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What Happens When Moral Authority Turns to Shame

This is what state-sponsored terror looks like.

Not in history books. Not in distant countries that Americans like to pretend are nothing like us. Right now. In Minneapolis and St. Paul. In American parking lots, apartment buildings and neighborhoods where families are learning—through fear—what their government thinks of them.

People are afraid to leave their homes. Not because of gangs. Not because of crime waves. But because federal agents are roaming their cities, approaching people in public spaces, demanding papers and making it unmistakably clear that normal life is now conditional.

That is not immigration policy.

That is not law enforcement.

That is terror.

When a government uses its power to make civilians afraid to be in public, it has crossed the line from governance into abuse. When it does so deliberately, loudly, and repeatedly, it is no longer even pretending otherwise. CPS would remove the children and protect them, but right now, across the country, the call is coming from inside the house.

We are terrified. Not “uneasy.” Terrified. Many people are calculating risk in the same way they do under regimes they are taught to fear: Is it safer to stay inside? Is it safer to disappear?

That calculation should shame this country. Instead, it is being engineered.

This administration wants fear. It cultivates it. It weaponizes it. It floods cities with agents not because it makes anyone safer, but because it sends a message: We can reach you anywhere. You are never beyond our grasp.

That message is not aimed at criminals. It is aimed at communities.

The lie that this is about safety collapses instantly under scrutiny. Real public safety requires trust—between residents and institutions, between neighbors and authorities. This administration has chosen to intentionally obliterate that trust. It has decided that terrorizing families, destabilizing neighborhoods and traumatizing children is an acceptable tradeoff for political theater.

And make no mistake: this is theater. Cruelty staged for applause. Chaos manufactured for headlines. Human beings reduced to props in a grotesque display of “strength.”

A woman is dead following an ICE enforcement action. That alone should have stopped everything. That alone should have triggered restraint, accountability and humility. Instead, it has been met with deflection, justification, and lies from the very people who escalated the situation in the first place. “Do not believe what you’ve seen with your own eyes,” but instead, trust the government’s message.

That is not leadership.

That is cowardice.

This administration governs the way arsonists operate: light fires everywhere, then accuse others of disorder. Create panic, then demand obedience. Break communities, then call the wreckage proof of necessity.

And at the center of this is a president who doesn’t

govern—he provokes. He does not solve problems; he manufactures enemies. He does not reduce suffering; he redistributes it downward, onto those with the least power to resist.

Every day under this presidency brings new instability by design. New disruption. New trauma. New reminders that cruelty is not a failure of policy—it is the policy.

People are told to stop being dramatic. To stop using “loaded language.” To be patient. To wait for clarity. But clarity is not missing here. It is blinding.

When families are afraid to shop for groceries.

When children absorb fear as background noise.

When entire cities brace themselves for the arrival of federal agents like an occupying force.

That is not democracy functioning imperfectly. That is a state asserting dominance through intimidation.

Call it whatever euphemism you like. History will not.

No, this is not a carbon copy of past atrocities. History never repeats itself so conveniently. It evolves. It adapts. It learns which horrors can be repackaged as “policy” and which populations can be targeted without consequence.

The lesson of history is not comparison—it is pattern recognition. And the pattern here is unmistakable: normalize fear, dehumanize a group, insist it’s necessary, and punish anyone who objects.

This is how countries rot from the inside out.

A government that terrorizes its people is not strong. It is brittle. It is afraid of its own legitimacy. It replaces consent with force and calls it order. It replaces dignity with compliance and calls it patriotism.

And those cheering this now—those applauding the suffering because it’s happening to the “right” people—should understand something they are desperate to ignore:

Fear does not stay contained.

Power does not stay restrained.

And once a government learns it can rule through intimidation, it will not stop voluntarily.

By the time it reaches you, it will be too late to pretend you didn’t see it coming.

Because we are seeing it now.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE 2025-05 LANSING BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT ELECTRIC FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE OF ADOPTION Ordinance #2025-05 (Lansing Board of Water and Light Electric Franchise Ordinance)

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

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

A complete copy of the ordinance may be examined at the Department of Public Works & Engineering, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding Township holidays) and on the Township's website at <https://bit.ly/4pshWIC>.

CP#26-011

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN- INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN LEGAL AD NOTICE: PUBLIC HEARING BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN VILLAGE OF OKEMOS (VARIOUS ADDRESSES 2138 HAMILTON ROAD - 4675 OKEMOS ROAD) TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2026

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE: Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Village of Okemos (Various Addresses 2138 Hamilton Road - 4675 Okemos Road) Public Hearing FEBRUARY 3, 2026

Notice is hereby given that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 to hear all persons interested in the discussion to terminate by resolution the approved Brownfield Redevelopment Plan for the project site commonly referred to as the "Village of Okemos", comprised of various addresses at the northwest and southwest block of Hamilton and Okemos Road, in Downtown Meridian Township.

VILLAGE OF OKEMOS, LLC of Santa Barbara, CA has proposed a Brownfield Redevelopment Plan for the site at the northwest and southwest block of Hamilton and Okemos Road, 2138 Hamilton Road through 4675 Okemos Road, in support of demolition, asbestos abatement, the removal of contaminated soils due to previous business operations, and gap financing for redevelopment at the project site. The Township Board approved a 19-year Brownfield plan with the inclusion of a State Act 381 plan to cover the estimated cost of contamination removal. Total investment is estimated at \$92M with a reimbursement of \$11.8M to the developer for eligible reimbursable expenses. The following parcels are included in the proposed project:

2137 Hamilton Road; 33-02-02-21-409-004, 2138 Hamilton Road; 33-02-02-21-405-010, 2143 Hamilton Road; 33-02-02-21-409-002, 2148 Hamilton Road; 33-02-02-21-405-005, 2149 Hamilton Road; 33-02-02-21-409-002, 2153 Hamilton Road; 33-02-02-21-409-001, 4661 Okemos Road; 33-02-02-21-409-008; 4675 Okemos Road; 33-02-02-21-409-009, 4695 Okemos Road; 33-02-02-21-405-009, 4700 Ardmore Ave.; 33-02-02-21-405-008; 2150 Clinton St.;33-02-02-21-409-006;

The currently approved Brownfield Plan for the Village of Okemos may be examined on the Township's website, Village of Okemos Brownfield Plan under the Township's Brownfield Redevelopment page. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to Amber Clark Neighborhood and Economic Development Director, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to clark@meridian.mi.us.

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.

Member, AAN



Recording at a Grammy level in Lansing, around the world

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Weed tax could doom 'mom and pop' shops

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Elite Eatery is simply wing ding perfect

PAGE 22

Cover photo by Raymond Holt

Frozen Dystopia

AMONG THOSE INTERESTED IN COLONIZING GREENLAND ARE TECH BROS WHO DREAM OF BUILDING AN AUTOCRATIC "UTOPIA."

IT'S THE NEXT BEST THING TO MARS!

FOR THIS WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF DESTROYING NATO AND THE POST-WWII ORDER

THESE FANTASIES ARE PARTLY INSPIRED BY ISAAC ASIMOV'S FOUNDATION SERIES IN WHICH A REMOTE PLANET BECOMES A BASE FOR A MATH GENIUS TO SAVE HUMANITY.

HOW CONVENIENTLY THESE FOOLS FORGET MY SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW!

GHOST OF ASIMOV

WHEN THE BROLIGARCHS EVENTUALLY ARRIVE...

DUDE, I LOVE HOW MY SPERM DONATION FOR FUTURE HIGH-IQ ALPHAS FREEZES INSTANTLY.

ER, DON'T SLIP ON THE "ICE."

THE HONEYMOON DOESN'T LAST LONG.

I AM THE KING OF QAQORTOQ!

KRAK!

UH OH... GROK—HOW TO GET CYBERTRUCK OFF ICE FLOE?

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

AN EMERGENCY MEETING IN THE OVAL OFFICE...

CAN WE GET SOME MORE GOLD STUFF ON THE WALLS? THERE ARE STILL A FEW BLANK SPOTS!

ABSOLUTELY, SIR! BUT WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE WOMAN WHO WAS KILLED BY ICE!

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS VIDEO THAT THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WATCH, THE BRAVE OFFICER MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN DANGER, IF SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT HAD HAPPENED!

IF YOU SAY SO! I'LL POST SOMETHING ON TRUTH SOCIAL!

NO NEED, SIR, I'VE ALREADY DONE IT FOR YOU.

HOWDY, PARTNERS! IT'S ME-- COWGIRL KRISTI! THAT LADY IN THE CAR WAS A NO-GOOD, LOW-DOWN DOMESTIC TERRORIST! SHE DESERVED TO BE PUMPED FULL OF LEAD!

JUST LIKE ALL THE STUPID HIPPIES WHO MADE FUN OF ME IN HIGH SCHOOL!

WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO AFTER A TRAGEDY LIKE THIS--IMMEDIATELY START SMEARING THE VICTIM!

ALREADY ON IT! SHE WAS NO ANGEL! SHE HAD PRONOUNS IN HER BIO!

MY TEAM IS WORKING ON SOME SICK MEMES, MR. PRESIDENT!

WHAT WAS THIS RADICAL LEFT PAID AGITATOR'S NAME, ANYWAY?

RENEE GOOD, SIR. ICE HAS KILLED GOOD.

HEH HEH. THEY SURE HAVE!

NOW GET OUT THERE AND HARASS SOME PRESCHOOLS!

YES SIR!

MEANWHILE ON CAPITOL HILL...

HOW'S THIS: TRUMP SHOULD STOP KILLING CITIZENS--AND START "KILLING IT" ON AFFORDABILITY!

I'LL RUN IT BY THE FOCUS GROUP IMMEDIATELY!

NEXT: WHO THE ABSOLUTE HELL KNOWS ANYMORE.

Tom Tomorrow © 2026-01-12 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Bath mother hopes leather pouch can make traffic stops safer

Like many mothers of Black children, Susan Pope had to have a particular conversation with her children when they started driving.

“I gave them the talk about being pulled over by the police,” the Bath mother said. “You know: hands on the wheel, ‘yes, sir,’ ‘no, sir,’ and all of that.”

But as she was talking, Pope came to a realization: “The talk,” as she called it, is an oxymoron.

“You’re telling them to put their hands on the wheel, but they’re going to have to grab their documents, and usually those documents are in at least two different places,” she said.

Anxious to keep her children safe, Pope began designing the first prototype for her Safer Traffic Stops, a leather document holder that attaches to the top of a steering wheel. It allows drivers to grab all the necessary paperwork while limiting movement and keeping their hands in sight.

She began selling the product about two years ago, and has sold roughly 2,000 units, at about \$20 each.

Traffic stops can be a high-stress situation for everyone involved. Racial profiling during traffic stops has been a topic of national conversation for decades, and several high-profile incidents of Black people being injured or killed by officers after the officer mistakenly believed themselves to be in danger have dominated headlines in the last decade.

“You have to take your safety into your own hands,” Pope said, “because you never know.”

Kath Edsall is vice chair of the East Lansing Independent Police Oversight Commission. Her parents never had to have the traffic stop talk with her, but as the mother



Photos contributed

Kath Edsall, vice chair of the East Lansing Independent Police Oversight Commission



Safer Traffic Stops is a leather pouch that attaches to a steering wheel. It was invented by a Bath mother and is available for sale.

of eight black children, it’s a conversation she has become intimately familiar with.

She said officers’ training manifests in “hypervigilance,” a mentality where they need to be constantly prepared for a violent threat.

About one in 7,000 police stops ends up being an assault against an officer, and one in 361,111 stops results in an assault causing serious injury to an officer, according to a 2019 study by Jordan Blair Woods at the University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville. However, officers never know which stop could be that one anomalous assault.

Edsall said data reviewed by the oversight commission showed Black drivers are stopped and have force used against them at disproportionate levels in East Lansing. As a parent, she is particularly concerned because one of her children drives an expensive car, and she is worried police will suspect a 19-year-old Black man could not afford it.

“I’ll be getting this product for him shortly,” Edsall said.

Asked what could be done to keep traffic stops safer, Edsall said that for individual stops, the onus is on the driver to stay calm despite the high-stress situation.

On the policy end, East Lansing passed an ordinance in 2024 banning pretextual traffic stops — stops for individual, minor violations like an object hanging from a rearview mirror — which can be used by officers as a pretext to search for more serious violations.

But that ordinance was stripped back as recently as last week, when the East Lansing City Council put loud exhaust back on the list of items that officers could pull a car over for, and the council is expected to consider additional changes.

In Lansing, such stops have been against policy since 2020.

Anthony VandeVoorde, Patrol Division Sergeant in the Lansing Police Department, said he’d seen similar products before, but never one that sticks atop a steering wheel.

“If I had teenage drivers, I would probably— that would be something kind of cool,” he said.

He said traffic stops are “an unknown,” which is why drivers are asked to keep their hands in sight and have all documents available before the officer comes to the car.

“We don’t know who’s in the vehicle or what their purpose being on the roadway is,” he said.

Asked what else drivers could do to stay safe during stops, he encouraged drivers not to debate the officer, even if they feel a citation is unfair.

“That’s what court is for,” he said.

He added drivers who are unhappy with an LPD officer’s conduct can request a command officer come to the scene, or call the department later and ask to speak with a command officer afterward. Because all LPD stops are supposed to be recorded on body camera and dashcam, the stops can be reviewed after the fact.

In 2001, the LPD began collecting data about traffic stops via the Management Analysis of Traffic stops program, following national debates about racial profiling.

David L. Carter, professor at Michigan State University’s school of criminal justice, helped develop that program and has been involved in preparing yearly reports on traffic stop data ever since. He said the proportion of non-white people stopped in Lansing is

higher than that of the city’s population, but cautioned against using that metric uncritically.

