. Many incarcerated artists begin their practice copying from photographs, and often they create photorealistic drawings. As with any artist, technical skill is only one aspect of creating art. Artists must develop a voice and message as their ideas mature, and incarcerated people have some serious messages to deliver. The RCAH exhibit is a perfect showcase for those messages, where important themes emerge.

One powerful theme is the fear associated with reentering society.

Those who have served long sentences are keenly aware that the world has changed incredibly, and they often feel woefully unprepared for the modern world. Artist John-

nie Trice’s piece “My Journey Parts I & II” shows a figure, presumably the artist, in a cityscape circa 1989, walking past a thriving K-Mart and Sears as he heads toward prison. The accompanying panel shows him exiting the prison, surrounded by empty storefronts covered in graffiti, with only the golden arches of McDonald’s to welcome him home. With businesses replaced



Mary Cusack for City Pulse

Johnnie Trice’s “My Journey” speaks to the passage of time behind bars.

by online shopping and pay phones replaced by cell phones, returning citizens are at a disadvantage when shopping and communicating without help from others.

Trice’s faceless figure is alone.

Baibak noticed another theme: the artist as superhero. “I feel like anything I say is just assuming, but I feel like superheroes save, maybe they’re saving themselves. Maybe they’re saving a version of themselves. Maybe they’re trying to get a message out, maybe it’s about goodness.”

Perhaps the most prevalent theme is freedom, of escaping the prison environment or breaking the bonds of incarceration. These ideations don’t pose security risks, as these escapes are mental or emotional rather than physical. Images in this show vary from a painting showing three men in prison garb flying joyfully over the walls of a prison to a man in a brick tunnel walking toward a light, shedding his prison uniform as he strides forward.

Participating artist Uri Scharfenstein said freedom is a common theme, and his installation “Cellblock Works” illustrates the practical application of art as a symbol of freedom. Scharfenstein has essentially framed two of his paintings with an almost life-sized charcoal recreation of his cell drawn on the walls of the gallery. A landscape watercolor is placed where he had it in his real cell, in a window partially blocking out his view of razor wire.

The idea to recreate the cell was Baibak’s idea.

“Steve said, ‘Your watercolor would be so much more impactful, and people would see what you saw,’” Scharfenstein said.



Mary Cusack for City Pulse

A life-size artistic replica of a prison cell, this display was used to highlight incarcerated art as it would appear to the artist.

The piece also shows Scharfenstein’s sense of humor. On the window ledge sits his “pet” squirrel and the jar of peanut butter he would feed it. His coffee mug sits on the ledge as well, marked “URI Drink Your Own Coffee,” a warning to his bunkie to leave his mug alone.

Scharfenstein has been home for six years, but still remembers keenly the value of art to incarcerated people.

“It takes you from chaos to peace,” he said, “It saves lives.”

Scharfenstein said all art saves, from the visual arts to music to theatre programs.

Other work highlighted in this ex-

See Different worlds, page 13

Different worlds

from page 12

hibit includes poems.

Guillermo Delgado, an academic specialist at RCAH, has led creative workshops in carceral settings since 2014. Showcased in this exhibit are poems created by men incarcerated at the Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia. The writers drafted odes to any number of subjects, and Delgado's research assistant Elena Forman worked with the writers to design the broadsheets hanging in the gallery. The subject of these odes may seem mundane to outsiders, but to incarcerated people, items like headphones, keyboards and paint can offer freedom, escape and peace.

Delgado's writers also participated in a poetry slam, with enlarged versions of their scripts on display. The slam poetry exudes a more visceral energy than the odes, together covering the spectrum from chaos to peace. Hanging next to the poems are the certificates of participation that the writers earned. This may seem a mundane addition to the exhibit, but it matters. Because incarcerated people

are allowed so few possessions, a simple certificate is a powerful validation of achievement to those on the inside.

An exhibit in the hallway outside the LookOut Gallery is a bridge to another carceral world, the Ingham County Youth Center. Volunteer students from RCAH and the Creative Collaboration with Incarcerated Youth worked with incarcerated youth to create joyful, hopeful silhouettes. The volunteers brought in props such as hats and a giant foam hand, turned bright lights on the artists, and let them draw silhouettes of each other. The volunteers brought the papers back to campus to cut them out because no scissors are allowed in the facility.

"Scene in Silhouette, Seen in Silhouette" illustrates that in their most basic form, these youth look just like any kids.

Taken as a whole experience, the two exhibits remind us that while we live in different worlds, the desire to create is an essential part of what it means to be human. These works of art are proof positive that people on the inside are no less human than those on the outside.

They want to be seen, heard, understood and loved.

INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

101 S. MAIN PROJECT, Located at 101 S. MAIN STREET, LESLIE, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF A BROWNFIELD PLAN FOR THE COUNTY OF INGHAM PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN OF 1996, AS AMENDED.

Please take notice that a Public Hearing shall be held before the Ingham County Board of Commissioners on the 25th day of November at 6:30 p.m., held in person at the Historic Mason Court House, 341 S Jefferson St, Mason MI with additional virtual access and information available at Board of Commissioners Meeting Page. The Public hearing will be held on the adoption of a Brownfield Plan for 101 S. Main Project located at 101 S. Main St, Leslie, Michigan. The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority shall exercise its powers pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The description of the proposed brownfield property is:

Land situated in the city of Leslie, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, described as follows:

0.15 Acres consisting of parcel no 33-17-14-28-202-001, located at 101 S. Main Street, Leslie, MI.

The proposed brownfield plan would allow the Owner/Developer, Mr. Robert Howe Jr., to be reimbursed for eligible costs incurred to prepare the brownfield property for redevelopment. Eligible costs may include environmental and/or site preparation costs. The final approval will take place during the Ingham County Board of Commissioners meeting to be held **November 25, 2025**.

This description of the property along with any maps and a description of the Brownfield Plan are available for public inspection virtually at <https://www.purelansing.com/community-opportunities/ingham-county/> or by contacting Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) staff at 517.599.0198 or richard@purelansing.com.

All aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing.

For more information contact Richard Enty, contracted Lansing Economic Area Partnership staff, at 517.599.0198 or richard@purelansing.com.

CP#25-365



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Congressional candidate Will Lawrence staged a food drive for about 36 hours outside the Lansing office of U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, a Charlotte Republican, on Oct. 31. He collected more than \$2,000, which was split between food banks and his campaign.

How will Lawrence win a congressional seat?

By KYLE MELINN

The standard political response during the nation's longest federal government shutdown?

Your standard rhetorical game.

(Insert Democrat here) accused (insert Republican here) of starving Americans to prove a political point.

(Insert Republican here) pinned the entire shutdown on (insert Democrat here) for voting against another continuation budget (insert number here?).

Will Lawrence didn't play the standard Mad Lib game. Then again, Will Lawrence isn't your standard political candidate either.

Lawrence's quest for the 7th Congressional District led him to pop a squat outside of incumbent U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett's Lansing office at the corner of Walnut and Ottawa across the street from the state Capitol starting on Oct. 30.

That's where he stayed for 36 hours.



Will Lawrence talks with supporters during his impromptu food drive on Oct. 31.

Photos by Raymond Holt
for City Pulse

Collecting food for
the hungry.
Greeting well wishers.

Talking to passers-by.
Sleeping on the lava rocks covering
the curb strip at the corner of Walnut

and Ottawa.

Dressed in three coats, running off coffee and packaged snacks, Lawrence was doing something, in his mind. If Barrett and the Republicans were fine with a shutdown that let Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients go without their entire monthly allotment, Lawrence figured he'd at least raise some bucks and get some food for the food banks to help those in need.

He raised more than \$2,185 – 60 percent to the food bank, 40 percent to the congressional campaign – and boxes and boxes of food. And another \$285 in cash just for the food banks.

"If we all do only what we're supposed to do, then we can guarantee that the downward spiral will continue. That's what the status quo is now," Lawrence said. "Any way that we can express the urgency that we feel and the passion that we feel for caring for people who are in need, as people are

See Lawrence, page 15

SILVER BELLS WATCH PARTY

5:30 p.m. • Nov. 21 • Downtown Campus • RSVP at lcc.edu/silverbells



Lawrence

from page 14

getting squeezed and becoming poor right before our eyes, we got to do.”

It was all just a gimmick, right? An attention ploy?

Here's a 35-year-old, hometown, lightly-funded congressional candidate trying to draw himself a headline.

He'll take whatever he can get.

He's running against two well-heeled primary opponents with D.C. consultants making it rain all over the country. One is the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. The other is a former U.S. Navy SEAL who carried the “atomic football” for President Barack Obama.

You could easily make those arguments.

But it's probably more accurate to say that sit-ins or lengthy demonstrations are in Will Lawrence's universe.

Lawrence is not a candidate who looks and sounds like something straight out of central casting. He's an activist. He fires people up over high rent, low affordable housing stock and renewable energy.

That's what he did with MI Rent is Too Damn High, the Mid-Michigan Tenant Resource Center, the Green New Deal Network and the Sunrise Movement.

He's more comfortable with a megaphone than a microphone.

Since graduating from East Lansing High School in 2008, Lawrence has gravitated toward jobs and opportunities that advance a cause. He's been a cog in the wheel, trying to solve problems larger than himself.

That's how he sees himself in this race.

“This is so much bigger than one election,” Lawrence told supporters last week. “I couldn't stand before you as an organizer, as somebody who spent my life building movements ... and tell you that campaigning for me and winning one election is going to solve all our problems, because it obviously is not.”



Will Lawrence

That's what drew Sam Inglot to the campaign. For the past 12 years, Inglot advanced progressive causes for Progress Michigan, most recently as its executive director.

This past summer, while transitioning out of that role, Inglot was tapped on the shoulder to run Lawrence's congressional campaign.

It wasn't your traditional pick for a campaign manager. Inglot doesn't come from the political campaign world, per se.

Unlike most people who run a congressional campaign (especially a serious one in a politically competitive district like MI-7), Inglot hasn't bounced around the country. He's not a single guy making his career switching horses every two years.

Inglot is a 35-year-old Lansing guy, too, living in the area his entire adult life, now with a wife and young daughter.

Like Lawrence, he's a true believer. He said he's tired of the “corporate oligarchs” running the show, Washington, D.C. dictating to mid-Michigan



Will Lawrence speaks to a supporter during his outdoor food drive.

what type of person should represent them.

For Inglot, it's time for a genuine servant of the people to rise to represent this area.

“I could probably name on one hand the number of people who I'd drop everything for and do something like this for,” Inglot said. “Will is one of those people.”

He's not the only one feeling inspired. Far from it.

Despite being the last of four Democrats to announce campaigns in this district, Lawrence was the first to turn into the Bureau of Election the signatures needed to qualify for the August 2026 primary ballot.

By law, Lawrence needs to turn in at least 1,000 and no more than 2,000 valid signatures by 4 p.m. on April 21, 2026. He turned in 2,000 on Oct. 28, 2025.

All of the signatures were collected in six weeks by 7th District residents and zero from a paid petition circulator company, according to the campaign. A few circulators were paid if they sacrificed shifts at work or otherwise needed the money to make ends meet.

Otherwise, 90 percent of the names came from volunteers, according to the campaign.

