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January 28 - February 3, 2026

# CityPULSE

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## Capital Hippie



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See Page 11



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## Sponsored Content

### Too Exhausted to Resist: A Nation on Life Support

There is a lie at the heart of American decline, and it is a comforting one: someone else will deal with it. Another institution. Another election. Another lawsuit. Another martyr with fewer bills and more time than the rest of us. The lie works because most people are too busy trying to survive to interrogate it. Rent is due. The car is coughing again. The insurance app says “claim denied.” Resistance, like healthcare, has been privatized — and priced out of reach.

The United States no longer governs through consent or even fear. It governs through exhaustion. Through scarcity. Through a grinding, daily attrition that leaves people just functional enough to clock in and just broken enough to stay quiet. Democracy doesn’t collapse here in a single dramatic coup. It dissolves slowly, in break rooms and traffic jams and emergency rooms, while people tell themselves they’ll pay attention once they’re less tired.

They never are.

A population fighting for oxygen cannot organize. A population negotiating with algorithms for basic survival cannot meaningfully resist power. When every ounce of energy is spent staying afloat, authoritarianism doesn’t need to announce itself. It simply arrives, badge-first, policy-wrapped and waits for no one to notice.

And most don’t. Not because they agree — but because they’re drowning.

ICE raids don’t register when you’re choosing between groceries and prescriptions. Federalized police violence becomes background noise when you’re one missed paycheck away from eviction. State terror thrives not on loyalty, but on fatigue. This is how modern control works: no mass arrests, just mass burnout; no book burnings, no propaganda blitz, just a reality so hostile that thinking critically feels indulgent.

Then it happened again — and this time almost immediately after the last.

Just 17 days before Alex Pretti was killed by federal agents in Minneapolis, another U.S. citizen was shot and killed by an ICE officer in the same city. Renée Nicole Good, a 37-year-old mother of three, was fatally shot in her car by an ICE agent during a federal immigration enforcement operation on January 7, and her death was later ruled a homicide by the county medical examiner.

The response? Assassinate her character and preach about compliance.

Good’s shooting — a U.S. citizen killed while simply attempting to observe a federal operation — should have been a national outrage by everyone. Instead, federal authorities signaled they had no intention of seriously investigating the killing, and the death was barely recognized by those in power before the next life was taken.

That next killing was Pretti, a 37-year-old ICU nurse. Pretti was lawfully carrying and disarmed in the widely-shared footage; he was filmed holding a phone, trying to assist other bystanders who were assaulted by ICE during a protest against the federal crackdown, when agents tackled and shot him in broad daylight.

This is not a tragic coincidence. It is a pattern — a brutal repetition of state violence against civilians in the name of enforcement, escalation, and power. And the Republicans’ collective response — if it can even be called that — is a shrug.

This is the closest thing the U.S. government has done to open domestic warfare since police dogs, batons and fire hoses were turned on civil-rights marchers for daring to demand basic humanity. The uniforms have changed. The violence has not.

And yet, Minneapolis responded.

In the freezing cold. In the dead of exhaustion. People still came out. Thousands filled the streets. They marched not because it was convenient, but because it was intolerable not to. They refused to accept the normalization of federal agents killing civilians in the street and calling it “law enforcement.” Protests erupted not just there, but in New York, San Francisco, Boston — reminders that the American public is not asleep. It is sedated. And sedation can wear off.

So the question is unavoidable: what are the rest of us waiting for?

For our own cities to be occupied by masked agents?

For our own neighbors to be shot?

For our own names to trend posthumously before outrage feels justified?

Minneapolis exposed the cowardice of waiting. Waiting does not make us safer. It just raises the body count.

The Federal Government has declared war on its own people.

The loudest irony comes from the people who once screamed about tyranny. The self-styled patriots who flew “Don’t Tread on Me” flags now chant another slogan: comply or die. Their fear of government overreach evaporated the moment state

violence aligned with their cultural grievances. Liberty, it turns out, was always conditional. Rights were always negotiable. Violence was always acceptable — so long as it aligned with their identity.

Federal officials lied immediately after killing Pretti, claiming he approached agents with a weapon — despite video evidence showing otherwise. Meanwhile, the killing of Good generated immediate administrative defensiveness and a refusal to pursue accountability. This is not innocent incompetence. This is state violence with systemic impunity.

So-called leaders issued statements about “concern.” Politicians called for “restraint.” As if the problem were tone, not bullets. As if moderation could resurrect the dead. As if civility were a substitute for justice.

From the outside, this must look absurd. Nations with thousands of years of history—empires that rose, collapsed, documented their mistakes and argued about them for centuries—are watching a young republic actively delete its own memory. History is being sanitized, hollowed out and reduced to a highlight reel of triumphs with none of the inconvenient lessons attached. Skeletons are being shoved back into the closet because self-reflection is uncomfortable, and discomfort is now considered unpatriotic.

You cannot learn from a past you refuse to acknowledge. But learning is dangerous—it leads to questions, and questions lead to resistance.

From within, the view is worse. A president who escalates conflict while demanding a Nobel Peace Prize. Who weakens alliances while claiming strength. Who provokes internal division and then blames the fractures on everyone but himself. To some, this is the behavior of an obstreperous child playing with matches. To others, it is divine choreography—the messianic certainty that whatever he does must be right, because he did it.

Reality, meanwhile, bounces off him harmlessly. Scandal doesn’t stick. Lies evaporate on contact. Norms disintegrate, and the response is a shrug and a fundraising email. He has achieved something rare in American politics: total immunity through chaos. The second coming of Teflon Don, sliding effortlessly through consequences while the country absorbs the impact.

And still we wait. Surely something will backfire. Surely there is a line. Surely this ends the way these things always end.

But history—real history, the kind we’re busy erasing—suggests otherwise. Authoritarian systems don’t collapse because people notice early. They collapse after the cost of resistance drops below the cost of compliance. Right now, compliance is cheaper. It comes with a paycheck, a sense of normalcy and the comforting illusion that none of this will touch you.

Until it does.

So what will the modern “give me liberty or give me death” look like? A hashtag? A court filing? A viral video recorded vertically while someone bleeds out in the background? Or will it never arrive at all, smothered under medical debt and exhaustion?

A nation too busy surviving is easily ruled. A people too tired to resist can be led anywhere—slowly, efficiently and with a smile. The tragedy isn’t that this is happening. The tragedy is that it’s working.

And we’re all so very busy.

If this country wants to be more than a managed decline punctuated by state killings, it cannot keep treating outrage as a future appointment. Renée Good did not have the luxury of waiting. Alex Pretti did not have the luxury of waiting. Neither do we.

The system is counting on us being too tired to stop it.

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

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# CityPULSE

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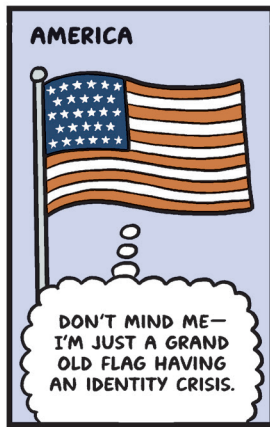
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**PAGE 7**

Cold snap continues; what are the unhoused to do?



**PAGE 9**


The first Michigan museum exhibit of velvet paintings



**PAGE 22**

Reinvented Dusty's Wine Bar offers a taste of Italy in Okemos


Cover photo by Raymond Holt




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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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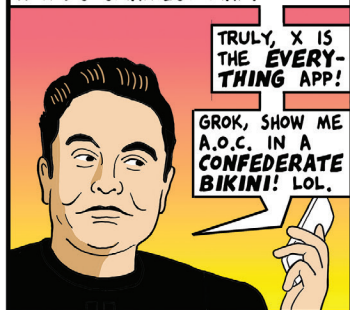
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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## A month on the job

### Lansing's newest council members talk priorities, approaches

**Deyanira Nevarez Martinez**  
2nd Ward Council Member |  
[deyanira.n.martinez@lansingmi.gov](mailto:deyanira.n.martinez@lansingmi.gov)

After just a few weeks on Lansing City Council, 2nd Ward Council Member Deyanira Nevarez Martinez has already started working with colleagues, housing advocates, landlords and developers to get the ball rolling on building more housing.

It's the issue that led her to run, and the one she said will measure her success.

"I will make sure that we build more housing, at every level of affordability," she said.

As an assistant professor in Urban & Regional Planning at Michigan State University, Nevarez Martinez knows that's no easy task. But after a decade of researching homelessness, she said it's the only solution that works.

"Housing is the only solution to homelessness," she said, "and the problem we have is that we don't have any housing for folks."

Nevarez Martinez takes over as 2nd Ward representative from Jeremy Garza, who won an at-large seat this year. She said her ward is in "desperate need" of more housing, with a lot of vacant houses and commercial corridors. She said she has been having conversations with the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce to "figure out how to better use that space."

Another priority for Nevarez Martinez is getting a community center. The 2nd Ward is the only ward, out of four, without one.

"Without a community center, it's hard to get folks to a place that everyone knows," she said. "They really serve as an anchor."

She said she hopes to find a space that also has space for a public library, something else the ward lacks.

Nevarez Martinez said she had a "very good working relationship" with Garza; they talk about the 2nd Ward regularly. She said wants to take a more "hands-on," approach and her first constituent meeting will be Thursday at 6 p.m.,



Deyanira Nevarez Martinez

at the new city elections office. It will feature people involved with the Deep Green data center proposal as well as the ModPods.

She also said Garza had coordinated much of his outreach with 3rd Ward Council Member Adam Hussain, and that she intends to continue working with Hussain while also going solo more often.

But Nevarez Martinez is cautious of biting off more than she can chew. She wants to stick to what she knows, and her ultimate goal is to get new housing options. That means playing the role of a connector, getting people with the power to build housing or rehabilitate vacant housing in contact with the city. It means getting the city working more with other municipalities across mid-Michigan.