“It’s been that way the whole time, but the research shows using population demography is just a bad metric,” he said. “It doesn’t accurately reflect what’s going on because it doesn’t account for transient drivers, it doesn’t account for where officers are deployed, it doesn’t account for crime rates, et cetera.”

Over 25 years, little has changed in terms of race, he said, but there are fewer traffic stops than previously due to new policies.

To stay safe during stops, Carter suggested drivers tell the officers what they are doing before making any movements.



David L. Carter, professor at Michigan State University’s School of Criminal Justice

“You tell the officer, ‘Oh, my wallet’s in my back seat, may I reach back and get it?’” he said. “You’re opening lines of communication. That way, a sudden move to reach back doesn’t set the officer off.”

At night, he suggested turning on the dome light to ensure the officer can see everything clearly.

He said that while the percentage of traffic stops that go wrong is very low, officers are trained to treat every stop as a potential threat and to remain vigilant.

Pope was careful to clarify that her goal with the product is to reduce that tension for drivers and officers alike.

Asked if she thought it was sad that such a product would be necessary, she said it was, but that doesn’t mean she shouldn’t sell it.

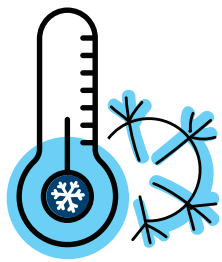
“Yeah, it is sad, but I don’t think anything’s going to change anytime soon,” she said. “Wouldn’t you rather have it than not?”

— LEO V. KAPLAN

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Lansing's Code Blue status has been triggered until at least 7 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18. The city's Code Blue declarations allow local shelters to have more flexibility during extreme cold or snow.

The Letts Community Center will be open from 6:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. as an overnight warming center during Code Blue periods, along with many local shelters and Union Missionary Baptist Church (for families). Many public buildings – including the Foster, Gier, Letts and Schmidt community centers; libraries; and the Capital Area Transportation Authority Transportation Center in downtown – will be open during the day as well. CATA will offer free rides to warming centers. For more information, visit LansingMI.gov/coldweather-plan or call 211 (a city information line distinct from 911).

John Velasquez-Hicks, 19, was charged and arraigned in 54A District Court on Tuesday in a drag-racing-induced crash last April on S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. He is charged with reckless driving causing death and reckless driving causing serious impairment of a bodily function. The crash, which involved five vehicles, killed one person and injured 13 others. Scott Hughes, a spokesperson for the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, said there is another defendant in the incident whose case was filed with the court; that person has not been arraigned but Hughes said those charges are anticipated by the end of the month.

The Lansing School District Board of Education appointed Aurora Lemieux-McKissic to fill a seat vacated by Deyanira Nevárez Martínez, now a Lansing city council member. Lemieux-McKissic is a small business programs coordinator with Lansing Economic Area Partnership and a K-12 district graduate. She previously served on the Lansing School District Equity Advisory Board, holds a substitute teaching license and has worked on the Lansing Promise initiative, among others.



She was appointed in a Friday vote following a series of interviews with candidates to fill Nevarez Martinez's seat. The board also elected its officers last week: Guillermo Lopez as president, Caitlin Cavanagh as vice president, Dan Nowiski as treasurer and Cirea Strode as secretary. Other board members are LaVonté L. Heard, Robin Moore, Nino Rodríguez and Rosalyn Williams. The board's biggest looming job is to permanently fill the superintendent seat. Superintendent Benjamin Shuldiner is leaving at the end of January and will be replaced by Interim Superintendent Jessica Benavides.

The Lansing School Board also approved more than \$34 million in construction for the district. It will be funded from an existing bond of nearly \$130 million, approved by voters 2022. The projects involved include building the Lewton School (nearly \$27 million), constructing an addition to the Wexford Montessori Academy (\$5.9 million) and updating facilities at the Averill Elementary School (\$561,000). The district has also earmarked more than \$870,000 to purchase furniture for Willow School, currently under construction.

Michigan is in the midst of an intense flu and Covid season, with rising numbers of people being admitted into emergency rooms across the state. More than 2,000 people were admitted to various hospitals with primarily flu but also Covid and RSV in the most recent week of data from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. About 10% of Michigan hospital visits in the last week were due to respiratory viruses, primarily flu, according to state figures. UM Health-Sparrow officials said Friday that diverting respiratory patients away from the emergency room can help providers and patients. Instead of an ER visit for a potential flu, people can take tests and get flu or other respiratory treatment at alternatives such as the drive-thru lab in Frandor or the new UM Health-Sparrow Okemos Same Day Care Clinic.



The Capital Area Transportation Authority has reduced its routes, starting this week, in Delta Township. Route 3, the Willow-Lansing Mall bus, will no



longer operate west of the Lansing Mall, putting about 30 bus stops along Saginaw Highway, Canal Road, St. Joseph Highway and Marketplace Boulevard out of service.

CATA will no longer connect to EATRAN services at Marketplace Boulevard. Buses leaving the West Saginaw Meijer for the CTC will leave 22 or 23 minutes earlier; all inbound (eastbound) stops will be affected. All weekday Capitol Loop trips will be eight minutes later, except for the 6 a.m. trip. Please check the new Route 3 schedule to confirm your times and destinations.

Lansing's Big Red Balls have been taken down. The city's iconic set of four giant red ornaments has been put away for the season; they were removed on Jan. 13. Known to some by their government name of The Orbs of Winter or as the generic and giggle-free "big, red holiday ornaments," but mostly known as the Big Red Balls, these roughly 6-foot round fiberglass shapes were purchased from Bronners around 16 years ago. The whole display was nearly pitched after a driver smashed into it in 2018, but a donation rescued one of the iconic symbols of Lansing's holiday season.



Lansing officials began the public portion of their annual budget process with a Thursday meeting. City department leaders shared their priorities and took questions from the public, along with handing out surveys about priorities. Mayor Andy Schor said the city has a number of important priorities, but not enough money for all of them. Six council members attended the session, on the condition that they were not allowed to discuss city business. The city anticipates its total budget to be about the same as the current year, about \$307 million. The next steps are for city officials to refine their departmental budgets, the mayor is expected to present his version of the city budget to the city

council by April, and the council is expected to approve the budget by May 17. Residents can fill out the budget priority survey form, available at city hall or at <https://mi-lansing.form.transform.civicplus.com/60941>

Hundreds of East Lansing High School students walked out of their building Friday in protest of the Wednesday death of Renee Good, 37, by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent in Minneapolis. Students denounced ICE and said it made them fearful and determined. The protest was one of several in the area, including a separate Friday rally on Lake Lansing Road.



A car drove through a brick wall at a memory care neighborhood in South Lansing, near 3100 W. Mt. Hope Avenue. Lansing's interim fire chief, Carrie Edwards-Clemons, told the Lansing State Journal that there were no injuries in the crash but that she was not able to provide other information about the driver.



Two vehicles struck cows that had wandered on a stretch of Okemos Road north of Mason on Monday, the Lansing State Journal reported. A 66-year-old Mason woman driving north hit a cow and a calf in the roadway and then an 81-year-old Holt woman suffered minor injuries when her southbound vehicle struck a dead cow, causing the vehicle to flip and land on its roof. The Mason Fire Department took the woman to a hospital, while the other driver escaped injury, according to the State Journal.

Michigan still shields governor, lawmakers from FOIA as high fees hinder access

A decade ago, Michigan was dead last in national government transparency rankings.

Michigan, alongside Massachusetts, is one of two states where both the governor and the legislature are exempt from public records laws.

The Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) allows access to most records of public bodies. The most recent legislation aimed at changing FOIA was rejected (in November) by House Speaker Matt Hall, in favor of reforms to publicly disclose legislative earmarks before the state budget was passed.

Collaborative journalism nonprofit MuckRock assists in filing and tracking public information requests across the country. Its data shows that 21% of Michigan's requests come with a fee attached, which is the fourth-highest rate in the country; Oregon is the highest at 27.6%.

The average cost of a public records request in Michigan is nearly \$5,200, which is the 13th highest in the nation; California is the highest at \$31,565, but only requests fees 2.7% of the time.

University of Florida's Freedom of Information Project Director David Cuillier authored a report in 2019 using MuckRock data, and he found a correlation between better transparency and stricter provisions, particularly short response deadlines and mandatory fee-shifting.

Michigan's law contains both of these, as well as very high fees for violations. Possibly due to these factors, Michigan is average nationally in requestor success rate at 34%; Alabama has the worst success rate at 15.8%.

While the overall success rate may be high in Michigan, the cost may dissuade many.

Cuillier suggested an independent office, or ombudsman, to aid the public and ensure the law is followed.

"You could pass the best law in the world, but if it has no teeth, the government is just going to ignore it, and it won't make a difference," Cuillier said.

Attorney General Dana Nessel believes Michigan's legislature has a culture that sees transparency laws as a nuisance rather than open government. She says legislators have become accustomed to candid, sometimes hostile email correspondence and may be more reluctant to discuss bills if that is

made publicly available.

"If all you've ever known is that these conversations are not made public - these conversations are not exposed - you get used to it," Nessel said.

Nessel says FOIA requests have also been increasingly used for what she sees as harassment, both from the public and lawmakers, particularly the House Oversight Committee.

Because of long response time, exorbitant fees and exemptions, many journalists increasingly work around, or without, FOIA requests.

Ron Fonger of the Flint Journal covered the Flint water crisis largely without FOIA, primarily through public meetings. Records that Fonger used were self-released by then Gov. Rick Snyder's administration following public pressure, or were revealed through criminal prosecutions.

"I don't know that we ultimately received everything that otherwise would have been subject to FOIA," Fonger said.

Government officials have become increasingly resistant to records requests, according to MLive President John Hiner. He believes the fees are too high and the waits are too long.

"We spend tens of thousands of dollars a year just to get information that, in a more transparent state, we wouldn't have to," Hiner said.

Nessel said many candidates have run on pro-transparency platforms only to abandon promises to expand FOIA once in office.

Any proposed change to Michigan's FOIA law may need to be put on a statewide ballot to decide, Nessel said.

A statewide poll from the Michigan Press Association in 2025 indicated 89% of Michigan voters would support a ballot initiative to change the law.

"Once these people are in positions of authority, and they've been benefiting from something like a lack of FOIA, they're just not going to (change the law)," Nessel said. "It's got to be through a ballot proposal."

All MuckRock data used was from Nov. 29. As this data is continually updated, results may have fluctuated slightly in the time since.

Lee Marentette is a junior at Grand Valley State University. He serves as the news editor of the Grand Valley Lanthorn.

This is one of several pieces written and provided by the Michigan Press Association Foundation/Trott Foundation 2025 Fellows.

Read stories by fellows Lilly Kujawski, Ameera Salman, Minnie Bardenhagen and Blace Carpenter at lansingcitypulse.com.

- As AI-fueled requests rise under Michigan's FOIA, clerks juggle deadlines, fees and

exemptions to keep records public.

- Decreased social studies education and lack of trust in media may play role in failed effort to expand Michigan's FOIA.

- 'We're just not going to do FOIA': House speaker kills FOIA expansion.

- Across Michigan, citizens contest high FOIA fees.

LAKE LANSING LAKE LEVEL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL AND PROJECT COSTS

INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ingham County, through its delegated authority the Ingham County Road Department, and by contract with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner pursuant to Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolution #24-148, will hold a public hearing to review the special assessment roll and corresponding computation of costs for the Lake Lansing Water Level Control Structure Project ("Project"). This meeting is an opportunity for those proposed to be assessed for said Project to review and comment on proposed Project costs and assessments. At or after the public hearing, the delegated authority may approve or revise the cost of the Project or the special assessment roll. Before construction of the Project is begun, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners shall approve the cost and the special assessment roll by resolution. See MCL 324.30714(3).

The public hearing will be held on the following date and time, and at the following location:

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2026
TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Meridian Charter Township Hall
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, Michigan 48864

Informational Materials

The special assessment roll and corresponding computation of costs will be on file for public examination as of January 20, 2026, at the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner (707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854) and will be available at the public hearing. The information will also be posted on the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's website (drain.ingham.org) by January 20, 2026.

Purpose of Hearing and Additional Information

The public hearing will take place for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and Project costs and hearing any objections thereto, and/or making a determination of whether to confirm said assessment roll and Project costs. The hearing may be adjourned from time to time without further notice.

Appearance and protest at the hearing is **required** in order to appeal the amount of the proposed special assessment. Should any person or local unit of government choose to submit an objection to the assessment roll, such protest shall be submitted by either:

1. **Attending the public hearing at the Meridian Charter Township Hall on the above date and time; or**
2. **Submitting a written objection to the following address or email:**
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
707 Buhl Avenue
Mason, Michigan 48854
Email: drainoffice@ingham.org

All written objections must be received no later than the date and time of the hearing.

If a written objection is received prior to the date of the hearing, no personal appearance at the hearing is required. The County will maintain a record of parties who appear to protest at the hearing. If the hearing is terminated or adjourned for the day before a party is provided the opportunity to be heard, a party whose appearance was recorded will be considered to have protested the special assessment in person.

The special assessment roll shall be final and conclusive unless appealed in a court within 15 days after approval by the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. See MCL 324.30714(4).

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations for effective participation in the public hearing should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office at (517) 676-8395 (voice) or the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

For more information about the special assessment roll and Project costs, please contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office at (517) 676-8395 or drainoffice@ingham.org.

