

www.lansingcitypulse.com

December 23-29, 2025

CityPULSE

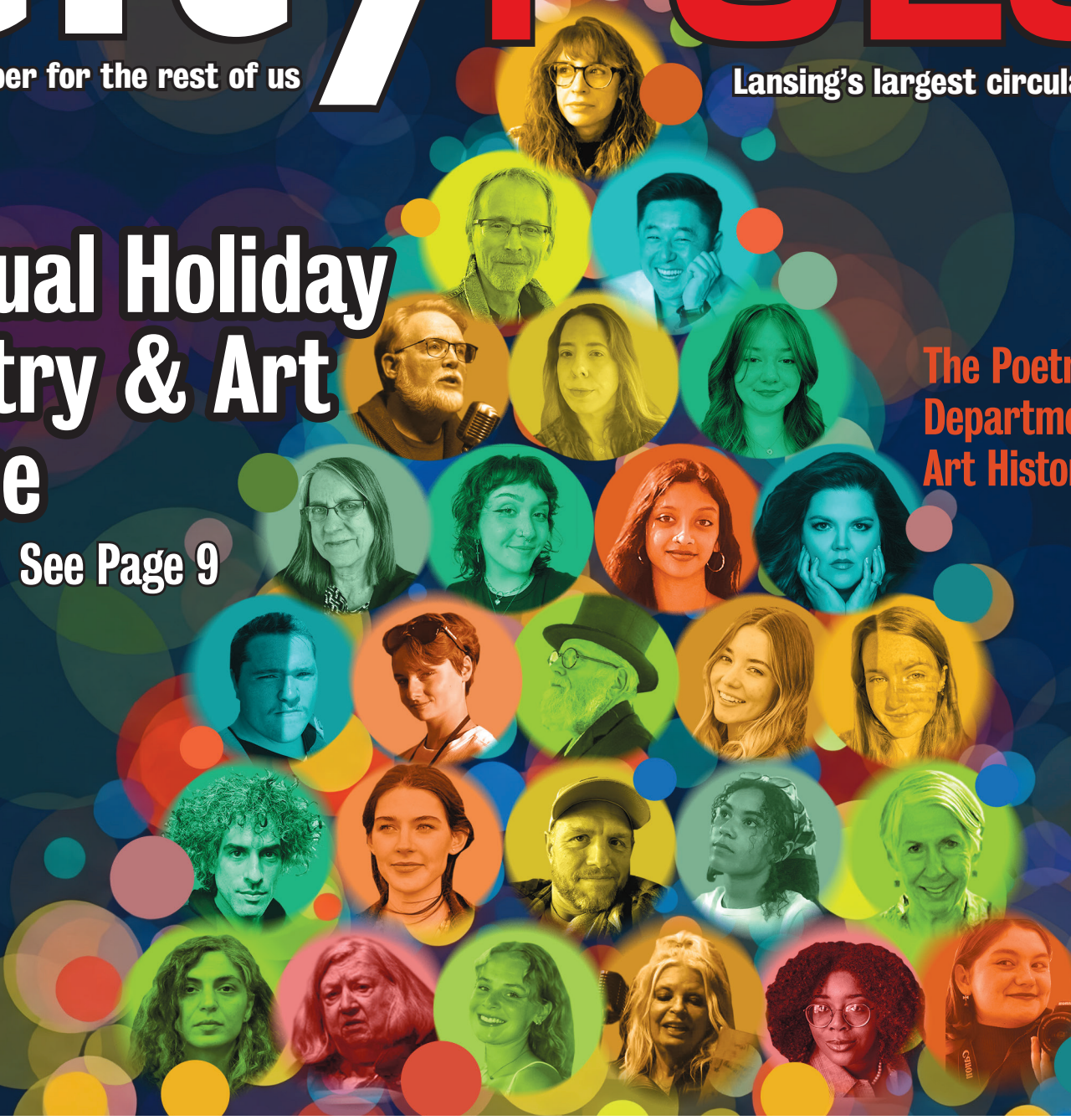
A newspaper for the rest of us

Lansing's largest circulation newspaper

Annual Holiday Poetry & Art Issue

See Page 9

The Poetry Room x MSU
Department of Art,
Art History, and Design



GREWAL LAW

protecting your rights PLLC

517.393.3000

Sponsored Content

I don't give a damn about my reputation. Never have. I'm going to do what I'm going to do. Business is business, sure—but this is personal to me. It always has been. When people ask why I speak the way I do, why I refuse to couch my words in politeness or false balance, they usually aren't asking in good faith. They want a tone adjustment, not an explanation. They want the discomfort removed, not the truth examined.

Some people misunderstand why I do this. Others don't misunderstand at all—they deliberately twist my words into something easier to dismiss. It's more convenient to label me intolerable than to confront what I'm intolerant of. And what I'm intolerant of isn't people. It's indecency.

Trust me, I don't enjoy talking negatively about anyone. I don't wake up excited to criticize strangers or public figures. But until people stop pretending that what Donald Trump and those in his orbit offer is decent, or morally acceptable, or even remotely defensible, I refuse to watch quietly. Because doing nothing—saying nothing— isn't neutrality. It's endorsement. Silence in the face of cruelty is a vote for cruelty.

We are constantly told to calm down, to lower the temperature, to be civil. But civility has become a weapon used against accountability. The expectation is always that those pointing out the fire should whisper, so as not to offend the arsonists. Meanwhile, the men in charge are fundamentally trying to change the fabric of this country, and they do it without having earned a single thread of it.

They don't work. They don't serve. They don't sacrifice. They inherit money, launder their biographies, and lie about it with a straight face. They are the poster children for what happens when Citizens United opens the floodgates and democracy becomes something you can buy wholesale. They cosplay as outsiders while they benefit from every corrupt advantage the system provides.

Their vision isn't reform—it's demolition. Shut everything down, break it apart, and then "reinvent" it so they can take credit for the rebuild, no matter who gets crushed in the process. No matter who gets hurt now, or later, or permanently. And why should they care? They've insulated themselves from consequence. They hide behind a Supreme Court that has decided power should be protected from accountability, and a presidency increasingly wrapped in the language of immunity.

And don't mistake this for strength. These people are soft, softer than an overripe peach. They crumble under scrutiny,

melt under criticism and lash out the moment they aren't worshipped. They call themselves tough while demanding loyalty oaths and grievance-driven applause.

Now they want to shut down the National Center for Atmospheric Research—an institution that provides critical data to scientists across the globe—because reality makes them uncomfortable. Because facts interfere with their talking points. Climate change, to them, isn't a planetary crisis; it's a "boogeyman" that inconveniences donors and disrupts short-term profit. So they'll squash it, defund it, silence it and then accuse everyone else of hysteria when the consequences arrive.

And honestly, if this weren't real life, it would be funny. Taking over the airwaves for a national address just to say absolutely nothing—nothing new, nothing substantive, nothing helpful—would be a great parody. But it's not satire. It's our reality. A nation held hostage by repetition, spectacle and ego.

And then there's the vanity. Who puts their own name on a memorial for a fallen president? Who does that? It's cringey. It's small. Honorable people don't do that. They understand that remembrance isn't branding. They let institutions, historians and those entrusted with public memory do their jobs. They don't autograph history like it's a piece of merch.

I'm tired of the shenanigans and exhausted by the excuses. And you should be too. You don't have to keep defending this. You don't have to keep pretending it's normal, or acceptable or "just politics." At some point, you have to decide whether decency still matters to you—or whether you're willing to surrender it for the comfort of not rocking the boat.

I'll keep rocking it. Reputation be damned.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com

ALL STAR
MECHANICAL
HEATING • COOLING
517-490-4642
LIC. 7115371

CityPULSE

The giving season is here!

City Pulse has long been Lansing's watchdog, storyteller, and independent voice. Your gift ensures that bold, local reporting continues to inform, challenge, and strengthen our capital city.



At Buried Lede Media, we believe in the power of local news. With your support, that power continues to thrive on every block. **Your end-of-year gift is tax-deductible and ensures independent journalism remains a cornerstone of this community.**



CityPULSE

**VOL. 25
ISSUE 20**

(517) 999-6704 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



A local bookstore is a tough thing to keep around

**PAGE
5**


Where to celebrate the New Year in style

**PAGE
17**


RJ's brings sweet and savory tastes

**PAGE
22**

Cover illustration by Design2Pro using photos of contributing artists, poets and curators

 © 2025 Michigan Independent Media Group
ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-6704
 or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com
CLASSIFIEDS & OBITUARIES: (517) 999-6704

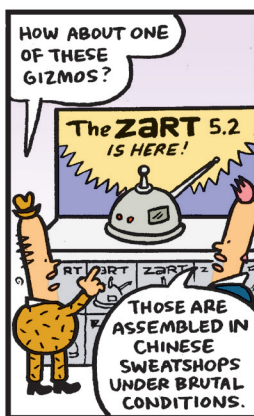
PUBLISHER • Lonnie Scott
lonnie@buriedledemedia.com
EDITOR • Sarah Leach
sarah@buriedledemedia.com
MANAGING EDITOR • Mike Ellis
mike@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6707
GENERAL MANAGER • Steve Underwood
steve@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704
ARTS & CULTURE/EVENTS EDITOR • Nicole Noechel
nicole@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066
SENIOR STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065
NEWS REPORTER • Leo V. Kaplan
leo@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063

Contributors: Bryan Beverly, Courtney Bowerman, Rob Breznsky, Capital News Service, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Dana DeMink, Lizzy Ferguson, AJ Glaub, Mark Gmazel, Raymond Holt, Kurt LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Kyle Melinn, Joan Nelson, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Vic Rauch, Lora Root, Chris Silva, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Vidalia Wenzlick, David Winkelstern, Victor Wooddell

Delivery drivers: Teri Cross, Cindy Heistand, Curt Lauck, James McKinnie, Diane Scofield, Seth Smith

City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.

Member: AAN



© Jen Sorensen www.jensorensen.com

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW


 TOM TOMORROW © 2025-12-22 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

CityPULSE

USE THE QR CODE TO
GET THE DIGITAL
EDITION IN YOUR INBOX
FREE
BY 6AM
EVERY WEDNESDAY!

HELP PUT INK ON THE PAGE!
CONTRIBUTE TO CITY PULSE.


 Use the QR code to donate by credit card
or call (517) 999-6704.

 Checks may be mailed to City Pulse,
1905 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912.


PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Indie bookstores necessary but struggling, owners say

REO Town's *Deadtime Stories* carries romance novels, but they're dark romance. They carry fantasy, but it's dark fantasy. There are even cookbooks, but they're Stephen King and *Ghostbusters*-themed.

That's why Jenn Carpenter has always been happy to send customers over to Wayfaring Books, an LGBTQ+ bookstore in the REO Town Market-place.

Deadtime Stories opened in 2021, within a year of Wayfaring and The Robin Books, and is located within a block of each of them. Rather than compete with each other, Carpenter said the "Bookshop Row" stores collaborated, each with its own niche and each happy to send customers over to the others.

Also opened in that timeframe were downtown's A Novel Concept, which centers feminist, LGBTQ+ and indie books; The Resistance, which aimed to create social change and featured titles by Black, Native American and transgender authors; and Socialight Society, which focused on Black women.

Four years later, half those stores are gone. The Resistance has closed completely, while Socialight Society has moved online. Wayfaring closed last month, though its owners attributed the closure to personal reasons, not financial.

As Wayfaring was selling off its remaining stock at 50% off, a second Lansing-area Barnes & Noble opened in the Frandor shopping center.

A strategy shift, beginning in 2018, has seen Barnes & Noble turn declining sales into 60 new locations this year. The bookstore chain aims to cater to local audiences. The Frandor location stocks books by Michigan authors, and even some Lansing-specific books, and features signings by local authors.