On Nov. 5, a few days after his outdoor food drive, around 60 people milled around Lansing's Central United Methodist Church's main gathering space, ready to take the next step with the Lawrence campaign.

“Who here signed a nominating petition to help me get on the ballot?” Lawrence asked the gathering. Every hand shot up.

“Who here has donated to the campaign?” he asked again. At least two-thirds of the hands went up.

“Who here has hosted a house party or a meet and greet or some other opportunity to meet people?” Lawrence asked. A smattering of five or six people raised their hands. Everyone clapped.

The point of the headcount was to lay the foundation for how Lawrence's congressional campaign was going to work.

First, he said he's in the race to win.

Second, he knows he's not going to win going dollar for dollar with the presumed frontrunners: Navy SEAL

See Lawrence, Page 18



Will Lawrence speaks to supporters during a food drive outside the Lansing office of U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Charlotte.



Lawrence supporters chalking the sidewalk near Barrett's office.

The lessons

'If I can help even one person feel less alone and wrestling and hoping

I've come to understand something quiet but powerful about my life: I am living a relatively fulfilled one, and that fulfillment comes from gratitude. Not the kind people post about online for a burst of applause, but the kind that feels like a warm current running under your day. I owe much of that to the people who came before me, the ones who carved out bits of a better world so the rest of us could stand a little taller. Their work whispers through time, and I hear it. Becoming a better person isn't my attempt to earn points toward heaven or dodge some fiery ending. I do it because it feels right, and because being selfless is its own quiet reward.

There are days when my mind drifts toward the suffering scattered across the world, and that weight settles on my shoulders. But I don't resent it. That awareness keeps my feet pressed into the ground. It reminds me how lucky I am and how urgently others need a break, a chance, or even just a moment of kindness. And every day, I see that thread of kindness running through ordinary people around me. I see it in small gestures that don't chase clout or likes or some algorithm's blessing. People help one another simply because they understand that life is fragile and every one of us is carrying something unseen. When people see my acts of kindness, or when I catch theirs, it forms a tiny bridge between two strangers. Those moments tell me that the world, for all its storms, still has steady hands holding it together.

I try to be one of those hands. At work, in public, or in the passing minutes that make up a day, I want to be a person who lifts the temperature of a room just by being in it. Not because I expect a payoff, and not because I'm flawless, but because my children deserve to inherit a world I tried my best to improve. I'm always trying to grow into someone better.

Sometimes, though, it feels like I'm pushing against a tidal wave. Our country is in rough shape, and giving up could look tempting if it didn't feel like surrendering my own spine. But resignation serves no purpose. We need one another, and we always have. I didn't walk this path alone, and anyone who thinks they did is fooling themselves. There has always been someone in my orbit who nudged me forward, even when I wasn't looking.

I hope my words can serve as that nudge for anyone who needs it. Many days feel impossible, but you matter to someone, even if you don't see it yet. You deserve to feel joy without apologizing for it. I believe in humankind even when the news begs me not to. We don't always see eye to eye, but truth has a way of cutting through the fog. If you live yours, you might shift someone's perspective without realizing it.

What baffles me is how easily some people cast those like me as enemies, as if caring about our neighbors and our planet is an act of treason. I don't want harm for anyone. I only wish more of our neighbors could understand where we're coming from instead of writing us off as tree-hugging freeloaders bent on ruining the country. That kind of caricature blocks out the real story: The struggles of today are braided tightly with the struggles of yesterday. If I'm an enemy for wanting progress, then people would have to toss writers like James Baldwin and Gloria Jean Watkins (better known by her pen name, bell hooks) into that same pile, because their courage and clarity helped shape my own understanding of the world and my place in it.

It's strange and embarrassing that every step forward seems to come with a chorus of voices terrified of a United States that reflects the cultures that already live here. We could be building

something better together, but fear keeps some people locked in older versions of the country. And so, I return to a question that's hung in the air for decades, offered by Rodney King in a moment of national pain: "Can't we all just get along?" Maybe it sounds simple, but sometimes the truth is simple. We don't have to agree on everything. But if we meet one another with curiosity instead of suspicion, if we reach for kindness instead of contempt, we might finally build the kind of world all those before us we are trying to hand down.

And maybe, just maybe, we'd realize that the enemy we've been searching for is not each other, but the fear that keeps us from seeing one another clearly.

But fear doesn't let go easily. It clings like smoke to old curtains, refusing to leave even when the windows are wide open. I think about Baldwin a lot when I see that fear. He warned us that not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. And here we are, still circling the same truths he named half a century ago, trying to pretend they aren't staring right at us. Some folks keep arguing that talking about inequality somehow creates division, as if the cracks didn't already exist long before anyone dared to point at them. They want the comfort of silence without the responsibility of understanding.

I won't pretend I have all the answers. I'm just someone trying to move through the world with my eyes open, even when the light stings. Gratitude taught me that growth often feels like discomfort wearing a new coat. You sit with it anyway. You keep learning. You keep trying to see people as whole beings instead of characters in your personal drama. And maybe that's the real test of our time. Not whether we can shout our beliefs the loudest, but

ed Content

of Gratitude

in this mess of a world, then all this reaching
g will have been worth it.'

whether we can look directly at our history, bruises and all, and choose to move forward without turning on one another.

The older I get, the more I understand that progress is not a finish line we cross but a practice we keep. It's in the way we talk to strangers. It's in the way we show up for our communities. It's in the courage to say, "This isn't good enough" without slipping into despair. My gratitude doesn't cancel out my frustration. They live side by side like two stubborn tenants who refuse to move out. But together they push me to keep trying, to keep believing that the world is still bendable in the right direction.

And maybe that's the inheritance worth passing down. Not a perfect world. Not a neatly tied bow. But a torch. A reminder that the people who came before us carried it through storms much harder than the ones we know today, and they didn't keep it for themselves. They handed it off so the rest of us could see a little farther. If I can keep that flame steady for the people who come after me, if I can help even one person feel less alone in this mess of a world, then all this reaching and wrestling and hoping will have been worth it.

Because gratitude is only the beginning. The real work is choosing, every day, to push the world one inch closer to the justice our ancestors dreamed of, even when fear is screaming at us to stand still.

Right now, the same people who say folks like me are evil or un-American might be sitting at their kitchen tables confused and scared about where their next meal will come from. I can feel that pain too. Hunger does not check your voter registration before it lands on your doorstep. I don't want your fear used as a bargaining chip by the very people who promised to fight for you. I

may believe you were sold a story by a con man with a golden microphone, but I don't want you or your family to go without dinner. My compassion does not sort itself by party lines. It rises or falls with the humanity in front of me.

And if we could see one another that way, even for a moment, then maybe we could loosen the grip that fear has on all of us. Maybe we could build a country that doesn't require enemies to feel whole. A country where no one goes hungry just so someone in power can score a point. A country where we argue hard, care harder, and remember that our futures are tied together whether we like it or not.

I'm not wealthy. I'm not even especially successful. I'm just lucky. Lucky that a few things broke my way instead of against me. I'll never be a millionaire or anywhere close to it, and truthfully, I'm still much closer to falling through the cracks than I am to feeling secure. People like me, the regular folks trying to hold our lives together with hope and duct tape, deserve more from the people who claim to lead us. We deserve more than tax cuts for the well-connected and favors for their friends. We deserve leaders who

remember what it feels like to live one unexpected bill away from disaster, because that's where most of us actually live.

And being rich is not a sign of success at all. Some people are so poor all they have is money. I've lived the other side of that coin. I've been so broke I couldn't afford to pay attention, scraping by in a country that loves to call itself the wealthiest on Earth while leaving millions of its own citizens stuck in survival mode. In a place with this much abundance, people shouldn't be rationing insulin, skipping meals so their kids can eat, or choosing between rent and medicine.

When you deprive people of the bare essentials, you don't just strain their bodies. You shrink their sense of possibility. You push them into a corner where hope feels like a luxury item and anger is the only currency they have left. And once a society forces its people into that kind of desperation, it shouldn't be surprised when the cracks start to show, because no nation can call itself strong while its people are hanging by threads.

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TOP OF THE TOWN

WKAR

Lawrence

from page 15

Matt Maasdam and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink.

Third, his campaign is built on a community movement, a message of “real representation” that takes “political control away from the establishment and puts it back in the hands of the people.”

It’s like how Zohran Mamdani won in New York City.

Lawrence is looking for an army of volunteers to personally share his message. Lawrence wants the army of a few hundred people to show up at 100,000 doorsteps between now and Aug. 5 as opposed to blanketing WLNS and WILX airwaves with 30-second spots in June and July.

“This is the bar that we’re going to reach for,” Lawrence told the gathering. “It’s not going to happen overnight . . . but this is a race to win now, because we don’t have time to waste.”

He wasn’t asking them to stuff envelopes or stick fliers into storm door handles. He wants ambassadors. He wants people willing to talk to friends and neighbors about why electing a Lansing area guy, with progressive activism running through his veins, is the way to go.

Meanwhile, he’s vowing to raise \$1 million and take 100 canvassing shifts over the next nine months to make this happen. He’s not going to shy away from his platform.

It’s not an overly sanitized list of vague ideas work-grouped to reach a specific demographic.

Oh, no. This is a bible of progressive ideas, front and back.

- Make housing affordable with a federal tenant bill of rights to level the playing field between tenants and “price-gouging” landlords.

- Medicare for All, removing the profit motive from health insurers.

- End homelessness with a “Housing First” plan by pushing for more af-



Will Lawrence

fordable housing

- “Ending the ICE occupation of American cities and streets”

- Creating a “minimum wealth tax rate”

The other dozen platform positions are on his website, but you get the idea.

“There are consultants in D.C. who say that the way to win an election like this is not to talk to voters,” Lawrence told the gathering. “That’s how some of my opponents in the Democratic primary are campaigning. The consultants say, ‘Voters are like goldfish. They have short-term memories.’”

“They say, ‘All that matters is how many TV ads you can show them and how many mailers you can send them in the last four weeks of the election, so don’t bother talking to them for next year. Every minute you spend talking to a voter is a minute you’re not calling donors who do not even live in the district.’”

“Is there any wonder that it feels like we are not represented in D.C.?” Lawrence said. “It feels like our representatives represent D.C. to us and tell us all of the things that are impossible and

why our fundamental needs are unreasonable.

“Well, I refuse to campaign that way. The job is to represent the people of this district, and if I’m not talking to the voters, I will be less qualified to represent you.”

Lawrence had every person in the church out of their seat with his 20-minute speech. One table was signing up ambassadors. Another table was signing up leaders for other roles. Both were swarmed.

The canvassing training kicked off with folks like Rick Giennapp of Brighton signing up.

“It’s time to let a new generation take over, let them decide what they want it to look like,” Giennapp said.

Ingham County Commissioner Bob Peña was there, too.

“I like his freshness. He’s not doing anything for any party members. He’s just representing the people,” Peña said.

Among those leading the charge in recruiting volunteers was Curt Hamilton of rural Livingston County, where Democrats are few and far between.

Hamilton said he likes the other two Democrats in the race as well, but likes Lawrence’s seemingly unscripted passion for the issues.

“I feel like Will’s connection with people will resonate in our areas where we’re ignored,” he said.

