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December 10-16, 2025

CityPULSE

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Old Town, new tricks

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Decline by Applause

Here we are again, ankle-deep in the swamp and calling it a spa day.

The normalizing of dysfunction isn't creeping in anymore—it's doing cartwheels on cable news while we clap like seals because at least it's "owning the libs." Thanks to Colin Jost for portraying Pete Hegseth in a way that finally tells the truth: competent-looking chaos wrapped in a flag and sprayed with Axe body spray. It's funny in the way slipping on ice is funny—right up until you realize your hip is broken and the people laughing are in charge of the emergency room.

Satire exaggerates reality to expose its absurdity. Now it just files a change-of-address form and forwards the mail.

We are told, with a straight face, that racism is over. Dead. Gone. Buried sometime around the election of Barack Obama, apparently. And yet—purely coincidentally, I'm sure—we wake up to announcements that Juneteenth and Martin Luther King Jr. Day are being stripped from lists of free-entry days at national parks. But no, please, explain again how this is not symbolic. Tell me it's about "administrative streamlining" or "budget efficiencies" or whatever euphemism focus groups landed on this quarter, because nothing screams post-racial America quite like charging admission on the holidays commemorating freedom from bondage and the man who dedicated his life to equal access to literally everything.

It's an impressive trick, really. Say the problem doesn't exist, then meticulously design policies that target the exact things the "nonexistent" problem represents. It's like insisting you don't believe in gravity while quietly removing all the guardrails from bridges.

And the people cheering this on—the same people who spent decades whining about participation trophies—have now outdone themselves. We are through the looking glass. We are living in an era where effort, merit, and achievement are mocked unless they belong to the right person. Enter the lovingly crafted consolation prize: a brand-new peace award cooked up by admirers because their favored avatar of grievance couldn't actually earn one the old-fashioned way.

FIGA—, I mean, FIFA has created a peace prize for a man whose most consistent accomplishment is leaving scorched earth in his wake. Businesses? Bankrupt. Charities? Dissolved. Casinos? Imploded. Political norms? Torched. International relationships? Wrecked like rental cars returned with the bumper missing and the gas tank empty.

But look! A trophy! Because nothing says "leader of the free world" like needing your supporters to invent a medal so you don't feel left out at the awards ceremony of history. The participation trophy crowd didn't just surrender; they pivoted. They realized their problem wasn't trophies—it was who was holding them.

Once upon a time, when behavior like this surfaced, someone

would quietly ask a devastatingly simple question: Would your mother be proud of you? That question carried weight because shame existed. Reputation mattered. Character counted. Now it's considered quaint, even suspect, like a rotary phone or basic decency.

The modern version of that question seems to be: Will this trigger the right people? If the answer is yes, congratulations—you've achieved moral absolutism.

Donald Trump has become persona non grata in any universe where accountability still functions, which explains why his brand thrives precisely where it doesn't. He doesn't build things; he consumes them. He doesn't lead movements; he drains them. Every institution he touches becomes smaller, louder, meaner, and infinitely more fragile. Like a hurricane with a press release, destruction follows, and then comes the demand for applause.

What's truly remarkable isn't that this happens. Power attracts opportunists; history teaches us that. What's remarkable is how eagerly we normalize it. How quickly the extraordinary becomes ordinary. How the unthinkable becomes Tuesday.

We laugh at the jokes. We share the clips. We nod along as norms are dismantled piece by piece, because acknowledging the full absurdity would require admitting something uncomfortable: that we didn't just arrive here by accident. We voted, watched, ignored, excused, and shrugged our way into this mess.

Satire is struggling to keep up because dysfunction has stopped pretending to be embarrassed. It's proud now. It's loud. It has merch.

And so we find ourselves in a country where freedom holidays cost extra, peace prizes are handed out like party favors, and the loudest voices insist everything is perfectly normal while standing in the rubble of what used to be shared civic ground.

This isn't a decline by collapse. It's a decline by applause.

And the clapping just won't stop.

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A badger makes a serious dash for Congress

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Michigan's weed is going to cost more

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Gjoni's serves Italian with classic vibes

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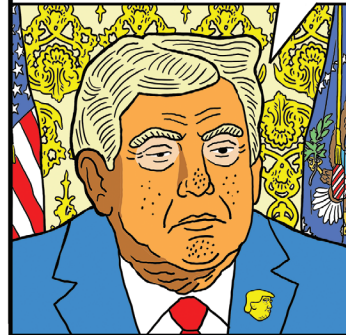
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

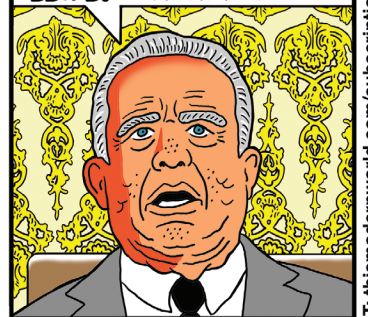
OKAY, I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HISTORY'S GREATEST PRESIDENT, ME! LAY IT ON THICK. I WANT ASS-KISSING THAT WOULD MAKE KIM JONG UN BLUSH. HEGSETH, YOU GO FIRST.



YES SIR! I'VE BEEN BLOWING UP VENEZUELAN FISHING BOATS, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED! EXCEPT FOR THAT FOLLOW-UP STRIKE EVERYONE'S SO UPSET ABOUT. THE ADMIRAL ORDERED THAT. I WAS IN THE BATHROOM ADMIRING MY HAIR--



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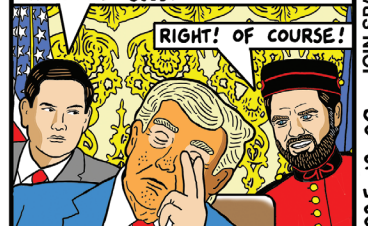
AND THANKS TO YOUR DIVINELY-INSPIRED GOVERNANCE, OUR BRAVE SECRET POLICE ARE KIDNAPPING RECORD NUMBERS OF PEOPLE! THE AUTOPEN GUY COULD NEVER HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IT!



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

‘The most serious troll you’ll ever meet’

“The Furies Are Coming For Me...” reads the subject line of a campaign email sent out two weeks ago by Tom Barrett, the Charlotte Republican currently representing Michigan’s 7th congressional district.

The “furry” in question is Samuel “Elyon Badger” Smeltzer, a long-shot congressional candidate known for appearing at political rallies in a marijuana-patterned suit topped with a honey badger head.

But Smeltzer, once a sort of local cryptid, has experienced a burst of mainstream attention after a slew of articles from outlets like the Daily Caller and New York Post, and a segment on Sean Hannity, brought attention to his eccentric, inflammatory campaign.

Looking at his quirky costume and inflammatory social media posts, it’s easy to assume Smeltzer tossed his marijuana leaf-patterned top hat in the ring for the attention rather than the policy.

But from speaking with Smeltzer on a walk through the Fenner Nature Center, it’s clear the Lansing resident, Michigan National Guard veteran and lifelong Michigander is as serious as can be.

“This game has been turned into a joke, and if you want to win in the circus of madness, you’ve got to be the best goddamn clown in the show,” he said.

Dressed in a purple suit that evoked images of Willy Wonka and Jack Nicholson’s Joker, with his spouse following behind carrying his badger head in case of photos, the MI-7 candidate excoriated the U.S. healthcare system.

“When I go to the pharmacy to pick up my medicine, and I see the pharmacist tell the old man in front of me, ‘Oh, that’ll be \$120’ — it’s just, holy moly,” he said. “Imagine paying to live in a country your whole life through taxation, with barely an ounce of representation, and then at the end of it you can’t even afford your medicine to enjoy your sunset years.”

Advocacy for universal healthcare is at the core of Smeltzer’s campaign, something he hopes to achieve through a constitutional amendment. He said



Photo by Raymond Holt

Samuel Smeltzer, aka Elyon Badger, appeared in full badger and marijuana regalia during the October No Kings II rally.

the focus came from his childhood in Wolverine, a village in Cheboygan County with about 300 residents, where he was raised Baptist.

“So I was eight years old, serving soup to homeless people, singing songs at the Cheboygan retirement home every Christmas, and then later on when I say, ‘Why don’t we have healthcare?’ violent anger spouts,” he said.

Smeltzer, an IT contractor and car flipper, first became known at local pro-marijuana events as “President Weed.” He said he first purchased his then-undersized weed suit as an incentive to lose weight and overcome alcoholism. In learning to use his anger productively, he said, he found his “honey badger energy.”

Despite raising nearly \$4,000 for his current campaign, Smeltzer actually encourages supporters on social media not to donate, but to spread the message instead.

“My entire strategy from the start has been telling voters, ‘I don’t want you to donate any more, I want you to spread the message about healthcare,’” he said.

Smeltzer’s disdain for campaign ads that beg for donations has brought

him into conflict with fellow MI-7 candidate Will Lawrence, who Smeltzer critiqued for asking for money in ads before providing a platform.

Smeltzer said Lawrence sought his advice for running the social media end of a campaign before announcing, then told Smeltzer he should reconsider running without guaranteed funding sources. Smeltzer has over 80,000 followers on TikTok, with videos garnering as many as 5 million views.

“I told him, if you want to win voters over, you tell them what you are going to do to make their life better,” he said. “You don’t just say, ‘Give me \$5 so I can beat Trump.’”

Sitting in his van to warm up after a cold-weather photoshoot, Smeltzer pulled up a campaign ad from Lawrence in which he announces his intention to run for Congress to “stop the Trump agenda” and asks for money.

Then, Smeltzer played his own video, in which he stands before Lansing’s iconic trio of smokestacks.

“Hi there, I’m an establishment Democratic candidate, and instead of making sure your family can afford food this Thanksgiving, I’m spending



Photo by Raymond Holt

Samuel Smeltzer, aka Elyon Badger, was photographed at Fenner Nature Center on Dec. 3, 2025.

your donation money to ask you for more donation money,” Smeltzer says.

“By donating today, you can be sure that this same ad scrolls across your feed five times in a row,” he continues. “Thank you for voting establishment. Fuck you, you are never getting healthcare.”

It’s unclear whether Smeltzer can garner the 1,000 signatures necessary to qualify for the ballot — or even whether “Samuel (Elyon) Smeltzer (Badger),” the name he filed to run under, qualifies as a “recognized diminutive” of his name under Michigan election law. A spokesperson for the state department declined to comment on Smeltzer’s eligibility.

But it is clear that the “gay furry socialist,” as the Daily Caller called him, is using the media attention as a path to genuine advocacy.

“At the end of the day, judge me by my haters,” Smeltzer said. “Their boos mean nothing to me, because I’ve seen what makes them cheer.”

— LEO V. KAPLAN

Michigan's water infrastructure sees improvements, work still needs to be done

By CLARA LINCOLNHOL
Capital News Service

LANSING —The United States would need to invest nearly \$3.4 trillion over the next 20 years to sufficiently fix and update its drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, according to research by the advocacy organization Value of Water Campaign.

Much of the country's water infrastructure was built 40 to 50 years ago and is showing its age. Michigan's is no exception.

The American Society of Civil Engineers gave Michigan a D+ grade for its drinking water infrastructure, a D in storm water management and a C for its wastewater infrastructure in 2023 – the most recent year of assessment.