It also means not putting the cart before the horse. Nevarez Martinez said she was concerned about the city's plans to build a transitional housing community out of 50 ModPod housing units, because "we don't have anywhere to transition folks to."

While her focus is on housing stability, affordability and access, Nevarez Martinez encouraged 2nd Ward residents to not be a stranger.

"Sometimes we only hear from a small subset of folks, because others are really busy, they have jobs that preclude them from coming to City Council meetings, or they don't have access to certain things," she said. "But I'm always available to have a conversation."

**Clara Martinez**  
At-large Council Member |  
[clara.martinez@lansingmi.gov](mailto:clara.martinez@lansingmi.gov)

At 34, Clara Martinez is the youngest member of Lansing City Council, but her goals go back decades.

"In the '90s, there were more opportunities for the youth to participate in activities at City Hall, as well as parents," she said. "So I'm excited to bring a youth voice — not my voice — but inviting youthful voices to city hall and municipal issues."

Inspired by fellow teacher, personal mentor figure and former mayor David Hollister, Martinez' focus as an at-large City Council Member will be on getting more people involved in municipal government.

"I think Hollister had an interesting take on municipal governance in the sense that he saw it as a place to connect with families," she said, "and that's what was guiding me through my campaign and will definitely be my North Star in office."

Only a month into her time on Council - and already facing issues such as a housing shortage, a controversial data center proposal and access to warming centers - Martinez said she is keeping her students in mind when making decisions.

"Any decision I make, I'm going to ask the question, 'How is this going to affect the next generation five, 10, 20, 30 years from now?'" she said.

Martinez said she's "not much of a policy wonk." She doesn't have a laundry list of ordinances that she can't wait to introduce. She's more interested in community engagement and gathering ideas from people whose voices aren't being heard yet.

"Folks that are not traditionally at the table are often forgotten about, and I always think about community outreach not in the sense of 'who have I talked to?' but the question of, 'Who have I not talked to? Who have I not heard from?'" she said.

Asked what result would make her



Clara Martinez

feel successful at the end of her current term, she said she wants to implement what she said was Hollister's guiding light: bringing the most good to the most people, with a variety of engaged and empowered voices at the table.

"If I know that more of those people are engaged in city government and part of the decision-making process when I leave, then I will have done my job," she said. "So we're not operating in a silo where the folks that partake in daily life within this institution over here are separate from the decision makers that are part of this institution."

As one of four at-large council members, Martinez said constituents reaching out about an issue should reach out to whoever they feel most comfortable with, be it their ward member or one of the at-large members.

"This council is a pretty broad collective, and you can't really go wrong," she said. "And I think that we work collaboratively enough."

"I would say people should reach out to who they feel most comfortable talking to. If they want to give the new person a shot, I'd be happy to do my best to try and serve them."

— By LEO V. KAPLAN

# Former MSU sanitation worker files \$5 million federal lawsuit alleging racial discrimination, inequality; seeking reinstatement

By **HEATHER VANDYKE**

LANSING — A former Michigan State University custodian has filed a federal lawsuit against the university, alleging he was fired in retaliation for questioning pay discrepancies and racial inequities.

Robert P. Hollingsworth III, a Black Lansing resident, filed the complaint on Dec. 30 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. The lawsuit seeks more than \$5 million in compensatory damages, citing wrongful termination and severe emotional distress, according to court documents.

University officials declined to release a formal statement on the case.

“The university does not comment on pending litigation,” MSU spokesperson Mark Bullion told City Pulse via email.

According to the court filing, the conflict began on July 31, 2023, during a conversation between Hollingsworth and his direct manager, Rebecca Delap. Hollingsworth alleges he inquired about a discrepancy in work hours offered to a less-experienced co-worker who was not Black.

The complaint states that in response to his inquiry about equal treatment, Delap became dismissive and allegedly told Hollingsworth to “clock out” immediately. The university later claimed Hollingsworth had voluntarily

quit, a reason the lawsuit characterizes as a “pretextual” fabrication intended to mask a retaliatory motive.

Hollingsworth had never been formally disciplined and had, in fact, recently been recognized with an award for good performance, according to the complaint.

The legal action follows a September 2025 “right to sue” letter that was issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Hollingsworth also alleges that the university’s Office of Institutional Equity dismissed his internal complaints without a proper investigation, despite being provided with audio evidence of the incident.

Hollingsworth, who is representing himself in the matter, claims the loss of employment led to “concrete financial harm,” including the inability to meet court-ordered child support and the need for ongoing therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

He is seeking \$5 million in damages for back pay, front pay, emotional distress, pain and suffering and other economic losses. He also is asking to be reinstated to his position.

The five-count lawsuit alleges violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, and the Michigan Whistleblowers’ Protection Act.

## Embezzlement trial date set for former GOP Michigan house speaker and his wife

By **BEN SOLIS/MICHIGAN ADVANCE**  
michiganadvance.com

Former Michigan House Speaker Lee Chatfield and his wife, Stephanie Chatfield, have a trial date on charges of running a criminal enterprise and embezzling large sums of money from a political nonprofit to fund personal purchases.

Ingham County Circuit Court records show that Lee and Stephanie Chatfield have a trial date scheduled for September before Ingham Circuit Judge Morgan Cole at the Veterans Memorial Courthouse in downtown Lansing.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and her department have alleged that the couple funneled money from their political nonprofit accounts to fund a lavish lifestyle, and will stand trial for embezzlement and other charges related to their activities.

The pair was bound over to the circuit court last May.

The case against the Chatfields asserts that, beginning in 2021, the couple allegedly used nonprofit money to reimburse themselves for purchases at luxury stores like Coach and items at amusement parks like Universal Studios, while Lee Chatfield, a Republican, also spent

lavishly at strip clubs and partied with his associates and brothers.

An investigation into Chatfield began after his former sister-in-law reported to Lansing police an allegation that he had sexually assaulted her for years, starting when she was 14 or 15 years old.

Michigan State Police probed the allegations and found evidence of potential financial improprieties — an investigation that was later taken over by Nessel. However, she said her office did not find sufficient evidence to pursue charges for criminal sexual conduct.

Two of Lee Chatfield’s aides, Robert and Anné Minard, recently pleaded guilty to lesser charges and agreed to testify against the Chatfields. The Minards were initially charged with conducting a criminal enterprise for their role in allegedly misappropriating funds from three non-profit organizations and two political action committees tied to Lee Chatfield.

Robert Minard served as Chatfield’s chief of staff and Anne Minard was his external affairs director.

The plea deal with the attorney general’s office allowed the Minards to net a reduced 6-month delayed sentence and 36-months probation, along with requirements to provide full restitution of funds they owe to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

## More details emerge about proposed downtown data center

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

About 100 people braved brutal cold temperatures Saturday to learn more about a proposed data center that could one day heat some of their homes.

The meeting, held by Bellwether Public Relations, featured representatives from Deep Green, a British company seeking to purchase four parcels of land in the Stadium District for a 24 megawatt data center. The project, marketed as “a different kind of data center,” would donate the heat it generates to the Lansing Board of Water and Light’s downtown heating system.

Also, there were the city’s four at-large City Council members, representatives from the Lansing Board of Water and Light, the city’s Economic Development and Planning Department, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Lansing Area Economic Partnership.

The meeting was arranged so residents lined up at several desks to ask questions, which left the crowd’s general stance on the project indecipherable. Residents have voiced overwhelming opposition at previous meetings.

Here are some key takeaways from the Saturday meeting, as well as from a City Council Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday:

8 megawatts of the project’s 24 MW load will be supplied directly from the BWL’s grid at a standard rate of 8 cents per kilowatt, while the remaining

16MW will be supplied by an onsite fuel cell plant, said BWL General Manager Dick Peffley.

That fuel cell plant would be owned and operated by the BWL, but Deep Green will pay for the entire facility. That means if Deep Green stopped sourcing its electricity from the BWL, the BWL would keep the plant. The cost that Deep Green will pay for electricity generated by that fuel cell plant is not yet clear.

Fuel cells are not designated as clean energy in Michigan, in part because there are no fuel cell plants in the state.

The heat donated by the data center, with most coming from the fuel cell plant, would be used year-round, not just during the cold season, including by industrial customers in the summer.

The water pipes feeding the data center would be similar in size to a fast-food restaurant’s pipes, which Peffley said would lead to similar water usage.

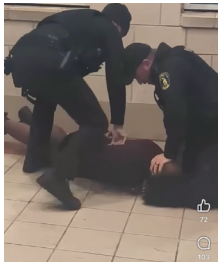
One of two votes the City Council will make, as early as Feb. 23, is whether to allow a conditional rezoning of the proposed site, which is currently a parking lot, from “downtown core” to “industrial.” Zoning administrator Sue Stachowiak said that means other industries could not operate a different industrial facility on the land, but there are no conditions tied to the heat reuse component or Deep Green operating it specifically.

Read more at [LansingCityPulse.com](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



**A Lansing police officer has been placed on administrative leave following a video of an arrest at the downtown Capital Area Transportation Authority**

**bus station.** The incident happened on Jan. 25, during the recent cold snap and during daytime hours, when the bus station functions as one of the city's primary warming centers. The arrest was captured on a citizen's video and has been shared on social media. It appears to show two Lansing officers approaching a person inside the bus station, warning the person that they'll be arrested if they do not leave and, within moments, the two officers taking the person down to the ground with one officer striking at the person's knee. Once on the ground, the second officer appears to slam the person's head into the floor more than once and put his knee on the person's neck.

\*\*\*

**"The department has opened a complaint review, and the officer involved has been removed from patrol and reassigned to administrative duty during the complaint investigation," according to a police department statement signed by Chief Robert Backus.** Jordan Gulkis, a spokesperson for the Lansing Police Department, confirmed that one of the officers was placed on leave, but did not identify which officer. She said in a statement Monday that the individual arrested had been banned from the bus station and officers were telling the individual to leave or face arrest. The police statement says the individual was taken into custody for trespassing. While police were in the process of making the arrest, the person said they were there to be warned and asked where else they could go. City Pulse has not determined the name of the individual or whether charges have been filed.

