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# CityPULSE

Dec. 30, 2025 - Jan. 6, 2026

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## YEAR END ROUND-UP



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My father-in-law was the epitome of the man, the myth, the legend. This Christmas marked the second without him, and his absence still feels unreal. For more than 25 years, he was the gravitational force behind some of the best moments of our lives: legendary Fourth of July gatherings, unforgettable Halloweens and Christmas Eves. He was the magnet that held us all together. I don't think he enjoyed anything more than being surrounded by his people, and everything seemed lighter when he was around.

He was a large, looming presence—someone who commanded respect the moment he entered a room. But anyone who truly knew him understood how misleading that first impression could be. Beneath the stature and the seriousness was a man who was warm, welcoming and endlessly human. If you didn't know him well, you might have been a little tentative at first—until he cracked a joke or flashed one of his trademark smiles, the kind that instantly dissolved any barrier between the two of you.

He had a gift for making people feel seen. He could give you a nickname and somehow make it stick in a way that felt meaningful, almost ceremonial. For me, it was "Lawrence." My entire life, I'd never allowed anyone to call me anything but Larry—certainly not Lawrence. Yet from the very first time he said it, it felt natural, affectionate and earned. After he passed, his brother picked it up where he left off, and somehow that name carries even more weight now. It's a small thing, but it means everything.

You can imagine the magnitude of losing someone like him. My wife's life has been irrevocably altered. There is a hole that will never be filled, and pretending otherwise would be dishonest. He was the anchor of her family—the steady presence everyone orbited around. He set a standard, not through speeches or grand gestures, but through consistency, integrity and showing up. He is the example I can only hope to live up to for my own children.

I wish we all had more time with him. That wish never really goes away. But I am profoundly grateful that I had any time at all—that I was welcomed into his life, into his family, and into something I didn't even realize I was missing.

I came from a misfit, dysfunctional family. I never truly learned what family was supposed to mean, nor did I understand the depth of loss that comes when something solid disappears. I also didn't know how to show up for others in that way. Being part of his family taught me those things. It showed me the quiet power of stability, support and unconditional presence. It made me realize how rare—and how valuable—that kind of security is.

My children are growing up with something I never had: the knowledge that they are held, supported and safe. Not everyone is born into that, and I don't take it for granted. I don't fault my family for what they couldn't give; many factors shape the circumstances we're born into. In an imperfect society that rewards abundance and exploits scarcity, some outcomes are tragic but unsurprising. Still, that doesn't diminish the gratitude I feel for what my kids now have.

The year 2025 has been particularly difficult. There's no way around that. But as it comes to a close, I find myself ending it with renewed purpose. I've never been one for New Year's resolutions. When I was younger, I lived in survival mode and felt invincible—or at least pretended to be. Over the past couple of decades, and especially the last several years, I've learned the truth: I'm not invincible. Security is fleeting. Time is finite.

That realization has sharpened my focus. There are things I've allowed to drift, priorities I need to reclaim. I want to be more diligent, more intentional—about growth, peace and about showing up fully. I want to create more space to focus on my work, to better serve those who trust me, and to build on what we've already achieved. I want to be a model for what a business should be: principled, reliable and human. Busy is a double-edged sword, but it's better than the alternative, and I don't take your calls for granted. Navigating the calls is a challenge that I will continue to focus on with new tools and strategies that scale with our growth without sacrificing responsiveness.

The past month was a struggle. But I won't rest on my laurels. I owe that to my family, to my kids, and to the example set by a man whose legacy isn't measured in years, but in the lives he anchored.

And in that way, he's still holding us together.

Please email me at [lansingallstar@gmail.com](mailto:lansingallstar@gmail.com).

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# CityPULSE

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.

Member, AAN

## Culver's

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Culver's employee fired for 'drama' sues



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2025 had us all emotional at local theaters




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Breakfast? Lunch? Anna's House's chilaquiles are both

Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker



© Jen Sorensen





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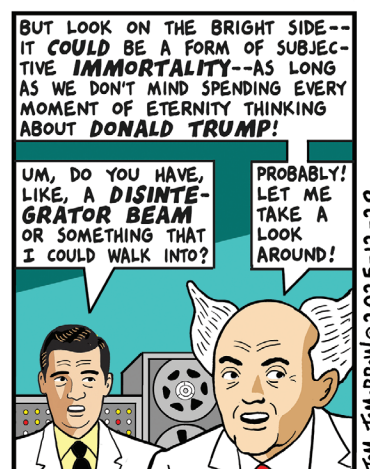
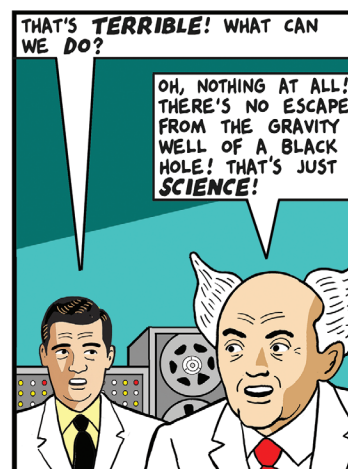
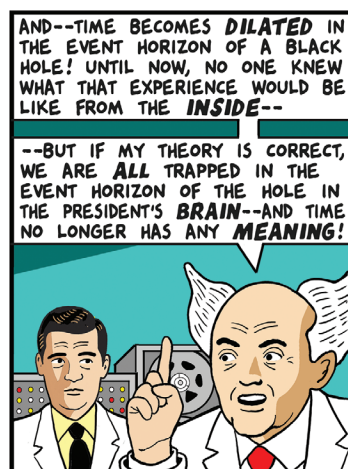
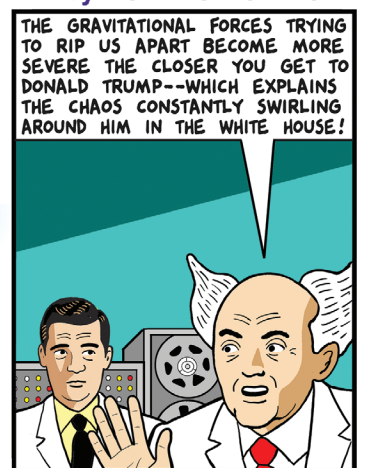
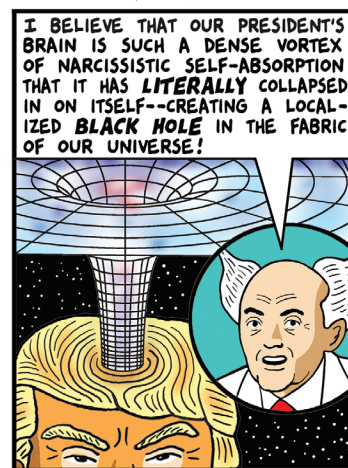
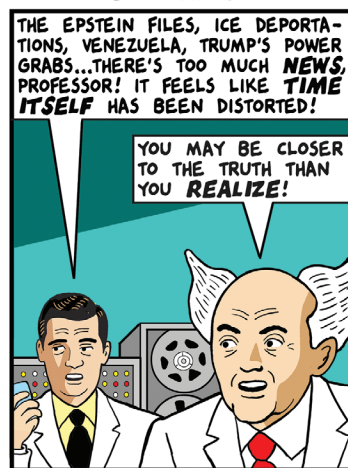
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2025-12-29

# Looking back at 2025's biggest stories



## Lansing's old Eastern High School building was demolished

On a cold Thursday night in February, around 20 local activists gathered to continue their doomed fight against the University of Michigan Health-Sparrow's plan to demolish the old Eastern High School building.

"The windows are boarded, but it's still there, and we want to do everything we can," 2013 Eastern alumnus Andrew Muylle said at the time.

'Everything we can' turned out not to be very much. By the turn of Spring, excavators were already tearing into the building's historic west wing.

That section was designed nearly a century ago by Chicago architects Pond & Pond, who also designed the Michigan Union building at the University of Michigan. The Lansing building's facade, along Pennsylvania Ave., was iconic to many residents.

After being sold in 2016 to what was then the hometown Sparrow Health System, with a hospital right next door, the building sat unoccupied and it deteriorated.

Virg Bernero, who was mayor at the time of the sale, told City Pulse there was "a tacit understanding that Sparrow would do everything in its power to preserve the beautiful, historically significant Eastern High School building when Sparrow acquired the building from the school district," but following Sparrow's 2023 acquisition by University of Michigan Health, "all that went by the wayside."

In February, U-M Health Regional Network President Margaret Dimond said the west wing and auditorium, the parts activists sought to save, were "not salvageable" due to water damage, with preservation costs in the "hundreds of millions."

That estimate may have had roots in the costs of other Pond & Pond buildings in Ann Arbor and Purdue. The Michigan Union building cost \$85.2 million in 2020, and the Purdue Memorial Union's ground floor cost \$47 million in 2022.

Local preservationists disputed the estimates for the old Eastern building, pointing to the Walter French School's renovation into apartment buildings for \$39 million.

UM-Sparrow intends to build a behavioral health facility on Eastern's grounds, though the plans for the facility did not overlap with the school building.

For some residents, the refusal to communicate or collaborate epitomized the disappearance of the hometown Sparrow. Relationships between Spar-



Eastern and Tom Barrett photos by Raymond Holt for City Pulse

row and Eastside residents led to earlier compromises, including the sky bridge across Michigan Avenue between the Sparrow Hospital and Sparrow Professional Building, which was built with glass after Eastside residents said that it would block the iconic Capitol view.

Many who were involved with such projects said they had hoped UM-Sparrow would continue what they saw as Sparrow's legacy of community collaboration. UM-Sparrow did not budge from its proposed compromise of a memorial garden with artifacts from the building, and even that will not fully materialize after the building's iconic cupola was destroyed despite promises of preservation for the garden.

The behavioral health facility will include 120 beds for adults and adolescents and aims to address a critical shortage of those services across the state.

## Sustainability-focused Lansing data center proposal is controversial



News broke the morning of Nov. 5 that UK-based data center builders Deep Green had partnered with the Lansing Board of Water and Light to propose a data center in Lansing's stadium district. Around 40 people packed a room along with the city's Planning and Development commission, which met that same night, and the residents firmly opposed the proposal.

Deep Green, whose speciality is eco-friendly data centers, had probably hoped the facility's less-than-one-acre footprint and promise to donate all generated heat to the BWL would set the project apart from the gargantuan energy-guzzlers that are causing controversy across the country.

But the proposal came on the heels of statewide

controversy.

A 250-acre project has been opposed by residents of Saline Township, but Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has encouraged swift approval of it anyway. In Howell, the developers of a proposed \$1 billion data center pulled the plug this month after months of community opposition.

Data centers have proliferated in recent years alongside the artificial intelligence technologies they power. Proponents of the Lansing project argue it's the best possible solution to an inevitable issue; opponents have said even if it were the lesser of two evils, they would rather choose neither.