Michigan's wastewater rating is better than the national rating – which is a D, said Jeff Johnston, a public information officer at the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

"Obviously though, we want to be better than a C, and we want to be doing the best we can," he said. "Wastewater management is important for protecting the environment and public health."

He said there are multiple initiatives underway to improve infrastructure.

Michigan needs nearly \$6 billion in stormwater improvements and the state was awarded \$907.4 million in loans through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to help develop municipal storm-water utilities in communities across the state, Johnston said.

As of a couple of years ago, Ann Arbor was the only city in Michigan with a storm-water utility.

Johnston said as climate change intensifies storms and Michigan sees more severe weather events, cities are flooding because their infrastructure cannot handle the extra water – which is why it's important to have these utilities.

"Some of these systems we have are not built for the added capacity that they now have to handle or will have to handle in the future," he said.

In 2014, aging pipes in Flint leached lead into the drinking water, exposing thousands of residents to

dangerous levels of lead.

The state's Environment, Great Lakes and Energy department aims to avoid a repeat and works to remove and replace lead water lines throughout the state to prevent something similar from happening again, he said.

"That's been a high priority, so we're pleased to have made significant progress on that area," he said.

In 2024, the department replaced 24,521 lead service lines.

Lansing was the first city in Michigan and the second in the U.S., to replace all of its lead service lines, in 2016.

It would take \$1.6 trillion to fix the entire nation's drinking water infrastructure alone, according to research by the Environmental Protection Agency. Most of that money would be used to develop distribution and transmission systems.

This research does not take into account the money needed to supply water for the growth of the AI industry.

Data centers use up to 5 million gallons of water a day, according to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute in Washington. Data centers use the water to cool their facilities.

Michigan is a desired location for data center developments due to the availability of water, a stable energy grid, plenty of rural land and less vulnerability to natural disasters, said Russell Whipple, the mayor of Mason, south of Lansing.

"There are people who are very concerned about water since a data center could potentially use tons and tons of water, like hundreds of thousands to a million gallons a day," Whipple said.

He said Mason is conducting a study of its aquifer and water infrastructure to determine what the capacity would be for the city to draw from the aquifer, he said.

"Any data center that might come to us is going to be limited to whatever that study determines is the reasonable amount for such a development," Whipple said.

Federal funding for water infrastructure in the 1980s used to make up over half of the federal budget but

Residents widely oppose ModPod plans at community meeting



Photo by Leo V. Kaplan

Joan Nelson, the retired founding director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, opposed establishing a transitional housing community in Hunter Park, which she said would upend community investment in the park and sequester homeless residents to a prison or zoo-esque encampment.

About 150 people attended a meeting on Dec. 3 about Lansing's plan to establish a pod community as transitional housing for residents who are homeless.

In a packed room, hitting the Foster Community Center room's occupancy limit, 45 people spoke in near-unanimous opposition to establishing the NOVA Lansing Housing Initiative in a public park. Residents said it could upend the services and activities at the parks.

"The NOVA project would supplant and diminish the robust use of this by neighbors," said retired Allen Neighborhood Center executive director Joan Nelson.

"I'm ordinarily more of a YIMBY — 'Yes, in my backyard' — than a NIMBY, but this proposal indicates that we have not learned the folly of concentrating poverty and dysfunction in a small geographic space," she said.

Residents critiqued one or all of the five finalist locations for the project, four of which are or are within parks. Nearly all opposed the project. Some argued that establishing transitional housing for homeless residents could increase crime rates and devalue property. Others said they supported the effort but believed the location decision had been made too fast and

without enough community input.

"This plan was brought forward with no plan, no vision and absolutely no leadership," said Jody Washington, a former city council member.

Lansing purchased 50 ModPod housing units from Kalamazoo nonprofit Housing Resources, Inc., which purchased them for \$1 million in 2021 with plans to build a pod community as transitional housing. The project was announced in November 2021 with the expectation that it could open within months, but after years-long delays including funding issues and community opposition, the nonprofit put them up for auction.

Lansing purchased them earlier this year for \$640,000, a discount at the cost of planning time. After reviewing 48 potential locations, five have been announced as finalists: Reasoner Park, Hunter Park, Comstock Park, the former warming house in Debbie Stabenow Park, and the former Shabazz Academy.

A few people at the meeting did speak in support of the pods, despite overwhelming opposition. One was Ivan Droste, a city council regular and member of the Lansing Rent Is Too Damn High tenants'

Mod Pods

from page 6

union.

“The social contract obliges us all to make sacrifices for each other,” Droste said.

He said any of the locations were suitable if it meant saving lives and he criticized what he called “a city-wide game of hot potato with these ModPods.”

Some of the opponents said homeless residents’ had not been adequately consulted, others said it would be cheaper to house homeless people the usual way than to set up the ModPods.

Some said the city’s Human Relations and Community Services department’s consideration of any park location was a failure to respect the city’s parks millage.

But on all sides, nearly all speakers agreed that the project had moved too quickly and without enough community involvement.

“I do not know what community engagement you have been doing, but it does not seem to have reached the community,” Jamie Moriarty said.

“Residents are a lot more receptive to solutions that are planned, that are centralized,” said Val Magee, co-owner of Devil’s Day Tattoo downtown. “We need a proactive, strategic and compassionate approach to this.”

Water

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has dropped dramatically throughout the past couple of decades. In 2023, the federal share of funding was 8% while the remaining 92% of funding came from the states, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The Trump administration’s proposed 2026 fiscal year budget would cut federal funding for water infrastructure even more, from \$2.76 billion now to \$305 million.

Researchers say state and local governments could provide up to \$1.5 trillion of the \$3.4 trillion, leaving the need for \$2 trillion. Researchers say this gap will increase if the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expires.

That will happen in September 2026 if it is not reauthorized. Michigan would lose about \$286 million if that law expires.

Mike Dombrowski, the chair of the Lansing parks board, said he was speaking on his own behalf, “because the parks board has literally never had a conversation around this topic.”

Dombrowski said he believed parks were on top of the list because they are easy solutions, rather than good ones.

“The decision seems to have already been made,” he said.

As people filed 50 minutes later, they filled out little slips of paper asking them to select one of six options for their preferred NOVA location: one of the five finalists or “None of These — Please write your suggestion below.”

It was clear which option most were choosing.

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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



MSU has announced a \$401 million commitment from Greg and Dawn Williams, largely for athletics programs, according to a statement Friday from the university. It is the largest gift in the school's history and one of the largest single amounts in college athletics history. Greg

Williams is the co-founder, chairman and CEO of Acrisure, an insurance company based in Grand Rapids. Most of the gift, \$290 million, will go toward FOR SPARTA: The Capital Initiative, a fundraising campaign announced earlier last week that aims to make MSU a national powerhouse and signal that it has the resources to compete. Another \$100 million will go into an affiliated organization called Spartan Ventures.

Spartan Ventures will be run as a non-profit organization separate but affiliated with the university



and it will take on many of the athletic ventures such as broadcast rights, licensing and intellectual property rights. The Williams gift also includes \$11 million for academics and extracurricular activities including the MSU Burgess Risk Management and Financial Insurance Program in the Eli Broad College of Business, the Spartan Marching Band and Pep Bands and the Sparty Mascot Program. The Williamses have previously donated over \$25 million to university efforts. The fundraising changes come after the firing of second-year head football coach Jonathan Smith and the hiring of former Northwestern head coach Pat Fitzgerald to replace him.



Lansing Fire Department Chief Brian Sturdivant and the city are being sued by a female firefighter who alleges the chief and other firefighters checked whether she was wearing a bra at work. The lawsuit acknowledges potential undergarment requirements but says the firefighter

was singled out in front of coworkers and had two male supervisors assigned by Sturdivant to check on her bra usage daily, according to the Lansing State Journal. Hannah Fielstra, the firefighter's attorney, said in a statement that the case harkened back to 1950s attitudes and had nothing to do with the firefighter's ability to do her job. Sturdivant and Scott Bean, a spokesperson for the city, declined to comment for the State Journal article.

Lansing's Code Blue status has been extended for a third week, now until at least 7 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 12. The city's Code Blue declarations allow local shelters to have more flexibility during extreme cold, or snow. The Letts Community Center will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. as an overnight warming center during Code Blue



periods. Many public buildings -- including the Foster, Gier, Letts and Schmidt community centers, libraries, and the Capital Area Transportation Authority Transportation Center in downtown -- will be open during the day as well. CATA will offer free rides to warming centers. For more information, visit LansingMI.gov/coldweatherplan or call 311 (a city information line distinct from 911).

John Czarnecki, an East Lansing city council member from 1975 to 1983 and then its mayor for the next four years, died in November at age 79. East Lansing Information published a remembrance of the former mayor, who was an economic developer for the state and for regional organizations. He also started the Tri-County Bicycle Association in 1972 and worked to develop an area trail system and a network of recreational bicyclists.



The Eaton Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) has received a grant of nearly \$117,000,

which will help update the equipment in its mobile pathway labs and give Eaton County elementary school students a chance to learn about semiconductors and electric vehicles, according to the Lansing State Journal. The labs are designed for elementary-aged students to expose them to trades and career paths that have matching programs at higher grade levels. The grant funds come from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Winter property taxes will rise 5% for Lansing residents this year, due in part to a state constitutional rule tying property value growth to inflation, Fox47 News reported. A social media post by Mayor Andy Schor said voter-approved services funded by taxes are another reason for the increase. He added that property value assessments rise at 5% or the rate of inflation—which ever is lower. With inflation recently rising, the state-mandated 5% cap is now taking effect. Residents needing assistance paying for taxes, which are due Feb. 14, 2026, are encouraged to call 311.

Holt Public Schools Superintendent David Hornak has announced his plan to retire Dec. 31, 2026. He has served in that role for the past 11 of his 32 years in the district, after working as a Young Fives, kindergarten, and first-grade teacher and elementary school principal. He also coached high school soccer.

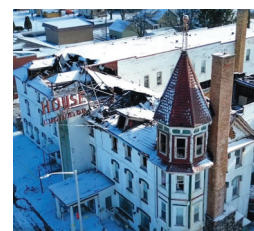


Hornak wrote that he would support a smooth transition with a 12-month notice and would work with an incoming superintendent.



A man was critically injured in a shooting on Lansing's eastside early Tuesday morning. Police found a 37-year-old man with a gunshot wound to his chest on the 900 block of Eureka Street, who was then transferred to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries. Another shooting victim, whose age was not released, arrived at a local hospital with a non-life-threatening wound in his shoulder that was part of the same incident. No arrests have been made.

Meanwhile, Lansing police are searching for a suspect in a Monday night shooting that left a 15-year-old boy with non-life-threatening injuries. Police responded to the 1900 block of Georgetown Boulevard on the south side of town and found the victim, who was treated at a local hospital, with a gunshot wound to the leg. Those with information on either shooting are asked to contact the LPD at 517-483-4600 or send a private message through the department's Facebook page.