What Lawrence is attempting to do in winning a nationally competitive seat that brought in \$40 million in TV and video spending is difficult. Some would say it’s impossible.

In 2023, former state Rep. Leslie Love, now a political consultant, made a long-shot bid for the U.S. Senate, hoping her personal and political connections would get the ball rolling on an organic campaign.

She dropped out three months before the filing deadline.

“Congressional races aren’t what they used to be,” Love said. “They are a money game. You have to pay to get into Congress. You could see greater voter turnout if that person has a repu-

tation for moving mass crowds, but it’s very unlikely. Money talks on the congressional level.”

Someone who knows a little something about Lansing-area politics is Randy Hannon, former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero’s right-hand man for years. He’s now with Bellwether Public Relations.

“Lawrence has a slim-to-none chance of winning the Dem primary against Maasdam and Bridget Brinks, both of whom will have boatloads of cash,” he said. “Lawrence will struggle to raise and spend enough money to elevate his name ID to a competitive level.”

But that’s not a unanimous belief. Outside of being a Michigan State University trustee, Dennis Denno has helped successful, primarily urban, candidates behind the scenes.

He said there’s no question that if Lawrence’s opponents split “traditional” Democratic voters and he can coalesce progressive voters, Lawrence has a path to win the primary.

“Running true grassroots campaigns requires a lot of work and a lot of time, but if done right, they can be extremely powerful,” he said. “And if Lawrence’s progressive message is about lowering costs, fair wages and affordable housing, he will be in a strong position to win the general.

“But if his progressive message leans on progressive social issues, he will be a dead man walking.”

MoReno Taylor, chief executive officer of the Taylor MADE Consulting Group, shared a similar analysis.

“There’s definitely a path to victory for candidates who authentically engage with the people of the district, address the issues and concerns important to them, and who voters believe will actually represent the working class,” Taylor said.

“Strategically, this is probably not the best time to be aligning yourself with D.C., even for the financial benefit.”



Lawrence addresses supporters and volunteers at a campaign event at Central United Methodist Church on Nov. 5.

Jim Harrison leaves behind legacy of adoration and admiration

By **BILL CASTANIER**

This is the final installment of a three-part story on Todd Goddard's biography of Jim Harrison, leading up to Goddard's appearance at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Library of Michigan. The event is free, and books will be available for purchase.

Joyce Bahle was involved in almost every decision about writer Jim Harrison's personal and professional life during the 47 years she spent as his trusted aide de camp.

In a recent post on his Facebook page, she said it was "kismet" that a new biography of Harrison was being released on Nov. 4, her 72nd birthday.

She said she worked with author Todd Goddard, guiding him through the Harrison archives at Grand Valley State University.

"I directed him a lot," she said.

She also smoothed the way for Goddard to talk with Harrison's legions of friends and business associates.

With her deep connections from a lifetime of working for Harrison, she said she was "able to open doors for" Goddard.

"Right away, Todd and I hit it off, and we were very close," she wrote. "I've thought to myself, Jim would like him."

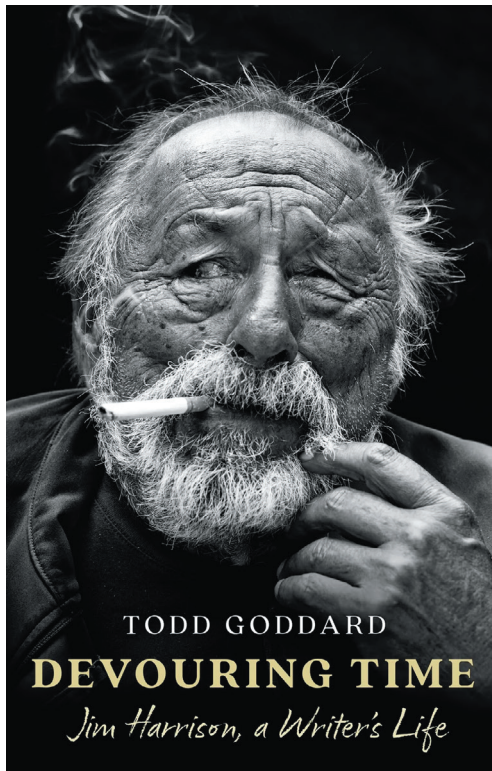
Goddard, Harrison's latest biographer, spent countless hours poring through the archives, and with Bahle's help, he interviewed more than 100 of Harrison's friends and associates.

The list reads like a litany of 20th-century authors and filmmakers, as well as personal friends of Harrison, who died in 2016.

One of his closest friends, someone Goddard wishes he could've talked to, is mega movie star Jack Nicholson. Nicholson and Harrison, a Michigan State University alumnus, first met on the set of the movie "The Missouri Breaks" in the mid-1970s.

Author and fellow MSU graduate Tom McGuane had written the movie script and invited a few of his pals, including Harrison, to join him on set in Montana. Harrison, in desperate financial straits, immediately hit it off with Nicholson. According to accounts, the actor "loaned" Harrison \$25,000. The money kept Harrison from what he considered the dreaded death of academia.

Nicholson and Harrison would go on to collaborate on several projects, including the actor's starring role in "Wolf," loosely based on Harrison's



TODD GODDARD
DEVOURING TIME
Jim Harrison, a Writer's Life

novel.

Goddard also would have loved to talk with Harrison's friend Russell Chatham, whose Western landscape art graced the covers of Harrison's books. Chatham died before Goddard began working on the biography.

Goddard's book is filled with charming stories of how easily Harrison made friends.

Harrison could be belly up to the bar at Beggar's Banquet in East Lansing (where this reviewer first met him in the '70s), and he would start up a conversation with the person next to him. Over a couple drinks, it was as if Harrison and a stranger were lifetime buddies.

In the last third of "Devouring Time," Goddard covers with sensitivity Harrison's declining health and the loss of his beloved spouse, Linda. During this time, Harrison's literary output slowed only slightly, and he continued publishing novels and poetry with regularity. He was even able to honor his alter ego, the beloved "Brown Dog," with a collection of stories in 2013.

Brown Dog was a sensual character who, despite many shortcomings, found ways to help the downtrodden. He was the epitome of an Upper Peninsula-proud woodsman. Harrison's fans loved him across five novellas.

Goddard describes how Harrison found poetry easier to write than novels toward the end, and how his poetry was often autobiographical. Goddard points to the epic poem "Hospital,"

penned by Harrison after an extended hospital stay. Who knew blood in the urine could be poetic?

Before his death, Harrison was excited to see his poetry continue to be published by Copper Canyon Press, and he worked closely with his editor, Joseph Bednarek, to shepherd the book "Dead Man's Float" to publication.

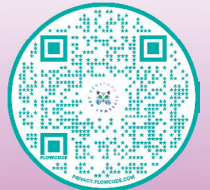
Goddard underlines one of Harrison's often-overlooked personal characteristics: generosity. When Bednarek and his spouse welcomed twins into their lives, Harrison sent them a check for \$2,000 and a note about how "they would need it now."

Harrison's good friend, author Richard Ford, sums up his legacy: "What was best and most interesting about Jim — to me — was he was decent, generous, extremely interested in entertaining people and pleasing them, and a memorable writer of sentences. It was a rare gift."

Goddard ends the biography where he should: with Harrison writing his final poem, which is included in a massive posthumous collection of his poetry.



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Clarity out of chaos

Lansing Symphony, Ray Chen dive into big-time Bruch and Bartók

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

A muscular whack of a bass drum jolted the Wharton Center audience to attention Friday night (Nov. 7) in the first second of Michigan State University composition Professor Zhou Tian's "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers." Tortured roars from the brass section unleashed a sonic dragon into the hall.

You were expecting maybe the overture from "The Magic Flute"?

A Chinese proverb says it takes a thousand years of prayer to bring about a good relationship, but who has that kind of time? Tian compressed this ancient idea, the basis for the piece, into about eight-and-a-half absorbing minutes.

The music's initial turbulence gradually gave way to harmonious tranquility, but it took some heavy lifting to carve out that serene space. A torrent of thoughts, dreams and fears ebbed and flowed, with the dragon of chaos always lurking at the margins. The buffeting was intense, but it didn't take long for the music to reveal its tender heart. By and by, a thick and lush string section poured out a gorgeous, yearning melody that dimmed to dusky hues and ended in stillness.

It's great to have locally based talents like Tian, whose music is appreciated around the world, to put a fresh perspective on the older masterworks that make up most of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's repertoire. Gradually distilling clarity from chaos, Tian's music proved to be a microcosm of the whole evening.

It was a classic demonstration of outgoing music director Timothy Muffitt's stealth teaching mode. You could hear the logic, follow the moving parts, and still be swept up in the storm. The more complicated the music became, the harder they worked to pull the focus and polish the lens.

To bring Max Bruch's First Violin Concerto to full blast, the orchestra brought a formidable gun, internationally celebrated violinist Ray Chen.

Even with 70-odd musicians crowding around him, Chen connected with the audience on an individual level. You knew he was giving a performance, but he didn't let you sit back and regard him from afar. He used everything, including body language and facial expressions, to lock you into the moment. Emotionally, Chen was all over the place, now grimacing, now smiling, now relishing

the orchestral riots he incited, like a kid dropping a water balloon and watching it smack passers-by. It was almost unsettling to watch him shift from light frolicking to rock-style shredding.

His fiddling, however, was as centered as it could be. Every note, however fleeting, hit the bullseye. The high register was honey, the low register was chocolate, and everything in between was red, red wine.

Chen got a rare triple standing ovation for his exertions. To ice the cake, he played an excerpt from a remarkable sonata by Belgian composer Eugène Ysaÿe that seized upon Baroque bits of Bach and tore them open like settee cushions. Ysaÿe's bifurcated, bipolar oscillations, embodied by Chen's "Obsession" (his name for the piece), played right into the chaos-and-clarity theme of the evening.

Without said clarity and precision, Béla Bartók's mosaic-like Concerto for Orchestra can come off as a mess, a series of seemingly arbitrary gestures. 20th-century orchestral music moved into strange new realms of self-parody, sarcasm and bitter tragedy, side by side with the triumphal and optimistic material the orchestra was expected to produce.

Muffitt and the orchestra etched it all in glass and steel, laying out Bartók's musical mosaic in all its rich ambivalence.

Ominous soundings from the double basses and mysterious flutterings from the woodwinds quickly escalated into tense, angular outcries from the violins.

The music coalesced into sharply etched counterpoint, setting the stage for an epic tug of war between chaos and order, between violence and tranquility.

In the second movement, a muted fanfare in the brass section floated on a razor's edge between seriousness and mockery, followed by a completely earnest and noble horn benediction.

The third movement gradually materialized in a mysterious mist of harps and woodwinds, only to collapse in a massive outcry from all corners. The violin section corkscrewed higher and higher, like Icarus futilely trying to fly.

Muffitt and the musicians didn't try to smooth over the music's strange contradictions and non sequiturs. They seemed to delight in lulling you into relaxation in the fourth movement with playful, searching noodling and a luscious melo-

dy cushioned by two harps, knowing full well the idyll wouldn't last long.

In a musical landscape where sarcasm and parody jostle with earnest expressiveness, it's not so strange that Bartók took a minute to parody a fellow 20th-century composer, Dmitri Shostakovich. But this may be my only chance to go on record about this, so here goes: Bartók's ham-handed, cartoony parody of Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, complete with gratuitous trombone fart, is utterly lacking in class and crudely written to boot.