Also, this month, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution urging transparency on all data center projects in the county.

The resolution asks local governments and other relevant institutions to make detailed plans demonstrating how any data centers' electricity demands will not interfere with electricity costs or Michigan's clean energy goals. It began in the Ingham County Environmental Affairs Commission, whose chair, Chris Trubac, was inspired to pen it because he believes the Deep Green project will be precedent-setting.

## Tom Barrett sticks to his guns, attracts diverse challengers



Charlotte Republican Tom Barrett carried Michigan's 7th Congressional District, which includes Lansing and surrounding counties, in 2024 after losing it in 2022. The district is a famous toss-up and the state's most expensive to win.

Since he took office in January, Barrett's critics have called him a rank-and-file republican and a guaranteed Trump vote in a solidly purple district.

Barrett spoke with City Pulse for 30 minutes in April, likely the longest interview he has given to a local media outlet. In that interview, he said representing each and every constituent was paradoxical, and the best he could do is to stick to his guns.

"I can't represent every single person's viewpoint because it may be in conflict with the viewpoints I presented to voters when I was out campaigning," he told City Pulse.

Barrett has also attracted criticism and protests for not holding an in-person town hall meeting, something many Republican congress members have avoided in 2025.

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# Year in review

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Barrett is drawing a diverse slate of challengers.

The first to announce her candidacy was Bridget Brink, the former ambassador to Ukraine. After 29 years in D.C. and overseas, Brink is returning to Michigan (she grew up near Grand Haven) and bought a house in the Moores River neighborhood in May.

Matt Maasdam, a former Navy SEAL who carried the “nuclear football” for Obama, has thrown his hat in the race also despite living in the 6th district, with plans to move to the 7th.

Will Lawrence, a hometown progressive who co-founded the Sunrise Movement, which popularized the Green New Deal, and coordinates MI

Rent Is Too Damn High, threw his hat in the ring in August.

Josh Cowen, a professor of education policy at MSU, dropped out in October and endorsed Brink.

Then there’s Samuel Smeltzer, AKA Elyon Badger, a furry and healthcare activist who has drawn headlines for his eccentric campaign, which has raised thousands of dollars.

Whoever wins the primary in August will face Barrett in November.

## Schor and his endorsements sail to victory

Despite some twists and turns, Lansing voters re-elected Mayor Andy Schor to a third term in November, along with his slate of endorsements for City Council.

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Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

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

State of Michigan Probate Court, Eaton County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent’s Estate, Case No. 25-60583-DE. Estate of Ruth Ann Thuma, Deceased – Date of Birth: 10/15/1936. Notice to all creditors, known & unknown: The decedent, Ruth Ann Thuma, died 06/22/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Rodney Thuma, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI, 48813, 517-543-7500, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 12/30/2025. Attorney: Benjamin L. Cwayna, #P70266, 11973 Sweetwater Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Personal representative: Rodney Thuma, 1322 S. Stewart, Charlotte, MI 48813, 616-550-4416.

CP#25-413

State of Michigan Probate Court, Eaton County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent’s Estate, Case No. 25-60776-DE, Hon. Amanda G. Pollard. Estate of Lori Rae Hill, deceased – Date of Birth: 7/18/1963. Notice to creditors: The decedent, Lori Rae Hill, died June 27, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Autumn Levy, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI, 48813, 517-543-7500, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 12/30/2025. Attorney: Olivia A. Kurajian, P87269, 112 S. Monroe St., Sturgis, MI 49091, 269-651-3281. Personal representative: Autumn Levy, 2700 Eaton Rapids Rd., Lot 293, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-489-9576.

CP#25-414

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A public hearing to receive comments on a request from Sheetz, Inc. (Alex Siwicki) for approval of a Special Use Permit located at 111 E. Saginaw Street. The applicant request is to construct a 6,139 sf Sheetz restaurant with a drive through and four gas pump islands with eight pumps. The property is zoned B-2 Retail Sales Business District.

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.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may also participate virtually via Zoom. Please contact City Clerk Emily Gordon at 517.319.6891, [emily.gordon@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:emily.gordon@cityofeastlansing.com), (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) for additional information. Visit the City’s public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> for electronic access information.

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](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [council@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:council@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 City Council’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6869 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [sbent@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:sbent@cityofeastlansing.com).

**This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 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 23, 2025  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon  
City Clerk

CP#25-416

### Capital Area Transportation Authority Public Notice

#### **Comprehensive Operational Analysis** **The Road Ahead: Shaping transit service that moves with our community**

The Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) announces plans to develop a Comprehensive Operational Analysis, known as *The Road Ahead: Shaping transit service that moves with our community*. This process will include an analysis of CATA’s existing transit services, including fixed-route and demand-response.

The goal of this project is to identify opportunities to improve bus routes and transit services by increasing efficiency, growing ridership and reducing barriers to mobility across the region. With community and stakeholder input, *The Road Ahead* will explore ways to better align transportation services with partner agencies to support regional mobility for residents, employees, students and visitors throughout the Lansing metropolitan area.

#### **Pop-Up Events**

As part of *The Road Ahead*, CATA will host pop-up events later in January to connect with riders and community members. These events will provide opportunities to speak with CATA staff and the project team, ask questions and share feedback to help inform the future of transit services in the region.

Upcoming pop-up events include:

**Monday, Jan. 27, 2026**

**2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

CATA Transportation Center  
420 S. Grand Ave., Lansing

**Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2026**

**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

MSU-CATA Transportation Center (Ramp 1)  
592 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1000. CATA will make every attempt to provide reasonable accommodation for requests received by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 23, 2026.

Additional opportunities for public input will be available throughout 2026. Visit [cata.org](http://cata.org) for the latest information.

CP#25-412

# Year in review

from page 6

A packed primary election was whittled down in correlation with money, with the top four vote-getters in the 10-person at-large city council race also having the biggest campaign chests.

But while at-large city council candidates scrounged together between \$14,000 and \$48,000 just to make it past the primary, a long-shot mayoral candidate managed to get through with under \$1,000.

That was Kelsea Hector, executive director of Lansing housing and harm reduction nonprofit Punks With Lunch. Hector and Schor won the primary, moving past at-large City Council member Jeffrey Brown and two others, but Hector only secured 33% of the eventual general election vote against Schor.

One of the other mayoral candidates was Brett Brockschmidt, a retired accountant who built his campaign largely on the assertion that the Schor administration intentionally leaves jobs vacant, but funded, in order to reallocate vacancy savings and cover up deficit spending.

Brockschmidt managed to bring the city's \$1.5 million "vacancy factor," or yearly reallocated vacancy savings, to the public's attention, but failed to run a successful campaign on the issue. The city has said that the number is not unusual for a municipal government with about 1,000 employees.

In the 2nd Ward, the Schor-endorsed Deyanira Nevárez Martínez beat out Erik Almquist, who ran a spending-free campaign. In the 4th, current at-large councilmember Peter Spadafore, also endorsed by Schor, won against Heath Lowry.

In the at-large race, Clara Martinez and Jeremy Garza beat out progressive candidate Julie Vandenoorn. Martinez and Garza raised more than \$45,000 and \$60,000, respectively.

Dark money may have played a role in the Lansing election. At-large candidate Aurelius Christian was targeted by mailers sent by dark money group Michigan Vindicated, which brought attention to his alleged role in the Ingham Community Health Centers' budget crisis last year. He advanced past the primary despite the mailers, but later dropped out shortly before the general election.

Vandenoorn was also targeted



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

by calls from someone claiming to be from Michigan Vindicated, who called her a socialist.

Voters also approved the new City Charter, which brings all city elections to an every-four-years schedule, adds a 5th Ward and more.

## Anti-transgender laws and rhetoric hit home

In his first month in office, President Donald Trump signed five executive orders targeting transgender people. Those orders banned anyone expressing gender dysphoria from the military, illegalized gender-affirming medical care for minors and 18-year-olds, rescinded Title IX guidance for trans-

gender people in schools and more.

City Pulse chronicled the local impacts of those orders in a Feb. 26 cover story, including transgender people whose passport gender markers had been changed back to their assigned gender at birth as well as researchers affected by the disappearance and discontinuation of government-hosted datasets with information on transgender people.

In August, a spokesperson for University of Michigan Health confirmed it had ceased providing gender-affirming care for those under 19.

In September, someone at the Avenue Cafe in Lansing made violent threats against two transgender patrons. The man identified himself as

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### CITY OF LANSING 2026 City Council Meeting Schedule

Monday, January 5, 2026	Monday, June 22, 2026
Monday, January 12, 2026	Monday, July 13, 2026
Monday, January 26, 2026	Monday, July 27, 2026
Monday, February 09, 2026	Monday, August 10, 2026
Monday, February 23, 2026	Monday, August 24, 2026
Monday, March 09, 2026	Monday, September 14, 2026
Monday, March 23, 2026	Monday, September 28, 2026
Monday, April 6, 2026	Monday, October 12, 2026
Monday, April 20, 2026	Monday, October 26, 2026
Monday, May 4, 2026	Monday, November 9, 2026
Monday, May 11, 2026	Monday, November 16, 2026
Monday, May 18, 2026	Monday, December 7, 2026
Monday, June 8, 2026	Monday, December 14, 2026

Except as otherwise noted, all meetings will be on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (517) 483-4131 (TTY 711). 24-hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

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Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC  
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## Year in review

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a “fascist” and made anti-transgender comments, according to people there.

He was eventually kicked out, and the Avenue Cafe instituted metal detectors for patrons’ protection. News of the encounter spread through the local community and beyond on social media, with a TikTok video about the incident accumulating 200,000 views.

At the Sept. 29 Lansing City Council meeting, more than a dozen people asked for support and action from councilmembers following the incident. That led Councilmember Brian T. Jackson, who chairs the Council’s Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, to organize an open forum with that committee.

Advocates packed the City Council chambers during that forum, with over 75 people present. Speakers broadly supported three requests made by the Lansing Advocates for Trans Safety, a group that formed following the threats: A statement affirming a commitment to LGBTQ+ safety, the formation of a city LGBTQ+ advisory board and funding for local queer-owned businesses.

At the next City Council meeting, councilmembers unanimously approved a resolution declaring Lansing an “LGBTQ+ welcoming city.” The resolution fulfilled the first of the advocates’ requests, and asked the city to implement the other two.

### Shuldiner’s eyes on the horizon

Lansing’s School District Superintendent Ben Shuldiner spent a good deal of time in 2025 trying to get a new job.

In February, when he was selected as a finalist to lead the Clark County school district in Las Vegas, Shuldiner said in a statement that he was not actively seeking new work.

In March, he failed to get that job,

and reaffirmed his commitment to Lansing in an interview with Channel 10. In May, Shuldiner was selected as a finalist to lead another district in Kentucky. He didn’t get that job.