**A man has been charged with weapons offenses following the death of a 4-year-old, who allegedly used the man's gun on Jan. 21.** The shooting happened on Sadie Court



in Lansing. Prosecutors allege that the child got a firearm that had been improperly stored by a man who was a felon and prohibited from possessing firearms. The man, Maliki Pendergrass, 22, has been charged as a habitual third offender and faces six counts, including firearm possession and storage offenses, as well as a safe storage offense linked to a minor's death. He has been arraigned and his bond is set at \$1 million. According to a statement from Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney John Dewane's office, Pendergrass was on parole for armed robbery.



**The Lansing area is expected to continue to be under sub-freezing conditions for at least another week.** The highest highs are expected in the mid-20s (but not until Sunday) and the lowest temperatures are expected to get close to -10 degrees. There are several cold-weather shelters open in the area. Call 211 for the latest information. Lansing has extended its Code Blue status, which allows shelters more freedom to accept people in the cold. Capital Area Transportation Authority buses are available to take people to shelters for free. The bus station downtown and most libraries, including ones outside of Lansing, are warming centers during daytime hours. Nighttime shelters include the city-operated Letts Community Center (1220 W. Kalamazoo St.), City Rescue Mission's drop-in center or men's shelter (415 W. Kalamazoo St.), Holy Cross's New Hope Community Center (430 N. Larch St.) and Union Missionary Baptist Church's family shelter (500 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.). Lansing council member Ryan Kost and dozens of residents have urged the city to open more city-operated shelter space. City officials have said the existing shelters have enough capacity.

**Michigan could be the center of USA Today with the news that USA Today owner Gannett plans to buy The Detroit News, in addition to one of its**



**flagship newspapers, the Detroit Free Press.** The two papers had operated for decades under a joint operating agreement, essentially sharing back-of-house expenses, such as HR and business costs, while retaining editorial independence. That agreement expired days before the end of the year and the companies announced on Monday that they had signed a binding letter of intent for Gannett to acquire The Detroit News. The two papers would continue to publish separately, according to a press release. Gannett also owns the Lansing State Journal and several other Michigan newspapers. Disclosure: City Pulse Managing Editor Mike Ellis has worked at several Gannett papers, including the State Journal.



**In May, United Airlines will be starting four daily flights from Lansing to Chicago, with tickets going on sale Thursday (Jan. 29).** "We are thrilled to welcome United Airlines back to Lansing with the return of nonstop service to Chicago O'Hare," said Nicole Noll-Williams, president and CEO, Capital Region Airport Authority. "This route is critically important for our region, providing our business community, residents, and visitors with convenient access to one of the world's most connected global hubs." The new route from Lansing to Chicago underscores the confidence airlines have in the region's growth, said Tim Daman, president and CEO of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce.

**The Police Officers Association of Michigan's Facebook page posted, and removed on Sunday, a false news piece related to the fatal Minnesota ICE shooting.**

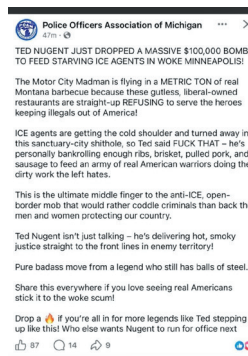
The post falsely said Ted Nugent "JUST DROPPED A MASSIVE \$100,000 BOMB TO FEED STARVING ICE

AGENTS IN WOKE MINNEAPOLIS!" Association President James Tignanelli confirmed the post had been made on their page, but it was unauthorized and he said the Michigan police union had the post taken down, likely within an hour, because "the timing was bad" and it appeared as if it had been made on association letterhead, rather than a meme that he had previously seen on Twitter and someone else had reshared to Facebook. Tignanelli said someone or multiple people outside of the association maintain the association's Facebook page, but declined to say who made the Ted Nugent post. "They thought it was good because he was trying to feed the police; we don't even know if it's true," Tignanelli said. "They do a great job 99% of the time, we still like 'em."



**MSU will honor the late Dan Sturges at a memorial Feb. 3 at Munn Ice Arena at 5:30 p.m. Sturges, the director of operations for Michigan State Hockey, died unexpectedly Jan. 19 at age 40.** No cause

of death has been announced. Sturges also played for the team from 2005-09 and was part of the 2007 national championship team. He returned to the program in 2019 and was promoted in 2022. The Verona, Wisconsin native was one of 19 in his family to attend MSU. "Dan Sturges was a beloved member of the Michigan State hockey family," said Head Coach Adam Nightingale. "He was an adoring father and a devoted husband, and our hearts break for his wife Becky and their sons." The Spartan players will be wearing a "DS" patch on their uniforms for the rest of the season to honor him. A Go Fund Me was launched for the Sturges family that has raised more than \$178,000 from more than 900 donors as of Jan. 27.



# Republican races flare up, Democrat races flame out

A GOP operative suggested on Facebook the other day that Republicans needed to “unify” behind Congressman John James for governor.

I laughed out loud.

Republicans unify? Maybe after the last ballot is counted, and the results are read. Certainly not before.

Republicans historically like to have their primaries or convention fights. It's Democrats who try to avoid them at all costs.

Perry Johnson is my Exhibit A. The eccentric Oakland County business executive -- who made a fortune telling the Big Three automakers how to compete against Japanese automakers in the 1980s -- is back in the gubernatorial race with his millions as of Jan. 26.

That makes eight Republican candidates with a mildly realistic shot at turning in the 15,000 valid signatures needed before the April 21 filing deadline.

Even if half fail or drop out, we still have a competitive primary on our hands.

The Secretary of State race is heating up, too. Macomb County Clerk Tony Forlini is courting pragmatic Republicans. Monica Yatooma is attracting Patrick Colbeck, election-integrity disciples, and Amanda Love is picking off whatever is left.

Neither Attorney General candidate -- Eaton County Prosecutor Doug Lloyd nor attorney Kevin Kijewski -- look like they're folding before the March 28 convention.

Meanwhile, Democrats are like those homeowners who clean their house before the maid comes. They pull their maneuvers before a convention or an election, so their heir apparent can be recognized publicly with unanimous support.

I'm not sure which approach is better. The Republicans are fine with their nominees being “battle tested.” Democrats don't want to drain resources.

There are a few reasons behind this. The modern-day Democrat was raised in solidarity, the union movement, strength in numbers, etc.

Republican candidates have paid advisors telling them what needs to be done to keep the ball rolling. Whether their clients are losing badly or isn't in the hunt, that's not always the point. Making sure the check cashes, that often is.

Democratic candidates typically don't have for-profit firms doing their legwork. They have staff, but many Dem-friendly

workers drink from the soft money or hard money trough of interest groups looking to advance the Democratic ticket. America Votes or Priorities USA typically don't care which Democrat wins. Nearly every modern-day Democrat is left of center, anyway.

Organized labor and traditional Democratic groups want someone electable. Period.

Here's my Exhibit B: Tuesday's special election in the 35th state Senate District. State Board of Education President Pamela Pugh is running, but the Democratic establishment think she's too abrasive and too liberal to beat a Republican.

So, they're getting behind the mild-mannered Chedrick Greene, a Saginaw fire department captain.

More than 10 organized unions and D.C.-connected groups poured \$115,950 behind the guy while Senate Democratic caucus members put in a combined \$79,950.

This is the primary. What happens if Pugh pulls off a surprise and wins the primary and the general? Would she caucus with Republicans? Anyway, let's not get beside the point. Pugh is an anomaly.

In many cases for Democrats, the candidate not with the “in” crowd drops out. Eventually.

Exhibit C: Gubernatorial frontrunner Jocelyn Benson cleans up on the endorsements. Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist drops out. He runs for Secretary of State instead. One of the candidates in the SOS field, Aghogho Edevbie, drops out. More are expected.

The UAW and the Michigan Education Association support Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald for Attorney General. Former U.S. Attorney Mark Totten drops his bid. He says he doesn't have a path to win the nomination.

He probably didn't.

Maybe Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum fights the current and forces the first convention floor fight for the Secretary of State nomination since Scott Bowen fell against anointed candidate Amos Williams in 2006.

Maybe Eli Savit gives progressives something to fight for and forces a vote in the Attorney General's race.

Their odds of success aren't great, though.

I've made my case. In party nomination contests, Republicans step to the line. Democrats fall in line.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-1-2026, 500 S MLK Jr. Boulevard  
Rezoning from “DT-1” Downtown Edge to “DT-2” Urban Flex  
SLU-1-2026, 500 S MLK Jr. Boulevard  
Special Land Use permit for a Sheltered Care Facility

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider a request Z-1-2026, to rezone 500 S Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard from “DT-1” Downtown Edge to “DT-2” Urban Flex and a request SLU-1-2026, for a special land use permit for a Sheltered Care Facility. The purpose of the rezoning and special land use is to permit a Sheltered Care Facility inside the existing building.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, February 23, 2026 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

Chris Swope, City Clerk, MMC/CMMC  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#26-020



## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 26-02 2843 Grand River Avenue WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2026

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Variance Request #26-02 2843 Grand River Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Foresight Super-sign. The applicant is proposing to add a freestanding sign that exceeds the permitted size and does not meet the required setbacks at 2843 Grand River. The subject site is zoned C-2, Commercial.

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

CP#26-022

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY  
[meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us)



## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 26-03 5288 Haversham Drive WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2026

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Variance Request #26-03 5288 Haversham Drive Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Cheryl A. Schubel. The applicant is proposing to construct a three seasons room that does not meet the required rear yard setback at 5288 Haversham Drive. The subject site is zoned RA, Single Family.