It wasn't the Lansing Symphony's fault. It's in the score, so they had to perpetuate this atrocity, and they did it with panache.

Unlike Bruch, Bartók's heart is not on his sleeve, although passages like that Shostakovich bit give you a good look at his spleen. Figuring out what he's up to is just part of the game. The last movement of the concerto is a stunning example of how to whip a stupendous, shuddering paroxysm out of absolutely

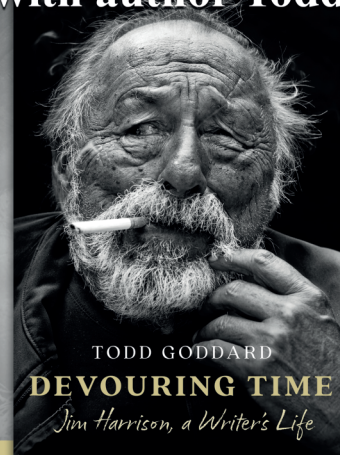


Photo by Emily Studer

Even with 70-odd musicians crowding around him at Friday's Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert, internationally celebrated violinist Ray Chen connected with the audience on an individual level.

nothing. The orchestra coursed like an All-American running back through this furious cavalcade of seesaw musical episodes, leaving questions of interpretation to the flattened and dazed listener.

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

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Despite slow start, ‘The Best We Could’ is an emotional gut punch

By MARY CUSACK

Don't say you weren't warned. In her debut, “The Best We Could (a family tragedy)” — being staged by Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. through Sunday — playwright Emily Feldman has crafted a timely, tragic story that, like many tragedies, one doesn't see coming.

Lou has recently lost his job as a research scientist. Then his beloved dog dies. His wife, Peg (Amy Rickett), manipulates their daughter, Ella (Sarah Hayner), into taking a cross-country trip with Lou to pick up a rescue dog. Along the way, Lou reconnects with his best friend and former colleague, Marc (David Dunckel), whose company has an open position that Lou desperately needs.

In late middle age, Lou is struggling to find his place in the contemporary workplace and the modern world. Near



Review

“The Best We Could (a family tragedy)”

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7 p.m. Thursday–Saturday
3 p.m. Saturday–Sunday
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
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the end of the road trip, he and Ella visit the family's first home as he tries to find comfort in the past. His desperation to connect with better times plays out painfully as he chats up the disinterested owner of the home. This poignant scene will hit home for anyone who has driven past their old homestead, school, or any other place that holds warm memories of better days.

Ella is also somewhat lost, a millennial who hasn't yet figured life out at age 36. She has quit most pursuits when they've become challenging, finally settling into a job as a chair yoga instructor. Her greatest achievement is creating an unpublished children's book on the value of giving up.

Fair warning, the story is a slow burn. At a lean 90 minutes, the first hour sets up the characters and relationships, but it seems to meander. There are many funny moments as Lou tries to share his

dad wisdom with Ella, but his enthusiasm for life becomes a bit cloying. Just when you start to wonder if this story is going anywhere, the first bombshell drops. From that point until the lights go down, the intensity escalates to the breathtaking finale.

As Maps, Shannon Bowen serves as a narrator, a stage director, a stagehand and an actor for several minor roles. Bowen is skilled at wrangling people and props flawlessly and is especially hilarious as the Zumba-obsessed Adele. In the very end, though, her role shifts to something dark. Not nefarious, not mean, not even judgmental, but unyielding as she directs the plot's outcome with a cold finality.

As Lou, Magnuson's goofy affectation seems like a bad case of overacting, but in the end, he commands the stage in a jaw-dropping moment of complete breakdown when, as Maps explains, “he can't reconcile a challenge to his status.”

Hayner excels as Ella, at times an annoyed adult child, a loving child and, in the end, a desperate child. Her desperation becomes the audience's desperation



Photo by Trumpie Photography

From left: Shannon Bowen, Sarah Hayner and Jeff Magnuson in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of “The Best We Could (a family tragedy).”

as all collectively wish for an outcome other than the one that is inevitable. To say more would spoil the drama.

“The Best We Could” addresses several key themes, including changing expectations of behavior between men and women across generations. The play offers no solutions for effectively resolving an uncomfortable situation; rather, it illustrates the collateral damage of a momentary lapse of judgment.

MSU's ‘Othello’ portrays pertinent dangers of lying and fearmongering

By MARY CUSACK

Picture an insecure leader, so singularly focused on retribution for a perceived wrong that he formulates a complex scheme of revenge and sows such deep mistrust among his people that they kill each other and put society in danger of collapse. Although that may also describe a certain contemporary, orange-skinned politician, this is William Shakespeare's Iago, villain of “Othello.”

“Othello” is an appropriate choice as part of the Michigan State University Department of Theatre's season of “Secrets & Spotlights.” Iago (Andrew Keller) is passed over for a promotion by Othello (Chisom Anwanah), who gives the job to Cassio (Hugh Waters). Iago schemes to make Othello believe his wife, Desdemona (Raleigh Belle Wine), is having an affair with Cassio.

Through lies and manipulation, Iago destroys Othello's psyche, leading to devastating consequences for almost everyone. Not only is the play based on secrets that destroy people's lives, but it

also shines a spotlight on current national issues.

Director Ji Won Jeon investigates societal fear in this production, and her choices show how the delivery of scripted language can highlight particular themes. In Jeon's notes, she explains she was interested in Othello's downfall as the product of anger and fear. His identity as a Moor — an outsider to Venetian society — is heightened through the delivery of the dialogue.

A successful production of “Othello” relies heavily upon a well-cast Iago, and Keller is outstanding.

He employs subtle changes in his posture and facial expressions, depending on his status. When engaging Othello, he is a wide-eyed supplicant, but in his conspiratorial monologues, he seethes and snakes. Those who sit stage right will get the full force of Keller's malice as he embraces Othello, eyes seeming to envision the psychic daggers he plunges into his comrade's back.

While not the strapping warrior one

typically pictures as Othello, Anwanah portrays him well. Anwanah handles the intense emotional moments with aplomb, especially when Iago plants his poisonous seeds and in the final standoff in the bedchamber.

As Desdemona, Wine exudes playfulness and affection when their relationship is good, a sparkle in her eye as she looks upon her beloved Othello. It is truly haunting when she sings “The Willow Song,” further enhanced by Brandon McDuff's sound design.

Ranae Selmeier's set is simple and sparse, with a two-story platform over a floor incorporating large, cracked rocks through which magma is emerging. As the deception intensifies, the magma glows brighter. Similarly, the lighting slowly becomes an angry red, and the sound effects become more ominous as the play races toward its tragic ending.

Another detail showing Othello's mental decay is his uniform. In the beginning, Othello is the picture of military excellence, buttoned down and trimmed up. As he slides toward rage and madness, he loses parts of his uniform and becomes increasingly disheveled.

Ryan Scott Long's costume designs are an important part of the play. The



Photo by Raymond Black Photography

Nick Torres (left) as Rodrigo and Andrew Keller as Iago in the MSU Department of Theatre's production of “Othello.”

male characters wear stiff, formal, modern uniforms, juxtaposed with Desdemona and Emilia's soft, flowing pieces. The women are almost out of place in this hard, dark, militaristic environment.

As with most Shakespearean plays, every production can offer new angles, interpretations and experiences.

This rendition of “Othello” shines a spotlight on how secrets and fear can destroy people.

Riverwalk's 'Little Women' mixes feminist themes with coming-of-age tale

By **DANA DEMINK**

Some might say “Little Women” was Louisa May Alcott’s little social rebellion. Alcott grew up in Concord, Massachusetts, with her famously transcendentalist parents, who regularly rubbed elbows with the likes of Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Although the 1868 novel has traditionally been considered “quiet reading” for young women, with its relatable tale of American family life, Alcott provides an alternative to Victorian gender norms through the (semi-autobiographical) character of Jo March and her friend Laurie (Theodore Laurence).

Playwright Kate Hamill’s retelling of this classic story sits squarely in between modern academic discourse — which views the novel through the lens of strong feminist themes with lesbian, non-binary and transgender interpretations — and a well-worn

coming-of-age story. This Jo wears pants at home, swears, whistles and swordfights. On the other hand, she’s also portrayed as self-pitying and impatient. As her family life evolves, she’s stubbornly locked in a childlike inertia, throwing petulant glances at the theater lights, stomping her foot and bemoaning how nothing meaningful is happening in her life. She knows she doesn’t want to embody society’s version of a virtuous woman, but she doesn’t know what kind of woman she really wants to be, and she intends to punish everyone until she figures it out.

Fan of the novel and movie adaptations that I am, I was ambivalent about Riverwalk Theatre’s production. While we’re told that Jo is adventurous, fiercely independent and self-guided, actress Anna Hill’s Jo seemed trepidatious and immature. While the homey set and the oval-shaped cameo at the top



Review

“Little Women”

Nov. 13-16
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

Anna Hill (left) as Jo March and Maria Berry as Meg March in Riverwalk Theatre’s production of “Little Women.”

of the stage gave this production a traditional feel, the overly loud ticking clock audio and Beth’s twirling fever dream/death sequence gave one scene in the play an out-of-place post-modern spin. It was as if this production wasn’t sure what it wanted to be.

Diction was an ever-present issue

on opening night, with three notable exceptions: Heath Sartorius’ Laurie, Sandra Thomasson’s Aunt March and Betsy Karinen’s Marmee, who were excellent in their roles. The line delivery improved, however, when actress Rachael Steffens’ Amy March matured into the (dislikeable) adult version of her character.

One has the sense that with another performance or two under their belt, this would all come together nicely. You can always rely on Riverwalk for high production value — its inventive set designs and costuming never disappoint. This production seemed to have an innumerable number of scene changes, but the set adjustments were very quick and seamlessly executed. If you’re in the mood for a relatable and emotionally engaging story about the importance of family and self-knowledge, this one might be for you.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Arthur and Jennifer Ronan, property owners of 1525 Stanlake Dr. The request is for a dimensional variance to exceed the maximum 25% front yard paving allowed by Section 50-816(3) in order to expand the driveway on the property.