CP#26-007

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CP#26-006

Democrats may make secretary of state post the consolation prize ... again

Since longtime Secretary of State Dick Austin was beat in 1994, the Michigan Democratic Party has taken two approaches to picking their Secretary of State nominee.

One: Pick someone who adds geographical, gender and racial balance to the ticket.

Two: Pick an elections-connected person to sell themselves and the job.

Rarely have the two collided in a real convention race, but this year should be the exception.

In the first approach, Godfrey Dillard (2014), Butch Hollowell (2002) and Mary Lou Parks (1998) were the nominees.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

In the second approach, we had Macomb Clerk Carmella Sabaugh (2006) and an attorney named Jocelyn Benson (2006, 2010 and 2018).

Outside of Hollowell in 2002, there wasn't much of a race for these nominations. Delegates didn't get many choices. When they did, they defaulted to the labor-backed "Unity Slate" and that was that.

Today, there's five candidates. Michigan Democratic delegates in 2026 can choose their own adventure.

Here's the short recap:

When Deputy Secretary of State Aghogho Edevbie got into the race to succeed his boss nearly a year ago, it made a lot of sense. He's basically Benson's understudy.

Last May, when Ingham County

Clerk Barb Byrum formed her committee to run, it surprised absolutely no one. Byrum has been the Capitol area's authority on local elections for a few cycles now.

You want to publicly criticize our election, but have your head stuck firmly in your backside? Byrum will call you out on social media quickly and decisively.

For a while, it seemed as if the field was set.

Then the whisper campaign kicked in. Was Edevbie too nerdy and socially awkward to win statewide? How would Byrum combat rumors that she used her political connections to tip the scales to help her son out of a problem at Mason schools? Would it sink her in a general election?

At that point, seeking the Secretary of State nomination became a landing pad for the upwardly mobile.

Former state Sen. Adam Hollier read the tea leaves, realized he wasn't going to win a congressional seat in Detroit and decided to give Secretary of State a try in September.

After Thanksgiving, then-Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli made her leap into the race with a snazzy video of her on ice skates and serving coffee at the family restaurant (two separate shots).

And then, this week, Lt. Gov. Gilchrist came to terms with his withering gubernatorial run and decided Secretary of State was where his true calling was instead. The announcement was followed by an endorsement from the Carpenters union.

Neither Gov. Gretchen Whitmer nor Attorney General Dana Nessel have endorsed yet. The Michigan Education Association, the League of Conservation Voters and the UAW are set to do their candidate interviews next week.

If one candidate sweeps all three, it'll be a huge boost for that candidate, but organized labor and special interest groups don't call the shots like they did in years past. Dana Nessel was not Labor's candidate in 2018.

The nearly 7,000 convention attendees made it clear that they were in charge. They wanted Nessel.

This year's April 19 convention at Huntington promises to be similar, if last year's 50501 protests and out-of-state elections are any clue.

Do delegates pick the candidate whose been pushing it the longest and has worked in the office at a high level? (Edevbie). The person with the most elections management experience who has put in arguably the most work (Byrum). The person with the highest statewide name ID and profile (Gilchrist). A more retail politician who may have more shine in November (Hollier)? Or a fresh face with allegedly more financial resources (Shkreli).

Is it based on who could best do the job or on who squares the ticket best?

Here's the Democrats' record in the last seven conventions: Best person for the job: 2 wins, 2 losses (Benson '10, Macomb Clerk Carmella Sabaugh '06). Person who best squares the ticket: 0 wins, 3 losses.

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

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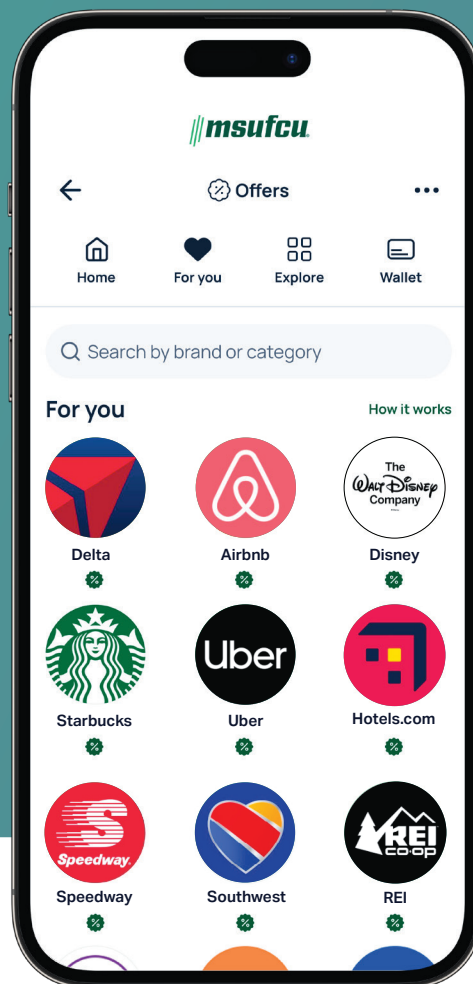
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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

‘Everybody is a superstar’

Through helping others, Sergei Kvitko snags his own Grammy nomination

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

For 25 years, Lansing-based pianist and recording engineer Sergei Kvitko has worked behind the scenes, helping other musicians sound their best. Most of the time, he keeps his head down and his ears up, listening, balancing, perfecting.

From now on, it's going to be harder for him to keep a low profile. During the Nov. 7 Grammy Awards livestream, he was nominated — for the first time — for the most coveted award in his profession: classical producer of the year.

The nomination puts him in the same league as the recording industry's top producers and engineers.

Kvitko prefers to see it as a “validation” of the many local and Michigan State University-based musicians who appear on the nine discs he submitted to the Recording Academy, from clarinetist Tasha Warren and percussionist Gwen Dease to the Michigan State University Wind Symphony and composer David Biedenbender.

“The performances and the musicians are the key,” Kvitko insisted. “No matter how well it's recorded, if it's crap, it's crap.”

The magic often happens in his home studio, tucked into a barrel-vaulted ballroom atop the historic Potter House, but he also records soloists, ensembles and orchestras at large and small venues in Michigan, across the United States and abroad.

He rarely sits still for long, but he found a few minutes to ponder the honor on the morning of New Year's Eve.

“I love doing what I'm doing,” he said. “Even if I became independently wealthy, I would still do it. It's just fun making music, working with other people, because everybody is a superstar in my eyes.”

He follows the Grammy livestream each year to see which musicians among those he's worked with will get a nod.

“I always hope one artist or ensemble will get nominated, because they're so awesome, but I couldn't even dream of producer of the year,”



Courtesy

Lansing-based pianist and recording engineer Sergei Kvitko has been nominated for a Grammy for classical producer of the year.

he said.

It was a shock when he saw and heard his name listed among five nominees, including multiple-Grammy-winning masters of the art, during the Nov. 7 livestream.

Kvitko doesn't work with the Cleveland Orchestra, like fellow nominee and industry giant Elaine Martone, but he has an ace in the hole.

Technical proficiency alone won't get you nominated. The award listing calls for “consistently outstanding creativity in the production of classical recordings,” and creativity is where Kvitko shines. All of the nine albums he submitted for Grammy consideration feature unusual combinations of instruments, fresh and innovative compositions, or both.

“I wanted to show the diversity of things that I do with different groups, large and small,” he said. “But I also try to do something that has nev-

er been done before, because that's what's exciting to me.”

He produced 20 recordings last year — most of them issued on his Blue Griffin label — often shaping the overall concept, repertoire, artistic approach and even the cover art in collaboration with the musicians. He left traditional recordings of staples like Beethoven and Chopin off the submission list.

One album, “Dancing in a Still Life,” put the spotlight on a rarely featured instrument: the rumbling bass clarinet, played with almost shocking lightness, lyricism and sheer fun by MSU faculty member Tasha Warren.

The project challenged Kvitko to blend the low-end murmurs, growls and outcries of the bass clarinet with a varied array of musical collaborators, including legendary Cuban American bandleader and saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera. “Riding to School with

Samuel Beckett,” inspired by the unlikely encounter between the minimalist playwright and a very young André the Giant, paired Warren with the go-to cellist on planet Earth, Dave Eggar, who has performed with Tony Bennett, Patti Smith, Wynton Marsalis, Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Paul Simon and just about everyone else in the industry.

The album sounds so warm, spontaneous and alive that it's hard to believe it was recorded piecemeal over a year and a half, working around the guest artists' busy schedules.

“It was tricky to make a coherent album out of it — to make sure the bass clarinet is there, but also make the guest artists shine,” Kvitko said. “When we were done, and Tasha said everything sounded incredible, that was one of the proudest moments of my life.”

By contrast, “Here and Now,” a luminous album of trumpet music by Virginia composers, was recorded in a quick three days at Virginia Tech's state-of-the-art Moss Arts Center.

“It's a stunning hall, and we used the space,” he said. “For that recording, I set up my microphones and moved people, instead of the other way around. We wanted to capture the hall as well as the musicians.”

Kvitko's skill at painting a big son-

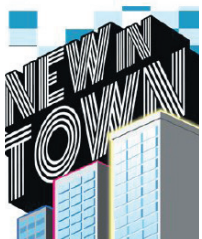
See Kvitko, Page 10



Courtesy

One of Kvitko's most innovative 2025 recordings is “Dancing in a Still Life,” featuring MSU faculty member Tasha Warren (center) playing the rumbling bass clarinet alongside major guest artists like pianist Amir Farid (right).

Kim's Hidden Gems gives back



By LEO V. KAPLAN

Kim's Hidden Gems

3911 W. Michigan Ave.
(located in the Lansing Mall)
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tues-Sun
(517) 215-6169

Before the Bath & Body Works in the Lansing Mall closed, Kim Perez enjoyed walking through the store to drum up ideas for her candle business, K Scentsations.

Making soy candles was one of two side hustles Perez

enjoyed before she quit her job as a regional property manager last year. The other was buying liquidated pallets — huge stacks of heavily discounted items from major retail stores, typically returns or overstock.

Now, she's back in that same space she once took inspiration from. But this time, she owns it.

On Nov. 22, she and her husband, Mario Perez Jr., opened a discount home decor store in the Lansing Mall. Kim's Hidden Gems offers discounted items sourced from pallet liquidations, alongside a designated wall for her soy candles.

The store is focused on home goods, but the offerings vary depending on what Perez finds in her latest haul. At the time of writing, the store features a wall of kitchen appliances and pans, a record player and various albums, tables, couches and far more.

"My niche for the store is the pretty things, the things that women like," she

said. "Coffee makers, picture frames, rugs, things like that."

The couple sources pallets from warehouses in Michigan and surrounding states. But the nature of pallet shopping is always a gamble, so the shop's offerings rotate.

Sometimes the pallets are liquidated gold, such as one with 800 pieces of clothing that Kim bought for \$300. Some pieces were originally priced at over \$40; she's able to make a substantial profit while still selling them at a discount for \$7 each.

Sometimes, they're enormous paperweights.

"My husband and I have also bought \$600 worth of scrap metal," she said, laughing. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose."

For the husband-and-wife duo, who were married last year, the store is a way to give back. Both intermittently experienced homelessness during years-long struggles with addiction. Kim spent a year in a treatment facility, and Mario spent six years in prison. Now, they donate some stock every month to community shelters, as well as contributing to back-to-school drives and providing Christmas items to in-need families.

"It's like a full-circle moment for me to have my candles here and to be able to give back to the community," Kim said.

Pouring "every penny and every ounce of energy" into the business was also a way for Mario to do something kind for his wife.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Kim Perez (right) and her husband, Mario Perez Jr., pose behind the counter of Kim's Hidden Gems. The couple owns the store together, and Kim operates it.

"She used to work in corporate America doing property management, and I used to see her coming home depressed, with migraines and headaches," he said. "It got to the point where she was going to the emergency room."

Running a small business may not be the most relaxing way to detox from the corporate world, but for Kim, the fulfillment of helping people furnish their homes at a discount is worth it. She described a young woman who had come in after just moving into a new apartment.

"She had made a Facebook post that she was trying to get furniture for her new apartment. So I inboxed her and told her, 'Come to the Lansing Mall. My store is Kim's Hidden Gems.' She had \$130, and she got a couch, an air fryer, a lamp, an ottoman, sheet sets, and I gave her two candles.

"There's no place else she would be able to do that for \$130. But it wasn't about the money for me. It was about helping someone get a fresh start."

Kvitko

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ic canvas is showcased in "River of Time," an ambitious odyssey of music by MSU composer David Biedenbender, featuring the mighty MSU Wind Symphony firing on all thrusters.

In "River of Time," Kvitko had to balance symphonic-scale tumult with an eloquent trumpet solo evoking the quiet mysteries of time and space. (The Lansing Symphony performed the concerto last year.)

Kvitko is especially proud of "Four Hands, Two Hearts, One Hope," an album of contemporary Ukrainian and American music by Ukrainian piano duo Anastasiia Larchikova and Mykhailo Diordiiev.

Kvitko called it "a very special labor of love for everybody." He recorded, engineered and mastered that album for free and successfully pitched the recording to a sympathetic classical la-

bel, Reference Recordings, that agreed to donate proceeds to Ukrainian humanitarian organizations.

A piece in Fanfare called the disc "splendid" and "fascinating," and a rave review just appeared in the American Record Guide.

Kvitko also likes to add a twist to his own projects as a pianist. He's working on an album of his "favorite music not written for piano," which he'll play on piano, of course. The provocative, Kvitko-esque title is "Exit Music (for the End of Time)."

"It goes from Björk to Bach, from Mozart to Radiohead," he said. (He's also including his favorite hymn, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord.")

"It's just the most beautiful music ever written, transcribed for piano," he shrugged.