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

CP#26-023

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Respect the velvet

### Exhibit shines loving light on once-throwaway art

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Picture a parking lot in Lewiston, Maine, in the 1970s, coming alive with vivid velvet vistas of Aztec deities, Elvis, Jesus, 18-wheelers, leopards and bullfighters, “resplendent on a jet-deep background of profoundly interstellar black,” in the words of American poet X.J. Kennedy.

Such art sales were widespread in the heyday of velvet paintings, but they never lasted long.

“The next day, we return to find all wonder banished,” Kennedy lamented.

Instead of banishing the wonder after a day or two, the Michigan History Museum has enshrined it for a whole year in an eye-popping exhibit of more than 120 paintings, “Black Velvet: A Rasquache Aesthetic.”

“Rasquache” has many shades of meaning, but most of them relate to an underdog spirit, a resourcefulness born of necessity, and the need to have both “bread for all, and roses too,” in a phrase made famous by the women’s suffrage movement.

It signifies art for the people, a volcano in the kitchen and a bullfight in the bathroom, framed in rustic notched pine, painted black.

The exhibit is a loving, lingering look at a form of popular art familiar to many Latinos and Chicanos from their childhoods, much of it created in workshops across Mexico and the American Southwest.

Brightly painted walls vibrate with lush portraits, evocative landscapes, cute vignettes of mischievous kids and plenty of familiar faces, from Nelson Mandela and Pancho Villa to Yosemite Sam, Charlie Brown and Marilyn Monroe.

The paintings were culled from a collection of some 300 works assembled by guest curators Elena Herrada,

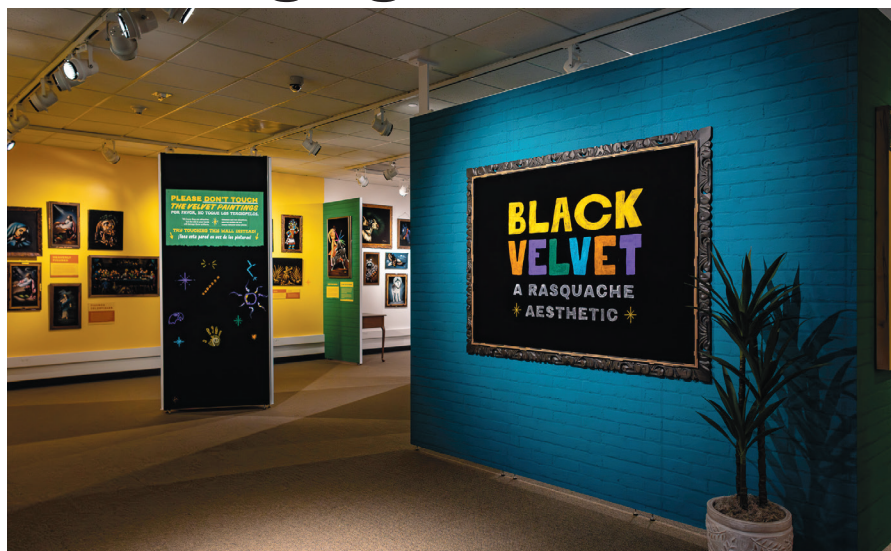


Photo by Jacob Allarding

“Black Velvet: A Rasquache Aesthetic” is an eye-popping exhibit of more than 120 velvet paintings, many created in workshops across Mexico and the American Southwest.

Diana Rivera and Minerva Martinez. Some were seen at a 2018 exhibit at Lansing’s Casa de Rosado Galeria and Cultural Center, but this is the first time in Michigan that they’ve been shown in a museum.

It’s also the first time the Michigan History Museum has provided labels in both English and Spanish.

“Velvet has always been kind of ridiculed as an art form, so to raise it up the way it has been by the museum is so important. It gives them so much respect and understanding,” Herrada said.

The idea for the collection goes back to 2008, when Rivera met Herrada at a Michigan State University Chicano studies class.

They agreed it was high time to bring the rasquache spirit of velvet art to light.

“I had maybe three velvet paintings to my name,” Herrada said. “But I said that not everyone sees their importance, and nobody’s going to if we don’t.”

Rivera already had a spectacular

painting of the Aztec warrior Popocatepetl and the princess Iztaccíhuatl, or Popo and Izta, that she bought at the Frandor Woolworth’s in 1972 on layaway.

At the height of the velvet boom in the 1970s, a factory in Juárez turned out 10,000 paintings a day, funneling canvases to mass marketers like Woolworth’s and Piggly Wiggly.

Some of the paintings in the Michigan History Museum exhibit were created in factories, but most of them, including a stunning portrait of Pancho Villa, are the painstaking work of highly skilled painters.

For over 10 years, the three curators combed secondhand shops, restaurants and private homes. As word of the collection spread, owners began to dust off their own “velvets,” many of them languishing in storage, and donate or sell them to the collection.

“We talked about how happy the velvets were to be together,” Herrada said with a laugh. “People brought them in on loan, and then said, ‘Just keep it, because that’s where it belongs.’”

The curators crafted several fun settings for the paintings, including a paneled basement with a color



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The artworks are “resplendent on a jet-deep background of profoundly interstellar black,” in the words of American poet X.J. Kennedy.

scheme from the 1970s and a mockup of a garage with a workbench and a painting on the wall.

One display recreates the “assembly line” shops that produced many of the mass-market paintings, complete with a radio playing Latin music.

The brightly colored walls, vivid signage and many other design features of the exhibit are the work of graphic designer Jake Allarding.

“The excitement shared by the excellent exhibit team has given the collection a new and different look,” Rivera said. “It’s really cool that the carpenters made frames to protect and support fragile items.”

“Some of them needed a bit of care,” museum exhibits manager Meagan Papineau said. “We went through each one and made sure the velvet is attached well, the stretchers are good, the adhesive and tacks are in place, and they’re on proper hangers.”

The museum’s in-house carpenter crafted classic rough-hewn wood frames, with decorative notches, for some of the paintings and the signage.

# 'Fatherland' captures zeitgeist of Jan. 6 riot

By MARY CUSACK

With "Fatherland," Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. continues a season of timely and important pieces that are vital for spurring conversation, challenging beliefs and assumptions, and building community.

The play tells the true tale of an 18-year-old son (Keara Hayes) who turned in his father (Mark Gmazel) to the FBI for participating in the U.S. Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021. Conceived by Stephen Sachs, the script is a tapestry of verbatim court transcripts, public statements and case evidence, reshaped into a gripping story that drives home the toll Donald Trump's America has on individuals and families.

When I volunteered for this review, there was no way to anticipate the events unraveling in Minneapolis. Even worse, I chose to see the show Saturday night (Jan. 24), following



Review

## "Fatherland"

Thursday, Jan. 29–Sunday, Feb. 1

7 p.m. Thursday–Saturday

3 p.m. Saturday–Sunday

Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood

2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing

(517) 927-3016

peppermintcreek.org

the killing of Alex Pretti at the hands of federal agents. Attending "Fatherland" seemed a daunting chore. Surprisingly, while it was unpleasant to relive the horror of the Jan. 6 riot, the quality of the production made it worthwhile.

The innovative structure allows the story to slowly build in intensity as the son describes

how his father became radicalized and how it impacted their relationship. Early in the play, the father comes across as a stereotypical good ol' boy, parroting what he reads from Donald Trump's books or hears on Fox News. Over time, his righteousness and anger shift toward action, and he becomes more

physically threatening.

Gmazel nails the role of the father, naturally assuming his accent and physicality. After returning home from the riot, his character delivers an intense soliloquy as he recounts his

charge up the steps of the Capitol, and Gmazel is simply mesmerizing.

As the U.S. attorney, Rose Jangmi Cooper is methodical and even, while Jonas Greenberg does an excellent job as the slick defense attorney, skillfully unsettling the son on the witness stand.

Hayes shows her versatility and acting skills in her role as the son. She easily conveys the lanky awkwardness of a teenage boy, both in her physicality and her facial expressions. Uncomfortable, torn, unsure — Hayes portrays the spectrum of emotions experienced by a young man thrust into a situation that pits his personal beliefs against his familial relationships.

The program provides a warning about explicit language, flashing lights and loud sounds, but those are less jarring or triggering than the use of audio clips of Trump, especially the infamous speech where he fired up his supporters and sent them to the Capitol. To be sure, those audio elements are key to the innovative storytelling and add necessary gravitas, but it's almost surreal to hear these sound bites in the context of a theater performance.

The production values are out-



Photo by Trumpie Photography

From left: Keara Hayes, Rose Jangmi Cooper and Mark Gmazel in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of "Fatherland."

standing, including Ross Brower's amazing set, an enormous backdrop of the Capitol jaggedly split in half. Zara Hertafeld's lighting and Stewart Blackwood's sound design envelop the audience in the intensity of the riot.

"Fatherland" joins other important plays, such as "The Laramie Project," that capture the zeitgeist of infamous events in U.S. history. Future generations will benefit from the true story of how Trump divided the country, right down to the family level. When people who didn't live this wonder how and why the riot happened, "Fatherland" will provide a real example of how people can become polarized.

City of East Lansing  
All-of-us Express Children's Theatre  
presents

# BEETLEJUICE JR.

Jan. 30 & Feb. 6  
7 p.m.

Jan. 31 & Feb. 7  
3 p.m.

Feb. 1 & 8  
3 p.m.

### Box Office

(517) 333-2580 ext. 0  
www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus

### Ticket Information\*

\$14 adults  
\$9 youth



## Velvet

from page 9

Touching the paintings is not allowed, but a velvet sample is provided for those who must scratch that itch.

"We really lucked out to get this crew to do the exhibit," Herrada said. "It was a blessing."

"I know they're professionals, and this is what they do," Rivera said. "But for me, the team's care, interest and excitement brought me to tears."

After exhibits at galleries and community centers in Detroit, Lansing and other cities, Herrada said velvet paintings have become harder and harder to find.