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

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

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

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

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

Dated: November 6, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#25-361

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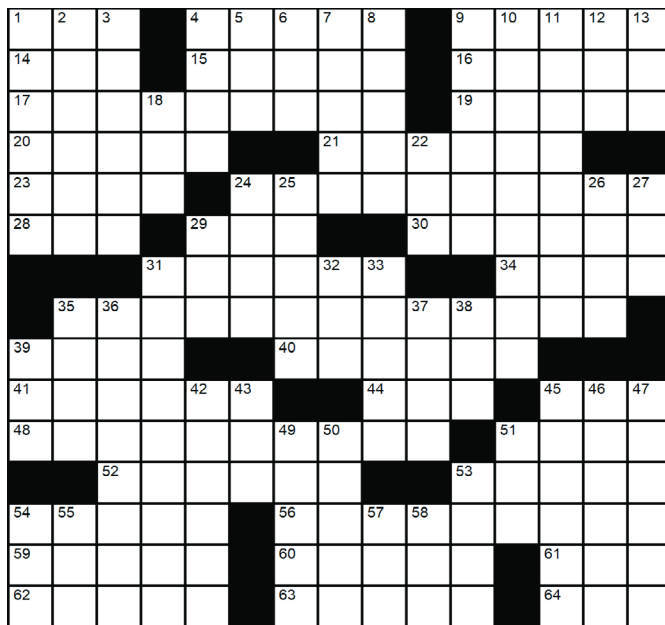
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Zoom Lens" -- people with the same initials.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Recede
- 4. Adjust to a new situation
- 9. Reach via jet
- 14. ___-Magnon (early Homo sapiens)
- 15. Opening
- 16. Hotel offerings
- 17. U.K. singer who left his boy band in 2015
- 19. Trooper maker
- 20. Digital party notice
- 21. Seafood in a "shooter"
- 23. Mosquito net material
- 24. He played Max Bialystock in "The Producers"
- 28. Volcanic debris
- 29. Election Day mo.
- 30. Repetitive Olympics chant
- 31. Bed covering
- 34. "You're born naked, and the rest is ___": RuPaul
- 35. New York City's mayor as of January 1, 2026
- 39. "Bob's Burgers" daughter
- 40. Pay rate
- 41. Disinclined (to)
- 44. Whatever number
- 45. Consumer protection gp.
- 48. Former Dallas Cowboys guard on the NFL 2010s All-Decade Team
- 51. Back
- 52. More keen
- 53. "Filthy" money
- 54. "WarGames" org.
- 56. Youngest of a set of comedied film



- brothers
 - 59. "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe" author Fannie
 - 60. "___ called to say I love you ..."
 - 61. 2018 Super Bowl number
 - 62. One-on-one student
 - 63. "Ghostbusters" actress Annie
 - 64. ___ Gala (annual NYC event)
- DOWN**
- 1. Dermatitis type
 - 2. Faces courageously
 - 3. Like some youthful charm
 - 4. "Je t' ___" ("I love you," in French)
 - 5. Lab evidence
 - 6. The NBA's Hawks, on a scoreboard
 - 7. Aforementioned
 - 8. Ginz's city
 - 9. Chips with a Chili
 - Cheese variety
 - 10. Crosses the International Date Line, perhaps
 - 11. "I've made my move"
 - 12. Celebrity gossip website
 - 13. Buckeyes' sch.
 - 18. Extreme degree
 - 22. Alma mater of Laura Bush, briefly
 - 24. Harlem Renaissance author ___ Neale Hurston
 - 25. Squares up
 - 26. "Caprica" actor Morales
 - 27. Fall behind
 - 29. "All Songs Considered" network
 - 31. Diver's enclosure
 - 32. Reddit Q&A feature
 - 33. Part of a Buddhist title
 - 35. "NCIS: Tony & ___" (2025 spinoff)
 - 36. Like some diamonds, sizewise
 - 37. "Death in Venice" author Thomas
 - 38. Not sweet, as wine
 - 39. "Space Jam" character, familiarly
 - 42. Mess up, as ink
 - 43. Part of MRE
 - 45. "Chill, will you?"
 - 46. "Peter Pan" author
 - 47. Portmanteau in 2016 U.K. news
 - 49. Close again
 - 50. Danny of "Machete"
 - 51. Mojito liquor
 - 53. A bunch
 - 54. Theoretically uncopyable piece of digital art, for short
 - 55. Jazz trumpeter/singer ___ Dara, Nas's father
 - 57. Stated
 - 58. Seattle hrs.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Nov. 12-18, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The Akan concept of "Sankofa" is represented by a bird looking backward while moving forward. The message is "go back and get it." You must retrieve wisdom from the past to move into the future. Forgetting where you came from doesn't liberate you; it orphans you. I encourage you to make Sankofa a prime meditation, Aries. The shape of your becoming must include the shape of your origin. You can't transcend what you haven't integrated. So, look back, retrieve what you left behind, and bring it forward.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to engage in strategic forgetting. It's the art of deliberately unlearning what you were taught about who you should be, what you should want, and how you should spend your precious life. Fact: Fanatical brand loyalty to yourself can be an act of self-sabotage. I suggest you fire yourself from your own expectations. Clock out from the job of being who you were yesterday. It's liberation time!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): We should all risk asking supposedly wrong questions. Doing so reminds us that truth and discovery often hide in the compost pile of our mistaken notions. A wrong question can help us shed tired assumptions, expose invisible taboos, and lure new insights out of hiding. By leaning into the awkward, we invite surprise, which may be a rich source of genuine learning. With that in mind, I invite you to ask the following: Why not? What if I fail spectacularly? What would I do if I weren't afraid of looking dumb? How can I make this weirder? What if the opposite were true? What if I said yes? What if I said no? What if this is all simpler than I'm making it? What if it's stranger than I can imagine?

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22): Cancerian novelist Octavia Butler said her stories were fueled by two obsessions: "Where will we be going?" and "How will we get there?" One critic praised this approach, saying she paid "serious attention to the way human beings actually work together and against each other." Other critics praised her "clear-headed and brutally unsentimental" explorations of "far-reaching issues of race, sex, power." She was a gritty visionary whose imagination was expansive and attention to detail meticulous. Let's make her your inspirational role model. Your future self is now leaning toward you, whispering previews and hints about paths still half-formed. You're being invited to be both a dreamer and builder, both a seer and strategist. Where are you going, and how will you get there?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The Tagalog language includes the word "kilig." It refers to the butterfly-in-the-stomach flutter when something momentous, romantic, or cute happens. I suspect kilig will be a featured experience for you in the coming weeks — if you make room for it. Please don't fill up every minute with mundane tasks and relentless worrying. Meditate on the truth that you deserve an influx of such blessings and must expand your consciousness to welcome their full arrival.

VIRGO (Aug.-Sept. 22): Your liver performs countless functions, including storing vitamins, synthesizing proteins, regulating blood sugar, filtering 1.5 quarts of blood per minute, and detoxifying metabolic wastes. It can regenerate itself from as little as 25% of its original tissue. It's your internal resurrection machine: proof that some damage is reversible, and some second chances come built in. Many cultures have regarded the liver not just as an organ, but as the seat of the soul and the source of passions. Some practice ritual purification ceremonies that honor the liver's pivotal role. In accordance with astrological omens, Virgo, I invite you to celebrate this central repository of your life energy. Regard it as an inspiring symbol of your ability to revitalize yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The pupils of your eyes aren't black. They are actually holes. Each pupil is an absence, a portal where light enters you and

becomes sight. Do you understand how amazing this is? You have two voids in your face through which the world pours itself into your nervous system. These crucial features are literally made of nothing. The voidness is key to your love of life. Everything I just said reframes emptiness not as loss or deficiency, but as a functioning joy. Without the pupils' hollowness, there is no color, no shape, no sunrise, no art. Likewise, in emotional life, our ability to be delighted depends on vulnerability. To feel wonder and curiosity is to let the world enter us, just as light enters the eye.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your dreams speak in images, not ideas. They bypass your rational defenses and tell the truth slantwise because the truth straight-on may be too bright to bear. The source of dreams, your unconscious, is fluent in a language that your waking mind may not be entirely adept at understanding: symbol, metaphor, and emotional logic. It tries to tell you things your conscious self refuses to hear. Are you listening? Or are you too busy being reasonable? The coming weeks will be a crucial time to tune in to messages from deep within you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The tour guide at the museum was describing the leisure habits of ancient Romans. "Each day's work was often completed by noon," he said. "For the remainder of the day, they indulged in amusement and pleasure. Over half of the calendar consisted of holidays." As I heard this cheerful news, my attention gravitated to you, Sagittarius. You probably can't permanently arrange your schedule to be like the Romans'. But you'll be wise to do so during the coming days. Do you dare to give yourself such abundant comfort and delight? Might you be bold enough to rebel against the daily drudgery to honor your soul's and body's cravings for relief and release?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The Zulu greeting "Sawubona" means "I see you." Not just "hello," but "I acknowledge your existence, your dignity, and your humanity." The response is Ngikhona: "I am here." In this exchange, people receive a respectful appreciation of the fact that they contain deeper truths below the surface level of their personality. This is the opposite of the Western world's default state of mutual invisibility. What if you greeted everyone like this, Capricorn — with an intention to bestow honor and recognition? I recommend that you try this experiment. It will spur others to treat you even better than they already do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18): Bear with me while I propose an outlandish-sounding theory: that you have enough of everything. Not eventually, not after the next achievement, but right now: You have all you need. What if enoughness is not a quantity but a quality of attention? What if enoughness isn't a perk you have to earn but a treasure you simply claim? In this way of thinking, you consider the possibility that the finish line keeps moving because you keep moving it. And now you will decide to stop doing that. You resolve to believe that this breath, this moment, and this gloriously imperfect life are enough, and the voice telling you it's not enough is selling something you don't need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The Inuit people have dozens of words for snow. The Scots have over 100 words for rain. Sanskrit is renowned for its detailed and nuanced vocabulary relating to love, tenderness, and spiritual bliss. According to some estimates, there are 96 different terms for various expressions of love, including the romantic and sensual kind, as well as compassion, friendship, devotion, and transcendence. I invite you to take an inventory of all the kinds of affection and care you experience. Now is an excellent phase to expand your understanding of these mysteries — and increase your capacity for giving and receiving them.

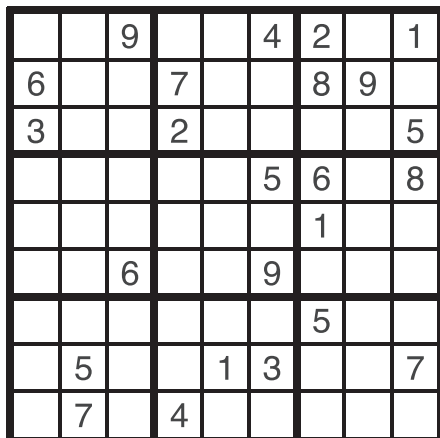
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

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Answers on page 28

SUDOKU

Advanced



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!

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, Nov. 12

28th East Lansing Film Festival - The world-class East Lansing Film Festival screens independent films you wouldn't get a chance to see at local theaters. 1-10:30 p.m. Studio C, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. eff.com.

131st Annual Dinner - The Ingham County Bar Association's annual dinner offers members an opportunity to gather and socialize, as well as honor some of the community's finest professionals. 6-11:30 p.m. Crowne Plaza, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. inghambar.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Bookend Gallery Display by Jean Lyon - Jean took up painting after retirement and found inspiration in the Australian Outback. Her landscape pieces evoke the land Down Under. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

Butterfly Declines and What Can Be Done About Them - In a recent publication, MSU Professor Elise Zipkin and her coauthors document a decline in native butterfly populations in North America. Join the Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter and learn about Dr. Zipkin's findings. 7-9 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. wildoneslansing.weebly.com.

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

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

Group Dance Class: Beginning 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.