He wrote some of the transcriptions himself and commissioned the others. He's piloting the music at several concerts in the coming weeks, as well as

one in Lansing this spring.

Meanwhile, his producing workload is not about to let up. Did somebody say classical music is dead? And so are CDs? If so, the zombies are attacking in force. Starting Jan. 9, Blue Griffin will drop a new album each week until mid-March.

"I honestly have no idea when I'm doing all this," he said. "It feels like the projects are getting bigger and more interesting."

Last month, he was in Vienna recording an album of soprano vocal music. He got sick on the way back, but he soldiered through two end-of-year sessions at his home studio. The following day (New Year's Day), he schlepped most of his studio equipment to the University of Illinois' gorgeous Krannert Center to record "An American Dream," an opera by composer Jack Perla about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, for the Pentatone label.

"It's crazy — the biggest production I've done in a very long time," he said. "So, I'm a little nervous and excited."

He'll go from there to Central Washington University to record a piano duo, then take a flight to Salt Lake City to judge a piano competition and play an "Exit Music" concert, fly home to Lansing for one day, fly to Houston, drive to Louisiana to record a flute and piano project, play another concert in Houston Jan. 30 and, finally, fly from Houston to Los Angeles for the Grammys Feb. 1. Are there any limits to how much Kvitko can pack into his life? He's about to find out. His phone and email have been blowing up since the nominations were announced. More frequent and higher-profile jobs are almost surely in the offing.

"I don't know what's going to happen," he said. "It's kind of fun."



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Building pathways, one job at a time

MyHandyma'am and other local businesses are making the trades more accessible



Photos by Raymond Holt for City Pulse

MyHandyMa'am owner Samantha Pearl leads a daily staff meeting before crew members head to their assignments.

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

If MyHandyma'am hired only based on experience, they wouldn't be handyma'ams at all.

All but one of the St. Johns home repair and renovation company's 12 employees are women. Only about three out of every 100 maintenance and repair workers in the country are women, according to the latest U.S. Department of Labor figures. That's the fifth lowest out of any industry in the country.

With a mostly female team, MyHandyma'am's target demographic is single women over 50. Those are the people, said MyHandyma'am business development manager Emily Pearl Reist, who often feel most comfortable with female teams after having had a variety of negative experiences with male handymen.

"A lot of women like to refer us to other women because they've had really bad experiences just with tradespeople in general in their house," Pearl Reist said. "And so I think it's kind of twofold. There are women who would prefer only women to be in their homes, but there is also this need for

reliable tradespeople."

Starting out as a handyperson is difficult for many women, who often do not get the same youthful experiences men do, or they don't realize it's a profession well-suited for them until well into adulthood.

Pearl Reist herself got into the field in her own home, alongside her mother and cofounder Samantha Pearl. The two of them got started in 2020, doing interior demolition work to expose 19th-century brick.

Afterward, Pearl and Pearl Reist purchased and renovated another home over the course of 9 months, when their renovation social media posts began to earn them handyperson work. That's when they got their builder's licenses.

"There hasn't been an entry point for women in trades," Pearl Reist said. "As an example, we had some guy comment on one of our YouTube videos that it was dumb that we were talking about how a drill works, and then somebody else commented on our TikTok, 'I don't even know what a drill bit is.' So that's a good comparison on the lack of knowledge between men and women."

Of the six people MyHandyma'am currently employs in the field, one is a man, and he is the only employee with prior experience. By hiring people with a passion for the craft and a willingness to learn, MyHandyma'am is filling another niche: A pathway for women to get started in the profession.

"There's a lack of entry-level jobs," Pearl Reist said. She said one recent hire had spent years searching for a job in the field and had been told, by one employer, that being a woman made her a difficult hire.

Those disparities also limit the types of work that women in trades can access. The four industries that are even more male-dominated than maintenance/repair work are also trades: plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters (1.6% female), automotive service technicians and mechanics (2.2%), carpenters (2.3%) and electricians (2.7%).

Johanna Schuster-Craig owns Smaller Scale, which specializes in "minor" home repairs and similarly caters to people uncomfortable with traditional handymen. Like MyHandyma'am, she

See MyHandyMa'am, page 12



MyHandyMa'am crew members gather tools and materials needed for the day's projects.



MyHandyMa'am

from page 11

focuses on making customers comfortable and employing people who have historically been kept out of the profession.

She said that people who have been interested in the trades since a young age and have felt those professions are an option are more likely to complete the yearslong processes necessary to get accredited for those larger-scale jobs.

"Women are still in a second-class contractor position," she said. "It's very rare to find women that are framing houses. It's very common to find women that are painting. So

there's still a differential there."

Schuster-Craig left a tenured professor role at Michigan State University after "constant scandals" made her job stressful. To get into handyperson work in her 40s, she attended classes at Lansing Community College and from the state's housing department. But at her age, a rigid, years-long apprentice program for the trades isn't worth it, she said.

"I can't take three years off and be supported by somebody so that I can become an expert carpenter," Schuster-Craig said.

The monetary investment is also harder to justify later in life.

"I'm well aware of my own mortality and the state of my knees," she added. "I got 10 years (left) in these knees, not 50."

But as the country faces a shortage of tradespeople, Schuster-Craig said she thinks more doors will open for women out of sheer necessity.

"The trades are so hollowed out that they can't just rely on one type of person," she said.

On the flip side, starting out can be difficult even for those who are just trying to build skills.

Megan Shannon runs Tiny Bit Of Wood, a Lansing woodworking school geared toward minority groups. She got into woodworking after working as a special education

teacher, a journey which she described as lonely.

"There was really no avenue for me to learn things in a community I felt comfortable in," she said. "I took one woodworking class, I was the only female and I was the last one to be looked at for everything. I didn't even really exist there — sort of an afterthought."

"I don't even think people meant to do it; it's just ingrained in our society."

Instead, Shannon spent years

See MyHandyMa'am, page 13



Sylvia Thomas enjoys the hands-on aspect of her work and the satisfaction of seeing the results.



MyHandyMa'am owner Samantha Pearl, right, and Field Project Manager Allison Kindel evaluate materials for an upcoming project.



Sierra Heintzelman finds renovation work creative, especially within the positive work environment at MyHandyMa'am.



Sylvia Thomas enjoys the hands-on aspect of her work and the satisfaction of seeing the results.

MyHandyMa'am

from page 12



Many of the MyHandyMa'am crew members pose for a picture.

building up a woodworking shop, then spent years more building furniture alone in a barn. With Tiny Bit Of Wood, she hopes to be able to guide others into building with fewer hurdles than she had.

Most of her students aren't turning around and starting a career in home renovations, but Shannon said having that baseline of knowledge that many men start out with can be very empowering.

"I hear a lot of older women tell me that, like, their dad was a carpenter but wouldn't teach them because they were a girl," she said.

As difficult as it is for women to get involved in trades, it's better than it once was.

Alicia Bleil, a local builder, first became interested in building when she was in junior high school around 1970, but was told she was ineligible for shop classes or drafting classes due to her gender.

In 1978, then-President Jimmy Carter signed federal regulations that opened construction jobs and trade apprenticeships to women. That same year, Bleil co-founded a group called Women in Skilled Trades, dedi-

icated to helping women who were starting out in trades like electrical work with a high barrier to entry.

"Many of them had not had the skills and were trying to get into the union training," she said. "There were no activities that would help them while they were in school."

Several programs to help women get involved in construction and other trades cropped up across the area, including the Capital Region Habitat for Humanity's Women Build, a weeklong program that is still going.

But while accessibility has improved, Bleil said several women she knows in the field have taken their skills into office work because of the danger of workplace violence in a male-dominated field.

While most tradeswomen interviewed said they had faced challenges entering the profession, the sentiment is not universal.

Rachel Gruhn, a master electrician with 12 years of experience in the field, said success and respect in her field is merit-based and called systemic barriers "an outdated myth."

"I've literally never had any issues

in this trade because I'm a woman," she said, acknowledging that while some men had made disparaging remarks, they have been few, far between and easy to ignore.

While Gruhn has seen women fail in the career, she said it has been work ethic or work quality, rather than gender disparity.

While many people across backgrounds face challenges getting into the trades, Gruhn said she hasn't noticed any special difficulties for women. She frequently gets calls from white men asking for apprenticeships, "because they can't get in anywhere."

Terry Cannon is a local builder who specializes in remodeling older homes. He's been in the field locally since 1992, and said the proportion of women in the field has been increasing.

He's glad about it.

"They bring a different perspective than what we bring," he said. "A lot of times, as a man, I get cookie-cutter vision, and when I bring them on, I get a totally different perspective."

Cannon said having women in-

involved with a home remodel can be a particular benefit with regards to design and functionality, with female contractors more likely to notice when one aspect of a design "might not fit well for everybody."

Pearl Reist said a diverse team is "absolutely essential" to building trust between contractors and homeowners. She mentioned LGBTQ+ people as another demographic that struggles with traditional handymen.

"The trades have a lot of homophobia running through them," she said. "We want to have someone trustworthy who isn't going to be rude to people's family members. We've had so many clients who have had absolute horror stories."

As she looks forward, Pearl Reist wants MyHandyMa'am to continue building pathways into the trades for those who have historically been kept out.

"We see a vision where we can equip people to go into the field with what we've learned," she said.

Alongside training their own employees, MyHandyMa'am recently launched a podcast, "How to HandyMa'am." It's the first step as the company branches out its educational angle. Eventually, they want to create a full-fledged apprenticeship school.

Pearl Reist hopes the work itself shows people anyone can learn to become handy.

"If a man can do it," she said, "how hard is it?"



Sierra Heintzelman finds renovation work creative, especially within the positive work environment at MyHandyMa'am.

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Is the 24% ‘road tax’ burying Michigan’s social equity?

By CHRIS SILVA

When Michigan voters legalized adult-use cannabis in 2018, the mandate wasn’t just about tax revenue — it was about repair. The Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act was written with a clear moral compass of ensuring communities disproportionately harmed by the war on drugs would have a front-row seat in the new legal economy.

But now the state’s new 24% wholesale excise tax — dubbed the “Pothole Tax” — is threatening to pave over that promise. While Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s administration frames the tax as a necessary tool to “Fix the Damn Roads,” the collateral damage looks increasingly like what the state once vowed to protect against.

The math of exclusion

For a social equity licensee in Lansing — someone who may have used their life savings or a small grant to open a shop — the new tax structure is a financial death sentence by spreadsheet.

Unlike the existing 10% retail tax, this 24% tax happens at the wholesale level. It is a tax on a tax. When a grower transfers product to a retailer, they must remit 24% of that value immediately. For small, independent retailers who don’t grow their own product (non-vertical-

ly integrated shops), their cost of goods sold has effectively jumped by a quarter overnight.

Corporate giants like Ascend Wellness or multi-state operators likely have cash reserves to absorb new tax shocks or have the vertical integration to absorb internal pricing and soften the blow. But for a social equity microbusiness — the “mom and pop” shops that were supposed to be the heart of the industry — cash flow is now a crisis.

The credit crackdown: No more pay-later

Compounding this financial squeeze is an aggressive new move by the state’s Cannabis Regulatory Agency to address the industry’s debt issues. For years, the Michigan market ran on a “handshake and a net-30” credit system, where retailers would take product and pay the grower after they sold it.

Those days are coming to a hard stop. New CRA draft regulations aim to strictly penalize retailers who fail to pay their suppliers. Under these rules, the CRA could deny a license renewal to any operator with an outstanding civil judgment from unpaid debt. This effectively forces the industry to be set up as cash on delivery.

If you don’t have the liquid cash to pay for the product — including that new

24% tax baked into the wholesale price — you simply don’t get the inventory. For social equity owners who often lack access to traditional bank loans, this is a pincer maneuver: The tax makes the product more expensive, and the new credit rules ensure they can’t use bridge financing to survive the month.

From social equity to corporate survival

The CRA recently announced that 103 social equity licensees would share \$1 million in grants for 2026. While that sounds like a win, it’s a drop in the bucket compared to the \$420 million the state expects to rake in from the new tax.

In Lansing, we are seeing the “equity” dream turn into a “liquidation” reality. Small operators who fought for years to get their licenses are now looking at their margins and realizing they are essentially working for the Department of Treasury. By the time they pay their staff, their security and their now-inflated wholesale invoices (upfront, no less), there is nothing left.

Return of the legacy market

There is a bitter irony here. The social equity program was designed to bring people from the unregulated market into the legal, safe and taxed system. By imposing a tax rate and credit restric-



tions that push retail prices up by nearly 40%, the state is actively incentivizing a return to the legacy market.

Lansing residents are already noticing. At local dispensaries, the “budget ounce” is becoming an extinct species. For a consumer in a working-class neighborhood, the choice between a \$150 legal ounce and an \$80 ounce from an unregulated source is no choice at all.

Call to action: Be heard

If the goal of legalization was social repair, then taxing and regulating the smallest operators out of existence is a total policy failure. The next chance for the public to weigh in on these debt rules and the agency’s direction is at the upcoming CRA public meeting at 9:30 a.m. March 19 in Lansing (with a Zoom option available).

Lansing’s social equity pioneers didn’t sign up to be a piggy bank for the state’s infrastructure woes. They signed up for a fair shot. Right now, that shot looks like it’s being buried under six inches of fresh asphalt.

SELF STORAGE LIEN AUCTION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH MI Chapter 570 Lien Act 148): The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Airport & Grand River Self Storage located at 4495 West Grand River Ave., and 4400 Millwood Rd, Lansing, MI 48906 to satisfy a lien on January 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM at storagetreasures.com : 147 Irma Foltz, 026 Megan Puma.