Several indie bookstore owners said Barnes & Noble can never be a replacement for small, local bookstores, where customers can chat with and purchase books from the same person who ordered them. But those stores are struggling.

When Scott Harris opened EVERYbody Reads in 2006, he did it to cre-



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Shortly after opening a second *Deadtime Stories* location in Charlotte's Courthouse Square Museum, Jenn Carpenter chats with a customer. Carpenter announced earlier this month that this location will be closing.

ate a community space, not to make money.

Nearly 20 years later, he's yet to make a profit, instead funneling money from his day job, selling insurance, to keep the store open.

"Financially, opening a bookstore is ridiculous," Harris said. "It's virtually impossible for anybody to open a bookstore and sell enough that we would be able to pay our bills and draw a salary from that."

But the futility of operating a financially stable bookstore hasn't deterred Harris from operating what he believes is a necessary community institution. Harris was inspired to create the bookstore as a place to connect people with resources and foster community, a need he became aware of after his wife died in 2002. Additionally, he believes bookstores provide a necessary service by letting people encounter, become interested in and read books that fall outside the range of internet echo-chamber-acceptable thoughts of many people.

A Novel Concept co-owners Christine Pepper Bennett and Elise Jajuga agree. They stock international, indie and other offbeat books for customers, who they said are more intentional about their shopping and willing to try new things. Customers at Amazon and Barnes & Noble, they said, are

less likely to be as adventurous.

Cheryl VanDeKerkhove, who operated bookstore and LGBT community space The Real World Emporium from 1994-98 in Old Town, said profiting from owning a small bookstore was just as futile back then.

"I wasn't really paid to work at the store," she said. "It was a passion project, not a profit project. And the wonderful people who agreed to work as clerks in the store were getting minimum wage, always."

The Real World Emporium was a center for education for the pre-internet LGBTQ+ community, she said, with its roots in feminist and lesbian bookstores in the 1980s.

The shop lasted until August 1998, when construction on Turner Street during June robbed the store of its critical Pride Month rush.

Despite increased awareness and acceptance of queer and transgender people, VanDeKerkhove said she'd expect running a similar store would be even harder in 2020s than it was in the 1990s.

"It was a struggle for us to really survive or thrive in the '90s, before the internet, before Amazon, before people having the false sense of community that's online," she said. "And I feel like Wayfaring was challenged in ways that we were not, and really, it was go-

ing to take some kind of monumental miracle for them to be successful.

"When Target is selling rainbow stuff during Pride, it becomes harder for an independent bookseller to sell rainbow stuff to our community, because they bought it already when they were out at Walmart."

Carpenter opened a second *Deadtime Stories* location, in Charlotte's Courthouse Square Museum, in June. When it closes permanently at the end of December, it will have been open fewer than 7 months.

In a Facebook post, Carpenter attributed the closure to the store "hemorrhaging money," saying sales were already down nearly \$40,000 from last year and that the second location just wasn't feasible.

"The first place people tighten the reins when they need to is with the extras, the things that aren't essential," she said in an interview. "And so it has been a rough year."

Another closed bookstore, The Resistance, had opened on the heels of George Floyd's death, amid massive demonstrations and the COVID-19 lockdown. Fae Mitchell, who owned The Resistance alongside Emily Dievendorf in 2022 before it closed the following year, said a local bookstore focused on education and community was a necessary place.

"Part of the struggle we were experiencing at the time was rooted in a lot of history, and people just didn't have access to that information," Mitchell said.

"They're still extremely necessary," she said of bookstores. "I don't think it is going well, but I think part of that is due to, regionally, we're a cold environment. People don't like to get out and do things in the cold."

To incentivize shoppers to come out into the cold, Mitchell said bookstores need to get with the times.

"We would have to update our approach to something more technologically advanced and interesting," she said. "Like, can I come in and read on a tablet, or listen to audiobooks here?"

— LEO V. KAPLAN

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Jessica Benavides will be leading the Lansing School District as interim superintendent.

Benavides, a Lansing schools veteran, had been the district's number two as first deputy superintendent. She will take over for Superintendent Ben Shuldiner, who has accepted the same position in Seattle. Shuldiner remains as Lansing superintendent until Jan. 31. He had been a finalist for several other superintendent jobs. The Lansing school board voted to begin new contract negotiations during a Dec. 11 meeting and named Benavides as their selection during a Dec. 18 meeting. Her interim superintendent role begins Feb. 1. "The opportunity to serve the Lansing School District as superintendent is an honor," Benavides said, in a statement. "I look forward to leading alongside our staff and families to ensure the positive momentum across the district continues and that our students remain at the center of every decision we make." Board of Education President Robin Moore said, in a statement, that the board will later announce the process of picking a permanent superintendent and she expressed confidence in Benavides. "Her experience, commitment to our community, and steady leadership will help ensure continuity for our students, staff, and families," Moore said.

Lansing's most prominent homeless encampment, known as Fallen Angels and located near Dietrich Park, will be broken up with the remaining residents, currently about 50, going into a hotel for about six weeks if they don't find independent housing. The city will be picking up the tab for hotel stays at Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing following an agreement that will end the encampment, which has been there for at least three years. Scott Bean, a spokesperson for the mayor's office, said the exact number of people and the cost are not clear but the money will be available and the city is looking for additional solutions for the residents after six weeks. Circuit Court Judge Rosemarie Aquilina (Shown in September encampment photo by Raymond Holt) brokered a deal between the city and the private property owner JAJ Properties (a second property owner had previously been dismissed from the case). The land is expected to be cleared of residents sometime during Christmas week, with transportation being arranged for several days and times, Bean said. The court decision coming on a holiday week means the city is planning to be flexible about the six-week time frame for residents, he said.



A sixth potential location for the city's Mod Pods/NOVA Housing Initiative has been announced. The city had been considering four city parks and a private-

ly-owned former school building and last week added a county-owned parking lot as a sixth option. The large parking lot at the Ingham County Human Services building at 5303 S Cedar St. is now considered the second-highest scoring option on the city's rubric. Site preparation there would be more costly, at \$675,000, than three of the choices that are expected to be \$500,000 (two parks and the former Shabazz school). It would be more costly than the current rubric-topper Washington Park, estimated at \$360,000. Scott Bean, a spokesperson for Mayor Andy Schor, said the mayor is waiting for the process to unfold but wouldn't be opposed to a non-park option.



The East Lansing Police Department is investigating two recent acts of vandalism at the MSU Chabad Jewish Center in downtown East Lansing. Someone is seen on surveillance video throwing rocks at the center shortly after midnight on Dec. 16. Another surveillance video shows

someone on Dec. 18 spray-painting swastikas on the glass front door and throwing rocks at windows, which were damaged. The police department is investigating the pair of acts as potentially related hate crimes. "Video evidence appears to indicate that the same subject committed both acts of vandalism and, therefore, the incidents may be related," the police department said in a statement. If members of the public have tips about these incidents or video recordings of this subject from any camera, on or about the following times, please contact Detective Katey Harrison at kharris@cityofeastlansing.com.

Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame inductee Dan Boggan was named head football coach at Lansing Eastern High School Friday, replacing Jordan Morgan, who guided the Quakers from 2018-25. Boggan is returning to the sport after a long, successful tenure at Lansing Sexton, where he coached that team to 114 victories from 2002-17. His teams made the playoffs 11 times and finished runner-up in the 2014 Division 4 state championship, losing by just a single point to Grand Rapids South Christian. Eastern, Boggan's alma mater, has struggled in recent years, having last posted a winning season in 1997. He played there in 1984 and '85, before playing college ball at Indiana and Western Michigan.



Pete Johnston, a Michigan State University film studies faculty member and interim director, has won his



round and advanced in the Jeopardy Second Chance tournament.

He has won the semifinals and the finals. The finals round appeared on a Dec. 19 episode, where he made it to the next stage, the wild card round. That episode is expected to air Jan. 8. Johnson had come in second during a summer episode and was invited back for the Second Chance tournament.

MSU turned up the lights on Beaumont Tower this year, decking the halls with warm yellow light. The university has added architectural holiday lights that go nearly to the top of the 104-foot university icon, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2028. The lighting of the tower, for the first time, was inspired by President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D., and his wife, Amy, according to MSU Today. The tower is lit through Jan. 4, starting at 5:30 p.m. There's also a live webcam available at msutoday.msu.edu/webcams.



A 74-year-old woman in a motorized wheelchair has died after being hit by a car Thursday night, Lansing police said Friday, according to WILX and other local media. The collision happened around 6 p.m. near S Cedar Street and E Miller Road. The driver was making a left turn and bad weather may have been a factor, according to preliminary work at the crash scene, police said. Alcohol and drugs were not believed to be factors.

A crash involving a pickup truck and an SUV at the intersection of Island Road and North Canal Road in Eaton Rapids Township resulted in the death of a Pottsville man. Michigan State Police said an 18-year-old Grand Ledge man driving north on Canal failed to stop at a stop sign and his Buick Enclave was struck by the Pottsville man's Ford F-250 pickup. The driver and two passengers of the Buick were treated for non-fatal injuries of varying degrees. The name of the Pottsville man, 45, was not released.

Whitmer’s greatest 2025 success?

Avoiding the media at all costs

The week before Thanksgiving, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer pardoned a pair of turkeys in front of the Capitol.

Nearly the entire capitol press corps showed up. The TV people wanted scrumptious video of the big fowls bumping around their cages.

The print people? We wanted to talk to Whitmer. Would our recently evasive Governor feed us even some table scraps?

On that same day:
- Whitmer signed the state’s first-ever rules on disclosing legislative pork.

- The Michigan Public Service Commission was holding a public hearing on an enormous data center project.

- A long-shot Republican gubernatorial candidate was rallying a bunch of foamy-mouthed rabble-rousers to Dearborn on some “free the city of Sharia law” crusade.

All of us had other questions, too. They’d been stockpiling for, literally, days, weeks and months.

A sit-down interview? An open, free-flowing press conference in the press auditorium? Whitmer hasn’t had one of those in nearly two years.

For in-state media, our access to Michigan’s chief executive has been reduced to MAYBE three or four questions at a public event we’ve been graciously invited to in Ypsilanti or Detroit or somewhere.

Outside of her Northern Michigan ice storm response, Whitmer’s media availability has disappeared since her spring 2024 book tour, from around 27 media interactions a quarter to seven. Her last known one-on-one interview was when she talked “gooning” (look it up) with Texas-based Caleb Hammer, a podcaster who humiliates people about their debt.

In that time, the governor has successfully avoided talking about:

1. The protracted budget discussion. At any point. Before. During. After.

2. Fay Beydoun. The Democratic Party insider who helped Whitmer raise a ton of money, scored a \$20 million grant in 2022 and squandered millions of it.

3. The House Republicans’ denial of \$644 million of carry-over spending from last year (see last week’s column).

4. The new \$420 million wholesale tax on marijuana to pay for her new roads plan.

There’s more, but I only have 675 words.



On Oct. 7, Whitmer signed a budget in her locked ceremonial office. A Detroit News reporter found out about it and camped outside her front door. Whitmer avoided her.

The governor did a budget road show in Trenton, Flint and Clinton Township. In every case, Lansing’s print media was informed AFTER the event. A radio friend told us about the Clinton Township one, so we were there.

Bu the governor didn’t answer questions.

Instead, her team offered up . . . not the budget director, not the Democratic Senate majority leader . . . wait for it . . . Republican House Speaker Matt Hall.

Whitmer has had time for social media, of course. She’s shopping for Dad in Frankenmuth. Making pastries in the kitchen. Playing “Name That Tune.”

Anyway, back to the turkey pardon. We’re all crammed under this small tent watching Whitmer save “Faygo” and “Vernors” from the butcher.

The cold rain beats down on the tarp. Speech. Laughs. Another speech. We wait anxiously for Whitmer to “open it up for questions.”