Holiday Wreath Crafting Workshop - Reverman Farms supplies fresh Fraser fir greens on 22" wreath frames. We'll provide a selection of ribbons,

pics, pinecones, fruit and floral trims. Registration req. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

Lansing Live Open Stage Night - Whether you're experienced or just starting out, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover, all ages welcome. 6-8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Meet the Digilab - Learn about our new Digilab and all it has to offer. 4-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Mindfulness Lunch & Learn: Brief Practices in Mindfulness - Experience several mindful practices, including mindful breathing, grounding, brief body scan, guided meditation and a seated meditation. We'll finish by helping you develop a plan for your personal practice. 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.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Youngstown State University - 6:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

Parkinson's Support Group: Informal Discussions - Small discussion groups. People with Parkinson's meet in a separate room from caregivers for confidential conversations. 1 p.m. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. lapseg.org.

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.

Riveros Duo: Reflections for Viola and Harp - MSU musicians Juan Riveros and Danny Jordan present a recital exploring the lyrical interplay between harp and viola. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

Waning Moon Ritual - Join us online or in person every Wednesday for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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

Thursday, Nov. 13

28th East Lansing Film Festival - The world-class East Lansing Film Festival screens independent films you wouldn't get a chance to see at local theaters. 1-10:30 p.m. Studio C, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. eff.com.

"A Sherlock Carol" - Two beloved classic tales. One thrilling new mystery. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre,

Mistletoe Market

3-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15
4322 Greenwood Drive, Okemos



For more than three decades, Jane Falion has been hosting an annual holiday market. It has been through "four or five different iterations," she said, but the current version, returning Thursday through Saturday at her home in Okemos, features eight to 10 artists selling their work.

"This year, we have a woman who makes these beautiful fractal wood-burning bowls, as well as three-dimensional scenes with felted characters and some other things along that line. We have a woman who does a lot of mixed media. I have a lady coming in who does poured resin designs," Falion said. "I have an author coming in. He does jewelry and painting, but he has also written three children's books. I have another woman who is Ukrainian, and she's a sous chef. She's coming with desserts to sell, which I'm really excited about."

Falion herself creates jewelry and hand-painted maps of Michigan tourist spots, such as Tunnel of Trees, Grayling and Glen Arbor.

"Any of the big towns that we all sort of recognize from vacations or cottages and stuff," she said. "And they're all hand-drawn and hand-painted."

She will also sell a collection of scented candles representing a breadth of Michigan locales, from Okemos and East Lansing to Traverse City and the state's many beach towns.

The market will open Thursday with a preview party, featuring hors d'oeuvres, alcoholic and nonalcoholic punches and homemade desserts.

"I'm hoping that my Ukrainian pastry baker brings something for that," Falion said. She has decorated her home to get attendees in the holiday spirit.

"It's a wonderful, easygoing boutique to come to," she said. "People will probably be able to do a lot of shopping, because we've got such unusual gifts, but it's just a fun event, whether you shop or not. You come, you talk to people, you meet other people."

122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.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 - 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.

"The Best We Could (a family tragedy)" - In this funny, wise and heartbreaking play, a daughter's road trip with her father becomes a theatrical journey across more than just state lines. 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Bookend Gallery Display by Jean Lyon - Jean took up painting after retirement and found inspiration in the Australian Outback. Her landscape pieces evoke the land Down Under. Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Charcuterie Class - Learn how to make cute (and delicious!) charcuterie boards that are perfect for any occasion! Glasses of wine will be \$1 off. 6-7:30 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Chipmunk Story Time - Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and

his animal friends. Stories are followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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.

Debutants at The Robin Theatre - Debutants is a high-energy string band with eclectic influences. Dancing between songs and styles of old and new, this fun-loving collective dazzles with impressive musicianship & writing. 7:30 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.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/GreaterLansing-AreaDrummers.

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.



Les Arts Florissants

7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

When it comes to music, it's not enough to blow the dust off an old masterpiece — you have to breathe new life into it. To celebrate the 300th anniversary of Antonio Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons," the French baroque ensemble Les Arts Florissants has "embarked" (these sophisticated cats don't merely "go") on a rare North American tour, with an even rarer appearance at Michigan State University's Wharton Center on Friday.

Since its founding in 1979, Les Arts Florissants has helped to bring the intricate counterpoint, velvety textures and soaring melodies of baroque music, especially baroque opera, to modern audiences in all their thrilling, gorgeous glory. There's nothing dryly "period" about this ensemble. Friday night, there won't be any opera, but there will be a lavish, aromatic Italian baroque smorgasbord, including great but underappreciated music by Geminiani and Monteverdi that harmonizes with "The Four Seasons." The group's founder, baroque revival pioneer William Christie, is still its artistic director, but this tour is being led by a potent secret weapon, charismatic young French violinist Théotime Langlois de Swarte.

Events

from page 25

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.

"Little Women" - Kate Hamill's feminist-friendly spin on this American classic is funny, poignant and relevant to modern audiences. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Mason Christmas Craft Show - We have artists, bakers and candlestick makers ... authors, sewers and all the DIYers ... whether it's stuff made with yarn or photos of a barn, you'll find it all, far away from the mall. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/villagecraftersgroup.

Meet the Author: "Lucky By Design" - Wharton Professor Judd Kessler will discuss and sign copies of his book "Lucky By Design: The Hidden Economics You Need to Get More of What You Want." 7:30 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. hookedlansing.com.

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.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. San José State University - 6:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

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

Ray Kamalay and His Red Hot Peppers - Led by acclaimed guitarist/vocalist Ray Kamalay, this group brings the spirit of 1930s small-band jazz to life with soulful ballads, hot improvisation and stories that swing. 7:30-9:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.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.

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. spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

Techy Afternoons - Learn about Libby by Overdrive, a mobile app that allows library card holders to borrow e-books, audiobooks and magazines on their phone or tablet. 1 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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, Nov. 14

"A Sherlock Carol" - Two beloved classic tales. One thrilling new mystery. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Alternative Holiday Sale - This sale highlights local artists, small businesses, nonprofits and fair-trade cooperatives. You'll find everything from handmade art and jewelry to home décor, body care, holiday items and more. 5-9 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peaceedcenter.org.

"The Best We Could (a family tragedy)" - In this funny, wise and heartbreaking play, a daughter's road trip with her father becomes a theatrical journey across more than just state lines. 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Bookend Gallery Display by Jean Lyon - Jean took up painting after retirement and found inspiration in the Australian Outback. Her landscape pieces evoke the land Down Under. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Carl Pawluk Live at Sidebar - 7-10 p.m. 246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing. 517-220-2131. sidebarastlansing.com.

Chris Walz - Whether it's his lightning speed on the banjo's fretboard, his hard-hitting grooves on the guitar or his tender touch on the mandolin, Walz delivers a fulfilling performance. 7:30-10 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Churches & Charity Ministry Support Gala Dinner - The evening features keynote speakers, worship, networking and the Ministry Impact Awards, honoring leaders and organizations transforming lives across the region. 6-8 p.m. Great Lakes Christian College, 6211 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. missionsfilled.org.

Concert for Voting Rights: To Love a Great Cause - Join Voters Not Politicians for a musical celebration of Michigan suffragist Anna Howard Shaw's legacy. Bond with your community over food, music and an educational conversation about Michigan's voting rights history. 5-7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.

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

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

Divination Roundtable - Learn a new divination method, get a reading and compare notes with others in your field. All readings free, all systems of divination welcome. 5-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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

Five Elements Dance & Drum - Intuitive movement and music in a supportive, sober environment. Bring a yoga mat, dancing socks/slippers and a drum or rattle if desired. 6:30 p.m. The Light House Chapel, 1501 Windsor St., Lansing. facebook.com/lansinglighthousechapel.

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

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

Holiday Shopping Night - Explore hands-on demos of guest-favorite toys, gifts, books and more. Sip on festive adult beverages while you shop and play. Enjoy live music that brings the holiday vibes. Wrap it up with complimentary gift wrapping. 6-8:30 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. impression5.org.

"Island Song" - The energy and passions of New York City explode with a percussive, soaring pop

score as an ambitious set of 20- and 30-some-things navigates the promises and perils of big city life. 7 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Justice League Fall Celebration & Fundraiser - Celebrate the achievements of the Justice League of Greater Lansing and reflect on how the reparations charity is impacting the community — and you. 6-8 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. justiceleagueglm.org.

Kindergarten Craft Club - Create your own tic-tac-toe game! Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

"Little Women" - Kate Hamill's feminist-friendly spin on this American classic is funny, poignant and relevant to modern audiences. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Mason Christmas Craft Show - We have artists, bakers and candlestick makers ... authors, sewers and all the DIYers ... whether it's stuff made with yarn or photos of a barn, you'll find it all, far away from the mall. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/villagecraftersgroup.

Michigan Poet Laureate Melba Joyce Boyd Poetry Reading - Presented in partnership with the Lansing Poetry Club. Please join us as we welcome Melba Joyce Boyd to mid-Michigan! 7-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. poetryrcah.msu.edu.

Michigan Quarter Horse Association Harvest Classic Horse Show - Noon. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. miquarterhorse.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 Volleyball vs. University of Wisconsin - 7 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-volleyball.

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

Purse Bingo - You're invited to our second annual Deer Hunter Windows' purse bingo! Only \$40 per person for 20 games! 6-10 p.m. Eaton Area Senior Center, 804 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte. 517-588-1626. facebook.com/eatonareaseniorcenter.

Rochelle Clark Live at Graham Vineyards - 7 p.m. 8920 W Britton Road, Laingsburg. 517-741-0805. facebook.com/grahamvineyards.

Sudden Impact Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Summerlands is thrilled to welcome the Lansing area's premier cover band for a live performance you won't want to miss! 7:30-10:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

Vertical Vixens Presents: Double Trouble Pole Show - A game-show-style pole event where you get to choose the music! Every jaw-dropping performance is unlocked by answering sexy, sassy trivia. 8-11 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Saturday, Nov. 15

"A Sherlock Carol" - Two beloved classic tales. One thrilling new mystery. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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Shipwrecks: A Special Collections pop-up

1-3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13

MSU Main Library

366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing

Monday (Nov. 10) was the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the SS Edmund Fitzgerald, which resulted in the loss of 29 lives. For the past several weeks, the media has covered every aspect of this tragedy, and justifiably so.

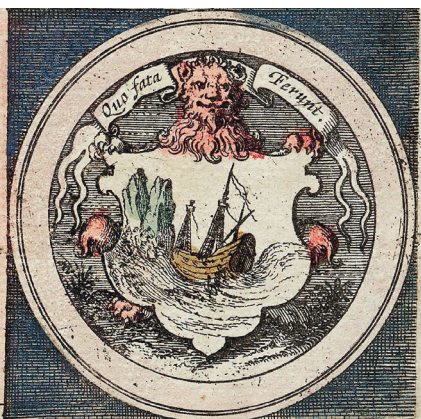
The world has always been fascinated with shipwrecks, propelled by tales of swashbuckling pirates, buried treasure, survival and self-reliance. Whole generations have grown up watching movies about Robinson Crusoe, the Swiss Family Robinson and Treasure Island.

On Thursday, Michigan State University Special Collections will host a one-day pop-up exhibit of rare materials that explore hazardous voyages, lost ships and unforgettable storms.

One item included in the exhibit is worth mentioning here. The 1620 edition of "Purchas His Pilgrimage" details early voyages to Virginia by mostly British vessels. It includes the story of the wreck of a ship called the Sea Venture. The ship was sailing to Jamestown but ended up in Bermuda, where it sank in 1609. It is widely believed that William Shakespeare used this shipwreck as the basis for his play "The Tempest," which premiered in 1611. In early seafaring, a "tempest" referred to a major storm almost magical in origin.

