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November 26 - December 2, 2025

CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us

Lansing's largest circulation newspaper



It's Silver Bells season

Our 2025 Gift Guide is on page 13



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When Kindness Becomes a Cage

All my life, I've been told I'm a nice guy. As a kid, I assumed that was something adults just said about all children, the way teachers write "pleasant student" on every report card. Back then, I thought kindness was so universal that being called "nice" didn't actually describe anything about me — it was simply part of the script of growing up. But the older I get, the more I recognize that niceness is not nearly as common or automatic as I once believed. I am, for better or worse, genuinely a nice guy. Sometimes too nice. My wife often reminds me of this with a half-joking, half-exasperated, "You're so nice. I'm not that nice." She *is* nice — just not my version of it. She doesn't hand out the benefit of the doubt like free samples. She has boundaries, a backbone, and a well-calibrated sense of who deserves her kindness. My kindness, on the other hand, tends to show up whether it's invited or not.

Now, I don't say any of this with arrogance. I'm not claiming sainthood. I know my faults. I can be harsh, short-tempered, and, yes, passive-aggressive at times. I know there are people who don't like me, and, honestly, that doesn't keep me up at night. If you don't like me, that's your problem to deal with. But if we don't have a personal conflict, if we met at a random place — a grocery store, a ballgame, a conversation waiting in line — I can say with a fair amount of certainty that the takeaway would be: "That guy is really nice."

And that brings me to the dilemma I share with millions of other Americans: How did people like us become the supposed "enemy" of our own country?

I'm talking about the era of MAGA politics, a time when caring about other people, valuing diversity, or wanting fairness in society can get you branded a traitor. It's a strange thing to wake up one day and realize that the people who claim absolute ownership of patriotism have no difficulty lumping millions of their fellow citizens into a category reserved for villains. According to the loudest voices in that movement, people like me — who try to show decency, who believe empathy is a strength, who think America is big enough for all of us — are destroying the country. And in their most feverish moments, they fantasize openly about our removal, our imprisonment, even our deaths.

For what? What exactly is the crime? That we care about other people? That we don't want to see families struggling or communities ignored? That we think facts matter, science matters, and basic human dignity matters? Since when did treating people decently become a political offense?

This is where the contradiction becomes almost laughable. I cannot simultaneously be one of the nicest guys anyone meets *and* the downfall of the United States of America. I cannot be both the neighbor who helps you jump your car in the winter and the supposed devil pulling the strings of some sinister national collapse. Millions of Americans are in the same position: ordinary people going to work, raising kids, dealing with bills, showing up for their loved ones — while being told by a political movement that they are the greatest threat the country has ever faced.

There is something deeply revealing in that. When political leaders and media figures convince their followers that ordinary, decent people are enemies, it's rarely about actual danger. It's about control. It's about fear. It's about dividing the country so sharply that there is no room for questions or nuance. Once you convince people that half their neighbors are traitors, you can justify almost anything against them. Policies

become punishments. Violence becomes righteousness. Democracy becomes optional.

And here's the thing: people like me — people like you — have been part of building this country every bit as much as anyone waving a flag at a rally. We've shown up for the progress of America in big ways and small ones. We've voted, volunteered, worked, innovated, parented, and paid taxes. We've done what we could, where we could, to make things a little better than how they were handed to us. But that version of patriotism isn't flashy. It doesn't chant. It doesn't require a hat or a slogan. It doesn't demand that anyone worship a politician or demonize strangers. It's quieter. Steadier. More human.

The MAGA worldview struggles with that. It needs simplicity, enemies, and easy answers. It cannot reconcile the idea that the person it mocks, belittles, or targets might actually be the most dependable and decent neighbor it has. So instead of wrestling with complexity, it opts for the oldest trick in the book: dehumanization.

When you dehumanize people, you don't have to listen to them. You don't have to care about their experiences. You don't have to face the fact that they might have values worth considering. All you have to do is label them the problem, declare yourself the solution, and hope no one notices how much destruction you leave in your wake.

But here's the truth I hold onto: They can call us whatever names they want. They can insist we're the enemy of America. They can shout that our compassion is weakness, that our desire for fairness is radicalism, that our hope for a better future is some sinister plot. They can try to paint us as villains, but that doesn't change who we are.

I know who I am. I know what I value. I know what I give to the world around me. Millions of us do. We aren't perfect, but we certainly aren't the threat we're made out to be. And in the long arc of American history, the people who are guided by decency, empathy, and fairness usually end up shaping the country far more than those who thrive on fear.

So, no — I can't be both the nicest guy in the room and the devil destroying America. And neither can you. The people who shout the loudest aren't always the ones worth listening to. Sometimes the quiet work of everyday kindness is the most radical, patriotic act of all.

Email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com

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The Giving season is upon us



Silver Bells proclaimed the arrival of the holiday season here last week and Giving Tuesday is right around the corner. Won't you help us continue to keep you informed on the most important news, arts & culture and events in Greater Lansing?

Please support City Pulse

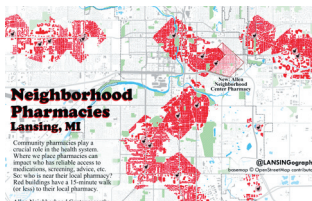
Please use the QR code, visit [lansingcitypulse.com/donate](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com/donate), or mail your check to City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan, Lansing, MI 48912.

Thank you!

CityPULSE

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Neighborhood Pharmacies Lansing, MI
Continuity pharmacy plays a crucial role in the health system. When you place pharmacy care around you, you can get your medications, screening, advice, etc. So when you need your pharmacy? Real buildings have a 15-minute walk (or less) to their local pharmacy.

Lansing's pharmacy deserts

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly by Berl Schwartz in 2001. Schwartz is now editor and publisher emeritus.

Member, AAN



MSU alum illustrates rare Marvel/DC crossover

PAGE 11



Gjoni's takes a turn at former Spagnulolo's spot

PAGE 26

Cover photo by Raymond Holt

SCIENCE KORNER

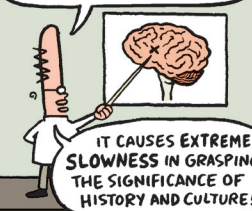
AS HARVARD PRESIDENT, LARRY SUMMERS COMMENTED ON THE RELATIVE LACK OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE.

THOUGH I HOPE I'M WRONG, I WOULD SAY THERE ARE ISSUES OF INTRINSIC APTITUDE... AS WELL AS LESSER FACTORS LIKE SOCIALIZATION AND DISCRIMINATION.



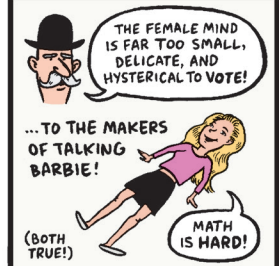
COULD THIS STATEMENT RESULT FROM AN "ISSUE OF INTRINSIC APTITUDE"? SOME SAY YES!

WE BELIEVE THAT A SYNAPTIC MISFIRING—WHICH WE'VE NAMED SUMMERS SYNDROME—IS RESPONSIBLE!



IT CAUSES EXTREME SLOWNESS IN GRASPING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORY AND CULTURE!

CLOSELY RELATED TO THE BELL CURVE SYNDROME COMMONLY FOUND IN WHITES, SUMMERS SYNDROME HAS PLAGUED MILLIONS OVER THE YEARS, FROM ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS...



THE FEMALE MIND IS FAR TOO SMALL, DELICATE, AND HYSTERICAL TO VOTE!
... TO THE MAKERS OF TALKING BARBIE!
MATH IS HARD!
(BOTH TRUE!)

INTERESTINGLY, MANY OF THOSE WITH THE SYNDROME THINK OF THEMSELVES AS MORE OPEN-MINDED THAN OTHERS!




WE CAN'T LET POLITICAL CORRECTNESS GET IN THE WAY OF HONEST DEBATE!
WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE LOW APTITUDE OF BLACKS AND MEXICANS WHILE WE'RE AT IT!

COMING SOON: THE SYNDROME SUFFERERS' NEXT THEORY!



WOMEN'S UNDER-REPRESENTATION AMONG AMERICAN PRESIDENTS...
... COULD IT BE A MATTER OF BRAIN DIFFERENCE?


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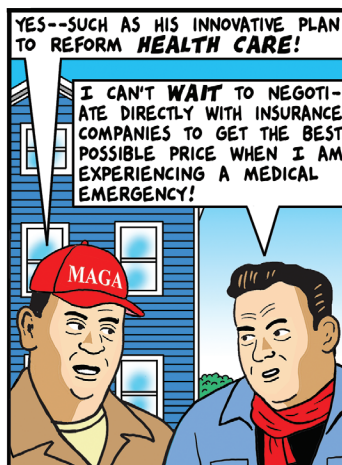


THIS MODERN WORLD

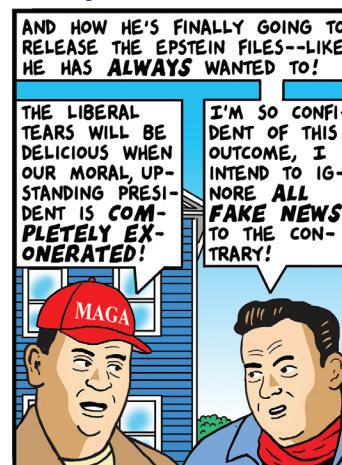
by TOM TOMORROW



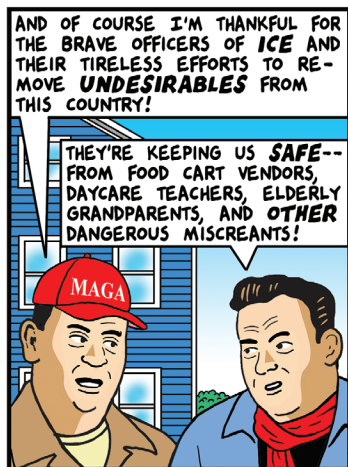
WOW, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S ALMOST THANKSGIVING ALREADY!
AND TEN MONTHS INTO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SECOND TERM--THERE'S SURE A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR!



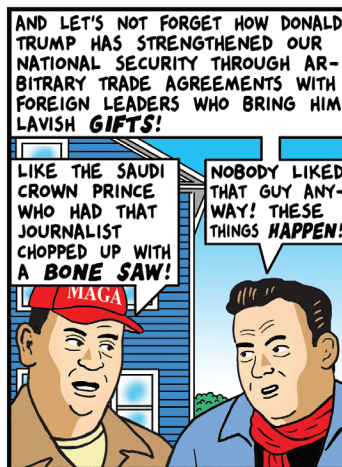
YES--SUCH AS HIS INNOVATIVE PLAN TO REFORM HEALTH CARE!
I CAN'T WAIT TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH INSURANCE COMPANIES TO GET THE BEST POSSIBLE PRICE WHEN I AM EXPERIENCING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY!



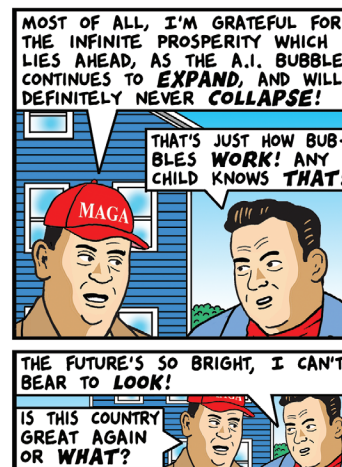
AND HOW HE'S FINALLY GOING TO RELEASE THE EPSTEIN FILES--LIKE HE HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO!
THE LIBERAL TEARS WILL BE DELICIOUS WHEN OUR MORAL, UPSTANDING PRESIDENT IS COMPLETELY EXONERATED!
I'M SO CONFIDENT OF THIS OUTCOME, I INTEND TO IGNORE ALL FAKE NEWS TO THE CONTRARY!



AND OF COURSE I'M THANKFUL FOR THE BRAVE OFFICERS OF ICE AND THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS TO REMOVE UNDESIRABLES FROM THIS COUNTRY!
THEY'RE KEEPING US SAFE--FROM FOOD CART VENDORS, DAYCARE TEACHERS, ELDERLY GRANDPARENTS, AND OTHER DANGEROUS MISCREANTS!



AND LET'S NOT FORGET HOW DONALD TRUMP HAS STRENGTHENED OUR NATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH ARBITRARY TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS WHO BRING HIM LAVISH GIFTS!
LIKE THE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE WHO HAD THAT JOURNALIST CHOPPED UP WITH A BONE SAW!
NOBODY LIKED THAT GUY ANYWAY! THESE THINGS HAPPEN!



MOST OF ALL, I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE INFINITE PROSPERITY WHICH LIES AHEAD, AS THE A.I. BUBBLE CONTINUES TO EXPAND, AND WILL DEFINITELY NEVER COLLAPSE!
THAT'S JUST HOW BUBBLES WORK! ANY CHILD KNOWS THAT!
THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT, I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK!
IS THIS COUNTRY GREAT AGAIN OR WHAT?

TOM TOMORROW © 2025-11-24 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

New local pharmacies combat worsening shortage

Addressing 'pharmacy deserts' an increasing concern after Rite Aid closures

When the Rite Aid across from the University of Michigan Health-Sparrow hospital closed its doors in fall 2024, UM-Sparrow regional pharmacy director Todd Belding wondered where its patients would go.

"I knew the pharmacists over there and talked to them, and it was one of the busier Rite Aids," he said. "And we were kind of worried about where that script volume was going to go, and how we were going to service those patients."

The pharmacy had a lot of patients who walked there, he said, making the pharmacy in the UM Health-Sparrow Professional Building nearby inaccessible because it has to be entered through a parking garage. So UM-Sparrow bought the building, renovated it and began running it themselves.

It opened on Oct. 8, and Belding said it has been busy ever since.