Instead, the Governor’s security cuts her away to the Capitol’s side entrance. Most of the media is stuck behind the throng of staffers, kids and parents. I’m better positioned and dash to the front door. Hot on her heels.

Capitol security stops me. My computer bag set off the metal detector. The entourage breaks to the rotunda. I clear security, trotting quickly. The entourage swiftly breaks down the north hall to the Capitol’s maintenance entrance. I’m nearly there. I open my mouth for a “Wait up, governor,” when . . .

“Hello, I’m with the governor’s office.”

Rats. A new staffer. She’s running interference. They’re climbing down the stairs. The staffer and I walk and talk. They shoot through security again. I’m trying to keep pace. I catch the door outside . . . just as she climbs into the black SUV. It quickly pulls onto Ottawa.

“Sorry, Kyle. We’re running late,” says Bobby, the governor’s communications director.

The other media finally catch up. Bobby talks “year-end interviews.”

Eyes roll. I couldn’t help but wonder: “Maybe the real turkeys today was us.”

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

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1345

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 812, Section 812.01 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to modify the boundaries of the Principal Shopping District, as well as Zone B and Zone C North.

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk’s Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#25-408

Capital Area Transportation Authority Public Meeting Notice Service Changes Effective Jan. 12, 2026

The Capital Area Transportation Authority will host a series of public meetings to present service changes effective Jan. 12, 2026. The following routes and services are included in the service changes:

- Route 3 (Willow – Marketplace)**
Eliminate the extension to Marketplace Boulevard, returning the western end of service to the Lansing Mall, as it operated prior to May 2023.
- Route 38 (Spartan Village)**
Eliminate the route, which operated during MSU’s fall and spring semesters, and provide year-round service to Crescent Road (Spartan Village) on Route 20.
- Spec-Tran Boundary Reduction**
Eliminate paratransit service between Creyts Road and Nixon Road in Delta Township, returning to the boundary as it existed prior to May 2023.
- CATA Rydz Delta Township Zone Boundary Reduction**
Eliminate service north of I-496 and west of I-69/I-96 between Millet Highway and Willow Highway.

Details of service changes are available online at cata.org/Rider-Information/Alert/7515. Representatives from CATA will be present at the open-forum public meetings listed below. There is no formal presentation is planned, allowing CATA staff to meet and interact with attendees on an individual basis. Public comment is welcome. The same service information will be available at each meeting, allowing area residents to attend any session of their choosing.

Date	Municipality	Facility	Address	Time
Jan. 20, 2026	Delta Township	Lansing Mall, JCPenney Wing	5330 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917	6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 22, 2026	Lansing	CATA Transportation Center	420 South Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933	6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Both facilities are served by CATA fixed routes and Spec-Tran for the duration of each meeting. Spec-Tran rides must be reserved by 5 p.m. the evening before the session an individual plans to attend. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1000. CATA will make every attempt to provide reasonable accommodation for requests submitted by 5 p.m. Jan. 16.

For those unable to attend a meeting but would like to provide input, visit cata.org/Rider-Information/Alert/7515 to review details, email comments to marketing@cata.org or submit written comments to:

January 2026 Service Changes Feedback
Capital Area Transportation Authority
Attn: Marketing Department
4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910

Members of the public can also contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1000, Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All comments must be received by 7:30 p.m., Jan. 22, 2026. Visit cata.org for the latest information.

CP#25-410

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA**

Please take notice that a public hearing will be held on the 5th day of January 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in meeting room “A” of the Delta Township Administration Building, 7710 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48917, to consider an application by GrainProteinTech Climate Control Air Treatment US LLC to transfer Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate #2015-175A from Munters Corp to GrainProteinTech Climate Control Air Treatment US LLC, for the remaining years approved under Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate #2015-175A with an end date of December 30, 2026. The property is located in the Clark on Ena Industrial Development District pursuant to P.A. 198 legally described as:

commencing at the East ¼ corner of Section 28; thence s 89 deg 31 min 46 sec w 921.14 ft. For pob. Thence s 89 deg 31 min 49 sec w 540.08 ft., n 01 deg 15 min 33 sec e 590 ft., s 89 deg 31 min 49 sec w 400 ft., n 1 deg 15 min 33 sec e 742.55 ft., n 89 deg 31 min 54 sec e 424.96 ft., n 00 deg 18 min 17 sec w 410 ft., s 89 deg 31 min 15 sec w 413.76 ft., n 1 deg 15 min 33 sec e 200.09 ft., n 89 deg 31 min 54 sec e 553.05 ft., s 00 deg 18 min 17 sec e 619.52 ft., n 89 deg 31 min 32 sec e 334 ft., s 00 deg 18 min 17 sec w 1322.56 ft. to POB, containing 26.61 acers more or less

All interested persons are invited to attend and offer comments orally at the public hearing. Interested persons unable to attend this hearing may, within 30 days after the hearing, submit written comments to Mr. Brian Reed, Township Manager. Ph. # (517) 323-8590. A copy of the proposed application is on file with the Delta Township Clerk and available for review.

Individuals with disabilities attending Township meetings or hearings and requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Township Manager and ADA Coordinator Brian T. Reed by email at manager@deltami.gov or calling (517) 323-8590 to inform him of the date of the meeting or hearing that will be attended. Copies of minutes may be purchased or viewed in the Clerk's Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

CP#25-401

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

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A public hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance 1555, which would establish an R-O-1 Residential Rental Restriction Overlay District over properties located on Coolidge, Cowley, Harvard, and W. Saginaw roads near the intersection of W. Saginaw St. and Coolidge Rd. An R-O-1 overlay district, if approved, would prohibit the issuance of any initial rental license for the affected properties.
2. A public hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance 1556, which would require new fences to be installed with the finished side facing outwards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated: December 18, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#25-404

**CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY
OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1545**

On December 6, 2025, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 50 – Zoning, Article 1, Section 50-6, of the code of the city of East Lansing for the purposes of amending the definition of family.

Effective date: Pursuant to Charter Section 6.3, Upon publication
Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 1st Floor, City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Emily Gordon,
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#25-403

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1347**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to add a new section 888.35 for the purposes of providing for a service charge in lieu of taxes for one hundred and thirty-six (136) low-income multi-family dwelling units in a project known as Pinebrook Manor, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, Public Act 346 of 1966, as amended, MCL 125.1401, et seq. (the "Act").

Effective date: Upon publication
Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#25-407

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Z-3-2025, 117 Island Avenue
Rezoning from R-3 "Residential" to MX-C "Mixed Use Urban Corridor"**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider a request to rezone Z-3-2025, 117 Island Ave. from R-3 "Residential" to MX-C "Mixed Use Urban Corridor". The purpose of the rezoning is to permit off-street accessory parking.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 12, 2026 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#25-405

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Z-1-2025, 3310 W Mt. Hope Road
Rezoning from R-1 "Residential" to MFR "Multi Family Residential"**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider a request to rezone Z-1-2025, 3310 West Mount Hope Road from R-1 "Residential" to MFR "Multi Family Residential". The purpose of the rezoning is to permit multiple-family residential use of the subject property.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 12, 2026 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#25-406



**VERDI,
MILLER, &
BRAHMS**
03 Masterworks Series

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra.

January 9th
7:30 PM Wharton Center

RESERVE YOUR SEAT

Holiday poetry returns — under new management

The Poetry Room and the MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design are thrilled to bring you this year’s Holiday Issue. Poetry has always been a gathering place — a table where we hear one another’s stories and offer our own. With the themes of community, food and the holidays as our guide, we invited artists to share work rooted in the season’s spirit. What you hold here is the result of many hands, much care and deep creativity. We hope it brings you joy, and that you’ll join us in the community soon.

Curated and edited by:
Masaki Takahashi, Laurén Gerig and Dennis Hinrichsen

SECTION I — We Gather

- 1. The Season We Make ... page 10
- 2. Tinsel Tree Momma ... page 10

- 3. Grandpa’s Cooking ... page 11
- 4. Time Loop ... page 11

SECTION II — Where Memory Lingers

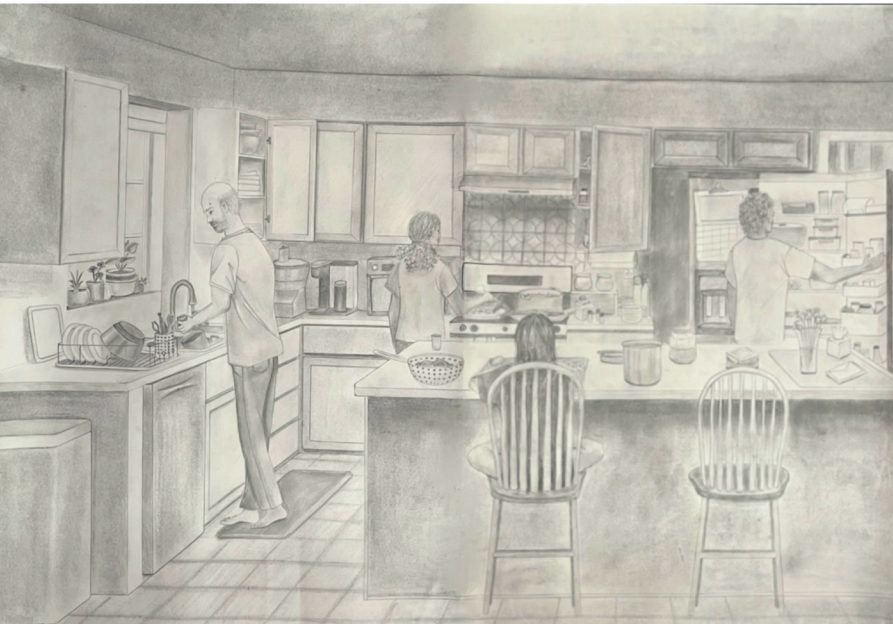
- 1. Christmas Eve, 1997 ... page 12
- 2. Blue Star Christmas ... page 12
- 3. In Memoriam: Christmas Greetings ... page 13
- 4. Benediction ... page 13

SECTION III — Finding Heart in Winter

- 1. Snowflake (reclaimed) ... page 14
- 2. A Softer Season ... page 14
- 3. Great Grand ... page 15
- 4. Silent Snow ... page 15

Coda - The Light

- 1. Candles ... page 16
- 2. Marcescence ... page 16
- 3. Sailing Home ... page 16



“Home Cooked,” by Anika Balakrishnan. Graphite and charcoal.



“Wash Your Hands!” by April Montoye.

“Guarded,” by Genevieve Rogers. Oil on canvas.

Tinsel Tree Momma

Momma is throwing
silver tinsel
over
our
fresh cut
Christmas tree
Daddy's cigarettes dance
and burn
in
the
ember(ed)
Elvis ashtray
The radio blares
as we
bounce
popcorn balls
wrapped in
wrinkled
wax paper
Sugar cookies
cut
frosted
and
decorated
in
red hots,
sprinkles
and
gold balls
placed
on
plates
that
swing
swing
swing
Magical midnight
moon
berried
mistletoe
moves
as
we
kiss
kiss
kiss
by
the
front door
Momma and I
step
step
step
as
red, yellow,
green and blue
color wheel
diamonds
twirl
out
tinsel(ed)
silver stars
swirling
over
our
house
tonight

— Nancy Knox, poet dancing
in plates of stars.



“Christmas in the mountains,” by Ashlyn Ritter.
Charcoal on paper.



“Presence,” by Mahbube Parnian. Dyed fabric, thread, print.

The Season We Make

It's the season of "Give Back" commercials
and photo op charity that feeds more cameras than mouths,
but the real ones have been giving all year—
half their meal,
their last ride,
their time,
their shoulder.

We gather in borrowed spaces,
where the heat clicks off mid-sentence,
and somebody says, "It's fine, just talk."
We do.
We talk about rent,
about health,
about how tired we are
of surviving being the only tradition that never changes.