CP#25-418

SELF STORAGE LIEN AUCTION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH MI Chapter 570 Lien Act 148): The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Comet Mini Storage located at 918 W. Jefferson St. Grand Ledge MI, 48837 and 11508 N. Hartel Rd. Grand Ledge MI, 48837 to satisfy a lien on January 28th, 2026 at 10:00 AM at storagetreasures.com: 101 Dan Del cid, 551 Cody Biehl, 656 Tammy Riley-Robbins, 659 Shawnn Degner.

CP#26-005

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent’s Estate, Case 25-1804-DE. Estate of Sharon Rochelle Parsons – Date of Birth: February 20, 1940. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Sharon Rochelle Parsons, died September 10, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Penny C. Wise, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 1/14/2026. Attorney: Robert L. Refior II, P43374, 4215 S Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48910, 517-374-8890. Personal representative: Penny C. Wise, 231 Reedy Court, Dimondale, MI 48821, 517-898-7922.

CP#26-009

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

CP#25-419

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Chill winds and garlic bread

Symphony flexes range in mix of old and new music

BY LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Despite the risk of turning off the old guard, new music peeks through the window fairly often at the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's regular concerts, but it doesn't usually break the window. Composer-in-residence Jared Miller's "Shattered Night" concerto, a sonic alarm depicting the rise of fascism in 1930s Germany, did just that Friday evening.

The composer's passion, inventiveness and craft — and the committed musicianship of maestro Timothy Muffitt and the orchestra — made every shock count. Miller's broken windows let in some chill winds of reality that don't often penetrate the concert hall.

In the concerto's very first second, clangorous, ice-cold percussion dropped like a half ton of iron, heralding a sudden fall into a broken world. The music is not a literal depiction of Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, but an emotional reflection on its horrors — with a traditional Jewish prayer at its heart.

Pianist Han Chen tiptoed up and down the scale, wrapping each twinkling note in a crystalline silence. Both pianist and orchestra made many such trips, moving slowly up and down the scale, like a searching soul pacing up and down an existential prison cell. A cloud of mournful seagull squawks came from God knows where. Miller was already reaching into his orchestral bag of tricks. (Later, he cobbled a virtual music box out of the percussion and strings.) Before long, his reverie was hijacked by the first in a series of overwhelming, frantic orchestral buildups. Shuddering timpani, vertiginous violins, elephantine trombone smears and swirling woodwind freakouts vacuumed Chen into a jagged nightmare. The musicians poured it on with such energy that they put the famous climax of The Beatles' "A Day in the Life" in the shade.

Chen's choice, as the central voice of the concerto, was to either fight the mounting chaos or succumb to it. But it really wasn't a choice. He bifurcated himself like the little girl possessed by Satan in "The Exorcist," glowing with simplicity and innocence one moment, vomiting bilious green horrors the next. The strings, in a desperate push to reclaim this

shattered space, put every ounce of strength into the prayer at the heart of the piece, shielding Chen with a wall of humanity so he could resume his delicate search for peace. The music seemed headed for some kind of resolution, but the final fadeout was ambiguous — did it signify transcendence, survival or extermination?

It was a lot to take in, but Muffitt provided a touchstone in the tumult. In the final minutes, his shoulders shook as he deadlifted yearning string melodies out of the viscous murk, his arms bent, his usually ramrod-straight trunk bending to the storm and conjuring it at the same time. Far from trotting a victory lap, Muffitt is burning through his 20th and final year as Lansing Symphony maestro with a white-hot surge of passion and professionalism.

He exhibited three of his finest qualities Friday night. The first is a fierce and convincing commitment to new music, not just to "stretch" the audience, polish the orchestra's bona fides or check a box only a few people will appreciate. He is clearly out to touch people with sounds, emotions and sensations they haven't yet heard, to send them important signals from fellow human beings who happen to be alive.

The biggest work on Friday's program, Brahms' First Symphony, showcased Muffitt's second big strength.

Not only does he devote the same energy, sweat and blood to new music as he does to the most hallowed classics, but he flips the equation and treats the classics as if they were written yesterday.

Muffitt loves nothing better than to launch into an expansive ocean of sound and escort you through its varied moods, taking the time to soak it all in but keeping the cords taut. If Brahms' First were a novel, some folks would call it a "doorstop," but in view of the rain of random input that bombards us all the time, the total immersion in something big and beautiful was a precious gift. Time and again, floor-to-ceiling chords sounded out like the biggest pipe organ you ever heard, from Kathryn Salo's high piccolo all the way down to the delicious rumble of Phelan Young's contrabassoon.

At the end of the second move-

ment, the velvety orchestral curtains parted to give concertmaster Sonja Bosca-Harasim a gorgeous, lengthy soliloquy on violin. When she traded luminous licks with principal horn Corbin Wagner, the effect was pure rapture.

A third attribute Muffitt exhibited Friday is a side of him Lansing audiences seldom get to see. He loves to conduct opera, even though the closest he ever got in Lansing was directing "Carmina Burana," and will likely do more of it after his Lansing Symphony gig is over. But that's why we have overtures. A galloping, wake-up-the-village romp through Giuseppe Verdi's "Nabucco" overture opened the evening like a buttery basket of garlic bread, drip-



Photo by Olivia Beebe

In the final minutes of Jared Miller's "Shattered Night" concerto, LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt's shoulders shook as he deadlifted yearning string melodies out of the viscous murk, his usually ramrod-straight trunk bending to the storm and conjuring it at the same time.

ping with over-the-top flavor and savor. We may never get a full banquet of opera from Muffitt in Lansing, but it's better than nothing.



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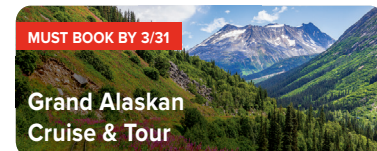
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Is Martin Luther King Jr. Day at risk?

By **MIKE ELLIS**

Actions by President Donald Trump's administration in 2025 have sought to minimize Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

But Lansing and East Lansing have been officially celebrating the holiday for longer than most and don't plan to stop, said Elaine Hardy, chairperson of the Day of Celebration, believed to be the nation's largest MLK Jr. Day luncheon.

The luncheon starts at 11 a.m. Monday (Jan. 19) at the Lansing Center and is run by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan.

Of the 11 federal holidays, only Juneteenth, which was approved in 2021, is newer than Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The King holiday, signed into law by Ronald Reagan in 1983 and formally observed since 1986, didn't apply to all state and federal employees until 2000.

In a 2023 Pew Research poll, King was seen by more than 80% of Americans as having had a positive effect on the country.

Today, despite the holiday's ongoing broad popularity and decades of acceptance, MLK Jr. Day is more at risk than it has been since its inception.

Instead of a handful of states dragging their feet with obscure maneuvers, the

holiday is being challenged by the Trump administration.

In early 2025, a Trump administration executive order barred federal agencies from celebrating holidays with activities considered to be connected to diversity, equality and inclusion efforts. MLK Jr. Day and Juneteenth, the two most recent federal holidays, were identified by many agencies, along with Pride Month and Black History Month programs, according to several media reports. Federal agencies have canceled programs or events that had previously marked MLK Jr. Day.

And in late November, the administration removed two of the traditional fee-free National Parks days: MLK Jr. Day and Juneteenth.

In place are new fee-free days honoring Trump's birthday (coinciding with Flag Day on June 14 and noted as such in the NPS announcement), National Park Service's 110th birthday (Aug. 25), Constitution Day (Sept. 17) and Teddy Roosevelt's birthday (Oct. 27).

MLK Jr. Day remains a federal holiday, so most banks and government services will be closed. Removing the holiday would require an act of Congress.

Lansing is paying attention, but not listening to that

Despite all the challenges facing MLK Jr. Day in 2026, nothing will stop Lansing and East Lansing from celebrating, Hardy noted.

"There has been chatter from Washington about the necessity of so many holidays, but it would never stop us from celebrating Dr. King, and this community won't allow us to stop," she said.

The annual Day of Celebration luncheon attracts more than 1,600 people to Lansing, where they celebrate King's life, aiming to inspire others to continue his legacy.

"We're not concerned about any chatter that the day isn't worth the celebration," Hardy said, "because it is. The American civil rights movement has inspired people around the globe."

That huge crowd is a big reason Hardy said she isn't worried about any national changes.

And they've been at it a long time.

While much of the rest of the nation will be marking the 40th anniversary of the national holiday this year, it will be the 41st for Lansing and East Lansing, Hardy said.

She said the cities began recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day as an official holiday in 1985, a year before it was observed by many.

"It wasn't until 1986 that the first MLK federal holiday was celebrated. Our cities — Lansing and East Lansing — had declared MLK Day a holiday in advance of federal legislation, so that's how we're one year ahead of the 40th anniversary. But the nation is, this year, celebrating the 40th anniversary."

The first push for legislation came in 1968 by former U.S. Rep. John Conyers, of Michigan. It was defeated several times before consistent efforts by Coretta Scott King and others brought the holiday to reality.

Hardy said the East Lansing and Lansing communities will continue to celebrate King's legacy. This year's luncheon keynote speakers are civil rights leader and strategist Diane Nash and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Kyra Harris Bolden.

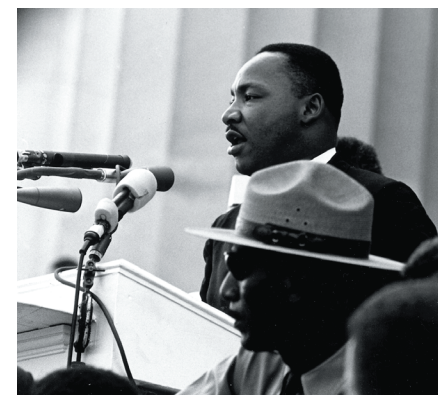
Nash led the Nashville lunch counter desegregation efforts and was a coordinator of the Freedom Rides as well as part of the Selma Voting Rights Movement. She has previously spoken at the mid-Michigan gathering, in 2018.

Harris Bolden is the first Black woman to serve on the state's highest court. She was previously a state representative whose work included criminal justice reform.

Past speakers have included a number of significant civil rights figures, from contemporaries of King to more recent leaders.

Hardy said King and other civil rights leaders are often made out to be mythical figures, rising up to make a difference, but they were always supported by large communities of people — including youth, like those in the Birmingham Children's Crusade.

For Hardy, one of the most meaningful parts of the luncheon is working with the next generation to help them carry King's



Martin Luther King Jr., as seen during the Civil Rights March on Washington, DC, on Aug. 28, 1963. Photo from National Archives, in the public domain.

mission forward.

The luncheon supports essay contests and scholarships for middle and high school students from almost a dozen school districts.

This year, the essays were inspired by a King quote: "Until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

The essays, as well as years of experience with mid-Michigan youth, have left Hardy with a positive outlook on the future.

"It isn't a passing of a torch to them," she said. "They've always been the light."

Michigan State University Community Unity Dinner

5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Registration required, event is free

MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz and Vice President/Chief Inclusion Officer Jabbar Bennett will speak. Keynote speaker is Terry Flenbaugh, associate dean of access and community engagement in the Department of Teacher Education.

Other MSU events include:

- 9th Annual University-Wide Diversity Research Showcase; Jan. 23 at Campbell Hall
- Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert; Sunday, Jan. 18, at Fairchild Theatre
- Finding Your Voice with Your Vote panel discussion; Tuesday, Jan. 20, at WKAR Studio A, Communication Arts & Sciences Building

Lansing Community College will host an event celebrating King's legacy from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the downtown Gannon Building. It will include speakers, student presentations, a panel discussion, live music, food, a pop-up gallery and more. Hardy is the keynote speaker, and Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is guest speaker.

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case 25-1784-DE. Estate of Timothy Joseph Schumacher – Date of Birth: 2/8/56. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Timothy Schumacher, died Oct. 18, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Deanna Schumacher, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 1/14/2026. Personal representative: Deanna Schumacher, 100 Bohnet Rd., Lansing, MI 48910, (517)312-7966. **CP#26-008**

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New queer chorus seeks diverse voices

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

Calling all queer singers: Three former members of the LanSINGout Gay Chorus have banded together to form a new, even more inclusive choir and are holding open auditions this Sunday.

Queer Heart of Michigan welcomes adult members of all vocal ranges (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) and all queer identities. The idea stemmed from a choir festival held by the Gay and Lesbian Association of Chorus.

“We were performing with LanSINGout, and it was so cool getting to hear how so many queer choruses can be very, very different,” director Jonathan Thurston-Torres said. “There were all-lesbian choirs, all-gay choirs, completely mixed queer choruses. Some were all about the show choir mentality, very performance-heavy and fun-heavy, and some were much more solemn and serious. Some were very activist in nature.”

The diversity on display underscored to Thurston-Torres, as well as their Queer Heart co-founders, Chester Kosinski and Tabs Abernathy, the need for a more diverse chorus in Lansing.

“We kind of thought, you know, Lansing has had an awesome lesbian chorus for a while, Sistrum. It’s had a wonderful gay chorus, LanSINGout, for a long, long while. Maybe it’s time to try

an all-queer chorus, something that no matter what your vocal range is, this is a space for you, and we’re going to have vocal parts for you,” Thurston-Torres said.

The audition materials — and the repertoire for the first concert — will consist of songs from Disney movies and other animated films. Singers will do some sight reading and should prepare a Disney piece to perform a segment from. The choir is also seeking one or two pianists, who are invited to audition Sunday as well. Rehearsals start the following Monday at 7 p.m. and continue weekly.