When access to medical care is highly inconvenient, Belding said people often skip it. But as pharmacies struggle with decreasing reimbursement rates — how they make a profit — "pharmacy deserts" where access to prescriptions is difficult have been on the rise, particularly in underserved areas.

Jamie Alan is a licensed pharmacist and professor at Michigan State University. Alan said pharmacy deserts are a newer concept and aren't as well-known as food deserts. People without reliable transportation have struggled to access pharmacies and other healthcare for years, but the pharmacy side has gotten worse in the last decade as lower profit margins lead to closures.

A 15-minute walk from the UM-Sparrow pharmacy, the Allen

Community Pharmacy opened for business on Nov. 12. The pharmacy is inside the Allen Neighborhood Center and run by the Ingham County Health Department, a longtime ANC partner.

Both of the new pharmacies are located directly next to clinics. The UM-Sparrow pharmacy is next to a UM-Sparrow urgent care facility and

'Hey, go fill this.'

That individual is likely to take longer to fill the prescription or even skip it, Shoyinka said. That can exacerbate whatever is being treated and even lead to further complications or expensive emergency room visits.

"Think about someone who has diabetes, who needs to take either their

some of which increases access to those who did not formerly have it. Buildings pictured in red have a maximum 15-minute walk to a pharmacy.

"Not everyone has reliable transportation," said Allen Neighborhood Center Executive Director Joe Enerson. "We have the bus routes, but that might not fit people's schedules. They

might not be able to spend an hour or two changing buses and waiting, so access has to be really local."

The new pharmacies help to fill an important gap, Belding said, but they're not enough to combat the worsening shortage.

"Rite Aid was in a lot of areas that were underserved, and when you close those pharmacies, you really take away from those underserved patients," he said. "You already have a patient population that struggles with service, and you're taking away one of their biggest providers of service."

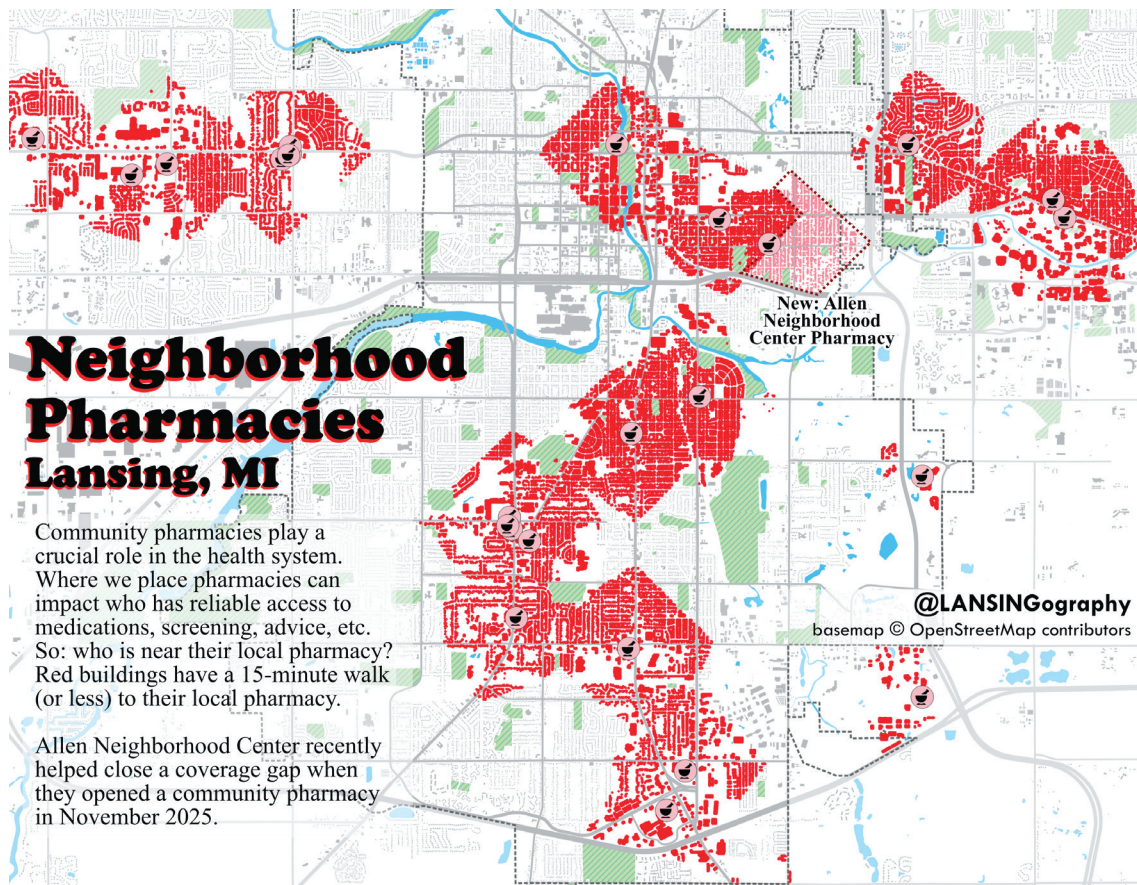
A pharmacy shortage mapping tool developed by the National Community Pharmacists Association and the University of California shows that pharmacy shortages in the Lansing area were getting better between 2016-2018, when coverage expanded into three areas previously

identified as shortages. The map stays consistent through 2022, but in 2023 and 2024, three areas that previously had coverage became areas with shortages.

"I mean, Rite Aid closed because they couldn't make any money, and that was 5,000 pharmacies," Belding said. "So if you have a small pharmacy that's only running three or four pharmacies, it's even harder to make a profit."

"We're going to have far fewer pharmacies than we used to."

— LEO V. KAPLAN



Red areas show places where people are within a typical 15-minute walk to a pharmacy

the ANC pharmacy is beside the Allen Community Health Center.

The health department's chief medical officer, Dr. Nike Shoyinka, said having access to both pharmacies and clinics can improve health outcomes.

"So, I'm a physician, and I have a patient who comes to see me, and I write prescriptions, and this individual takes the bus to come see me," she said. "And the pharmacy they need to go to is two miles down the road, and it's snowing, but they're out of their meds already. And I write a prescription and say,

metformin or insulin," she said. "If they're unable to take their medication on time, their blood sugar goes up, they end up not feeling well and they could develop complications like diabetic ketoacidosis and end up in the emergency room."

An analysis by Christopher Greene-Szmadzinski, who creates visualizations from open-source data on the website Lansingography, shows the ANC pharmacy increased coverage on the east side, some of which overlaps with the UM-Sparrow pharmacy and

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Meeting
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025
SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Meridian Township Hall, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 (phone: 517-853-4568). The purpose of this meeting is to review an amendment to the approved Haslett Village Square Brownfield Plan.

The Meridian Township Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (MTBRA) has received an additional amendment request to the recently adopted Haslett Village Square Brownfield Plan. The Plan seeks to amend the term of the Brownfield Plan and the number of housing units supported through the Housing TIF subsidy from 23 to 30 units.

Details regarding the request to amend the Haslett Village Square Brownfield Plan and the Special Brownfield Redevelopment Meeting, will be made available for public review by Monday December 1, 2025. Written comments may be submitted prior to the public meeting to Amber Clark Economic Development Director, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to Clark@meridian.mi.us.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-386

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

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A request from Cody Dietrich on behalf of TDP Acquisitions, LLC, for approval of a Special Use Permit for a new building with height exceeding eight stories at 530 Albert Avenue. The applicant request is to construct a 13-story development consisting of one-, two- and three-bedroom multi-family dwellings, ground floor commercial space, and two levels of interior parking. The property is zoned B-3 City Center Commercial Business District.
2. A request from Evan Williams on behalf of Harbor Bay Ventures for approval of a Special Use Permit for a new building with height exceeding eight stories at 401, 421, 427 E. Grand River Avenue. The applicant request is to construct a 15-story mixed use development consisting of one-, two- and three-bedroom multi-family dwellings, ground floor commercial space and one level of underground parking. The property is zoned B-3 City Center Commercial Business District.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated: November 21, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#25-387

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider an ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 812, Section 812.01 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to modify the boundaries of the Principal Shopping District, as well as Zone B and Zone C North.

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

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

CP#25-381

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances, Chapter 1460, Section 1460.51, to add an exemption from collection of a tenant relocation fee if the owner or party in interest demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the conditions that caused a rental premises being declared unsafe and uninhabitable were directly attributable to the tenant.

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

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
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CP#25-378



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT UPDATE
EYDE CENTRAL PARK PROPERTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025**

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

Notice is hereby given that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in a proposed project. Continental 975 Fund LLC has submitted a request to amend an existing settlement agreement with the Eyde Company to allow the development of a medium density multiple-family community on vacant land along Central Park Drive.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing in the Department of Community Planning and Development office (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, 48864), Monday-Friday, 8AM-PM. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Township Board, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to schmitt@meridian.mi.us.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-383



Thousands glow in the light of Silver Bells in the City



Silver Bells in the City's Electric Light Parade glowed with nine marching bands, illuminated against the dark night. The bands were from Bath, Corunna, Eaton Rapids, Lansing Catholic, Lansing Eastern, Lansing Everett, Portland, St. Johns and Waverly high schools.

Photos by Raymond Holt for City Pulse



The 2025 tree is a 68-foot-tall spruce from Sault Ste. Marie. Linda Ried donated the tree in honor of her grandparents, Lawrence and Nettie Richey.



The Capital Area Transportation Authority's "CATA-pillar" is always a brightly lit crowd favorite.



Lansing Bike Party hosted a talented group of riders and their bikes, decked out to the nines in holiday lights.



Santa and Mrs. Claus never miss a Silver Bells in the City parade.



Silver Bells in the City made its debut in downtown Lansing in 1985. It has since become the premier holiday event in the area. Thousands of people come from near and far to see the tree lighting, fireworks, drone show, village and parade.

Gun violence exposure can increase heart risks U of M study finds links

By **CLARA LINCOLNHOL**
Capital News Service

LANSING — Being exposed to gun violence increases the odds of later dying from stress-related cardiovascular disease like heart attacks, a recent study from the University of Michigan found.

Last year Michigan had over 1,300 gun deaths. The state has the 22nd highest rate of gun-related homicides nationally, according to the Center for Gun Violence Solutions at Johns Hopkins University.

Each additional 10 firearm incidents

per year in a census tract was linked to a 1.6% increase in the odds of a stress-related cardiovascular death, according to the new study in the journal Social Science & Medicine.

Census tracts are small geographic units used by the U.S. Census Bureau, typically containing about 2,500 to 8,000 residents.

The study was conducted to examine the implications of gun violence that aren't frequently talked about, said Esther Lee, a U-M researcher and co-author of the study.

"We're trying to create more discourse around these linkages that go beyond just gun violence, direct injuries or direct deaths," Lee said.

That includes not only impacts on mental health, but also long-term implications for mental health "that can turn into physiological health such as cardiovascular and stress-related cardiovascular health," Lee said.

She said the study also looks at the link between two leading causes of death in adults and children. Cardiovascular death is the number-one leading cause of death for adults, while

gun violence is first among children in Michigan.

Researchers looked at data from the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting System and the state Department of Health and Human Services. The data shows fatal and non-fatal shooting incidents by county and the number of cardiovascular-related deaths in the state.

Other research has focused on the psychological impacts that being around gun violence has on an individual, like heightened stress and chronic stress, she said.

Stress raises cortisol levels, dysregulates the nervous system, disrupts sleep and can lead to health problems.

Previous research also found that chronic stress can lead to the development or worsening of cardiovascular problems like heart disease and can induce heart attacks, Lee said.

"Hopefully this is the first of other studies that also look at what the comprehensive health implications of gun violence are at multiple levels beyond just looking at fatalities," Lee said,

That includes the impact on communities, Lee said.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA
7710 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, Michigan 48917
(517) 323-8500

TOWNSHIP BOARD
Synopsis of Meetings

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$2,010,069.76
2. Minutes – a. Monday, October 20, 2025
3. Delta Township MS4 Permit – 2026 Support Services
4. Approval of Eaton County Interlocal Agreement for County Designated Assessor
5. 2026 Holiday Schedule
6. 2026 Calendar of Meetings
7. Salary Schedules and Compensation Adjustments effective January 1, 2026

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman, and Trustee Karen J. Mojica. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Township Engineer Jacob Kleinhenz, Interim Fire Chief John Kahler, Captain Robert Block, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Director Marcus Kirkpatrick, Utilities Director Rick Kane.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution of Recognition of Service of Mary Kwas on the Parks, Recreation & Cemeteries Commission
2. Recognition of Delta Township Businesses Honoring Veterans

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Willow Force Main Project Update

4. Notice of Discontinuation - CATA Route 3 Extension Services

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$3,551,843.39
6. Minutes – a. Monday, November 3, 2025
7. Surplus Property

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

8. DNR Grant Agreement – Webster Road Bridge Pathway

9. Conveyance of Ena Drive parcel to Eaton County Road Commission

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:41pm

CP#25-384



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE 2025-05

Lansing Board of Water and Light Electric Franchise Ordinance

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Ordinance #2025-05

(Lansing Board of Water and Light Electric Franchise Ordinance)

The Township Board at its regular meeting on November 18, 2025, adopted Ordinance 2025-05 to grant the City of Lansing by its LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT, its successors and assigns, the rights, privileges, and franchise to construct, maintain and commercially use electric lines and power facilities consisting of towers, masts, poles, crossarms, guys, braces, feeders, transmission and distribution wires, transformers, switchgear, substations, and other electrical appliances on, over, under, along and across the highways, streets, alleys, bridges and other public places, and to conduct a local electric utility business in the CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, for a period of thirty years.