It came as a surprise to few, then, that when Shuldiner was selected as the sole finalist for Seattle Public Schools in November, he took the job. Seattle Public Schools has about 50,000 students, making it significantly larger than Lansing’s 10,000 but smaller than the other two.

Jessica Benavides, currently the district’s deputy superintendent, has been named as interim superintendent. She will take over on Jan. 31, when Shuldiner leaves for Seattle.

### Dietrich Park encampment was busted up after years

The year ended with the end of the long-running encampment near Dietrich Park, a built-out campsite called Fallen Angels by its residents.

The site’s residents have moved out, relocated to Causeway Bay Hotel in south Lansing (where the city is paying for units for six weeks) or to other places.

There were about 50 residents there, said Scott Bean, a spokesperson for the Lansing mayor’s office.

The encampment gained widespread attention in 2025 as it became a focal point and a place of last resort for a growing number of people living homeless in the Lansing area as economic conditions worsen for many.

Many smaller encampments are routinely broken up. For at least three years, people from smaller encampments or other strained living situations have wound up at the Fallen Angels site, one of the city’s few long-term encampments. The Fallen Angels encampment was largely on private property behind industrial sites owned by people who were not inclined to issue ‘no trespass’ notices, which meant the city could do little to force people to leave.

Over several years, that made the encampment a fairly safe and reliable place where people could set down more complex campsites and accumulate goods, such as enough layers to make winter living feasible.

The encampment included walkways, dozens of tents and a handful of other structures like makeshift cabins and RVs. In the last several months, additional features like portable potties have been added, as



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

The Fallen Angels encampment near Dietrich Park in Lansing, seen on Dec. 26.

part of the city’s lawsuit, which also ended the camp.

The site’s longevity caught the attention of city officials, who brought two property owners to court. One was quickly dismissed from the case, with fencing being put up and trees being cut before the fall.

The other property owner came to a legal agreement with the city in December, allowing for the encampment to be closed and for anyone willing to stay for up to six weeks in the hotel.

The now seemingly vacant encampment is covered in light dustings of post-Christmas snow, with the brutal wind tearing apart many of the remaining tents, flipping tables and strewn debris throughout the site.

### Mod Pods to house the homeless, but where?

Lansing officials made a major move this year by buying 50 modular housing units, called ModPods and resembling small RVs. The units have a bed, storage with built-in heating/cooling; most are about 8 feet long and intended for single occupants, but about a dozen are twice as big and made for two or more people.

The city is calling the plan its NOVA Housing Initiative.

The plan was to build a community of units, along with a separate bathroom facility and some communal spaces and surround the site with fencing. The units were aimed at people who were close to ending their time being homeless, as transitional units for less than a year in most cases.

The plan was announced in Au-

gust with few details and unanimous support from city council members.

Once the unused units were purchased from a Kalamazoo nonprofit, for \$640,000 (half of the new cost), city council members began asking questions about the timeline, the ongoing costs and whether the units and their residents could be located in someone else’s district.

Finding a place for the units is the first major challenge: a site will require electricity for about 50 units and plumbing for central bathrooms, along with a relatively flat site. Ideally it should be located close to services for those living there. Before it can open, the new site would have to be legally considered a campground, which requires state certification and can only happen after the site’s infrastructure is completed.

Four months after the units were bought, the city has a list of potential sites that has been narrowed to five and then expanded to six. It lists four city parks, the former El-Shabazz Academy (privately owned) and part of a parking lot at the Ingham County Human Services building at Jolly and Cedar. The city parks are: Debbie Stabenow Park, Comstock Park, Hunter Park, and Reasoner Park.

A December meeting with two city committees, aimed at finding a location, was cancelled and is expected to reconvene in January, said Scott Bean, a spokesperson for the Lansing mayor’s office.

The units are expected to be in place before the 2026-2027 winter season, he said.





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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



**A man has been charged in a May 2024 shooting that killed one teenager and injured six others. Kylete Owens, 17, died from his injuries, including a gunshot wound to the head.** Police recovered 58 shell casings from the area in and around Rotary Park, and the casings came from multiple calibers of guns,

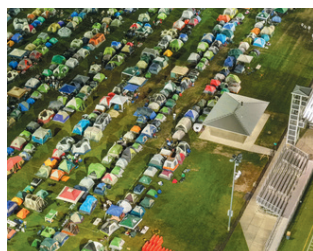
according to a statement from John Dewane, Ingham County's top prosecutor. Prosecutors have charged Damarion Joseph McCall, a 20-year-old Lansing resident, with open murder and six counts of assault with attempt to murder, as well as weapons offenses and a habitual offender charge. McCall is scheduled for a probable cause hearing and preliminary hearing in January. He was arrested on Sunday, his bond was set at \$500,000 and had not been posted as of early Monday afternoon. Dewane said Lansing Police detectives did an extensive investigation, including witness interviews, surveillance video and forensic analysis. He said police requested the multiple charges.

**Former Utah coach Kyle Whittingham was introduced Sunday as the new head coach for the University of Michigan football team.** It followed his hiring and his signing of a 5-year deal on Friday, which came after the firing and arrest of former U of M coach Sherrone Moore the week before. The Whittingham press conference took place in Orlando, where the Wolverines are preparing to play Texas in the Citrus Bowl on New Year's Eve. Whittingham, 66, won 177 games in 21 years and guided the Utes to two Rose Bowls, three conference championships, and an undefeated 2008 season capped by a Sugar Bowl win over Alabama. U-M assistant Biff Poggi -- named interim coach after Moore's firing and who called the program a "malfunctioning organization" earlier as he made his own



interest in the position known -- called Whittingham a "perfect fit" for the team.

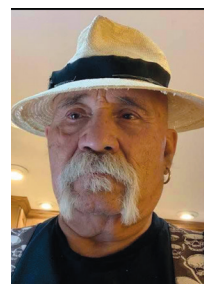
**A man was shot and killed by a homeowner in Fowlerville after allegedly breaking in on Christmas Day.** The man, accused of traveling from the Lake Orion area to break in, was the estranged husband of a woman who was visiting at the home. Authorities have said the homeowner is believed to have acted in self-defense after the estranged husband fired multiple shots. The homeowner was treated at U-M Hospital in Ann Arbor for non-life-threatening injuries. The incident is still under investigation.



**The Michigan Court of Appeals has overturned a ruling from Ingham County Circuit Court related to a 2021 fireworks show at the Izzone Campout.** The decision determined there was not enough evidence to prove a company's negligence was a factor in a student's eye injury by an unidentified object. Adam Russell was struck in the eye by the object at the campout and suffered permanent vision loss, according to court records obtained by the Lansing State Journal, leading Russell to file suit against Black Diamond Fireworks. Circuit Court Judge James Jamo ruled in favor of the company in November 2024, but the Court of Appeals unanimously ruled Russell was not responsible for proving the act was the only catalyst for his injuries.

company's negligence was a factor in a student's eye injury by an unidentified object. Adam Russell was struck in the eye by the object at the campout and suffered permanent vision loss, according to court records obtained by the Lansing State Journal, leading Russell to file suit against Black Diamond Fireworks. Circuit Court Judge James Jamo ruled in favor of the company in November 2024, but the Court of Appeals unanimously ruled Russell was not responsible for proving the act was the only catalyst for his injuries.

**Arturo "Art" Santa Cruz, founder of the popular El Azteco restaurant in East Lansing, died at his home**



**in New Mexico on Thursday, the business announced on social media.** Santa Cruz opened the restaurant at the former Pizza Pit location on M.A.C. Avenue in 1976. He had earned a math degree from New Mexico State, then came to MSU to get his master's degree in counseling, according to a 2016 Lansing State Journal story.

But despite having no restaurant experience, Santa Cruz decided to open "El Az" to fulfill his vision of an underground restaurant. Five years later, he launched a second location on Saginaw Street in Lansing, then he expanded and relocated the EL restaurant to its current fixture on Ann Street in 1990 - and the rooftop dining space two years later. In 2012, Santa Cruz sold the restaurant to Paul Vlahakis.



**The holiday is over except for the returns, so it is time to start looking at ditching that real tree and dumping busted decorations.** Real trees can last for three to six weeks with daily watering, so unless you got yours rather late in the season, it's probably time. Lansing and East Lansing residents can put their trees on the curb from now until mid-January, no stickers or registration re-

See Rewind, page 10

# Employee's termination at Lansing Culver's spurs lawsuit

By HEATHER PETERS

LANSING — A romantic relationship turned sour between two Lansing Culver's employees resulted in the female employee being fired after asking to be put on separate shift schedules, according to an Ingham County Circuit Court filing.

The lawsuit, dated Dec. 8, was filed against the local Culver's franchise after the termination of Alyssa Rascoe, 17, shortly following her mother's report of an off-duty altercation involving her then boyfriend, Devon LaPearl.

The complaint, which includes a Sept. 29 letter from management, outlines a dispute over the timing and reasons for the dismissal of Rascoe,

who started working at the restaurant in November 2024. She was working with LaPearl at the 6280 S. Pennsylvania location.

Ultimately, Rascoe was terminated for causing "drama," according to the complaint — something her attorney, Rob Howard, of Cunningham Dalman PC in Holland, called "inexcusable."

Howard, in a statement to City Pulse, said the case is about "holding employers accountable when they choose punishment over protection."

"Ms. Rascoe did exactly what the court required her to do to stay safe. She notified her employer of the no-contact order so that schedules could be adjusted and both persons

could remain employed," the statement said. "Terminating her for that conduct, while continuing to employ the person accused of domestic violence who was under a no-contact order from the court, is not only unjust — it is unlawful. For Culver's to consider this to be 'drama' is inexcusable."

An attempt to reach a Culver's representative for this article was not successful as of late Friday, Dec. 19.

### How it started

The controversy began when Rascoe's mother contacted Culver's management Sept. 20 to report a "non-work-related altercation" between Rascoe and LaPearl, an incident that resulted in criminal charges

being filed against LaPearl.

Court records indicate the two were involved in a romantic relationship that started in February 2025. By Sept. 18, however, things became hostile at the Lansing home Rascoe shares with her mother, Amy Lischkge, according to court documents.

According to court records, an increasingly frustrated LaPearl allegedly broke down Rascoe's door after she failed to answer his phone calls, leading to an assault and his subsequent arrest by Lansing police.

LaPearl was later released on bond under the condition that he wear a GPS tether and remain at least 2,000

See Culver's, page 10

# My most memorable moments of 2025

Believe it or not, Democrats still hold every lever of power in state government but one – the State House of Representatives.

It just didn't feel that way in 2025.

Republican House Speaker Matt Hall dominated state government this year, controlling the message, legislative output, the agenda and the news.

He ran his caucus with an iron fist. Any legislator who defied him paid a price for it. Committee reassignments. Bills stripped out of a committee chair's control.

None of these tactics are new, admittedly, but with Hall it all seemed so swift, decisive and final.

The lobbying corps would speak up for their bills not moving, but ... do they want to get on the Speaker's bad side? If Republicans keep winning majorities, Hall could theoretically be in charge for two more terms.