A 35-year-old man, arrested by Lansing police Sunday in connection with a stabbing incident and taken to the city's detention center, is also accused of attempting to fight officers and kicking one of them. No officers were injured, Lansing Police Public Information Director Jordan Gulkis said. Police had gone to the 2400 block of North Cedar Street in Delta Township after the stabbing of another man, also 35, was reported, and later determined the incident took place at near Kalamazoo and Cherry streets about three hours earlier. The victim, who knew his attacker, was stabbed in the hand and had non-life-threatening injuries.

A historic building and destination in Escanaba County, the House of Ludington, was destroyed in a fire on Dec. 5. The 160-year-old bar and restaurant also is home to seven apartments and 10 hotel rooms. No one was seriously injured in the fire, according to the Daily Press.

The Michigan minimum wage will increase on Jan. 1 to \$13.73 per hour. The current state minimum wage is \$12.48 an hour, it will bump up again at the start of 2027 to \$15 an hour. There are some exceptions to the minimum wage rules: Tipped workers can earn as little as \$4.74 an hour now, that will go up to \$5.49 in January. Workers under 18 years old can be paid 85% of the minimum wage.

Pothole Tax Unleashed: Judge Denies Injunction, 24% Levy is Coming

By CHRIS SILVA

The Grinch came early to Michigan's cannabis industry this year, and he wore a black robe.

The clock is officially ticking.

In a decision handed down on Monday, Dec. 8, Court of Claims Judge Sima Patel delivered a stinging, if "partial," blow to the state's cannabis businesses. She ruled to deny a preliminary injunction against the state's new 24% wholesale cannabis tax.

In plain language: The tax is coming.

Barring an eleventh-hour reprieve from a higher court, the Comprehensive Road Funding Tax Act of 2025—with the moniker of the "Pothole Tax"—is set to take effect on Jan. 1.

The political establishment, it seems, has decided to fix the state's crumbling roads by pushing a stable, legal and once-thriving industry to the brink.

A Stinging Tax on a Fragile Market

Michigan's cannabis market is not merely maturing; it is suffering an acute crisis.

Years of rubber-stamping cultivation licenses led to rampant oversupply and market saturation. Wholesale prices have plummeted to unsustainable lows, resulting in store closures, mass layoffs and razor-thin or non-existent profit margins for most operators.

Against this backdrop of financial devastation, the Legislature, in a brazen maneuver, passed the 24% wholesale tax. This punitive levy will be on top of the existing 10% excise tax and the 6% sales tax. For a product starting at the farm, the total tax burden is now threat-



ening to approach 40% before it ever reaches a consumer's hands.

The message from Lansing's lawmakers is clear: We asked for economic freedom, and they sent a devastating bill. They are trying to fund road repairs by driving a regulated industry into the ground.

The Legal Fight: Losing a Battle, Continuing the War

The core of the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association's unified constitutional challenge is that this new tax is illegal because it improperly amends the 2018 voter-approved legalization initiative, MRTMA, that allowed expanded marijuana sales. Under state law, any amendment to a citizen-initiated act requires an almost impossible three-fourths supermajority in both legislative houses. The Pothole Tax passed

with simple, not super, majorities.

The industry argued that the tax fundamentally changes the financial structure of the MRTMA, thereby amending it without the required vote.

However, Judge Patel refused to block the tax immediately.

Her reasoning was that the 24% tax was passed as a separate Public Act with a separate, explicit purpose—road funding. In her view, it did not directly amend the original MRTMA, making it too difficult to justify the high legal bar for a temporary injunction.

This is what makes the ruling "partial," because while the judge said the tax can start in January, she did not dismiss the underlying lawsuit.

She gave the industry's lawyers a critical path forward, signaling the constitutional challenge remains serious. Judge Patel specifically requested that both sides gather and present more evidence on two key areas:

- * The true intentions of the MRTMA's drafters to see if the new tax violates the foundational structure of the ballot initiative.

- * The actual, devastating economic impact of the new tax on the industry and whether this impact effectively nullifies the purpose of the original legalization law.

This means the legal war is far from over. It simply means that businesses—including those here in Lansterdam—must now prepare to pay a crushing tax while they simultaneously fight to have that tax ruled unconstitutional.

The View From Lansterdam: Threat to the Consumer

The consequences for our local cannabis community are immediate and severe.



Lansing is a recognized hub of Michigan's cannabis economy, home to flagship retailers and innovative cultivators. This ruling directly threatens the local success stories we've watched grow.

For consumers, the consequences are simple: Significantly higher prices.

Lansing's dispensaries, which have kept product affordable, will now be forced to absorb or pass on this massive new cost. When the final taxes are tallied, the price gap between a legal, tested, regulated product and an unregulated black-market product will widen dramatically.

This is the ultimate irony: By prioritizing a quick cash grab for roads, the Legislature is actively undermining the legal market they have created. They are effectively incentivizing consumers to return to the unlicensed street market—the very market the MRTMA was designed to eradicate. If consumers flee the legal channel, the state will collect less revenue from the existing 10% tax, potentially defeating the entire financial goal of the new road tax.

The state's action threatens to compromise a model that other states have looked to for leadership. Lansing's cannabis industry has poured millions into the local economy and created thousands of jobs. Now, they are being punished for their success.

What Comes Next

For now, the focus shifts from the courtroom to the cash register.

Industry operators must make painful choices between raising consumer prices and destroying their already thin margins. Consumers must brace for a major price hike that has nothing to do with market demand.

Judge Patel's ruling is a tough loss, but it was not a verdict on the law itself. The lawsuit remains the industry's most powerful defense, and the fight for the integrity of the MRTMA continues.

The question Lansing residents should be asking their elected officials is simple: Was the immediate, reckless collection of road money worth risking one of Michigan's most vital and fastest-growing legal industries?

The answer, starting Jan. 1st, will cost all of us.

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3:00 PM Wharton Center

RESERVE YOUR SEAT





Photo by Leo V. Kaplan

The former Frank Preuss & Son Star Market at 308 Cesar E. Chavez Ave. is mostly a brick facade today and even the floor has deteriorated away.



Photo by Leo V. Kaplan

Also at the edge of Old Town is a restored 1923 Pulver Brothers Filling Station, now hosting an ice cream shop.

Can Old Town stay old?

Despite continued growth, historic district lacks protections

By LEO V. KAPLAN

In the heart of one of Lansing’s most booming districts, one decaying building hovers like a ghost.

A look over the boarded-up or missing windows of the former Frank Preuss & Son Star Market at 308 Cesar E. Chavez Ave. shows the brick facade is about all that’s left. Decades of exposure to the elements have left the building without even a floor.

The building is one of 44 listed on the 1976 application that earned the North Lansing Historic Commercial District, now known as Old Town, its spot on the National Register of Historic Places. That helps with tax incentives but carries no protections against demolition by neglect or otherwise — as Lansing learned when the historic Glaister House came down earlier this year.

Many mistakenly believe that Old Town is a designated local historic district.

But Old Town, the site of the original Lansing settlement, has no protections at all.

“We’re lucky in Old Town, but there are no protections for these buildings,” said Dale Schrader, a preservationist who renovated the 1923 Pulver Brothers Filling Station in Old Town. “It’s on the national register, but that doesn’t mean that somebody can’t just tear it down or do whatever they want with it.”

Nervous that the history he restored could be lost, Schrader plans to pursue a local historic district for just the filling station, which currently houses Scoops Ice Cream.

“Someday, when I’m gone, that gas station is gonna be sold, and it’s gonna happen that someone may not see the usefulness of a tiny historic gas station,” he said.

Most of Lansing’s 11 historic districts are individual buildings, one is two houses and the other is Cherry Hill. The Cherry Hill Neighborhood is Lansing’s best-known local historic district, and property owners there must obtain approval for certain exterior alterations.

The most recent historic district, in 2017, was the Central United Methodist Church; Cherry Hill was established in 1989 following two years of community organization.

Despite lapses like the Preuss building, Old Town has managed to preserve its history relatively well through dedicated developers like Schrader. But as the district continues to thrive, Schrader and others are worried the honor system won’t work forever.

He said establishing a district for the filling station would be a test for a theoretical Old Town historic district.

Old town, new tricks

Old Town is thriving like never before, several business owners told City Pulse.

Some businesses relocated to larger Old Town buildings in the district in 2025, with new businesses taking their place. Festivals like Lansing Pride, the Lumberjack Festival and Krampusnacht bring in thousands, with more pouring in from across the city, the state and beyond every year.

“We can’t get but one game a year for the Lugnuts — and that’s usually the 4th of July — to even come close to filling that stadium, to convince people from outside Lansing to come in, spend their money and do tourism,” said City Council President Ryan Kost, who represents the 1st Ward that includes most of Old Town. “But in Old Town, that’s not true.”

“There’s some magic we’ve caught in a bottle there, and I think it should be a success story,” he said.

Increased interest has led to increased development.

The Brenke Fish Ladder was renovated this year into the Fish Ladder Music Park by the Capital Region Community Foundation. Old Town Commercial Association executive director James Lenon said several people, events and organizations are already booking the park.

The Turner North Development promises to bring 76 apartment units to Old Town and the Gentilozzi Group’s public-private New Vision Lansing project will bring 90.

A strip of properties, including the Kilbourne-Mead at 1214 Center St. was purchased by Oldtown Center Street Holdings LLC. That LLC’s registered agent is local developer Eric Hanna, who declined to comment for this story.

Greater Lansing Historical Society president Bill Castanier said the Greek Revival house may be the oldest house in Lansing, or nearly the oldest.

Just across the street from the Preuss Building is the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, where former director Nancy Finegood worked for 17 years. Finegood said new developments surrounding a historic core may eventually start to infringe on and overwhelm the historic part.

Mary Toshach has a master’s degree in historic preservation, previously served on the Historic District Commission and was the final executive director of Preservation Lansing, which announced its closure last week. She said changes are not always bad, but without an agreed-upon plan, a historic

Old Town

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shopping district like Old Town could become an “old town” in name only with anachronistic modifications.

Citing Mackinac Island’s shopping district as an example, she said visitors often do not realize how much an area has been altered.

“I worked up there in the ‘70s, and I don’t even recognize it now,” she said. “I actually find the way it looks appalling, but people still love it. But it’s more of a Disneyland-type character.

“For people going there now, that’s what they remember, that’s what they see and they think it’s historic. And that happens a lot.”

Toshach suggested that Old Town residents, stakeholders and business owners who care about preservation create a plan, whether a local district or not, that outlines the neighborhood’s future and is on file with the city.

The potential for preservation

Lenon said the OTCA is working on “revamping and revitalizing” its historic and design guidelines for Old Town. Those guidelines include a year-long design process, making use of Old Town’s partnerships with Main Street America and Main Street Michigan.

While those guidelines don’t have teeth, Lenon said Old Town property owners usually want to keep their own properties in character.

Lenon said the OTCA frequently discusses the possibility of Old Town becoming a local historic district, but he did not offer a firm yes.

Creating a local historic district is difficult, he said, and becomes more difficult as Old Town grows because it requires widespread community involvement and commitment.

“To be a local historic district, you need heavy buy-in from local business owners,” he said. “You have to have a board that oversees the developments and the incoming projects, and so you



Photos by Mike Ellis

Old Town’s annual Krampusnacht event draws costumed creatures and thousands of spectators as a horde of Krampuses works to keep the local children in line during the holidays.

really do need community-wide buy-in.”