The Ordinance has the following sections and catch lines: SECTION 1, GRANT, TERM; SECTION 2, CONSIDERATION; SECTION 3, CONDITIONS; SECTION 4, INDEMNIFICATION; SECTION 5, EXTENSIONS; SECTION 6, SERVICE AREA; SECTION 7, REPEAL; SECTION 8, RATES; SECTION 9, FRANCHISE FEE; SECTION 10, GRANTEE RULES; SECTION 11, EFFECTIVE DATE, which is the day following the publication and posting after final adoption by the Township Board; SECTION 12, PUBLICATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS; SECTION 13, FOOTE ACT FRANCHISE; SECTION 14, INTEGRATION; SECTION 15, SEVERABILITY.

A complete copy of the ordinance may be examined at the Department of Public Works & Engineering, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding Township holidays) and on the Township's website at <http://bit.ly/3J3zWDE>.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-385



REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



While forecasters expect a memorable late fall snowstorm to dump more than three feet of snow in parts of the Upper Peninsula during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, Greater Lansing residents could be dealing with high winds and a rain-snow mix on the weather system's fringe. Up to two inches of snow and a half-inch of rain could be possible on Wednesday and Thursday, while winds will be peaking with gusts of up to 40 mph. Friday should be free from precipitation, but more rain and snow is expected to come on Saturday and Sunday. Lansing has declared a Code Blue emergency, which opens up Letts Community Center as a warming place from 6:30p-6a until Monday, Dec. 1. City buses will provide free rides to shelters, except on Thanksgiving. Call 211 or visit Lansingmi.gov for additional shelter hours.



An Ingham County commission passed a resolution last week urging a Lansing utility to create more long-term regulations on proposed data centers. The call comes as Lansing considers a proposed data center near the stadium district. The 24-megawatt center, proposed by UK data center builders Deep Green, was developed in collaboration with the Lansing Board of Water and Light and the center's heat would go to BWL customers downtown. The resolution specifically asks the BWL, city of Lansing and other local governments and electric utilities to share detailed plans demonstrating how any data centers' electricity demands would not interfere with electricity costs or Michigan's clean energy goals. Full story: <https://www.lansingcitypulse.com/stories/ingham-county-environmental-commission-calls-for-data-center-transparency,167947>



The Gillespie Group will receive a \$617,000 Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) program grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to redevelop buildings on the 600 block of East Michigan Avenue in Lansing's Stadium District. The grant and project are expected to generate a total capital investment of \$7.2 million and create 15 units of housing plus 6,900 square feet of commercial space, said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, in a press release. Whitmer's office added that the project also is receiving a \$3 million appropriation in partnership with LEAP Thrive, a MSHDA 15-year TIF of approximately \$1 million in total capture, and a Local Brownfield Revolving Fund loan of

\$626,000. Four of the buildings previously housed the City Rescue Mission of Lansing's men's shelter, which is moving to West Kalamazoo Street.



The City of Lansing is pitching five potential locations for a new mod pod community it plans to establish in 2026. The locations are Debbie Stabenow Park, the former Shabazz Academy, Comstock Park, Hunter Park and Reasoner Park. Four of the proposed sites are city-owned parks. The city has purchased 50 modular housing pods for \$645,000, intended to serve as transitional housing with support services for homeless residents. City officials are continuing to seek community input, with a meeting set for Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the Letts Community Center. Those wishing to learn more about the sites and the housing plan can do so at <https://www.lansingmi.gov/174/Human-Relations-Community-Services>, emailing HRCS-general@lansingmi.gov or calling 517-483-4477.

The Michigan Department of State has dismissed a complaint by Lansing City Council President Ryan Kost, who alleged that the Lansing Charter Commission violated campaign finance law by using persuasive language in an informative mailer.



Kost said at a Sept. 29 council meeting that language on the mailer, such as "seeks to strengthen transparency and accountability in city government," was persuasive. He filed the complaint the next day. Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope, who also is the Charter Commission's clerk, learned the complaints were dismissed without investigation because they were not considered violations, according to a press release provided to City Pulse.



Lansing's mayor and city attorney declined to comment on a concern that City Councilmember Tamera Carter had violated ethics rules when she voted to rescind a make safe or demolish order for a property at 108 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. owned by her sister-in-law, Alesia Flowers, according to a report from WLNS News. Carter said she had spoken with the city attorney before the Nov. 10 council meeting and had been told there was no "conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest." Carter had previously recused herself from voting on the make safe or demolish order in April, as well as for another property owned by her sister-in-law.

Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox has told WLNS that the same property does not have a historic covenant attached to the deed. A covenant would require rehabilitation of the property to stay within its original struc-



ture and design so the building is not currently required to do so, which could affect its historic value. In response, the Lansing City Council Committee on Public Safety plans to consider a resolution to create a historic district study committee for the property during its Tuesday (Nov. 25) meeting.

The Capital Area Transportation Authority has its first fully electric bus. The bus will be in service soon. The CATA fleet now has close to a dozen electric vehicles, with a second bus expected by the end of the year. The rest of the fleet consists of three Ford Transit vans, used primarily for rural transit, and around nine electric SUVs used by supervisors and by bus drivers for on-route shift changes. The electric bus was funded in part by a \$1 million federal grant.



Ingham County Circuit Judge Morgan Cole sentenced Brian Blalock of Lansing, who was convicted in the murder of Christopher Stipanuk, to up to 50 years in prison. Lansing Police found Stipanuk with a gunshot wound to the leg in the 400 block of North Sycamore Street near West Shiawassee Street in the April 2024 incident, an injury from which he would later die. Blalock had been sentenced for a separate assault with intent to murder charge from January 2024.

DeAnthony VanAtten, who was shot by East Lansing police in April 2022 after someone reported seeing a masked man run into the Meijer store on Lake Lansing Road with a gun, was sentenced Nov. 12 to a minimum of three years in prison for carrying a concealed weapon and the mandatory two years for felony firearm possession.



VanAtten had run away from officers who tried to stop him and was hit by two rounds fired by police. The officers were cleared of wrongdoing, and VanAtten was charged with seven felony counts and one misdemeanor count. Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina granted a motion to suppress the firearm evidence in 2024, ruling the officers didn't have adequate grounds to stop VanAtten. But the state Court of Appeals overturned that ruling, and the state Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal.

Abandoned vehicle public auction will be held at PJs 2200 Olds Ave Lansing MI 48915 on 12/5/25 @11am
 2010 United Expressline 48BTE1622AA112734
 1992 Honda CB750 JH2RC3808NM105350
 2011 Chevy Express G2500 1GCWGFBA8B1108166
 2011 Chevy Express G2500 1GCWGFBA0B1109070
 2013 Ford Fusion 3FA6P0K99DR377763
 2011 Toyota Highlander 5TDDK3EH5BS069634
 2015 Chevy Cruze 1G1PE5SB7F7229229
 2014 Volkswagen Jetta 3VWD07AJ5M241007
 2018 Chevy Traverse 1GNERHKW3JJ103945
 2003 Chevy Suburban 3GNGK26U33G133826
 2015 Chevy Equinox 2GNALBEK0F6270354
 2015 Nissan Rogue JN8AS5MT0FW666172

CP#25-382

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the 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 the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding a new section 888.35 for the purposes of providing for a service charge in lieu of taxes for one hundred and thirty-six (136) low-income dwelling units in a project known as Pinebrook Manor, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, being Public Act 346 of 1966, as amended, MCL 125.1401, et seq. (The "Act").

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

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

CP#25-380

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (the "District"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 323-327 S. Washington Square in the City of Lansing, Michigan, legally described as:

323 S. Washington Square (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-16-405-082):

N 22 FT LOT 8 & S 21 FT LOT 9 BLOCK 129 ORIG PLAT

327 S. Washington Square (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-16-405-111):
 S 1/2 OF N 2/3 LOT 8 BLOCK 129 ORIG PLAT

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

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

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

CP#25-379

Government is performative theater we should take seriously ... until we shouldn't

Last week, President Donald Trump reposted a social media message, "HANG THEM, GEORGE WASHINGTON WOULD!!"

At that moment, U.S. Sen. Elissa Slotkin experienced "an immediate change to our lives."

She and five of her congressional Democratic colleagues posted a video telling troops they were not obligated to follow illegal orders. Trump saw this as "seditious behavior" "punishable by DEATH." He liked the "hang them" post enough to re-share it.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Talking to Michigan press Tuesday, our junior senator said her office has received "hundreds, it's gotta be past thousands" of emailed or called-in death threats.

(FYI: Your standard death threat to an elected official in Michigan is a 4-year, \$5,000 felony.)

Her family tolerated a bomb threat at their Holly farm. They've been harassed. Capitol security have Slotkin under their surveillance 24/7. She's now being driven around by security in a big, dark SUV. No more driving herself from place to place.

Should Slotkin be federally charged under 18 USC 2387 for interfering with the loyalty and morale of the military? Was she within her rights to remind troops about their legal and ethical duties under the Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 92? That's not the point of this column.

The point is this: The growing toxicity in our politics -- driven by fear, prejudices and raw emotions -- may be great for internet clicks, social media likes, television ratings, campaign dollars and voter turnout.

Slotkin couldn't name a specific illegal Trump order. Likewise, Trump now says he REALLY doesn't want to execute a sitting U.S. Senator.

Sigh.

Isn't it fairly clear? Between this, the needless drama over food stamps, the exploding cost of health insurance, the lack of a federal balanced budget SINCE 2001, government isn't being used to solve problems.

It's performative theater. It's a stage act we're supposed to take seriously until we're not.

Leaders' primary focus has become finding ways to rile up voting-age adults, and all to obtain power for power's sake.

"What can we say in an email to raise a few more bucks?"

"How will this message drive turn-out? How can this comment from the other guy be exploited?"

It's finding wins, wherever wins can be had. It's seeking power for power's sake.

So, when playing with the public's emotions spurs people to act irrationally, elected leaders play the victim. They further close the door to transparency.

Look at the state House. On one hand, Michigan House Speaker Matt Hall gets credit for ending hundreds of millions of secret pork from getting stuffed into budgets three hours before passage.

But on the other hand, he cites the unruly mob that today's politics helped create as a reason to shield legislators' home addresses and birthdates from the public.

Are we sure Rep. John Doe lives in our district? Not sure if he's the legal age to serve?

No worries. The government, which we're told not to trust, will verify whether candidates meet the basic, constitutional qualifications of office.

Ok.

In the summer of 2024, MIRS found one senator had allegedly moved into a seemingly abandoned shack by a lake so he could run in the district he wanted to run in. Another senator claimed to live in a rental apartment off a busy street, only to be found by a reporter caring for her disabled husband in their real Beverly Hills home 26 minutes away.

As a 52-year-old man, I show ID to buy beer, but a public official shouldn't have to publicly disclose their date of birth to verify they meet a basic requirement to run for elected office?

In the name of security?

Maybe, instead of poking the bear with inciting rhetoric, working together to solve problems can be the point of public service.

Even if that makes it tougher to raise money or generate social media "likes" or drive voters out to the polls. What-ever happened to "Good policy makes good politics?"

Today, grandstanding on being "right" is the name of the game.

And, if that's case, we'll keep doing what we're doing.

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

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

MSU alumnus contributes his artistry to 'Deadpool/Batman' crossover

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Ryan Stegman was putting the finishing touches on Marvel Comics' "X-Men: Age of Revelation" finale when he got a call inquiring if he'd like to participate in Marvel and DC Comics' "Deadpool/Batman" one-shot.

"I knew I was kind of up against it deadline-wise, but there was no way I was gonna let that opportunity pass me by, so I said yes," Stegman, a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University, said.

Marvel published "Deadpool/Batman" in September. DC followed up with "Batman/Deadpool" last Wednesday (Nov. 19).

"I've been told that it's been very, very hard for Marvel and DC to get this going from a legal standpoint," Stegman said. "But everyone got excited and worked together and made it happen, so kudos to all involved."

This is the first Marvel/DC crossover since 2003's Justice League of America/Avengers miniseries. Superhero crossovers between the two comic book publishing titans began with 1976's "Superman vs. the Amazing Spider-Man," in which the companies' flagship characters met for the first time.

"A meeting between Batman and Deadpool is comic-world historic. Regan Clem, owner of Summit Comics & Games in Lansing, said. A rare crossover between Marvel and DC, it brings together two icons who've never officially shared a panel. That alone makes it a comic book event, but the real thrill lies in their wildly contrasting personalities. Batman is the brooding tactician, driven by justice and trauma. Deadpool? He's chaos incarnate. Wisecracking, unpredictable and gleefully irreverent. Watching the Dark Knight try to navigate Deadpool's fourth-wall-breaking antics makes it something special story-wise. It's the ultimate odd couple: One silent as the shadows, the other louder than his own narration."

Created by Rob Liefeld and Fabian Nicieza, Deadpool debuted in 1991's "New Mutants" No. 98. Known as the "Merc with a Mouth," Deadpool is a mentally unstable assassin for hire who breaks the fourth wall and speaks directly to the audience. Deadpool's popularity is arguably on par



Photo courtesy of Ryan Stegman

Ryan Stegman, a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University, has illustrated many titles for Marvel Comics. He recently contributed to the "Deadpool/Batman" one-shot, a collaboration between Marvel and DC Comics.



Images courtesy of Marvel

Stegman drew one of several variant covers for "Deadpool/Batman" and illustrated "Logo," a mashup of Marvel's Wolverine and DC's Lobo.

with Spider-Man and Wolverine, two of Marvel's most recognizable characters. Ryan Reynolds portrayed the

character in 2009's "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" and reprised the role in 2016's "Deadpool," 2018's "Deadpool

2" and 2024's "Deadpool & Wolverine."

"Deadpool lacks a filter all of us try to have," Nicieza said. "He thinks things and says things that almost all of us think but are smart enough not to say in public. He's a voice of anti-authoritarianism and lack of respect for that authority, while at the same time, he's the ultimate underdog who always picks himself back up. No matter how badly he fails or how badly he's screwed up in social situations, he's always willing to try again."