So, as I'm putting together my memorable moments of 2025, it's no wonder that Hall is top of mind.

**1. Hall Press Conference** – It's not that he held roughly two dozen press conferences. It's that in nearly every single one of them, Hall exhausted the media's questions.

In an era of diminishing live press conferences, the Republican leader filled the void, controlling the narrative while giving those reporters paying attention numerous news leads if not full-fledged headlines.

**2. Tipped Wage, Roads, Pork** – The Legislature passed the fewest number of bills from a regular session in the state's history, and yet, Hall made it somehow feel like less was more.

What got done is exactly what Hall wanted. A return of tipped wages for wait staff. A revamped paid sick leave policy. More road funding. Transparency in legislative pork projects.

**3. Brief Government Shutdown** – To make it happen, Hall waited until autumn to lay out his budget ideas and then signaled that he was willing to drive the state to a prolonged state government shutdown. Democrats blinked.

To partially pay for a \$1.8 billion road funding plan, he not only got a \$420 (hardy har har) million wholesale marijuana tax through the Democratic-controlled Senate, but also watched nearly every Senate Dem vote for it.

**4. House Appropriations Can Do What?** – Apparently, it can reject leftover state money the Governor continues year after

year through something called a "work project." The Governor planned on spending \$2.7 billion this way in 2026 and Hall axed a quarter of it.

The administration is still figuring out what to do about it.

OK. Enough about Hall. He didn't dominate everything that happened in state politics, after all.

**5. Benson Talks Gubernatorial Campaign In State Office Building** – Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson positioned herself as the likely 2026 gubernatorial nominee in 2025, but things started off shaky when she announced to the press in the lobby of a state office building.

If anyone should know this is a no-no, it's the head of the state's head elections officer. The Attorney General slapped her wrist and Democrats quickly forgot about it.

**6. Trump 'Not Happy' About James Running For Governor** – U.S. Rep. John James announced for governor outside of the wishes of President Donald Trump, who would rather see the two-term incumbent run for re-election in the competitive 10th Congressional District. At a June event, Trump told James, "John James. I don't know. You know, he's running for governor, but I'm not sure I'm happy about that."

James told Trump he had someone running for Congress in his stead. He's yet to publicly endorse anyone.

**7. The Blue Folder** – Any realistic shot Gov. Gretchen Whitmer had at seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in 2028 evaporated when she was photographed by the New York Times in Trump's Oval Office sticking a blue folder in front of her face. The media has been trying to track her down ever since.

**8. Real Democratic Primaries** – With the political wind at their backs, we're suddenly seeing competitive Democratic primaries in places it matters – the U.S. Senate, the 7th Congressional District and 10th Congressional District, most notably.

For the U.S. Senate, it's the most competitive Dem primary field since 1994.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## Rewind

from page 9

quired. Trees should be stripped of any ornaments and trees taller than 6 feet should be cut in half. Granger also collects Christmas trees, treating them as yard waste. Existing customers can get their trees picked up for \$10 a tree, with

no advance scheduling but there may be delays based on demand. Residents of Meridian Township can drop trees off at Nancy Moore Park for free or for \$10 at the Meridian Recycling Center. There's also a Boy Scout fundraiser, for Troop 164G (covering Haslett, Okemos and East Lansing) on Jan. 3. Fill out a form for the fundraiser at <https://www.meridian.mi.us/Home/Components/News/News/6256/16>

## Culver's

from page 9

feet away from Rascoe's home and workplace. However, when Lischke contacted the restaurant's regional manager, Nathan Peters, on Sept. 20 to request that the two not be scheduled for the same shifts to comply with the court order, the response was swift and unexpected.

By the following morning, Rascoe discovered she had been locked out of the company's scheduling application. When she called Peters for an explanation, he informed her she was terminated. The reason cited for the firing, according to the filing, was that she had created "drama," the court filing indicates.

### Response from Culver's

Management, represented by Jim Staron of Union Pacific Holdings, contended in a letter in the court filing that Rascoe's dismissal was decided upon before the company learned of the off-duty incident.

Staron said the termination was due to Rascoe's actions within the workplace, specifically for "disrupting the workplace via discussion of personal matters involving another employee during paid worktime."

"It is our understanding that the incident occurred after the incidents that led to a decision to terminate your employment," Staron wrote.

The letter confirms that it was "generally known at the workplace" that Rascoe and LaPearl were in a "consensual relationship."

However, management said that, because Rascoe did not report any prior workplace concerns regarding LaPearl, the company only began its investigation into potential inappropriate conduct after her mother informed them of the Sept. 20 altercation.

Rascoe, who was 17 at the time, was asked to provide a written statement about any "alleged inappropriate workplace conduct" by Oct. 6 to aid the internal investigation.

In her lawsuit, Rascoe is seeking compensatory damages for emotional distress, as well as recovery for past and future lost wages and fringe benefits. Additionally, the filing asks for exemplary damages intended to deter similar misconduct, alongside the reimbursement of attorney and expert witness fees.

Beyond financial compensation, Rascoe is petitioning the court for reinstatement to her former position at Culver's — or "front pay" if returning is not feasible — while seeking a formal injunction to prevent any further acts of discrimination or retaliation.

Rascoe has requested a jury trial.

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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Local energy, world-class art Lansing's fine arts scene burgeoned in 2025



Courtesy



Photo by Dylan Rogers

The Capital City Film Festival (left) marked its 15th year this spring, while the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series celebrated its 50th season.

### By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Two of Lansing's key cultural institutions celebrated big birthdays in 2025. The Capital City Film Festival marked its 15th year this spring with 140 film screenings and related events at venues across the city. The Ten Pound Fiddle marked its 50th season by serving up a rich harvest of folk music's past, present and future, packed into 39 concerts and more than 30 dances and community events.

Lansing's fine arts scene is too rich to summarize in one annual survey, but the "Fiddle" and the CCFE are great places to start. Both represent the classic Lansing approach to the arts: driven by local passion, woven into the community, reaching for world-class quality, punching above their weight. Neither organization has a permanent home or a secure financial endowment. Both rely on a creative shell game of rotating venues, public support and sheer persistence to keep the magic going.

Making it to the 15th, 50th or any other milestone in the arts world is an achievement worth celebrating.

Sadly, not all arts organizations made it through the year.

In April, harsh economic realities provided a reminder to celebrate what we have while we have it when the Lansing Art Gallery closed its doors after 60 years of operation.

Now and then, the fragile thread breaks and the grassroots magic runs out. Over the decades, the Lansing Art Gallery scrambled from one venue to another in true Lansing fashion, dodging a dozen near-death experiences by patching together donations and grants and sticking to its educational mission and high artistic standards, never slipping into a glorified gift shop. From its high-quality exhibits, classes and workshops to its innovations in bringing art to the city streets and along the River Trail, the gallery leaves a proud legacy.

Meanwhile, across town, Michigan State University's Broad Art Museum

made it through a difficult bottleneck. After a search that lasted nearly three years, the museum named Phillip Bahar its fourth director in September. As president and director of the Chicago Humanities Festival for 13 years, Bahar brought more than a thousand artists, authors, thinkers and policy-makers to venues across the Chicago area.

Although the Broad is among the highest-profile arts organizations in the area, it's still a community resource, and it has presented many exhibits keyed to local concerns. Education and outreach, including a wide-ranging program of elementary school visits and field trips funded by the Park West Foundation, are a top priority.

Alan Ross, chairman of the Broad's advisory board, extolled Bahar's potential to plug the museum even deeper into the university and the surrounding community, as he did with the Chicago Humanities Festival.

"We've finally located a leader we've been seeking for a long time, a leader who will bring together students, faculty and community," Ross told City Pulse in September.



Courtesy

Citing insurmountable financial difficulties, the Lansing Art Gallery closed at the end of April after 60 years of operation.

Inside the gallery, the Broad showed no sign of going soft, even as museums and universities across the nation felt pressure to trim their sails to political winds emanating from the second Trump administration. Under interim director (now senior curator) Steven Bridges and his staff, the Broad mounted several ambitious and challenging exhibits in 2025, including "Farmland," a wide-ranging and critical look at MSU's land-grant heritage that touched on sensitive issues of land use, food production, scarcity and consumption, and "unbecoming," a spectacular array of large-scale sculptures and paintings that covered the 20-year career of Syrian-born, New York-based artist Diana Al-Hadid. Other exhibits at the Broad looked at the experience of war (as envisioned in the murals of the late Lebanese-born artist Nabil Kanso) and the life of Michigan families and individuals during the Holocaust and the rise of fascism in Nazi Germany.

The Broad is the big dog in town when it comes to visual arts, but creativity also flourished in dozens of smaller venues across Greater Lansing. You could see the riotous fruits

of Lansing's burgeoning collage community at Hooked coffee/wine/book shop in East Lansing, dig a unique exhibit fusing the monumental work of sculptor Mark Chatterley and the small-scaled whimsy of his daughter, Teagan, at (SCENE) Metrospace, or experience prison life through the art and poetry of incarcerated people in Michigan at MSU's LookOut Gallery.

Lansing's fine arts scene filled the ears as well as the eyes in 2025. Nowhere is the Lansing-style mélange of local talent and world-class luster more evident than in MSU's stellar jazz studies program, home to national poll-winning trombonist (and Guggenheim Fellowship recipient in May) Michael Dease and established jazz luminaries like bassist Rodney Whitaker, pianist Xavier Davis and guitarist Randy Napoleon. In 2024 and 2025, two top women of the jazz world, vocalist Carmen Bradford and alto sax virtuoso Erena Terakubo, joined the roster.

These are jazz stars you might find in a club or festival in New York, London or Tokyo, but they also find the time to play at local spots like MSU's Billman Pavilion, UrbanBeat in Old Town or Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's.

Among the stellar guest artists who visited the area to work and perform with jazz students were pianist Rick Roe in February, trumpeter Sean Jones in October and vocalist René Marie in December.

The Jones concert marked another arts milestone, as the jazz studies program celebrated its 25th anniversary.

With MSU's internationally renowned jazz program at the epicenter, Greater Lansing was again blessed with not one or two, but three jazz festivals in 2025. Guitarist Peter Bernstein headlined the East Lansing Summer Solstice festival in June, curated by Randy Napoleon. In August, JazzFest Michigan brought a broader mix of traditional jazz, R&B and funk to Old Town, and local hero Tim Cun-

See Art, Page 12

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## Art

from page 11

ningham returned to his hometown of Lansing for the daylong Armory Smooth Jazz Fete.

The MSU College of Music kept up a relentless schedule of musical events, from early music concerts to the edgy experimentation of the chamber group *Musique 21*, with many special highlights along the way, including a residency by Grammy-winning Ann Arbor composer Michael Daugherty.