Toshach said Lansing property owners are particularly resistant to the designation.

“There’s a culture in the city in general that people don’t want the city government to control what they can and cannot do with their buildings,” she said.

“This city hasn’t had a great history of preservation,” said Kost, who was a champion of the failed effort to save old Eastern High School.

“There are forces with money who do not want to see a historic district because that means that they would have to get vetted further for any work on the outside of the property to keep it historical,” he said, adding he be-

lieves a balance can be struck between development and preservation.

Kost said he supports efforts to make Old Town a historic district.

Mayor Andy Schor said in a statement that he is “very willing to hear input from Old Town residents and businesses about what they want as part of a potential historic district,” though the matter is a legislative issue and would be between residents, City Council and the Historic District commission.

Finegood said the network had reached out to the city many years ago about creating a historic district for Old Town, but it never materialized. She said she was not surprised Old Town still lacks such a designation, in part because so many people do not realize it is not one already.

On top of his work with the OTCA, Lenon is a photographer who has been taking photos in Old Town for over two decades. Recently, he has begun taking photos mimicking those in the 1976 National Register of Historic Places application, comparing the past and present of some buildings.

In most cases, comparing the past and present shows impressive preservation and revitalization.

But in some cases, the buildings are gone or, like the Preuss building, soon to be.

“Once they’re gone, they’re gone,” Lenon said. “They never come back. You can’t build a new historic building.”

A remarkable success

Rick Preuss, founder of Preuss Pets and great-grandson of Frank Preuss, called historic buildings “Old Town’s precious resource.”

But the historic buildings in North Lansing were preserved so well precisely because they weren’t seen as valuable, Schrader said.

“In the ‘80s, nobody wanted anything here,” he said. “Then suddenly, it became a cool place, and people bought up all the buildings.”

Robert Busby, the “Mayor of Old Town,” died in 2007, but he and the other area residents and business



owners who fell in love with the district were dedicated to maintaining its character from the get-go. Lenon said many original Old Townies are still on the OTCA board and otherwise active.

“Highly, highly involved individuals just fell in love with the district,” he said. “The community members wanted to see those things preserved and kept, so they formed the OTCA. We still have board members that were involved in those first meetings, and they’re still highly involved.”

Alongside the work of Busby and others, Finegood said Old Town joining the Michigan Main Street Program in 2006 helped.

One early Old Town business owner was Cheryl VanDeKerkhove, whose LGBT bookstore The Real World Emporium was open between 1994 and 1998. She said the artists and business owners who made Old Town cool were aware from the get-go of the risk of gentrification and have actively planned to avoid it.

“We knew how it goes — we create a community out of something nobody else wants, then everybody thinks it’s super cool and takes over, and then we can’t afford to live here anymore,” she said. “That anti-gentrification value went into everything.”

Thrift Witch owner Tiesha King said she did not realize Old Town wasn’t a historic district, but immediately said she would support and prioritize making it one.

“It’s a part of history, and you get to be a part of it,” she said.

Schrader said he has the same fears about Old Town as a whole that he does about the filling station.

“I worry about it,” he said. “We have some good people in Old Town, but thinking decades in scale, what’s it going to be like 20 years from now?”

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Remixing reality

Art show at Hooked uncorks Lansing collage culture

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When Lansing artist Chelsea Roberts started the Lansing Collage Club in May, she didn't know what the response would be. She invited ten close friends, just to avoid embarrassment.

Over 30 people showed up, and they kept on showing up, in ever greater numbers, month after month.

Who can pass up a chance to take the world apart and put it back together again, with no adverse consequences?

The first-ever Collage Club show at the Hooked bookstore/wine shop/coffee shop, with an opening reception tonight, is the result of seven months of feverish activity at an ever-expanding table.

What makes collage different from other art forms?

"You can remix your reality into a whole new story,"

artist Cheyanne Britten said. "I love it that you can create a story or make a statement using items that already exist in this room."

Dre Cuellar, another contributor to the show at Hooked, expressed it more mad-scientist-ly.

"Collage actually gives you a peek into a person's brain," she said. "It's the perfect way to see how they actually visualize things."

The show will feature work by 20 artists, working in digital media as well as traditional paper and fabric, and one or two pieces that were collectively created by the whole club.

Roberts is particularly pleased that many of the artists are exhibiting their work for the first time.

The fun of using what's laying around, instead of painting or drawing from scratch, makes collage less intimidating than painting, drawing or sculpture.



Courtesy photo

Lansing Collage Club founder and artist Chelsea Roberts has been creating collages since high school. She has recently increased the density of her work in collages like "Space Girl" to evoke "worlds within worlds."

"What makes it special is that a person at any level of artistry can make something so cool," Britten said. "You can grab scraps from anywhere."

Roberts makes a point not to guide artists one way or another. "You just show up and you make," she said. "You have your own point of view. You have to jump in and figure it out — and they do. In the past eight months, I've seen

several artists go from 'I don't know what this is' to 'I'm framing this and hanging it up.'"

Roberts has been conducting mad surgery on printed matter since high school. She was both fascinated and repelled by slick fashion magazines like Vogue and Vanity Fair that her mother left lying around the house.

Emaciated "heroin chic" models and their over-the-top accessories were an early target. In an untitled 2010 collage, she draped a bloody vignette of a

wolf devouring a lamb (clipped from National Geographic) over a reclining, ultra-chic Dolce & Gabbana model.

Her more recent work, like "Space Girl" in the Hooked show, aims for rich visual density, rather than jumbling two or three elements together for shock value.

"I want it to feel like you're looking at worlds within worlds," she said. "I hope someone would want to get closer to it and look at it again and again because they would find more different things going on."

Unique among the arts, collage enjoys both wide amateur appeal and high critical prestige. Roberts loves the work of Detroit collage artist Judy Bowman and was blown away by a recent exhibit of Bowman's work at the Flint Institute of Arts, along with collages by fellow artist Romare Bearden. She was also influenced by the playful, genre-bending work of Ray Johnson, the Detroit-born, New York-based collage artist who helped shape the Pop, Fluxus and conceptual art movements of the 1960s and 70s.

While visiting a friend in Chicago a year ago, Roberts went to a monthly collage meet-up there and got the idea to start a similar club here.

Hooked was the perfect venue. "I was craving that coffee shop vibe," Roberts said. "It fits with that 1960s protest art scene we think of with collage — let's get together, make art at a big table, drink coffee, drink wine, meet interesting people."

All the sessions at Hooked have been well-attended. The first hour is the busiest, with a bit more breathing room after 7:30 p.m.

Roberts said the age range is "all over the place, from college-aged people in their 20s to people like me in their 30s and 40s to retirees."

"It makes it very lively when you put two little old ladies down at the end

See Collage, page 14

Lansing Collage Club Art Show
Hooked
3142 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
Opening reception
6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10

Michigan adapts to aging prison population

By SAMANTHA KU
Capital News Service

LANSING — More than 2,000 of Michigan prison inmates are 65 or older, about one in fifteen inmates, according to the state's Department of Corrections.

"Our population is aging because when you come to prison in Michigan, you tend to stay longer periods of time," said Heidi Washington, the director of the department.

The department has observed an upward trend in the average mini-

mum sentence imposed by judges, rising in two decades from two years to the current five years, according to Washington.

Washington said longer sentences lead to the aging population build up.

Jenni Riehle, a public information officer for the Department of Corrections, said aging inmates typically need more medical services than younger ones, increasing the need for accessible facilities and

See Aging prison, page 14



Department of Corrections

State Corrections Director Heidi Washington.



Michigan Senate

Sen. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, chairs the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety.

Collage

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with the 21-year-old punk rocker and you just see what happens,” she said.

“I have such a good time at the club,” Dre Cuellar said. “I try to go early to get a good seat. It reminds me of when I was a kid, making homemade posters for a boy band.” (The band was One Direction, if you’re curious.)

Cuellar doesn’t identify herself as an artist. “I usually express more of myself through makeup,” she said. Collage is a handy outlet for her admitted habit of “hoarding” her makeup packaging.

“When it’s too pretty, I have this problem of not wanting to throw it away,” she said.

For her first exhibited collage at Hooked, Cuellar chose something more serious. At the young age of 25, she is a cancer survivor. Her piece is a mélange of quotes, QR codes and graphics highlighting resources for people who have survived cancer.

Cuellar often goes to the Collage Club with Britten, a Lansing-area artist who works in painting, digital art and fabric art as well as collage.

“Keep On Walking,” one of two pieces Britten is showing at the exhibit, features a clunky yet cheerful looking robot.

“At times I felt alone on my path as an artist,” Britten said. “I’ve always been encouraged to keep walking, even in darkness.”



The Lansing Collage Club meets every second Wednesday at Hooked, with 20 to 30 artists or more packing each busy session.

She enjoys the process of collage as much as the result.

“I kind of feel like an animal when I’m collecting pieces for a collage, looking for bits and bobs, shiny things, clippings, random stuff I can remix into a story,” she said.

Cuellar calls herself an artist, while Britten shies from the label. Roberts

loves when the Collage Club, and the art show at Hooked, blurs the distinction and draws newcomers into the fold (and cut and glue).

Although she has lived most of her life in Lansing, Roberts spent a few years living in Austin, Texas and Seattle, Washington, where there is a lot more art “infrastructure.”



Stephanie Black’s “Round” suggests that the known universe and a bowl of M&M’s have something in common.

She was “devastated” by the recent closing of the Lansing Art Gallery (where she was on the board), but she admires the resilience of the local art community.

“We don’t have that much investment, but there are some really talented and creative people in Lansing who are just hiding in plain sight,” Roberts said. “I’m reminded of that every month for three hours, when I get to see people working and doing these interesting things, just from the spirit of wanting to do it. They aren’t professionals, but many of them could be.”

Could It Be That She Just Wants To Be With Her Friends?

Could It Be That She Just Wants To Be With Her Friends?

Among the many hats I wear is that of “coach.”

This year will be my sixth year coaching middle school boys and girls in track and field, which has been a blessing.

I got the gig, not because I’ve got time on my hands, but because my daughter loves running and her school’s program needed a warm body or she wouldn’t have a season.

Also, as a parent, I’ve had the opportunity to chaperone my daughter’s events and interact, years ago, with a friend of hers who is a transgender girl.

As a coach, I’d be lying if I told you that I didn’t think about the possibility of a trans girl competing against my girls. Everything else aside, the physical differences between boys and girls once boys hit puberty are significant.

The season before last, our girls 4x400 team was fortunate to be the Lansing area’s fastest. We broke the

Greater Lansing Honor Roll record. We were second fastest in the state (by a 1.25 second) and 32nd fastest in the country.

During a dual meet, we put our boys and girls teams on the track at the same time to save time (track meets are long, you know).

Our best girls team versus our best boys team. Our boys team was not the strongest. We had some good runners, but we didn’t qualify for the Honor Roll meet. We probably lost more races than we won.

Suspense was high. The kids, parents and even the officials were excited. Would the girls finish first?

No. It was close for three laps, but once our boy anchor took the baton, it was over and the result wasn’t in doubt.

Here’s another story.