Nicieza likened Deadpool to "Bugs Bunny meets Frankenstein's monster."

"A lot of people gravitate toward Bugs Bunny for his sarcasm and lack of respect; a lot of people gravitate toward Frankenstein's monster because they sympathize and empathize with his tragedy. Here's this character that embodies both things at the same time — often at the same moment. That's why fans like him," he said.

Created by Bob Kane and Bill Finger, Batman debuted in 1939's "Detective Comics" No. 27. As a child, Bruce Wayne watched his parents' murder. Using his vast fortune, he trained himself to become the Batman, Gotham City's Dark Knight. Many actors have portrayed Batman on the big and small screens, including Adam West, Michael Keaton, Kevin Conroy, Val Kilmer, George Clooney, Christian Bale, Ben Affleck and Robert Pattinson.

New York Times best-selling novelist and University of Michigan alumnus Brad Meltzer, who has experience writing Batman in "Identity Crisis" and "Justice League of America," spoke about the character's staying power.

"We all love Batman because of the cape, utility belt and all his wonderful toys, but the real reason he's persisted as an icon comes from his mission," Meltzer said. "Every day, Batman knows he's going to lose. He'll never stop crime in Gotham. He'll never stop the death of his parents. But he's going to try again tomorrow and again the night after that. He'll fail every day, but he'll never ever, ever give up. How can you not admire that?"

According to Clem, "Deadpool/Batman" was a top seller.

See Deadpool/Batman, Page 12

Deadpool/Batman

from page 11

“It was one of our better sellers of all time,” he said. “With both the first one and this new one, they’ve brought in some of the comic industry greats, like Ryan Stegman, to draw covers, tell the tales and make some great interior art.”

Clem expects “Batman/Deadpool” to be a top seller as well.

“We’re expecting it to be one of the top five books of the year. It’s been a year of a lot of great comics, and this will just keep the ball rolling,” he said. “The fans have loved it, but it’s not just Batman and Deadpool. The books have had great backup stories of other interactions.”

For instance, filmmaker Kevin Smith contributed a story featuring DC’s Green Arrow and Marvel’s Daredevil, two characters he’s written before. There’s also a story featuring Marvel’s Captain America and DC’s Wonder Woman. Fan-favorite writer/artist Frank Miller wrote and illustrated a story starring Batman and Wolverine, two characters on whom he’s left his mark.

Stegman illustrated “Logo,” a cross between Wolverine (who also goes by Logan) and DC’s Lobo, an intergalactic bounty hunter. This is a tribute to Amalgam Comics, a mid-’90s partnership where DC and Marvel merged their characters into new ones. For example, Batman and Wolverine were merged into Dark Claw, while Superman and Captain America were merged into Super-Soldier.

These characters appeared in a series of 12 one-shots published between the third and fourth issues of “Marvel vs. DC,” a four-part mini-series for which readers voted on the majority of the outcomes between the two publishers’ major characters, such as Superman vs. the Hulk, Captain America vs. Batman and Wolverine vs. Lobo.

“I’m attracted to any story that features Wolverine. And if I were to work at DC, I think Lobo would be at the top of my list alongside Batman. Basically, Wolverine and Lobo are what attracted me to it,” Stegman explained. “I got into comics when I was about 14 or 15. I’m 44 now. Amalgam was all the rage right when I started getting interested in comics, and it has a special place in my heart. I still recall picking up ‘Dark Claw’ off the shelf and thinking it was the coolest thing ever. So, the fact that there hasn’t been any

Amalgam since, and I technically got to bring it back, is an honor.”

Stegman also drew a Batman cover.

“It gave me an opportunity to draw Batman professionally for the first time. I have, of course, drawn him for commissions and sketches and stuff, but to be able to do it ‘for real’ was a blast,” he said. “I signed a ton of copies at New York Comic Con. Some books you just know you’ll be signing forever, and this is one of them.”

Who is Ryan Stegman?

Growing up in Troy, Ryan Stegman always knew he wanted to draw for a living.

“When I was young, I was really into Disney movies. I wanted to be an animator. My older sister and I just drew all the time,” he said. “It hit me that I could do this for a living. My parents thought I was crazy, but they supported it.”

At Michigan State University, he didn’t earn a bachelor’s degree in art or a similar field. Instead, he got a degree in English.

“While I was at MSU, I was a bit aimless, but for a while I was a studio art major, and I took some life-drawing classes,” he recalled. “I learned a ton from those. In the end, when I did choose a direction, I got an English degree. That’s been extremely useful since I’ve also taken up writing as of late, and there will be a lot more coming from me in that realm going forward. So, all in all, MSU was a very formative experience in my life in multiple ways.”

“Midnight Kiss,” an independent comic that took Stegman nine months to illustrate, got him noticed in the comics industry. He adapted Raymond E. Feist’s best-selling fantasy novel “Magician” for Dabel Brothers Productions, which entered into a partnership with Marvel in 2006.

“All of a sudden, I was working for Marvel. I had Marvel editors,” he said.

Since then, he’s illustrated numerous Spider-Man titles, as well as Wolverine, Fantastic Four, Incredible Hulk, Deadpool, Venom, X-Men, She-Hulk and many more.

“Spider-Man is part of my DNA,” he said. “I enjoy working from home and not having a boss who works at my house. I get to do what I want when I want and how I want. There’s nobody to yell at me unless I answer the phone. It’s a very free job, very liberating.”

Participating in the “Deadpool/Batman” crossover has been a highlight of his career.

“He’s the ‘Merc with a Mouth,’ the wisecracking jerk we all know, but he also wants to be heroic,” Stegman said. “He wants to be a part of something big. In a lot of ways, he’s like Wolverine: a loose cannon without a lot of people skills, but he still wants to be accepted.”

Keep up with Stegman’s work at ryanstegman.tumblr.com.



SILVER BELLS IN THE CITY

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<p>BRASS BELL SPONSORS</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> Asbestos Abatement Inc. (AAI) Auto-Owners Insurance BRD Printing Comerica Bank Courtyard Lansing Downtown EDGE Eyde Development Friedland Industries Inc. Hager Fox Heating, Air Conditioning & Electrical </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> Hi-Ball Co. Lansing Community College Marshall Music Michigan Association of Counties Michigan First Credit Union MWC Northside Towing & Service The State News Volunteers of America Thrift Store </td> </tr> </table>			Asbestos Abatement Inc. (AAI) Auto-Owners Insurance BRD Printing Comerica Bank Courtyard Lansing Downtown EDGE Eyde Development Friedland Industries Inc. Hager Fox Heating, Air Conditioning & Electrical	Hi-Ball Co. Lansing Community College Marshall Music Michigan Association of Counties Michigan First Credit Union MWC Northside Towing & Service The State News Volunteers of America Thrift Store	
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2025 City Pulse gift guide

Set yourself apart this year, don't be known as the online algorithm shopper in 2025. Here's a list of Lansing area shops that offer unique gifts, many of them are locally made and all of them will be a hit this year. We've picked out a selection of gifts, including Lansing-centered (and Big Penny) art from Ryan Holmes, stained glass from Lansing Art Glass or you can give people the supplies they need to make their own masterpieces from Odd Nodd Art Supply. And one of the most flexible gifts you can give can be perfectly crafted in Lansing: Gift baskets.

You can pack your own basket - grab one at a thrift store and wipe it down, line it with some colored tissue paper or a scrap of fabric. Fill your basket by visiting a variety of Lansing shops to pick up chocolates, nuts, cheese, coffee and local beer.

Make it appropriate for the person you're gifting to and a basket can be an incredible personal touch.

Or just grab one of the options off the shelf at Horrocks or The Cheese Lady.

And if a food-centered gift isn't right, we've got music, books and shops that offer a ton of odds and ends and especially things you won't find on those online apps.



Books

A Novel Concept

Starting at \$18 for new softcovers

Tues.-Fri. 11a-6p; Sat. 11a-4p

222 S Washington Square

<https://www.anovelconcept517.com/>

A Novel Concept is a queer, feminist bookstore in downtown Lansing. It offers tailored recommendations and offers a space for local performances as the host of #LansingReads book club. There are always new recommendations, including a batch for the holiday season.



Out of the Woods reusable lunch bag

\$26

Hooked

Sun.-Tues.: 8a-8pm; Wed.-Sat. 8a-10p

3142 E Michigan Ave, Lansing

hookedlansing.com

The coffee shop/wine bar/bookstore offers drinks, atmosphere and a retro lunch bag.

This one is reusable, an upgraded small tote bag perfect for some soft cover books or an actual lunch.

With a nice clasp, it looks like a leather impersonation of the ubiquitous childhood lunch bags, but it's made out of interlocking wood fibers that can be washed.

See Gift Guide, Page 14



Compact discs

Flat, Black and Circular

\$5 for CDs

Noon-6pm, all week

541 E Grand River Ave.

<https://flatblackandcircular.net/>

The East Lansing institution, since 1977, is back in the circular swing of CDs. Vinyl record albums are still popular, but the more affordable CDs are moving like they haven't in years. The cheap bin starts at \$1 per CD with more used CD choices available from hundreds of acts, and start at \$5. The shop also sells clothing, artwork, books and offers gift cards.

Established 1976

WhiteBrosMusic.com



Restoring old instruments for 50 years
- watch it happen at:

youtube.com/@WhiteBrosMusic



What is YOUR instrument worth? Call for a free evaluation

Open: Mon - Thu 12 - 7, Fri 12 - 6, Sat 12 - 4

517-903-6040 🎵 13630 Main St., Bath MI 48808

Happy Holidays!



Black Friday (Only!) deals

Purchase a gift card for \$64 and we will honor it for a 60-min Swedish massage OR a 60-min Basic Facial!

Purchase \$100 or more in gift cards, and receive a free \$45 gift card for yourself!

Purchase a gift card for \$99 and we will honor it for a 30-min Hydrofacial (regular \$125)!

Located in the Campus Town Mall next to Chipotle
541 E. Grand River Ave., Suite 5
East Lansing
www.massageandwellnessonline.com
517-203-1113

Gift Guide

from page 13



Fancy chocolates

Fabiano's Candies

\$13.50 for a half pound

M-F 9:30a-5:30p; Sat. 10a-4p

1427 E. Michigan Ave.

<https://www.fabianoscandies.com/>

Fabiano's has been serving up the good stuff - like candy and ice cream - for 100 years and is a capitol institution. Grab a ready-to-go box of chocolates, \$13.50 for a half pound, or choose from their showcase selections of chocolates and candies. Or dive right in and walk out with a five-pound box of chocolates, enough to last you a full holiday party and maybe have some leftover.

Baskets

Horrocks Farm Market

Prices vary

7a-10p (beer garden and tavern are open for shorter hours)

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy.

<https://www.shophorrocks.com/>

Horrocks is a Lansing classic: An old-school grocery store with a wide variety of snacks and hard-to-find ingredients. Their holiday baskets range from \$27 for a snack size to \$150 for Kaylee's Office Pleaser basket. In between there are beer, wine, gourmet and smaller office-focused options. The store can also make custom baskets, or you can pile up your cart with everything you'd want someone else to gift you.



15% off ALL Preowned Upright Pianos

10% off ALL Grand Pianos

Give the Gift of Music this Holiday Season!



Reeder Pianos, Inc.

5660 W. Grand River Ave.

www.reederpianos.com

info@reederpianos.com

517-886-9447

Beer

Old Nation Brewing Co.

\$16 for a four-pack of Frandor Claus

Claus

Brewpub hours vary; available in stores too

1500 Grand River Ave.

<https://oldnationbrewing.com/>

When what to my wondering eyes did appear, but a jolly old dude and he's slamming a beer? In 2023, local social media jokesters at Lansing Facts reminded everyone to leave a beer out for Frandor Claus, a holiday hero named for our most famous — or perhaps infamous — shopping center. Two years later, Old Nation's Frandor Claus stout, blessed by the owners of Frandor, is available at stores statewide.



Gift Guide

from page 14

Michigan Oven Mitts

\$12

Old Town General Store
 Tues.-Sat. 10a-6p
 408 E César E. Chávez Ave
<https://oldtown-generalstore.com/>

Old Town General Store is a Michigan-focused throwback to the old town shops that offered a little bit of everything. The store has a wide variety of gifts, and offers their own Michigan-centric baskets. Pick up one with Michigan popcorn, chips, candy and more for \$44. The shop is selling Lower Peninsula-shaped oven mitts, in Michigan State University white and green, along with plenty of other colors. Get the matching hot pad - also with a Michigan map but in a more-boring square shape - for \$7.50.



Peanuts and snacks

The Peanut Shop
 \$12 for a large gift tin with three choices
 Mon.-Sat.: 9:30a-5:30p
 117 S. Washington Sq.,
 Lansing
lansingpeanutshop.com

A Lansing classic and holiday staple, The Peanut Shop knows what the people want: Snacks. Get all the nuts, sweets, chocolates, candies and treats that people have been demanding for generations and generations. Pick up a variety tin and give several different mixes at once.

Cheese and baskets

The Cheese Lady
 Tues.-Fri.: 10a-6p; Sat. 9a-4p
 2200 Coolidge Road, East Lansing
thecheeselady.net

With well over 100 varieties of cheeses in their coolers and shelves, The Cheese Lady is a perfect stop to get the just-right fromage for your gift baskets this year. The new East Lansing location will cut the cheese to order and with samples to get it right. There's also a selection of Michigan-made jams, sausages, dips and charcuterie boards. And The Cheese Lady isn't just for a piece of a gift basket, they make custom gift baskets including themes like Italian cooking.



See Gift Guide, Page 16

Grace

GRACE BOUTIQUE FEATURES GIFTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE PERFECT THING FOR ANYONE HARD TO BUY FOR! LET US WRAP IT UP AND TAKE ALL THE STRESS OUT OF GIFT GIVING!

