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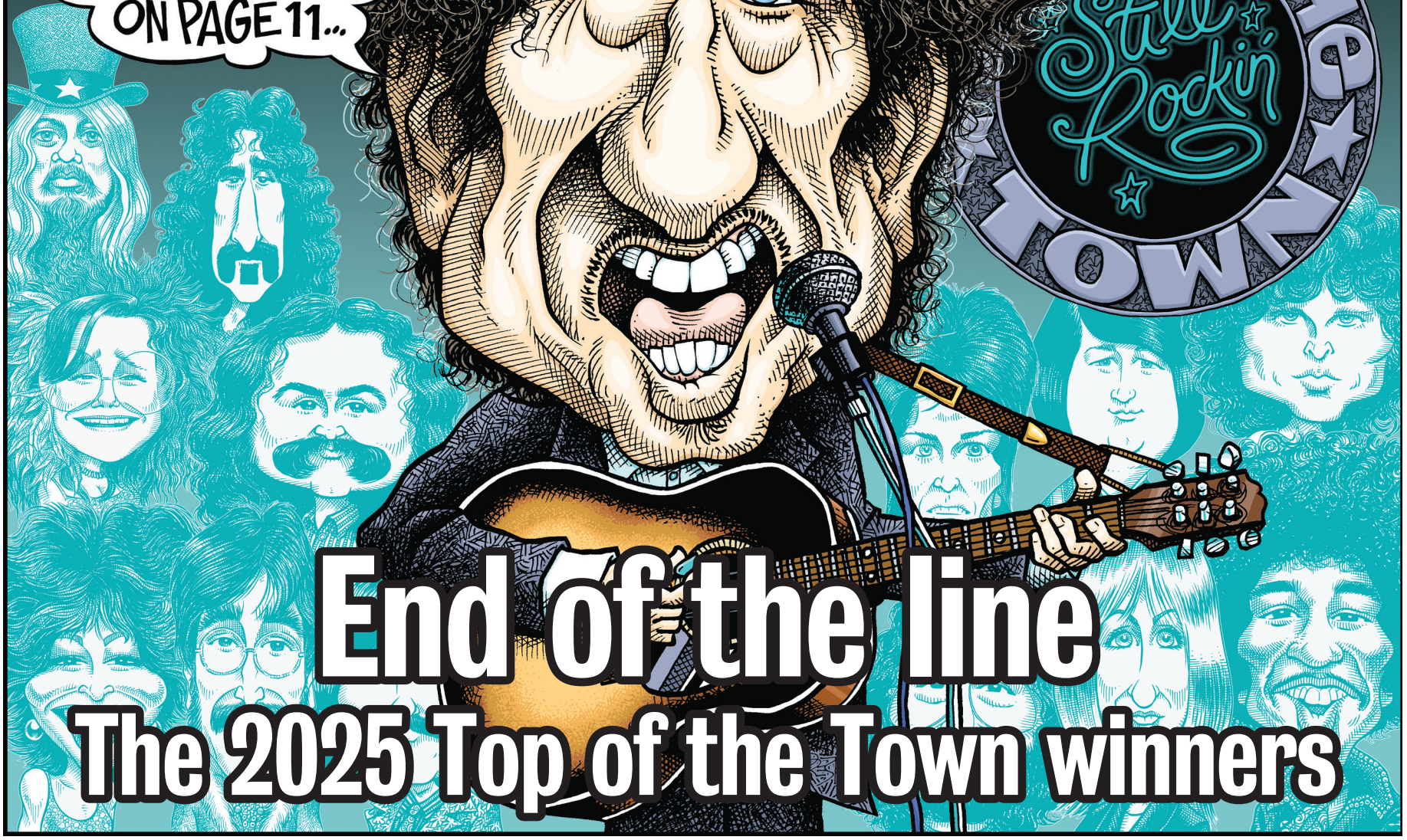
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What Is Going On? A Nation is Losing Its Future

I remember the days when I could reasonably envision my future. Most of us could. We grew up with a quiet confidence that if we worked hard and made decent choices, the road ahead — while never guaranteed — would at least make sense. We believed that raising a family wouldn't require a financial acrobatics routine. We trusted that our neighbors weren't sizing us up as enemies. We assumed our children would inherit a world where they could imagine a future of their own, instead of feeling powerless inside a capitalistic hellscape designed to extract everything from them while giving as little as possible in return.

That feeling — of predictability, of stability, of a functioning social contract — has evaporated. And nobody seems willing to say it out loud: What is going on?

What is going on when we hear talk of closing the skies over Venezuela, as if the United States is inching toward yet another military escalation masquerading as righteousness? We're told missiles are being launched at "suspected drug smugglers." As though a few dozen extrajudicial killings — people vaporized without names, trials, or evidence — will somehow improve the lives of average Americans. We're not safer. We're not stronger. We're not in the know. We're being sold a narrative — and worse: We're expected to swallow it without question. Because questioning the storyline is now treated as disloyalty.

What is going on when the MAHA movement — MAGA's even-less-informed cousin — keeps spiraling into conspiratorial nonsense every time the topic of public health comes up? How did we go from bipartisan trust in basic medicine to people loudly claiming Tylenol causes autism or whispering about bird flu outbreaks that "they" are refusing to report? The irony is that the people sounding the alarm about government incompetence are the same people undermining the very systems that would help us in a crisis. We are as unprepared as we've ever been to handle any outbreak, not because the science isn't there, but because the public conversation has been hijacked by opportunists who see fear as a business model.

And then there's the economy — this supposedly "robust" miracle the administration keeps celebrating. They beam in front of cameras and proclaim historic success, while quietly withholding the basic economic data that every administration for decades released like clockwork. Jobs reports postponed. Inflation metrics missing. GDP numbers scheduled for public release on October 30 held back without explanation. They call themselves the most transparent administration in history. They act like a corporation shredding documents in a locked basement.

Transparency shouldn't require binoculars and a prayer.

I used to believe that if things went sideways, if the country hit turbulence, I could still protect my family. I had faith — maybe naïve, maybe conditioned — that the institutions built over generations would hold. That the people in charge, regardless of party, would be adults in the room. That America's government, despite its flaws, would remain tethered to credibility.

But today? I find myself feeling the country is closer to uncontrollable collapse than anything resembling stability. Not because of one crisis, but because of a sprawling pattern of dysfunction, denial, secrecy, and corruption. A pattern enabled by millions of people who've convinced themselves that loyalty to a brand or a movement is more important than loyalty to the truth.

Never did I think I would watch the legitimacy of the United States government dissolve so quickly, or so quietly. But here we are. The enabling of this administration — its lies, contempt for accountability, bizarre obsession with theatrics — has been astonishing to watch. And

it's not happening because Americans suddenly stopped caring. It's happening because many have been groomed to believe that any contradiction to the leader's narrative is an attack on their identity.

That is the grift. That is the trap. And it's working.

People scoff at the word "propaganda" because it feels too dramatic, too foreign. But propaganda doesn't need marching bands or giant posters. Sometimes it looks like selective press access. Sometimes it looks like strategic silence. Sometimes it looks like one more missing report, one more unasked question, one more manufactured crisis used to distract from the rot happening in plain sight.

And it's that rot that keeps me up at night. Because the collapse of trust isn't theoretical — it's already here. When a government stops telling the truth, the fabric of society frays. When people stop believing they have a future, they stop investing in it. When families feel unsafe, economically or socially, they retreat into survival mode. That's not patriotism. That's not prosperity. That's not stability. That's decay.

Maybe what scares me most is how ordinary everything still looks on the surface. The denial is so strong, the distractions so constant, that you almost forget the ground is shifting beneath you. People run errands, take their kids to school, go to work, scroll endlessly through their chosen echo chambers, and pretend everything is normal. But the air feels different. The future feels less like a promise and more like a dare. And we all know it, even if we're afraid to say it.

So again I ask: What is going on?

It's not one thing. It's not even ten things. It's a corrosive mix of incompetence, disinformation, and greed wrapped in a flag and sold as patriotism. It's a public manipulated into embracing nonsense. It's a government that has learned it can get away with offering nothing but slogans, secrecy, and manufactured enemies. It's a political culture where outrage is currency and truth is collateral damage.

And in the middle of all that, ordinary people — people like me, people like you — are left wondering how the hell we're supposed to protect our families in a world where the people in charge treat reality like an inconvenience.

This is what happens when people love power and money more than they love the truth, more than they love their country, and certainly more than they love the people they swore to serve.

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'The Wiz' and the Scarecrow at Wharton



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Roll into Dungeons and Dragons

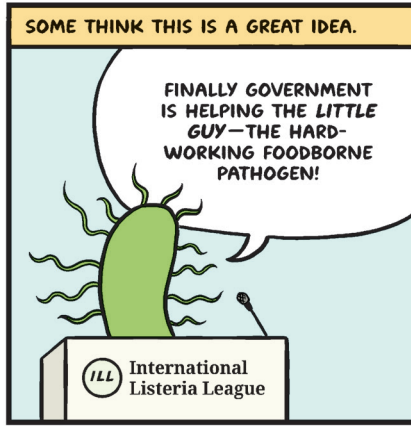
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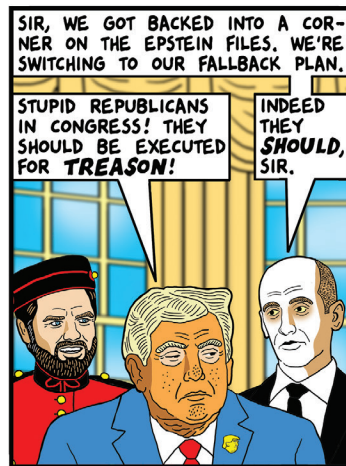
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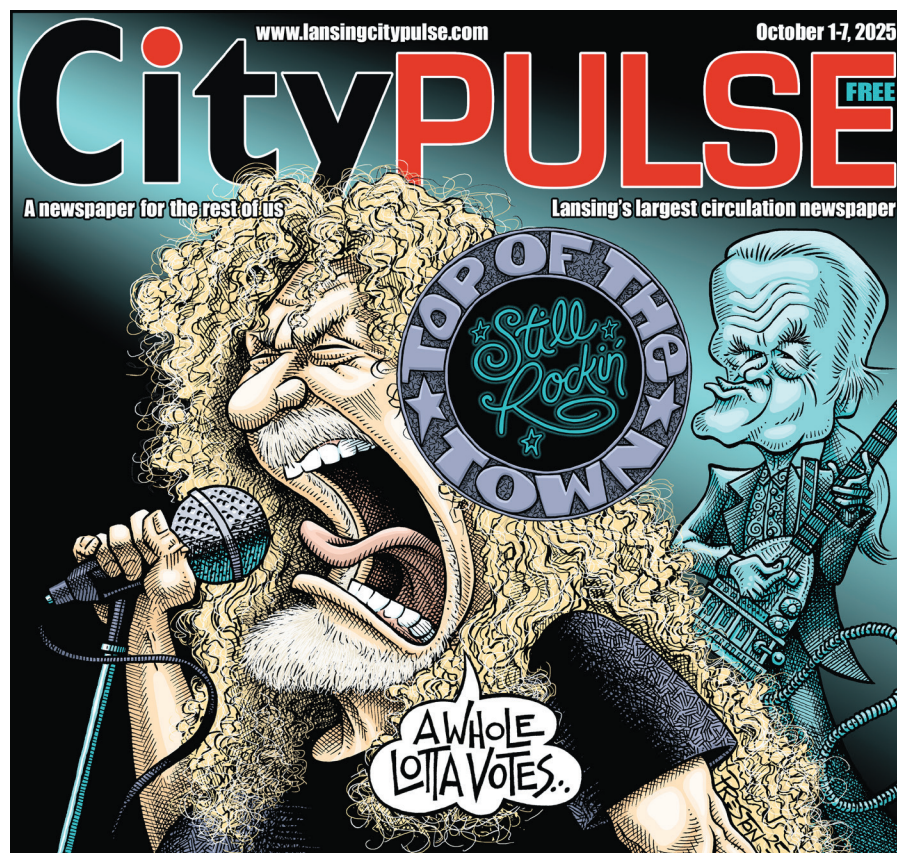
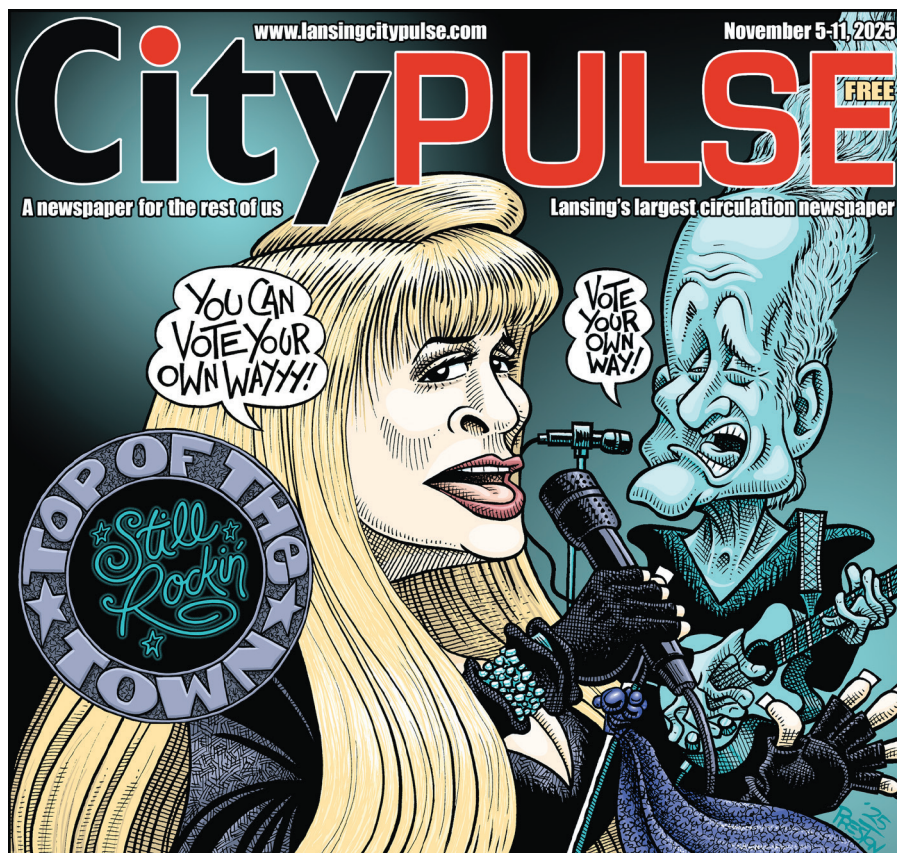
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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City Pulse+WKAR TOTT voters are singing the classics – and plenty of new hits as well!



By STEVE UNDERWOOD

This is it: The moment and the issue with the results and the WINNERS that you've all been waiting for! Like the aging classic rock stars after they've reunited and revived their act with a new great album or finished tour, and it's time to step up and accept their Grammys!

To the 250 winners of the 18th Annual City Pulse + WKAR Top of the Town Contest, their proverbial "Grammys," we are able to say they're the best of the best, the people's choice in our 2025 showdown. We launched this a little later this year, but with no less fanfare, on Oct. 1. Now it's the first week of December and we have the final results.

In the pages of this issue (and online at <http://lansingcitypulse.revfluent.com/tott>) are the winners and top three that you selected in 250 categories, voted on by more than 3,300 of you, introducing nearly 2,300 nominees and casting nearly 72,000 votes in two rounds. We thank you so much (and the winners do, too)!

First, we must thank our new

partners at WKAR for joining and supporting us, as well as tirelessly and enthusiastically promoting our contest over the airwaves and on their website and socials. And as always, gratitude to Dennis Preston and his fantastic artwork, which has delighted us with every issue.

Thank you!

As is nearly always the case, your winners and top three placers included many beloved classics in Greater Lansing -- but plenty of new "hits" as well!

You'll see in our breakout features in this section all the love that voters gave to two Old Town superstars in multiple categories: Preuss Pets and newly relocated Constellation Cat Café. But who were some of the others who were most appreciated?

Some are no surprise; they've been TOTT mainstays for many years: Horrocks Farm Market (and the adjacent Beer Garden) continues to thrive in numerous categories. Old school and new school veteran standouts like Dagwood's, Crunchy's, The Avenue Café, MEAT BBQ and Flour Child and more are all attractive for not just their cuisine, but also their

entertainment and being, for many of them, the best places to work in the area.

Said one Flour Child voter, "What a local gem, with great owners and a wonderful staff. Go-to for treats and orders for gifts."