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra reached a bittersweet milestone when maestro Timothy Muffitt announced his retirement in February. Muffitt launched his 20th (and final) season on the podium on a cosmic scale Oct. 4 with a 40-minute *mélange* of orchestral, choral and visual stimuli by Minnesota-based composer Jocelyn Hagen, “The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci,” paired with Gustav Holst’s “The Planets.”

In another Lansing Symphony highlight of 2025, British pianist Benjamin Grosvenor, one of the biggest international stars ever to appear with the orchestra, was the guest soloist for Beethoven’s epic “Emperor” Concerto at May’s 2024-’25 season finale.

Muffitt brought the orchestra to new heights during his tenure, conquering most of the biggest symphonic mountains in the repertoire, and attracted world-class soloists like Grosvenor, pianist Jeremy Denk, Broadway star Audra McDonald and superstar violinist Ray Chen.

Yet despite its international cachet, the LSO is, at heart, another hometown miracle, sitting squarely at the intersection of local energy and world-class music.

Announcing his retirement, Muffitt said he cared most about showcasing the orchestra’s own hometown talent, often giving them spectacular solo turns.

“The biggest thing for me has been shining a spotlight on the extraordinary musical talent we have here in mid-Michigan,” Muffitt said.

He summed up his tenure as “a decades-long celebration of our state, a place that puts a high priority on the arts, on music for everyone.”

All year long, MSU’s Wharton Center continued its commitment to fine arts as well as its Broadway bread and butter by bringing the world to Greater Lansing, with performers like the World Ballet Company, Ukrainian folk duo Kurbasy and French baroque ensemble *Les Arts Florissants*.

This year also brought big-time energy in genres of music that blur the line, if there is any, between “fine” art and popular music. DJ Mike Sherman, or Big Sherm, declared Lansing



Courtesy

Phillip Bahar, a veteran museum administrator and event organizer, was named director of the MSU Broad Art Museum in September.

to be in a “golden era” of electronic music, with several intersecting groups hosting electronic music events at Mac’s Bar, The Avenue and other venues. In the wake of a popular techno exhibit at the MSU Museum, an MSU student-led collective called *The Cadre* has melted into an already rich local mix. At MELT Thursdays at UrbanBeat, established local artists and newcomers spin records well into the wee hours, defying the longtime canard that the city shuts down at 10 p.m. In future years, Sherman envisions the scene coming together for a Lansing-based electronic music festival along the lines of Detroit’s *Movement Festival*.

Lansing’s burgeoning film community had a spectacular run in 2025. It’s been a long time since Lansing had a dedicated movie house where international and independent films are shown, but that hasn’t stopped Capital City Film Festival director Dominic Cochran and his staff from



Photo by Olivia Beebe

In the first performance of his final season as Lansing Symphony maestro, Timothy Muffitt tackled “The Notebooks of Leonardo Da Vinci,” a massive multimedia work by composer Jocelyn Hagen.



Courtesy

Trombonist Michael Dease directed MSU’s jazz studies program through a stellar year and received a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship along the way.

growing the festival into a major cultural event with its own unique, welcoming vibe.

This year’s festival brought a massive, coordinated onslaught of international and local indie films, premieres, special appearances by filmmakers, panel discussions, musical events, spoken-word performances and much more to venues as diverse as Central United Methodist Church, Impression 5 Science Center, Stage One, The Avenue and The Robin Theatre.

CCFF was the biggest, but not the only film festival of the year. The 28th East Lansing Film Festival in November and the Lake Michigan Film Festival in February showcased independent films by Midwest filmmakers, including documentaries and shorts, at the Meridian Mall’s Studio C! theater. And if you like your film festivals darker, you got that in 2025, too. Timed to align with World Goth Day, May 22, the World Goth Day Film FestEvil took to various REO Town venues, including the eclectic and vi-

brant Robin Theatre.

Lansing’s interlocking poetry, spoken word and hip-hop communities also thrived in 2025, with hundreds of large and small events spearheaded by local luminaries like Lansing Poet Laureate Ruelaine Stokes, Poetry Room firebrand Masaki Takahashi and hip-hop artist/educator Jahshua Smith.

Where did all this happen? Wherever it could. The eternal scramble for venues for Lansing artists and musicians to do their thing got a bit easier in late fall, when the Fish Ladder Music Park was completed in Old Town. The ingenious integration of an outdoor concert venue and a fish ladder is another example of pure Lansing, and its potential has only begun to be tapped. Next year, the park will host the annual Dam Jam music festival and many other events.

Last but not least, Lansing’s long-awaited downtown music venue, The Ovation, is set to open in early 2027, with a two-story main stage, a second performance space, community spaces, podcast studios and much more. The venue will likely serve as the epicenter of the Capital City Film Festival as well.

These new venues, and the prospect of hundreds of new residents moving into downtown developments now under construction, bodes well for the local art scene in 2026 and beyond.

Lansing Art Gallery Board Chair Rachel Beatty summed up the die-hard energy and optimism of the city’s arts scene at its darkest hour in 2025, when the gallery closed its doors. “This doesn’t reflect the Lansing arts community,” Beatty declared. “We’re strong. We’re vibrant. There’s so much support, and so many artists love this community. The future of the arts landscape is going to be on the rise in the next couple of years.”

# 2025 theater season in review

BY MARY CUSACK

Live theater has the power to move us in ways that other forms of entertainment cannot. The communion of an audience sharing a live experience with performers who are showcasing both their talents and vulnerabilities creates a special, albeit temporary, bond. It's a bond that's very necessary in these days of divisiveness, when people can hide behind screens and heartlessly attack one another. Theater gives us back that heart and human connection.

Many shows I reviewed this year were so powerful that I teared up remembering them as I scanned my reviews. The year began with Williamston Theatre's heartbreaking "A Case for the Existence of God," the story of two fathers who bond over their struggles to maintain custody of their daughters. Next, Peppermint Creek crushed it, and me, with "Broke-ology," wherein two sons wrestle with how to best care for their ailing father — a story all too familiar for many families today.

Peppermint Creek continued to bring audiences together by sharing stories about families ripped apart with its production of "The Best We Could (a family tragedy)," a work that allowed Jeff Mag-

nuson to trick us into thinking he was an easygoing, happy dad. The role of the father was central to Williamston Theatre's "Baba," about an immigrant father navigating the unforgiving bureaucracy of the US Passport and Immigration office to get a passport for his young daughter so he can take her home to Egypt. Sarab Kamoo was outstanding, pulling double duty as Baba and his estranged adult daughter.

Two productions stood out for their bravery in tackling uncomfortable topics. Riverwalk Theatre's black box production of "How I Learned to Drive" addressed generational sexual abuse

within a family. It was extremely cringey, but it was so very well acted that it was worth the discomfort. Not to be undone in making audiences uncomfortable, Lansing Community College presented "Collective Rage: A Play in Five Betties." This show was a clever, hilarious and raunchy look at female and female-presenting empowerment and self-actualization. Betz Lund turned in perhaps the most vulnerable performance I saw this year with her almost naked, joyful abandon as her character learned to love herself. It was hard not to leave the play feeling happy and hopeful.



**Review**



Photo by Jeremy Daniel

Elijah Ahmad Lewis (left) as Scarecrow and Dana Cimone as Dorothy in the North American tour of "The Wiz," which delighted audiences at the Wharton Center earlier this month.



Photo by Ariniko O'Meara

From left: Quinn Kelly as Jake II, TJ Kelly as Walt and Lewis Elson as Jake I in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Lustful Youth," which kicked off a moving year of local theater in January.

Here are the shows that moved City Pulse's other theater reviewers in 2025:

**Courtney Bowerman:**

"The SpongeBob Musical" at Riverwalk was a nautically naughty good time. The cast nailed their characters perfectly, and even the adults in the audience could appreciate the show's humor and poignantly relevant storyline. That being said, I also loved the Broadway series at Wharton Center, especially "A Beautiful Noise," "The Wiz" and "Beauty and the Beast."

**Dana deMink:**

Peppermint Creek's production "Ride

the Cyclone" was a standout in 2025. When you read the plot synopsis, it seems cliché, but this was a hilarious, wild ride. I am always amazed by our local talent, and this was an off-the-charts talent extravaganza. Peppermint Creek also impressed the hell out of me with the spectacular "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical."

Additionally, I really enjoyed "Lustful Youth" at Riverwalk Theatre. My husband is still talking about it. This farcical metacomedy showcased a great working relationship between director Kait Wilson and playwright Mike Eserkalm.

See Review, Page 14

# Novelty and nonconformity mark 2025's new businesses



By LEO V. KAPLAN

Every business reflects its owner, and some are more than just a new twist on an old form. This year, the Lansing area's new business landscape was marked by unique concepts that challenged expectations, enriched the culture and, above all else, helped to keep Greater Lansing weird. Here are four ventures that highlight, particularly well, the diversity and creativity seen throughout the area in 2025.

**Chengdu Teahouse**

Elyse Ribbons spent most of her career in China, where she learned that teahouses were much more than the country's equivalent of Starbucks.

"It was the place where ideas were shared, where culture was passed down," she told City Pulse in June.

Known in China as Liu Suying, Rib-



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Owner Elyse Ribbons pours chrysanthemum tea at Chengdu Teahouse, which opened in February in Old Town.

bons has run theater festivals, appeared on TV as a reporter and actress and even been the COO of a Fortune Global 500 company.

She said her Chinese fans often comment that her American approach distinguishes her Chinese writing. In the same vein, she hopes that her American

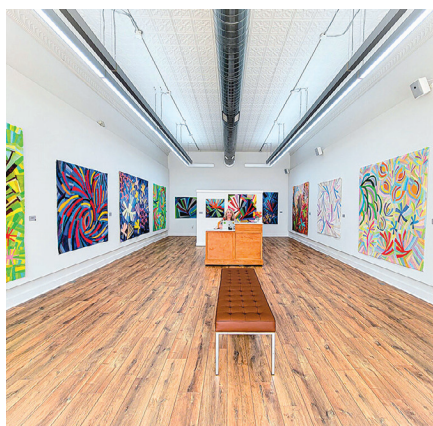


Photo by Corey Jarvinen

Pamela Loewen works on her laptop at her Williamston studio and gallery, which opened in April. The gallery focuses primarily on artistic quiltmaking.

approach to a Chinese teahouse will help distinguish it from others who have tried, and failed, to bring Chinese tea to the US previously.

Equal parts authentic teahouse and social hub, Chengdu is an experience not quite like any other in mid-Michigan.

**Loewen Studio & Gallery**

In 2016, noted American quiltmaker Nancy Crow told her student Pamela Loewen that the world needed a gallery promoting quilts as art, and that Loewen was the one to do it.

At the time, Loewen laughed it off.

Ten years later, she opened Loewen Studio & Gallery in Williamston.

Like other artists, art quilters often create bodies of work centered around motifs or ideas. But the opportunity to display such a body is a rarity, with quilt shows often limited to one or two pieces per artist. Loewen's gallery is an opportunity for quilters to display an entire collection.