1. GORGEOUS ORIGINAL FRAMED MICHIGAN ARTWORK



2. HAND-MADE ORNAMENTS FROM ITALY, EGYPT, & AUSTRIA



3. GORGEOUS CAROUSELS FROM AUSTRIA & SWEDEN



4. HAND MADE JEWELS FROM MONTREAL



5. SWALLOWS FROM PORTUGAL



509 E. CESAR CHAVEZ AVE BETWEEN CEDAR AND LARCH



Gift Guide

from page 15



Ryan Holmes Art

Prints start at \$15
ryanholmesart.bigcartel.com

Holmes crafts a ton of great Lansing art, with themes like "The Elusive Sasquatch and the Search for Chip Dip" and "The Creature from the Flooded (Potter Park) Zoo" just scratching the surface. He is one of many local artists to have found inspiration in Lansing's maybe-too-short Pennsylvania Street bridge, nicknamed Penny the Truck Munching Bridge. Holmes said his "Big Penny 100th Munch" print, with the bridge enjoying a candy bar-branded semi-truck, is a popular choice.

Art supplies

Odd Nodd Art Supply
Decider coins start at \$15
Mon.-Sat. Noon-6p, until 5p on Sundays; open Fridays and Saturdays until 8pm through Christmas
317 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Odd Nodd Art Supply

This is where you get the stuff to make the stuff that makes people happy. The art supply shop has all the paints, pencils and other gear to get started or finished. They are featuring a handmade, no plastic, set of watercolors made by an indigenous family using time-tested natural paint recipes and served up on a slice of wood, \$75 for the kit. Or for \$32, pad out your presents with Pedro Pascal pens and paper.



Stained glass

Lansing Art Supply
Pieces start around \$15
Mon., Wed., Fri.: 10:30a-6p;
Tues., Thur.: 10:30a-5:15p; Sat.
10a-4p
2320 E. Michigan Ave.
lansingartglass.weebly.com

The sun is still diminishing for another few weeks and what better way to celebrate the season, and the little bits of sun, than to put up a suncatcher. Lansing Art Supply has a wide variety of stained glass decorations, from small and large window displays and holiday pieces to ornaments and they also repair lamps or other glass pieces.



Cards and stationary

Dear Ollie & Co.
Cards start at \$5
Tues.-Sat. 11a-6p
222 S. Washington Sq.
DearOllie.com

Make memories on paper in a digital world, stop by Dear Ollie and get unique and hand-crafted cards. The shop offers a wide selection of journals, painting kits, notepads, stickers and ornaments. Ditch the Hallmark tradition this year and give them a card that's a bit more personal and a lot cooler.




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www.maximaids.net



LanSINGout Winter Concert

Thank You for Being a Friend

With Patrick Hinds

Friday, December 5, 2025 at 7:30 PM
The Peoples Church, East Lansing
200 W Grand River Avenue
www.lansingout.org

One Night Only!



A lengthy calendar of holiday happenings

With Thanksgiving on Thursday and the arrival of December on Monday — and as our cover states — the holiday season is alive and well in Greater Lansing. Holiday events will continue to ramp up through the days leading into Christmas, giving those with time off from work or school a chance to celebrate, travel or just relax. Happenings run the gamut from concerts, plays and a burlesque show to markets, ugly sweater parties, parades and galas, bringing seasonal cheer for families, couples, groups of friends and die-hard holiday heads whose loved ones can't take any more celebration. While the following list is sizeable, a more complete list with event descriptions is available at lansingcitypulse.com.

Friday, Nov. 28

24th Mason Holiday Lighted Parade - 6-7:30 p.m. Downtown Mason. facebook.com/masonchamber.

Saturday, Nov. 29

South Lansing Holiday Market - 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5412 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/SouthLansingFarmersMarket.

Sunday, Nov. 30

Vienna Boys' Choir: "Christmas in Vienna" - 3 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Dec. 5

LanSINGout Gay Chorus Winter Concert: "Thank You for Being a Friend" - 7:30-9 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. lansingout.org.

A Magical Christmas Extravaganza - A Talent Show in support of The Eaton Area Senior Center! 7 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. facebook.com/eatonar-easeniorcenter.

Making Spirits Bright, with Ann Hampton Callaway - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Night Lights Christmas Parade & Festivities - 5 p.m. Bridge Street, downtown Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/night_lights_christmas_parade.php.

Rear View Mirror Ugly Holiday Sweater Party - 6-10 p.m. Brookshire Inn & Golf Club, 205 W. Church St., Williamston. 517-655-4694.

Roadside Attraction Christmas Special - 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Stage One Presents: Free Ugly Sweater Swing Dance Party & LCC Jazz Band - 6:30-9:30 p.m. 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/stageonemi.

Williamston Winter Wonderland Jingle & Mingle Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl - 5-11 p.m. For venue list, visit williamston-mi.us.

"A Winter's Song," Men of Orpheus Chorus Christmas Concert - 7-8:30 p.m. Central

United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. menoforpheus.org.

Dec. 6

Big Red Ball - Join DLI for the Second Annual Big Red Ball, a black-tie celebration of Downtown Lansing's transformation. 7-10 p.m. Knapp's Centre, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. downtownlansing.org.

DeWitt Santa Run - 5 p.m. Bridge Street, downtown DeWitt. facebook.com/DeWittSantaRun.

Eaton Rapids Hometown Family Christmas Event - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Downtown Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/CityOfEatonRapids.

Holiday in the Square - 4-6 p.m. Pleasant Grove Town Square (behind 1910 Food Market, 2203 W. Holmes Road, Lansing). facebook.com/lansingswag.

"Jazzy Little Christmas" - Doors 6 p.m., show 6:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. gloperahouse.com.

Krampusnacht - 4-9 p.m. Old Town, Lansing. iloveoldtown.org.

MSU Symphony Orchestra and choirs: "Alegría Navideña" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

A Not So Silent Night - Proceeds from this festive event will benefit REACH

Studio Art Center. 6:30-9 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reach-studioart.org.

Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective - 7:30 p.m. Eastern High School, 626 Marshall St., Lansing. facebook.com/pdchristmascollective.

St. Nicholas Day Craft Bazaar - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. St. David Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Drive, Lansing. stdavidslansing.org.

Williamston Winter Wonderland - Noon-8 p.m. Downtown Williamston. williamston-mi.us.

Dec. 7

Capital City Ringers Retro Holiday Spectacular - 7 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. capitalcityringers.com.

Generator Holiday Show - 6-8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra Musician Series: Holiday Brass - 3 p.m. Molly Grove Chapel, First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

Lange Choral Ensemble: "The Story & Promise of Christmas" - 3 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. facebook.com/langechoralensemblelansing.

See Holiday, Page 18

Gift Guide

from page 16

Refillable coffee tin

517 Coffee Co.

701 E. South St., Lansing

M-F 7a-2p; Sat. and Sun. 9a-3p

www.517coffeecompany.com

Coffee isn't often thought of as a fresh product, but coffee fans who buy their beans from local roasters know it only takes a month for beans to start going stale. Not only does this Airscape Coffee Canister from local roasters 517 Coffee Co. keep coffee fresh for several months, it comes with \$15/pound refills of any non-seasonal 517 coffee beans, a \$6 discount on average.



WANT TO KEEP SHOPPING?

Find more music at The Record Lounge (1027 S. Washington Ave.), Westlund's Apple Market (2301 E. Grand River) and Music Manor (3333 S. Cedar St.).

Find more books at Triple Goddess Bookstore (2019 E. Michigan Ave.), Deadtime Stories (1132 S. Washington Ave.) and a new Barnes & Noble at Frandor.

And consider filling your basket with more general store finds or candy from Bad Annie's Sweary Goods (1209 Turner Road), Kean's (406 S. Jefferson St., Mason) and Rocket Fizz (217 E. Grand River Ave.)

*The Story & Promise
of Christmas*

LANGE CHORAL ENSEMBLE
DECEMBER 7, 2025 3:00PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
218 W. OTTAWA ST. LANSING

ART BY NEVIN

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design
Signs • Banners • T-Shirts • Logos

nevin@nevingraphics.com

517-703-4655

f ArtByNevin i Art_By_Nevin

MSU Federal Credit Union
showcase series

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CHOIRS OF MSU

Alegria Navideña
CHRISTMAS JOY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025, 7:30 P.M.
COBB GREAT HALL, WHARTON CENTER

Celebrate the season with one of MSU's most treasured musical traditions. MSU Choirs join the Symphony Orchestra for *Alegria Navideña* (Christmas Joy), highlighting the spirit of the season through music sung in Spanish. Featured works include *El Mesías* (Handel's Messiah, Part I), Ariel Ramirez's *Navidad Nuestra*, and Lee R. Kesselman's *Festival of Lights*, plus a joyful audience sing-along.

RESERVED-SEAT TICKETS
WHARTONCENTER.COM
(517) 432-2000

College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Holiday

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MSU Christmas Brass Extravaganza - 7-9 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. facebook.com/PeoplesChurchEL.

Dec. 9

WITL Country Christmas Party - 7 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Dec. 12

All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre Presents: "The Nutcracker" - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. allofusexpress.org.

Annual Holiday Sing - Sing along to seasonal songs led by Sally Potter, with special guests Doug Austin, Doug Berch and Ruelaine Stokes. Lyric booklets are provided. 7:30-10 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Holiday Road Rally - A citywide photo and video scavenger hunt for teams of 4-6 adults. You'll race across Lansing, completing hilarious challenges, snapping creative photos and capturing videos at local landmarks and businesses. 6 p.m. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. facebook.com/Lansing-ParksandRecreation.

Kanin Wren's Holiday Pop Show - Enjoy festive Christmas classics, holiday pop favorites and special performances by the DeWitt Chamber Choir, Rodney Page and more surprise guests. Plus, get ready for a big Christmas singalong to close out the night! 7 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Murder Mystery Dinner Holiday Show: "The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year" - Silver bells are ringing at a seasonal standup performance, but the jolly joker gets upstaged by an event far worse than bad holiday comedy: a murder! With humbug hovering over the holiday, it's up to the unamused audience to unravel the mystery of whodunnit. 6-8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Pancakes with Santa - join us for a jolly time with Santa while enjoying all you can eat pancakes and spreading holiday cheer! 5:30-7 p.m. Eaton Area Senior Center, 804 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte. facebook.com/eatonareaseniorcenter.

TGIF Christmas Holiday Dance Party - Doors open at 7 p.m., dance lesson 7:5-7:45, dance runs 8-midnight. Hawk Hallow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. tgif-dance.com.

Dec. 13

Charlotte's Merry Little Christmas - A free Christmas concert for the whole family, featuring the Charlotte Community Band, Jazz Ensembles and chamber ensembles, as well as the Charlotte UCC Choir, plus caroling, a gift basket auction and a visit by old St. Nick himself. 6 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. facebook.com/charlottecommunityband.

The Dangling Particles Holiday Show - The Dangling Particles is a Lansing-based indie-folk band with an eclectic repertoire and a feel-good vibe. Opening the show is Pinter Whitnick, an '80s/'90s duo with a full-band sound. 6:30-9:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

GLADL Holiday Market - You'll find handcrafted items, food and preserves, baked goods, holiday decorations, and more to enjoy or to gift. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

"A Jazzy Little Christmas" - Get into the holiday groove with the MSU Professors of Jazz as they return for a festive evening filled with seasonal favorites reimagined through the lens of swing, soul and classic jazz. Joining the lineup is celebrated jazz vocalist Carmen Bradford. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Lincoln Brick Lights Festival - Light up the night with Eaton County Parks staff. This event will include a holiday light driving path at the historical Lincoln Brick Ruins, with other family fun activities provided. 5-8 p.m. 133 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. facebook.com/EatonCountyParks.

Living Nativity - Cars can slowly make their way past eight stations of the Christmas story, featuring live actors and animals. You'll even see the three wise men and their camel journeying toward the star over the manger! 5:30-8:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Ash St., Mason. masonfirstumc.org.

Deck the halls with buds and bongos: Lansterdam's 2025 gift guide

By CHRIS SILVA

The holiday lights are strung, the snow is falling (maybe) and every shopping list needs a little something something to make the season bright. For the discerning cannabis enthusiast—or that friend who just got their card and doesn't know where to start—the endless options at our local provisioning centers can feel as overwhelming as a 10-layer sweater.

Fear not, Lansterdam is here to help you navigate the green aisles.

The Splurge: Puffco Peak Pro

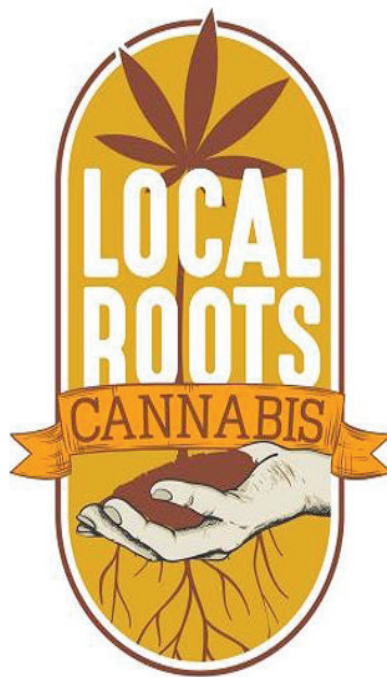
It delivers perfect, consistent heat every single time, letting the recipient savor the flavors of their concentrates. Features like Bluetooth control for temperature setting and wireless charging, make it the ultimate high-tech upgrade



with a \$400+ price tag.