Some of the other multiple-winners included Douglas J Salon+Medspa, Old Town Lansing, Olympic Broil, Soup Spoon Café and Zap Zone, to name a few.

You'll notice The Green Door is missing this year; and don't be surprised if it makes a big comeback next year as it plans to reopen.

But how about the feisty newcomers?

Cooper's Hawk Winery, newly opened in Eastwood Shopping Center, has made a big impact, winning Best New Restaurant, Best Upscale Dining and Best Restaurant Wine List. Its neighbor there, Art & Jakes Sports Bar & Grill, was also touted among new restaurants, as was the latest One North Kitchen & Bar location where the old Reno's East once stood in East Lansing.

"Wonderful service, numerous options, and happy hour is great!" said

one Cooper's Hawk voter.

Best New Businesses also featured culinary delights, like Frandor's Phillips Cider Bar and Market, The Cheese Lady's new location here on Coolidge in East Lansing and the yummy Dunk'd cookie shop on East Michigan Ave.

In the "Whatever" group, look for multiple wins/placements for Big Penny, the Truck-Munching Bridge, and perhaps the bridge's greatest proponent, the memesters at STUPID - Lansing.

So we hope you enjoy the results of our 18th Annual Top of the Town contest -- just like you enjoy those classic hits from those aging rock stars -- and keep coming back to support your favorite restaurants, businesses, hangouts, local artists and all the rest. And remember, returning early next year will be our 2026 Top of the Town People Contest. So those of you that missed the People categories this fall will get to honor these great folks once again!

State allocates \$77 million to clean thousands of contaminated sites

By CLARA LINCOLNHOL
Capital News Service

LANSING—There are 27,000 known brownfields, or sites contaminated with pollutants, dotting the state. Many of them are where factories once stood.

About half are what the state calls “orphan sites,” meaning there’s no responsible party that owns the land and would have to clean up the pollutants, said Phil Roos, the director of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

“Sometimes people don’t even want to touch it if they don’t know the nature of the contamination or can’t address it,” Roos said.

That’s why the state is funding restoration projects, offering developers grants of up to \$2 million, he said.

The grants can cover assessing what the contaminants are, the best ways of removing them and often helping with the first stage of clean up, Roos said.

“Because we have a lot of these sites around the state, we need to de-risk it by providing some funding that will allow whoever’s developing the site to raise capital to do the development, knowing that it’s safe and they don’t have to address those issues any further,” he said.

The grants stem from the state budget for RenewMI, about \$77 million. RenewMI is the department’s environmental remediation program.

When brownfields are cleaned up, they can be revitalized and turned into new housing developments, parks, commercial establishments or new industrialization.

The Jackson Stadium in Lansing, home to the Lansing Lugnuts, is on a former brownfield, Roos said.

Since 2019, the state has been funding brownfield cleanup. The department has done 474 redevelopment projects in 50 communities, leading to \$184 million in incentives and creating over 20,000 jobs, he said.

Those projects included the Grayling Northern Market and the Grayling Sawmill in 2018. The Grayling Northern Market used to be a planing mill and lumber yard, while the sawmill was a hotel, saloon and stores.

There have been four brownfield clean-up projects since 2020 in Traverse City. The most recent project in 2025 is Grandview Vision.

The site used to be an ice cream factory, and an antique store is on the property next door, according to Environment, Great Lakes and Energy’s website.



Lansing’s Lugnuts play at Jackson Stadium

Cadillac has also seen four brownfield projects, including one in 2025 to clean up a former dry cleaners, grocery store and retail buildings.

In the past year, there has been an influx of housing developments built on cleaned-up brownfields. Roos said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has made those projects a priority because of the state’s housing shortage.

“We can, in many cases, make it so there’s no threat to public safety and turn them into beautiful places to live,” he said.

However, not every brownfield site is equal, said Mike Witkowski, the director of environmental and regulatory policy at the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

Some “legacy sites” like abandoned gas stations and factories have contaminated an area to the point where the amount of money needed to clean it for residential development is unrealistic, he said.

There are different standards about what brownfield sites can be used for while helping to prevent human exposure to harmful chemical pollutants, he said.

The especially-contaminated sites can still be cleaned up to meet standards for uses like new industrial development.

“If you can come through and say, ‘All right, let’s turn this into a parking lot or another industrial setting and keep it at those standards’ – that’s really not only the best way to handle those contaminants, but it’s also the most economically sound for the state and private investment,” Witkowski said. He said the number of existing



Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy

Philip Roos is the director of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.



Michigan Manufacturers Association

Mike Witkowski is the director of environmental and regulatory policy at the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

brownfields makes it impossible for the state to clean all of them, meaning private developers cleaning up sites is all the more important.

“One of the best things we can do is have a robust and really well-functioning brownfield redevelopment program that allows these new private investment dollars to come in and say, ‘Hey, we want to build here on this site and not only are we going to provide jobs, but we’re also going to help clean up the the contaminants there and make this space usable property again,’” Witkowski said.

The Michigan Manufacturing Association opposes a bill currently in the Michigan Senate that would add additional clean-up standards, and extend liability for developers, saying it would likely discourage private investment into brownfields, he said.

“It really complicates it in a problematic way, which we feel is going to lead to less cleanups and less investment in our industrial sites and really more expansion into green space developments where there’s never been a development or any industry before,” Witkowski said.

He said the current brownfield program as it stands has been sufficiently vetted by the state and environmental engineers. It’s helped the economy grow across the state and has been successfully cleaning up contaminated sites.

“To try and bring that in a little bit or make change is going to hurt the trajectory of our environmental cleanups and economic growth,” Witkowski said.

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Macotta Club delayed again as historic building presents challenges

The windows on the first floor of downtown Lansing's historic Knapp's Centre still advertise The Macotta Club as "coming 2024," but the project is now expected to open sometime in 2026 following necessary design changes, according to Downtown Lansing Inc.

The project, a restaurant accelerator and food hall that plans to bring six restaurants and 16 "food concepts" to the building, was announced in April 2023 with plans to open the following year.

Multiple delays followed unexpected difficulties with the buildout, DLI spokesperson Jenea Markham and Eyde Development COO Mark Clouse said.

"There have been struggles with the design," Clouse said. "It's a building that was built nearly 100 years ago, and you've got a lot of unknowns even though the building was fully restored back in 2012 to 2014."

Eyde Development owns and operates the Knapp's Centre and is collaborating with DLI, Clouse said. DLI is not currently paying rent to Eyde Development or occupying the space, Clouse said.

"As they were working through the plans for the Macotta Club, things changed, the design of the kitchen and different items that required a lot of thoughtfulness, quite honestly," Clouse said.

Markham said the updates were mostly focused "on the kitchen layouts, basement build-out, and other underground elements," meaning the final design will be "largely consistent" with previous renderings, which can be seen on The Macotta Club's website.



The Macotta Club is located at 300 S. Washington Square, in the former Knapps department store building.

Markham said increased costs due to the redesign, challenges with the basement buildout and industry-wide increased material costs all led to the redesign, but it will allow DLI to stay within budget.

The Macotta Club is intended to operate independently after three years of operation. Much of its funding has come from grants, and its price tag has risen from around \$4 million to over \$8 million.

While the project is still ongoing, it's currently unclear who will occupy the building.

Only two businesses have publicly signed on. Anke Grace, who signed on in 2023 to run a German restaurant called The German Place, did not respond to multiple requests for comment a month ago.

Marcus Leslie, Sr., who runs Mr.

Leslie's Cheesecakes signed on as part of The Macotta Club's wholesale mentorship program in 2024, and Lake Trust Credit Union reported in a member impact story that he planned to open his first standalone location in The Macotta Club. He opened his first standalone location in Holt in April, and declined to comment for this story.

Public records show the Macotta Club received \$15,000 from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's Going PRO Talent Fund in 2024 to assist in training 7 new hires or apprentices. That money was never allocated, as the training never occurred.

Markham and Clouse both said getting the design right the first time was a major priority and reason for the delay.

"We've been patient with one another," Clouse said. "The goal was to have

them open in 2024. That obviously didn't happen, but we're confident that we're on the right track now."

And amid new downtown developments such as Gentilozzi Real Estate's New Vision Lansing project, a new city hall and the old city hall's transition into a hotel and the Ovation Center for Music and Arts, 2026 may be a better time than any before for a project like The Macotta Club — if it opens that year.

"Sometimes things happen for a reason," Clouse said. "We have a lot of activity happening downtown, with the Ovation, with city hall moving down to the southern part of downtown, and a lot of other exciting things happening."

"I think downtown will be more ready for them in a year than it would have been a year ago."

— LEO V. KAPLAN

Michigan lawmakers eyeing more restrictions on ads for internet gaming, online sports betting

By FINN MILLS
Capital News Service

LANSING — Two new bills would tighten guidelines for Internet gaming and online sports-betting advertisements.

The bipartisan bills aim to curb gambling addiction by requiring placement of a toll-free gambling addiction hotline number as well as the legal gambling age somewhere in the advertisements.

The sponsors are Democratic Sens. Erika Geiss of Taylor, John Cherry of Flint, Dayna Polehanki of Livonia, Rosemary Bayer of West Bloomfield and Mary Cavanagh of Redford Township, as well as

Republican Sen. John Damoose of Harbor Springs.

The goal is to ensure that Michigan's gambling industry "operates with the utmost integrity and accountability," according to Geiss.

Under the bills, if a company breaks the regulations, it would be fined \$1,000 for the first offense, \$5,000 for the second offense and have its gaming license revoked after the third offense.

The bills also would allow municipalities to set their own rules and regulations for how Internet gaming and online sports betting are advertised in their areas.

Geiss said that online gambling is "addictive and

coercive" and compared online gambling advertisements to the way cigarettes used to be advertised.

She said things such as flashy lights, visuals and celebrity endorsements are often added to make gambling products more appealing to younger people, leading to more addicted customers.

"These marketing campaigns often glamorize gambling, downplay the dangers and reach impressionable audiences who are far too young to participate," Geiss said.

These bills have been referred to the Committee on Regulatory Affairs.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



MSU fired second-year head football coach Jonathan Smith Sunday and announced shortly thereafter that it would hire former Northwestern head coach Pat Fitzgerald to replace him. Fitzgerald, 51, will be the fourth coach to lead the Spartans on the gridiron since Mark Dantonio stepped down in early 2020. He won 110 of 211 games at Northwestern over 17 years

but was fired in 2023 due to a hazing scandal. Fitzgerald denied knowledge of the scandal and settled a wrongful termination lawsuit with the school in August. Fitzgerald's new deal is reportedly for five years, and his hiring requires approve from MSU's Board of Trustees, which next meets Dec. 12. Smith won just nine of 15 games in two years and was winless in the Big Ten this fall until a victory over Maryland last Saturday.

A day after the Fitzgerald deal was finalized Monday, MSU announced a \$1 billion fundraising campaign, entitled "FOR SPARTA: The Capital Initiative for MSU Athletics." The initiative is part of the university's broader Uncommon Will. Far Better World campaign and is intended to modernize its athletic program by investing in world-class facilities and experiences for student athletes, MSU President Kevin M. Guskiewicz said in a statement, and positioning it to "lead in an increasingly competitive landscape." FOR SPARTA also seeks to offer the Spartan community "an elevated gameday experience" and Spartan Fund donors "the addition of new premium spaces and options." MSU Athletic Director J Batt called it "the most ambitious initiative in Michigan State Athletics history." More preliminary details of the plan can be found here: <https://msuspartans.com/news/2025/12/2/general-michigan-state-launches-for-sparta-the-capital-initiative-for-msu-athletics>.



The Gillespie Group kicked off the "Brick Row" redevelopment, which promises to transform the 600 block of Michigan Avenue into a mixed-use development including 15 housing units and 6 new retail spaces, on Monday. The Stadium District project has a planned completion date of Sept. 2026. A wall-breaking event at the former City Rescue Mission featured remarks from Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, state Sen. Sarah Anthony, D-Lansing, Gillespie Group founder and CEO Pat Gillespie, among others.



The city of Lansing has extended its Code Blue designation until 7 a.m. Saturday. The cold temperatures, coming before a large snowstorm could melt away, prompt-



ed the designation. A Code Blue alert opens up several city services and gives shelters and organizations more leeway to help people. Let's Community Center is open every night, from 6:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. and libraries and the CATA Transportation Center are available during the day. CATA busses can take people for free to any warming shelter. For a longer list of day and nighttime shelters, visit <https://www.lansingmi.gov/990/Warming-and-Cooling-Centers>.

Most of the Lansing area had between five and seven inches of snow during the season's first major snowfall. Snowplows in the area have been given nicknames, including Big Penny, a state snowplow in the University region, which includes Lansing. Other state plows include Back to Drift-ember, Dr. Plow Good, Ice Ice Baby, Lake Scooperier, Luke Saltwalker, Melton John and Tom Blizzo. Lansing city plow names include Creedence Clear-Road Revival, Quality Plowy and Coldsmobile. You can track the state plows at <https://mdotjboss.state.mi.us/MiDrive/map> and the city plows at <https://www.lansingmi.gov/486/Snow-Plow-Map>.



Lansing man Douglas L. Gengler, 53, pleaded no contest to failing to stop at a personal injury accident resulting in death in November, MLive reported. Gengler struck and killed Edward L. "Fast Ed" Nichols, 55, with a delivery van owned by Tenpoint Expediting Services in Saginaw in December 2023. Prosecutors said he fled the scene after the incident. Under the plea deal, prosecutors dismissed charges related to a PlayStation 5 Gengler allegedly stole under a false identity, and his minimum sentence will not be higher than 38 months. The deal follows an out-of-court settlement for a wrongful death suit brought by Nichols' estate. Gengler will be sentenced on Jan. 12.

Two large apartment complexes have been proposed for downtown East Lansing, East Lansing Info reported. Minnesota-based Tareen Development Partners are proposing a 12-story apartment building to be constructed at 520 Albert Ave., which is currently the Bailey St. parking lot. It would include more than 80 parking spots and more than 200 studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The Ballen



family, which owns the Student Bookstore and Harbor Bay Ventures, are also moving forward with "The Howard," a planned 15-story, 361-bedroom apartment on Grand River Ave. The proposals are tentative and face a lengthy approval process.



EATRAN and CATA bus routes will be cut starting in mid-January. The cuts come after Delta Township voters

rejected a millage that would have boosted public transit. The Capital Area Transportation Authority and Eaton County Transportation Authority are cutting off about 30 bus stops along West Saginaw Highway, Canal Road, St. Joseph Highway and Marketplace Boulevard. The expanded Spec-Tran service area will shrink back to its May 2023 boundaries. Other changes include an elimination of the CATA Rydz program in Delta Township. There are other changes to Route 3, including an earlier end to the day, and there are options for riders who would be affected: Check with CATA for more information.

The East Lansing Police Department has closed an investigation into the death of Meagan Turner. Her body was found in the Red Cedar River, east of Cedar Village, on Oct. 13. Officials said they found no evidence of foul play. A toxicology report indicated her blood alcohol level was .32%. Officials said, in a Monday news release, that updates have been shared with her family and the police have closed their investigation.



Makenna's Books marked Small Business Saturday, and the birthday of Makenna Morse of Eaton Rapids by collecting books to donate to Little Free Libraries across Michigan. Morse died in an

April car wreck and her love for reading has been carried on through the charity, which collects books and places them inside tiny libraries all over Michigan. The group has collected more than 2,000 books since starting and collected from a half dozen local bookstores this last weekend.

A Ferris State University professor has been arrested and described by the Department of Homeland Security as "a criminal illegal alien sex offender from Sri Lanka." The department accuses Sumith Gunasekera of admitting, in 1998, to touching a minor. An Inside Higher Ed story quotes an official at the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton, who said the case against Gunasekera had been archived so she couldn't provide further details for that story. Ferris State officials told Inside Higher Ed that Gunasekera has been placed on leave and is believed to be in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials.



Hall is changing the state House to something we've never seen before

Among insiders, the job of state House Speaker is widely considered state government's toughest job.

The Speaker not only oversees 109 other state representatives with competing interests and constituencies, but he's also the gatekeeper. What issues get taken up? Which issues are getting buried? These decisions are those of the Speaker of the House.

It explains why the Speaker's office is Grand Central Station inside the state Capitol. Historically, lobbyists, special interests and legislators' cycle in and out day after day. Take up this bill. Kill



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

this bill. Put this in the budget. Take this out of the budget.

It happened all the time. Until now.

Rep. Matt Hall (R-Richland Twp.) has transformed the job into something completely different. Remember Schoolhouse Rock? "I'm Just A Bill?"

Today's sequel has Bill growing a long, gray beard chained in committee, not jumping around with the governor's signature.