Still, we cook.
Still, we bring what we can,
a pot of beans,
a song,
a story that almost hurts too much to tell.
We laugh loud enough to make the walls remember us.

This is the holiday,
not the glitter,
but the grit.
Not the tree,
but the hands that built it from what we had left.

We light candles for the ones who couldn't make it,
and say their names between bites.
We remind each other
that being alive this long is a kind of rebellion.

The spirit of the season isn't found in the store window.
It's in the soup kitchens,
the shelters,
the neighbor who checks on you
even when they got nothing left to give.

It's the sound of community breathing in unison,
the quiet knowing
that we are each other's miracle.

So let them have their slogans.
We'll have each other.
We'll keep making warmth
out of what the world calls scraps.

— Angela Mlot, a poet and advocate in Lansing, whose voice is
rooted in feeling, hope and the fierce desire for a better world.

Grandpa’s Cooking

I cannot wait to go home
I cannot wait to go home, I cannot wait to go home
because I heard that grandpa cooked today
It's boiling in the iron
It's boiling in the iron, it's been boiling in the iron
for hours now mama says
And I know what it is, I know what it is
I know that it is gravy jellied to savory perfection
That has been soaked into liver
and those onions and those carrots
and every minute that I am away, every minute that I am away
every minute I am away from my street, my driveway
my front door, a spoon and a bowl
is agony

— Nike Truth, storyteller and poet who resides in West Michigan.



“Real Taste of MDD,” by Eric Saunders. Oil on canvas.



“FEAST OF COLORS,” by Eric Saunders. Visual design.

TIME LOOP

I’m home again.
I swore I wouldn’t come back,
but it’s November, so I’m home again.
I said I was out of here,
so soft I turned into the river and ran away,
but the river freezes over and I walk back.
In the morning, there’s snow on the grass
outside the window that used to be my sister’s.
Everything has changed,
but it’s November,
so we’re talking about what to bake for the holidays,
and I’m back on the tile floor that makes my feet burn.
Everything is the same.
Every November I’m older,
everything I thought would happen hasn’t happened,
yet everything has changed.
Soon it will be Christmas.
I’ll wear pink pajamas and be a kid again.
Everything is the same.
The person I’ll spend the most of my holidays with
isn’t here yet, and I’m tired of waiting.
This year I made a promise not to regret anything,
and I’m not going to wait for love
when there’s love right in front of me.
I’ve searched for a place
and there’s a place right here.
I’ve made it home, year after year.
Nothing can change this house while my family is still here.
Even with new cabinets and fresh paint,
nothing has truly changed.
I’ll stop waiting,
I’ll watch the lights,
I’ll stop waiting,
for no one’s waiting for me,
because I’m already home.

— Elizabeth Cooper, author of “Undoing a Work of Fiction” and “Conversations with Hunger”



“Bar On Michigan Ave,” by Amanda Roberts. Chalk pastel, oil and glitter on canvas.

Blue Star Christmas

(dedicated to my parents)

A hand carved wooden blue star on my tree,
cheap twist tie holds,
1974 was lean.

They said I do,
celestial white paint U.P. winter warmth.

I am reminded each December,
if anyone loved me more, I can't remember.

Please come back
but hang up your oxygen cords I need you now.

But you aren't my now,
you are before and the stories I pass on, folklore.

50 years have come and gone
But the star does not fade
It's not youth, friendships or light in the sky

and that soothes the ache
just for a minute, but it's actually a year
until I see it back on the tree

And I try not to be green
for those who post photos unaware of their four leaf clover.

My blue star is what I see.
I hear her voice, his laughter.
A homemaker and a working man.

And if you also grieve as the lights twinkle,
know my blue star, my north star,
hangs on for you too.

— **Becky Jensen**, a Lansing-area poet, communications leader and mother to one incredible daughter.

Christmas Eve, 1997

The dark December air
forges nose crystals
forces our blood into retreat
blushes our cheeks
reminds us we have lungs
It's a night you would call
painfully crisp
On this longest night
the house is bright
red, green, white lights
encircle the homestead
winking from bushes and eaves
a circumambulation
repelling the darkness
yet the darkness
lives here now
a black hole the shape of you
bending the light
it is wholly night
We sing tradition in a minor key
leave a seat for your shadow
good news and great joy
discordant and muted
the memories
painfully crisp
On this longest night
we whisper the promise
that this darkness will diminish
as the light begins its
reclamation project

— **Chad Sanders**, a retired Everett High School journalism teacher who enjoys the idea of hiking.



“The Hope,” by Mahbube Parnian. Mixed media.

Benediction

Below the sparkling
tinsel that makes the tree
shimmy
the green wreath
candy dish handle
glued back on.
time to use the good china
rim of silver circling
the memory of a marriage
the poinsettia fills
the kitchen table
alive with cheer

you told me I should think
about having a child
I might be sorry
you told me
you would make
a good father
heated debates
that shattered
the holiday feast
below the tinsel
is a smooth red heart
made from recycled glass
I light candles
remember
I do.

— Maureen Hart, freelance individual, environmental consultant.



“Floral Feet,” by Genevieve Rogers.



“Luke 15.11-32,” by Leah Clark. Charcoal on paper.

In Memoriam: Christmas Greetings

Suspended in the space outside a snow-framed window,
grief floats above the sandy snowscape to comfort me.
On my couch trapped in the gravity of loss, I flip
calendar pages that once again counted down
another year without you.

Again, we will not share the lights of our Christmas tree
nor sample cookies I bake for Christmas Day.
I won’t catch you stealing deviled eggs
from the trays I plan to take to parties.
And I know, even if that is all I’d want for Christmas,
I cannot bring you back.

So as you funnel down to that emptiness above the snow
and evaporate into the stars, look my way as you go.
Feel the pull of my love suspended in that inaccessible blankness
where once we touched, where I still embrace
what bridged us, and in the brightness of that light
wish me “Merry Christmas” once again.

Originally published in “Reading Lessons,” by Mary Fox (Finishing Line Press, 2019).

— Mary Fox, retired teacher (Fowler Public Schools, LCC writing instructor, author of three books of poetry).

A Softer Season

I'm happy to report back to myself
that I'm learning to hold the good,
the way I hold a warm plate fresh from the oven,
careful but unafraid.
I used to grip so tightly I'd lose what was meant for me,
as if joy were an ornament ready to break,
as if love needed armor.
But this season
in my crowded kitchens
with my loud families,
and the comfort of community
I've been learning to trust.
To let things rise in their own time,
to believe what stays
is choosing to stay.
I'm trying not to rush ahead,
not to sweeten the story too soon,
not to fear tenderness
just because I've never been fed it gently.
And still, when the noise fades
and the night folds in,
I feel that ache of wanting:
the warmth that lingers,
the memory of connection
sticking to me like spice on my hands.
Sometimes I worry I'm too much
too flavored, too intense,
but maybe that's my gift.
Maybe caring deeply
isn't a flaw but a seasoning.
And those small check-ins,
those ten-second thinking of you moments
they light me up like holiday lights
I didn't ask to plug in.
They remind me I'm remembered
in rooms I'm not standing in.
People say I seem lighter lately,
like someone turned up the heat inside me.
Maybe joy has been teaching me
to breathe softer,
to let life warm me
instead of burn me.
So I'm letting affection be what it is,
a shared table
instead of a claim.
And in the quiet
while I cook, wrap, move
and emptiness tries to fill me,
I'll follow that something warm and steady
pulling me forward.
I'm happy that when the snow falls this year.
I'll be one step closer
to being me once more.

— **Karionna Graham**, local high schooler and founder of
Teens for Thanks who writes stories tuned to the rhythms of
the world.



“Chosen Family,” by Amanda Roberts.
Oil and glitter on canvas.

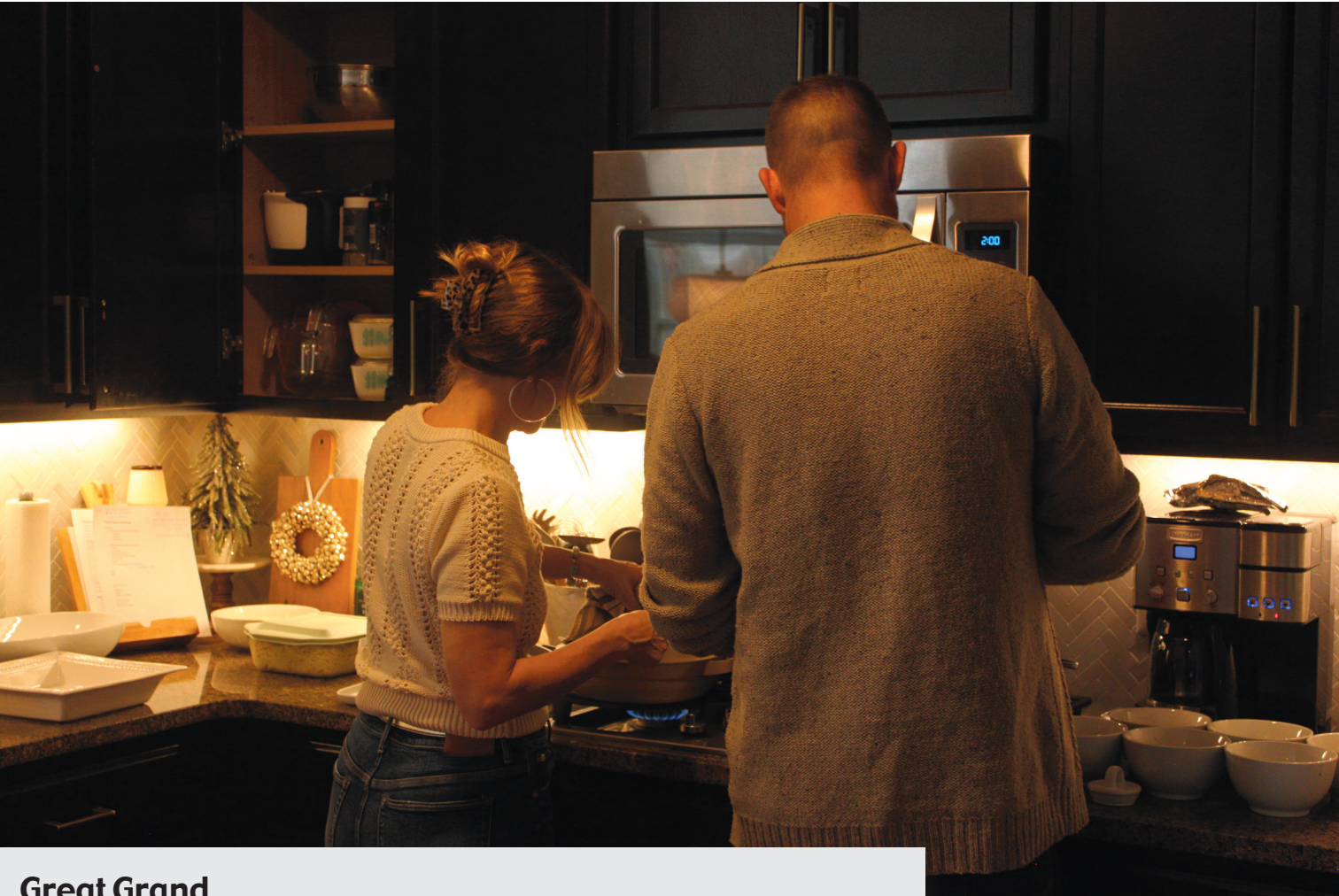
Snowflake (reclaimed)

*
What's
the
point
if
not
to
become
more
than
you
are
alone
?

— **Danita Brandt**, educator and East Lan-
sing resident with a penchant for economy
in written and spoken communication.



“Home for the Holidays,” by Maddie
Russell. Digital Drawing.



“Give Thanks,”
by Elliot Anulewicz.
Photography.