“We wanted to start a bit big and crazy and fun for our first show, and it’s harder to hit harder than Disney. So, we have a lot of queer-coded Disney and animation songs planned,” Thurston-Torres said. “For a lot of queer people, things like musicals are just home for us. And regardless of what generation you are, you definitely have some Disney movies in your childhood somewhere. So, we’re trying to include songs that cover all the different



generations.”

That includes Disney hits from both stage and screen, such as “Be Our Guest,” “When You Wish Upon a Star,” and even a special arrangement of the “Mickey Mouse March,” as well as a Disney villains medley “to really give us that queer-coded Ursula and Jafar and Scar energy,” a Renaissance madrigal version of Smash Mouth’s “All-Star” from the “Shrek” soundtrack and “Duel of the Fates” from “Star Wars.”

“We’re trying to really make sure the repertoire has interesting, queer-coded songs, things that we can use to celebrate being queer in Lansing, but also songs that are good motivators for change,” Thurston-Torres said. “We want to really be pushing for a lot of trans rights right now and a lot of visibility with a lot of LGBT issues. So, we want to give the community some light, but also some fire, too.”

Though it’s only just beginning, Thurston-Torres hopes to eventually integrate the choir with the larger LGBTQ+ community in Lansing, both through philanthropy and performance.

“I’m a board member for the Lansing-Area AIDS Network. I’ve kind of been doing a lot in the community activist-wise, and I’d like to see this group be kind of a staple in the community,” Thurston-Torres said. “I’d like to see us doing stuff at Lansing Pride events. I’d like to see us giving money to different charity organizations that help out with LGBT issues in the area. I’d be okay with taking us to other cities — Grand Rapids, Detroit, Ann Arbor.

“I’m ambitious,” they continued, laughing. “We’re just really, really excited to start a new chapter in Lansing queer history.”

Queer Heart of Michigan vocal and piano auditions

7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing

See Queer Heart of Michigan Voices on Facebook or email queerheartdirector@gmail.com for more information

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Hyporium, Netminder, Ego Riptide,

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Fri. Jan. 16; doors 6 p.m., show 7 p.m.

Homegrown Throwdown

Renegade Train, Piper Avenue, The

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The Media

Sat. Jan. 17; doors 6 p.m., show 7 p.m.

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Food by Stuart Christoff, music by the

Andrew Brown Swing Band

Sat., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Wavelength

Martin Avila, Dan Steely, Patino,

4TheLoveOfMusic

Wed., Jan. 14, 8 p.m.

Black Rock Sextet

Sat., Jan. 17; doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

Wavelength

Nikki Nocturnal, Science of Sound

Productions

Wed., Jan. 21, 8 p.m.

The Avenue Cafe

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Blood at Ease, La La Delivery, Sordid

Sat., Jan. 17, 9 p.m.

Hazel Parker

Sun., Jan. 18, 8 p.m.

Mac’s Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Qubo, Voluntary Confinement, Poisons

Gone, Walking Down Main

Fri., Jan 16; doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

Horrocks Beer Garden

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

Matt Carlson

Thurs., Jan 15., 5-8 p.m.

Wild Honey Collective

Fri., Jan. 16, 5-8 p.m.

Parkwyn Jazz Quintet

Sat., Jan. 17, 5-8 p.m.

John Beltran

Sun., Jan. 18, 1-5 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing

Lewie Austin

Wed., Jan. 14, 9 p.m.-midnight

Evan James

Wed., Jan. 21, 9 p.m.

Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing

Lewie Austin

Fri., Jan. 16, 7-10 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

Dan Dan Laird

Fri., Jan. 16, 8 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston

Justin Burtin

Wed., Jan. 14, 7-10 p.m.

Mark Maze and the Big Deal

Sat., Jan. 17, 7-11 p.m.

Peggy Nusz

Wed., Jan. 21, 7-10 p.m.

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Geech

Fri., Jan. 16, 8-11 p.m.

Northside Rhythm Kings

Sat., Jan. 17, 8-11 p.m.

Mulliken Roadhouse

70 W. Grand Ledge Hwy., Mulliken

Torch Band

Fri., Jan. 16, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Universe Band

Sat., Jan. 17, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Lansing Duckpin

3224 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. G, Lansing

Evan James

Sat., Jan. 17, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing

Deer and Elk

Sat., Jan. 17, 7-9 p.m.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Family Matters" -- the family as a unit.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. "Jeopardy!" creator Griffin
- 5. A-list notable
- 10. Cellar, in apt. ads
- 14. Summer camp setting
- 15. Grande's costar in 2024 and 2025 films
- 16. "Fine by me"
- 17. Dow Jones Industrial Average, e.g.
- 19. 2007 NBA MVP Nowitzki
- 20. ___ contendere (no contest plea)
- 21. Half of the green Trivial Pursuit category
- 23. Hot green paste
- 26. Forever ___ day
- 27. Dramatic division
- 28. Puts under a spell
- 32. Ballpark figure?
- 35. Rage ___ (2025's Oxford Word of the Year)
- 37. Suffix dropped from 22-Down's full name
- 38. Add up to
- 40. Ghana's capital
- 42. "Family" found in the four long theme answers
- 43. "America" singer in "West Side Story"
- 44. "Oliver Twist" burglar Bill
- 45. Short opening letter?
- 47. Distant lead-in
- 48. "Bali ___" ("South Pacific" tune)
- 49. Turntable part
- 52. Coffee dispenser
- 53. First-time gamer
- 55. They run the show
- 57. Dryer by the sink
- 60. "The Grapes of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
		20				21		22				
23	24	25					26					
27			28		29	30	31		32	33	34	
35			36		37				38	39		
40			41		42				43			
44				45			46		47			
48			49	50					51		52	
		53	54					55	56			
57	58				59		60					
61				62		63				64	65	66
67				68					69			
70				71					72			

- Wrath" itinerant
- 61. Follow
- 62. Japanese cat figurine with one paw raised
- 67. "That's pretty cool"
- 68. Solo
- 69. Dually packaged candy bar
- 70. Ultrafast fliers, once
- 71. Really enjoy
- 72. Provocative
- DOWN
- 1. Portland Timbers' org.
- 2. Get takeout, perhaps
- 3. "Citizen Kane" film studio
- 4. D&D villain, or a "Stranger Things" antagonist
- 5. Top
- 6. Puzzle cube creator
- Rubik
- 7. Top
- 8. Nights before
- 9. Freight train unit
- 10. Foreshadowed
- 11. Boat brand designed for a certain water activity
- 12. "Double Dare" host Summers
- 13. Little kid
- 18. Japanese beef city
- 22. Pic-based social media site, for short
- 23. Illinois-Indiana border river
- 24. Small tree that's a source of gum arabic
- 25. Long, thin bug that camouflages well with leaves
- 29. "Little Miss Sunshine" Oscar winner Alan
- 30. L.L. Bean's home state
- 31. "___ vincit amor": Virgil
- 33. Past adolescence
- 34. Jimmy Carter's
- Georgia hometown
- 36. Three, in Italian
- 39. Lowest roll on a D20
- 41. John Jacob on the Titanic
- 46. Fan of Capt. Kirk and crew, as some (including Leonard Nimoy) prefer
- 50. Late-2000s first family
- 51. Year of Super Bowl XXXVI
- 54. "For sure!"
- 56. The part after the decimal point, sometimes
- 57. Puts on
- 58. Nile wading bird
- 59. Fundraising event
- 60. Prefix meaning "wine"
- 63. 11th mo.
- 64. Flock mother
- 65. Cereal with a puffed ball shape
- 66. Acne-treating brand

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Answers on page 22

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Jan. 14-20, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Japanese Zen master Hakuin (1686-1769) painted with astonishing vigor well into his 80s. When asked his secret, he said he treated each brushstroke as if it were his first. He approached the ink and paper with a beginner's inspired innocence. I propose that you adopt a version of Hakuin's practice. Dive into your familiar routines with virgin eyes. Allow your expertise to be influenced by surprise. As for the mastery you have earned, may I suggest you use it as a launching pad for enthusiastic amateurism? Being skilled is wonderful. Being skilled *and* willing to experiment like a newcomer? That's the high art of perpetual combustion, an Aries specialty.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In 1971, NASA's Apollo 15 mission delivered a new asset to the moon: the Lunar Roving Vehicle. This battery-powered "moon buggy" enabled astronauts to explore farther from their landing site than ever before. They gathered a record haul of rock and soil samples and a deeper understanding of the lunar surface. I think you Bulls would be wise to get your own equivalent of that moon buggy. The apt metaphor here is enhancing your ability to extend your reach and explore beyond the familiar. In the coming weeks, I hope you will seek access to tools, allies, and freedoms that expand your range. Use them to push into new territory and scout around for intriguing valuables.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Are you ready to unveil the half-hidden, half-beautiful truths you have been keeping tucked away? I think you are. You might shake, sweat, and second-guess yourself right up until the pivotal moment arrives. But then, I predict, you will zone in on how best to carry out your sublime assignment. The perilous blessings or radiant burdens you've been hoarding like secret treasures will finally spill out of you in just the right ways.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A hermit crab finds a new shell not because the old one was bad, but because the creature grew. A similar urge stirs in you now: an instinct to relocate your sensitivity and tenderness into roomier housing. You don't have to abandon your favorite people or situations. Just ripen and update your containers so your emotional intelligence can flourish even more. Maybe revise your work rhythms. Dream up new bedtime stories. Be braver in declaring your needs. Your ongoing transformations could be a bit bumpy, but mostly healing and cherished. Give them the spaciousness they require.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Poet Jack Gilbert wrote, "We must risk delight. We can do without pleasure but not delight." Here's what I think he meant: Pleasure is easy to access, available in many transactions. But delight requires courage. We must be undefended enough to be astonished and elated. Here's the potential glitch for you Leos: You sometimes feel inclined to perform your joy; you make your happiness into entertainment for others to be inspired by. But true delight is riskier and more real. It comes when you forget to curate yourself because you're too enchanted to remember you're being watched. Your next assignment: Conjure up three moments of private delight that no one but you will see.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Many of you are renowned for your precision, but that's just half the story. The more complete truth is that when you are most robust, you're a connoisseur of refinement. Your careful edits can transmute muddles into medicines. Your subtle fixes may catalyze major corrections. Here's my bold declaration: You are now at the height of your Virgo powers. I hope you wield them with utter flair and finesse. Make everything you touch better than it was before you touched it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Some astrologers work without ever glancing at the night sky. Their bond with the planets lives mostly through abstract ideas. To balance that approach, Daniel Giamario developed a more hands-on approach to

astrology. In his retreats, students trek into wild country, far from city lights, and spend the dark hours watching the dance of the heavenly bodies. He teaches that cosmic energies can be sensed through our beautiful bodies as much as they can be understood by our fine minds. In the weeks ahead, I invite you to infuse all your explorations with that spirit. Learn through direct encounters, not just through concepts and recycled reports.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): English is my first language. I love how its wild, hybrid, restless qualities enable me to express myself. I never grow weary of exploring its limits and discovering new ways to use it with flair and care. But I am also very grateful that my horoscopes are translated into Italian, French, Japanese, and Spanish. I am supremely blessed to have editors who turn my idiosyncratic prose into language that non-English speakers can enjoy. It's one of the great gifts that life has given me. In the coming months, Scorpio, I will be wishing and expecting a similar bonus for you: help and support in expanding your ability to reach further in your self-expression.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your intrepid spirit is most likely to find exciting adventures if it's exquisitely prepared. While I love your daring spontaneity and experimental expansiveness, I hope that in the coming weeks, you will work hard to support them with good planning and rigorous foresight. Be imaginative and disciplined, wild and calculating, irrepressible and solidly responsible. If you heed my advice, you could break your previous records for making marvelous discoveries in the frontiers. PS: Treat wonder like a muscle. Flex it daily — with gratitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Sandcastles are good reminders of how temporary everything is. We build them on the damp edge of the shore after the tide recedes, and then they crumble when the sea rolls back a few hours later. Let's make the sandcastle your power symbol for the months ahead. In doing so, I don't mean to imply that your certainties will be demolished. Rather, it's my way of urging you to enjoy and capitalize on the ever-changing nature of all things. In fact, I believe that knack should be one of your specialties in the coming months. As the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh told us, we should be grateful for impermanence, because it keeps every possibility alive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): During World War II, the United States faced a natural rubber shortage and funded research into synthetic substitutes. The effort was partly successful, but there were also failed experiments. Among these was a substance that later became a popular toy named Silly Putty. It sold millions of units and made its marketer wealthy. I suspect a metaphorically similar breakthrough is looming for you, Aquarius: an unplanned discovery that holds unforeseen value. You may soon have your own Silly Putty moment — an invention, idea, or situation that is technically a detour from your original goal but still delivers a gift. So, keep your curiosity loose and your judgment soft. Don't dismiss the byproducts of your efforts. Some diversions may reveal themselves to be the magic you didn't realize you needed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I suggest you try an "as-if" exercise, Pisces. Here's what I propose: Enjoy a five-day period visualizing what your life would be like if you stopped saving yourself for a mythical future — including both the positive and negative aspects. Instead, envision yourself spending the coming months doing exactly what you yearn to do most, gleefully and intensely pursuing your sweetest dreams and prime mission. During this sabbatical, you will refrain from invoking excuses about why you can't follow your bliss. You will assume that you are attuned with the heart of creation. You will act as if you are a joy specialist who adores your life.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Jan. 14

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

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Adventurers League - Join us for low-level drop-in adventures in Dungeons & Dragons. We'll have two Tier I tables open to players of all experience levels. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. homebrew-gamelounge.com.