Matt Hall doesn't see his job as traffic-copping legislation from all comers. His job (in no particular order) is to:

- Flyspeck the administration, Secretary of State and Attorney General with his seven oversight panels (one full and six subcommittees).

- Slice out as much government

spending and vacant government jobs as humanly possible through a protracted budget process.

- Control the public narrative through numerous, hour-long press conferences that often wear down the reporters.

- Push to the governor's desk clearly articulated big-ticket priorities— more road funding, tipped wage restoration, paid sick leave reform, transparency in legislative earmarks and an economic development reform (see prior column).

To fully appreciate the transformative change Hall is bringing to the job, look at these numbers.

Since the advent of the full-time Legislature in 1965, the Michigan House

and Senate have produced an average of 376 public acts a year with the Governor's signature. The fewest number of bills signed into law during any given year since 1965 was 168 in 2021. The most is 747 in 2002, John Engler's last year as governor before Democrat Jennifer Granholm took over.

In the era of horse and buggy, when the Legislature met every year for a few months between 1837 to 1851, lawmakers averaged 151 public acts every year.

As of today, the Hall-led state House in 2025 had passed a grand total of 35 public acts.

Thirty-five.

We have a few more session days left and rumor has it they're going to pass several dozen bills, but this historically low clearance level is significant. It's not just a fun factoid to share at a cocktail party with public policy nerds.

The legislature has been turned on its head. Traditional interest groups who stir the drink with fundraisers and political contributions are being told to stand in the back of the line.

How long will they put up with being told that their issue – which may have overwhelming support – isn't moving?

Elected House members who need a niche bill passed to take care of a local issue are told "not today" again and again and again.

How long will they stand around waiting with a finger up their nose?

Some of their colleagues get to grill Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson about her strange refusal to release election worker training documents.

Others get to badger the DNR for aggressively enforcing regulations on the treatment of injured wild animals.

Others get to ask Michigan State Police Col. James Grady why he isn't quitting when 97 percent of his underlings think he's doing a terrible job.

But most don't get to play pinata with department heads and state bureaucrats like a cat playfully batting a toy mouse on a string.

They're passing one-chamber bills that the Senate is putting in the freezer until some of their own bills move.

Who knows. Maybe it's all Hall's master plan. Maybe he's building up pent-up demand so he can open the flood gates at the very end.

Whether he is or not, one thing is for sure.

Hall has changed the game.

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

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WKAR

Bar



- 2. One North Kitchen & Bar - West Saginaw
- 3. The Avenue Cafe

Best Dance Bar

- 1. The Avenue Cafe
- 2. UrbanBeat
- 3. Nuthouse Sports Grill

Best Dive Bar

- 1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
- 2. Stober's Bar
- 3. The Avenue Cafe

Best Happy Hour

- 1. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern
- 2. Cask & Co. Kitchen & Bar
- 3. The Avenue Cafe

Best Jam Night

- 1. Moriarty's Pub
- 2. The Avenue Cafe
- 3. UrbanBeat

Best Karaoke

- 1. Crunchy's

- 2. The Avenue Cafe
- 3. Sir Pizza - Old Town

Best Lansing-Area Brewery

- 1. Lansing Brewing Co.
- 2. Ozone's Brewhouse
- 3. BAD Brewing Co.

Best Lansing-Area Distillery

- 1. American Fifth Spirits
- 2. Sanctuary Spirits
- 3. Red Cedar Spirits

Best Margarita

- 1. El Azteco East Lansing
- 2. Pablo's Mexican Restaurant Eastside
- 3. Barrio East Lansing

Best Mocktails

- 1. Constellation Cat Cafe
- 2. The Avenue Cafe
- 3. One North Kitchen & Bar - East Lansing

Best Neighborhood Bar

- 1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
- 2. The Peanut Barrel
- 3. Harry's Place

Best Pub/Tavern

- 1. Stober's Bar
- 2. The Irish Pub
- 3. Crunchy's

Best Spartan Sports Hangout

- 1. Crunchy's
- 2. One North Kitchen & Bar - East Lansing
- 3. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

Best Sports Bar

- 1. Nuthouse Sports Grill
- 2. Crunchy's
- 3. One North Kitchen & Bar - East Lansing

Best Bar Food

- 1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
- 2. Art's Pub
- 3. Crunchy's

Best Cocktails

- 1. American Fifth Spirits

See TOTT 2025, Page 12



The Avenue Cafe
 2021 E. Michigan Ave.
 avenuecafelansing.com

The Avenue Cafe might as well be a hat shop, it wears so many hats. It has been voted the city's best dance bar and the best trivia night, as well as one of the area's best dive bars. And if being the city's top LGBTQIA+ friendly hangout isn't enough, The Avenue also houses Ruckus Ramen, which serves ramen and small plates. This versatile music venue racked up a dozen awards: It's also a great place for video games, billiards, mocktails, cocktails and jam nights.

Thank you for voting for us!

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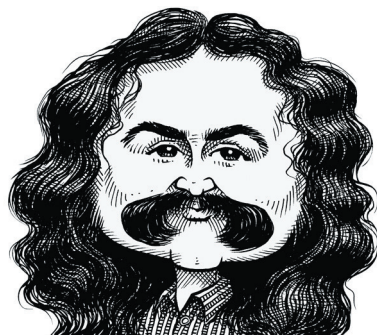
CityPULSE



WKAR

TOTT 2025

from page 11



Cannabis

Best CBD Store/Boutique

- 1. JARS Cannabis - Lansing
- 2. Bazonzoes Provisioning
- 3. House of Dank

Best Cannabis Flower – Hybrid

- 1. Wedding Cake || Pro Gro by Pure Options
- 2. Popz 41 || Bowhouse
- 3. Lemon Cherry Z || High Society

Best Cannabis Flower – Indica

- 1. Garlic Breath || Pro Gro by Pure Options
- 2. Pink Permanent Marker || Bowhouse
- 3. Insano Cake || Cannaisseur Provisioning Center

Best Cannabis Flower – Sativa

- 1. Lunar Lemon || Pro Gro by Pure Options
- 2. Twisted Trees || Cannaisseur Provisioning Center
- 3. Gary Payton || Sapura

Best Cannabis Growing Brand

- 1. Pro Gro by Pure Options
- 2. Pleasantrees East Lansing
- 3. Bowhouse

Best Distillate Cartridge

- 1. LightSky Farms || Cannaisseur Provisioning Center
- 2. Cherry Fizz || Sapura (tie) Guava Sherb || Bowhouse

Best Gummy Edible (Cannabis)

- 1. Bamn 200mg || Pro Gro by Pure Options
- 2. Cherry Fizz || Sapura (tie) Information Entropy rosin gummies || Cannaisseur Provisioning Center

Best Indoor Grow Shop

- 1. Pure Options - Midtown
- 2. Indoor Grow Supply

Best Marijuana Provisioning Center

- 1. Pure Options - Frandor
- 2. Pure Options - Midtown
- 3. Herbana

Best Non-Gummy Edible (Cannabis)

- 1. Potpots || Lion Labs
- 2. Last Bites || Homegrown Cannabis Co.
- 3. Levitate || Herbana Dispensary

Best Non-Solvent Concentrate (Cannabis)

- 1. Strawberry Jelly 1g live rosin || Pure Options - Midtown
- 2. Bowhouse || Bowhouse
- 3. Brainwash Solventless || Bazonzoes Provisioning

Best Solvent Concentrate (Cannabis)

- 1. Rainbow Belts || Pro Gro by Pure Options
- 2. Death Star || Bowhouse
- 3. Element || Lion Labs

Best Topical

- 1. True Health Cryotherapy || Bazonzoes Provisioning
- 2. Proper Jaguar Balm || Herbana Dispensary



Best BBQ

- 1. Meat BBQ
- 2. Saddleback BBQ REO Town
- 3. The Smoke N' Pig BBQ

Best BBQ Sauce

- 1. Meat BBQ
- 2. Saddleback BBQ REO Town
- 3. The Smoke N' Pig BBQ

Best Bagels

- 1. Flour Child Bakery
- 2. Big Apple Bagels
- 3. New Daily Bagel

Best Bakery

- 1. Flour Child Bakery
- 2. Groovy Donuts
- 3. Bake N' Cakes

Best Baklava

- 1. Jerusalem Bakery
- 2. Woody's Oasis
- 3. Aladdin's Restaurant

Best Breakfast

- 1. Good Truckin' Diner
- 2. Sophia's House of Pancakes
- 3. Fleetwood Diner

Best Brunch

- 1. Soup Spoon Café
- 2. The People's Kitchen
- 3. Good Truckin' Diner

Best Bubble Tea

- 1. Koala Bakery & Cafe
- 2. Bento Kitchen Cravings
- 3. Gong Cha

Best Buffet

- 1. Asian Buffet
- 2. Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet
- 3. One North Kitchen & Bar - West Saginaw

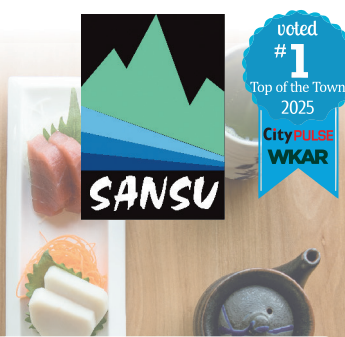
Best Burger

- 1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
- 2. Kewpee Sandwich Shoppe
- 3. Crunchy's

See TOTT 2025, Page 13

Thank you for voting us!

BEST SUSHI



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4750 Hagadorn Rd #100, East Lansing (517) 333-1933 sansu-sushi.com



Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant

2101 Lake Lansing Road
chwinery.com

Cooper's Hawk has flown into the Lansing area and has quickly made a splash. It won a trio of first-place recognitions in its first go-round. Readers picked Cooper's Hawk as 2025's best new restaurant, best restaurant wine list and best upscale dining option.

CityPULSE



WKAR

TOTT 2025

from page 12

Best Chicken Strips/Tenders

1. Olympic Broil
2. Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen
3. Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

Best Chinese Restaurant

1. Charlie Kang's
2. Chen's Restaurant
3. Apple Jade

Best Cider

1. Phillips Cider Bar and Market
2. Uncle John's Cider Mill
3. Quality Dairy Co.

Best Coney Dog

1. Sparty's Coney Island
2. Olympic Broil
3. Nip N Sip Drive In

Best Crab Legs

1. The Tangy Crab
2. King Ocean Crab

Best Cupcake

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Nothing Bundt Cakes
3. Bake N' Cakes

Best Deli

1. Monticello's Market & Butcher Block
2. Stateside Deli
3. Jersey Giant Subs

Best Dessert

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. MSU Dairy Store
3. Mr. Leslie's Cheesecakes

Best Diner

1. Good Truckin' Diner
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. Fleetwood Diner

Best Donuts

1. Groovy Donuts
2. Quality Dairy Co.
3. Flour Child Bakery

Best Drive-Up Location

1. Olympic Broil
2. Nip N Sip Drive In
3. Culver's - Eastwood

Best Family-Friendly Restaurant

1. Buddies Pub & Grill
2. Flour Child Bakery
3. Piazzano's

Best Fast Food

1. Olympic Broil
2. Culver's - Eastwood
3. Nip N Sip Drive In

Best Fish Fry

1. Eastside Fish Fry & Grill
2. The Old Bag of Nails Pub
3. Harry's Place

Best Food Truck

1. El Oasis - Lansing
2. Ozone's Fire Food Truck
3. Shove It Pizza

Best French Fries

1. HopCat
2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
3. The Cosmos

Best Greek Restaurant

1. Woody's Oasis
2. Athena's Diner
3. ChouPli Wood-Fired Kabob

Best Hibachi

1. Ukai Hibachi Grill & Sushi Bar Lansing
2. Maru Sushi & Grill
3. Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet

Best Ice Cream

1. MSU Dairy Store
2. Arctic Corner
3. Tasty Twist

See TOTT 2025, Page 14

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voted
TOP 3
Top of the Town
2025
CityPULSE
WKAR

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

voted
TOP 3
Top of the Town
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BEST PATIO

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Best Karaoke
Best Spartan Sports Hangout

voted
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- BEST BAR FOOD
- BEST PUB/TAVERN
- BEST SPORTS BAR
- BEST BURGER

- BEST COMEDY NIGHT
- BEST HANGOUT FOR STUDENTS
- BEST TRIVIA NIGHT

254 WEST GRAND RIVER EAST LANSING, MI
CRUNCHYSEASTLANSING.COM

CityPULSE

2025
TOP
OF THE
TOWN

WKAR

TOTT 2025

from page 13

Best Indian Restaurant

1. Swagath Indian Cuisine
2. Sindhu Indian Cuisine
3. Grains Indian Cuisine

Best Irish Restaurant

1. The Irish Pub
2. Dublin Square
- (tie) Moriarty's Pub

Best Italian Restaurant

1. Cugino's
2. Falsetta's Casa Nova
3. Toscana Kitchen & Wine Market

Best Lasagna

1. Cugino's
2. Falsetta's Casa Nova
3. Piazzano's

Best Late-Night Food

1. Conrad's Grill
2. Fleetwood Diner
3. Ruckus Ramen

Best Mediterranean Restaurant

1. Woody's Oasis
2. Aladdin's Restaurant
3. ChouPli Wood-Fired Kabob

Best Mexican Restaurant (chain)

1. Acapulco Mexican Grill - Lansing
2. Fiesta Charra - East Lansing
3. Barrio East Lansing
- (tie) Los Tres Amigos Hacienda

Best Mexican Restaurant (non-chain)

1. Pablo's Mexican Restaurant Old Town
2. El Azteco Lansing
3. El Azteco East Lansing

Best Nachos

1. Buddies Pub & Grill
2. Meat BBQ
3. El Azteco Lansing

Best New Restaurant

1. Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
2. Art & Jake's Sports Bar & Grill
3. One North Kitchen & Bar - East Lansing
- (tie) That New Place

Best Olive Burger

1. Kewpee Sandwich Shoppe
2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
3. Olympic Broil

Best Pancakes

1. Sophia's House of Pancakes
2. The People's Kitchen
3. Golden Harvest

Best Pho

1. Capital City BBQ
2. Asia's Finest
3. Pho 777 Okemos

Best Pizza

1. Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub
2. The Cosmos
3. Jet's Pizza

Best Prime Rib

1. The English Inn
2. Airport Tavern
3. Henry's Place
- (tie) Piazzano's

Best Ramen

1. Ruckus Ramen
2. Uni Sushi and Ramen
3. Bento Kitchen Cravings

Best Ranch Dressing

1. Jet's Pizza
2. Horrocks Pizzeria
3. One North Kitchen & Bar - East Lansing

Best Restaurant Beer List

1. HopCat
2. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern
3. Front 43 Neighborhood Pub
- (tie) Ozone's Brewhouse

Best Restaurant Wine List

1. Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant

2. Dusty's Cellar
3. Bowdie's Chophouse

Best Restaurant for Seniors

1. Coral Gables
2. Tavern 109
3. Buddies Grill
- (tie) Olive Garden Italian Restaurant

Best Reuben

1. Stateside Deli
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. The Irish Pub

Best Salad

1. Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
2. El Azteco Lansing
3. Leaf Salad Bar

Best Sandwich/Wrap

1. Babe's Corner
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. Jersey Giant Subs

Best Seafood Restaurant

1. Mitchell's Fish Market
2. The Old Bag of Nails Pub
3. The Tangy Crab

Best Signature Dish

1. Hippy Hash || Fleetwood Diner
2. Really Good Fu%@ing Pancakes || The People's Kitchen
3. Meat Mountain || Meat BBQ

Best Soup

1. Soup Spoon Café
2. Horrocks Farm Market
3. That New Place

Best Steak

1. Bowdie's Chophouse
2. Capital Prime
3. Texas Roadhouse

Best Sub Sandwich

1. Babe's Corner
2. Jersey Giant Subs
3. King Subs

Best Sushi

1. Sansu Sushi
2. Maru Sushi & Grill
3. Sushi Moto

Best Tacos

1. Pablo's Mexican Restaurant Old Town
2. El Oasis
3. Barrio East Lansing
- (tie) Taqueria El Chaparrito





Thank you for
voting for us!