Premium flower from DNK Growers (Pink Tsunami and Sour Animal)

We love a local success story, and DNK Growers is supplying some of the best flower in the Michigan market right now, grown right here in Lansing. They focus on quality over quantity and treat their plants like royalty. Look for their popular Sour Animal (a potent, euphoric sativa-dominant cross) or the highly sought-after Pink Tsunami, often available at Local Roots in Laingsburg. These are beautiful, aromatic buds that make an eighth feel like a high-end, personalized



someone who complains about the flavor of most vapes, you need Element. These are pure, strain-specific, distillate-free concentrates and often processed right here in the Lansing area. Their live resin and solventless live rosin cartridges

gift.

Affordable to mid-range flower and pre-rolls by Redemption Flower

For a clean, potent smoke that supports a great cause, Redemption is your answer. A portion of every sale goes directly to funding legal aid for non-violent cannabis offenders. Look for fresh flower and pre-rolls (like Stanky Leg or Goodfella) at Bazonzoes and other local spots.

Concentrates & Vapes by Element Live Resin



are the gold standard for clean taste and full-spectrum effects.

Edibles by Hey! Captain (Dank Dots and other freeze-dried edibles)

Hey! Captain is the most fun you can have with an edible this season.

See Lansterdam gift guide, Page 20



A LOCAL DISPENSARY SERVING THE GREATER LANSING AREA AND BEYOND

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For use by individuals 21 years of age or older only. Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana.

'A Sherlock Carol' is a grand, glorious and thrilling new mystery

By VIC RAUCH

A new twist on a seasonal classic cast a magical and mystical spell on the opening night of "A Sherlock Carol" at Williamston Theatre.

The play finds a deceased Ebenezer Scrooge calling upon his friend Sherlock Holmes to stop grieving the death of his archenemy, Moriarty. Scrooge's ghost urges Holmes to get out of his chair and get back to sleuthing because the world still needs his skill at solving crimes.

Just as the once-skinflint Scrooge made mankind his business after encountering a selection of ghosts, Holmes is about to be haunted out of his depression in a most delightful and heartwarming way.

With a cast of just six, this production is remarkable for the interplay among a dozen or more characters, both living and dead. Two experienced mid-Michigan thespians play the leading roles: John Lepard as the world's foremost consulting detective, and John Seibert as the spirit of reformed miser Scrooge and a ghostly voice.

Simple changes in costume, facial hair and head covering allow the other four cast members to play multiple roles. Especially brilliant is the way they pull off the different mannerisms and distinct dialects of the characters.

Hallie Bee Bard, a returnee to the Wil-

liamston stage, is the Countess of Morcar, Martha Cratchit, Abigail Fezziwig and Watson's brave and elegant wife, Mary Morstan, along with bits as a caroler and an elderly woman.

Newcomer Samantha Dobrowolski is, believe it or not, the mustachioed Inspector Lestrade of Scotland Yard, the Scottish tavernkeeper Mrs. Windigate, Scrooge's grandniece Fannie Gardner and 13-year-old Emma Wiggins.



Review

"A Sherlock Carol"

Through Dec. 21
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday; Friday, Nov. 28
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
No show Thursday, Nov. 27
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
(517) 655-7469
williamstontheatre.org

Patrick Loos, who played in last year's "A Very Williamston Christmas," treads the floor as Holmes' loyal friend Dr. Watson, as well as Scrooge's housekeeper Mrs. Dilber, Irish candlemaker Henry Burke and Old Joe's tavern owner Joe Brackenridge.

Another newcomer, Karam Mawazini, is Dr. Timothy Cratchit, all grown up but still addressed by many as Tiny Tim. But that's not all. He also plays Constable Bradstreet, a seemingly upstanding Scotland Yarder; nervous and wiry Ralph Fezziwig (engaged to Fannie); and easily irritated hotel manager Mr. Topper.

Put them all together, and you have a grand, glorious and thrilling new mystery surrounding the untimely — or is it timely? — death of the good-hearted Ebenezer Scrooge, whose last years were full of charity and love of mankind. His riches provide for Tiny Tim's recovery from childhood ailments and later fund

a children's hospital headed by Dr. Cratchit.

It is Tiny Tim's wish for justice, along with a boost from Scrooge and some helpful spirits, that prompts Holmes to finally agree to apply his superb detective skills to find a missing will and discover who killed Mr. Scrooge and made off with a valuable gem. And what about the missing Christmas goose?

This account wouldn't be complete without bestowing praise on the two Michigan State University students, Dobrowolski and Mawazini, in their first outing at Williamston. MSU Professor Rob Roznowski is the show's director. Hurrah for the staging, lighting and sound. Well done, all!

Especially entertaining and chuckle-eliciting is the not-so-subtle way playwright Mark Shanahan weaves some of the most familiar expressions from Charles Dickens' Christmas classic and Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories into the script: "Bah, humbug!" "The game is afoot." "God bless us, everyone." "Elementary, my dear Watson." And just plain "Bah!"



John Seibert (left) as Ebenezer Scrooge and John Lepard as Sherlock Holmes in Williamston Theatre's production of "A Sherlock Carol," by Mark Shanahan.

Lansterdam gift guide,

from page 19



They freeze-dry candies, giving them a quick-dissolving texture that hits fast. The unique infusion process means a quicker onset than traditional gummies.

The Budget Bliss Bin: Gifts Under \$20

You don't need to break the bank to spread cheer. These gifts are perfect for stocking stuffers, White Elephant exchanges, or just a little self-care on a chilly evening.

High-Potency 200mg Edibles (Dope Rope, True North, or Monster Xtracts)

Michigan's edible market is flush with deals. You can often snag 200mg packs of well-known gummy brands like Dope Rope, True North, or Monster Xtracts for under \$5 a pack when you buy in bulk. These are the ultimate holiday party favors—just remind your friends to start low and go slow. Check Lansing spots like The Botanical Co. or Home Grown Cannabis Company for these consistent, wallet-friendly steals.

Infused Pre-Rolls (Dragonfly or Glorious Fire Styxx)

A single infused pre-roll offers a big punch for a tiny price. We're talking distillate, kief, or even bubble hash infused into a ready-to-smoke joint. Keep an eye out for brands like Dragonfly or the powerful Glorious Fire Styxx (which often run deals like 3 for \$15). They're a low-effort way to impress a friend without the need for a grinder or rolling papers.

A Variable Voltage 510 Battery (Ooze Slim Twist)

Every vape cart user needs a reliable battery. The Ooze Slim Twist is a staple in smoke shops and provisioning centers around Lansing for \$15 to \$20. It's affordable, reliable and comes in fun colors. The variable voltage settings mean they can fine-tune their vape experience. It's a thoughtful accessory that everyone needs but no one buys for themselves.

The Final Dose: Stay Safe, Stay High, Lansing

No matter what you choose from this list—whether it's the community-focused flower from Redemption, a high-flavor cart from Element, or one of those addictive, freeze-dried treats from Hey! Captain—remember the three Cs of a great holiday: Caution, community and consumption.

When celebrating with friends and family, be mindful of dosing (especially with edibles), keep all products clearly labeled and away from children and pets and always plan for a sober ride. We love seeing Lansing thrive, and responsible consumption is the best way to keep the green scene growing strong.

Happy holiday from Lansterdam. See you in the New Year!

‘Think about ice cream’

Vienna Boys’ Choir brings sweet holiday sounds to Wharton

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

On sheet music or a sheet cake, “dolce” means “sweet.” When Jimmy Chiang, kapellmeister of the Vienna Boys’ Choir, wants “dolce” from his singers, he uses more direct language.

“I tell them to think of ice cream,” he said.

The world-renowned choir brings a luminous Christmas program of sacred music and traditional carols to the Wharton Center Sunday afternoon.

The choir’s ethereal, unearthly tonal beauty is not just the result of intense training and practice. Chiang feels an invisible “connection” with the boys, whether it comes from the hands, the eyes or a simple verbal suggestion.

“Instead of asking for a crescendo or a forte, I’ll say things like, ‘Think here you’re moving a big rock,’” he said. “It might say ‘legato,’ but I will say, ‘Just think about your mom right now.’ You don’t even think music, just concrete daily life. Then you get an immediate result and don’t need to explain ‘dolce’ 10 times. Ice cream!”

The Vienna Boys’ Choir is among the oldest, and yet the most fleeting, of the world’s musical treasures. It was founded in 1498, and that’s not a typo. Haydn played with them, Schubert sang with them, and Mozart and Bruckner worked with them.

But merciless male hormones only allow a brief window of membership in the group, from 10 to 14 years old.

Chiang is not only a conductor to the boys, but a mix of mentor, teacher, confidante, guardian and confessor.

“There are elements of being a father. I’m a father myself, and both of my boys were in the choir,” he said. “You must have their respect. Then, even if you’re strict, or if you’re angry, they know why. They know you won’t give up on them. You want them to be good.”

Before becoming choirmaster in 2013, Chiang had decades of experience conducting orchestral music, operas and theatrical music. He drew a sharp, if not caustic, contrast between the boys in the choir and adults in professional orchestras.

“With the professionals, it doesn’t mat-



Photo by Lukas Beck

The Vienna Boys’ Choir is midway through a 10-week North American Christmas tour, performing a program spanning sacred music to more traditional holiday tunes.

ter what you do; they will do what they do, and they just treat you like a clown, honestly,” he said. “Some orchestras will play something wrong, just to test if you heard it. The boys are honest. They don’t do it on purpose. They know sometimes they’re crazy, but they want you to keep them on track.”

The choir’s working year lasts about 10 months, from September through spring, with three months of touring and seven months of school.

The current 10-week North American tour is longer than most, with 37 concerts in 19 states, but the choir always makes time for sightseeing. Last week, they had a picnic at Golden Gate Park and planned to visit Alcatraz.

“We were in China last year, and we took them to the Great Wall,” Chiang said. “It’s great life education, and that includes life skills, like packing a suitcase. Yesterday we went to the laundromat and the boys folded their own clothes.”

Chiang takes pride in broadening the choir’s repertoire, adapting music from Gregorian chant to Michael Jackson, but the holiday show requires adherence to tradition.

“There won’t be any Michael Jackson,” he cautioned.

The first half is devoted to sacred music, from medieval chant through Mozart, Pergolesi and “Virga Jesse,” a radiant motet by Anton Bruckner that Chiang arranged for the boys.

But Chiang is always looking for ways to sneak in some new music. “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,” based on an 1864

poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was written at the height of the COVID lockdown in 2020 by British composer, pianist and conductor Alma Deutscher.

“She came to Vienna when she was only 13, conducting, playing and even writing operas,” Chiang said. “I knew her personally, and we became friends.”

Chiang asked her to arrange the carol for the boys, and she gladly complied.

“We are happy to have music from a woman composer, a living contemporary composer,” he said.

The second half moves into traditional Christmas material, including British composer Benjamin Britten’s ethereal “A Ceremony of Carols,” a proven tearjerker. There will also be carols from Italy (“Gesù Bambino,” or “Baby Jesus”), Germany (“O Tannenbaum,” or “O Christmas Tree”), the U.S. (“Little Drummer Boy”) and Ukraine (“Shchedryk,” the original version of “Carol of the Bells”).

“We’ll sing it in Ukrainian, especially because we have a Ukrainian boy in our choir,” Chiang said.

Chiang is the first Hong Kong-born conductor in the choir’s long history. His father was a pastor for the Basel Mission of a German Lutheran church in Hong Kong, and his mother was a choir director and singer.

He took to the piano at a young age and still maintains a career as a concert pianist. After graduation, he left for Vienna to study conducting. Though he had an early passion for extroverted maestros like Leonard Bernstein, he came to model himself more after “minimalist” conductors like Kurt Masur and Lorin Maazel, “who were intelligent and intellectual but also had the magic.”

Conducting a boys’ choir has its lim-



Courtesy

Jimmy Chiang, kapellmeister of the Vienna Boys’ Choir, is always looking for ways to sneak in some new music. In 2020, he commissioned British composer, pianist and conductor Alma Deutscher to arrange a Christmas carol for the group based on a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

itations, especially when compared to Chiang’s greatest conducting passion, grand opera. But the job also offers unique rewards. Year by year, he watches his charges mature and grow and faces the challenge of welcoming an incoming group of “freshmen.”

“You have to convey a certain gesture everyone can understand without you saying it, and that takes a connection,” he said. “That can come from the eyes, or just a smile.”

After guest conductors work with the choir, the boys often come to him and say things like, “He took an hour to do what we did in five minutes.”

“I’ve worked with several really great conductors, but only a few could do a great job with the boys,” Chiang said. “Riccardo Muti is one. He doesn’t talk much. But the boys sit better, sit up. Some others, you can tell they’re not really paying attention, and that’s the first sign.”

Among Chiang’s favorite moments are those when he gets help from inside the house. He often observes fourth-year members helping first-years through a piece, saying, “This is what Jimmy wants.”

“That’s when I realize I must have done something right,” he said.