Great Grand

My brothers are eight feet tall now
When the first snow comes, they run in circles outside like they are smaller
Play football in the backyard and stomp freezing 5k
I wipe my nose and grin
We are still here to celebrate

The good, the bad, and the Christmas tree picking come gather around the dinner table
When we were younger,
it mattered so hard it broke our faces open
cracked smiles so the light could peek through
I knew snow like an extra day home with my mother
I knew holiday like family shoes piled at the front door
I watched the birds leave and wished them well
I nursed the full stomach and thanked a god I named once yearly

I wanted to be warm
so I closed my eyes and imagined the dog at the back door
My mother’s hands around a dish rag
Everyone at the table
and everyone shouting goodbye as they wandered out
All the air in the room used and satisfied

When a season closes,
there is only the host waving and cleaning the feast
Snow covers the driveway but it is warm in here
Warm where we plan and fight and love
Warm where I ask you how you’re doing
and pray for you like I mean it

My brothers are eight feet tall now,
but we are children in these walls
We return home,
more space in our bodies only to eat what they make us
and laugh louder into the dark weeks

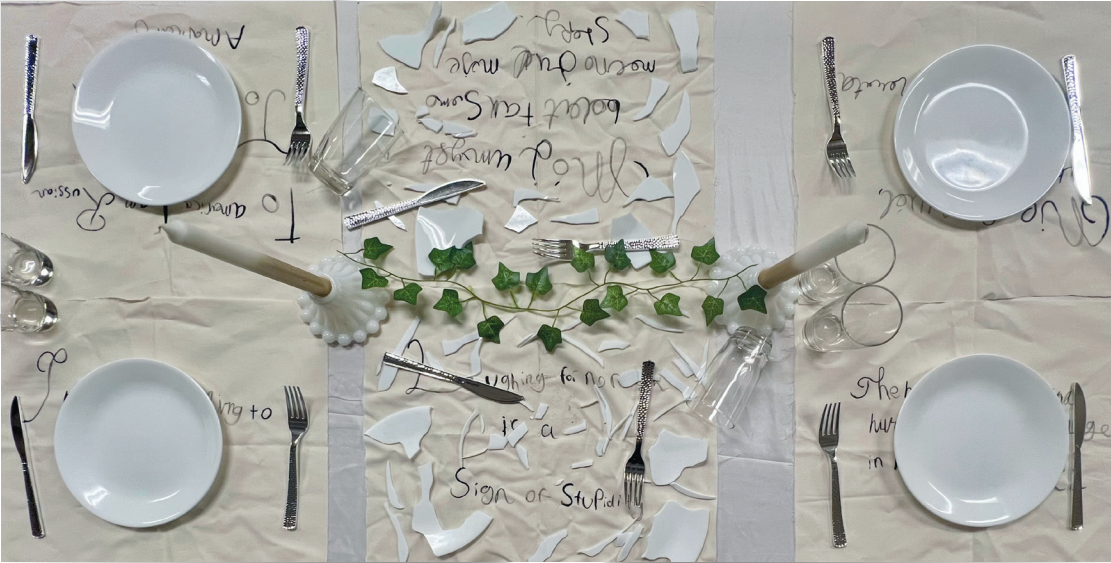
We lay our heads down at night to pray
already grateful for tomorrow

— **Claire Donohoe**, writer, performer and MSU alum based in metro Detroit.

Silent Snow

Christmas morning greeted us one year
with a thick blanket of vivid snow and
six turkeys perched in the bare branches of the mock apple tree.
Like a song offered through those boughs,
...My true love sent to me.
Christmas morning last year, another thick blanket of snow.
No turkeys, no flutter of cardinals by the feeder.
Only a stillness, like an aftermath.
In the bare branches of a distant tree
the unmoved stature of a Cooper’s Hawk.
Blood and feathers below
in the silent snow.

— **Kathy Swearingen** enjoys writing, nature, dogs and wondering where the next sentence might lead.



“Wigilia Hunger,” by Emily Schneider.
Sculpture installation.

CityPULSE

Now more than ever...

Mail checks to City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

To contribute by credit card, please go to www.lansingcitypulse.org/support-us/ or call (517) 999-6704

Candles

They burned us for our power to see, even to heat a little pot of water.

To remember the dead, wreathed in lichen and worms, and to attend spirits, breath over the water, wind flickering and even feeding the flame. They burned us to sell and to celebrate, defiled oil we just couldn't shake.

In the window, on the floor, our hovering eyes claim another: who has come to be hypnotized, and who has come to dance?

— **Gabriel Biber**, local nonprofit leader, community organizer and collaborative instrumentalist.



“Give Thanks,” by Elliot Anulewicz. Photography.



“Amid light and gloom,” by Mahbube Parnian. Mixed-media drawing.

Marcescence

Could we see it as opportunity—the annual wilt and wither, of a planet atilt?

Survey the newfound ice caps of our alienated home-scapes with curiosity as lighter days fade?

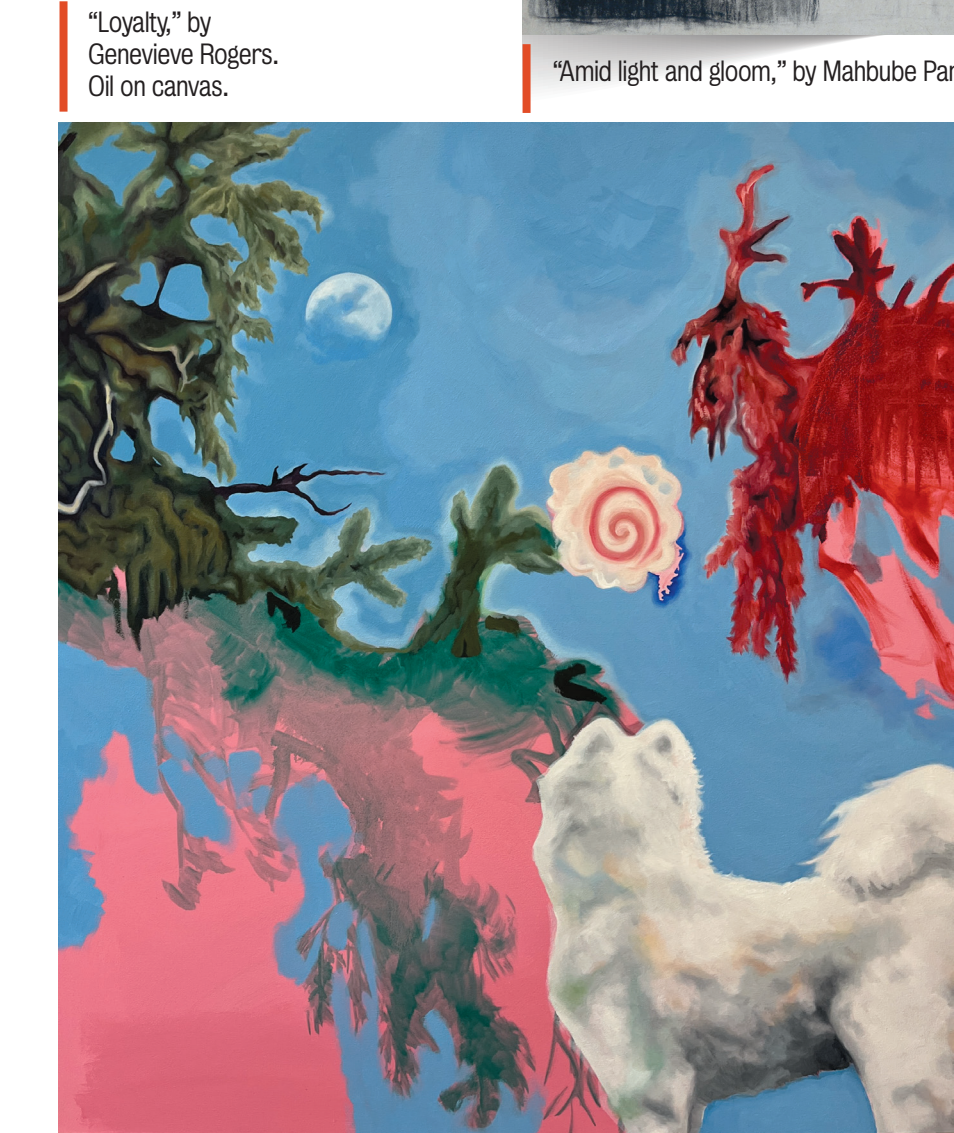
Bundled, we follow fresh animal treads roving over frozen grounds. Sojourning together

to the smooth beech—called closer by the waves of her spirited leaves,

signal fires of frost and forest, of the ingenuity and perseverance, that the dimming season demands, having

launched from long days of hanging out into the cold, breathless air of hanging on.

— **Joel Nagel**, nonprofit director and writer living in the Lansing area with his wife, daughters and a dog who has devoted her life to crime.



Sailing Home

Dark of the moon at Christmas time
Stars are tiny fires on the dark and silent bowl of night and
We are sliding slowly and steadily
Across the flat and calm and misty ocean
Across the flat and calm and misty ocean that paints
A lovely green and phosphorescent wake behind us
Our wake becoming a series of rolling glowing lines
Spread out astern in a phosphorescent V
And I am sprawled on a pile of damp and crackling nets
In the stern of the heavy old trawler
Gazing toward the bow
I see before me the mast
A perfect cross before me in the misty night
Glowing in the phosphorescent green of St Elmo's fire
A green and glowing cross that represents a third of a God
In whom I see a symbol of a man whose story I admire
A man whose loving kindness and generosity I celebrate
The son of a God in which I cannot convince myself to believe.
We are sailing home to a death that brings us peace at last.
From the vagaries of life: a hope for loving eternity
A release from the desperation of needs
At last we can flee into the boundless universe of lightness
Loving what our work has done for us, for our humanness
And hope that those who follow us in life and death
Will come to peace at last
And sail home together

— **Daniel Carleton**, a rhetoric teacher, a lobster fisherman, a machinery dealer: 77 years old and still writing.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

A toast to 2025 New Year's Eve events in Greater Lansing

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**
and **MIKE ELLIS**

Though we haven't even made it through Christmas yet, New Year's Eve is bound to sneak up between winter break activities, time off of work and travel plans. For those who are sticking around, City Pulse has compiled a list of events throughout the day, evening and into the early morning — ranging from a masquerade murder mystery dinner and an '80s throwback concert to dance parties and more intimate bar gatherings — so you don't miss a thing.

New Year's Eve at High Caliber

Noon-1 a.m.
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
Free admission, some activities paid

High Caliber Karting & Entertainment invites daredevils and thrill seekers to kick off their 2026 at full speed with a plethora of attractions and special activities, including best of 2025 trivia, a tournament on the Mega Track (with a year of unlimited racing for the winner), karaoke, a DJ, a rage room and a midnight balloon drop. The event will also offer selfie stations, glow accessories and specialty cocktails and mocktails.

Launch Trampoline Park New Year's Eve celebration

4-7 p.m.
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
\$35

This youth-focused New Year's celebration will offer unlimited jumping and laser tag, complimentary grip socks, a reloadable arcade card with eight credits, a balloon drop with a juice toast, crafts, party favors and photos with Launch's kangaroo mascot, Joey. Food and drink specials will be available for parents.

Time Warp to Y2K

5:30-9 p.m.
BAD Brewing Co.
440 S. Jefferson St., Mason
\$45

BAD Brewing Co. invites attendees of its Y2K-themed New Year's Eve celebration to relive the era when "the music slapped, the snacks were bomb and the games were hella competitive."



Metro Creative Connection

Appetizers, dinner and dessert will be served. Bingo and other games will start at 6 p.m., with winners receiving prizes and the opportunity to select the next song. The event will end well before midnight, allowing guests to attend additional parties or gatherings.