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

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

Art Exhibition by Jennifer Taggart Wilson & Dorothy Hughes Engelman - Jennifer specializes in fiber arts, and Dorothy is a zentangle artist. Support local artists and craft beer! 3-9 p.m. Dimes Brewhouse, 145 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. facebook.com/ajoyfulline.

"Back to the Future: The Musical" - Great Scott! "Back to the Future," the beloved cinematic classic, is now a Broadway musical! 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton-center.com.

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

Bookend Gallery Display - We welcome Robert Ross to the gallery for the month of January. Bob describes himself as a creative explorer and seeker of adventures in art and music. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

Campaign Finance Reform - Stop corporations from controlling politicians with big campaign contributions! Stop by to sign the Voters Not Politicians petition to get this on the ballot. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Strange Matter, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. votersnotpoliticians.com.

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1-3:30 p.m. Delta 39'ers Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

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. meridian-50plus.com.

FREE Walk-In Wednesday! Collage Self-Portraits - 4:30-5:45 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org

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

Lansing Live Open Stage Open Mic - No cover, all ages welcome. 6-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Live Music at the Monk: Songwriters' Night, with Cody Wilson - Songwriters are invited to play their original tunes in front of a friendly audience. 7-9 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. ea-glemonkbrewing.com.

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

Powerful Tools for Caregivers - Caregiving is rewarding but can also be stressful. Attend a six-week workshop that can help. 6-7:30 p.m. Virtual — to register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Smart Food Choices to Help Prevent and Manage Type 2 Diabetes 1.14 - Planning meals can be overwhelming and sometimes frustrating. Learn ways to make healthy, on-budget meals. 9-10 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/diabetes.

SS Eastland: Titanic of the Great Lakes, with Historian Andrew Kercher - The SS Eastland was the greatest loss of life in a maritime disaster on the Great Lakes when she flipped onto her side in the Chicago River in 1915. Ages 12+. Registration req. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 15

"12 Incompetent Jurors" - A hilarious parody of "12 Angry Men," the jury's decision on an open-and-shut case is stymied by Juror No. 8, a wannabe lawyer who believes the guilty party to be innocent. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

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

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

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

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

Art Exhibition by Jennifer Taggart Wilson & Dorothy Hughes Engelman - Jennifer specializes in fiber arts, and Dorothy is a zentangle artist.

Copper Chimney Lounge Poetry Series: Laura Apol and Toby Altman

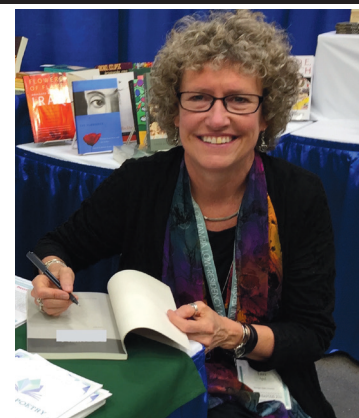
4-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18
University United Methodist Church
1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub

Poets Laura Apol and Toby Altman will serve as the featured readers at the Lansing Poetry Club's Copper Chimney Lounge Poetry Series event on Sunday, with an open mic to follow. Donations are welcome but not required, and free parking will be available behind the church.

Apol and Altman work with compassion to shine a light on human relationships and minds. The terms "revelation," "laser-focused" and "curiously healing" will put a listener in the right head-space for their lyrical realms.

Apol has authored six full-length collections of poetry, including "A Fine Yellow Dust" and, most recently, "Cauterized." Her accolades include the Midwest Book Award for poetry, the Independent Publisher Book Award (IPPY) Silver Medal and two Oklahoma Book Awards. She was also a finalist for the Housatonic Book Award and short-listed for the Julie Suk Poetry Award. She is an associate professor at Michigan State University and was the Lansing poet laureate from 2019 to 2021.

Altman is the author of "Jewel Box" (Essay Press, 2026), "Discipline Park" (Wendy's Subway, 2023) and "Arcadia, Indiana" (Plays Inverse, 2017). He has held fellowships with the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in Fine Arts, MacDowell and the National Endowment for the Arts. He is an assistant professor at Michigan State University, where he also serves as director of the RCAH Center for Poetry.



Support local artists and craft beer! 3-9 p.m. Dimes Brewhouse, 145 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. facebook.com/ajoyfulline.

"Back to the Future: The Musical" - Great Scott! "Back to the Future," the beloved cinematic classic, is now a Broadway musical! 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton-center.com.

Bookend Gallery Display - We welcome Robert Ross to the gallery for the month of January. Bob describes himself as a creative explorer and seeker of adventures in art and music. Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Campaign Finance Reform - Stop corporations from controlling politicians with big campaign contributions! Stop by to sign the Voters Not Politicians petition to get this on the ballot. 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. Strange Matter, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. votersnotpoliticians.com.

Charlotte Community Library Board Meeting - The board meets the third Thursday of every month in the library's Spartan Room. 6-8 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

meridian.mi.us/hnc.

City of Lansing 46th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Observance - This one-hour gathering will bring our community together for reflection, inspiration and a shared call to action. Noon. City Council Chambers, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. lansingmi.gov.

Group Dance Class: Beginning West Coast Swing - A fun, exciting partner dance style to learn. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

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

Jump: Van Halen Tribute - From the high-flying energy to the iconic hits you know and love, Jump will take you straight back to the glory days of Van Halen. With support from ICY/DICEY. 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Kingsmen PSC: Securing Sacred Spaces - A two-hour training that equips pastors, volunteers, and safety teams to prevent, respond to, and recover from threats. 6 p.m. Mount Hope Church, 202 South Creyts Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/106028473031.

See Events, Page 20

Jump: Van Halen Tribute with ICY/DICEY

8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15
Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square,
Lansing
hall224.com

You might as well.

Jump: Van Halen Tribute is coming to Lansing, bringing the high-flying, fret-tapping glory days (read: David Lee Roth years) of Van Halen to Grewal Hall. The Toledo-based cover band plays hits and deep cuts from the first six albums.

The musicians were born way after those glory days and hit the stage jumping like the prime-era band, wearing the most appropriate combinations of spandex, stripes and neon.

Their live show features skits and one-liners based on bootlegs of live shows from 1978 to 1984.

Expect the antics and musical pyrotechnics of the classic rockers, glammed out and jamming out.

Jump will be supported by ICY/DICEY (pictured), one of the best-named cover bands out there (also serving as a reference to Michigan's roads). It's a solid AC/DC act and a Lansing stalwart that can be trusted to rock the room.



Events

from page 19

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

Michigan Soybean On-Farm Research Update: Central - Michigan Soybean Committee and MSU Extension invite soybean growers and agribusinesses to hear results of the 2025 soybean on-farm research projects. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. AgroLiquid, 3055 M-21, St. Johns. canr.msu.edu/field_crops.

Mortgage Foreclosure Basics - This webinar will describe the options to keep, sell or let foreclosure happen. 5:30-7 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/foreclosure_education_counseling/index.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. University of Nebraska - 7 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

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

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.

Seasonal Soup, Salad, and Dessert - Learn to make some fresh takes on some winter season staples! 6-8 p.m. Bradly's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

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

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.

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

Road, Leslie. artfiremichigan.com.

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

Friday, Jan. 16

"12 Incompetent Jurors" - A hilarious parody of "12 Angry Men," the jury's decision on an open-and-shut case is stymied by Juror No. 8, a wannabe lawyer who believes the guilty party to be innocent. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

Abrams Planetarium January Public Feature Show - "Living in Balance: Anishinaabe Star Knowledge" highlights Anishinaabe stories of constellations and moons in relation to contemporary insights about environmental changes. 8 p.m. 755 Science Road, East Lansing. abramsplanetarium.org.

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Campaign Finance Reform - Stop corporations from controlling politicians with big campaign contributions! Stop by to sign the Voters Not Politicians petition to get this on the ballot. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Strange Matter, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. votersnotpoliticians.com.

Cornbread & Beans Stand-Up Comedy Showcase - Get ready to laugh until your sides hurt! Hilarious comedians will have you in stitches. Lineup: Niles Nowak, Chase Richard, Donte Lillard, Nicole Melnyk. 8-10 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. eventbrite.com/cornbread-beans-120626855359.

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

Date Night Dance Class for Couples - A fun, engaging experience where partners learn basic steps, build connection through rhythmic movement, and create shared memories. 7-8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

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. meridian-50plus.com.

Geech Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 8-11 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

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

Live Music at BrickHaven Brewing - Come out to BrickHaven for a drink and live music on most Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. 200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. facebook.com/BrickHavenBrewing.

Music for Every Body - Join Sistrum Chorus for a powerful performance of music that explores what it means to inhabit our bodies and be ourselves. 7-9 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. facebook.com/SistrumChorus.

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.

TGIF Winter Wonderland Dance Party - Doors 7 p.m., line dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dance 8 p.m. to midnight. DJs Ben & Jim Kitchen in the house. Dinner buffet provided. Cash/credit bar available. Wear winter white. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

Twyla Birdsong: "Don't Waste Time" - Walk down memory lane with a night of music that evokes thoughts of romance and the hope of "love" as expressed in songs by Aretha Franklin, Solomon Burke, Nat King Cole and more. 7:30-10 p.m. Urban-Beat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Saturday, Jan. 17

"12 Incompetent Jurors" - A hilarious parody of "12 Angry Men," the jury's decision on an open-and-shut case is stymied by Juror No. 8, a wannabe lawyer who believes the guilty party to be innocent. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

Abrams Planetarium January Public Feature Show - "Living in Balance: Anishinaabe Star Knowledge" highlights Anishinaabe stories of constellations and moons in relation to contemporary insights about environmental changes. 8 p.m. 755 Science Road, East Lansing. abramsplanetarium.org.

Acés and Eight Balls Murder Mystery Dinner - Henry's Place, in collaboration with Murder by Mystery, introduces an inaugural murder mystery dinner in our banquet room. 6-9:30 p.m. 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. henrysplace.net.

Art Exhibition by Jennifer Taggart Wilson & Dorothy Hughes Engelman - Jennifer specializes in fiber arts, and Dorothy is a zentangle artist. Support local artists and craft beer! Noon-10 p.m. Dimes Brewhouse, 145 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. facebook.com/ajoyfulline.

Baby Stories & Play - We'll read a story, sing and rhyme together, do a finger play, and have fun while learning and playing. Ages 0-2 years. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

"Back to the Future: The Musical" - Great Scott! "Back to the Future," the beloved cinematic classic, is now a Broadway musical! 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Black Velvet Exhibit Opening - Celebrate the opening of the Michigan History Center's 2026 special exhibit, "Black Velvet: A Rasquache Aesthetic," with free admission! From 1-3 p.m., enjoy a craft inspired by the exhibit's vivid black velvet paintings (supplies are limited). 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. michigan.gov/mhc.

Bookend Gallery Display - We welcome Robert Ross to the gallery for the month of January. Bob describes himself as a creative explorer and seeker of adventures in art and music. Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Campaign Finance Reform - Stop corporations from controlling politicians with big campaign contributions! Stop by to sign the Voters Not Politicians petition to get this on the ballot. 9-11 a.m. Strange Matter, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. votersnotpoliticians.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: River Abel. Band: Askin for Trouble. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Cornbread & Beans Stand-Up Comedy Showcase - Get ready to laugh until your sides hurt! Hilarious comedians will have you in stitches. Lineup: Andy McFarland, Darryl Spencer, Veronica Douglas, Alex Bozinovic. 8:30-10:30 p.m. Buddies Pub & Grill, 3048 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/cornbread-beans-120626855359.

"Godspell" - A classic Broadway musical from the 1970s, with music by "Wicked's" Stephen Schwartz. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Live Music at BrickHaven Brewing - Come out to BrickHaven for a drink and live music on most Fridays and Saturdays from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. 200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. facebook.com/BrickHavenBrewing.

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

Music for Every Body - Join Sistrum Chorus for a powerful performance of music that explores what it means to inhabit our bodies and be ourselves. 3-5 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. facebook.com/SistrumChorus.

Northside Rhythm Kings Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - With toe-tapping rhythms, crowd-pleasing favorites and plenty of groove, Northside Rhythm Kings will have you singing and dancing all night long. 8-11 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing

Speakeasy Night - Listen and dance to music of the swing era, performed by the Max Gage Swing Band. Savor delicious cuisine prepared by chef Stuart Christoff. Enjoy special Prohibition drinks. Come dressed for the '20s. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Urban-Beat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Events

from page 20

Sunday, Jan. 18

"12 Incompetent Jurors" - A hilarious parody of "12 Angry Men," the jury's decision on an open-and-shut case is stymied by Juror No. 8, a wannabe lawyer who believes the guilty party to be innocent. 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

Abrams Planetarium January Public Feature Show - "Living in Balance: Anishinaabe Star Knowledge" highlights Anishinaabe stories of constellations and moons in relation to contemporary insights about environmental changes. 4 p.m. 755 Science Road, East Lansing. abramsplanetarium.org.

Art Exhibition by Jennifer Taggart Wilson & Dorothy Hughes Engelman - Jennifer specializes in fiber arts, and Dorothy is a zentangle artist. Support local artists and craft beer! Noon-9 p.m. Dimes Brewhouse, 145 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. facebook.com/ajoyfulline.

"Back to the Future: The Musical" - Great Scott! "Back to the Future," the beloved cinematic classic, is now a Broadway musical! 1 and 6:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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.

Campaign Finance Reform - Stop corporations from controlling politicians with big campaign contributions! Stop by to sign the Voters Not Politicians petition to get this on the ballot. Noon-2 p.m. Strange Matter, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. votersnotpoliticians.com.

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.

"Godspell" - A classic Broadway musical from the 1970s, with music by "Wicked's" Stephen Schwartz. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Intro to Injera - Learn to make injera, a culinary and cultural experience. Lunch included! 3-5 or 6-8 p.m. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/geoph-espen-13619448425.