Vienna Boys Choir: “Christmas in Vienna”

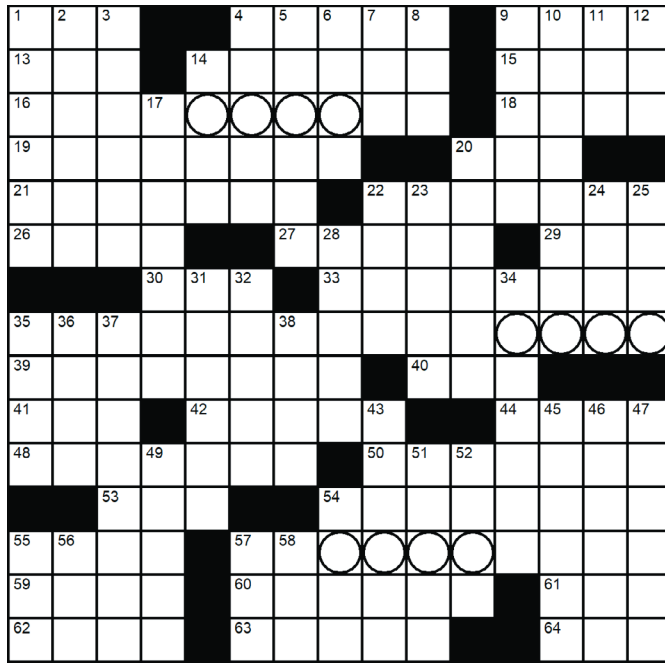
3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
(517) 432-2000
whartoncenter.com

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Hit the Bricks”-- you may be a sole survivor.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

- ACROSS**
- Snaky letter
 - Aristotle's teacher
 - “Grand Ole” venue
 - Pickleball divider
 - Bottom-of-the-page section
 - gin fizz
 - “Club” for hockey players who've won the Stanley Cup, World Championship, and Olympic titles
 - Fireworks-admiring sounds
 - How potatoes may be served
 - Slalom slider
 - Bigger than big
 - Detox diet
 - Exam in “Legally Blonde”
 - Art exhibition hall
 - Extra attention
 - Request permission
 - Speed demon
 - Painful activity in the dark (also represented by the letters above the circles)
 - Ireland, to the Romans
 - Reel Big Fish genre
 - Certain Wall Street trader, slangily
 - Nixon veep Spiro
 - Skating champion Lipinski
 - Smarten up



- Morphine and codeine, for two
 - Author McEwan
 - Relaxing soak at the end of the day
 - “Star Wars” fighter
 - Rumors
 - Iowa college town
 - Cell transmitter
 - “La-la” lead-in
 - Go over, in blackjack
 - Edible garden green
 - “Hallow” suffix
- DOWN**
- Require
 - Some skin care products
 - Black mark
 - Versifiers
 - Emmys : U.S. :: : Australia
 - Like ___ of bricks
 - ___ Aviv (city on the Mediterranean)
 - MDW counterpart in Chicago
 - Japanese port on Honshu
 - Smooth feature of some boots
 - “Ruh-___, Shaggy!”
 - “That's right”
 - Caramel-glazed dessert
 - Record for future broadcast
 - “Where the Wild Things Are” author
 - Infomercial psychic Miss ___
 - Bank offerings
 - Difficult journey
 - “Plasm” prefix
 - Aquarium buildup
 - Ankle injury
 - Sacramento's NBA team
 - Result of a lot of crunching, maybe?
 - '70s carpet style
 - Wear out
 - Outgoing flows
 - Muse count
 - Ones who court
 - Just one little bite
 - Call it a career
 - Fireplace receptacle
 - Jeans measurement
 - Dances to punk
 - “Bring ___!”
 - Furnace pipe
 - Poke with a stick
 - Bird featured in Liberty Mutual ads
 - “Monsters, ___” (Pixar film)
 - ___ Spiegel (German publication)

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Nov. 26-Dec. 2, 2025

ARIES (March 21–April 19): The Japanese word “mushin” means “no mind.” In Zen Buddhism, it refers to the state of flow where thinking stops and being takes over. When you are moving along in the groove of mushin, your body knows what to do before your brain catches up. You're so present that you disappear into the action itself. Athletes refer to it as “the zone.” It's the place where effort becomes effortless, where you stop trying and simply love the doing. In the coming weeks, Aries, you can enjoy this state more than you have in a long time. Ride it with glee!

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): For the foreseeable future, salmon are your spirit creatures. I'll remind you about their life cycle. They are born in freshwater, migrate to the ocean, and live there for years. Then they return, moving against river currents, up waterfalls, past bears and eagles. Eventually, they arrive at the exact stream where they were born. How do they do it? They navigate using the Earth's magnetic field and their sense of smell, remembering chemical signatures from years ago. I think your own calling is as vivid as theirs, dear Taurus. And in the coming weeks, you will be extra attuned to that primal signal. Trust the ancient pull back toward your soul's home.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): What if procrastination isn't always a problem? On some occasions, maybe it's a message from your deeper self. Delay could serve as a form of protection. Avoidance might be a sign of your deep wisdom at work. Consider these possibilities, Gemini. What if your resistance to the “should” is actually your soul's immune system rejecting a foreign agenda? It might be trying to tell you secrets about what you truly want versus what you think you should want.

CANCERIAN (June 21–July 22): I'm only slightly joking when I recommend that you practice the art of sacred bitching in the coming days. You are hereby authorized to complain and criticize with creative zeal. But the goal is not to push hard in a quest to solve problems perfectly. Instead, simply give yourself the luxury of processing and metabolizing the complications. Your venting and whining won't be pathological, but a legitimate way to achieve emotional release. Sometimes, like now, you need acknowledgment more than solutions. Allowing feelings is more crucial than fixing things. The best course of action is saying “this is hard” until it's slightly less hard.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): The Chinese concept of “yuanfen” means that some connections are fated. Certain people were always meant to cross your path. Not soulmates necessarily, but soul evokers: those who bring transformations that were inscribed on your destiny before you knew they were coming. When you meet a new person and feel instant recognition, that's yuanfen. When a relationship changes your life, that's yuanfen. When timing aligns impossibly but wonderfully, that's yuanfen. According to my analysis, you Leos are due for such phenomena in the coming weeks — at least two, maybe more. Some opportunities appear because you pursue them. Others were always going to arrive simply because you opened your mind and heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Let's talk about a forest's roots. Mostly hidden from sight, they are the source of all visible life. They are always communicating with each other, sharing nourishment and information. When extra help is needed, they call on fungi networks to support them, distributing their outreach even further. Your own lineage works similarly, Virgo. It's nutrient-rich and endlessly intertwined with others, some of whom came long before you. You are the flowering tip of an unseen intelligence. Every act of grounding — breathing deeply, resting your feet, returning to gratitude — is your body's way of remembering its subterranean ancestry. Please keep these meditations at the forefront of your awareness in the coming weeks. I believe you will thrive to the degree that you draw from your extensive roots.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): You are currently in a phase when it's highly possible to become both smarter and wiser. You have a sixth sense for knowing exactly how to enhance both your intellectual and emotional intelligence. With this happy news in mind, I will remind you that your brain is constantly growing and changing. Every experience carves new neural pathways. Every repeated thought strengthens certain connections and weakens others. You're not stuck with the brain you have, but are continuously building the brain that's evolving. The architecture of your consciousness is always under construction. Take full advantage of this resilience and plasticity!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): The coming weeks will be a favorable time to stand near what you want to become. I advise you to surround yourself with the energy you want to embody. Position yourself in the organic ecosystem of your aspirations without grasping or forcing. Your secret power is not imitation but osmosis. Not ambition but proximity. The transformations you desire will happen sideways, through exposure and absorption. You won't become by trying to become; you will become by staying close to what calls you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Some seeds can remain dormant for centuries, waiting for the right conditions to germinate. The oldest successfully germinated seed was a 2,000-year-old date palm seed. I suspect you will experience psychospiritual and metaphorical versions of this marvel in the coming weeks. Certain aspects of you have long been dormant but are about to sprout. Some of your potentials have been waiting for conditions that you haven't encountered until recently. Is there anything you can do to encourage these wondrous developments? Be alert for subtle magic that needs just a little nudge.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Orb weaver spiders make seven different types of silk, each engineered for different purposes: sticky silk for catching prey, strong silk for the web's frame, stretchy silk for wrapping food, and soft silk for egg sacs. In other words, they don't generate a stream of generic resources and decide later what to do with them. Each type of silk is produced by distinct silk glands and spinnerets, and each is carefully tailored for a particular use. I advise you to be like the orb weavers in the coming weeks, Capricorn. Specificity will be your superpower.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20– Feb. 18): Benevolent gossip is the practice of speaking about people not to diminish them but to fondly wonder about them and try to understand them. What if gossip could be generous? What if talking about someone in their absence could be an act of compassionate curiosity rather than judgment? What if you spoke about everyone as if they might overhear you — not from fear but from respect? Your words about others could be spells that shape how they exist in the collective imagination. Here's another beautiful fact about benevolent gossip: It can win you appreciation and attention that will enhance your ability to attract the kind of help and support you need.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Every 21,000 years, the Sahara Desert transforms into a lush green savanna. It's due to precession, which is a wobble in the Earth's axis. The African seasonal monsoon becomes much stronger, bringing increased rainfall to the entire area. The last time this occurred was from about 11,000 to 5,000 years ago. During this era, the Sahara supported lakes, rivers, grasslands, and diverse animal and human populations. I'm predicting a comparable shift for you in the coming months, Pisces. The onset of luxuriant growth is already underway. And right now is an excellent time to encourage and expedite the onset of flourishing abundance. Formulate the plans and leap into action.

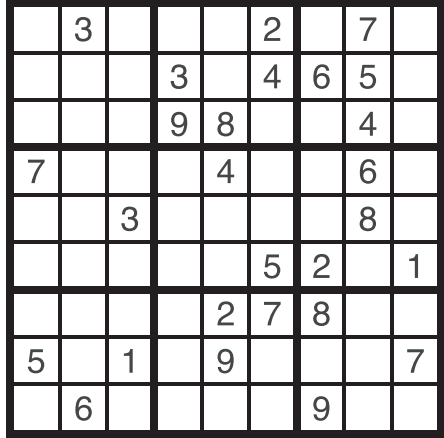
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

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Answers on page 25

SUDOKU

Intermediate



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

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. 26

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, professionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

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

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

Bar Night Bash at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Krosby's Conspiracy is putting together a special show featuring classic rock, dance music and some old-school metal! Kitchen open until 10:30 p.m. Jumbo wings \$1.50 each. Drink specials 8 p.m.-close. \$2 Jell-O shots. 8-11 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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.

CharLit Adult Book Club: "The Golden Spoon," by Jessa Maxwell - 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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. glad.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.

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

Lansing Live Open Stage Night - Whether you're experienced or just starting out, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover, all ages welcome. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Live Music at the Monk - No plans for your Wednesday? Come and enjoy live music and good beer with old friends and maybe make some new ones. 7-9 p.m. EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 W Mt Hope Hwy., Lansing. eaglemonkbrewing.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 Ice Hockey vs. Colgate University - 7 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

MSU Women's Volleyball vs. USC - 6 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

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

Thursday, Nov. 27

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.

Community Thanksgiving Meal - Community members in need are invited to join us for a warm Thanksgiving meal. Noon-2 p.m. CCIEC Cristo Rey Campus, 1717 N. High St., Lansing. catholiccharitiesec.org.

Downtown DeWitt Turkey Trot - A family 5K fun run! The perfect way to start your holiday. Participants of all ages and paces are welcome — strollers too! 8 a.m.-noon. 3-legged dog yoga + strength studio, 117 W. Main St., DeWitt. 3ldyoga.org.

Friday, Nov. 28

24th Mason Holiday Lighted Parade - Join us for the tree lighting ceremony, where the Citizen of the Year will give the command to light the tree. The holiday parade, with its lights all aglow, will arrive shortly after. 6-7:30 p.m. Downtown Mason. facebook.com/masonchamber.

"A Sherlock Carol" - Two beloved classic tales. One thrilling new mystery. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Alexandria McMath Live at Sidebar - 7-10 p.m. 246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing. 517-220-2131. sidebar-eastlansing.com.

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

Bear Band Plays Santana - The Bear Band, comprising cousins Rick Alicia (aka "The Bear") and Chris Guerra, joined by veterans Mike Skory, John Large and Steve Frarey, presents a high-energy night of Santana favorites and more. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Confident Witch Circle - This week's Confident Witch Circle works with Thurisaz, the rune of thresholds and thorns. 8-10 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

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.

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.

Makenna's Books book drive

Friday, Nov. 28-Sunday, Nov. 30
Multiple area bookstores

In memory of Makenna Morse, an Eaton Rapids English teacher who died in a car crash last year, Makenna's Books collects donations for Little Free Libraries throughout Michigan.

This holiday weekend, Makenna's Books is partnering with independent bookstores in the Lansing area to collect donations. The books will be custom labeled with a donor's name and the loved one they are honoring, if applicable, before being placed in a local Little Free Library.

Participating locations include A Novel Concept (222 S. Washington Square., Lansing), Deadtime Stories (1132 S. Washington Ave., Lansing), Everybody Reads (2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing), Barrett's Books (111 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston) and Bestsellers Books & Coffee (250 S. Jefferson St., Mason).

The bookstores will collect donations during their regular hours Friday through Sunday. A Novel Concept is closed Sundays.

Donors will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 gift card to the store they donate from.

Those with new and gently used books they'd like to donate can bring donations to Darrell's Market & Hardware (4520 W. Columbia Road, Mason), which will collect them for distribution. The store does not sell books, but it does have a Little Free Library.

To learn more, or to otherwise support Makenna's Books, visit makennasbooks.com.



MELT - UrbanBeat turns up the heat with a weekly electronic music series, hosted by Big Sherm. No cover. 10 p.m.-1:30 a.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Holiday Exhibit — Small Works - In conjunction with the play "A Sherlock Carol," the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invites you to visit its holiday exhibit in the Williamston Theatre Gallery. 2-4 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

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

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

Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality - Free exercise class designed for people with Parkinson's Disease. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1-2 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. LAPSG.org.

The Verve Pipe - The Verve Pipe returns to Lansing, with support from Narc Out the Reds and Atomic Annie. 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Saturday, Nov. 29

"A Sherlock Carol" - Two beloved classic tales. One thrilling new mystery. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Art Show at Keller's Plaza - Join the shops of Keller's Upstairs for a Small Business Saturday art show! We'll also be hosting special guest artists. Enjoy refreshments and more. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 100 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. facebook.com/ourkellersplaza.

Bingo Loco: Name That Song - A name-that-song game show with comedian presenters, the best '90s/2000s music, dancing on tables, rave rounds, lip-sync battles and wild prizes. Ages 21+. 7:30 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

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.