New Year's Eve contra and square dance

6:30 p.m.-12:15 a.m.
Central United Methodist Church
215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
\$5-\$30 (pay what you can)

The Ten Pound Fiddle invites contra and square dancers to groove their way into 2026, with music by the Sligo Creek Ramblers (Marty Somberg, Hannah Harris and Bear Whitmer) and dance calling by Liz Burkhart. The evening will kick off with a potluck. Guests should bring a dish to share and a place setting. There will be a dance lesson prior to the main event and a break at 9:45 for desserts.

Summerlands Brewing Co. New Year's Eve celebration

7 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
1957 Cedar St., Holt
No cover

Summerlands will debut a new beer, a Belgian dubbel, at its New Year's Eve party. The brew is described as "rich and flavorful," with notes of dark fruit, caramel and subtle spice. Rock band Krosby's Conspiracy will perform from 8 to 11, and the brewery's Bubbly Blanc

hard seltzer will be discounted to \$2 for a midnight toast.

Rock Bar New Year's Eve party

7 p.m.-1 a.m.
The Graduate Hotel
133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing
\$80/person

The Graduate Rock Bar will celebrate New Year's Eve in style with a live DJ, a photo booth, hors d'oeuvres, a complimentary beverage and a midnight toast. Tickets are available for individuals and couples.

New Year's Eve party with Starfarm

8 p.m.
Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
\$41-\$96

Local cover band Starfarm will spend New Year's Eve serenading the crowd at Grewal Hall with a lengthy setlist of '80s hits, from pop to rock to new wave. Proceeds will benefit Punks with Lunch. VIP tickets are available, offering access to seating, private bathrooms and a private bar. Attendees must be 21 or older.

TGIF New Year's Eve Midnight Blue Dance Party

8 p.m.-midnight
Eagle Eye Banquet Center
15500 Chandler Road, Bath
\$30 adv., \$35 at the door

DJ Pat Johnson will keep the crowd

moving at a special New Year's edition of the biweekly TGIF Dance Party. A dinner buffet, a midnight champagne toast, noisemakers, hats and coffee are included in the price of admission. A cash/credit bar will be available. Formal attire is encouraged.

The Tee Box New Year's Eve Party

8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Royal Scot Golf & Bowl
4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing
\$20

The Tee Box, a bourbon bar and golf simulator room at Lansing's Royal Scot Golf & Bowl, will open its doors to 60 attendees on New Year's Eve for golf, party favors, hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast at midnight.

A Night at the Soul Lounge New Year's Eve party

9:30 p.m.
Lansing Shuffle
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
\$10-\$25

DJs Kaels, Rexto and E-Nyce will provide the soundtrack to a special New Year's edition of the monthly Night at the Soul Lounge dance party, spinning popular hip-hop, R&B, house and afrobeat hits as the clock ticks down to midnight. Tickets purchased online in advance will include access to an express entry line. The AC Hotel, an event sponsor, is offering a discounted rate for attendees from out of town or locals who would like to spend the night away from home.

Midnight Masquerade

Start time TBA
DoubleTree by Hilton
111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
\$125

Mystery, intrigue, elegance and more will come together at the DoubleTree, where guests will help solve a crime before the stroke of midnight. An interactive murder mystery will unfold alongside a three-course dinner, drinks, a midnight toast and more surprises. Masquerade-appropriate clothing is suggested. A room with two queen beds — plus brunch, a late checkout and free parking — starts at \$357.

Michigan’s path to Schedule III

The \$1.8 billion tax break and the ghost of prohibition

By CHRIS SILVA

For years, Michigan’s cannabis operators have been fighting a war on two fronts. Locally, they face a race to the bottom, with the average price of an ounce having dropped to double digits. Federally, they’ve been treated like cartel bosses by the IRS, forced to pay taxes on gross profits because of a Reagan-era relic called Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code.

With the federal government finally moving to make cannabis a Schedule III drug, the industry has reached a tipping point. For Lansing-area staples and statewide powerhouses, this isn’t just a “legal update”—it’s a balance sheet revolution. Yet, for those still sitting in federal prison cells, the news carries a

much sharper sting.

The death of 280E: A game of survival

Cannabis’ move to Schedule III is a financial pressure valve. Under the current rules, businesses cannot deduct “ordinary and necessary” expenses like rent, payroll, utility bills or marketing from federal taxes. This leaves Michigan marijuana businesses with effective tax rates often hitting 70% to 80%.

By rescheduling cannabis, the feds are finally acknowledging cannabis has medical value. More importantly, it nullifies 280E. In a state like Michigan, this change alone would keep hundreds of millions of dollars in the hands of local businesses, rather than the federal treasury.

What it could mean for local operators

1. Pure Options (the scale powerhouse)

As a vertically integrated giant, Pure Options and its cultivation arm, Pro Gro, manage one of the state’s largest marijuana workforces. Under the old tax rules, every dollar spent on employee health care or facility maintenance was essentially a “luxury” the IRS wouldn’t recognize. Cannabis’ move to Schedule III allows Pure Options to operate like a standard agricultural and retail business, freeing up capital to stabilize prices or reinvest in Lansing’s local workforce.

2. Element & Lion Labs (the tech innovators)

For the team at Lion Labs — the specialists behind Element — the rescheduling of cannabis legitimizes the science of the plant. Its model relies on high-tech hydrocarbon extraction and R&D. Schedule III status could lower the perceived risk for lenders, potentially opening the door for traditional equipment financing and banking services that may have been previously blocked by risk-averse compliance decisions.

3. Redemption (the moral compass)

For Ryan Basore, the CEO of Redemption Cannabis, cannabis rescheduling is both personal and professional. Basore, who served federal time for cannabis before the state went legal, has built a brand centered on helping others affected by prohibition.

In a recent conversation, Basore noted that while the change is a “great step in cannabis regulation,” its most immediate impact is operational. He welcomed the news, noting it would allow business owners to receive much-needed tax relief and, crucially, obtain access to traditional funding — a hurdle that has stifled small and legacy operators for years. For Basore, this is about more than just profit; it’s about the survival of the “soul” of the industry in the face of corporate consolidation.

The justice gap

While CEOs and investors are celebrating the tax savings, a dark cloud remains: Rescheduling is not legalization.

The most glaring example for Lansing residents is Danny Trevino. Once a



prominent local entrepreneur and the owner of the Hydro World dispensary chain, Trevino was a fixture in the fight for Michigan’s medical laws. In 2020, he was sentenced to nearly 16 years in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute.

The judge in Trevino’s case famously noted that while Michigan law had changed, federal law had not. Trevino remains incarcerated for activities that are now part of the bedrock of our state’s economy.

Rescheduling cannabis does not trigger retroactive sentencing relief or automatic release. It does not expunge records or open the doors for federal cannabis prisoners.

We are entering a surreal era where a cannabis brand can deduct its payroll taxes, while a pioneer like Trevino remains in a cell for the same plant.

Call to action: Bridging the gap

As Michigan’s cannabis industry enters this new era of financial freedom, the community cannot afford to leave its pioneers behind. If you want to see the “freedom” in Michigan’s cannabis market apply to more than just a tax return, here is how you can help:

* Support the Last Prisoner Project:

The LPP is advocating for clemency for federal prisoners like Trevino. Visit lastprisonerproject.org to join its letter-writing campaigns.

* Back Redemption Cannabis:

A portion of every Redemption purchase goes toward the Redemption Foundation, supporting those still incarcerated or on probation.

* Contact your reps:

Urge Michigan’s congressional delegation to support broader clemency for nonviolent cannabis offenders. The tax break for businesses is a start, but human liberty must be the finish line.

Rescheduling cannabis could well save Michigan’s industry from financial collapse.

But as long as Trevino is serving a 188-month sentence, even if the state collects hundreds of millions in revenue, the victory remains incomplete.

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1346

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

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk’s Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#25-409



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE 2025-02 YOUTH COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Variance Request #26-01 2403 Haslett Road Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Konstantinos Marselis. The applicant is proposing to create two lots from one existing lot. The proposed lots do not meet the minimum lot width requirement at 2403 Haslett Road. The subject site is zoned RR, Rural Residential.

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

CP#25-400

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“The Other Way” -- makes more sense how you read it.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. First, second, or reverse
5. Castle barriers
10. Muesli bits
14. European capital city formerly known as Christiania
15. “Star Wars” android ___ Detoo
16. Burr/Hamilton showdown
17. Singer who complements the lead
19. Dame ___ Everage (Barry Humphries alter ego)
20. “The Road Not ___” (Robert Frost poem)
21. “Walk-___ welcome”
23. Charged particle
24. “Affirmative”
25. Pre-employment screening
30. ___ Taco (discontinued Good Humor-Breyers ice cream snack)
31. Blue Jays’ prov.
32. Apollo 13 gp.
35. ___ bait (Oxford’s Word of the Year 2025, referring to dubious online engagement tactics)
37. “Schitt’s Creek” star Catherine
40. Available again, like a hot item
43. All confused
44. Coffee-brewing choice
45. Wine bottle sediment
46. Chewed stimulant familiar to Scrabble players
47. Right now
49. 1980s movie starring Michael J. Fox

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20								21		22		23		
24				25	26	27	28				29			
			30							31				
32	33	34			35			36		37			38	39
40				41					42					
43						44					45			
			46					47			48			
49	50				51	52						53	54	55
56				57						58	59			
60			61		62		63	64	65					
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

53. Fedora, e.g.
56. Ovine opinion
57. Snub-nosed dog
58. Mesoamerican staple crop
60. Actress Miranda
62. “I Want It That Way” group
66. Santos of “Superstore”
67. British racetrack locale
68. Projection room spool
69. Buccaneer’s refrain
70. Absolut competitor, informally
71. “Free Willy” creature
- DOWN
1. “I___ run”
2. Written test format
3. Comparable
4. Dramatic part
5. Hawaiian ___ salad (noodle-based side dish)
6. Gold, in Guatemala
7. 4-wheel drive transport
8. Debate subject
9. Noise
10. Keats poem
11. Cassette
12. High guy?
13. Urban Dictionary content
18. Ancient symbol of life, in 52-Down
22. “Gin & Juice” rapper, familiarly
26. Insulated electrical cable
27. Holiday greeting that doesn’t include an envelope
28. “A Rake’s Progress” painter William
29. Wicked
30. Lunged toward
32. “Don’t share any information” contract, for short
33. Farm animal?
34. Pacific Northwest cryptozoology subject
36. “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats” poet
38. Corned beef bread
39. “Six-pack” muscles
41. Eagerly devour
42. Hairstyle that uses hairpins
48. “Look ___ now!”
49. Wood traditionally used in pianos
50. 3-to-1, for one
51. They’re sometimes blown
52. Country straddling two continents
53. Employment manager
54. Worshipper of Quetzalcoatl
55. Inventor Nikola
59. Prefix for nautical
61. Tic-tac-toe win
63. Bear, also in Guatemala
64. NBA center Manute who was 7’7”
65. “Didn’t need to hear that!”