Best Sub Sandwich, Best Sandwich/Wrap and Best Deli
jgsubs.com

CityPULSE

2025
TOP
OF THE
TOWN

WKAR

TOTT 2025

from page 14

Best Thai Restaurant

1. Thai Princess
2. Bangkok House
3. Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant

Best Upscale Dining

1. Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
2. Bowdie's Chophouse
3. The English Inn

Best Vegan/Gluten-Free Dessert

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Strange Matter Co - Eastside
3. Groovy Donuts

Best Vegetarian/Vegan Dish

1. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine
2. Flour Child Bakery
3. Veg Head

Best Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten-Free Restaurant

1. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine
2. Veg Head
3. Flour Child Bakery

Best Wings

1. Meat BBQ
2. Wing Snob
3. Detroit Wing Co. - East Lansing

Hangouts



Best Biggby

1. Biggby Coffee - 2250 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing

2. Biggby Coffee - 1429 W. Saginaw St., East Lansing
3. Biggby Coffee - 4756 Marsh Road, Okemos

Best Bowling Alley

1. Royal Scot Golf & Bowl
2. Pins and Pints
3. City Limits Mason (tie) Spare Time Entertainment Center

Best Café

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Strange Matter Downtown
3. Soup Spoon Café

Best Coffee Shop (non-Biggby)

1. Blue Owl Coffee
2. Constellation Cat Cafe
3. Strange Matter - Eastside

Best Comedy Night

1. Pure Options Comedy Series at Grewal Hall
2. Mac's Bar
3. Crunchy's

Best Corn Maze

1. Uncle John's Cider Mill
2. Bestmaze Corn Maze
3. Andy T's Farm Market

Best Disc Golf Course

1. Burchfield Park
- (tie) Grand Woods Park
3. Trinity Church

Best Escape Room Venue

1. Breakout Escape Rooms
2. Challenges East Lansing
3. Escapes Unlocked

Best Golf Course

1. Groesbeck Golf Course
2. Eagle Eye Golf Club
- (tie) Hawk Hollow Golf Course

Best Hangout Solo

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Schuler Books
3. Hooked

Best Hangout for Seniors

1. Horrocks Beer Garden
2. Coral Gables
3. Constellation Cat Cafe



Paula Crow reaches out to one of the kitties at Constellation Cat Café's cat room.

Constellation Cat Cafe

constellationcatcafe.com
1041 N. Cedar St., Lansing
(517)-918-4919

It may be Lansing's best hangout all around, and that's for just about everyone, not just cats.

Constellation Cat Cafe, in its new location at the former Su Casa Boutique in Old Town, is both the No. 1 hangout for students and the runner-up hangout for seniors. Nowhere else placed in both categories.

And that's just a nibble of the 14 awards this cafe lapped up.

Constellation also is ranked as the No. 1 cafe, solo hangout, sober hangout and mocktail crafter.

This cat cafe has two parts: One is a traditional cafe, with coffee and all the things you expect. The cat part is a separate room — take off your shoes, please — where you can hang out for a small price with cats that can also be adopted through cat charities, with new cat friends typically arriving on Sundays.

It's recognized by readers as a quality nonprofit, a pet rescue, a place to find peace and quiet, the very best Wi-Fi and one of the best coffee shops in town.

And it is voted as the No. 1 place to work.

For the record: Cats are not allowed to vote.

Best Hangout for Students

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Lansing Shuffle
3. Crunchy's

Best LGBTQIA+ Friendly Hangout

1. The Avenue Cafe
2. Old Town
3. Constellation Cat Cafe

Best Library

1. Delta Township District Library
2. CADL - Downtown Lansing
3. East Lansing Public Library

Best Local Attraction for Kids

1. Impression 5 Science Center
2. Preuss Pets
3. Zap Zone XL

Best Movie Theater

1. NCG Cinema

2. Celebration Cinema

3. Studio C Meridian Mall

Best Music Venue

1. Wharton Center for Performing Arts
2. Grewal Hall at 224
3. The Avenue Cafe

Best Nature Center

1. Fenner Nature Center
2. Harris Nature Center
3. Woldumar Nature Center

Best Non-Bar or Restaurant Date

1. Old Town
2. Potter Park Zoo
3. Constellation Cat Cafe



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CityPULSE **2025 TOP OF THE TOWN** **WKAR**

TOTT 2025

from page 16

Best Patio

1. Horrocks Beer Garden
2. The Peanut Barrel
3. Lansing Shuffle

Best Place to Play Pinball or Video Games

1. Pinball Pete's
2. The Avenue Cafe
3. Zap Zone XL

Best Place to Shoot Pool

1. The Avenue Cafe

2. Mayfair Bar
3. REO Town Clubhouse

Best Public Park

1. Hawk Island
2. Fitzgerald Park
3. Patriarche Park

Best Sober Hangout

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Potter Park Zoo
3. Hooked

Best Trivia Night

1. The Avenue Cafe
2. Crunchy's
3. Harry's Place



Best Blues Artist/Band

1. Freddie Cunningham & the Johnny D. Blues Band
2. The Further Adventures of FatBoy and JiveTurkey
3. 517 Funktet

Best Choral Group

1. Sistrum
2. LanSINGout Gay Chorus
3. Capital Acapella

Best Country Artist/Band

1. Kathy Ford Band
2. Jessey Adams
3. Deer & Elk

See TOTT 2025, Page 18



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Best Auto Repair Shop

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Best
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Studio



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healthharmonymassage.net



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Best Cleaning Service
dazzlecleaningservice.com

CityPULSE



WKAR



Preuss Pets

preusspetsstore.com
1127 N. Cedar St.
517-339-1762

Cami Lle Boucaud and Anthony Lettera feed anchovies to Pancake, a saltwater stingray and shop pet at Preuss Pets.

Preuss Pets is a favorite with a half dozen recognitions, including best pet store (racking up the most votes for anything in our contest!), the best eye-candy building and the second most trustworthy business as well as the best place to work.

Rich Miller, one of Pancake's friends and handlers at Preuss, said he's grateful for every day with the excitable stingray.

This type of ray typically lives to eight years and 16-year-old Pancake has fully doubled expectations.

Pancake is one of the many attractions at Preuss, he lives in a 375-gallon tank, which isn't the largest one they've got.

Preuss has all sorts of other freshwater, scaly, feathered and furry shop pets and they're all worth visiting.

Best Accounting/CPA Firm

1. Simplified Tax - Lansing
2. Liberty Tax
3. Okemos Tax

Best Appliance Repair

1. Lane's Appliance Sales and Service
2. G & W Appliance
3. J & J Appliance & Furniture

Best Audiologist/Hearing Firm

1. Mid-Michigan ENT
2. Advanced Audiology Haslett
3. Advanced Audiology DeWitt

Best Auto Body Shop

1. Frankie D's Auto & Truck Repair
2. Auto Surgeon
3. Driven Collision

Best Auto Detailing Service

1. KWIK Car Wash & Express Detailing
2. Spot-Les
3. Finish Line Detailing and Coatings

Best Auto Repair Shop

1. Ryan's Auto Care
2. Scrib's Autoworks
3. Doc's Automotive

Best Bank

1. Dart Bank & Loan Center
2. Fifth Third Bank - Grand Ledge
3. Independent Bank

Best Barber Shop

1. East Side Barbershop
2. Douglas J Salon, Barber & Medspa
3. Loyalty Barbershop

Best Bicycle Shop

1. Denny's Central Park Bicycles
2. Lansing Bike Co-op
3. SPIN Bicycle Shop

Best Business IT Support Service

1. Adna Technologies
2. Z-Solutions
3. Knight Service Solutions

Best Car Wash

1. KWIK Car Wash & Express Detailing
2. Tommy's Express Car Wash
3. WhiteWater Express Car Wash

Best Caterer/Catering Service

1. Morton's Fine Catering
2. Meat BBQ
3. Graze Craze Charcuterie Boards & Boxes

Best Cemetery

1. Mount Hope Cemetery
2. St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery
3. Evergreen Cemetery

Best Chiropractic Office

1. Creative Wellness
2. Divine Spine Chiropractic Wellness
3. Rassel-Daigneault Holistic Health Center

Best Cleaning Service

1. Domestic Divas Cleaning Services
2. Dazzle Cleaning Service

3. Maxi Maids

Best Computer Repair Service

1. Capitol Macintosh
2. Adna Technologies
3. Trouble Shooters Tech Support

Best Credit Union

1. MSUFCU - West Road
2. MSUFCU - Mount Hope
3. LAFCU

Best Dance Studio

1. The Hive Dance Studio
2. Ann's School Of Dance
3. Happendance

Best Day Spa

1. Douglas J Salon & Medspa
2. Zoe Life Spa and Salon
3. Onyx Moon

Best Dentist Office

1. MB Dental Solutions
2. Schaefer Dental Group
3. Portnoy and Tu Family Dentistry

Best Dog Training Business

1. AnnaBelle's Canine Station
2. Paw City Pet Care
3. Dog Gone Fun

Best Estate Sale Company

1. Kellie's Estate Sales
2. Ancestors Estate Sales
3. Tom & Jerry's Estate Service

Best Facial

1. Douglas J Salon & MedSpa
2. NECTAR body•face•skin
3. Onyx Moon

Best Financial Planner/Company

1. Grace Braatz-Opper-Modern Woodmen of America
2. David McNeilly
3. Smalley Investments (tie) The Scott Lewis Group

Best Funeral Home

1. Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes - DeWitt
2. Palmer Bush & Jensen Family Funeral Homes, Lansing Chapel
3. Estes-Leadley, Greater Lansing Chapel (tie) Mills Funeral Home, Peters & Murray Chapel

Best Gym/Fitness Studio

1. Michigan Athletic Club
2. Planet Fitness - West Saginaw
3. Westside Community YMCA

Best Hair Salon

1. Bliss Hair Studio
2. Douglas J Salon & Medspa
3. The Artisan Company Salon

Best Heating/Cooling

1. All Star Mechanical
2. Vredevoogd Heating & Cooling
3. Hager Fox Heating & Air Conditioning

Best Holistic Healing

1. Creative Wellness
2. Gemstone Hideaway Hut
3. Center of the Healing Arts

TOTT 2025

from page 17

Best Cover Band

1. Starfarm
2. Atomic Annie
3. Frog & the Beeftones (tie) Black Barn Band

Best Folk Artist/Band

1. The Dangling Particles
2. Abbey Hoffman
3. The Wild Honey Collective

Best Hip-Hop Artist/Group

1. Ozay Moore
2. Tony Thompson & Friends
3. Big Sherm (tie) Sean Mic

Best Jazz Musician/Group

1. MSU Professors of Jazz
2. Phil Denny
3. Jeff Shoup Quartet

Best Local Concert Series

1. Lansing Symphony Orchestra
2. Meridian Township Summer Concert Series
3. Ten Pound Fiddle

Best Local Theater Organization

1. Riverwalk Theatre
2. Wharton Center for Performing Arts
2. Williamston Theatre

Best Mural

1. Lansing River Trail murals
2. "Maawed Mijjim (The One Who Provides)"

3. Sycamore Creek Eastwood

Best Pottery Studio

1. Wheel House Studio
2. Greater Lansing Potters' Guild
3. REACH Studio Art Center

Best Public Art/Sculpture

1. Big Penny, the Truck-Munching Bridge
2. "Portrait of a Dreamer" (Gearhead sculpture)
3. "Where The Light Gets In," light installations on MSU campus

Best Rock Artist/Band

1. Atomic Annie
2. Frog & the Beeftones
3. Jimmy Likes Pie

Best Rock Star Over 75 (worldwide)

1. Stevie Nicks
2. Elton John
3. Bob Seger (tie) Bruce Springsteen



CityPULSE



WKAR

TOTT 2025

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Best Home Healthcare Company

1. Sparrow Home Care
2. Stoneleigh Residence & Hospice of Lansing
3. Bee's at Home

Best Insurance Agency

1. Rathbun Insurance
2. Grace Braatz-Opper Modern Woodmen Of America
3. Trinesha Goebel - State Farm

Best Landscape Company

1. Turf Jockeys
2. R&D Landscape
3. Snyder's Landscape Design

Best Laser Hair Removal

1. Douglas J Salon & Medspa
2. Mirkin Electrology
3. MSU Aesthetics & Laser Treatment Center

Best Law Firm

1. Foster Swift Collins & Smith
2. Conklin Law Firm
3. Grewel Law

Best Local YouTube Channel

1. WKAR Public Media
2. Mango the Quirky Cat
3. Q106

Best Massage Studio

1. Health & Harmony Massage & Wellness Center
2. Functional Mobility and Health
3. Douglas J Salon & Medspa

Best Med Spa

1. Skin Boss Med Spa
2. Douglas J Salon & Medspa
3. NECTAR Body•face•skin

Best Moving Service

1. Two Men and a Truck
2. College Hunks Hauling Junk and Moving - Lansing
3. Kingsley Moving Systems

Best Music Lessons

1. Elderly Instruments
2. School of Rock
3. Okemos Music Academy

Best Nail Salon

1. Polished Nail Salon
2. Douglas J Salon & Medspa
3. Jenny Nails

Best News Source

1. City Pulse
2. WKAR Public Media
3. Michigan Public Radio Network

Best Non-Profit Organization

1. Allen Neighborhood Center
2. Capital Area Humane Society
3. Constellation Cat Cafe

Best Pet Grooming

1. Paw City Pet Care
2. Old Town Tails
3. Wag 'N Tails Pet Resort

Best Pet Rescue

1. Capital Area Humane Society
2. Constellation Cat Cafe
3. Saved by Zade

Best Pharmacy (locally owned)

1. Apothecary Shop
2. Sparrow Pharmacy Plus
3. Central Pharmacy - Lansing (tie) MSU Health Care Pharmacy (tie) Ware's Pharmacy

Best Photography

1. Ariniko Artistry
2. Jena Hovey - McShane Photography
3. Autumn Luciano

Best Plumbing Service

1. Michigan Plumbing
2. Aaron's Plumbing & Mechanical
3. Froom Plumbing & Mechanical

Best Radio Station

1. WKAR 90.5
2. WITL 100.7
3. WDBM 88.9 (tie) WHZZ 101.7

Best Residential Remodeling Company

1. Odd Fellows Contracting
2. Honey Home Interiors
3. Custom Built Design & Remodeling

Best Security Service

1. Honey Home Interiors
2. Securitas Security Services

Best Senior Care Facility

1. Burcham Hills
2. Red Cedar Lodge
3. The Willows at East Lansing

Best Senior Living Community

1. Burcham Hills
2. Independence Village Grand Ledge (tie) The Willows at East Lansing

Best Storage Unit Facility

1. U-Haul Moving & Storage - Waverly Rd
2. AC&E Rentals and Self Storage (tie) Storage Sense - Lansing

Best Tanning

1. J2 Tanning Grand Ledge
2. Uptown Sun Company
3. Pacific Sun & Wellness - South Cedar

Best Tattoo Parlor

1. Devils Day Tattoo
2. Splash of Color Tattoo & Piercing Studio
3. Fish Ladder Tattoo Co.

Best Therapy/Therapist Service

1. Rooted Counseling
2. Wild Ferns Wellness
3. Therapy Today Counseling and Consulting

Best Towing Company

1. P.J.'s Towing
2. Northside Service Inc.
3. H&H Mobil Towing

Best Veterinarian Service

1. Evergreen Veterinary Clinic
2. MSU Veterinary Medical Center
3. Waverly Animal Hospital

Best Wedding Services

1. The Northfork Estate
2. All Grand Events + Floral
3. Tunes by T

Best Wifi/Internet Service Provider

1. Metronet Telecom
2. Xfinity
3. T-Mobile

Best Yoga Studio

1. Peoples Yoga Studio Lansing
2. Yoga Connect Haslett
3. East Lansing Hot Yoga



Best Antique Shop

1. The Mega Mall
2. Little Red Schoolhouse
3. Antiques Market of Williamston

Best Art Gallery

1. Broad Art Museum
2. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique
3. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing

See TOTT 2025, Page 20

**LAN S I N G
P R I D E**

**THANK YOU
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We will celebrate again on June 27, 2026!

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TOTT 2025

from page 19

Best Art Supply Store

1. Odd Nodd Art Supply
2. Michaels
3. Hobby Lobby

Best Auto Dealership

1. Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing
2. Williams Subaru
3. Spartan Toyota

Best Beer Selection in a Retail Store

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Mega-Bev
3. (Oades) Big Ten Party Store West

Best Bookstore (locally owned)

1. Schuler Books
2. Deadtime Stories
3. Hooked

Best Butcher Shop

1. Monticello's Market & Butcher Block
2. Mert's Specialty Meats
3. Westlund's Apple Market

Best Candy Store

1. Fabiano's Candies
2. Horrocks Farm Market
3. Peanut Shop



Sycamore Creek's Eastwood campus and mural

2200 Lake Lansing Road
sycamorecreekchurch.org/eastwood

The new mural, by Dustin Hunt, at Sycamore Creek United Methodist Church's Eastwood campus is hard to miss. It's a bright abstract illustration helping to mark the building as different from others and as an arts and culture hub. The building also is known as the Stage One Performing Arts Center, the name of a ministry based in the building.