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

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.

Djangophonique - This award-winning ensemble captures the spirit of Django Reinhardt's jazz manouche with a blend of tradition and fearless creativity. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Evergreen Porch Pot Workshop - Build your very own evergreen porch pot for the winter season! 3-4 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Bath. vanattas.com.

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

Small Business Saturday

Nov. 29

Founded in 2010 by American Express as a locally focused counterbalance to the big-box-focused Black Friday, Small Business Saturday takes place the Saturday after Thanksgiving each year, bringing deals and events to locally owned businesses. Many areas of Greater Lansing will take part this year.

A \$5,000 donation from Resch Strategies has allowed Downtown Lansing Inc. to double the value of Downtown Digital Dollars e-gift cards on Saturday while supplies last. The funds can be spent at 35 participating downtown businesses. More information can be found at downtownlansing.org.

In Old Town, shops will run their own individually chosen deals.

Businesses in downtown DeWitt will offer punchcards to those who shop from more than five local businesses, with a chance to win a gift basket.

The REO Town marketplace will kick off its Mistletoe Market, which will run every Saturday through Dec. 20 from noon to 4 p.m., featuring about 20 vendors alongside the stores already there. Saturday will also be the final day of business for Wayfaring Booksellers, a bookstore in the marketplace already offering 40% off storewide.

The South Lansing Farmers Market will host 80 local vendors at the Lansing Mall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering all sorts of food, gifts and other artisanal items, as well as massage, reiki, tarot readings and henna art. The event will also include live music, raffle drawings and an international food court.

In addition to dozens of participating local businesses, there will be family activities in downtown Charlotte throughout the day, such as a free screening of "The Polar Express" at the Eaton Theatre and a lighted holiday parade throughout the downtown streets, followed by a tree lighting at Courthouse Square.

Last but not least, in Williamston, the upstairs shops at Keller's Plaza will have an art show from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Metro Creative Connection

Events

from page 23

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 E. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

Michigan CPL Class - Concerned about personal safety? Our concealed pistol license class will give you some tools on how you can protect yourself and your loved ones. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Capital Area Sportsmen's League, 7534 W. Old River Trail, Lansing. kingsmenpsc.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Holiday Exhibit — Small Works - In conjunction with the play "A Sherlock Carol," the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invites you to visit its holiday exhibit in the Williamston Theatre Gallery. 2-4 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

Small Business Saturday in Downtown Lansing - Discover the heart of Lansing by supporting the local shops, restaurants and makers who make downtown one of a kind! Bonus deal: Buy Downtown Digital Dollars, and we'll double them (while funds last)! downtownlansing.org.

Small Business Saturday in Old Town Lansing - Our shops, restaurants and services will be ready to welcome you with treats, specials and deals as you shop local and support independent retailers! iloveoldtown.org.

Smokey Bear Live at the Irish Pub - 8-11 p.m. 1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. 517-253-8713. irishpublansing.com.

South Lansing Holiday Market - The South Lansing Farmers Market is hosting 60+ local vendors on Small Business Saturday! We'll also have live music, children's activities and raffle drawings every 15 minutes. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5412 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/SouthLansingFarmersMarket.

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

Sunday, Nov. 30

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

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.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Holiday Exhibit — Small Works - In conjunction with the play "A Sherlock Carol," the Mid-Michigan Art Guild invites you to visit its holiday exhibit in the Williamston Theatre Gallery. 2-4 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

Monday, Dec. 1

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, professionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

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

Brewers Meetup at Summerlands Brewing Co. - A discussion group to talk about all things brewing and winemaking. All levels of experience welcome, from pros to those considering taking up homebrewing. 6-7:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

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

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.

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.

Mindful Moments Workshop Series: Brief Practices in Mindfulness - The goal of this workshop is to give participants a variety of mindfulness practices to use every day. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mindfulnessforbetterliving.

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.

Paint a Christmas or Snowman Sign - Adults: Get creative with paint, stencils and decals to create your own Christmas or winter-themed sign. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.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. lpspg.org.

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

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.

West Circle Series: Beethoven! - Celebrate one of the world's greatest composers with an evening of chamber music that reflects the expressive and emotional depth of his revolutionary music. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 2

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, professionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

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

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

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

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

Christmas Wreath Decorating Workshop - Get creative and decorate your own holiday wreath while enjoying the exquisite holiday refreshments and warm atmosphere provided by Pierson 319. 6-8:30 p.m. 319 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. eventbrite.com/o/lori-wurm-120658477173.

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

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

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

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

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. 3-4 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth/index.

Infused Oils and Vinegars - Learn to create infused oils and vinegars using herbs, spices and other simple ingredients. We'll discuss flavor combo ideas and share a few recipes to use your new creations in. 6:30-8 p.m. Bradley's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

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

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

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.

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. University of Iowa - 7 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

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. lpspg.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.

Events

from page 24

Viridis and Campus Choir - Viridis and Campus Choir explore themes of childhood, imagination and global traditions through works by Britten, Matsushita, Gawthrop, Haydn and more. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

“A Caregiver’s Butterfly Garden” - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, professionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

The ABCs of Medicare - This free educational program, led by licensed Medicare agent Kevin Gebhard, is designed to help adults understand Medicare options. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.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.

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

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

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

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

Climate Change Theatre Action: The Time is Now - Launched in 2015, Climate Change Theatre Action is a worldwide festival of short plays about the climate crisis. Six plays will be presented. Noon and 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Emerging Leaders: Turning Risk into a Restaurant Empire - The Innovate State Speaker Series brings Kimchi Box founder and CEO Min Kyu Kim to campus for a live, unscripted fireside chat. 6-7 p.m. Minskoff Pavilion, Room M025, 651 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/burgess-institute-1474751979.

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

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

Governing Essentials: Open Meetings Act - Participants will learn the requirements of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. Noon-1 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/government.

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

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

Lansing Live Open Stage Night - Whether you’re experienced or just starting out, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover, all ages welcome. 6-9 p.m.

UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

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.

Mosaic and Singing Spartans - The Singing Spartans and Mosaic present a moving program celebrating resilience, community and the power of song. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Rank MI Vote Presents - Gather friends, family and neighbors and come learn how ranked-choice voting decreases division and voter frustration and improves representation. 6-7:30 p.m. South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. rankmivote.org.

Speed Dating for Singles Ages 23-38 - Meet up to 12 potential matches. Join the thousands of people who have found love at our events. 7:30 p.m. Buddy’s Pizza, 2010 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos. pre-dating.com/lansing-speed-dating.

Speed Dating for Singles Ages 34-49 - 6 p.m. Buddy’s Pizza, 2010 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos. pre-dating.com/lansing-speed-dating.

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

Wavelength - You’re invited to Wavelength WSG Tempo Tantrum [810] ft. Frankie Far, URFQZ, K_Dubbs, Rob Powell. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/wavelength517.

Winter Driving Survival 101 - Join Rodney Cole, a wilderness survival instructor, to learn how to put together a winter survival kit for your car or truck. Best for ages 16+. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.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, Dec. 4

“A Caregiver’s Butterfly Garden” - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, professionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

“A Sherlock Carol” - Two beloved classic tales. One thrilling new mystery. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 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.

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



Lansing Turkey Trot

9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27

Adado Riverfront Park

201 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

The time-honored tradition of getting a head start on Thanksgiving Day calorie burning dates back to the 1890s — and it’s getting more popular every year.

More than a million people signed up to run a turkey trot last year, according to the website RunSignup. In Lansing, the annual turkey trot brings in more than 5,000 participants, according to organizers.

The 5-mile race has a flexible start line, allowing experienced runners, first-timers and families to coexist. Faster runners line up toward the front, while walkers and families start further back. Racers can start between 9 and 9:10 a.m., with their time starting when they cross the mats.

Construction on Grand Avenue has led to slight modifications in the course, but it still begins and ends at Adado Riverfront Park and takes racers through the downtown area in between.

Tickets are \$35 and include a shirt while supplies last. Participants must sign up ahead of Thanksgiving at runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/LansingTurkeyTrot. Proceeds benefit the Michigan Running Foundation, a DeWitt nonprofit that supports middle and high school cross-country and track programs.

There is day-of packet pickup, but runners are encouraged to do so in advance at Playmakers in Okemos from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. today (Nov. 26) to avoid long lines. Day-of packet pickup begins at 7:30 a.m. at Lansing Community College’s Gannon Building.

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.

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

Fiscally Ready Communities - A webinar designed to help local government officials navigate the full life cycle of grants, from identifying the right opportunities to ensuring compliance and successful reporting. 10-11:30 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/fiscal_management.

Grand Opening: Dungeons & Dragons - Your new go-

to spot for an epic tabletop roleplaying experience! Come celebrate with us and enjoy discounted gift certificates, a costume contest, giveaways, drinks, snacks and good vibes. Noon. 215 S. Washington Square, Lansing. downtownlansing.org.

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

Group Dance Class: Beginning West Coast Swing - Have fun, learn a social skill and meet new people! 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

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

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

Mid-Michigan Art Guild’s Holiday Exhibit — Small Works - In conjunction with the play

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 22

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SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 22

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Local restaurateur opens Italian-focused concept in classic Okemos location

By LEO V. KAPLAN

Before it was Gjoni's, the building at 662 W. Grand River Ave. was Spagnuolo's Restaurant. In the 1980s, it was the Polo Bar.



Gjoni's Bar and Restaurant

662 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily
(517) 908-3132
gjonis.com

Many of Gjoni's regulars have been regulars at the building since the Polo Bar days, owner Gjon Gjidoda said — and he's glad to be the steward of a spot that's important to Okemos locals.

"A lot of these customers that come in here, they've come in here since they were kids," he said. "And they love it. I mean, once you get repeating customers, that tells you they love what's being offered."

Gjoni's Bar and Restaurant, an Italian-focused bar and restaurant, offers a full alcohol and espresso bar with gelato alongside pizza, burgers and sandwich-

es, salads and entrees like pan-seared steak or salmon. It opened Oct. 8 following Spagnuolo's closure in July. It's more upscale than Spagnuolo's was, Gjidoda said, and with more diverse offerings.

The name, Gjoni's, is pronounced "Johnny's," as in Gjidoda's first name, which is pronounced "John."

The gelato bar in particular has been a hit, Gjidoda said.

Gjidoda, who grew up in Albania, said he is excited to introduce people to gelato because it was his version of ice cream when he was growing up. While similar to American ice cream, gelato is typically richer and creamier and usually made with a custard base.

The gelato is purchased from Bella Vita, a gelato maker known for its inventive flavors. The rotating flavors include traditional gelato flavors as well as fresh tastes like Dubai chocolate.

Gjoni's menu has enough classic Ital-



ian fare to keep Spagnuolo's regulars happy, but Gjidoda also added in other items like burgers, salads and even a full cocktail menu.

Asked why he added what he did all that, Gjidoda laughed.

"I've been in the restaurant business for a very long time," he said. "I know what people like."

Gjidoda has been operating Coney Island restaurants in the area for more than 30 years, including Dan's Coney Island on Pennsylvania Ave. He owned

the former Hannah's Coney Island in Hannah Plaza too.

He's never operated a restaurant like this, however.

"I'm enjoying it," he said when asked about operating a bar. "It's an experience that I didn't have before. I've owned restaurants, but I've never owned one like this."

Gjidoda said operating a bar has always been a goal for him. When his real estate agent told him about the building, he jumped on it.

It's closer to home for Gjidoda, who lives in Okemos.

That said, getting a bar and restaurant set up while also operating Dan's Coney Island has been keeping him busy.

"It's a lot of work," he said.

What keeps him coming in, then?

"Family, kids, bills to pay," Gjidoda said, ever straightforward.

But it's clear from watching him smile as he talks about the new menu items, especially the cocktails and gelato, that he's having fun with it as well.

Stateside's a sure thing for good breakfast

By LIZY FERGUSON

Meeting friends for breakfast on Sunday morning has to be one of life's greatest quotidian joys. You talk about your week, you drink too many cups of coffee, and you laugh so hard it can create a bit of a scene. If you can find a place where the quality of food matches the company, even better! Stateside Deli has always come through, and my last visit was no exception.

I had run out of coffee at home that morning, so I immediately downed my first cup before settling in to peruse the restaurant's sizable menu, which includes breakfast options like biscuits and gravy, a lox platter, French toast, pancakes and waffles. It also offers tur-

key bacon and gluten-free toast for those with more specific preferences. I always find myself considering a pastrami or turkey-and-coleslaw sandwich for breakfast, but then I remember their size and how surviving Sunday mornings at Trader Joe's requires a certain agility and sharpness of mind.

I landed on the gyro omelet this time, having never tried the omelets before. It comes with a choice of hash browns, a pancake or tomato slices. I got the potatoes, which were just the right combination of crispy and tender. The omelet was overstuffed, as promised,

with seasoned lamb gyro meat that was crisped at the edges, caramelized onions, diced tomatoes and melty feta. This would have been excellent on its own, but the side of tzatziki sauce really made it special. I recommend lifting the top half of the omelet and dumping the creamy, tangy sauce inside.

Another recommendation, from one of my dining companions, is to ask for a side of Stateside's delectable hollandaise. You're going to dunk your toast in it and use it to further enhance your potatoes. It's almost Thanksgiving, so you might as well be decadent until the new year!

Stateside is quiet, with plenty of booths and great servers, and the portions are generous without leav-



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Stateside Deli's gyro omelet is stuffed with seasoned lamb meat, caramelized onions, diced tomatoes and melty feta, served with a cup of creamy tzatziki on the side.

ing you in need of a nap if you clean your plate. Unless it's one of the deli sandwiches.



Gyro Omelet

\$15

Stateside Deli

3552 Meridian Crossing Drive,
Okemos

8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

(517) 853-1100

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