Loewen hopes to foster a community around quiltmaking and create a "destination gallery" that will attract people from out of town to Williamston.

**Dungeons & Dragons**

Playing Dungeons & Dragons can be accomplished with as little as a set of dice, a book of rules and some vivid imaginations.

See New Town, Page 14

# Potholes and pipe dreams

## The great Michigan cannabis culling of 2025

By **CHRIS SILVA**

As 2025 comes to a close, the cannabis landscape in Michigan is shifting from a wide-open frontier to a walled garden. We're continuing to see record-breaking sales numbers, but the reality on the ground is far from OK. The industry is seeing a massive contraction due to tax policy and market saturation.

Here is the year-end briefing on the state of Michigan cannabis:

### The 24% excise cliff

The most significant threat to the industry is no longer just oversupply, but House Bill 4951. Effective Thursday (Jan. 1), the state will impose a 24% wholesale excise tax on all cannabis transfers. This is in addition to the existing 10% retail excise tax and 6% sales tax.

For the consumer, the math is grim.

While the tax is levied at the wholesale level, basic economics tells us these costs will be passed down. In a market where margins were already razor thin, retail prices are expected to climb significantly as dispensaries adjust.

If you want to mitigate the immediate impact on your wallet, the next few days are critical. Stocking up before the new year is the only way to lock in 2025

pricing. Focus on high-value items with long shelf lives:

- **Concentrates:** Live resin and rosin maintain potency for six to 12 months if stored in airtight glass containers in a cool, dark environment.

- **Tinctures and Rick Simpson Oil:** These are highly shelf stable and offer a better milligram-per-dollar ratio than traditional flower.

- **The medical loophole:** Now is the time to renew or apply for your medical marijuana card. Medical cannabis is exempt from both the 10% retail excise tax and the new 24% wholesale hike. Patients will continue to pay only the flat 6% sales tax. If your favorite shop still maintains a medical license, a \$40 card could save you hundreds in the coming year.

### An industry-wide culling

The legislative shift is already claiming casualties across the board. C3 Industries — the powerhouse behind the High Profile retail chain — confirmed it will shutter its 125,000-square-foot cultivation hub in Webberville by mid-February. That means 62 layoffs, with leadership explicitly naming the new wholesale tax as the reason the facility is now “economically unviable.”



Big: Studio/Shutterstock

But this isn't just a localized issue; it's a systemic collapse. Pincanna, the East Lansing-founded operator that once held a massive footprint in Pinconning, has officially folded and ceased all operations. We are seeing a similar pattern statewide: Higher Love in the UP has slashed 30% of its workforce, and TerrAscend (the parent of Gage) is effectively retreating from the Michigan market.

From the state capital to rural farms, the era of the “mega grow” is ending as companies realize they cannot outrun the state's tax appetite.

### Schedule III: A paper tiger

On the federal level, the DEA's move



to reclassify cannabis as a Schedule III drug remains the industry's North Star, but it's a distant one. While rescheduling will eventually nullify Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code — allowing businesses to finally deduct standard operating expenses — the relief is not retroactive. For the operators facing the state's 24% wholesale hike, a future federal tax break doesn't solve today's liquidity crisis.

### The bottom line

The Lansterdam of 2026 will be leaner, more expensive and more consolidated. The transition from a voter-initiated open market to a state-leveraged piggy bank for road funding has fundamentally changed the game. For the consumer, the message is clear: buy now, store smart and get your medical card before the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve.

## Review

from page 13

The duo worked together at Eserkahn's improv club in Wisconsin, developing sketch comedy vignettes. That strong collaborative vibe really worked for this tight production.

I closed out 2025 with a spectacle at Wharton Center. With its breathtaking vocals, vibrant costumes and Motown, funk, gospel and soul sounds, as well as its energized mélange of hip-hop, ballet and Afro-Cuban choreography, the revival of “The Wiz” has been delightfully reimaged for modern audiences.

### Vic Rauch:

My favorite show of 2025, for very personal reasons, was “A Sherlock Carol,” performed at Williamston Theatre. I've been tantalized by Christmas stories, especially Charles Dickens' “A Christmas Carol,” all my life. I heard it performed on the radio as early as age 4 or 5. A book

with the original haunting illustrations fascinated me. As a youth, I saw movie versions in theaters. After my family got a television set, I watched every conceivable production, including cartoon and musical versions.

When I started my own family, I introduced my children to my love of the Dickens classic, not only through television, but by attending live performances every Christmas season at the New Vic Theatre in Kalamazoo. One year, my oldest granddaughter was in the cast, playing Fan and one of the Cratchit kids. All in all, I estimate that I've read, heard or seen the story 300 times in my 86 years.

As for “Sherlock Carol” at Williamston, I was intrigued by the interplay of Sherlock Holmes characters mingling with the ghosts and grown-up Cratchits to deal with suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of Ebenezer Scrooge. Not only was it a masterful performance, with just six actors effectively playing the roles of multiple characters, but it gave me my “Christmas Carol” fix for 2025.

## New Town

from page 13

But those wanting to take their tabletop role-playing experience to the next level might be interested in Dungeons & Dragons, an upscale D&D room with just about every amenity a player could want, from miniatures to a projector to a custom-built table. Oh, and co-owners Colton Hughes and Wyatt Russ made the room look like a dungeon, too.

Renting out the space isn't cheap. A six-hour rental of the room, which can accommodate a seven-person group, is \$340 total. The price is even higher if you want to rent either Hughes or Russ out as game masters.

But they aren't trying to replace the classic D&D session in the DM's basement with a stack of pizzas. They're writing a love letter to the form for those celebrating a final session or birthday, or who just want

to take their experience to the next level.

### GiantMouse Knives

When Michigan State University alumnus Jim Wirth moved back to Lansing in 2020, he brought his business with him.

Wirth founded GiantMouse Knives in 2015 with Danish knife designers Jens Ansø and Jesper Voxnaes. Originally a side project between friends, the venture has grown into an international operation.

In August, Old Town became the operation's epicenter when GiantMouse opened its first showroom just across the street from Chengdu Teahouse.

The showroom gives locals an easy way to learn more about the brand itself and the world of luxury knives.

And for the less outdoorsy, the business recently restocked its kitchen knife collection, too.

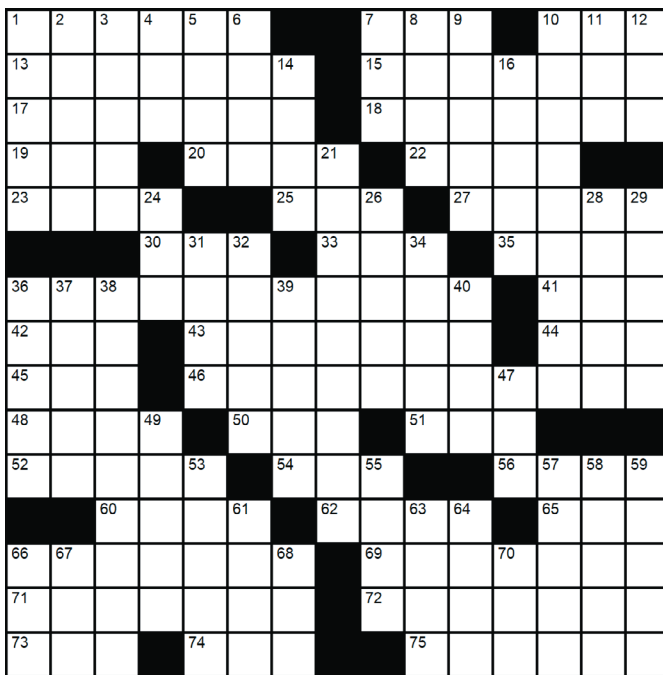
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"The Best of 2025" -- it's that time of year.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2025 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. Doll central to a popular (and weird) trend of 2025
- 7. Refuel need
- 10. "Isn't \_\_\_ Lovely?" (Stevie Wonder hit)
- 13. College William Faulkner dropped out of
- 15. Takoyaki ingredient
- 17. IGN's Best Horror Movie of 2025, directed by Zach Cregger
- 18. Medical drama on multiple Best TV of 2025 lists
- 19. No. on some business cards
- 20. "In Spanish, el \_\_\_ in a sombrero" (lyrics from "The Cat in the Hat" animated special)
- 22. 30-second spot
- 23. Abrasive tool
- 25. Author Grafton
- 27. Throw up?
- 30. Director Mendes
- 33. Explosive in a stick
- 35. "That's right"
- 36. "\_\_\_: Expedition 33" (Game of the Year at 2025's The Game Awards)
- 41. Lb. and oz., e.g.
- 42. Letters of debt
- 43. Class of antibodies, in immunology
- 44. Slippery swimmer
- 45. Bolt's counterpart
- 46. Lady Gaga hit that topped Rolling Stone's Best Songs of 2025 list
- 48. Celine who closed the 2024 Olympic Opening Ceremony
- 50. "Woohoo!"
- 51. Pull a scam on
- 52. Abominable creatures



- 54. No. on business cards
- 56. Wordless "Oh my!"
- 60. Poetic preposition
- 62. Capitol topper
- 65. "\_\_\_ be back!"
- 66. Ryan Coogler film on The Hollywood Reporter's list of Best Movies of 2025
- 69. Performer of "Berghain," the #1 best song of 2025 in the Pitchfork Readers' Poll
- 71. Day planner span
- 72. Epitome of attention to detail, metaphorically
- 73. Lump of cash
- 74. "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" author's monogram
- 75. 2025 hit song featured in "K-Pop Demon Hunters"
- DOWN
- 1. Bring down
- 2. Amazon assistant
- 3. Pulsations
- 4. Arbiter on a field
- 5. Bookstore sect.
- 6. Annapolis initials
- 7. Understood
- 8. Vier twice?
- 9. One of the Martins on "Only Murders in the Building"
- 10. Natural weave?
- 11. Makeshift dwelling
- 12. "C\_\_\_ la vie!"
- 14. Air France fliers, once
- 16. Eye-popping designs
- 21. Remained longer than
- 24. Letter after chi
- 26. Multivolume ref. work
- 28. Even more adorable
- 29. Inventor Nikola
- 31. Caruso solo
- 32. Ted \_\_\_, protagonist of "How I Met Your Mother"
- 34. First name in 1990s rap
- 36. Photographer Sherman
- 37. A nephew of Donald Duck
- 38. Artificially sweetened?
- 39. 2006 Sacha Baron Cohen role
- 40. Go over
- 47. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" director Lee
- 49. Silly billy
- 53. Take the wheel
- 55. Figure "a-leaping"
- 57. Caught a bug
- 58. Sorry! action
- 59. Like froyo without the toppings
- 61. Like cough medicines
- 63. Early keyboard synthesizer
- 64. "\_\_\_ Perpetua" (Idaho state motto)
- 66. Sty ma
- 67. TV chef Garten
- 68. Potential grads, for short
- 70. N.L. East team