"They aren't being trashed. They're being hoarded," she said. "Our collection has raised up the vibe for velvet paintings. People look at them differently. They have value where they didn't before. I didn't see that coming."

Does that mean that this exhibit is the final word, the apotheosis of velvet art in Michigan? Not a chance. Despite the encroachment of trendies, hipsters and collectors, the curators will always keep an eye out for the next hidden treasure.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Some of the paintings in the exhibit were created in factories, but most of them (like this portrait of Pancho Villa) are the painstaking work of highly skilled painters.

"It's rumored that there's a collector in Detroit who has Frida Kahlo on velvet with a Uniroyal tire around her head for a halo," Herrada said. "I don't usually covet things, but I would love to have that in the collection."

*The Lansing Symphony Orchestra.*

**February 14th**  
7:30 PM Wharton Center

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT**



**FROM BROADWAY WITH LOVE**

Ben Davis, Alli Mauzey, & Nicole Parker, Vocals

# Capital Hippie makes itself known in a changing downtown



Owner Laura Castle is the force of nature behind Capital Hippie in downtown Lansing.

By **MIKE ELLIS**

You'd expect to find a tie-dye shop in Old Town, REO Town or East Lansing.

But downtown Lansing?

Laura Castle has been running the downtown shop Capital Hippie for almost four years, plus six months beforehand at the also-downtown Middle Village Market.

"I must just love to struggle," she said, "because I would make more money in REO Town, I'd make way more money in Old Town, and forget about East Lansing. It could even be like a winter business, open two days a week."

But downtown is changing.

The city's first skyscraper in nearly a century could open as soon as 2027, with hundreds of apartments. There's also a new City Hall and plans to turn the current City Hall into a hotel, along with new housing and the Ovation music venue.

Lots of potential customers.

Castle reopened her shop on Saturday (Jan. 24). She was closed all of January, except for one day.

A small business owner, she said she normally takes off three weeks in January to recharge.

"Well, I guess it was two weeks last year and only a week the year before that, so next year, it may be a month," she said, laughing.

The Peanut Shop and Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shoppe, some of Capital Hippie's neighbors, have been in business on Washington Square for a combined total of 180 years, give or take.

But after fewer than a handful of years downtown, newcomer Capital Hippie has already become a colorful and hard-to-ignore institution.

Castle organizes downtown events, including Scare on the Square and craft shows, and she's started recruiting food trucks on weekends when many restaurants are closed.

She doesn't like the one-color, somewhat subtle tie dye that people — including her husband and her best friend, one of the first female NBA referees — sometimes ask for.

"I'll do it," Castle said, "but every time, I'm like, 'You're just killing my soul.'"

That's how she approaches her business. Like tie dye, full of soul and color.

Hard to ignore.

\*\*\*

Being closed a couple of weeks in January isn't usually a problem, Castle said, because she makes her comeback into an event.

But this time, she pulled back.

"I didn't want to pump this up and get snowed out," she said.

It was about 11 degrees outside on Saturday. Peo-

Photos by  
**Raymond Holt**  
for City Pulse



Capital Hippie provides a little bit of San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury on South Washington Square.

ple were worried about the unhoused. A customer came in around noon with news of the second fatal ICE shooting in Minneapolis. Another dropped off 3D-printed whistles — the size and shape of a small USB drive and the color of an orange LEGO separator — that people can use if they spot the feds in Lansing.

Business was slow, aside from some of the Capital Hippie's colorful regulars.

Castle said she didn't advertise the reopening and didn't push it much on her social media page, which

See Capital Hippie, page 12

# Capital Hippie

from page 11

is a huge driver of her business.

Selling tie dye is a hustle.

Selling it on one of the coldest days of the decade, in a city that isn't exactly full of life on the weekends?

That's hard mode.

Castle has started to carve out a new niche: social media videos.

"First of all," she said, "I wouldn't have social media if I didn't have a business. It's horrible. But I sell stuff online and legitimately make money off of it."

She said she mimics TikTok videos she likes, adding a tie-dye twist (or spiral) or highlighting downtown businesses.

She came into work one day about six months ago and just started creating the video skits. But they're bringing in people who are curious. And they're buying.

Sometimes, "one days" like that can have ripple effects, spreading out like colors and bleeding into something else — something unpredictable, something different.

Something tie dye, something social media, something tangible in downtown Lansing.

It all started one day, too, about six years ago. Castle couldn't find an extra-large tie-dye shirt, so she figured out how to make it.

Tie dye isn't that complicated. YouTube is her university.

There are tons of ways to make a tie dye. It can be a shirt, a macramé chandelier, a shower curtain, whatever.

She started with a shirt and a large, white, plastic tub in her basement.

"First, I'll tie it up, then I'll wash it, then I do a coat of soda ash, then spin it, then dye," she said.

She does a lot of ice dye, meaning she bundles up the shirt, or whatever, and submerges it into a small container filled with ice.



Which came first, tie-dye art or the Rorschach test?



Castle creates her own handmade tie-dye designs for her shop.



In addition to handmade tie-dye creations, Capital Hippie offers a unique line of clothing.



You won't find these sunglasses at Warby Parker.

She's using a heater in the super-cold. The quicker the ice melts, the more vibrant the color.

Castle recently filmed herself making "fuck ICE" tie dyes with the ice dye method.

Tie it.

Wash it.

Coat it in ash.

Spin it.

Dye it.

Rinse, untie, wash.

She uses squirt bottles filled with colored liquid to spell out "fuck ICE" on the spiraled shirt.

Unfolded, you can't tell. It looks like a typical colorful, hippie-era, Grateful Dead-esque swirl.

She said she made a handful of the iced ICE shirts. She laughed because since you can't tell what they say, she could just tell unsuspecting customers that's how the shirts were made.

Castle isn't afraid to get political on her social media as well.

"I don't want to be in people's faces or whatever," she said. "I just want

to let people know where I stand. I come from a small town (Clio) that's very conservative — I think, at least — so I want to let other women know that they're not alone having a liberal mentality in a conservative town."

Soon after President Donald Trump told a reporter to "quiet, piggy" in November, people took the same taunts to Capital Hippie's social media pages.

"There were a few AI piggies that they posted, too, but they were in tie dye," Castle said. "They were all rainbow, and I was like, I'm not offended by this. I don't mind that. I'll take the rainbow tie-dye piggies."

\*\*\*

One of Castle's regulars, who didn't want to use his name, swooned around the store on Saturday, sporting a flashy fake-diamond chain over a shiny, puffy black jacket and dancing to the music in the middle of the shop.

After vibing for a bit, he saddled up to the counter and asked me, "What is a hippie?"

He then said being a hippie is love, energy and peace.

"Living life differently. Love is for everybody. Be you, man."

Hard to argue with that.

So, I nodded.

I asked Castle a few minutes later what "hippie" means to her.

She took a deep breath.

"I almost wish I didn't even have that name," she said.

"To me, a hippie is ... don't get me wrong, I've fist-fought men, I'm not just peace and love, so sometimes I guess you've got to punch a mother-fucker in the face to get peace."

She said the name "Capital Hippie" was a safety pick. In case she moved away from tie dye, it would cover all kinds of stuff.

"I think a hippie is someone who does a lot of peace and equality and

who fights for rights for other people. I know a lot of people who claim to be hippies and they're pieces of shit, so, like I said, there are definitely times where I'm like, 'Why did I choose this name?' But I do think it's perfect. We're in the capital, right across from the Capitol."

Castle doesn't like traditional "hippie" tie dye as much as she likes reverse tie dye — think Dungeons & Dragons or Stranger Things.

That's part of Capital Hippie's attraction for Colton Hughes, who recently opened a downtown gaming space, Dungeons & Flagons, and has owned the adjacent Element Massage parlor for nearly a decade.

"We're celebrating our 10-year anniversary on March 12," Hughes said.

He stopped by Capital Hippie Saturday afternoon wearing a showstopping knee-length, astrological print coat.

He said he used to hate tie-dye, the traditional swirl. The kind you did in the backyard with little squirt bottles, rubber bands and primary colors.

It just wasn't his style.

He pointed instead to a shirt behind the counter: black with green flame-looking wriggles swooshing around.

"That's the reverse kind," Castle said.

Hughes said he owns eight, nine, maybe 10 Capital Hippie tie dyes, not counting accessories like scarves.

"There's a reverse black sweater," he said. "It's my favorite."

He said he admires the work Castle has been doing downtown and that she's been a positive force in the neighborhood, even when she tries to shy from the recognition she deserves.

\*\*\*

Capital Hippie has been open just

See Capital Hippie, page 13

# The high cost of the race to the bottom

## Michigan's record-breaking year of growing for less

By CHRIS SILVA

Lansing just wrapped up a 2025 that would make even the most seasoned dealer's head spin. We're smoking more and growing more, but the industry is somehow making less.

According to the year-end wrap-up from the Cannabis Regulatory Agency, Michigan dispensaries moved nearly 260,000 more pounds of flower than they did in 2024. But in a brutal reality check, total revenue actually dropped by \$113 million, landing at \$3.17 billion.

We are officially in the era of "record volume, shrinking value," and it's a buzzkill of epic proportions. It turns out you can indeed have too much of a good thing, especially when the "good thing" is an oversaturated market that's cannibalizing its own profits.

### The race to the floor

If you've been to the counter lately at places like Pure Options or Jars, you've seen the "deals" that look more like a fire sale than a business plan. By December 2025, the average price for an ounce of flower hit an all-time historic low of \$58.22 — a 16% drop in a single year. Vape products fared even worse, with prices cratering by nearly 20%.

For the budget-conscious smoker, it's a dream. You can walk into a shop on Michigan Avenue and walk out with a month's supply for less than the cost of a tank of gas. But for the businesses, it's a nightmare. Michigan's "unlimited license" model has created a glut so massive that the state is effectively tripping

over its own stash. We're producing nearly twice as much as we can actually consume, and when the market is this flooded, the value of that "fire" eighth starts to look more like the price of a mid-tier olive burger at Kewpee's.