Best Gardening Center

1. Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop
2. Horrocks Farm Market
3. Christians Greenhouse

Best Gas Station

1. Costco Gas Station
2. Speedway - East Michigan
3. Sam's Club Gas Station

Best Gift Shop

1. Bad Annie's Sweary Goods
2. Keans
3. Old Town General Store

Best Grocery Store (locally owned)

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Westlund's Apple Market
3. Eastside Lansing Food Co-Op

Best Hardware Store

1. Vet's Ace Hardware
2. Great Lakes Ace Hardware
3. Grand Ledge Ace Hardware

Best Jewelry Store

1. Sweet Custom Jewelry
2. Becky Beauchine Kulka Diamonds and Fine Jewelry
3. Jean Jean Vintage

Best Lingerie Store

1. Cirilla's

Best Liquor Store

1. Mega-Bev
2. (Oades) Big Ten Party Store West
3. Tom's Party Store and Wine Shop

Best Metaphysical Store

1. Coyote Wisdom Bookstore
2. Triple Goddess Bookstore
3. Oracle's Apothecary

Best Musical Instrument Store

1. Elderly Instruments
2. Marshall Music Co.
3. Meridian Winds

Best Organic/Natural Market

1. Trader Joe's
2. Clean Refillery
3. Eastside Lansing Food Co-Op

Best Pet Store

1. Preuss Pets
2. PetSmart
3. Fur Real Dog Snacks

Best Quality Dairy

1. Quality Dairy, 2233 Cedar St., Holt
2. Quality Dairy, 2400 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
3. Quality Dairy, 3332 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing

Best Record/CD Store

1. Flat Black & Circular
2. The Record Lounge
3. Westlund's Apple Market

- LINGERIE (PETITE TO PLUS SIZE)
 - INTIMATE TOYS
 - BEDROOM GAMES
 - MASSAGE ESSENTIALS
 - ROMANTIC GIFTS

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voted #1 Top of the Town 2025 CityPULSE WKAR Best Sex Shop

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Best Cheese Department

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. The Cheese Lady
3. MSU Dairy Store

Best Clothing Store (locally owned)

1. Grace Boutique of Old Town
2. Capital Hippie
3. Birch Rack Clothier

Best Farmer's Market

1. Meridian Township Farmers Market
2. Allen Farmer's Market
3. Holt Farmers Market

Best Florist

1. Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop
2. Horrocks Farm Market
3. Hyacinth House

Best Furniture Store

1. Pilgrim House Furniture
2. Dicker & Deal Furniture & More
3. Bradley's HG

Best Game Shop

1. Summit Comics & Games
2. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge
3. Hoplite Games

TOTT 2025

from page 20

Best Sex Shop

1. Cirilla's
2. Metro Retro
3. Deja Vu Love Boutique

Best Thrift or Consignment Shop

1. Thrift Witch
2. St Vincent de Paul Society and Thrift Store
3. Volunteers of America Thrift Store

Best Tire Store

1. Discount Tire - Okemos
2. Discount Tire - S. Pennsylvania
3. Belle Tire

Best Used Car Dealership

1. Williams Subaru
2. Sundance Chevrolet
3. Spartan Toyota

Best Vape Shop

1. Wild Bill's Tobacco
2. Puff Puff Tobacco - East Lansing
3. Mister-E's Vape Shop

Best Wine Shop

1. Horrocks Beer Garden
2. Dusty's Cellar
3. Vine & Brew



Best Axe Throwing Venue

1. High Caliber Karting and Entertainment
2. Zap Zone XL
3. Moriarty's Pub

Best Category We Didn't Think of

1. Best STUPID - Lansing
2. Best Handyman Services
3. Best Appetizer

Best Eye Candy Building

1. Preuss Pets
2. Michigan State Capitol
3. Broad Art Museum

Best Facebook Group or Page (local)

1. STUPID - Lansing
2. Lansing Foodies
3. 517 Living Community

Best High School

1. Grand Ledge High School
2. East Lansing High School
3. Okemos High School

Best Historical Place

1. Big Penny, the Truck-Munching Bridge
2. Michigan State Capitol
3. Old Town

Best Instagram Account (local)

1. Lansing Facts
2. Old Town Lansing
3. Avenue Lansing

Best Local Art Festival

1. East Lansing Art Festival
2. Old Town ScrapFest
3. A Festival of Oddities

Best Local Event/Festival

1. Lansing Pride
2. East Lansing Art Festival
3. A Festival of Oddities

Best New Business

1. Phillips Cider Bar and Market
2. The Cheese Lady
3. Dunk'd

Best Outdoor Adventure Venue

1. Hiking the Ledges at Fitzgerald Park
2. Lansing River Trail
3. Uncle John's Cider Mill

Best Place to Cry in Public

1. Frandor Parking Lot
2. Big Penny, the Truck Munching Bridge
3. Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale

Best Place to Find Quiet

1. Fenner Nature Center
2. Constellation Cat Cafe
3. That weird lighted waterfall by Marshall Music

Best Place to Work

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Preuss Pets
3. Flour Child Bakery (tie) Michigan State University

Best Shop Pet

1. Pancake the Stingray || Preuss Pets
2. Morrison and Hendrix || Deadtime Stories
3. Zeus || Soulful Earth Herbals

See TOTT 2025, Page 22



We're proud to be listed with the other Top 3 florists and garden centers, and we are humbled and appreciative of this honor! Our customers' support and confidence mean the world to us as an employee-owned business!



Best Florist



Best Gardening Center

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 Coloring Books @ lulu.com/spotlight/DennisPrestonBooks
 Locally: Odd Nodd Art Supply in Old Town, Lansing, has coloring books
 Music Downloads @ dennispreston.bandcamp.com
 Locally: Get CDs at The Record Lounge in REO Town, Lansing
 and MI-Rural Records in Grand Ledge



See more art in the Albums on The Preston (*Like my stuff?*) Page on Facebook

TOTT 2025

from page 21

Best Staycation Hotel in Lansing

1. The English Inn
2. Graduate East Lansing
3. Wild Goose Inn

Best Vehicle Ever Made in Lansing

1. Oldsmobile 442
2. Olds Delta 88
3. REO Motors Speedwagon

Best Wifi Spot

1. Constellation Cat Café
2. CADL – Downtown Lansing
3. Flour Child Bakery

Cleanest Public Restroom

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Capital Region International Airport
3. Pizzano's

In Memoriam: Businesses Lost

1. DeLuca's Restaurant
2. Curvaceous Lingerie
3. October Moon

Most Trustworthy Business

1. Playmakers
2. Preuss Pets
3. Deadtme Stories

Worst Eyesore

1. Garno Trump House on Michigan Avenue
2. SkyVue Apartments
3. Broad Museum

Worst Pothole (Specific Location)

1. Grand River from Frandor heading west
2. Mt. Hope near Aurelius
3. All of Kalamazoo Street

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ARTS & CULTURE ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Come for the calm, stay for the thrills at Fenner Nature Center

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A couple of weeks ago, I was walking past the monarch butterfly house at Lansing's Fenner Nature Center when a breathless 4-year-old girl hailed me from afar, leaving the rest of her family behind.

"We saw a tookey!" she shouted. Thanksgiving was a week away. Turkeys were on everyone's mind.

People go to Fenner to relax, walk the paths and breathe in some nature, but they often end up getting an unexpected thrill. I didn't see the turkey, but a few minutes later, a bald eagle tore a spectacular loop over the trail directly ahead, carrying a squirming squirrel in its talons.

As if that weren't enough excitement, a pissed-off hawk, barely half the size of the eagle, followed in righteous pursuit.

Fenner, this year's Top of the Town winner for Best Nature Center, is a hallowed haven with a long history of connecting people to nature, and it has a lot of new programs, events and facilities coming up in the next year.

Visitors delight in quiet paths lined by ancient trees, ponds teeming with turtles and forestland full of orioles, warblers, bluebirds and the deer that browse the meadows and woods.

"Some people only have time to stop by on their lunch break and hang out in the parking lot for a few minutes," Fenner Conservancy director Gabe Biber said. "Other people are heading off trails, deep into the woods. There are so many different ways people come here and interact with nature."

Some kids come just to say "hello" to Bowser, a 30-pound snapping turtle named after the chelonian nemesis of gaming icon Mario and one of several popular Animal Ambassadors housed in or near the visitor's center.

Many local residents know Fenner from its two major annual events, the Maple Syrup Festival in March and Apple Butter Festival in October. Both festivals are community treasures with a 50-year history.

Next year, the park plans to add a third major event, World Birding Day at Fenner, in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Day on May 9.

"Fenner is a unique spot to see a lot of special birds," Biber said. "Folks come here from all over the world to add birds to their lists." The event will



Courtesy photo

Many local residents know Fenner Nature Center from its two major annual events, the Apple Butter Festival in October and the Maple Syrup Festival in March.



Courtesy photo

Fenner's educational programs stretch from preschool to elementary and from secondary school to university-based research for LCC and MSU students.

also bring Fenner back to its roots as a nature center under Joan Brigham, the park's chief naturalist from 1970 to 1982.

"This place was an arboretum, with roads going through it where visitors could drive all over the property," Biber said. "She was the inspirational force that helped turn the corner for this to be more of a naturalized place, for people to get out of their vehicles and explore."

Winter only diversifies the opportunities for tracking nature's never-ending cycle. Naturalists will lead an "Owl Prowl," a sunset search for the three

owl species that inhabit the park, at 5 p.m. Jan. 10.

The nonprofit Fenner Conservancy leases the nature center, along with 60 acres in nearby Sycamore Creek Park (formerly a driving range), from the city for a nominal fee.

Grants, private donations and a vigorous volunteer force help keep the park in pristine condition.

Fenner's educational programs stretch from preschool to elementary and from secondary school to university-based research for Lansing Community College and Michigan State University students, and their reach

continues to grow. In 2022, the former driving range's pro shop at Sycamore Creek Park was converted into Fenner Nature Preschool, with the help of a \$47,000 grant from the Dart Foundation. The preschool brings nature-based learning to kids from 3 to 5.

Next year, Fenner plans to pilot what Biber called "the first all-outdoor preschool in the state of Michigan," to be hosted at the Fenner visitors center.

"The demand for preschool is a huge issue, here and across the nation," Biber said. "That is a critical area where we need to keep on expanding services."

If you're an even smaller person, Fenner will soon have you covered. The Fenner Nature Playscape at Sycamore Creek Park is scheduled to open in spring 2026 in the old driving range area. There will be tunnels, pits, boulders, logs and running water that encourage open-ended "risky play" (but not really risky) for kids under 5 years old. The conservancy is taking input on the project at its website, mynaturecenter.org.

Many of the young people who come to Fenner as part of an educational program are having their first experience of the natural world. Fenner education director Samuel Ansaldi said kids come to the center year-round, and not just via single-day field trips. Elementary school kids spend an entire week at Fenner in an immersive program developed in tandem with the national nonprofit group Annie's Big Nature Lesson.

"Bringing a class out here for a field trip is wonderful, but bringing them for an entire week is spectacular," Ansaldi said.

Hundreds of Lansing-area kids experience Fenner each year at summer camps. A new "adventure-style camp" aimed at middle schoolers will be launched in 2026.

Every other Saturday, corps of volunteers can be seen managing invasive species and doing other crucial jobs at Fenner.

"Without our volunteer force, we couldn't accomplish the tasks we need to accomplish," said volunteer and stewardship coordinator Dylan Lallemand. "But also, having people from the Lansing community contribute

See Fenner, Page 24

The kings of Lansterdam: How Pure Options and Pro Gro built a dynasty on old-school quality

By CHRIS SILVA

In Michigan's flooded cannabis market, Lansing's own Pro Gro — the cultivation heart of the retail powerhouse Pure Options — isn't just surviving; it's dominating. Once again, the brand has swept the Top of the Town awards, proving that Lansing residents still favor craft product, grown by a crew with genuine roots in the region's original caregiver community.

The victory is more than a trophy for Pro Gro/Pure Options flower; it's a total validation of their seed-to-sale model. For a business that started small and stayed local, Pro Gro/Pure Options' consistent victory lap is a powerful message to the national mega-brands moving into Michigan: You can't buy this kind of credibility.

Top of the Town sweep: The Pro Gro medal count

Lansing voters spoke, recognizing the depth of Pro Gro's quality across the board. Pro Gro and Pure Options secured numerous top-shelf wins across both cultivation and retail categories, making them the indisputable champions of "Lansterdam." They racked up Best Cannabis Growing Brand and Best Retail Location, along with Best Concentrate (both solvent and non-solvent) and Best Hybrid and Indica.

This consistent quality is a legacy that Pro Gro is fiercely proud to have. Pure Options is Pro Gro, at least for our purposes, because they are owned by the same people. They represent a true seed-to-sale operation built on the meticulous standards of the old-school Lansing caregivers who first built the foundation for cannabis culture here. This isn't corporate weed; it's craft elevated to commercial scale.



Pure Options was voted as one of the best locations and suppliers of various cannabis products.

The foundation: a cannabis kingpin's territory

The roots of this dynasty are deeply local. The cultivation facility, Pro Gro's massive operation, is housed not in some anonymous industrial park, but at a site with a true Lansing legacy: the former Pro Bowl bowling alley at 2122 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. It's a powerful symbol of repurposing local landmarks for a new, burgeoning industry.

The retail side also honors local history and caters to the true enthusiast. The Pure Options Lansing Midtown location (500 E. Oakland Ave.), which took the win for Best Indoor Grow Store, is essential for the cultivation communi-

ty, as it is the primary location where the brand sells cannabis clones. This continuity from local growing supply to award-winning retail speaks to the brand's commitment to Lansing's cannabis heritage.

The man behind the operation, Sam Usman Jr., has been a pivotal force in the effort for legalization and for protecting the integrity of the cannabis industry in general.

Usman serves as a board member of the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association, an organization now locked in a high-stakes legal battle with the state. MiCIA is leading the charge in a major lawsuit fighting the impending 24% wholesale tax on cannabis. The organization argues that the tax is an uncon-



stitutional violation of the voter-initiated 2018 law because it failed to secure the required three-fourths legislative supermajority. For local businesses already facing razor-thin margins, this tax is widely seen as an industry killer that threatens to push consumers straight back to the illicit market. Usman and MiCIA are leading the charge to stop it.

The edge: Concentrates and the reign of Rainbow Belts

The sweep wouldn't be complete without recognizing the quality coming out of the lab. Pro Gro/Pure Options locked up the Best Solvent Concentrate category for their Rainbow Belts extract. Rainbow Belts is consistently recognized for delivering a clean, potent and intensely flavorful experience. It's the product of an obsessive commitment to precision — from the flower used in the extraction process to the final, solvent-free purge — proving that in Lansing, the best stuff hits hardest and tastes the cleanest.

You can find the award-winning Pro Gro flower and concentrates at Pure Options' Lansing locations: Lansing South (5815 S. Pennsylvania Ave.), the Lansing Midtown (500 E. Oakland Ave.), and East Lansing/Frandor (125 N. Clippert St.). They're more than dispensaries; they're the face of Lansing's homegrown cannabis royalty.

Fenner

from page 23

and be a part of Fenner, and have that ownership, is something I absolutely love when I'm working with our volunteers."

Maintaining the integrity of the park's native flora is a never-ending, ever-evolving job. Volunteers clear out invasive herbaceous plants like garlic mustard, dame's rocket and motherwort, along with "woodies" (woody shrubs) like amur honeysuckle and buckthorn.

Most recently, the park has been invaded by the deceptively named, highly invasive tree of heaven. Lallemand

and the volunteers are hustling to root out the trees before their dreaded insect companion, the destructive spotted lanternfly, appears on the scene. Volunteers also clear brush, pick up litter, groom the trails, help monitor bluebird boxes and perform multiple jobs at big events like the Apple Butter Festival, Maple Syrup Festival and the upcoming World Birding Day in May.

"We have outdoor and indoor opportunities," Lallemand said. About 800 volunteers pitched in at Fenner in 2024, from organized groups of students to curious kids and their parents. "Every kid can pull an herbaceous plant," Lallemand said. "They love doing it."



A group hikes the trails at Fenner Nature Center.

Courtesy photo

Elijah Ahmad Lewis talks ‘The Wiz’ 50th anniversary tour

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

Music runs in Elijah Ahmad Lewis’ family.

“I started in the industry when I was 7 years old,” Lewis said. “My dad is a music producer and musician, my mother works in marketing and sales and was also an actress, and my uncle (James Warren Taylor) was the lead singer of Kool & the Gang. So, coming up in the industry was my life.”