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com) Answers on page 21

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

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 Brezсны

Dec. 23-29, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In the Brazilian rainforest, Cecropia trees and Azteca ants have a special relationship. The trees’ hollow branches serve as nesting spaces for the ants and offer them sugar-rich food. In return, the ants aggressively defend the trees from herbivores and predators, protecting them from damage. This mutualism benefits both species. The trees get protection that enhances their growth, while the ants gain shelter and nutrition. In the coming months, Aries, I invite you to seek symbiosis that’s equally vigorous. Enjoy the fun challenge of reducing your solo struggles as you rouse collaborations that boost your power and everyone else’s. The goal is intelligent alliance, not compromise. Be resourceful as you trade a bit too much independence for just the right amount of interdependence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When potters center clay on a wheel, they typically use one hand inside the vessel to apply steady, controlled force. The other hand remains fluid, guiding and stabilizing the outer rim of the spinning clay. This balanced use of pressure — one hand firm and bracing, the other adapting minutely to the shifting clay — helps bring the lump into perfect symmetry. I propose you make this a prime metaphor in the coming months, Taurus: control meeting surrender. You will be crafting a new balance between security and surprise. Too much rigidity, and the form cracks; too much flow, and it collapses. Practice the middle art.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Poet Audre Lorde spoke of how caring for herself was the exact opposite of being selfish. It was the foundation of her ability to serve and inspire other people. My Aunt Sophie used to say, “You can’t pour from an empty cup. Take care of yourself first.” Educator Stephen Covey advised, “Be patient with yourself. Self-growth is tender; it’s holy ground. There’s no greater investment.” Poet Vironika Tugaleva writes, “Learning to love yourself is essential and life changing.” Everything I just said should be your keynotes in the coming months, Gemini. Boost your self-care to sublime levels.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A remarkable species of jellyfish can circumvent the aging and death process that affects all other animals. Turritopsis dohrnii converts its mature, specialized cells back into stem cells, essentially recycling its own body into youth. The process may repeat indefinitely, making the animal theoretically immortal. In the coming months, Cancerian, your emotional wisdom will also show amazing regenerative power. Challenging and intriguing situations will be opportunities for you to initiate stunning acts of renewal. Like the jellyfish, you won’t merely manage change but will use it as a catalyst for vigorous growth. Have you ever before been blessed by such wildly rejuvenative powers of metamorphosis? I don’t think so.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): According to ancient Egyptian myth, the sun god Ra rode a celestial boat across the sky by day. Each night, he plunged into the underworld to wrangle with chaos so he could rebirth light in time for the dawn. That’s your mythic assignment for the coming months, Leo: not to be nonstop luminous, but to renew and nurture your radiance in the dark. Your courage will lie in feeling and learning from your doubts without identifying with them. Your magnetism and wisdom will deepen as you descend. You won’t be less golden for passing through shadow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In medieval monasteries, scribes added whimsical drawings called drolleries into the margins of sacred manuscripts. These marginalia included scenes like frogs playing harps, nuns chasing rabbits and fantastical creatures engaged in playful or absurd activities. How should we interpret these seemingly prankish additions? Scholars disagree. In any case, I recommend you experiment with drolleries of your own, Virgo. Inject improvisation into duty. Add ornament to order. The coming months will reward your serious play. You’ll accomplish more by enjoying the work

than by obsessing on perfecting it. A touch of friskiness may even improve efficiency. So, when you edit, doodle; when you analyze, wink.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Italy’s Orto Botanico di Padova is the world’s oldest botanical garden still in its original location. Since its inception 480 years ago, it has been a center for botanical research, education and conservation. Its layout is striking, a square inscribed in a circle, symbolizing harmonious order. In the coming months, Libra, you will be wise to associate yourself intimately with a similar wonder: an enduring source of beauty and revelation that you can both serve and benefit from.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Astronaut Chris Hadfield has spent 166 days orbiting the Earth in the International Space Station. In the microgravity of outer space, he says, motion is very smooth; objects and people float. He marvels at how everything is always moving, yet the pace itself is tranquil and unhurried. I foresee you enjoying a lot of this kind of grace in the coming months, Scorpio: momentum without mania; constant fluidic movement that’s never hectic or rushed. What a great privilege! I expect you will rack up many flowing accomplishments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In Kyoto’s famous moss gardens, caretakers practice artful arrangement rather than total removal of shed foliage. They use delicate tools to gather trees’ cast-off leaves and arrange them on the moss to create visual harmony rather than bare tidiness. This approach reflects the Japanese aesthetic principles of embracing imperfection. Supposed “flaws” become part of the beauty of the garden. I propose that you regularly adopt a metaphorically comparable approach in the coming months, Sagittarius. Integrate rather than edit. Be creative with what’s changing form. Treat so-called messes and unexpected plot twists not as blemishes but as rich textures that feel meaningful and inspiring.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A newly planted orchard spends its first year growing roots, not fruit. Underground and unseen, the real work happens. I surmise that’s like what you will be doing in the coming months, Capricorn: mostly invisible stabilization and preparation. If anyone asks you what you’re producing, smile inscrutably and say, “Depth.” Be committed to the quiet, hidden work rather than any showy song and dance. As my rough and rugged spirit guide Esther likes to say, “You don’t got to prove nothin’ to nobody!” The nourishment you will store up will sustain later abundance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Engineers may engage in “stress testing.” They evaluate a system’s hardness and reliability by subjecting it to pressure or force. I suspect that life will bring you a benevolent version of this trial in the coming months, Aquarius. That’s a good thing! It’s not meant to break you, but to prove how much resilience you have developed. Situations that might have formerly cracked your confidence will affirm and reveal your upgraded endurance. Take note of your composure and congratulate yourself for it. You will have every right to exult in the vivid evidence of how much you’ve grown.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Piscean author Anaïs Nin wrote, “Love never dies a natural death. It dies because we don’t know how to replenish its source.” Apply her counsel dynamically during the coming months, dear Pisces. Be the great replenisher. Make yourself into a fountain of beauty as you share lavishly. Nurture tenderness and adoration with unexpected flowers, gorgeous music in the midst of the routine, and affection expressed through artful thoughtfulness. Be brilliant and persistent in ensuring that love thrives. Your elegant generosity and fond attention should enrich everything you touch.

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.

Tuesday, Dec. 23

"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.-5 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

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

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

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

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

Game Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Bring your favorite board game, card game, or party game — or jump in on one of the games we already have here. 6-9 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Jeff Baldori Festivus Party at UrbanBeat - Baldori is a singer, songwriter, guitarist and pianist whose musical journey began with classical, jazz and boogie studies. He expanded his passion into R&B and popular music during the Blues Underground movement of the '60s. 6-9 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

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.

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.

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

Weaving the Web: Air - 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.

Thursday, Dec. 25

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.

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 Trick Is in the Cards - 5-11 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. homebrewgamelounge.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.

Friday, Dec. 26

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - This vibrant installation honors direct care workers, professionals who provide essential support for older adults and people with disabilities. 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

Campaign Finance Reform - Let's stop large corporations from influencing and controlling our politicians with big campaign contributions! Stop by to sign the Voters Not Politicians petition to get this on the ballot. 1:30-3 p.m. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/votersnotpoliticians.

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.

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.

Night Owl Shopping - Shop late at the local merchants on Bridge Street. 5-9 p.m. Downtown Grand Ledge. facebook.com/GrandLedgeChamber.

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



Introduction to watercolor, with Susan Mahoney

1-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29

Art & Soul Gallery

215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns

facebook.com/ClintonCntyArts

Susan Mahoney wants to help people paint.

"Art is something that people are affected by, even when they're unaware of its impact," she said.

On Monday, she'll lead an introductory watercolor class through the Clinton County Arts Council. The class is aimed at beginners or anyone who wants to try watercolors with "no strings attached."

The afternoon lesson will educate attendees about basic supplies and techniques. Participants will walk away with two paintings and a practice sheet.

Registration is \$49, with all supplies included.

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.

Saturday, Dec. 27

'80s Escape Room - Family Video called; you forgot to return a new release, and they close in one hour. Find the missing movie and return it before they close. Registration req. 2:40 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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

See Events, Page 21

THE PULSIFIEDS

Delta Dental. FT Senior Infrastructure DBA. Ensure reliability, performance & security of enterprise DB systems. Subject matter expert for DB mgmt. Req: Bach. or equiv.+ 5 yrs. exp. Jobsite: Okemos, MI. Hybrid pos. w/ in-office req. Must live within commutable dist. of Okemos, MI & be able to work in-office as req. Apply online: www.deltadentalmi.com/careers. Sal. \$139,050 /yr. Visa spons. not avail.



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

Commercial & residential cleaning plans for your needs!

*Licensed • Insured • Bonded
References • Flexible Hours*

- Top Down Cleaning
- Move In/Move Out
- New Construction Cleans
- Student Housing

Call **517-819-3250**
for a quote or walk-thru!

maximaids1@gmail.com
www.maximaids.net

Wednesday, Dec. 24

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

Events

from page 20

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](#).
Frozen Film Fest: Session 2 - Let's make snowflakes out of popsicle sticks and watch some "Frozen" shorts. 1-4:30 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](#).

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

Tomás Esparza Blues Band - Blending the deep tradition of 1950s harmonica blues with the rhythms of his childhood in Mexico City, Tomás has crafted a sound that's both classic and uniquely his own. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](#).

Turner–Dodge House Festival of Trees - Noon-5 p.m. 100 E. North St., Lansing. [facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse](#).

Sunday, Dec. 28

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - Noon-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [dcwgardens.com](#).

Homebrew Potluck - Join us for our monthly get-together. Bring a dish to pass. Gaming is free. You'll also get a chance to meet other members of our gaming community. 5-8 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. [homebrewgamelounge.com](#).

Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. [mike-marhanka@gmail.com](#).

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Rutgers University - 2 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. [msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball](#).

Numinous Light - 9:30 a.m.-noon. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. [anthonymcairo.com/numinous-light](#).

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

Sunday Brunch at Summerlands Brewing Co. - We've updated our hours and menu to bring you the perfect Sunday experience, whether you're

craving something classic, something coastal, or something hearty. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. [facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing](#).

Turner–Dodge House Festival of Trees - Noon-5 p.m. 100 E. North St., Lansing. [facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse](#).

Monday, Dec. 29

'80s Escape Room - Family Video called — you forgot to return a new release and they close in one hour. Find the missing movie and return it before they close. Registration req. 1:30 or 2:40 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](#).

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - 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](#).

DJ Bingo at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Kick off your week with a night of music, laughs, and friendly competition! Join us Monday nights for DJ Bingo, where classic bingo meets your favorite songs. 7-8:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. [facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing](#).

Department of Public Works Meeting - 5:30 p.m. City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. 517-651-5374. [laingsburg.us](#).

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](#).

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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

nevin@nevingraphics.com

517-703-4655

ArtByNevin Art_By_Nevin

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

G	E	A	R		M	O	A	T	S		O	A	T	S
O	S	L	O		A	R	T	O	O		D	U	E	L
T	S	I	L	A	C	O	V	P	U		E	D	N	A
T	A	K	E	N					I	N	S		I	O
A	Y	E		K	C	E	H	C	D	N	U	O	R	G
				C	H	O	C	O		O	N	T		
N	A	S	A		R	A	G	E		O	H	A	R	A
D	N	A	M	E	D	R	A	L	U	P	O	P	Y	B
A	T	S	E	A		D	R	I	P		L	E	E	S
				Q	A	T				T	O	D	A	Y
E	R	U	T	U	F	E	H	T	O		T		H	A
B	A	A		P	U	G					M	A	I	Z
O	T	T	O		S	Y	O	B	T		E	E	R	T
N	I	C	O		E	P	S	O	M		R	E	E	L
Y	O	H	O		S	T	O	L	I		O	R	C	A

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

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Cornell University - 7 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. [msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball](#).

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

Parkinson's Exercise: Yoga - 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. [lapsg.org](#).

Switch Gaming: Super Smash Bros. - Join us for an evening of fun and friendly Switch gaming! Feel free to bring your Switch to play between turns on the big screen. All skill levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.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. 30

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [dcwgardens.com](#).

Al-Anon Meeting - 9 a.m. Alano Club South, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. [cmialanon.org](#).

Al-Anon Meeting - 7 p.m. St. Jude Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. [cmialanon.org](#).

Compulsive Eaters Anonymous–HOW Meeting - Meets

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case 25-001664-DE-P33. Estate of Mildred Marsh Ladd – Date of Birth: 6/6/1934. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Mildred Marsh Ladd, died 11/3/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lauren Givan, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 12/23/2025. Personal representative: Lauren Givan, 5515 Robert Ct., N. Ridgeville, OH 44039, 517-230-1462.