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.

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.

Weekly Drum Circle at Altu's - Get your groove on and de-stress with us every Sunday! This is a free, family-friendly event. All ages and experience levels are welcome. 2-4 p.m. 1312 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Winter Seed Sowing Event - Learn an easy way to grow native plants for your home garden. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Haslett Community Church, 1427 Haslett Road, Haslett. wildoneslansing.weebly.com.

Monday, Jan. 19

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

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

Art Exhibition by Jennifer Taggart Wilson & Dorothy Hughes Engelman - Jennifer specializes in fiber arts, and Dorothy is a zentangle artist. Support local artists and craft beer! 4-8 p.m. Dimes Brewhouse, 145 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. facebook.com/ajoyfulline.

Bookend Gallery Display - We welcome Robert Ross to the gallery for the month of January. Bob describes himself as a creative explorer and seeker of adventures in art and music. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

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/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

Fiber Circle - Knitters, crocheters and stitchers of all ages and skill levels welcome. Although formal instruction isn't provided, attendees assist each other with techniques and skills. 5:30-7 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

MLK Day at Zap Zone XL - Celebrate MLK Day with unlimited standard activities and nonstop excitement! Limited tickets available. Noon-9 p.m. 5220 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. zapzonexl.com.

MLK Day of Celebration - This event brings together more than 1,600 community members to honor the life, legacy and ongoing work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., featuring inspiring speakers, musical performances and the announcement of student essay and scholarship winners. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. mlkmidmichigan.com.

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.

Queer Heart of Michigan Voices Choral + Piano Auditions - Singers should come prepared for sight reading and bring a Disney piece to sing a segment

'Back to the Future: The Musical'

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14-Saturday, Jan. 17

2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17

1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18
Wharton Center

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

It's a classic tale: A rocking teen and a big-haired scientist go back in time and save a clock tower. "Back to the Future" has been turned into a Broadway musical that will smash onto the stage — and possibly into the pine trees — of the Wharton Center through Sunday.

The time-hopping show, winner of an Olivier Award and a Broadway World Award for best new musical, as well as four WhatsOnStage Awards, features original tunes alongside classics like "The Power of Love," "Johnny B. Goode," "Earth Angel" and "Back in Time."

The movie was adapted to the stage by its iconic creators, Bob Gale and Robert Zemeckis.

Student tickets start at \$33; regular tickets start at \$51.



of Piano auditions will consist mostly of sight reading and potentially a segment of a prepared piece. 7-9 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. queerheartdirector@gmail.com.

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

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. 20

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

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

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

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

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

Bookend Gallery Display - We welcome Robert Ross to the gallery for the month of January. Bob describes himself as a creative explorer and seeker of adventures in art and music. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Campaign Finance Reform - Stop corporations from controlling politicians with big campaign contributions! Stop by to sign the Voters Not Politicians petition to get this on the ballot. 1-3 p.m. Strange Matter, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. votersnotpoliticians.com.

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.

Dementia Caregiver Series - Three-session series intended to reduce stress for those caring for a person with dementia by providing useful tools and information. 10:30 a.m.-noon. The Courtyard at Delta, 350 S. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Farm Policy and Risk Management Series: Farm Bill Commodity Programs - MSU Extension experts will provide information on Farm Bill-related updates for insurance, commodity programs and more. 1-2 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/van_buren.

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.

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.

Northern Lights Paint and Sip - Enjoy delicious food and drinks while you create a winter masterpiece! 6-8:30 p.m. Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E. State St., St. Johns. wineandcanvas.com/michigan/lansing.

Online Extension Extras for Parents: Positive Discipline - Learn about techniques that can help you create a safe, fun environment while helping children develop self-control and minimizing behavior problems. 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.

Parkinson's Support Group: Education - Stephan Meekhof, executive neuroscience sales specialist for Acadia Pharmaceuticals, will discuss the use of NUPLAZID for PD psychosis. 3-4:30 p.m. Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. lapsg.org.

Savvy Caregiver Program - Are you caring for a loved one with memory loss? Attend a six-week workshop to help reduce caregiving stress. 3-5 p.m. Virtual — register by calling 517-887-1465 or emailing histedc@tcoa.org.

See Events, Page 22

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Elite Eatery is picture perfect

By LIZY FERGUSON

This dining experience began like so many: with a picture of a delicious-looking plate in the work group chat. Others replied with “yum” and fire emojis, but my immediate response was “where?” After learning it was from Elite Eatery, I knew for certain where my next meal out was going to be.

Elite Eatery is a food truck in the parking lot of a Marathon gas station on South Cedar Street. The menu is a collection of soul-food favorites, from fried catfish and dirty rice to smothered pork chops and candied yams. The service is as friendly as can be, and by the time I got home, my food was still piping hot

and smelled incredible.

I’m glad I placed my pickup order beforehand; otherwise, I would have stood out in the cold for a while trying to decide. The wings dings in my co-worker’s picture looked too good to pass up, so that was locked in (thankfully the smothered turkey wasn’t available or I might have been led astray), but the selection



Wing Dings Combo \$22

Elite Eatery food truck
4600 S. Cedar St., Lansing
Noon-8 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday,
Thursday-Friday
(517) 798-4136
facebook.com/eliteeaterylansing

of sides was tough to whittle down. I rarely indulge in mac and cheese and was in a treat-yourself-mood, so I picked that as well as the collared greens with smoked turkey, having

recently been disappointed by some greens from another establishment. I will need to go back for the fried cabbage and dirty rice, though.

The wing dings come with a choice of seasoning, and that choice was easy since I’m a lemon-pepper fiend. The breading was super crispy without being too heavy or greasy, and the meat inside was tender and perfectly seasoned itself, having been marinated before being breaded and fried. With a drizzle of hot sauce, they tasted incredible.

The mac and cheese had the flavor of actual cheese — sharp, creamy and absolutely delectable. The greens added a nice counterpoint to all this richness, packed with smoky flavor and tasty hunks of turkey meat. Altogether, it was a decadent meal, but one prepared with such care that I didn’t feel too weighed down.



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

The food at Elite Eatery tastes as good as it looks.

I demolished my plate, but someone with a more modest appetite could definitely make two meals out of the generous portions. Even if I hadn’t had to photograph my meal for this article, I would have anyway because it looked as good as it tasted.

Chicken soup is ideal for cold and flu season

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Though there might be little people can do to avoid catching a cold or coming down with the flu, certain approaches can make it easier to get through a bout with either illness. This recipe for Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup from Lines+Angles makes a worthy addition to anyone’s cold- and flu-fighting culinary repertoire.



Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup

Makes eight servings

- One 3 1/2-pound chicken
- 10 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- Eight carrots, peeled and sliced
- Six stalks celery, trimmed and sliced
- Three onions, peeled and sliced
- Two cloves garlic, peeled and minced
- Eight sprigs fresh parsley
- Two sprigs fresh thyme
- One bay leaf
- 2 tablespoons butter

- Salt, to taste
- Freshly cracked black pepper, to taste
- 12 ounces wide egg noodles

For the chicken stock:

1. Rinse the chicken inside and out

See Recipe, Page 23

Events

from page 21

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.

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.

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.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

5th Annual Malcolm X Forum, with Dr. Yusef Salaam - NYC Councilmember Yusef Salaam of the Exonerated (“Central Park”) Five will deliver the MSU Malcolm X Forum keynote at the Erickson Kiva, almost exactly 62 years after Malcolm X spoke in the same venue. 7-8:30 p.m. Erickson Hall, 620 Farm Lane, East Lansing. inclusion.msu.edu.

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 CHINESE RESTAURANTS

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

1. Apple Jade — closed for renovation

Casual eatery serving typical Chinese dishes for lunch and dinner
300 N. Clippert St., Lansing

(517) 332-1111
applejadelansing.com

2. Charlie Kang's

Chinese and Korean restaurant serving traditional entrees in relaxed surroundings
109 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Lansing
(517) 332-4696
charliekangs.com
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday

3. Chen's Restaurant

Chinese eatery offering a long menu of classic dishes in a simple setting
600 E. Thomas St., Lansing
(517) 372-7292
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Noon-10 p.m. Sunday

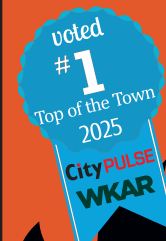
4. Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine

Hong Kong-style Chinese restaurant offering abundant meat, veggie and rice dishes
1375 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
(517) 337-1882
everydaychinesecuisine.com
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily

5. Little Panda Chinese Restaurant

Laid-back eatery serving dim sum, egg rolls and other classic Chinese dishes
5439 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
(517) 323-2450
littlepandalansing.com
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday
11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday
11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

Thank You For Voting Us The Best!



Best BBQ
Best BBQ Sauce
Best Wings
Best Caterer/
Catering service



Recipe

from page 22

under cold running water. Place the chicken in a large pot over medium heat and add the chicken broth. Add a quarter of the carrots, a third of the celery and a third of the onions. Add the garlic, two sprigs of parsley, thyme, bay leaf and enough water to just cover the chicken. Bring the broth to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer for about an hour or until the chicken is very tender, skimming any foam from the surface of the broth.

2. Remove the chicken from the broth and place in a colander to drain and cool. Strain the broth through a very fine mesh strainer into a large, clean soup pot. Discard the vegetables used to flavor the stock.

For the soup:

1. Skim any fat off the top of the strained broth.
2. Remove and discard the skin and bones from the chicken and cut the meat into bite-sized pieces. Set aside.
3. Melt the butter in a large Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the remaining carrots, celery and onions and cook for about seven minutes or until the onions are translucent. Add the chicken pieces and stock, then season with salt and pepper. Bring the soup to a simmer and cook for about 30 minutes or until the vegetables are tender.
4. Chop the remaining parsley. Add the parsley and egg noodles, stirring frequently. Cook for eight to 10 additional minutes or until the noodles are tender.
5. Ladle into soup bowls and serve hot.

BETTER SALMON EAT IN OR TO GO



Sale Prices good 1/15 thru 1/31, 2025

FRESH & NATURAL. QUICK & EASY.
GET THE HEALTHY YOU CRAVE WITH FRESH BAKED SALMON ON SPECIAL AT THE BETTER HEALTH CAFE

SALMON MEALS TO GO **13⁹⁹** MEAL
Salmon Entree + 2 Sides **\$1 OFF**

SALMON HOT BAR EAT IN **19⁹⁹** LB
\$2 OFF

READY TO EAT SALMON **19⁹⁹** LB
Blackened or Lightly Seasoned **\$2 OFF**

SALMON PATTIES TO GO **7²⁹** EA
\$1 OFF



EAST LANSING
(Frاندor) 305 N Clippert Ave. • Across from Frاندor Mall
517-332-6892 • Mon-Sat 8am-9pm • Sun 10am-7pm



Capital Tower



Tower on Grand

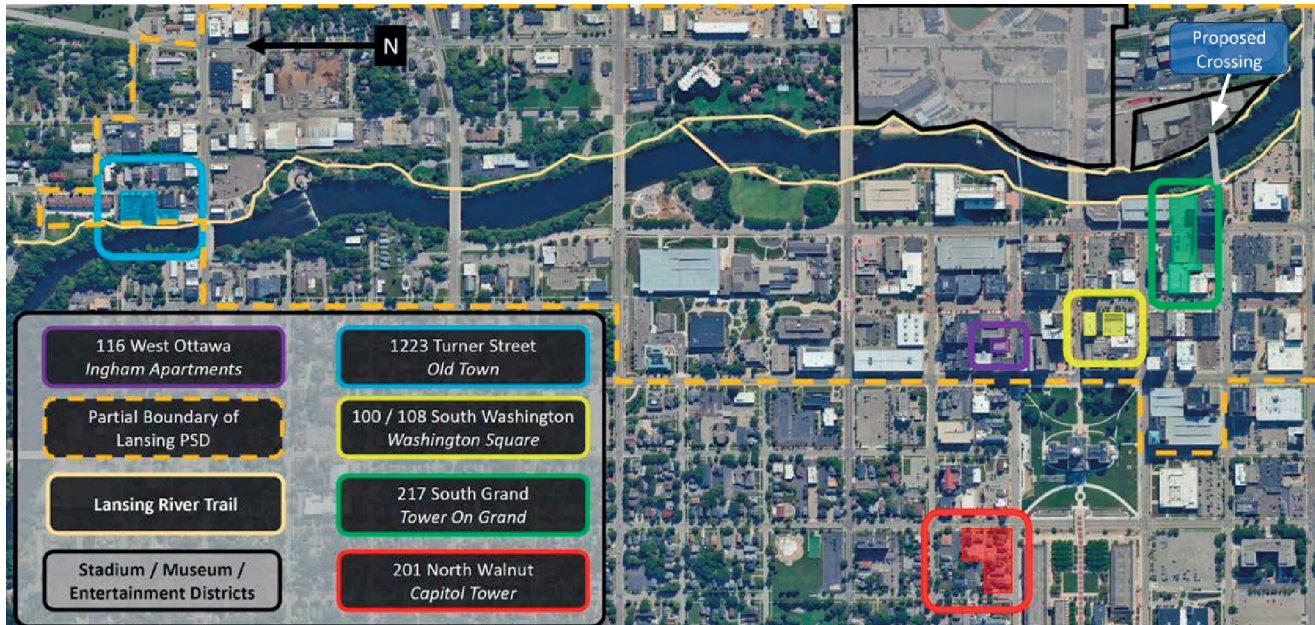


Washington Square



Capital Tower

Transformational Projects



Changing The Skyline of The Capital City