Since 2014, Lewis has performed in a variety of Broadway shows and tours, including “Motown: The Musical” and “Ain’t Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations.” He’s now starring as Scarecrow in the North American tour of “The Wiz,” which eases on down to the Wharton Center Tuesday (Dec. 9) through Dec. 14.

A retelling of “The Wizard of Oz,” “The Wiz” debuted on Broadway in 1975 and was adapted into a 1978 film starring Diana Ross and Michael Jackson. It was revived in a brand-new touring production from fall 2023 to spring 2024, which paused for a limited engagement on Broadway from April through August 2024 before resuming in February.

Lewis originally auditioned for the roles of Scarecrow and Tinman in the Broadway show. Although the Scarecrow part initially went to his good friend Avery Wilson, he was summoned back to lead the national tour.

“A lot of us grew up on the movie,” Lewis said. “The great thing about this version of the show is how our creative team (director Schele Williams, writer Amber Ruffin, choreographer JaQuel Knight and music supervisor Joseph Joubert) came together to combine the original Broadway show and the movie.”

For instance, they included Scarecrow’s memorable solo “You Can’t Win,” which was written for the film. Since it wasn’t in the original show, Lewis is thrilled to be performing it.

“People always ask me if I’m intimidated by playing (Scarecrow), being that Michael was the last one to make it iconic. I’m not intimidated by it. I’m honored to step into the shoes and pay homage to what he did — and to what Hinton Battle did, who originated it on Broadway,” he said. “To be able to sing the song that was created for Michael is also pretty amazing. I think he’d be proud of how I honor him.”

Lewis also loves tapping into his comedic side for Scarecrow’s funnier mo-

ments. However, his favorite part about playing the character is the special bond he shares with Dorothy, Tinman and Lion.

“In the show, Scarecrow is Dorothy’s best friend,” he said. “It’s the first person she meets. I wouldn’t say he’s the group leader, because Dorothy is the group leader, but because he is acquainted with Oz and Dorothy is not, it’s that partnership between the two of them that brings the rest of the heroes together.”

He went on to praise his fellow cast members Dana Cimone (Dorothy), D. Jerome (Tinman), Cal Mitchell (Lion), Sheherazade (Glinda), Kyla Jade (Evilene/Aunt Em) and Alan Mingo Jr. (The Wiz), and how much fun they had creating their own version of Oz.

“You have to bring yourself to these roles because they’re not actual people,” he said. “We all bring something to it, and our vibrations are so great together. We find new things, and we keep certain elements that

were in the original production for the revival.”

Although he loves performing the whole show, his favorite number is “Be A Lion.” It begins as what he describes as a “solo-et” (solo and duet) between Dorothy and Lion before gradually becoming a quartet of all four heroes.

“It’s such a powerful arrangement in how it encapsulates the end of Act I with trying to get to the land of Oz and see the Wiz,” he said. “That arrangement blows the audience away every night.”

“The Wiz” has marked a defining moment in Black culture since it first hit the stage. As the show celebrates 50 years, Lewis said he and the rest of the cast are very aware of how significant it has become.

“This is such an iconic show for our African American culture and community,” he said. “Everything in the show is a delight to tap into every night. It is a show of joy, liberation and happiness.”

Lewis said fans of “The Wiz” will appreciate how the tour pays tribute to past iterations of the story, but even first-time viewers are bound to enjoy it.

“Musical theater is that medium that lifts your spirits and takes your mind off reality for two-and-a-half hours,” he said. “Come have a good time, sing the songs and join us in Oz!”

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

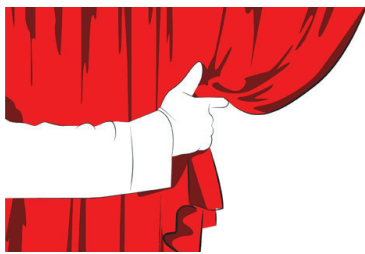


Photo by Jeremy Daniel

Elijah Ahmad Lewis as Scarecrow and Dana Cimone as Dorothy in the North American tour of “The Wiz.”

December theater productions:

Climate Change Theatre Action
Noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

“Frozen Jr.”
Thursday, Dec. 4–Saturday, Dec. 6
7 p.m. Thursday–Saturday
3 p.m. Saturday
Dwight Rich School of the Arts
2600 Hampden Drive, Lansing
midwaytheatercompany.org

“MSU UnScripted”
Thursday, Dec. 4–Sunday, Dec. 7
7:30 p.m. Thursday–Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday–Sunday
Studio 60 Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

“Holiday at Lebowsky”
Friday, Dec. 5–Sunday, Dec. 7 and Dec. 12–14
7:30 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday–Sunday
6:30 p.m. Sunday
Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts
122 E. Main St., Owosso
lebowskycenter.com

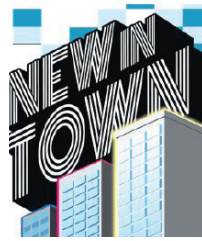
Improv Showcase
7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

“The Wiz”
Tuesday, Dec. 9–Dec. 14
7:30 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday
1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

“The Nutcracker”
7 p.m. Dec. 12
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing
allofusedexpress.org

10-Minute Fall Play Festival
3 and 7 p.m. Dec 14
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

Dungeons & Flagons offers 'premium' tabletop experience



By LEO V. KAPLAN

Colton Hughes learned interior design by crafting the relaxing, classical, element-themed rooms at Element Massage, the downtown Lansing massage parlor he has run for 10 years.

His next venture? A dungeon.

It started with extra space. He was renting Suite B in the Atrium building's garden level as an expansion of Element Massage, which takes up Suite A.

Dungeons & Flagons
215 S. Washington Square, Ste. B, Lansing
Open noon-10 p.m. Thurs-Sun. Games can be booked online at www.dnf.games

But that meant three rooms and a lobby, and Element only needed two rooms.

"I just had this extra room, and it was in spring that I was like, 'Hey, what if?'" he said.

Hughes and co-owner Wyatt Russ will launch that space as Dungeons & Flagons with a grand opening on Thursday (Dec. 4). Hughes and Russ collaborated to create a premium venue for tabletop role-playing games, complete with over

600 miniatures, a custom-built table, a map with an overhead projector and an immersive, dungeon-inspired gaming room.

The grand opening will feature a costume contest; the winner gets a free game in the new space.

"Our target market is the group of people that want the most out of their D&D session," Russ said. "We have all the bells and whistles."

The space was crafted with the same focus on immersion as the themed rooms in Element Massage, the co-owners said.

"Massaging for so long, typically I was working in areas that were just a white room with an overhead light," Russ said. "The people that come into Element and just marvel at it — we wanted that for this. We wanted people to step in and feel like, 'Oh, this isn't a garden-level suite in this building, this is a dungeon that we're in.'"

Alongside a litany of decorations and features sure to please any long-time game master, the business offers for-rent dungeon masters for Dungeons & Dragons, the iconic tabletop roleplaying game.

Interested players can book games online. A two-hour room rental costs \$160,



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

The gaming room at Dungeons & Flagons was designed as an upscale tabletop roleplaying experience. It has a custom-built table, a map with a projector and foam "brick" walls by House of Eldridge, creators out of Freeport.

while a 6-hour rental costs \$340. Split among a 7-person group — the most the room can fit — that's about \$8 per person, per hour. It's much higher than the typical D&D room-and-board price of free.

Hughes said the game room is meant to be a premium option and distinct from homes or game shops, where people often play for cheap or free. Hughes and Russ' premium tabletop gaming experience is for those celebrating a final session or a birthday, or who just want to take their

experience to the next level.

One group, celebrating a five-year campaign's final session, has already booked the space, Hughes said.

The project aims to continue the revitalization of the historic Atrium building, the former Strand Theatre, which reopened as office and retail space in 1984. The opening of Dungeons & Flagons, and of Craig Ryan Fine Clothing in September, follows the in-progress Tower on Grand skyscraper, which is expected to be connected to the building via a walkway over Grand Avenue.

Hughes and Russ' eyes gleam as they talk about their next steps: scavenger hunt "sidequests" to encourage people to explore the area, which they hope to debut in the spring, and the next parts of a three-phase plan for Dungeons & Flagons.

Their ultimate goal is to have a Renaissance faire-style medieval-themed tavern in Lansing. Alongside food and drink, the tavern would have a communal space for tabletop gaming as well as themed rooms like their dungeon room.

"That was always our lofty goal, and we just kind of figured, why not start small?" Hughes said. "So we started here."

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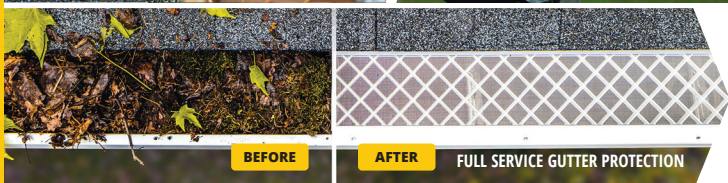


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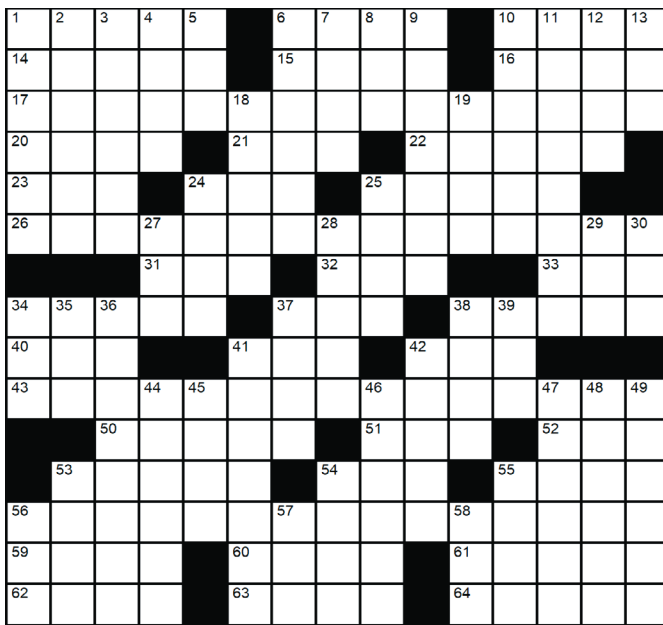
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"All In Order" -- at least the first 12.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Mag with quizzes
- 6. Honey structure
- 10. Obsolete tape players
- 14. Cymbals with a foot pedal
- 15. Largest oceanic dolphin
- 16. "Hi" on the high seas
- 17. Certain Scottish girl's lessons with designer Bill?
- 20. Worm work?
- 21. Feeling awful
- 22. Hits the mall
- 23. Long shocker
- 24. Gilbert & Sullivan's "Princess _____"
- 25. Equalize
- 26. Removes moisture from a Great Lake's fast-food side?
- 31. "Hamilton" creator _____-Manuel Miranda
- 32. Mooch in the "Mutts" comic, e.g.
- 33. Org. that looks over Heat and Thunder
- 34. Cereal holders
- 37. Ruin
- 38. Eleanor in a Beatles song
- 40. Actress de Armas
- 41. Gained
- 42. Granola bit
- 43. Reached the temperature of some Greek vowels?
- 50. The most recent Bond
- 51. "____ be a pleasure!"
- 52. Former "All Things



- Considered" co-host Shapiro
- 53. Catches, as fly balls
- 54. Raw material
- 55. Bowie rock genre
- 56. Nebulous area between a "Simpsons" bully and the late MMA fighter Slice?
- 59. Stressed type (abbr.)
- 60. Jacob's twin brother, in the Bible
- 61. Boston NHLer
- 62. It may be dominant
- 63. "Atlas Shrugged" author
- 64. Carbonated beverages

DOWN

- 1. Went after
- 2. More obsequious
- 3. "Okay to proceed?"
- 4. Zorro accessory
- 5. Post-fourth qtr.

- 6. Neck piece
- 7. Type of exam
- 8. Hosts
- 9. Rock band member
- 10. "Love! ____! Compassion!" (Terrence McNally play-turned-film)
- 11. Lip issue
- 12. "Friends" friend
- 13. Part of PBS, for short
- 18. 46th U.S. President
- 19. One who gets to cooking
- 24. Egyptian goddess of fertility
- 25. Shred
- 27. Letter-shaped pipe
- 28. Words of resignation
- 29. Recede
- 30. For example
- 34. Do some grocery work
- 35. Sean ____ Lennon
- 36. Sentinel
- 37. "Switched-On Bach" synthesizer
- 38. Night visit to the fridge
- 39. Lance of the O.J. Trial
- 41. Feline feeler
- 42. ____ Bi-Flex (immune support supplement brand)
- 44. Fine for farming
- 45. Tapioca alternative
- 46. 1997 basketball film that brought on sequels
- 47. Collection of Jewish laws
- 48. "Lawrence of ____" (1962 epic)
- 49. Carly and Paul, for two
- 53. Locale
- 54. Qatar neighbor
- 55. Copter ancestor
- 56. Dublin dance
- 57. "This ____ test"
- 58. Scale amts.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Dec. 3-9, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Here are two of your birthrights as an Aries: to be the spark that ignites the fire and the trailblazer who doesn't wait for permission. I invite you to embody both of those roles to the max in the coming weeks. But keep these caveats in mind: Your flame should provide light and warmth but not rouse scorching agitation. Your intention should be to lead the way, not stir up drama or demand attention. Be bold and innovative, my dear, but always with rigorous integrity. Be sensitive and receptive as you unleash your gorgeous courage. In my vision of your future, you're the wise guide who inspires and includes, who innovates and reflects. You fight for interdependence, not dominance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Here's a key theme: microdoses of courage. You don't need to summon splashy acts of epic heroism. Subtle rebellions against numbness and ignorance may be all that's required. Your understated superpowers will be tactful surges of honesty and gentle interventions in challenging transitions. So be brave in ways that feel manageable, Taurus. Don't push yourself to be a fearless warrior. The trembling truth teller is your best role model. As an experiment to get started, say yes to two things that make you nervous but don't terrify you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your inner ear contains three canals filled with fluid. They act like gyroscopes, telling you which way is up, how fast you're moving and when to stop. Your ability to maintain your balance depends on their loyal service. Without them, you couldn't orient yourself in space. Moral of the story: You stabilize yourself through constant adjustment. Let's make this a metaphor for your current assignment. Your ability to remain poised, centered and grounded will require ongoing adaptations. It won't work to remain still and fixed. You will have to keep calibrating and adapting.