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Dec. 30, 2025-Jan. 6, 2026

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Before major eruptions, volcanoes may emit harmonic tremors. Lasting for hours or days, they are signals that pressure is building. A similar phenomenon is simmering in your sphere, Aries. Be alert. What rhythmic clues are vibrating through your system? What pressure is mounting that could eventually erupt? I'm not saying you should interpret them with a worried mind. In fact, they are offering you valuable intelligence about what needs to be released. You can either ignore them and let the eruption surprise you, or you can pay attention and arrange for controlled venting.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Your heartbeat isn't regular like a metronome, but slightly irregular. The phenomenon is called heart rate variability and is a sign of health. A perfectly regular heartbeat is actually a warning sign. Your heart knows something your mind might not believe: Perfect consistency is pathological. Variation is vitality. The rhythm of life includes the beautiful irregularity of a system that's alive enough to respond and adapt. Keep these truths uppermost in mind during 2026, Taurus. You will thrive on changeability and fluctuation.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** The Greenland shark waits for animals to fall asleep, then eats them while they're unconscious. Since it's too slow to chase anything, it has evolved a patient approach to hunting. It acts on the understanding that everything eventually lets its guard down. I suggest you cultivate similar patience in 2026, Gemini. There's no need to rush toward what you want. Position yourself correctly and wait for moments of opportunity. You're playing a long game.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Atmospheric rivers are massive moisture highways in the sky. Meteorologists have been documenting newly identified patterns in how these marvels work. They've learned that tiny changes in ocean temperature can redirect thousands of miles of incoming rain. This will be an excellent metaphor for you in 2026, dear Cancerian. You'll be in atmospheric river mode. Small shifts in perspective and slight recalibrations of intention will send your momentum flowing in different and better directions. No drama required! Simple micro-adjustments will reroute larger currents. Attend devotedly and zestfully to the subtleties.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Certain fungi can break down pollutants like pesticides and plastics into less toxic substances. These mushrooms digest what's considered indigestible, transforming poison into nutrients. I suspect you will have a metaphorically comparable capacity in 2026, dear Leo: a superpower that enables you to metabolize blight and taint. I predict you will exult as you eliminate stuff that's useless and harmful. Please indulge your unusual talent to the max!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The U.S. Library of Congress adds 60,000 items to its collection every week but only catalogs a fraction of them immediately. So, vast amounts of knowledge sit there, acquired but not yet processed, waiting for librarians to create the finding aids that make them accessible. You're in a similar situation, Virgo. You've accumulated extraordinary amounts of information, experience, and skill. But how much of it is cataloged? How much is accessible when you need it? In the coming months, I hope you *won't* acquire more. Instead, you will spend time with your archives and process what you've already gathered. What do you know that you've forgotten you know? What experiences hold wisdom you've never extracted?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Vault doors often require two keys, turned simultaneously, to open. Why? Such a practice furthers risk reduction and fraud prevention. Let's make this a potent metaphor for you in 2026, Libra. It will symbolize cooperation and balance, as well as an enhancement of your security. The treasures you'll be trying to access will require dual input. One key is yours: intellect, agility, charm, initiative. The second must come from a collaborator, mentor, friend, unexpected

stranger, or even a spirit guide. Just assume that the vault won't open through brilliance alone. It will require synchronization.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** In December 1968, US astronaut Bill Anders was orbiting the moon inside the Apollo 8 spacecraft. He snapped a photo that showed the Earth as a blue-and-white sphere rising over the gray lunar surface against the blackness of space. This iconic image helped fuel the environmental movement and transformed how humans understood their home. You're at a comparable pivot, Scorpio. In 2026, you will see familiar situations from new angles, and this will reorganize your understanding of how life works. That's a good thing! Be alert for watershed moments that bring revolutionary blessings.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** The Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland is made of 40,000 interlocking basalt columns formed when ancient lava cooled and contracted. Legend says a giant built it as a bridge to Scotland. Both stories are true, one geologically and the other mythologically. Your life in the coming months will remind you that multiple explanations can coexist without canceling each other. The scientific story of lava cooling doesn't make the giant story less meaningful. The giant story doesn't make the geology less accurate. Conclusion: You don't have to choose between competing narratives about your life as if only one can be true. What if both are? The practical explanation and mythic explanation describe the same phenomenon from different angles. You can be both the cooling lava and the giant building the bridge.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web. He intentionally didn't patent his creation but gave it away freely. Universal access mattered more to him than personal profit. That single decision in 1991 was a profound gift to the world. Because he chose openness, billions benefited. In his generous spirit, dear Capricorn, let's ask whether you're keeping proprietary anything that would be better released into the commons. Are there ideas, knowledge, or resources you're holding in reserve that could multiply through sharing? In 2026, I invite you to be like Berners-Lee: a magnanimous strategist who understands that some things gain value through distribution, not restriction. Your intelligence will almost certainly be worth more unleashed than protected. Your innovations will need the crowd to fulfill their purpose.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** In the myths of Mali's Dogon people, Nommo is an amphibious, telepathic being who brought language, rhythm, and balance to Earth — and then departed. If things fall out of harmony, it's believed, Nommo will return, speaking the lost syllables that realign the cosmos. You're a bit like Nommo these days, Aquarius. Parts of your world may be in disarray, and your sacred task is to listen for the lost syllables. What's missing in the dialogue? What notes aren't being sung? If you seek gently and speak truly, restoration will follow.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** The longest chess game theoretically possible is 5,949 moves, but most games end in fewer than 40. Chess masters don't win by seeing every possibility. Instead, they recognize patterns and anticipate which paths are worth exploring. Let's apply this as a useful metaphor, Pisces. In 2026, it's crucial that you don't waste energy by considering improbable scenarios that will never materialize. You should be determined not to miss emerging themes because you're too busy calculating unlikely variations. According to my prognosis, you don't need to see further; you need to see more precisely and accurately. The chess master's advantage isn't exhaustive analysis; it's knowing what to ignore. Ninety percent of your options don't matter. Ten percent do.

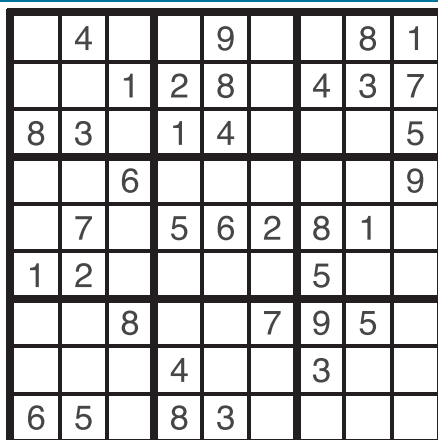
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

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Answers on page 18

## SUDOKU

## Beginner



## Fun By The Numbers

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

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

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://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. 30

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

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

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 7 p.m. St. Jude Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. [cmialanon.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing).

**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](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**Mountain Dulcimer Concert & Workshop with Wanda Degen** - In this introductory workshop, you'll learn about the mountain dulcimer. Begins with a brief demonstration and performance. Ages 9+. Registration req. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.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](http://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](http://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](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Trivia at Lansing Shuffle** - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. [lansingshuffle.com](http://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](http://facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse).

### Wednesday, Dec. 31

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**A Night at the Soul Lounge: New Year's Party** - DJs Kaelis, Rexyo and E-Nyce will spin the best in

hip-hop, R&B, house and Afrobeats as we count down to midnight. 8:30 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. [soulounge517.com](http://soulounge517.com).

**Donovan Trevas & Nick Masters Live at D'Nulffos** - 9 p.m. 1351 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-483-2793. [facebook.com/dnulffos](http://facebook.com/dnulffos).

**Electric Flower Co.** - Celebrate New Year's Eve with live music by Electric Flower Co. at your favorite live music location for 60+ years. 7 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [greendoor-live.com](http://greendoor-live.com).

**Jeremy Kratky Live at Graham Vineyards** - 5-8 p.m. 8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg. 517-741-0805. [facebook.com/grahamvineyards](http://facebook.com/grahamvineyards).

**Matthew Shannon Live at Sidebar Dine & Bar** - 6-10 p.m. 246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing. 517-220-2131. [sidebar-eastlansing.com](http://sidebar-eastlansing.com).

**New Year's Eve Celebration at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - Ring in the New Year with great music, great drinks, and even better vibes! Krosby's Conspiracy will keep the energy high with an electrifying live performance. 7 p.m.-12:30 a.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. [facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing](http://facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing).

**New Year's Eve Contra and Square Dance** - No partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck or 7:30 p.m. for a dance lesson. Dance runs from 8 p.m.-midnight, with a break for desserts. Caller: Liz Burkhart. Band: The Sligo Creek Ramblers (Marty Somberg, Hannah Harris, Bear Whitmer). Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**NYE Gala with Jeff Baldori and Twyla Birdsong** - Ring in the New Year in style at UrbanBeat! Join us for a strolling dining event with beautiful music by the Jeff Baldori Band. 7 p.m.-1 a.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Obviously Famous Live at Dublin Square** - 9-15 p.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. [facebook.com/dublinsquare](http://facebook.com/dublinsquare).

**The Polaroids New Year's Eve Bash** - We're ringing in the new year at our favorite bar, Moriarty's Pub! Come dance the night away with us. 8 p.m.-midnight. 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [facebook.com/moriartyspub](http://facebook.com/moriartyspub).

**The Reason You Came Live at Mash Bar** - 10 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. [mashbar.net](http://mashbar.net).

**TGIF New Year's Eve Midnight Blue Dance Party** - Doors 7:30 p.m., dance runs 8 p.m.-1 a.m. DJ Pat Johnson in the house. Dinner buffet provided. Cash/credit bar available. Champagne toast at midnight. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. [tgifdance.com](http://tgifdance.com).

### Thursday, Jan. 1

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 8 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

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

### Mountain Dulcimer Concert and Workshop with Wanda Degen

6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30  
Grand Ledge Area District Library  
131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge  
[gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

Tonight, the Grand Ledge Area District Library will offer an opportunity to learn how to play the mountain dulcimer, a stringed instrument hailing from southern Appalachia, with a local master.

Wanda Degen is a professional folk musician who has been educating and entertaining audiences throughout Michigan and well beyond for more than 35 years.

The free event will begin with a brief demonstration and performance by Degen. Attendees will then learn several songs.

Registration is required. Participants can either bring their own dulcimer or loan one from Degen. Best for ages 8 and older.



**The Trick Is in the Cards** - 5-11 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. [homebrewgamelounge.com](http://homebrewgamelounge.com).

### Friday, Jan. 2

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

**Dan Dan Laird Live at Sidebar** - 7-10 p.m. 246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing. 517-220-2131. [sidebar-eastlansing.com](http://sidebar-eastlansing.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](http://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](http://anthonymcairo.com/numinous-light).