According to Dayna Topalian, who has helped curate and organize the pop-up, what makes "Purchas" so intriguing is that it provides contemporary accounts of shipwrecks from that early period. The book itself is encyclopedic, covering everything a sea captain would need to know on a major voyage.

Pop-up visitors are also invited to explore an accompanying exhibit, "Encounters and Exchanges," which includes rare books, travel narratives, atlases and maps.



Courtesy MSU Special Collections

A 1640 map of Bermuda by cartographer William Blaeu, featuring an illustration of the Sea Venture.

Events

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Alternative Holiday Sale - This sale highlights local artists, small businesses, nonprofits and fair-trade cooperatives. You'll find everything from handmade art and jewelry to home décor, body care, holiday items and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peaceed-center.org.

"The Best We Could (a family tragedy)" - In this funny, wise and heartbreaking play, a daughter's road trip with her father becomes a theatrical journey across more than just state lines. 3 and 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Bookend Gallery Display by Jean Lyon - Jean took up painting after retirement and found inspiration in the Australian Outback. Her landscape pieces evoke the land Down Under. Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Business Mixer - Calling all entrepreneurs, small business owners, and aspiring business leaders! Join Grassroots Giving and LAFCU for an inspiring business mixer focused on financial empowerment. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. LAFCU, 106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. bit.ly/31YJm3r.

Campfire Science & S'mores: Owls! - We'll do some "owl science", try some owl observing and finish with owl stories and yummy s'mores around the campfire! 6-7 p.m. Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. gladi.org.

Churches & Charity Ministry Support Conference - Participants will attend interactive sessions focused on building and funding ministries, charity partnerships and community data research. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Lakes Christian College, 6211 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. missionsfilled.org.

Coach's 1st Annual Buck Pole - This longtime Michigan tradition is all about bringing hunters, families, and

friends together to celebrate the season, whether you're hanging a buck, enjoying the pig roast, or just soaking in the atmosphere. 10 a.m.-midnight. Coach's Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. facebook.com/CoachsPubandGrill.

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: Maeve Devlin. Band: Bobcat Opossum. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.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.

Dixon's Violin - The world's premier visionary violinist, Dixon improvises on a 5-string electric violin with a looping system he developed to create an all-live one-man symphony, guided by his remarkable personal story of life transformation. 7-8:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Healthy Drinks & Mixology - We will make fun mocktails and give out advice on spirit pairing, as well as some out-of-the-box healthy drinks! 12:30-1:30 p.m. Bradly's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

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

"Island Song" - The energy and passions of New York City explode with a percussive, soaring pop score as an ambitious set of 20- and 30-somethings navigates the promises and perils of big city life. 7 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

"Little Women" - Kate Hamill's feminist-friendly spin on this American classic is funny, poignant and rele-

vant to modern audiences. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Mason Christmas Craft Show - We have artists, bakers and candlestick makers ... authors, sewers and all the DIYers ... whether it's stuff made with yarn or photos of a barn, you'll find it all, far away from the mall. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/villagecrafters-group.

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

Michigan Quarter Horse Association Harvest Classic Horse Show - 8 a.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. miquarterhorse.com.

MSU Football vs. Penn State University - 3:30 p.m. Spartan Stadium, 325 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/football.

November Open Scrapbooking Crop - Spend the day scrapbooking, card making, crafting, and catch up with friends! 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Art & Soul Gallery, 215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. facebook.com/ClintonCntyArts.

Parents Night Out: Martial Arts & Magick - Monthly drop-off night for pagan kids ages 5+. Let your kids experience an evening of movement, magick, and myth, while you enjoy a night to yourself. 6-10 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Peter Trappen Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Grab some friends and join us as singer-songwriter Peter Trappen performs live. 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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. homebrewgamelounge.com.

The Sloppy Boys - Join the Sloppy Boys podcast as they take the party on the road, recording live episodes where audiences sip along as they cover the cocktail of the week! 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Stylized Floral Arrangement - Stephanie will lead you in making a stylized succulent and floral arrangement in a modern container. 1-2 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett. vanattas.com.

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

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

Sunday, Nov. 16

3rd Annual Ultimate Sunday "Gospel" Brunch

- Enjoy a delicious brunch buffet with live entertainment, gift giveaways and more! Noon-4 p.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/the-smack-show-70847614903.

"A Sherlock Carol" - Two beloved classic tales. One thrilling new mystery. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Balance & Brews - Join us for a revitalizing yoga session, then head to Dimes Brewhouse to enjoy a complimentary beverage and create your own grilled cheese. 11 a.m. Nurture Studios, 257 S. Bridge Street, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/compassionately-br-53247017153.

"The Best We Could (a family tragedy)" - In this funny, wise and heartbreaking play, a daughter's road trip with her father becomes a theatrical journey across more than just state lines. 3 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Capital Pro Wrestling - 3-6 p.m. The Fledge, 1300

Eureka St., Lansing. 517-894-4589. americanluchalibre.com.

Chamber Music Showcase Concert - Enjoy an afternoon of dynamic chamber music, featuring select MSU College of Music student ensembles. 3 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

Dogs and Coffee - Join a naturalist from Harris Nature Center and enjoy a cup (or two) of freshly brewed coffee while you and your dog enjoy a guided morning walk in the woods! 9-10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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

See Events, Page 28

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Events

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

Layers of Flavor: A Lebanese Kibbee Class - Come make your new favorite Lebanese dish with us! 2-4 p.m. Bradly's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

"Little Women" - Kate Hamill's feminist-friendly spin on this American classic is funny, poignant and relevant to modern audiences. 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Members' Recital - The Greater Lansing chapter of the American Guild of Organists will perform a recital at Covenant Life Community Church. Donations will be accepted to benefit the scholarship fund for organ students. 4 p.m. 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. lansingago.org.

Michigan Quarter Horse Association Harvest Classic Horse Show - 8 a.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. miquarterhorse.com.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Western Michigan University - 2 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

Museum Tour: Deep-Rooted with Beal Botanical Garden - Join Beal education director Maeve Bassett for an immersive tour unearthing the historical, social and political narratives growing within works of art from the Broad Museum's collection. 1 p.m. 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

SpARTan Wellness: Brush + Breathe - A DIY brush-making session where twigs, leaves and everyday odds and ends become your new, unique-to-you painting tools. 2-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

String Quartets of Beethoven - The Musician Series offers a unique space where classical music takes center stage, brought to life by the talented musicians of the LSO. 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

Woldumar Folk & Bluegrass Jam - Enjoy a variety of music and a barn dance at Woldumar Nature Center. 2-5 p.m. 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/folkgrass.

Monday, Nov. 17

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

Bookend Gallery Display by Jean Lyon - Jean took up painting after retirement and found inspiration in the Australian Outback. Her landscape pieces evoke the land Down Under. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

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.

Drums in Native American Culture - Join us for a discussion and presentation of traditional Native American drumming by Daniel Jackson, a member of the Anishinaabe-Saginaw Chippewa Indian tribe. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

Fiber Circle - Knitters, crocheters and stitchers of all ages and skill levels welcome. Although formal instruction isn't provided, attendees assist each other with techniques and skills. 5:30-7 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

How Much Home Can You Afford? - Looking to buy a home? Learn how to calculate how much home you can afford based on your current income during this one-hour class. 10 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth/index.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

Young Hyun Cho: Brahms & Temperley - Pianist Young Hyun Cho performs Brahms' "8 Piano Pieces" and "3 Intermezzi," alongside two sonatas by composer David Temperley, who will introduce and discuss his works in person. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

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.

Bookend Gallery Display by Jean Lyon - Jean took up painting after retirement and found inspiration in the Australian Outback. Her landscape pieces evoke the land Down Under. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

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.

Mahjong Afternoons - Mahjong is a game of Chinese origin that involves skill, strategy and luck. This is a drop-in adult program for players of all skill levels. 1-3 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Marketing Happy Hour for Entrepreneurs - Join us for a happy hour with author, MSU marketing professor and ad agency veteran Rebecca Sullivan! Grab a drink and a bite, connect with other local entrepreneurs and pick up a copy of Sullivan's new book. 6-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. hookedlansing.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 Symphony Orchestra - The Symphony Orchestra presents an evening of elegance and flair, from lyrical classics to bold, contemporary voices. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Other Worlds Science Fiction Book Group - We'll be reading "The Terraformers," by Annalee Newitz. 7-8 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

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

Parkinson's Support Group: Education - Monthly educational session for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers or friends. Dr. Christopher Sears will discuss Botox treatment. 3-4:30 p.m. Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. lapsg.org.

PEARS Deeper Dive: Partnerships and Coalitions - Participants should have attended the PEARs Crash Course. Learn how to enter partnerships and coalitions. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at canr.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.

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

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

Walk with Ease - Walking exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. Group will meet Tuesdays at the Meridian Mall through Dec. 23. 1:30-2:30 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - 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. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/allen-farmers-market.

Artist Talk: Dieu Donné Papermaking - Curious how the paper artworks in "unbecoming" were made? Join Katharine L. DeLamater, Dieu Donné studio collaborator, and John Shorb, Dieu Donné's strategic advisor, for a conversation about Dieu Donné Papermill. 7-8:30 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Bookend Gallery Display by Jean Lyon - Jean took up painting after retirement and found inspiration in the Australian Outback. Her landscape pieces evoke the land Down Under. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 24

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SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 24

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Charlie Kang's wings are more than worthy

By **LIZY FERGUSON**

If classes are in session, I avoid downtown East Lansing even when I'm in perfect health.

So, when I was under the weather last week and craving Charlie Kang's, I had to choose the delivery option. I intended just to get soup for my cold and maybe some crab rangoons, but I remembered the chicken wings.

I have become a bit obsessed with chicken wings.

I see them, rightly or not, as junk food that's slightly less "bad" than other options.

I mean, just think of all the protein!

Of the numerous places to get wings, one does not immediately think of a Chinese/Korean restaurant, but I'd urge you to consider such establishments. I don't get

Charlie Kang's often, so I had forgotten wings were an option. I quickly added them to my order, which also included rangoons and wonton soup — a comforting spread for a sick day if I've ever had one.



Chicken wings \$8

Charlie Kang's
109 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday
(517) 332-4696
charliekangs.com

The soup was hot and delicious, with a deeply flavorful, oniony broth, ground-pork-stuffed dumplings and fresh strips of cabbage and green onion. The rangoons were reliably crispy and cheesy. The wings, though!

An order came with six. They appeared to be deep fried, not breaded, and were sauteed with onions, carrots and zucchini in an ambro-

sial, sweet and tangy sauce of soy, garlic, Sichuan peppers and other delicious ingredients (brown sugar, I think?).

I would highly recommend an order of rice, so you have a vehicle for all the sauce after you've devoured the wings. You will not want to waste a drop.

Additionally, I've learned there are Korean-style wings (Yang Yum) on the menu, which are at the top of my need-to-try list.