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22): Let's extol the value of productive confusion: the disorienting state when your old maps no longer match the territory. Your beloved certainties shudder and dissipate, and you don't know what you don't know. This isn't a failure of understanding, but the ripe precondition for a breakthrough. The caterpillar doesn't smoothly or instantly transition into a butterfly. First, it dissolves into chaotic goo and simmers there for a while. Conclusion: Stay in the not knowing a little longer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Coffee from Java, orchids from Iceland and grapes from Vesuvius, Italy: What do these bounties have in common? They flourish in the extra fertile soil created by volcanic eruptions. The molten lava that initially leveled everything in its path later cooled and became a repository of rich nutrients. I expect a milder version of this theme for you, Leo. Events and energies that at first cause disruption will eventually become vitalizing and even healing. Challenges will lead to nourishment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Gardeners in Japan spend years training bonsai trees to grow into elegant shapes. The process requires extraordinary patience, close listening and an intimate relationship with an ever-changing life form. I invite you to approach your current projects with this mindset. You may feel tempted to expedite the growth that's unfolding. You might feel pressure to "complete" or "optimize." But the flourishing of your work depends on subtle attunement, not brute progress. Pay tender attention to what wants to emerge slowly. Tend to it with care. Time is your collaborator, not your enemy. You're weaving lasting beauty.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The Swedish concept of "lagom" means "not too much, not too little, but just right." It suggests that the best option may be in the middle rather than the extremes. Yes, sometimes that means an uneasy compromise. But more often, it's how the power and virtue come fully alive and thrive. Many people don't like

this fact of life. They are fixated on the delusion that more is always better. In the coming weeks, Libra, I invite you to be a connoisseur of lagom. To do it right, you may have to strenuously resist peer pressure and groupthink.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In Bangkok markets, elderly women sell caged birds. Why? For the specific purpose of releasing them. Those who buy a captive sparrow or dove immediately open the cage door and let the creature fly away in a symbolic gesture of compassion and spiritual aspiration. It's a Buddhist act believed to bring good karma to the person who sets the bird free. I invite you to imagine yourself performing this sacrament, Scorpio, or perhaps conducting an actual ritual with the equivalent purpose. Now is a fun and fertile time to liberate an outdated belief, a conversation you keep replaying or a version of yourself that's no longer relevant. Take your cue from the signs that appear in the Bangkok market: "Letting go is a form of prayer."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The world's oldest known musical composition is the Hurrian Hymn No. 6. It was discovered etched on clay tablets in Syria, dating back to 1400 B.C. When finally decoded and performed, it revealed harmonies that still resonate with modern listeners. Your projects in the coming months could share this timeless quality, Sagittarius. You will have an enhanced power to bridge your past and your future. A possibility you've been nurturing for months or even years may finally ripen into beautiful completion. Watch for opportunities to synergize tradition with innovative novelty or deep-rooted marvels with sweet, breezy forms of expression.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I'm taking a risk here by urging you cautious Capricorns to at least flirt with the Finnish tradition of drinking alcohol at home alone in your underwear with no intention of going out. I'm certainly not encouraging you to get so hammered that you can't safely wander outdoors. My point is to give yourself permission to celebrate your amazing, mysterious, beautiful life with a bout of utterly uninhibited relaxation and totally indulgent contentment. I authorize you to be loose and free and even slightly irresponsible. Let your private pleasures reign supreme.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In the Quechua language, the word "ayllu" refers to a kinship system not just of people, but of animals, ancestors, dreams and nature. To be aligned with one's ayllu is to live in reciprocity, in the ongoing exchange of care and meaning among the entire web of life. "We belong to what we love," the Quechua elders say. Aquarius, I believe you're being asked to focus on your ayllu. Who or what comprises your circle of belonging? Which beings, places and unseen presences help weave the pattern of your treasured destiny? Whom do you create for — not as audience, but as kin who receive and answer your song? As you nourish your connections in the coming weeks, pay special attention to those who respect your idiosyncrasies. It's not your birthright to simply fit in. Your utter uniqueness is one of your greatest gifts, and it's your sacred duty to give it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In Yoruba cosmology, the divine spirit Oshun presides over rivers, love, beauty and sweet water. But her sweetness isn't a weakness. It's a sublime power, as evidenced by how her waters once restored life to the barren Earth when every other force had failed. You Pisceans are now channeling extra strong currents of Oshun energy. Your tenderness is magnetic. Your imaginative flourishes are as valuable as gold. And your love, when rooted in your sovereign self-respect, is healing. But don't let your nurturing be exploited. Choose wisely where you share your bounty. The right people will honor your flow, not judge it or try to change it. Your duty is to be uninhibitedly yourself and let your lyrical truths ripple freely.

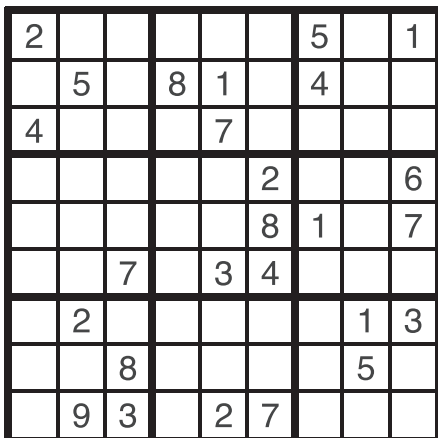
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEST MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

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Answers on page 31

SUDOKU

Advanced



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, 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 an unscripted fireside chat. 6-7 p.m. Minskoff Pavilion, Room M025, 651 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/burgess-institute-14747511979.

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.

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

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.

Holiday Open House - Enjoy \$1 off glasses of wine, 25% off all wine merchandise, and sample tasty

holiday treats. No RSVP required! Noon-7 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

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.

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

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, URFQKZ, 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,

Lange Choral Ensemble: 'The Story & Promise of Christmas'

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing



In 2023, Stephen R. Lange, the longtime organist, choir director and minister of music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and leader of the Lange Choral Ensemble, died at age 76. After a tribute concert in May of that year, members of Lange's Choral Ensemble continued to sing together as Riverbend Voices under the direction of tenor L. Harrison Brown.

However, come Sunday, the group will be back in full gear under its original moniker, with Lange's wife, Nancy Lange, at the helm.

Nancy and Stephen met in the 1960s at Michigan State University. Together, they earned six degrees from the school, five in music. After her husband's death, Nancy established a music scholarship for organ and voice students in his honor.

"She is a very accomplished musician and teacher," ensemble member Martie Repaskey said. "She was the choral director for Grand Ledge High School for 37 years, and she was, at one time, even named the Music Teacher of the Year in Michigan. She's had a lot of experience, put on I don't know how many shows, plays, musicals over all those years."

Nancy, who sang with the group and helped direct during her husband's nearly 50-year tenure as leader, said she wasn't ready to take over after his death. By the time Brown resigned earlier this year, however, her feelings had changed.

"It seemed right for me to do it, and I have had a ball," she said. "They are so responsive and talented, and we just have a great time in rehearsal."

Sunday's concert will be Christmas themed, featuring works by Bach, John Rutter, Benjamin Britten, Ola Gjeilo, Dan Forrest, Moses Hogan and beyond.

"The first half tells the story from the idea of the angels and the shepherds and the kings. My favorite piece is called "The Shepherd's Carol," because we don't have any record of the shepherds talking to Mary, and this poetry is that. And the music is just amazing," Nancy said. "The second part is that we rejoice in the story through music, through dance, through sharing brotherhood."

The 33-member ensemble will be joined by organist Deidreanna Potter, clarinetist Elizabeth Rodeck, violinists Fangye Sun (of the Lansing Symphony) and Ching-Wen Tseng, violist Takeshi Abo, cellist Daniel Tressel and organist/pianist Stephanie Gewirtz.

"I'm using strings on a piece by Bach, 'Gloria.' We're doing harp for six of the numbers and two pieces of clarinet with the harp," Nancy said.

Repaskey, who noted that Nancy already has the program picked out for the ensemble's spring concert, said working with the "new" director has been "a joy."

"It's wonderful singing under her leadership. She's a very joyful person, and very accomplished, so she's really getting good results out of the work she's doing with us," Repaskey said. "We're very, very happy to be singing with her and with each other. And we're really excited about this concert. It's a rich program full of really good Christmas music."

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 Audubon Meeting - Topics: Bird City

Michigan and chimney swift conservation. Presenters: Linda Smith, director of partnerships, and Chad Machinski, conservation manager. 7 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. capitalareaaudubon.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. capitalareamodelersociety.wordpress.com.

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

See Events, Page 29

Events

from page 28

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

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

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

KeyForge Open Play - Marty is a great teacher and a great opponent. Join him and other members of our KeyForge community for some lighthearted play. Bring your own deck or pick one up on your visit. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. homebrewgamelounge.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. ladiessilverblades.org.

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 Concert Band and Campus Band - Program includes "Canzona," by Mennin; "Over the Moon," by Ticheli; "Wayfaring Stranger" (arr. Nelson); "A Hornet's Nest," by Dorn; and "Riders for the Flag," by Sousa. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

Salsa Verde - This ensemble is made up of students and faculty from the MSU College of Music. Their performances feature music by legends like Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony and Gloria Estefan, as well as original arrangements. 8:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Silent Book Group - Bring your own book to discuss, then read in companionable silence. Some attendees break off for private socializing. 6:30-8 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

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

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

Tune In - An inclusive music showcase for performers and songwriters from Greater Lansing. You're invited to share a song (must sign up in advance) or just enjoy great music by your neighbors. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Friday, Dec. 5

"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 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/eatonareaseniorcenter.

"A Sherlock Carol" - Two beloved classic tales.

One thrilling new mystery. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

"A Winter's Song," Men of Orpheus Christmas Concert - We will perform a variety of classic holiday music as well as several new works. 7-8:30 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. menoforpheus.org.

Card Crafting & Wine - Craft beautiful cards while enjoying \$1 off glasses of wine! 6-7:30 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Clayworks Holiday Pottery Sale - Check out amazing deals on beautiful pottery and meet the artists! 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 13121 Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge. 517-626-1160. clayworkspottery.net.

Coolidge and the Gang Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Get ready to turn back the clock and crank up the nostalgia: Coolidge and the Gang are bringing the ultimate '80s Jam Night to Summerlands. 7:30-10:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St, Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

Craft Club Jr. - Create a toilet-paper-roll elf! Grades 1-3. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

See Events, Page 30

15% off ALL Preworn Upright Pianos
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COMING UP AT GREWAL HALL

12/5 HEARTSICK	12/31 NYE W/ STARFARM
12/6 AUTOHEART	1/8 ZOSO: LED ZEPPELIN EXPERIENCE
12/9 WITL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS	1/15 JUMP: VAN HALEN EXPERIENCE
12/12 KANIN WREN'S HOLIDAY POP UP	1/30 COMEDY: SHELLY BELLY
12/13 FOOL HOUSE: ULTIMATE 90's	2/6 2000's NIGHT
12/20 ECHOES OF PINK FLOYD	2/13 DINOSAUR PILE-UP
12/27 TWIZTID	2/14 THE INSIDERS

PLUS! HOMETOWN THROWDOWN IN JANUARY

GET TICKETS AT GREWALHALL.COM

Krampusnacht

4-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Old Town, Lansing

Dubbed “Lansing’s new favorite holiday tradition” by City Pulse’s cover story on the event last year, Krampusnacht returns Saturday, bringing free, festive and mildly frightful fun to the streets of Old Town. Entertainment include a costume parade, a costume contest, fire dancing, live music (the lineup features Super Secret Cult Band, community street band Splendid Chaos, Katzenjammer Alphorns and DJ Whitney Who), a “misfit” vendor market, food trucks, a 50/50 raffle and photo opportunities with Krampus, the horned creature of Alpine folklore who travels with gift-giving St. Nicholas and doles out punishments to poorly behaved children. A kids’ area will offer family-friendly activities earlier in the event, giving way to an eerier atmosphere as the evening continues. Many Old Town businesses will offer themed items and specials, with the social district allowing attendees to purchase drinks to-go from local bars. Attendees are encouraged to dress up, whether in Krampus or holiday-themed attire. Those interested in participating in the parade can sign up via the event page at iloveoldtown.org.



Events

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

JP & The Energy Live at Mash Bar - 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

LansINGout Gay Chorus Winter Concert: “Thank You for Being a Friend” - We’re honored to welcome Patrick Hinds, co-host of the “Golden Girls Deep Dive” podcast, as our emcee. We’re equally excited to be partnering with women’s chorus Sistrum. 7:30-9 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. lansingout.org.

Maker Showcase Dinner - Join us for a five-course tasting menu showcasing the entrepreneurs in ANC’s Incubator Kitchens program. Each course will be paired with wines by the evening’s host, Joel Piper. 5:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenNeighborhoodCenter.

Making Spirits Bright, with Ann Hampton Callaway - In her latest pops celebration, Tony-nominated Ann Hampton Callaway sings a wonderland of holiday favorites like “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas,” “Winter Wonderland,” “I Wonder as I Wander” and many more. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.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. University of Michigan - 8:30 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing.

msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

Night Lights Christmas Parade & Festivities - The annual Night Lights Christmas Parade is a spectacular nighttime parade packed full of lights and music! Other activities include a tree lighting, visits with Santa, a chili cookoff and more. 5 p.m. Bridge Street, downtown Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/night_lights_christmas_parade.php.

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

Open Old-Time Jam | First Friday of Every Month - Join the legendary Mike Ross for an old-time-centric jam. Even if you don’t play, feel free to listen along! 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com/collections/events.

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

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

Pre-Parade Party - Meet Elsa and Anna, make a jingle bell necklace, have fun with our holiday scavenger hunt, check out seasonal books/movies, and listen to seasonal music from the Beagle Middle School holiday carolers! 5-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Rear View Mirror Ugly Holiday Sweater Party - Come on out for the last Rear View Mirror reunion gig of 2025 and show off your ugly sweater! Enjoy great food and holiday drinks. 6-10 p.m. Brookshire Inn & Golf Club, 205 W. Church St., Williamston. 517-655-4694.

Roadside Attraction Christmas Special - Roadside Attraction takes the stage for a high-energy show featuring rock hits from the ‘70s and ‘80s, along

with a few festive holiday tunes. 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Stage One Presents: Free Ugly Sweater Swing Dance Party & LCC Jazz Band - Swing into the holiday season with the jolliest dance party in town! 6:30-9:30 p.m. 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/stageonemi.

Thrown Together (December) - What are we making? Memories! Everyone is gonna get a shot at the wheel, you’ll glaze a little piece to keep, and you’ll leave with photos! 7-9 p.m. Wheel House Studio, 1107 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/WheelHouseStudio.

Saturday, Dec. 6

90th Annual Holiday Greens Market - Find freshly made wreaths, arrangements, swags, western greens, cedar garland, centerpieces and more. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Boulevard, Lansing. thegardenclubofgreat-erlansing.org.

“A Caregiver’s Butterfly Garden” - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, professionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

A Not So Silent Night - Proceeds from this festive event will benefit REACH Studio Art Center. The evening will include light appetizers, music, the Featured Artist Exhibition and an art-filled silent auction. 6:30-9 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

“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.

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.

Blue Denim - Formerly known as The Local Group, this Lansing-based band blends blues, rock, R&B, funk and jazz into one dynamic live performance. No cover! 9:30-11:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Body Scrub and Bath Salts Make & Take, with Sandy Sonier - Learn how aromatherapy can heal the mind and body and how easy it is to make your own all-natural body scrub and bath salts. 11 a.m. Art & Soul Gallery, 215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. facebook.com/ClintonCntyArts.

Clayworks Holiday Pottery Sale - Check out amazing deals on beautiful pottery and meet the artists! 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 13121 Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge. 517-626-1160. clayworkspottery.net.

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

Contra and Square Dance - No partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Caller: Wren Eisenhauer. Band: Warren and Flick. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol

Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

DeWitt Santa Run - Run dressed as Santa and spread some holiday cheer! Proceeds benefit the St. Jude’s and Redeemer UMC food pantries. 5 p.m. Bridge Street, downtown DeWitt. facebook.com/DewittSantaRun.

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.

Eaton Rapids Hometown Christmas Craft Show and Secret Santa Shop - Once again, we will have over 30 vendors with handmade items! There will be Santa’s Secret Shop from 10 a.m. to noon, so kids can do some Christmas shopping. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 600 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. villagecrafters.net.

Eaton Rapids Hometown Family Christmas Event - Featuring a tree lighting, a lighted parade and many more holiday activities. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Downtown Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/CityOfEatonRapids.

Family Day: DRIP - What can we do when art materials behave in surprising ways? This month, we’re playing with artistic process, inspired by the exhibit “unbecoming.” 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friends of the Okemos Library Book Sale - Books range from 25 cents to \$1. CDs and DVDs, too! Special editions are individually priced. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Holiday in the Square - We’re bringing holiday cheer to the south side with Santa, s’mores, hot cocoa, pony rides and all your favorite holiday jams. 4-6 p.m. Pleasant Grove Town Square (behind 1910 Food Market, 2203 W. Holmes Road, Lansing). facebook.com/lansingswag.

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

“Jazzy Little Christmas” - Join the Lansing Concert Band Big Band and Clique Vocals for an elegant evening of jazz standards and swinging holiday tunes. Holiday treats and light refreshments served. Doors 6 p.m., show 6:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. gloperahouse.com.

Keegan Jacko Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Join us for an unforgettable night of music as Nashville recording artist Keegan Jacko takes the stage! 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St, Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Krampusnacht - Inspired by the legendary Alpine tradition, Krampusnacht celebrates the shadowy companion of St. Nick with music, fire, costumes and a healthy dose of mischief. 4-9 p.m. Old Town, Lansing. iloveoldtown.org.

Lansing Alphas Holiday Party - Celebrate the festive season with music, dancing, food and good vibes. Open bar is included! 9 p.m.-midnight. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. facebook.com/LansingAlphas.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING NOTICE OF POSTED MEETING MINUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all meeting minutes for the Charter Township of Lansing are posted to and available on the Township’s website at www.lansingtwpmi.gov. Meeting minutes may also be obtained by emailing clerk@lansingtwpmi.gov.

Meeting minutes are also posted in, and available for inspection at, the office of the Township Clerk (located at 3209 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan) during normal business hours.

Cortney Lighthouse, Clerk
Maggie Sanders, Supervisor

H&H Mobil Abandoned Auto Auction
Viewing 12/18/25 By Appointment
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at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823
For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

CP#25-369

CP#25-289

Events

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LCC Blues Weekend - Featuring the LCC Multi-Instrumental Music Ensemble and the LCC Jazz Band - this weekend is all about the blues. 3-4:30 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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

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.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Duke University - Noon. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs: "Alegría Navideña" - The Symphony Orchestra joins the Choral Union, State Singers and University Chorale for a program highlighting the spirit of the season through music sung in Spanish. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center Holiday Art Market - Shop with local artists for one-of-a-kind Native American-themed gifts. Jewelry, books, cards, ornaments, copper work and much more! 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. nokomis.org.

Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective - This year, Phil welcomes Detroit sax man Randy Scott, vocalist Bobbi Storm and trumpeter Evan Taylor. Together, they'll perform a collaborative mix of fresh, lively arrangements of holiday favorites and original music. 7:30 p.m. Eastern High School, 626 Marshall St., Lansing. facebook.com/pdchristmascollective.

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

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

St. Nicholas Day Craft Bazaar - Holiday shopping galore! Join us for our 23rd annual craft bazaar featuring talented artisans from across the region. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. St. David Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Drive, Lansing. stdavidslansing.org.

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

Tiny Bit of Wood Ornament Workshop - We'll have three stations set up for attendees to make

ornaments, garland, gift bows and more. Co-hosts will donate work to raffle off to benefit the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Ages 7+ are welcome. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 507 Shiawassee St., Lansing. tinybitofwood.com.

Wax Seal Basics - Learn the timeless craft of using beautiful wax seals to add a personal and elegant touch to your letters, invitations and stationery. 5-7 p.m. Dear Ollie & Co, 222 S. Washington Square, Lansing. dearollie.com.

Sunday, Dec. 7

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, professionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. noon-8 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.

Bill Bartilson: Folk Songs That Brought Us Here - Bill was raised attending Ten Pound Fiddle concerts with his dad, Stan Bartilson. Along the way, he picked up musical instruments, songs and stories and has woven them into a program highlighting the Fiddle's first 50 years. 3-5 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Bottle and Can Collection for Williamston Farm & Artisan Market - We collect your Michigan-returnable bottles and cans from your trunk while you stay warm in your vehicle. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. williamstonfarmmarket.org.

Capital City Ringers Retro Holiday Spectacular - Join the CCR handbell ensemble for a family-friendly concert with a wide variety of holiday music. 7 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. capitalcityringers.com.

Friends of the Okemos Library Book Sale - Books range from 25 cents to \$1. CDs and DVDs, too! Special editions are individually priced. Sunday is our "bag sale" — only \$5 for a full bag of books! 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Masonic Center, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Generator Holiday Show - This seven-piece power-house brings its high-energy mix of blues, funk, rock and soul to the stage for a festive night of music. 6-8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeat-events.com.

Giant 3D Snowflakes - Decorate your home or office for the holidays! Create giant 3D snowflakes that can be hung from the ceiling or used as a wall decoration. 1-2:30 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Holiday Brass - The Musician Series offers a unique space where classical music takes center stage, brought to life by the talented musicians of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m. Molly Grove Chapel, First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pmp House at 2 p.m. Sundays.

Winter Fest

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing

In anticipation of the 2026 Olympic Games, this year's East Lansing Winter Fest, hosted by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Arts, will have a winter Olympics theme. Kids can compete in games and other activities for the chance to win a gold medal, provided by the city's before- and after-school childcare program. Additional activities include face painting, craft stations, photos with "Frozen" characters, live ice sculpting, outdoor firepits for s'mores, bounce houses, live music by the School of Rock East Lansing House Band and soul/funk group Tony Thompson & Friends, a ventriloquist variety show and screenings of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Popcorn, hot chocolate and hot cider will be provided, with more substantial eats available at International Soul and VEG-N food trucks. A farmers and craft market will run concurrently on the first floor of the community center. For more information, visit cityofeastlansing.com/Winterfest.



368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

LCC Blues Weekend - Featuring the LCC Multi-Instrumental Music Ensemble and the LCC Jazz Band - this weekend is all about the blues. 3-4:30 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

LCC Rock Band - We're back at The Avenue and ready to rock! Free. 6-8 p.m. 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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.

MSU Christmas Brass Extravaganza - Outstanding MSU instrumentalists perform a variety of classics and Christmas songs, ending with a festive sing-along. Light refreshments will be served at intermission. 7-9 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. facebook.com/PeoplesChurchEL.

MSU Jazz Orchestras with René Marie, Jazz Voice - René Marie is a Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist celebrated for her bold artistry, emotional depth and genre-defying style. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Nokomis Cultural Heritage Center Holiday Art Market - Shop with local artists for one-of-a-kind Native American-themed gifts. Jewelry, books, cards, ornaments, copper work and much more! 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. nokomis.org.

Numinous Light - A solo exhibition of Michigan

landscapes by Michigan artist Anthony Michael Cairo celebrates the beauty of the world around us. 9:30 a.m.-noon. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. anthonymcairo.com/numinous-light.

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

Signed Books Make Sweet Gifts, with Lyssa Kay Adams - Best-selling author Lyssa Kay Adams will be in store from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. This is an open-house-style event, so feel free to come at any point. Schuler Books, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/schulerbooks.

Tori Shares Christmas - In addition to free gaming, we'll have crafting and cookie-decorating stations. We encourage folks to either grab a tag from the giving tree or donate to help buy presents for kids in foster care. Noon-8 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. homebrewgamelounge.com.

Walking Down Memory Lane: Celebrating 60 Years of Cotillion Balls - Featuring cotillion memories, a scrumptious dinner, entertainment by an electric soloist, a post-debutante historical speaker and much more. 2-5 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/coordinator-shurline-stoudamire-120622669260.

See Events, Page 32

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 27

C	O	S	M	O	C	O	M	B	V	C	R	S			
H	I	H	A	T	O	R	C	A	A	H	O	Y			
A	L	A	S	S	B	L	A	S	S	C	L	A	S		
S	I	L	K	I	L	L	S	H	O	P	S				
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D	R	I	E	S	E	R	I	E	S	F	R	I	E	S	
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SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 27

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

Christmas IN THE VILLAGE

Sunday, December 14 | 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Meridian Historical Village (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos)

- Tour the decorated historic buildings
- Meet Santa in the barn
- Hot cocoa and treats for sale in the Barnes House Inn & Tavern
- Barons of Brass in Chapel | 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm
- Renaissance Singers in Chapel | 3:00 pm
- Tree Lighting | 4:00 pm

For questions, contact the Meridian Historical Village at 517.347.7300

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC MERIDIAN
EST. 1974

Events

from page 31

Williamston Farm & Artisan Market Holiday Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Williamston Area Senior Center, 500 Williamston Center Road, Williamston. facebook.com/WilliamstonFarmandArtisanMarket.

Yule Spellcraft Lab: Peace & Prosperity Jar - We'll blend herbs, crystals, and intention to call in a calmer home, steady resources, and soft, sustainable good fortune for the year ahead. 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Monday, Dec. 8

"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 - 8 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal

Church, 6500 Amwood 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.

Capital City Ringers Retro Holiday Spectacular - Join the CCR handbell ensemble for a family-friendly concert with a wide variety of holiday music. 7 p.m. Delta Presbyterian Church, 6100 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. capitalcityringers.com.

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.

Financial Disaster Preparedness and Recovery - Facing a disaster is tough, but your finances don't have to be another casualty. This course guides you through proactive steps to protect your assets and streamline recovery. Noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth.

Holiday Giving Drop-off Day - Spread joy this holiday season by adopting a child's wish list or picking up an angel tag at Meridian Mall, Lansing Mall, Mitchell's or Smokey Bones! Donation drop-off is Dec. 8 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Children's Home gym on the St. Vincent campus (2800 W. Willow St., Lansing). catholiccharitiesiec.org/holiday-giving.

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

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

Numinous Light - A solo exhibition of Michigan land-

scapes by Michigan artist Anthony Michael Cairo celebrates the beauty of the world around us. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. anthonymcairo.com/numinous-light.

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

PEARS Deeper Dive: Program Activities - Participants should have attended the PEARs Crash Course. Learn how to enter a program activity. 9 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/pears-deeper-dives.

Perler Beads - Explore and create with colorful Perler beads! Choose from many patterns or create your own. We'll have cord and magnets to turn your creations into decorations. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble: Performing Group for All Ages - Meets twice per week. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala

See Events, Page 33

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

voted
TOP 3
Top of the Town
2025
CityPULSE
WKAR

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Thurs, Fri, Sat: 4 - 11 p.m Sun, Tues, Wed: 4 - 9 p.m
Closed Monday -- Call for parties: 517-908-9950

FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Pancakes for the people

By LEO V. KAPLAN

As a semi-proficient home cook, pancakes have always been a tough sell. If I can make a dish quickly, at home and at a negligible ingredient cost, I usually don't order it when eating out.

So, when a restaurant asks me to spend \$17 on some "Really Good Fu%@ing Pancakes," they better be really good.

I had every intention of asking my server for "a cup of coffee and the really good fucking pancakes," but I ultimately chickened out and just asked for "the pancakes." Luckily, they're the first menu item, so there was little room for error.

The coffee was served in a large, pleasantly heavy mug with a pitcher

of cream. I drank it as I always do: little cream and no sugar. It tasted exactly as restaurant coffee should: not too strong, not too bitter and not too bougie, just a classic cup of good coffee. I was not surprised to learn that The People's Kitchen sources its coffee beans from local roaster 517 Coffee Co. It certainly tasted a step above the rest.



Really Good Fu%@ing Pancakes

\$17

The People's Kitchen

2722 E Michigan Ave, Lansing

9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday

9 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday

9 a.m.-3 p.m., 5-8 p.m. Sunday

(517) 507-5730

eatpeoples.com

When the pancakes themselves arrived, I was taken aback by their sheer size, two massive dough saucers cooked to impressive perfection. They were served with charred lemon butter and butter

syrup.

There was no space on the plate to eat the pancakes separately, so I ate them as a stack. The charred lemon butter was delicious and surprisingly lemony (yes, I took a bite of just the butter) and perfectly complemented the pancakes' buttermilk flavor.

After pouring about half the butter syrup on the pancakes, I began dipping the pancake slices in the syrup to get more of that decadent flavor — a tactic that would make a heart doctor cry but made my own heart very, very happy, at least in the immediate sense.

I was a little mortified when my server noticed my cholesterol-loaded strategy and offered me more syrup, which I thankfully accepted. It ended up costing an extra \$1.50, and I have zero regrets.

Ultimately, I have to admit that Top of the Town voters knew what they were doing when they made this dish runner-up in both the Best Signature Dish and Best Pancakes categories, on top of making The People's Kitchen runner-up for Best Brunch.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Top of the Town voters knew what they were doing when they made The People's Kitchen's Really Good Fu%@ing Pancakes runner-up in both the Best Signature Dish and Best Pancakes categories, Leo V. Kaplan enthuses.

At \$17, it's a steep price for pancakes, no matter the quality, but these things are definitely an order of magnitude above what I can do with flour, eggs and buttermilk in my own kitchen ... for now.

And to the friends who eat my cooking, don't be too surprised if the next time I serve you pancakes, they come with lemon butter on top. I've already got a recipe open.

Events

from page 32

Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 9

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - 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.

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

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

Beach Glass Windows - Create an eye-catching beach glass wall hanging, the perfect addition to any Michigander's home. 6-8 p.m. Buddy's Pizza, 2010 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/the-crafty-michigander-32149944213.

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.

Improv Showcase - Students enrolled in improvisation present their showcase performance! Free. 7-8:30 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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.

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

MMAG Fall Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Numinous Light - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. anthonymcairo.com/numinous-light.

Open Mic Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

PEARS Deeper Dive: Creating Surveys - Participants should have attended the PEARs Crash Course. Learn how to create and distribute surveys in PEARs. 11 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/pears-deeper-dives.

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

CALL FOR PROJECTS: ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SECTION 5310 FUNDING

All local public transportation providers, government entities, and non-profit organizations are advised that the CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has released the FY 2026 5310 Call for Projects. This year, there is the following funding available:

FTA/State Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310) \$900,000

The Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program (Section 5310), a federal funding program locally administered by CATA, provides funding to support the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities and older adults. The program is designed to enhance mobility options and improve transportation services for these populations, helping them maintain their independence and participate fully in their communities. Eligible applicants included public transportation providers, government entities and non-profit organizations.

Eligible projects for this funding include the purchase of accessible vehicles (small buses and vans), providing mobility management services (such as travel training) and improving infrastructure (including sidewalks, curb cuts and bus stops). For more information regarding CATA's 5310 Program and accessing the application, please visit <https://bit.ly/CATACallForProjects5310Funding>. Potential applicants may also email PlanningTeam@cata.org or visit CATA's Administrative Offices at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

The application is open until Monday, Jan. 12, 2026. CATA staff is offering a Technical Assistance overview for interested applicants. Any questions or requests for Technical Assistance must be submitted to PlanningTeam@cata.org no later than Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025. Projects are expected to be selected in February 2026 with final Board approval occurring on March 18, 2026.

Submittals should be sent via email to: PlanningTeam@cata.org.

CATA services are provided in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, without discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. For more information regarding our Title VI program and the procedure for filing a complaint, contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1100 or visit www.cata.org/TitleVI. You may also complete the CATA Title VI complaint form online at cata.org, email titlevi@cata.org or visit CATA's Administrative Offices at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

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Top of the Town 2025
CityPULSE WKAR

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis
November 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie, Trustee M. Hoppes and 5 citizens.
Board Actions:

- 1) Approved contacting State of Michigan regarding historic birth and death records.
- 2) Approved giving old assessment records to Clinton County Historical Society Archives.
- 3) Approved payment of November 2025 bills.
- 4) Adopted posting Zoning Board of Appeals and Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority Board vacancies.
- 5) Approved updates to Board Policy regarding media, email, and password policies.
- 6) Approved updated insurance valuations.
- 7) Approved purchase of laptops for Supervisor and Trustee.
- 8) Approved moving regular board meetings to 3rd Tuesday for 2026.
- 9) Approved purchase of cemetery flags for 2026.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is December 18, 2025, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#25-390

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE
THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

TOP 5 BAKLAVA

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

1. Aladdin's Restaurant

Middle Eastern restaurant with a lengthy menu of vegetarian and meat-based dishes
300 N. Clippert St., Lansing
(517) 333-8710
aladdinslansing.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

2. Bell's Greek Pizza

Late-night spot serving a mix of Italian and Mediterranean cuisines
1135 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
(517) 332-0858
thebellspizza.com
10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
10 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday

3. Bread Bites Mediterranean

Family-owned Mediterranean eatery known for its homemade bread and baked goods
5100 Marsh Road, Okemos
(517) 708-7112
breadbitesokemos.com
11:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday-Saturday
Noon-7 p.m. Sunday

4. Jerusalem Bakery

Cozy Mediterranean restaurant and bakery serving fresh-made bites for lunch and dinner
1456 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 485-9975
jerusalem-pita.wixsite.com/mysite
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

5. Woody's Oasis

Quick-serve Mediterranean restaurant with familiar offerings such as falafel, gyros and shawarma
1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing
(517) 351-2280
woodysoasis.com
11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily

BETTER HOLIDAY MEALS AND SIDES

PICK YOUR ENTREE:

<p>PRIME RIB MEAL Grass Fed & Finished Raised without Antibiotics Serves 4 Serves 8 109⁹⁹ 169⁹⁹</p>	<p>TENDERLOIN MEAL Grass Fed & Finished Raised without Antibiotics Serves 4 Serves 8 149⁹⁹ 209⁹⁹</p>	<p>BONE-IN SPIRAL HAM MEAL Serves 4 Serves 8 74⁹⁹ 134⁹⁹</p>
<p>SALMON MEAL Serves 4 Serves 8 119⁹⁹ 139⁹⁹</p>	<p>ALL NATURAL AMISH TURKEY MEAL Serves 4 Serves 8 64⁹⁹ 124⁹⁹</p>	<p>VEGAN QUINOA ROAST MEAL Serves 4 Serves 8 64⁹⁹ 124⁹⁹</p>

*4 Person meal includes 4 apple blossoms and 8 person meal includes 8 apple blossoms

CHOOSE 4 OF THESE 7 SIDES: Lemon Balsamic Carrots, Sweet Potato Fingerlings, Mac & Cheese, Caramelized Brussels Sprouts, Cranberry Bacon Green Beans, Vegan Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Relish

Side of Dinner Rolls 6 Pack **\$3.99**
Gluten Free Cornbread **\$8.99**

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www.BetterHealthMarket.com

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Across from Frاندor Mall • 517-332-6892
Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-9pm • Sun 10am-7pm
Meals Available thru December 24, 2025. While supplies last.

City
PULSE

The Giving season is upon us



Silver Bells proclaimed the arrival of the holiday season for 1000s of folks in Downtown Lansing Nov. 21. 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!



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