### The retail cull: Survival of the best-funded

We're starting to see the first real casualties of this price compression. At the end of 2024, there were 848 licensed retailers in the state. By the time the ball dropped on 2026, that number fell to 838. While a loss of 10 stores might seem like a rounding error, it marks the first year-over-year decline since the recreational market opened in 2019.

The "mom and pop" shops, the social equity pioneers and the independent growers are the ones feeling the squeeze. Without the massive capital of multi-state operators like TerrAscend — which recently made headlines by exiting the Michigan market entirely, closing 20 dispensaries and laying off over 200 workers — survival in a \$58-an-ounce world is a game of inches.

When you're moving 260,000 more pounds but losing \$113 million in revenue, someone is paying the price. Usually, that's the local entrepreneur who can't afford to burn cash while waiting for the market to stabilize.

### The road tax trap

The irony is that just as the industry hits this revenue wall, the state has decided to reach deeper into the jar.



wollertz/123RF

The new 24% wholesale excise tax, it went live on Jan. 1, is hitting an already bruised industry. This tax isn't just a line item; it's a structural shift that forces cash-on-delivery which can hurt smaller businesses.

Under the new rules, growers and processors are liable for that 24% tax the moment a transfer happens. They can't extend credit to retailers.

This means small shops that used to rely on 30-day terms to keep their shelves stocked now have to come up with tens of thousands of dollars in cash just to get a delivery. For many social equity businesses in Lansing, this could be the final blow. If you don't have the cash up front, you don't have the product. If you don't have the product, you don't have a business.

### Paving over the progress

The state estimates this tax will generate \$420 million annually to "Fix the Damn Roads." But at what cost? We are essentially trading off the health of a



brand-new industry for asphalt. By the time the potholes on Saginaw Street are filled, the diverse, locally-owned cannabis landscape we were promised might be replaced by a handful of corporate giants who were the only ones big enough to survive the squeeze.

Even the CRA seems to recognize the tension. While they've recently updated disciplinary guidelines to reduce fines for minor "human error" violations, they've also ramped up penalties for selling "illicit" products. It's a clear signal: The state wants its tax money, and it wants it from the regulated system. But by making the regulated system so expensive to operate in, they are inadvertently rolling out the red carpet for the "legacy" market to make a massive comeback.

### The bottom line

Michigan remains the second-largest cannabis market in the country, but being a "heavyweight" doesn't mean much if you're losing blood. The record volume of 2025 proves the demand is there — Michiganders love their weed. But the revenue drop proves that the "golden age" of easy profits is over.

As we move into 2026, the question for Lansing's shops isn't how much they can sell, but how much they can afford to lose while the state paves the way to a corporate-dominated future. The harvest is bigger than ever, but for the local shop owner, the crop has never felt so thin.

## Capital Hippie

from page 12

a few years, but the shop has already become a role model for other downtown businesses.

Siso Gadi, a designer, entrepreneur and producer who works downtown and runs LANARTBUS, is a regular at Capital Hippy and started singing Castle's praises to her face on Saturday.

Castle tried to deflect him, but he persisted. She eventually relented, letting him go on.

"My argument is that business owners are the best placemakers," Gadi said. "It comes naturally to business owners and to her. When I bring it up, she wants to shoot it down as something she does because it's so obvious to her. Why would someone point out someone doing placemaking?"

Placemaking, according to Gadi, is the act of making downtown Lansing a destination, a desirable place to be. It's the bubbles that come out of Sylvia's Sudsery and the community outreach from Strange Matter, for starters, he said.

"Say whatever you want about my neighborhood, but come to the neighborhood and see the businesses," he said. "There are great people running businesses here."

Coming fresh from a data center forum downtown, Kim Peters wandered around the store Saturday, coming up



Capital Hippy carries jewelry, posters, clothing, accessories and creations by local artists, including Ryan Holmes.



Local designer and entrepreneur Siso Gadi stops by Capital Hippy on a bitterly cold Saturday afternoon.

to the counter to buy a macramé-like garment.

Peters and Castle settled on calling it a "poncho/shawl kind of thing," dyed in blues and magentas, with some pinks and other colors throughout.

Peters couldn't help but show it off, putting it on top of her jewel-green

puffy jacket and giving a twirl.

She asked Castle about the next item she wants to buy: a purple shower curtain, like the one that used to hang in the front window.

Castle said it's on her to-do list. She loves purple, too.

After a bit of back and forth, Castle asked Peters if they knew each other.

"Only online," Peters said.

"Oh, you're Kim Peters," Castle said, recognizing one of her online fans. "Thank you so much for all your support. You just liked my story, I think, yesterday. Thank you."

"You're very welcome," Peters replied, walking out into the cold. "You deserve it."



Customer Kim Peters and her newly purchased tie-dye wrap.



Castle talks with her friend and customer Samantha Skorka.

# CityPULSE



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## Live & Local

## CityPULSE

### The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**GDC benefit dance party, with DJ Ruckus**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 9 p.m.  
**Home Grown Homunculus**  
 Sun., Feb. 1, 7 p.m.

### Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett  
**School of Rock House Band**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 6-9 p.m.

### BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge  
**Helena Lost**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**The Aimcriers**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

### Chengdu Teahouse

100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing  
**Jeff Boog & Friends**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 5:30-7 p.m.

### Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing  
**Showdown**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 8 p.m.-midnight  
**Showdown**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 8 p.m.-midnight

### EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing  
**Bart Moore and the Hot Boyz**  
 Wed., Jan. 28, 7-9 p.m.  
**The Instigators**  
 Wed., Feb. 4, 7-9 p.m.

### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**Jim and Toni**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 6-9 p.m.  
**Russ Holcomb**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 6-9 p.m.

### The Fledge

1300 Eureka St., Lansing  
**Voices for the Voiceless, live music fundraiser for Saved by Zade**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 1-9 p.m.

### The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Wavelength: Jungle, DNB & brakes takeover**  
 Wed., Jan. 28, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.  
**Tequila Mockingbird, Iij, Mustseetevee, Town Scratch FC**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.  
**Paper Lanterns, Nunya, Pet Me**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.  
**Wavelength**  
 Wed., Feb. 4, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

### Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing  
**Homegrown Throwdown: Slumlord Radio, Precordial Thump, Misplaced Memories, Forge the Sun, Jimi Kanklez**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 6 p.m.

### Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
**The Dangling Particles**  
 Thurs., Jan. 29, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
**The Quantum Committee**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 5-8 p.m.  
**Serita's Black Rose**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 5-8 p.m.  
 John Beltran  
 Sun., Feb. 1, 1-5 p.m.

### The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing  
**Open mic night, with Scott Seth**  
 Thurs., Jan. 29, 6:30-11 p.m.  
**The Lynx Band**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 8-11 p.m.

### Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Unity — In Music**  
 Thurs., Jan. 29, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.  
 Tues., Feb. 3, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

### Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing  
**Mix Pack**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 9:30 p.m.

### Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Open mic, with Jen Sygit**  
 Wed., Jan. 28, 9 p.m.-midnight  
**The Polaroids**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 8 p.m.-midnight  
**Frog & the Beeftones**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 8 p.m.-midnight  
**Jazz Tuesdays: MSU showcase**  
 Tues., Feb. 3, 7-10 p.m.  
**Open mic, with Jen Sygit**  
 Wed., Feb. 4, 9 p.m.-midnight

### MSU College of Music

**Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble**  
 Wed., Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.  
 Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing  
**AdaMa Quartet**  
 Thurs., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.  
 Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing  
**Ciaramella: "The Winds of the Renaissance"**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.  
 Fairchild Theatre  
**Rivalry in Harmony: U-M Men's Glee Club & MSU Singing Spartans**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.  
 Fairchild Theatre  
**Musique 21**  
 Mon., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.  
 Murray Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing  
**Newfound Chamber Winds**  
 Wed., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.  
 Cook Recital Hall

### MSU Community Music School

4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing  
**Lake Effect, featuring Tiyi Schippers & Rachael Davis (Fiddle Scouts)**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 11 a.m.

### Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale  
**Sandra Faye Band**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 7-11 p.m.

### Nuthouse Sports Grill

420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Starfarm**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 8:30 p.m.-midnight

### One North Kitchen & Bar

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
**Kathy Ford**  
 Thurs., Jan. 29, 6-9 p.m.  
**Keith Minaya**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 7-10 p.m.  
**Kevin Nichols**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 7-10 p.m.  
**Open mic, with Kathy Ford**  
 Mon., Feb. 2, 6:30-9 p.m.

### The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
**Diet Morning Dew**  
 Tues., Feb. 3, 6-8 p.m.

### Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
**B3 Trio**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30-10:30 p.m.  
**Randy Napoleon Trio**  
 Sun., Feb. 1, 6-9 p.m.

### Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing  
**Last One Out**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 6-9 p.m.  
**School's Out**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 6-9 p.m.

### The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
**Hubby Jenkins (Ten Pound Fiddle)**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30-10 p.m.  
**Mia Chinni Trio + open jazz session**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 1-3 p.m.

### Sholty's Bar

1819 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
**Frog & Koop**  
 Tues., Feb. 3, 6-9 p.m.

### Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing  
**JP Peters**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 7-10 p.m.  
**Rory Nevins**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 7-10 p.m.

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing  
**Lansing Symphony Orchestra: "Winterlude"**  
 Sun., Feb. 1, 3 p.m.

### Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt  
**Capital Sundogs**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 8-11 p.m.  
**Sami and the Mojo Makers**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 7-10 p.m.

### UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing  
**Lansing Live! open mic**  
 Wed., Jan. 28, 6-9 p.m.  
**Walter Blanding's Jazz Ambassadors: The music of Dizzy Gillespie**  
 Fri., Jan. 30, 7-10 p.m.  
**Sunny Bleau and the Moons**  
 Sat. Jan. 31, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Lansing Live! open mic**  
 Wed., Feb. 4, 6-9 p.m.

### Wharton Center

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
**MSU Symphony Band**  
 Tues., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.

### Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston  
**Rich Ballard**  
 Wed., Jan. 28, 7-10 p.m.  
**The Renegades**  
 Sat., Jan. 31, 7-11 p.m.

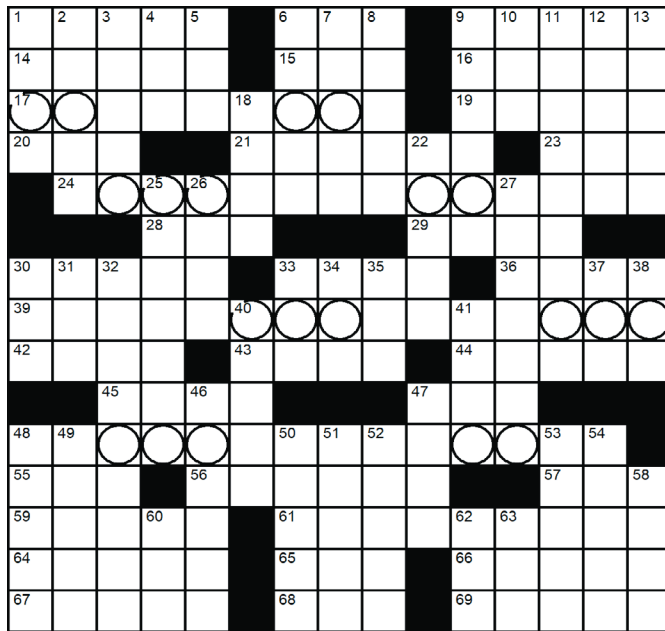
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Orbit-rary” -- a sphere, divided.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2026 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. Race with batons
- 6. Fitting
- 9. More sagacious
- 14. GIF, e.g.
- 15. Old-timey cheering word
- 16. Really amazed
- 17. Degraded
- 19. Escorted from the outside
- 20. The “S” in RSVP
- 21. Scoundrel
- 23. 180 deg. from WSW
- 24. Study unfamiliar material, say
- 28. Place to go in England?
- 29. Stoop
- 30. Scarecrow’s desire
- 33. Inking
- 36. Measure with a stopwatch
- 39. They may be laminated to protect against spills
- 42. Eight, to Einstein
- 43. Right behind in line
- 44. State of dread
- 45. “The Time Machine” leisure class
- 47. Pacers’ st.
- 48. Disco, early punk, funk, etc.
- 55. Foe of Frazier and Foreman
- 56. Place to pamper poodles, perhaps
- 57. \_\_\_ el hanout (North African spice mix)
- 59. “The Hobbit” hobbit Baggins
- 61. Like the circled



- letters in the long entries (or the clustered groups)
- 64. Actor’s parts
- 65. Barrett who cofounded Pink Floyd
- 66. Smart group
- 67. Bothered
- 68. Sweet suffix
- 69. Pamphlet

**DOWN**

- 1. Wheel edges
- 2. Message from a server
- 3. Soup server
- 4. Questionnaire topic
- 5. Archery bow wood
- 6. Scottish island with a namesake whisky brand
- 7. Outdated
- 8. Network with LeVar Burton hosting “Trivial Pursuit”
- 9. First half of

- a suspenseful decision-making phrase, maybe
- 10. Plastic follower?
- 11. A weepy movie often has one
- 12. “Dallas” surname
- 13. Descartes and Lacoste
- 18. “Deal \_\_\_ Deal”
- 22. Awaiting the pitch
- 25. Not much
- 26. Slangy term for COVID-19
- 27. Means (to)
- 30. Car grille protector
- 31. Suggestion, casually
- 32. North Carolina city home to the Biltmore Estate
- 33. Soreness
- 34. Actor Shepard of “Idiocracy”
- 35. Otitis doc
- 37. Greek consonants
- 38. Superlative suffix
- 40. Bring together
- 41. English Premier League club, to fans
- 46. Acting as sentry
- 47. Apple model since 1998
- 48. Hummus brand
- 49. “The Waste Land” poet
- 50. “\_\_\_ great to see you!”
- 51. Annual awards for athletes
- 52. Black playing card
- 53. Twist in a tale
- 54. Activist’s focus
- 58. Vietnamese flag feature
- 60. Dorothy portrayer on ‘80s TV
- 62. Band with the 1991 album “Schubert Dip”
- 63. \_\_\_ Taco (fast food chain)

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 2026

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In 1953, Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to trek to the summit of Mount Everest. They both said later that the climb down was as important and challenging as the ascent. The lesson: Achievement doesn’t end when you reach the peak. Aries, you may be nearing or have just passed a high point of effort or recognition. Soon you will need to manage the descent with aplomb. Don’t rush! Tread carefully as you complete your victory. It’s not as glamorous as the push upward, but it’s equally vital to the legacy of the climb.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Aurora borealis occurs when highly charged particles from the sun strike molecules high in the Earth’s atmosphere, causing them to glow. The display that looks like gorgeous magic is actually our planet’s invisible magnetic shield and upper atmosphere lighting up under the pressure of an intense solar storm. Dear Taurus, I think your life has a metaphorical resemblance. The strength you’ve been quietly maintaining without much fanfare has become vividly apparent because it’s being activated. The protection you’ve been offering and the boundaries you’ve been holding are more visible than usual. This is good news! Your shields are working.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** “Nothing in excess” was the maxim inscribed on the ancient Temple of Apollo at Delphi. “Moderation is a chief moral virtue,” proclaimed the philosopher Aristotle. But I don’t recommend those approaches for you right now, Gemini. A sounder principle is “more is better” or “almost too much is just the right amount.” You have a holy duty to cultivate lavishness and splendor. I hope you will stir up as many joyous liberations and fun exploits as possible.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** When sea otters sleep, they sometimes hold each other’s paws to keep from drifting apart. This simple, instinctive act ensures they remain safe and connected. I suggest making their bond your power symbol for now, Cancer. You’ll be wise to formulate a strong intention about which people, values, and projects you want to be tethered to. And if sea otters holding hands sounds too sentimental or cutesy to be a power symbol, you need to rethink your understanding of power. For you right now, it’s potency personified.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** To be healthy, we all need to continually be in the process of letting go. It’s always a favorable phase to shed aspects of our old selves to make room for what comes next. The challenge for you Leos is to keep showing up with your special brightness even as parts of you die away to feed new growth. So, here are my questions: What old versions of your generosity or courage are ready to compost? What fiercer, wilder, more sustainable expression of your leonine nature wants to emerge? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to stop performing the hero you used to be and become the hero you are destined to become.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The Haudenosaunee people practice “seventh-generation thinking”: making decisions based on their impact seven generations into the future. You would be wise to incorporate the spirit of their visionary approach, Virgo. Here’s the problem: You’re so skilled at fixing what needs urgent attention that you sometimes neglect what’s even more important in the long run. So, I will ask you to contemplate what choices you could you make now that will be blessings to your future self. This might involve ripening an immature skill, shedding a boring obligation that drains you, or delivering honest words that don’t come easily. Rather than obsessing on the crisis of the moment, send a sweet boost to the life you want to be living three years from now.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Are you open to the idea that new wisdom doesn’t always demand struggle and strain? In the days ahead, I invite you to move as if the world is deeply in love with you; as if every element, every coincidence, every kind

pair of eyes is cheering you forward. Imagine that generous souls everywhere want to help you be and reveal your best self. Trust that unseen allies are rearranging the flow of fate to help you grow into the beautiful original you were born to be. Do you dare to be so confident that life loves you?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Psychologist James Pennebaker did studies showing that people who write about traumatic experiences for just 15 minutes a day show improved immune function, fewer doctor visits, and better emotional health. But here’s a key detail: The benefits don’t come from the trauma itself or from “processing feelings.” They come from constructing a narrative: making meaning, finding patterns, and creating coherence. The healing isn’t in the wound. It’s in the story you shape from the wound’s raw material. You Scorpios excel at this alchemical work. One of your superpowers is to take what’s dark, buried, or painful and transform it through the piercing attention of your intelligence and imagination. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to do this.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** In Jewish mysticism, “tikkun olam” means “repair of the world.” This is the idea that we’re all responsible for healing what’s broken. But the teaching also says you’re not required to complete the work; you’re only asked to not abandon it. This is your message right now, Sagittarius: You don’t have to save everyone. You don’t have to heal everything, and you don’t even have to finish the projects you’ve started. But you can’t abandon them entirely, either. Keep showing up. Do what you can today. That’s enough. The work will continue whether or not you complete it. Your part is to not walk away from your own brokenness and the world’s. Stay engaged.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** The Talmud teaches that “every blade of grass has an angel bending over it, whispering, ‘Grow, grow.’” I sense that you are now receiving the extra-intense influence of your own guardian angels, Capricorn. They aren’t demanding or threatening, just encouraging. Please tune in to their helpful ministrations. Don’t get distracted by harsher voices, like your internalized critic, the pressure of impossible standards, or the ghost of adversaries who didn’t believe in you. Here’s your assignment: Create time and space to hear and fully register the supportive counsel. It’s saying, “Grow. You’re allowed to grow. You don’t have to earn it. Just grow.”