During a school class trip, I was charged with chaperoning my daughter and her friends as they shopped in a cute town during their downtime. Seven middle school girls (including the transgender girl) and me.

At one boutique, the girls were having a blast trying on reasonably

priced dresses and modelling them in front of each other. The transgender girl struggled.

She broke off from the pack. She awkwardly picked through the racks. She shyly surveyed the store to see who was watching. She snuck into a dressing room with a few finds in hand. When she heard everyone was ready to leave, she bolted out of the dressing room, leaving a pile of dresses crumpled on the floor.

She wanted, desperately, to fit in . . . be one of the girls, but likely felt that, at that moment, she couldn’t enjoy the experience. It made me sad. It still does.

This trans girl was not athletically gifted. If she had run on our track team, she would have struggled to beat anyone, boy or girl.

I get it, though. We’ve seen the photo of Lia Thomas towering over her opposition with a national championship medal around her neck.

If my daughter or any of my girl athletes had been edged out of a single place at a meet by a trans girl, I can’t say I wouldn’t be agitated.

But it’s never happened. Not in middle school. Not in high school.

Not in six years. In fact, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) says only two trans girls applied to participate on a girls high school sports in fall 2024, both in my daughter’s sport.

This season, it was one. MHSAA won’t say, but given recent news, we can all safely assume it’s volleyball.

MHSAA has a policy overseeing trans girls in sports. Reading between the lines, the executive director is collecting evidence to verify that a boy is actively transitioning and her participation will not result in a competitive advantage.

Why else would she want to join a girls team? Go through the public scrutiny? Everyone is whispering. Everyone watching.

Could it be that she simply wants to be with her friends? Be one of the girls, be with her support system, during this scary and difficult time?

We can’t help but speculate.

But for me, my mind goes to those crumpled dresses on the floor.

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

Aging prison

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equipment such as wheelchairs and specialized systems for hearing-impaired inmates. Those may lead to additional costs for the department.

Prisons also provide courses and

educational placements for individuals serving long sentences as part of a program for inmates.

The results are good, according to Washington.

“People who are in prison for a long time also need to have constructive things to be doing, things that help them work on their own selves and their plan for the future,”

Washington said.

To address the aging of the population resulting from long-term incarceration, Sen. Stephanie Chang, D-Detroit, is promoting legislative changes.

She has introduced the Second Look Sentencing Act, which would allow judges to review the sentences of nonviolent inmates who have

already served at least 10 years. The legislation has not been approved.

“Some people have been in prison for many decades,” said Chang, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety. “They’re now just very different people. They’ve changed themselves.”



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

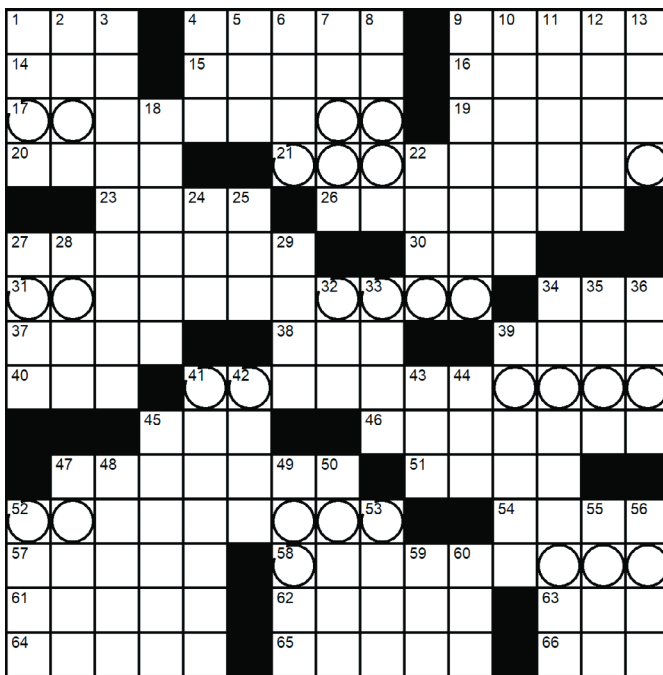
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Pieced Out” -- get on board.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Ludacris genre
- 4. Boorish ones
- 9. Cornfield birds
- 14. Old French gold coin
- 15. Couldn't avoid it
- 16. Like notebook paper
- 17. Adam Scott/Ken Marino comedy series about caterers
- 19. “RRR” setting
- 20. Resigned noise
- 21. Hotel professional
- 23. Yankee nickname beginning in 2004
- 26. Furnace feeders
- 27. Northernmost Oregon city
- 30. Wimbledon unit
- 31. Recognize from a picture, perhaps
- 34. It runs Down Under
- 37. Affected mannerisms
- 38. Night before
- 39. Quark's place
- 40. Secret agent
- 41. Place to repair a two-wheeler
- 45. Foot, in Latin
- 46. Melodic passages
- 47. Word after occupational or speech
- 51. Make over
- 52. Very perceptive
- 54. Get ___ the crack of dawn
- 57. Extremely
- 58. Persevere
- 61. “To reiterate ...”
- 62. Riverbank



- critter
 - 63. “Educated Guess” singer
 - DiFranco
 - 64. Sagal of “Married... With Children”
 - 65. Actress Davis of “The Babadook”
 - 66. Abbr. stamped on a bounced check
- DOWN**
- 1. Agents
 - 2. Palm berry
 - 3. Middle ground
 - 4. A little short
 - 5. Wee fellow
 - 6. What those with anosmia cannot detect
 - 7. USAF stealth planes
 - 8. “I was ___ prepared for this!”
 - 9. Sachin Tendulkar's sport
 - 10. Small creek
 - 11. More advanced, in a way
 - 12. Fish dams
 - 13. Badlands Natl. Park site
 - 18. Judo moves
 - 22. Dance recklessly
 - 24. Sphere
 - 25. Crafty letters
 - 27. Aliases, for short
 - 28. Little cut
 - 29. “Hey, wait ___!”
 - 32. Dartmouth or Brown, e.g.
 - 33. Hyperpop band
 - 100 ___
 - 34. Cuisine with doro wat and shekla tibs
 - 35. lo, for one
 - 36. Diamond officials
 - 39. Paired together
 - 41. Prepare
 - 42. “Babette's Feast” author
 - Dinesen
 - 43. 8 1/2" x 11" paper size, briefly
 - 44. “Able was I ___ I saw Elba”
 - 45. “The Dick Van Dyke Show” surname
 - 47. Arkansas River city
 - 48. Try to swat
 - 49. “Orange” tea
 - 50. Chucks, slangily
 - 52. Drink brand with a bunny mascot
 - 53. Brooklyn team
 - 55. Miller and Richards, for two
 - 56. Pre-weekend sentiment
 - 59. Louvre Pyramid architect
 - 60. Test for college srs.

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Dec. 10-16, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Home is a building you live in. It's also a metaphor for the inner world you carry within you. Is it an expansive and luminous place filled with windows that look out onto vast vistas? Or is it cramped, dark, and in disrepair, a psychic space where it's hard to feel comfortable? Does it have a floor plan you love and made yourself? Or was it designed according to other people's expectations? It may be neither of those extremes, of course. My hope is that this horoscope will prod you to renovate aspects of your soul's architecture. The coming months will be an excellent time for this sacred work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) During the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1872, workers made an uncanny discovery: They could detect approaching storms by observing vibrations in the bridge's cables. The massive metal structure was an inadvertent meteorological instrument. I'm predicting that your intuition will operate with comparable sensitivity in the coming months, Taurus. You will have a striking capacity to notice subtle signals in your environment. What others regard as background noise will reveal rich clues to you. Hot tip: Be extra alert for nuanced professional opportunities and social realignments. Like the bridge workers, you will be attuned to early signs of changing conditions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Sloths are so energy-efficient they can survive on 160 calories per day: the equivalent of an apple. They've mastered the art of thriving on minimal intake by moving deliberately and digesting thoroughly. Life is inviting you to learn from sloths, Gemini. The coming weeks will be a good time to take an inventory of your energy strategies. Are you burning fuel frantically, or are you extracting maximum nourishment from what you already possess? However you answer that question, I urge you to experiment with being more efficient—but without depriving yourself. Try measuring your productivity not by speed and flash but by the diligence of your extraction. Dig deep and be thorough. Your nervous system and bank account will thank you.

CANCERIAN (June 21-July 22) The Danish concept of arbejdsglæde refers to the happiness and satisfaction derived from work. It's the joy found in labor itself, not just in its financial rewards and prestige. It's about exulting in the self-transformations you generate as you do your job. Now is an excellent time to claim this joy more than ever, Cancerian. Meditate with relish on all the character-building and soul-growth opportunities your work offers you and will continue to provide.

LEO (July 23-August 22) In the deep Pacific Ocean, fields of giant tube worms thrive in total darkness around hydrothermal vents, converting toxic chemicals into life-sustaining energy. These weirdly resilient creatures challenge our assumptions about which environments can support growth. I suspect your innovative approach to gathering resources in the coming months will display their adaptability. Situations that others find inhospitable or unmanageable will be intriguing opportunities for you. For best results, you should ruminate on how limitations could actually protect and nurture your development. You may discover that conventional sustenance isn't your only option.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22) For a long time, scientists didn't understand why humans have an organ called the appendix. Most thought it was useless. But it turns out that the appendix is more active than anyone knew. Among other functions, it's a safe haven for beneficial gut bacteria. If a health crisis disrupts our microbiome, this unsung hero repopulates our intestines with the helpful microbes we need. What was once considered irrelevant is actually a backup drive. With that in mind as a metaphor, here's my question, Virgo: How many other parts of your world may be playing long games and performing

unnoticed services that you haven't understood yet? Investigate that possibility!

LIBRA (September 23-October 22) In the coming months, you'll be asked to wield your Libran specialties more than ever. Your allies and inner circle will need you to provide wise counsel and lucid analysis. For everyone's sake, I hope you balance compassion with clarity and generosity with discernment. Certain collaborations will need corrective measures but shouldn't be abandoned. Your gift will lie in finding equilibrium that honors everyone's dignity. When in doubt, ask: “What would restore harmony rather than merely appear polite?” True diplomacy is soulful, not superficial. Bonus: The equilibrium you achieve could resonate far beyond your immediate circle.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21) The Hubble Space Telescope is a school bus-sized space observatory orbiting 320 miles above the Earth. There, it observes the universe free from atmospheric distortion. Its instruments and detectors need to be recalibrated continuously. Daily monitors, weekly checks, and yearly updates keep the telescope's tech sharp as it ages. I believe it's a good time for you Scorpios to do your own recalibrations. Subtle misalignments between your intentions and actions can now be corrected. Your basic vision and plans are sound; the adjustments required are minor. For best results, have maximum fun as you fine-tune your fundamentals.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21) Leonardo da Vinci painted his iconic Mona Lisa on a thin panel of poplar wood, which naturally expands and contracts with changes in humidity. Over the centuries, this movement has caused a crack and measurable warping. One side of the classic opus is bending a bit more than the other. Let's use this as a metaphor for you, Sagittarius. I suspect that a fine quality you are known for and proud of is changing shape. This should be liberating, not worrisome. If even the Mona Lisa can't remain static, why should you? I say: Let your masterwork age. Just manage the process with grace and generosity. The central beauty may be changing, but it's still beautiful.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19) “Apoptosis” is a word referring to programmed cell death. It's a process by which your aging, damaged, or obsolete cells deliberately destroy themselves for the benefit of your organism as a whole. This “cellular suicide” is carefully regulated and crucial for development, maintenance, and protection against diseases. About 50-70 billion cells die in you every day, sacrificing themselves so you can live better. Let's use this healthy process as a psychospiritual metaphor. What aspects of your behavior and belief system need to die off right now so as to promote your total well-being?