I have been going to Charlie Kang's my whole life, and I love it for being one of the only places that has remained open since my youth. If you can handle East Lansing parking, it is also a lovely place to dine in, and I don't think I've ever had a bad



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Charlie Kang's wonton soup, crab rangoons and spicy chicken wings make for a comforting sick-day spread.

meal there. I don't know how long it's had wings on the menu, but it took me far too long to discover them.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BAGELS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2025 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Big Apple Bagels

Counter-service chain for coffee, sandwiches and basic breakfast fare
248 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
(517) 324-4400
bigapplebagels.com
6 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

2. Bruegger's Bagels

Cafe chain serving small-batch, New York-style bagels, plus breakfast and lunch sandwiches
505 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

(517) 332-9940
brueggers.com
8 a.m.-2 p.m. daily

3. Flour Child Bakery

Bakery and cafe offering croissants, cookies, bagels, sandwiches, soups and more
323 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
(517) 622-4772
flourchildbakeryandcafe.com
6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
6 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

4. The Good Bake Bagel Kitchen

Cozy bakery specializing in sourdough bagels, including many gluten-free options
311 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston
(517) 420-9372
facebook.com/TheGoodBakeBagel
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

5. The New Daily Bagel

Newspaper-themed cafe serving scratch-made bagels and New York-style deli sandwiches
309 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 487-8201
thenewdailybagel.com
6 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday

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Turkey bone soup for the holiday soul

By ARI LEVAUX

Thanksgiving marks the start of the holiday season, and a parallel season of enhanced leftovers consumption. It can be a freewheeling, chaotic time, when pieces of feasts and roast beasts are combined and reheated. But amid improvisations like refried mashed potatoes and microwaved kale salad, the most sacred act of leftovers season remains constant: bird-bone soup.

The process begins when the table is cleared. As the uneaten sides and desserts are wrapped for the fridge, the motivated host will cut the remaining meat off the carcass, pluck leftover bones from the returned

plates, and add the bones and sinew to a stock pot. If you get started before the dust settles, that's one less large object to cram into the fridge.

The first step in cooking a bird-bone soup is to prepare a stock from the carcass, herbs and aromatic vegetables. What you do with that stock is up to you. I recommend

turkey noodle soup.

For me, bone-broth soup isn't just a holiday ritual. It's a literal way of life. Whether it's from a deer, cow, pig, fish or rotisserie chicken in a plastic bag from the supermarket, I'm loath to throw away a bone without simmering it first to extract its goodness.

If you have a pasta pot with a removable insert drainer, I recommend using it. That way, you can keep simmering your bones in the soup for as long as possible, even after you've added the rest of the ingredients. If you don't have a pasta pot, use a colander to strain the finished stock before making soup.

When I make bone stock, I try to cut, break, smash and otherwise reduce the size of the bone pieces as much as possible. This facilitates the release of marrow and other beneficial bone particles.

But going to such lengths, admittedly, is not necessary. If you aren't up to bone breaking, don't sweat it. There is, in fact, a decent argument against breaking the bones: Leaving them intact creates a clearer and more delicate stock.

But we're making leftover turkey noodle soup, which, like leftovers season itself, is a raucous affair. It may be clouded by dissolved potatoes. There may be little bits of stuffing. Everything suspended in a glorious, semi-solid matrix of bird-broth-bloated egg noodles.



Photo by Ari LeVaux

Leftover turkey noodle soup, like leftovers season itself, is a raucous affair.

Turkey bone soup, with noodles

If you can make this recipe without a single trip to the store, do so, even if it means skipping the parsnips, mushrooms or hoisin sauce. If you don't have wine, use a little vinegar for the acid. But if you don't have onion, carrot or celery, then you're going shopping. Ditto the noodles.

One turkey (or other bird) carcass
Six sticks celery: three chopped finely (about 2 cups), three cut in half

Six medium carrots: three chopped (about 2 cups), three cut in half

Two onions: one chopped finely (about 2 cups), one sliced in half
Four sprigs fresh thyme

Four sage leaves
One 14-ounce can diced tomatoes
2 cups mushrooms, cut into quarters

One parsnip, chopped
Leftover veggies and pan drippings, if available
1 cup wine

1/2 cup soy sauce
Salt

Pepper
Egg noodles
1 tablespoon hoisin sauce
Three cloves garlic, minced

Fill a pasta or stock pot three-quarters full of water and place it on high heat.

Pull apart the carcass, bones and everything in between, yanking off the bits of cartilage and connective tissue and stripping the good pieces of meat. Keep the meat in the fridge.

Cut up the bones and connective tissue as small as you can with a pair of kitchen scissors, including the soft ends of the long bones. Smash what

you can't cut if you're up to it, but don't hurt yourself.

Broken or not, add the bones, along with the cartilage, skin, onion halves, large sections of celery and carrot, thyme and sage to the pasta insert or stock pot. Simmer for as long as time permits, up to 10 hours.

When it's time to make the soup, remove the bones. If using a pasta pot, do so slowly so the bones drain into the pot, and set the insert in a container to catch further drainage. If not using a pasta cooker, strain the bones in a colander.

Add the chopped celery, carrot, onion, tomato, mushrooms, parsnip, wine, soy sauce, pan drippings, leftover veggies and meat to the pot and cook over medium heat. If using a pasta boiler, and if space permits, put the bones back in the soup while it cooks. Sip the broth every half hour or so to check the seasoning; adjust the salt, pepper and wine as necessary.

About 30 minutes before serving time, add the celery leaves, hoisin sauce and garlic.

Now it's time for the noodles. You can either add them directly to the soup or cook them separately and add them. Neither is a perfect solution: Cooking the noodles in the soup means leftovers will be soggy, while cooking them in water deprives them of the opportunity to get bloated by bone broth.

If using a pasta boiler, you don't have to choose — you can dump the bones and use the insert to cook the noodles in the soup, adding them to each bowl as needed at serving time.



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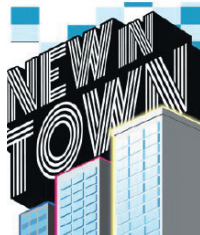
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Hard work pays off for owners of Hela's Kitchen



Hela's Kitchen

1909 W. Saginaw St.,
Lansing
11:30 a.m.–8 p.m.
Tuesday–Saturday
Noon–6 p.m. Sunday
facebook.com/
hela.s.kitchen

By LEO V. KAPLAN

When Famous Taco moved out of its West Saginaw location in 2023, one of Angelita Cabrera's friends told her it would be the perfect standalone spot for her restaurant, Hela's Kitchen.

At the time, Cabrera was serving her authentic Tex-Mex food in the Lansing Mall food court and paid the suggestion

little heed. But two years later, when she was looking to expand, she found the space still open and the realtor helpful.

"I feel like it was a sign," she said. "Everything just fell into place."

Hela's Kitchen reopened Oct. 4, serving a similar menu of Tex-Mex classics. The business may have its own building now, but the food is still cooked by Cabrera and her husband and business partner, Pedro, with other families helping out.

Cabrera said the standalone space is a monumental achievement.

"We worked really hard — and I worked really hard — for this," she said. "We didn't get help from anyone. We did it all ourselves out of pocket."

She noted that the restaurant has already brought in a lot of new faces, and regulars have been coming in more often.

"I'm not used to making so much food," she said. "Now, I'm making twice as much food, if not more — which is awesome, I can't complain about it, but we're small and it's just us."

She said her customers have been understanding as she grows accustomed to the challenges of running a standalone restaurant, though service has stayed relatively quick. The new space has also presented its own challenges, becoming crowded more easily than the mall food court, which has led her to emphasize keeping the feel less cramped.

"I have moved the kitchen and the dining area around, no joke, 10 times," she said.

While the menu is similar to the previous location's, she has added birria tacos, which have become popular in recent years. They combine tacos with the meat from birria, a traditional western Mexican stew.

She also cooks specialty items on

weekends and other occasions, which are typically announced on Facebook. She often makes menudo, a traditional Mexican soup she said is popular with older customers.

Older customers also love the stand-alone location, she said, because it allows them to come in and immediately sit down. They also enjoy that it's more walkable for many of them, some of whom used to trek to the Lansing Mall on foot but live closer to the new spot.

Another benefit of the new space is the patio, she said, adding that she would love to set up outdoor tables during the summer. Then there's the parking lot, which she hopes to use for Cinco de Mayo parties and other events.

She also wants to start serving breakfast tacos and burritos, she said. It's one of many ideas she's tossing around, but for now, she's trying not to make any major changes to the concept that has already brought her success.

"I want to take steps before I throw everything in the basket, and then I have to take everything back out because I've got to rearrange the basket," she said.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Hela's Kitchen, formerly located in the Lansing Mall food court, reopened Oct. 4 in its own building down the street.



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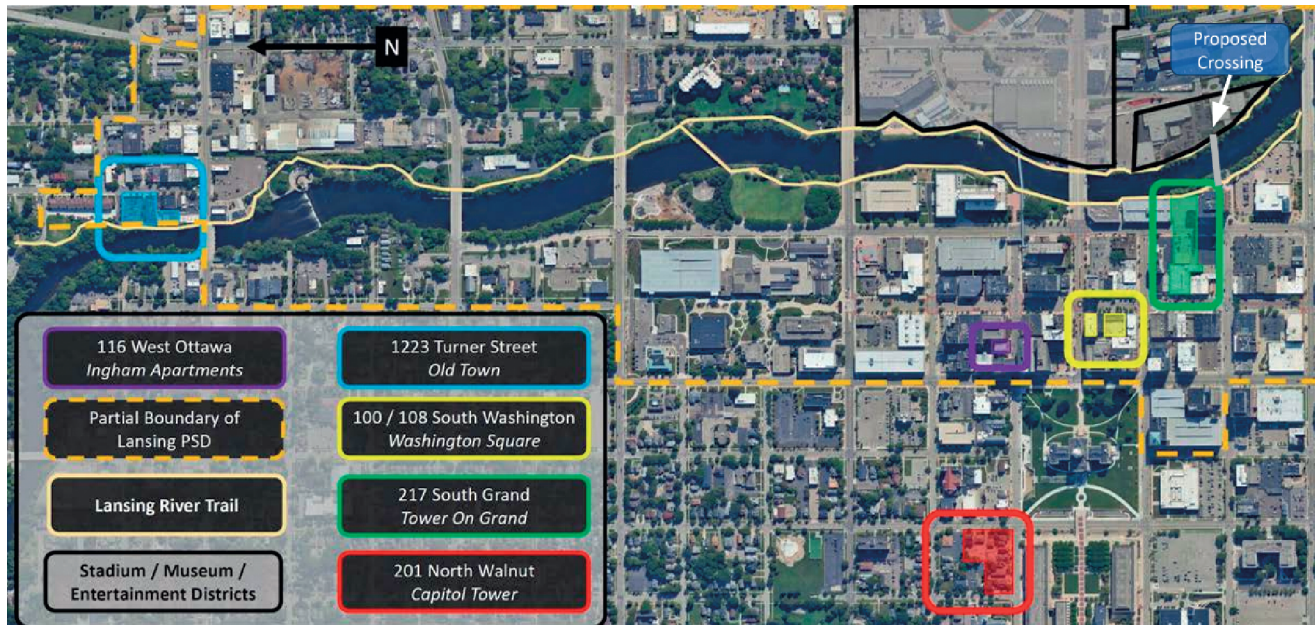


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