CP#25-411

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: Ordinance 2025-05

Lansing Board of Water and Light Electric Franchise Ordinance

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Ordinance #2025-05

(Lansing Board of Water and Light Electric Franchise Ordinance)

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

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

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

CP#25-402

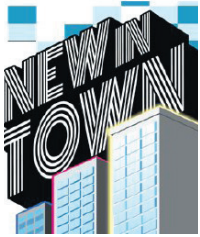
Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Popular Jackson eatery brings an 'experience' to East Lansing



RJ's Burgers & Ice Cream Co.

1399 E. Grand River Ave.,
East Lansing
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday
Noon-6 p.m. Sunday
(517) 481-6574
rjsburgersandicecreamco.com

By LEO V. KAPLAN

Before choosing East Lansing as the location of the second RJ's Burgers & Ice Cream Co., co-owners Robert and Yvette Wilkie often encountered customers who drove from Lansing to Jackson to grab burgers, shakes and ice cream.

"We had so many customers coming in, not just from Lansing but all over the state of Michigan," Robert Wilkie said. "And we really felt a connection with our Lansing customers. We got quite a few, and we thought this would be a great location to open up a second RJ's."

The store opened Dec. 9 inside part of the former Brookfield Plaza Rite Aid.

On the sweet side, it serves 32 rotating ice cream flavors sourced from Michigan-based companies Ashby's Sterling Ice Cream and MOO-ville Creamery, along with shakes and floats, ice cream nachos and edible cookie dough. Savory offerings

include burgers, turkey burgers, hoagies and a range of flavored fries.

Customers would be hard-pressed to notice the building's history as a Rite Aid. The space has been completely redesigned, with cotton-candy-colored walls ice-cream-drip trim making it feel like a world in itself within the strip mall it inhabits.

The decor is part of the RJ's "experience" — a word Robert brings up repeatedly when explaining the store's success.

"We make a good product, but we also want to sell an experience," he said. "You can be having a down day, but when you come in here, you feel revived. You just feel the energy in here. That's what we base our business on."

RJ's has a reputation in Jackson, where it began as Heavenly Delights in 2014.

Yvette started baking that year after losing her son, RJ, shortly after his birth. What began as a form of grief therapy has grown into a hobby and passion.

After multiple pivots, Heavenly Delights shifted to serving burgers and ice cream and became RJ's, named after the Wilkies' son. It has since won accolades, including the Michigan Celebrates Small Business Best Small Business Award. The attention even brought Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to the East Lansing location's grand opening.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

RJ's co-owner Robert Wilkie serves up an order of ice cream nachos at the new East Lansing location, which opened Dec. 9.

Just a week after opening, RJ's already had a steady stream of customers on a weekday. Some had been to the Jackson store already, while others were new. Robert said the "experience" must be working, since he and his wife "haven't really done any marketing on our end yet."

"We've just been letting the community take it through word of mouth, which I think is the best advertisement," he said. "And it's been going well since we've been

here. We've had people in and out the door all day."

The Wilkies said they are purpose-driven, aiming to make people's days better, mentor young employees by example and bring joy to the community.

"We feel like we were led to this location," Robert said. "We feel like there's a purpose behind what we do, and this is where God put us."

A good morning with GoodFellas

By LIZY FERGUSON

A week off work usually starts with a night out, followed by a morning after where you need something delicious to eat. A pragmatic person would have thought ahead and bought some groceries to prepare for the rest fest. Sadly, I was too busy barreling tunnel-vision to the end of the week to do that favor for future Lizy, so I had to call upon DoorDash for my breakfast.

Since breakfast foods don't typically travel or keep well, I ordered myself a sandwich from GoodFellas Bagel Deli.



Sonny sandwich \$8

GoodFellas Bagel Deli

600 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(inside Capital City Market)

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday
8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday
(517) 580-8611
goodfellasbageldeli.com

Located inside Capital City Market, GoodFellas offers bagel sandwiches, a waffle sandwich and breakfast burritos. They get the bagels from Cochran Bros. in Romulus and pride themselves on the quality of their ingredients.

There is a lot of variety in the mafia-themed menu, so it was hard to narrow it down to the one sandwich that would make its way to my house. I decided on the Sonny, which came with an over-easy egg,

turkey sausage, spinach, pepper jack and brown sugar cream cheese on your choice of bagel. I picked an everything bagel, added a hash brown and pressed "place order."

Now, when I get a breakfast sandwich, let alone one that traveled to me, the egg is usually somewhere between over-medium and over-hard. The egg on the Sonny was still hot and had a perfectly runny yolk. The mild spiciness of the pepper jack was the perfect counterpoint to the sweet cream cheese and the savory, not at all greasy turkey sausage patty. And the bagel? One of the best I've had in a while! Golden brown and doused in everything seasoning, it was the perfect base for as close to a New York-style breakfast sandwich as you can find around here.

The hash brown was a little underdone



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

The everything bagel at GoodFellas is the perfect base for as close to a New York-style breakfast sandwich as you can find in the area.

but still seemed homemade and was a tasty accompaniment to my sandwich. I will keep GoodFellas in mind for future breakfast emergencies, and beyond that, I definitely need to try that waffle sandwich. Dining here is a great way treat yourself for under \$10 without getting too filled up. And you can pick up some groceries while you're at it, ensuring you'll cook for yourself for your next meal.

Cuckoo for cocoa nog

By ARI LEVAUX

When the weather turns cold, we turn to hot cocoa. Like the vanishing sun, that steaming cup is a source of warmth, energy and all-around power, from sled hill to window sill. Mix hot cocoa with coffee for more working power, with booze for more playing power or with eggnog for more holiday power.

When combined with eggnog, hot cocoa becomes an extra thick, velvety and luxurious version of itself, especially with a royal hint of nutmeg. I call it cocoa nog.

Because cocoa nog contains both hot cocoa and eggnog, today's recipe is ultimately three in one. Whatever your preferences, this formula will help you get there smoothly, with no lumps, curdles or burns. What you spike it with, and how your guests make it home afterward, are your responsibilities.



But as we bliss out on these glorious beverages, let's keep in mind the people who bring us the magical brown substance behind it all. Despite decades of pledges to change, the big players in the chocolate industry continue to buy cacao from plantations worked by children, for whom it's a grueling, dangerous, dead-end life.

I'm happy to spend a few extra bucks on fair-trade cocoa powder from operations that are certified to be upstanding employers. It guarantees working conditions meet basic standards, that they don't use child labor and that workers are compensated fairly.

Another consideration when buying cocoa powder is how it's processed. The big distinction is between the so-called "natural" and "Dutch-processed" forms, the latter of which involves treatment to bring the pH from acidic to neutral. Some people swear by Dutch-processed, which

is milder and darker, while others prefer the more complex flavor of natural cocoa powder. I like the Volupta brand, which isn't Dutch-processed but is fair trade and organic. It makes a great cup of cocoa, with or without eggnog.

Today's recipes sprout from a single change I made to the eggnog recipe generously given to me by my friend Luci. All I did was add cocoa powder. I then combined my hot cocoa with eggs in the same way Luci mixes eggs with hot cream.

Luci uses an immersion blender for the egg step. This utensil, essentially a blender on a stick, has such an important place in Luci's kitchen and repertoire that she calls it simply "the tool." Here we use the tool to furiously beat the eggs while slowly adding hot chocolate, carefully raising the temperature of the eggs without cooking



Photo by Ari LeVaux

When combined with eggnog, hot cocoa becomes an extra thick, velvety and luxurious version of itself.

them. If you don't have the tool, use a mixer or egg beater. It can be done with a whisk, but that's a challenge.

The final product is so thick that it can be disorienting. For those who want something a little thinner, both coffee and booze will loosen the cocoa nog into a more fluid consistency. Dark rum, bourbon and Kahlua all mix well with chocolate, and I don't see what could go wrong adding all three to your cocoa. It is the holidays, after all.

Step one: hot cocoa

This first step in cocoa nog doubles as a standalone recipe for hot cocoa. Alternatively, you could skip the chocolate in step one and have a classic eggnog by the end of step two.

6 cups milk
2 cups cream
1 cup cocoa powder
3/4 cup sugar (or to taste)
3 teaspoons vanilla
1/2 teaspoon salt

Mix the sugar and cocoa powder in a bowl. Add a tablespoon of milk and stir it into the powder with a fork until the liquid is all gone. Add another tablespoon, stir it in, and keep going until the lumps and powder are gone. You're left with a smooth, glistening chocolate substance that's not unlike ganache, the soft, frosting-like filling in the middle of a truffle.

Add the milk, vanilla and remaining cream to a heavy-bottom pot on medium heat. Add the ganache and mix it in. Add the salt and slowly bring the pot to the point where simmer bubbles appear around the edge. Turn off

the heat and proceed immediately to the next step.

Step two: Luci's nog conversion

Note: If you plan to mix cocoa nog with coffee, skip the nutmeg.
8 cups piping hot cocoa (per step one)

Three whole eggs
Fresh ground nutmeg, to taste
Crack the eggs into a bowl and prepare to beat them fiercely with the tool or your best alternative. Slowly begin to add the hot cocoa to the eggs. I spoon it in first, pouring it against the side of the bowl and letting it run down into the egg. After about 6 tablespoons, add it a bit faster, pouring a thin stream into the foamy froth and beating continuously "so you don't cook your eggs," Luci warned.

If you add the hot cocoa too fast or beat the eggs too slowly, it will look like scrambled eggs. But if combined properly, the result will be perfectly smooth and thick as whipped cream. Stir in the nutmeg, a little at a time, until it tastes right.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BUFFETS

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

1. Asian Buffet

Relaxed, family-owned buffet with a large selection of Asian bites
4920 Marsh Road, Okemos
(517) 381-8388
facebook.com/AsianBuffetinOkemos
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday,
Tuesday-Thursday
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

2. Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet

Unpretentious eatery boasting more than 250 American, Asian and Italian items in its buffet
5837 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
(517) 886-9999

hibachigrilllansing.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

3. IPOT | Hot Pot, BBQ & Sushi

Casual restaurant serving a combination of hot pot and barbecue classics, along with sushi rolls
730 Elmwood Road, Lansing
(517) 977-1508
Noon-10 p.m. daily

4. One North Kitchen & Bar – West Saginaw

Roomy eatery offering beer and pub grub, plus a Sunday brunch buffet
5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
(517) 901-5001
onenorthdining.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday
10 a.m.-midnight Saturday
10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday

5. Westlund's Apple Market

Locally owned, family-operated supermarket with brand-name and house-label groceries, a bakery and a deli
2301 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
(517) 482-3900
westlundsapplemarket.com
8 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday



Ingham County Treasurer's Office

Housing Stability for Community Prosperity

**Foreclosure Prevention
to Help Homeowners
stay in their Homes**

-  **Foreclosure Prevention Office:**
Staff available to discuss delinquent taxes with property owners and assess their needs
-  **Partnerships with Community Organizations:**
Connecting homeowners with financial counseling, legal services, home repair grants, & other resources.
-  **Payment Programs:**
Delinquent Tax repayment programs directly from the Treasurer's Office -
 - Tax Foreclosure Avoidance Agreement (TFAA)**
Helping homeowners get caught up on delinquent taxes in half the time with matched payments
 - Poverty Exemption Reduction Initiative (PERI)**
For homeowners issued Poverty Exemption by their local municipality






LEARN MORE >>

ALAN FOX, Ingham County Treasurer
Rachel Piner, Chief Deputy Treasurer

tr.ingham.org | 517-676-7220

Ingham County Treasurer **ALAN FOX**

Please read the
STATUTORY PUBLICATION
in this newspaper

**DON'T TOSS ASIDE OR IGNORE
THE INSERT IN THE CITY PULSE**

**MAKE SURE YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONES
ARE NOT ON THIS LIST**

Help us prevent tax foreclosure in Ingham County

FORECLOSURE IS FINAL!!!



Ingham County Treasurer

P.O. Box 215 Mason MI 48854

517-676-7220

afox@ingham.org