AQUARIUS (January 20- February 18) Which parts of your foundations are built to strengthen with age? Which are showing cracks? The coming months will be an excellent time to reinforce basic structures so they will serve you well into the future. Don't just patch problems. Rebuild and renovate using the very best ingredients. Your enduring legacy will depend on this work, so choose materials that strengthen as they mature rather than crumble. Nothing's permanent in life, but some things are sturdier and more lasting than others.

PISCES (February 19-March 20) Along the Danube River in Europe, migrating storks return each spring to rebuild massive nests atop church steeples, roofs, and trees. New generations often reuse previous bases, adding additional twigs, grass, roots, and even human-made stuff like cloth and plastics. Some of these structures have lasted for centuries and weigh half a ton. Let's make this a prime metaphor for you in the coming months, Pisces. I see your role as an innovator who improves and enhances good traditions. You will bring your personal genius to established beauty and value. You will blend your futuristic vision with ancestral steadiness, bridging tomorrow with yesterday.

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

Greater Lansing's happening holiday concert calendar — and more

By RICH TUPICA

The name of this column has changed from “Turn It Down” to “517 Sounds,” but the purpose remains the same: to champion the local music scene. And, as usual, there is plenty to talk about. Here are just a few upcoming concerts happening across Greater Lansing this holiday season.

Hometown Holiday Pop Show, with Kanin Wren
Friday, Dec. 12
Doors 6:30 p.m.
Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
All ages
grewalhall.com



Courtesy photo

The Hometown Holiday Pop Show returns to Grewal Hall Friday (Dec. 12) with a lineup built around powerhouse vocalist Kanin Wren, a local performer who has toured the country playing sold-out Taylor Swift tribute shows and her own original pop discography.

The Hometown Holiday Pop Show returns to Grewal Hall with a lineup built around powerhouse vocalist Kanin Wren, a local performer who has toured the country playing sold-out Taylor Swift tribute shows and her own original pop discography. For this festive gig, Wren is joined by the DeWitt Chamber Choir, violinist Rodney Page and additional guests who round out a night centered on seasonal pop arrangements and choral harmony. The event is family-friendly, so bring the kids and your dancing shoes.

A community support element is woven into the program. As part of the Kanin Cares initiative, attendees are encouraged to bring unopened cocoa or coffee donations for the Lansing City Rescue Mission. Those who do will gain access to a pre-show meet-and-greet with Wren.

Ten Pound Fiddle annual Holiday Sing
7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12
University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
tenpoundfiddle.org

Ten Pound Fiddle's annual Holiday Sing has developed into one of the region's most durable traditions. Led by longtime Lansing folk musician and promoter Sally Potter, the event centers on group singing rather than a headlining performer. Lyric booklets are provided for attendees who are ready to join in. The focus is on participation and shared experience, making it suitable for all ages and musical backgrounds.

Potter has curated two sets of winter-themed material, featuring songs tied to the solstice, peace, home, Christmas and the new year. She will be supported by pianist Doug Austin, dulcimer player Doug Berch and spoken-word artist Ruelaine Stokes, who will add narrative interludes between selections. The event draws hundreds each year, filling the sanctuary at ULC.

Jahshua Smith and Wayno's Christmas Birthday Bash
Dec. 20
Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
18+
greendoorlive.com



Courtesy photo

Local hip-hop artists Jahshua Smith (pictured) and Wayno will celebrate their shared 40th birthdays with a joint concert Dec. 20 at The Green Door.

Local hip-hop artists Jahshua Smith and Wayno will celebrate

their shared 40th birthdays with a joint concert at The Green Door. Smith is known for his unforgettable lyrics and longstanding involvement in the Lansing music scene, including work with All of the Above Hip Hop Academy. “As far as hip-hop goes in the state of Michigan and throughout the country, I wholeheartedly believe that

a collection of the greatest voices to ever represent the genre were born in Lansing, or have called the capital city home,” Smith wrote in a 2022 City Pulse column. “Those who know me personally are aware of the depths to which my hometown of Detroit rests in my heart and soul, but I often say that I owe my life and career to the 517, in large part due to the movement the city has had in supporting young rappers looking to hone their craft.” While it's known as a long-running blues hub, The Green Door has been expanding its calendar — check its website to see what else is headed to the eastside mainstay.

Jeff Baldori Festivus Party
6–9 p.m. Dec. 23
UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
urbanbeatevents.com

Jeff Baldori, the longtime Lansing musician and brother of Woolies founder Bob Baldori, returns to UrbanBeat for his annual Festivus party. Baldori's background spans rock, classical, jazz, R&B and boogie-woogie music, shaped in part by studies with renowned Detroit pianist Matt Michaels. His longtime connection to the blues began decades ago with frequent trips to Chicago during the height of the electric blues movement, where he saw artists such as Muddy Waters and Paul Butterfield. Baldori became a local legend after The Woolies scored a 1966 Billboard hit with a scorching cover of “Who Do You Love?” The song was, of course, penned by Bo Diddley, another one of his heroes.

Those influences surface in Baldori's live sets, which move between blues-driven piano work, jazz phrasing and rock-oriented improvisation. The Festivus party offers a close-up view of his brilliance. Pre-sale tickets are available.

Kristin Key
7:30 p.m. Jan. 7
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

Comedian Kristin Key will bring her rapid-fire stand-up and guitar-based musical comedy to the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre in early January. Known for her conversational delivery, improvisational instincts and candid storytelling, Key has appeared on NBC's “Last Comic Standing” and “Bring the Funny,” and she hosts the comedy podcast “Kristin Knows Blank.”

In 2023, Key told Voyage LA Magazine, “I started stand-up comedy in the small, dusty West Texas town of Amarillo. I'm the daughter of an evangelical Christian minister, and I grew up super Jesus-y. When I came out of the closet at 16, to put it mildly, it did not go well.”

Since then, Key has relocated to California, released multiple comedy albums and built a national touring schedule centered on her signature brand of stand-up.

Mercury: A Tribute to Queen's Lead Singer
7 p.m. Jan. 17
Charlotte Performing Arts Center
378 State St., Charlotte
charlotteperformingartscenter.com

The Charlotte Performing Arts Center presents Mercury, a touring tribute led by countertenor Terry Barber. Focusing on the music and legacy of Freddie Mercury, and backed by a smoking-hot band, Barber belts out selections from Queen's catalog while weaving in stories and commentary connected to Mercury's life and public persona.

Queen is known for its blend of operatic vocals, layered arrangements and arena-scale theatrics. Songs such as “Bohemian Rhapsody,” “Somebody to Love,” “We Will Rock You,” “Killer Queen” and “Don't Stop Me Now” helped define Mercury's vocal range and stage approach. His ability to shift between rock, opera, balladry and theatrical performance made the late vocalist a singular figure in pop-music history.

Barber's tribute focuses on those musical extremes, replicating Mercury's high-range passages while highlighting the emotional context behind the songs. The show is structured as both a concert and a narrative piece, offering fans an opportunity to revisit Queen's material in a live theatrical setting.



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. 10

2025 Year-End Business Roundtable - Join us as we bring together all four of our regional business roundtables for a special year-end celebration and discussion. 9-10 a.m. Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. members.lansingchamber.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. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

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

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

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

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

Alex Johnson Eagle Scout Project: Bridge Dedication - Join us for a short hike out to a bridge spanning a wetland constructed by Alex Johnson for his Eagle Scout project. 5 p.m. Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. facebook.com/miwildlife.

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.

Governing Essentials: Intro to Parliamentary Procedure - This session will focus on parliamentary principles, motions, and debate and decorum during meetings. 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.

Informed Renter - This workshop from MSU Extension will equip you with valuable information about the rental process that will help you navigate technicalities and avoid costly mistakes. Noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth/index.

It's Elementary - Consumer's Energy will join us with its STEM initiative, the Generation Genius Project. Grades 3-6. Registration req. 2:30-3:45 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Lansing Live Open Stage Night - Whether you're

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

Michigan Cottage Food Law - Learn how to prepare and sell foods to the public under Michigan Cottage Food Law. Topics include preparing, packaging, labeling, storing and transporting cottage foods. 10 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/cottage_food_law/index.

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

Numinous Light - A solo exhibition of Michigan landscapes 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 Support Group: Informal Discussions - Small discussion groups. People with Parkinson's meet in a separate room from caregivers for confidential conversations. 1 p.m. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. lapsg.org.

Rank MI Vote Presents - Gather friends, family and neighbors and come learn how ranked-choice voting decreases division and voter frustration and improves representation. 6:30-8 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. rankmivote.org.

Read Between the Wines Book Club - We'll discuss Kate Khavari's "A Botanist's Guide to Parties and Poisons." Glasses of wine will be \$1 off. 5-7:30 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Selling MI Honey & Maple Syrup - Learn how to safely handle, package and store honey and maple syrup and understand the exemption guidelines for selling these products in Michigan. 4 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/isabella/index.

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

Weaving the Web: Patterns - 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.

"The Wiz" - This twist on "The Wizard of Oz" changed the face of Broadway, from its iconic score to its stirring tale of Dorothy's journey to find her place in a contemporary world. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

Thursday, Dec. 11

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, profes-

Jane Austen's 250th birthday

2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Hooked

3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Celebrate the wit, romance, irony and elegance of beloved Jane Austen's catalog with events for her 250th birthday, Dec. 16 (1775).

Lansing bookstore Hooked is hosting a gathering of the Jane Austen Society of North America Western Michigan Region. Their celebration will include cake and a toast, along with lively conversation about what it meant to have a birthday in the age of Austen.

There will be Jane Austen games and available coffee or stronger drinks. Anyone is welcome, and Regency Period clothes will get you a 10% retail discount.

Or head to a library and check something off of this online list of Austen and Austen-inspired movies, series and books, from Emma and Sanditon to Pride and Prejudice and Zombies and Sense and Sensibility and Seamonsters to The Mysterious Death of Miss Jane Austen and Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy: The Last Man in the World.



sionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Bo Johnson (with Brad Wenzel) - Join us for a brilliant night of standup comedy with Bo Johnson & friends! Brad Wenzel (a Robin Theatre fav) will share a set, too! Hosted by Emilie Burkhardt. 7 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

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

Chipmunk Story Time - Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. Stories are followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Comforting Winter Soups Cooking Class - Learn to make your new favorite soups! 6-8 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

Crafty Vibes - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse

yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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.

East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival Holiday Fundraiser - Featuring live music by the Max Gage Quintet. 6:30-9 p.m. Beggar's Banquet, 218 Abbot Road, East Lansing. eljazzfest.com.