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

**Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's.

Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. [lapsg.org](http://lapsg.org).

**Winter Wonderland at the Michigan History Museum** - Enjoy crafts, activities and hands-on history as you explore winters from times past. All winter fun is included in the cost of museum admission! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. [facebook.com/MichiganHistoryCenter](http://facebook.com/MichiganHistoryCenter).

### Saturday, Jan. 3

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

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

**Contra and Square Dance** - No partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Caller: Carol Steiner. Band: Denning and Johnson and Friends. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**Frozen Film Fest: Session 3** - We're making glittery "snow dough" out of household products and watching "Frozen II" (2019, PG). 1-4:30 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**Sound Bath Saturday** - Ringing in the new year! Enjoy the reset and relaxation with sound bowls and gong sounds. 1:30-3 p.m. The Light House Chapel, 1501 Windsor St., Lansing. 517-712-2622. [facebook.com/lansinglighthousechapel](http://facebook.com/lansinglighthousechapel).

## Events

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### Sunday, Jan. 4

**“A Caregiver’s Butterfly Garden”** - Noon-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

**Auditions for “Pillowman,” by Martin McDonagh** - Director Adam Carlson is holding auditions for this contemporary dark fable. Auditions will be cold reads from scripts. 7 p.m. Sycamore Creek Church, 1919 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/lxionEnsemble.

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

**DJ Trivia and Football at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - Trivia is free to play, with prizes for the top three teams. Catch the football games while you play. 4-5:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

**Exhibition: MSU Ice Hockey vs. United States National Team Development Program** - 4 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

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

**MSU Women’s Basketball vs. University of Illinois** - Noon. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

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

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

### Monday, Jan. 5

**“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 Armwood Drive, Lansing. cmialanon.org.

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

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

**Crafty Story Time** - Preschool-aged children (with a caregiver) can enjoy activities, stories and a craft. 11 a.m.-noon. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**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. www.facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

**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.

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

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

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

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

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

**MSU Men’s Basketball vs. USC** - 8:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

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

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

**PEARS Deeper Dive: Quarterly Efforts** - Participants should have attended the PEARs Crash Course. Learn how to enter a Quarterly Effort report. 1-2 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od.

**Plant Quest 2026: Tempting Tropicals for Temperate Gardens** - Marc Hachadourian of the New York Botanical Garden will show us how to take advantage of tropical annuals to enhance our landscapes. 6-7:15 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/kent.

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

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

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

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

### Tuesday, Jan. 6

**“A Caregiver’s Butterfly Garden”** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

**Acting 101 Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Cen-

### NYE Gala

7 p.m.-1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing

urbanbeatevents.com

UrbanBeat invites those still looking for New Year’s Eve plans to ring in 2026 with a strolling dining event featuring live music by the Jeff Baldori Band, vocalist Twyla Birdsong and special guests.

The four-course meal includes herb-crusted beef tenderloin, marinated citrus shrimp, homemade desserts and more. Guests, who are encouraged to “dress to impress,” can also enjoy a full bar and a champagne toast at midnight. Tickets are \$75.

Baldori is an accomplished Lansing-area musician whose career started in Detroit in the 1960s. As a teen, he played with his brother “Boogie” Bob Baldori in The Woolies, which landed a national record contract with Dunhill Records in 1966. Birdsong is a charismatic singer with deep roots in jazz, blues, R&B and gospel music.

ter, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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

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

**Birth Management for Sheep and Goats** - The MSU Small Ruminant Extension team is offering a four-part webinar series that will lead you through a host of topics aimed at improving birth management of sheep and goats. 7-9 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/jackson.

**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.

**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.

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

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

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

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

**Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference** - Learn the latest in onsite wastewater industry trends,

regulatory changes, wastewater management options and technologies. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Kellogg Hotel, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/septic\_system\_education.

**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.

**Online Extension Extras for Parents: RELAX — Alternatives to Anger for Parents and Caregivers** - This workshop will help participants learn about the developmental stages in children’s self-control and how parents and caregivers can assist children at each stage. 7:30-9 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/parenting\_education\_classes.

**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.

**Property Tax Foreclosure Basics** - This webinar will describe the property tax timeline in Michigan and possible assistance options. Noon-1 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth/index.

**Tai Chi for Better Sleep** - This series combines Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention and the Sleep Education for Everyone Program (SLEEP). 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/tai-chi-for-arthritis.

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

See Events, Page 19

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Anna's House's chilaquiles are ideal for the indecisive

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

My family loves Anna's House for its relaxed, retro vibe and its variety of vegan options for both breakfast and lunch. It's a treat whenever we stop by the Okemos area, and since there are 11 locations throughout the state, we can always find one to eat at when we go on day trips to Grand Rapids, Grand Haven or South Haven. So, naturally, when we heard that we were finally going to get one closer to where we live on the west side of Lansing, we were thrilled.

After nearly a year of



#### Anna's Baked Chilaquiles

\$16  
 Anna's House  
 644 Migaldi Lane, Ste. 700,  
 Lansing  
 7 a.m.-3 p.m. daily  
 (517) 253-9148  
 annashouseus.com  
 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday  
 (517) 580-8611  
 goodfellasbageldeli.com

waiting, the Delta Township location opened toward the end of October. We waited a week or two before trying it out for ourselves, since whenever we drove by, the parking lot was packed. If you've been to an Anna's House, you know that they're notoriously busy, particularly on weekends. However, even though we were foolish enough to visit on a state holiday, we still didn't

have to wait too long.

Like its predecessors, the new location has a casual atmosphere, with an interior design that harkens back to the mid-20th century. The walls are decorated with collectibles like an old-fashioned TV by the front desk, murals, framed pictures from the sitcom "Alice" and other pop-culture memorabilia. The dining area is relatively small, which is another reason why it fills up so quickly on weekends. Despite that, the staff provided relatively fast and friendly service.

My typical order at Anna's House varies between the breakfast burritos, the breakfast sandwiches and whatever item on the current seasonal menu looks good. This time, I decided to be adventurous and try Anna's Baked Chilaquiles, a take on the traditional Mexican breakfast dish. Baked corn tortillas were topped with enchilada sauce, two sunny-side-up eggs, Monterey Jack and cotija cheeses, crema, poblano hollandaise, cilantro and avocado pieces. As you can imagine, it was a bit messy to consume, but it was nevertheless delicious.



Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

If you can't make up your mind about whether to order breakfast or lunch at Anna's House, the chilaquiles are the best of both worlds.

The tortilla pieces were nice and soft, and the sauces provided a kick without being too spicy. If you can't make up your mind about whether to order breakfast or lunch, chilaquiles are the best of both worlds. The eggs give the feel of a hearty breakfast, while the tortillas and cheese will fill you up for the rest of the day.

Anna's House is a welcome brunch option in the Delta Township area, especially for customers seeking vegetarian or vegan options. Although the food is well worth braving the crowds, it would be wise to plan ahead and join the Yelp waiting list.

#### Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

December 18, 2025, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes and 11 citizens. Absent: Trustee Currie.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved reappointment of Stephen Colby to Abrams Airport Advisory Board.
- 2) Approved appointment of Marcy Dean and reappointment of Supervisor Stroud to the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority Board.
- 3) Approved appointment of Marcy Dean to Zoning Board of Appeals and purchase of MTA book Breaking the Code book for Marcy Dean.
- 4) Approved payment of December 2025 bills.
- 5) Adopted resolution 12-18-2025-02 to Extend Interim Zoning Ordinance.
- 6) Adopted ordinance 12-2025 Revocable Wolverine Power Electric Service Franchise.
- 7) Approved signing Conflict and Consent Waiver for Foster Swift.
- 8) Approved replacement of internal basement door at hall.
- 9) Adopted resolution 12-18-2025-01 2026 Board Trustees Meeting Dates.
- 10) Approved budget amendments.
- 11) Approved drafting a resolution for a temporary moratorium on data centers.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is January 20, 2026, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#25-417



#### TOP 5 BURGERS

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

- 1. Crunchy's**  
 Watering hole in old-school digs famous for burgers, buckets of beer and karaoke  
 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
 (517) 351-2506  
 crunchyseastlansing.com  
 11 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday  
 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday
- 2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill**  
 Relaxed American eatery offering handcrafted burgers and grill fare, plus sports on TV  
 2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
 (517) 374-0390

dagwoodstavern.com  
 11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

- 3. Kewpee Sandwich Shop**  
 1920s diner with a collection of antique Kewpie dolls serving burgers, homemade root beer and shakes  
 118 S. Washington Square, Lansing  
 (517) 482-8049  
 westonskewpee.com  
 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday  
 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday

- 4. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill**  
 Traditional tavern with pub and breakfast fare, a backyard, darts and pool leagues  
 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
 (517) 482-0184  
 leroyclassicbar.com  
 7 a.m.-midnight Monday-Saturday

- 5. The Peanut Barrel**  
 American bar and grill offering burgers, sandwiches, beer and a scenic outdoor patio  
 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
 (517) 351-0608  
 peanutbarrel.com  
 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday  
 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday

#### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 15

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#### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 15

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

# Events

from page 17

**Virtual Mindfulness for Better Sleep** - This program introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness. Participants will also learn techniques to improve the quality and quantity of their sleep. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/mindfulnessforbetterliving](http://canr.msu.edu/mindfulnessforbetterliving).

**Walk with Ease** - Walking exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. Group will meet Tuesdays at Letts Community Center through Feb. 10. 1:30-2:30 p.m. 1220 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email [histedc@tcoa.org](mailto:histedc@tcoa.org).

## Wednesday, Jan. 7

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

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

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

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

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

East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

**Magic: The Gathering Club** - We invite players of all skill levels to join us on the first Wednesday of every month for our Magic: The Gathering club. Cards not provided. 5:30-8 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick S., Charlotte. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference** - Learn the latest in onsite wastewater industry trends, regulatory changes, wastewater management options and technologies. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Kellogg Hotel, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. [canr.msu.edu/septic\\_system\\_education](http://canr.msu.edu/septic_system_education).

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

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Group Dance Class: Beginning Salsa** - Learn the basic steps of one of the most popular Latin dances. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd.,

Notice of Public Hearing to be held on January 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Mason Court House, 341 S. Jefferson, Mason MI.

Ingham County Environmental Health is proposing to update Chapter 2 of the Ingham County Sanitary Code. The current code was adopted in 1973 and last updated in 1975.

The new revisions modernize the code to reflect current standards and practices that protect public health and the environment, while also accommodating recent and future technological advances.

This update would also introduce certification requirements for certain contractors, providing the department with additional tools to safeguard consumers and ensure quality services.

A copy of the current code, draft code and summary of the key changes can be viewed on our website here: [https://health.ingham.org/health/environmental\\_health/index.php](https://health.ingham.org/health/environmental_health/index.php)

CP#25-419

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