Gingerbread Cookie Decorating Workshop - Join Coco's Confections for a step-by-step gingerbread cookie decorating class, where you'll learn simple techniques to create an adorable (and tasty!) holiday-themed cookie set. 6:30-8 p.m. MP Social, 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

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

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

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

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

Turner-Dodge House Festival of Trees

Kickoff event Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 P.M. (\$35, free with annual admission)
Saturday, Dec. 13 noon-5 p.m.
Tuesdays-Sundays noon-5 p.m. during December.

Every December, Lansing's historic Turner-Dodge House is packed with Christmas trees.

All three floors of the historic mansion will come alive with trees uniquely decorated by a variety of local businesses, organizations and individuals starting Friday, Dec. 12 and lasting through the end of the month.

At a kickoff party Friday night, about 30 trees will be judged in several categories. Celebrity judges include U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, state Rep. Emily Dievendorf, former WLNS anchor Sheri Jones and Scott Pemberton, a relative of an original Turner-Dodge House resident.

The kickoff party is open to the house's annual members, a \$35 cost.

From Saturday onwards, the public can tour the house and view the trees for \$5, with children under 12 entering free. The decorated historic house could make for a great holiday photoshoot, especially for anyone with a historic interest. Attendees can also vote for their favorite tree, which will be announced after the festival ends Dec. 31.

The house is open from noon until 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays.

THE FRIENDS OF TURNER-DODGE HOUSE & LANSING PARKS AND RECREATION
PRESENTS
Festival of Trees

Saturday, December 13th thru Thursday, January 1st

\$5.00 per person Please call 517 485 4220 for admission times
www.lansingmj.gov / 958 / Turner-Dodge House Children 12 & under FREE

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Events

from page 17

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

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

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

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

Signing with Richard P. Smith - We're excited to welcome Smith, a recent inductee into the Michigan Outdoor Hall of Fame, back to our Okemos store for a multi-day signing event! Noon-7:30 p.m. Schuler Books, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/schulerbooks.

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.

"The Wiz" - This twist on "The Wizard of Oz" changed the face of Broadway, from its iconic score to its stirring tale of Dorothy's journey to find her place in a contemporary world. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Friday, Dec. 12

"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.

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

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

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

Broad Underground: Colectivo Los Ingrávidos - How can we challenge commercial and corporate

audiovisual styles? Join Colectivo Los Ingrávidos, an artist collective inspired by historical avant-garde movements, for an online screening and discussion. 7-9 p.m. Virtual — register at broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Christmas PJ Story Time - Come in your holiday-themed pajamas and enjoy festive stories, songs and crafts. Decorate a gingerbread man cookie to munch on as you sip a cup of Kona Kocoa. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Confident Witch Circle: Ansz - This week's Confident Witch Circle works with Ansz, the rune of breath, speech and inspired messages. 8-10 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

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

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

Festival of Trees Opening Night Gala - Kick off the Festival of Trees with the Friends of the Turner-Dodge, community members, elected officials and more. This adults-only event raises funds to support and preserve the house for future generations. 7-10:30 p.m. 100 E. North St., Lansing. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

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

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

Holiday ShoDown Horse Show - From the cheerfully decorated stalls to the elaborate costumes to the camaraderie of the Hot Cocoa Social, it's an unforgettable holiday tradition! 7:30 a.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. shomeshows.com.

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

Kindergarten Craft Club - Make a gumball machine ornament! Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.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.

Murder Mystery Dinner Holiday Show: "The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year" - 6-8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Numinous Light - A solo exhibition of Michigan landscapes 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.

Events

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

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

Rank MI Vote Presents - Gather friends, family and neighbors and come learn how ranked-choice voting decreases division and voter frustration and improves representation. 6:30-8 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. rankmivote.org.

Signing with Richard P. Smith - We're excited to welcome Smith, a recent inductee into the Michigan Outdoor Hall of Fame, back to our Okemos store for a multi-day signing event! Noon-7:30 p.m. Schuler Books, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/schulerbooks.

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

TGIF Christmas Holiday Dance Party - Doors 7 p.m., line dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dance 8 p.m. to midnight. DJ Jim Kitchen in the house. Dinner buffet provided. Cash/credit bar available. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

Two Dudes in Flip Flops Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - We're kicking off our beach party weekend with good vibes, great beer and a whole lot of fun! 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

The UrbanBeat Walter Blanding Series: East Meets West - A longtime member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and current assistant professor of jazz saxophone at MSU, Walter Blanding's artistry bridges the rich tradition of jazz with a dynamic, expressive modern sound. 8:30-11 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeat-events.com.

"The Wiz" - This twist on "The Wizard of Oz" changed the face of Broadway, from its iconic score to its stirring tale of Dorothy's journey to find her place in a contemporary world. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Saturday, Dec. 13

"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 Jazzy Little Christmas" - Get into the holiday groove with the MSU Professors of Jazz as they perform seasonal favorites reimagined through the lens of swing, soul and classic jazz. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

"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.

Adult Craft: Winter Pinecones & "Snow" - Gather in the daytime with other adults for coffee, conversation and to make a seasonal craft! 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

Cocoa and Collection - Bring the whole family to the MSU Broad Art Museum to warm up with hot cocoa and art-making activities inspired by wintry works of art in our collection! 1-3 p.m. 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Cut & Light with Dunbarton Tobacco & Trust - Welcome to our special cigar sales event featuring Dunbarton Tobacco & Trust! We're joined with Dave Lafferty, VP of Sales for Cut & Light. 4-8 p.m. Wild Bill's Tobacco, 5023 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/wild-bills-tobacco-78730511603.

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

Gift Your Memories - Stop by the GLADL Digi-Lab this holiday season and learn how to digitize your memories to easily gift and preserve! 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

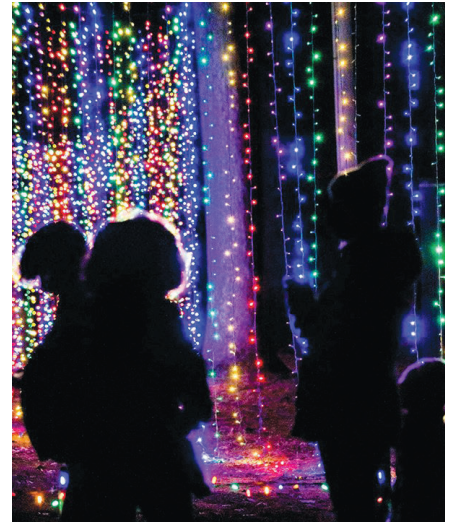
Holiday ShoDown Horse Show - From the cheerfully decorated stalls to the elaborate costumes to the camaraderie of the Hot Cocoa Social, it's an unforgettable holiday tradition! 7:30 a.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. shomeshows.com.

Holiday Tablescapes: Insider Tips from an Interior Designer - Get your design questions answered and learn how to use color, texture and height for your next event. 2-3 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

See Events, Page 20

33rd Annual Wonderland of Lights

Thursdays through Sundays
until Dec. 23, plus Dec. 22 and
Dec. 23
5-8 p.m.
Potter Park Zoo
1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave.,
Lansing



The zoo can come alive after dark, glistening with thousands of shimmering lights that transform pathways into winter trails of delight.

Create unforgettable holiday memories with family and friends at a snow-covered and illuminated zoo.

Some animals may be sleeping already, but some may be more active than usual after dark.

Stroll the paths to a soundtrack of festive music and see the zoo, and the animals, in a whole new light.

And there's a special visit, on Fridays and Saturdays only, with Santa Claus coming to town and ready for photos with kids.

Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for seniors/military and children three and under are free.

H&H Mobil Abandoned Auto Auction

Viewing 12/18/25 By Appointment

2818 E. Kalamazoo St.

Lansing, MI 48912


Call 517-332-6335

Bids must be submitted by 8 am 12/22/25

at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823

For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

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Events

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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.

Keys' Holiday Party - Take a break from the holiday frenzy and spend the day with the witches at Keys to Manifestation. We'll have a warm and cozy open-house party with music, snacks and witchy gifts ... plus special events to light up your season. Noon-8 p.m. 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

LCC Concert Choir - Join us for this free concert. The LCC Concert Choir will sing a variety of choral selections, including some holiday favorites. 3-4 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Strategic Contracts Manager
The Michigan State University seeks qualified candidates for the following full-time position: Strategic Contracts Manager (East Lansing, MI) Develop negotiation strategies for contracts, analyze procurement needs, budget, market, economic trends to optimize value/supplier performance. Bachelor's in Industrial Eng, Bus Admin, or related field + 60 months' exp as Supply Chain Manager or related position in supply chain. 5 years' exp in supply chain functions, e-procurement system implementation, management, project management, strategic contract development, negotiation, management, contract management tools, spend analytic tools, supervise procurement eng professionals, conduct market research/analysis to identify potential suppliers, use procurement software, negotiate value-oriented performance contracts, use price volume curves. Telecommuting permitted, work may occur from anywhere in the U.S. To apply go to www.careers.msu.edu and search for posting number 1096620. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

Living Nativity - Cars can slowly make their way past eight stations of the Christmas story, featuring live actors and animals. 5:30-8:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Ash St., Mason. masonfirstumc.org.

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.

Mother's Little Helper Live at Graham Vineyards - 6-9 p.m. 8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg. 517-741-0805. facebook.com/grahamvineyards.

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.

REO Town Holiday Market - REO Town's jolly small-business community invites you to enjoy the extra-festive vibes at our annual holiday market! Stroll the neighborhood and discover a variety of sales and special offerings, as well as a host of seasonal community events. 11 a.m. facebook.com/reotown.

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



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Seasonal Casual Mixology - Guests will make fun mocktails while learning some basic rules of spirit pairing, shaking and stirring. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bradly's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

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

Signing with Richard P. Smith - We're excited to welcome Smith, a recent inductee into the Michigan Outdoor Hall of Fame, back to our Okemos store for a multi-day signing event! Noon-6 p.m. Schuler Books, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/schulerbooks.

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

Sweet C and the Sunset Riders Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Expect soulful vocals, smooth harmonies and the kind of rhythm that pairs perfectly with your favorite Summerlands brew. 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

Tease A Gogo Presents: "The Naughty List" - Join us for beverages that are sure to land you underneath the mistletoe, a reason to break out that ugly sweater, and incredible burlesque variety to put you in the festive spirit! 8 p.m.-midnight. The Studio at 414, 410 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

Turner-Dodge House Festival of Trees - Holiday trees decorated by various businesses, organizations and individuals adorn all three floors of the historic mansion. Noon-5 p.m. 100 E. North St., Lansing. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

"The Wiz" - This twist on "The Wizard of Oz" changed the face of Broadway, from its iconic score to its stirring tale of Dorothy's journey to find her place in a contemporary world. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Sunday, Dec. 14

10-Minute Play Festival - Students enrolled in the play directing course present 10-minute plays for their capstone project. Romantic comedies, dramas, suspense ... you name it, we have it! 3 and 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre,

411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

"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.

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

Christmas in the Village - Join the Friends of Historic Meridian and Santa for an afternoon of Christmas traditions from the Victorian Era! 2-4 p.m. Meridian Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

Holiday Harp Concert - All are welcome to take in the holiday music by the MSU Harp Studio. 2 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 Meridian Road, Williamston. facebook.com/stkatherinesepiscopalchurch.

Holiday ShoDown Horse Show - From the cheerfully decorated stalls to the elaborate costumes to the camaraderie of the Hot Cocoa Social, it's an unforgettable holiday tradition! 7:30 a.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. shomeshows.com.

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

Making Holiday Memories with the Capital City Brass Band - Join the CCBB for a festive afternoon of music, featuring a variety of seasonal favorites and a traditional brass band repertoire that's sure to put you in the holiday spirit. 3 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. ccbbrassband.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.

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.

See Events, Page 21

In the matter of Patricia Jean Bradshaw, deceased: To all interested persons and creditors (known and unknown) whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: Take Notice: The Settlor, Patricia Jean Bradshaw (DOB 05/20/1941) who lived at 4525 Fieldview Drive, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 died on November 12, 2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against Patricia Jean Bradshaw will forever be barred unless presented to Kevin Beachnau, Successor Trustee of The Robert W. Bradshaw and Patricia J. Bradshaw Trust, dated October 23, 2019, at 4525 Fieldview Drive, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 within four months after the date of publication, 12/10/25. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Attorney: Benjamin L. Cwayna, P70266, 11973 Sweetwater Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Petitioner: Kevin Beachnau, 4525 Fieldview Drive, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. 517-896-3781. **CP#25-391**

In the matter of Malcolm Pulley: To all interested persons: Lamarian Stanley, whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: Take Notice: Mid-Michigan Guardianship Services, Inc. has been appointed the conservator of Malcolm Pulley. Mid-Michigan Guardianship Services, Inc. intends to file one or more Account of Fiduciary and Petition to Allow Account(s) with the Ingham County Probate Court located at 313 W Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48906, 12/10/25. Petitioner: Mid-Michigan Guardianship Services, Inc., 600 W Maple Street, Suite C, Lansing, MI 48906, 517-372-9853. **CP#25-392**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a PUBLIC SALE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED and will be held on bid13.com, ending Friday, December 19th, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. The location of the storage unit items to be sold is State Mini Storage, 3946 E. State Road, Bath, Michigan of Clinton County. State Mini Storage will sell units via bid13.com to satisfy the lien on the property stored at this facility by the following persons:

Name	Unit	Contents
Craig Irwin	H354C	Tools, Totes, Fishing Gear, Furniture, Household Items

Cash only accepted (Note: A credit card is required to create a bid13.com account but cannot be used to pay for the auction items). Winning bidders must pay the amount of their winning bid plus a \$100 deposit in cash when visiting our office to collect items won at auction. Deposit will be returned after the Property Manager confirms the unit has been left completely empty with no damage caused by the bidder or their associates. **No person under the age of 18 years is allowed to make bids at the sale.** Accounts will be sent to a collection service if a balance remains after the auction (to be paid by the original renter). All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed no later than the Monday following the auction at 8:30 a.m. The unit is to be left completely empty in a clean and rentable condition. No usage of our site dumpster is allowed for the sale.

CP#25-388

Events

from page 20

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.

Thousand and One Arabian Nights - Join Bahar Ensemble and Gemhara Almaz for an enchanting evening of authentic Middle Eastern music, storytelling and dance. A Mediterranean menu will be available as part of the dinner package. Ages 12+. 5:30-7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Turner-Dodge House Festival of Trees - Holiday trees decorated by various businesses, organizations and individuals adorn all three floors of the historic mansion. Noon-5 p.m. 100 E. North St., Lansing. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

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

"The Wiz" - This twist on "The Wizard of Oz" changed the face of Broadway, from its iconic score to its stirring tale of Dorothy's journey to find her place in a contemporary world. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Monday, Dec. 15

"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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 16

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

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

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

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.

ATHENA Lansing Celebration - Join us in honoring 2025 ATHENA Leadership Award recipient Rebecca Bahar-Cook, CEO of Capitol Fundraising Associates, and 2026 ATHENA PowerLink Award recipient Lillian Werbin, CEO & co-owner of Elderly Instruments. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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.

The Good Neighbor Concert Series: Kendall Cassella and The Springtails - We can't wait to share Cassella's beautiful voice and exceptional songwriting with you. The Springtails (duo) will wow you with their swing-era style vocals and eclectic instrumentation. 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/TheGoodNeighborConcertSeries.

Here Comes Santa Paws - Participants will check in outside the Meridian Service Center before taking a stroll through Nancy Moore Park for a photo with Santa! Dogs must be leashed at all times. 5:45-8 p.m. 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

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

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

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

226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas - The spirit of the season comes alive with the signature sound of "18th-century classical rock" ensemble Mannheim Steamroller, led by Grammy winner Chip Davis. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

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

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

Parkinson's Support Group: Education - This month, we will have a holiday program instead of an educational speaker. Join us for some good food, sing-alongs and companionship. 3-4:30 p.m. Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. lapsg.org.

PEARS Deeper Dive: Indirect Activities - This Deeper Dive should be attended after the PEARs Crash Course. Participants will learn how to enter a variety of indirect activities. 11 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting.

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

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

Turner-Dodge House Festival of Trees - Holiday trees decorated by various businesses, organizations and individuals adorn all three floors of the historic mansion. Noon-5 p.m. 100 E. North St., Lansing. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

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

Acting & 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. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/allen-farmers-market.

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

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.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BREAKFAST

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

1. Fleetwood Diner

Retro diner serving breakfast, burgers, gyros and other traditional bites

2211 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 267-7606

facebook.com/FleetwoodDiner

7 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Saturday

7 a.m.-midnight Friday, Sunday

2. Golden Harvest

Buzzy brunch stop with generous plates of morning favorites

1625 Turner St., Lansing

facebook.com/

goldenharvestrestaurant

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

3. Good Truckin' Diner

Down-to-earth restaurant serving diner fare, from breakfast burritos to burgers

(517) 253-7961

facebook.com/goodtruckin

7 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday

7 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

4. Sparty's Coney Island

Basic, old-timey eatery known for Coney Island hot dogs and other American staples

(517) 332-0111

spartysconeyisland.com

7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

5. That New Place

Casual restaurant offering breakfast favorites and lunch fare

(517) 242-1810

facebook.com/ThatNewPlace517

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

New spot Gjoni's a good place to eat

By LEO V. KAPLAN

I don't think I ever visited Spagnuolo's, the restaurant that formerly occupied the space that Gjoni's (pronounced the same as Johnny's) now calls home, but I get the impression there are similarities. Both places can brag of their Italian-American food and a family-oriented, nostalgic atmosphere, which my dining companion put this way: "It feels like the year Home Alone came out in here." I assure you that she meant this in the best possible way.

Between the Christmas lights, the cozy booths, the friendly young wait staff and the charmingly un-modern decor, you definitely get the feeling you've stepped back to a simpler time. The menu offers similarly classic, comforting, Italian-influenced favorites like spaghetti and meatballs, chicken piccata and cacio e pepe, as well as pizza made with "homemade New York-style dough." If I hadn't just had pizza the night before, I would have gone with that, but I ended

up splitting the chicken parmesan with my friend.

We've been best friends for 20 years and it's hard not to share everything, so we also split the Greek salad, which came with all the standard accoutrements, including plenty of beets (our favorite topping) and big chunks of tangy feta, as well as the atypical but totally welcome addition of chickpeas. The dressing was on the bland side, but it did its job well enough.

We definitely made the right choice splitting our entree, as the chicken cutlets on our chicken parmesan were huge and sat atop a similarly generous portion of red sauce-slathered bucatini pasta. Bucatini is like a thick spaghetti with a hole down the center, making each strand into a sauce-absorbing tube. I never see it at restaurants, so this was a nice surprise! The chicken was well seasoned and crispy



Chicken Parmesan,
\$26.00

Gjoni's Bar & Restaurant
662 West Grand River Ave,
Okemos

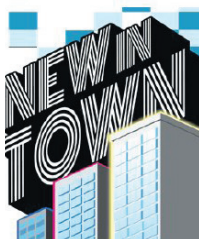


on the outside, well-cooked on the inside, and covered in heaps of melty mozzarella with a standard but tasty sauce. It made me think, for the thousandth time, about how there needs to be a chicken parmesan pizza.

If you have any family gatherings com-

ing up but no one feels like cooking, I'd recommend Gjoni's for their classic and Christmas-y atmosphere and the kind and welcoming service. I imagine their pizza is a perfect crowd pleaser, and they also have a large selection of gelato, a fun cocktail and mocktail menu and a full bar.

Thrift Witch moves into planned forever home



Thrift Witch

329 E. Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing
thriftwitch517@gmail.com
Noon-7 p.m. Wed.-Sat.
Noon-5 p.m. Sun.
Closed Mon.-Tues.

By LEO V. KAPLAN

The solid foundation, huge arched windows and thick metal vault door of the former Bank of Lansing building in Old Town lends it a sense of permanence.

It's fitting, then, that Thrift Witch owner Tiesha King intends to make the bank her gothic thrift shop's final location.

"Things just lined up for us, and it really is a miracle," King said. She moved into the new location after her lease ended on the former one on Cesar Chavez Ave., west of the bridge.

Thrift Witch opened in the new space

on Nov. 14 with plans for a grand opening Saturday, Dec. 20. There's a larger space for King to sell vintage and other resale clothes, and it includes items from 45 artists, everything from jewelry to books to pride flag-themed blankets.

The new location also includes wares from Rosalarian, Re.Vamp.Fashion and The Mythos, the three independent shops that formerly occupied Thrift Witch's sister store, The Dark Art Market. While the new space cannot reasonably accommodate those shops as separate entities, King said, she will be selling their wares at no additional markup.

King's partner, Eclectic Art Tattoo Gallery owner Sean Peters, plans to relocate his business to the building in the coming months.

The opportunity to move into the old bank came as King worried she would



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Thrift Witch owner Tiesha King awaits customers at the new Thrift Witch location, the former Bank of Lansing building.

See Thrift Witch, Page 23

Thrift Witch

from page 22

have to move outside of Old Town.

She will lease the space, for six months, from former owners Swanson Design Studios while gathering funds to purchase the building, whose owners would like it to go to her, she said.

“I really will sit here at some points during the day and just be like, ‘How did I get here?’” she said. “I get a little teary-eyed.”

By staying in Old Town, Thrift Witch can continue connecting with customers, who King said inspire the store’s offerings.

“My selection is curated by every single person that walks in the door,” she said. “You’ll leave, and I will have a memory of what you’re wearing, what you like, if I could tell any patches or anything — and that goes into the brain

database.”

King sources her clothes everywhere, from private sellers to estate sales to other thrift stores. She said customers have at times remarked that an item is perfect for them, only to learn it was purchased with them in mind.

That community spirit also helped secure the new location, King said.

King said the Old Town community “really came together” to help keep Thrift Witch local. Former Old Town Commercial Association president Jamie Schriener organized a meeting between King and Swanson Design Studios.

“I’m in no position to buy a building right now, so they have been really helpful and are giving me time to get my finances together,” King said. “And they want specifically to sell to me.”

“It was five minutes away from us calling it quits, but at the last minute Old Town came through.”



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

The new Thrift Witch location in Old Town is inside of an old bank building.

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