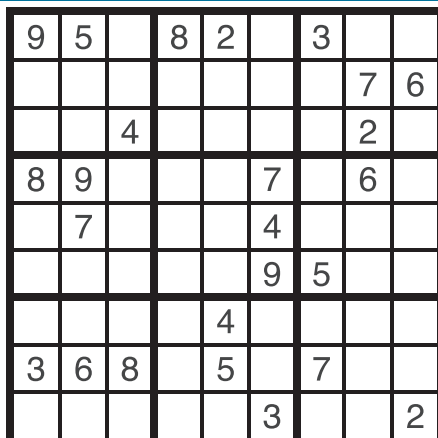
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** In ecology, there’s a concept called “keystone species.” This refers to organisms that have a huge effect on their environment relative to their abundance. Remove them, and the whole ecosystem shifts. I bring this up, Aquarius, because I believe you are currently functioning as a keystone species in your social ecosystem. You may not even be fully aware of how much your presence influences others. Here’s the challenge: You shouldn’t let your impact weigh on your conscience. You don’t have to sacrifice yourself as you carry out your service. Instead, ask how you can contribute to the common good while also thriving yourself. Ensuring your well-being isn’t selfish; it’s essential to the gifts you provide and the duties you perform.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** I foresee a dose of real magic becoming available to you, equivalent to an enchanted potion, a handful of charmed seeds, or a supernatural spell. But owning the magic and knowing how to use it are two different matters. There’s no promise you will instantly grasp its secrets. To give yourself the best shot, follow a few rules: 1. Keep it quiet. Only share news of your lucky charm with those who truly need to hear about it. 2. Before using it to make wholesale transformations, test it gently in a situation where the stakes are low. 3. Whatever you do, make sure your magic leaves no bruises behind.

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Answers on page 21

# SUDOKU



# Intermediate

## Fun By The Numbers

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

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

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

### Wednesday, Jan. 28

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

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

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

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

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

**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](http://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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**CharLit Adult Book Club: "Not Quite Dead Yet," by Holly Jackson** - 6-7:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. [charlottelibrary.org](http://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](http://meridian-50plus.com).

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

**Parkinson's Support Group Social Lunch** - Join us for a relaxed social time. Order off the menu, pay your own bill. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Coral Gables Restaurant, 2838 Grand River Ave., East Lansing. [lapsg.org](http://lapsg.org).

**Silent Book Club at BrickHaven Brewing Co.** - Everyone brings a book of their choice to read. We'll read silently for about 45 minutes, then everyone will have a chance to share a bit about their book. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. 200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Speak with Impact: Public Speaking Mastery Workshop** - A hands-on workshop that will help you command any room with confidence! 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Regus - One Michigan Avenue, 120 N. Washington Square, Ste. 300, Lansing. [eventbrite.sg/o/mount-skills-43284464053](http://eventbrite.sg/o/mount-skills-43284464053).

**Tap II Class for Teens & Adults** - 6-7 p.m. Ruhala

Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Wheel of the Year: Imbolc & Great Work** - Join us in person or online for our weekly community night, an open, cross-tradition discussion space where we learn, share and build community together. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Wine Down Wednesday** - Enjoy \$1 off glasses of wine all day! Come wine down with us! Noon-7 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. [facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs](http://facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs).

**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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

### Thursday, Jan. 29

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

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

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

**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](http://facebook.com/ajoyfulline).

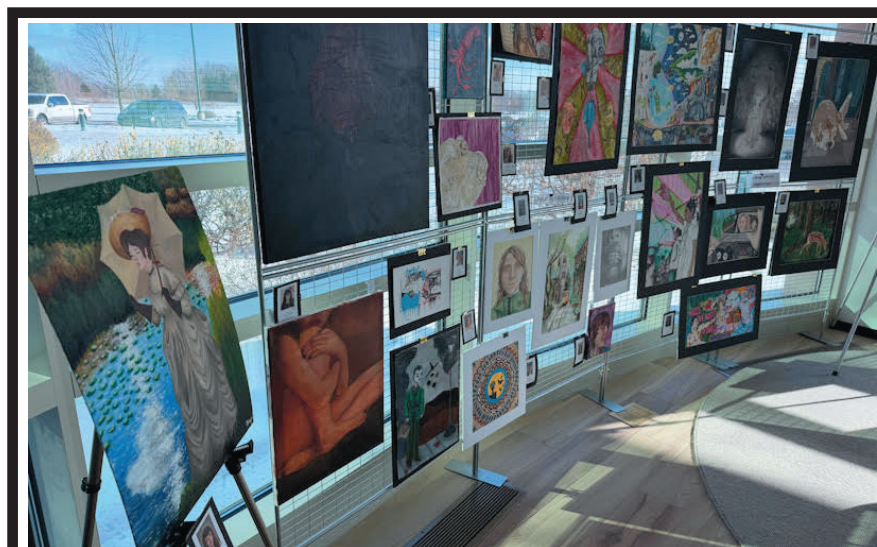
**Auditions: "1984"** - Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Sides will be provided. Auditioners can attend either night. Students and community members are invited to audition. 6-8 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. [lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo).

**Book Swap at MP Social** - Stop by anytime between 4-10 p.m. (official swap is at 7) to enjoy hand-crafted cocktails or mocktails while swapping books with fellow readers. 7-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. [facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing](http://facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing).

**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](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**End-of-Life Options in Michigan** - Compassion and Choices members will detail the medical landscape in Michigan, explain advanced directives and why everyone should complete theirs, review dementia's nuances and detail end-of-life care choices, including medical aid in dying.



### MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit

Through Feb. 27

9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday

MSUFCU Headquarters Building 1

3777 West Road, East Lansing

[msufcuart.com](http://msufcuart.com)

The 19th annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit showcases work by students from 21 local high schools, all hoping to win awards through votes from community members, judges and social media.

Public voting runs through Feb. 20. Juried awards, determined by four local artists, come with \$300, \$200 and \$100 prizes for the top three artists and additional cash prizes for 10 honorable mentions.

"Being surrounded by this dynamic collection of art fuels my own creative practice," local mixed-media artist Steph Joy Hogan said at the exhibit's VIP opening reception. "As an established artist, I continually strive to tap into my inner child and the inhibition of artists at the beginning of their journey, and the work you're sharing today is truly inspiring."

The artwork includes paintings, sketches, 3D sculptures, photography and animations. The high schools represented include Bath, Charlotte, DeWitt, East Lansing, Eaton Rapids, Fowlerville, Grand Ledge, Haslett, Holt, Laingsburg, Lansing Catholic, Lansing Christian, Lansing Everett, Leslie, Mason, Michigan Connections Academy, Okemos, Pottersville, St. Johns, Waverly and Williamston.

"By creating a space for these students to share their art, this exhibit aims to give them more than a gallery," Arianna Ridderbusch, vice president of community impact at MSUFCU, said. "It hopefully gives them the confidence to find their voice and the freedom to see how far their talent can take them."

The art is available to view in person, online at [msufcuart.com](http://msufcuart.com) or via the MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit Facebook and Instagram pages. The winners will be announced at a closing awards ceremony on March 1.

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

**"Fatherland"** - The true story of the 18-year-old son who turned his father in to the FBI because of his role in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. [peppermintcreek.org](http://peppermintcreek.org).

**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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Ladies' Silver Blades** - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Biggy Coffee Ice Cube, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. [ladiessilverblades.org](http://ladiessilverblades.org).

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

See Events, Page 17

## Events

from page 16

**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.

**Spirit of Michigan Chorus Guest Night** - We'll learn some new music, get to know each other, and do a lot of laughing! Musical experience or the ability to read music are not required! 7-9 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichigan-chorus.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 masterpiece! 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.

**The Work of the UN & SDGs Around the World** - Four MSU Humphrey Fellows from across the globe will share how the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals are influencing real change in their home countries and communities. 6:30-8 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. gluna.org.

### Friday, Jan. 30

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

**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! 3-10 p.m. Dimes Brewhouse, 145 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. facebook.com/ajoyfulline.

**Auditions: "1984"** - Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Sides will be provided. Auditioners can attend either night. Students and community members are invited to audition. 6-8 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**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.

**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.

**"Fatherland"** - The true story of the 18-year-old son who turned his father in to the FBI because of his role in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.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.

**The Future of Comedy Show at Bengel Wildlife Center** - Featuring nationally touring headliner Mike Ball and FOCS favorites Dave Welfare, J Bell and Kamryn Kelems. 8-9:30 p.m. 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. facebook.com/thefutureofcomedyshow.

**"Hadestown"** - This musical intertwines two mythic tales — that of young dreamers Orpheus

and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone — as it invites you on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

**MSU Men's Basketball vs. University of Michigan** - 8 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

**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 Dance Party** - Doors 7 p.m., line dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dance 8 p.m. to midnight. DJ Jim Kitchen in the house. Dinner buffet provided. Cash/credit bar available. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

**Type 2 Diabetes Basics** - This presentation will discuss the basics of managing blood glucose and identify different approaches to monitoring carbohydrate intake. 2-3 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/diabetes.

**Winter Opening Party** - Check out our newest exhibitions while enjoying music, art-making activities and more. All ages welcome. 6-9 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broad-museum.msu.edu.

### Saturday, Jan. 31

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

**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.

**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.

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

**"Fatherland"** - The true story of the 18-year-old son who turned his father in to the FBI because of his role in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. 3 and 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

**"Hadestown"** - This musical intertwines two mythic tales — that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone — as it invites you on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.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.

**"Mastermind Prayer Circle" on Zoom** - Support one another in envisioning our heart's desires. Lisa Schmidt facilitator. 8-9:30 a.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

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

**Michigan Quarter Horse Association New & Used Tack Sale** - For more information, email info@miquarterhorse.com. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. miquarterhorse.com.

**South Lansing Farmers Market Winter Market** - Featuring 60+ local farm, food, and art/craft vendors. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5412 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/SouthLansingFarmersMarket.

## Voices for the Voiceless

1-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31  
The Fledge  
1300 Eureka St., Lansing  
savedbyzade.com  
thefledge.com



A popular mid-Michigan cat shelter is stretching out with a live music fundraiser featuring more than a half-dozen bands. Performers include Dan MacLachlan, Tom Heideman and Mary Koenigsnecht (Tom and Mary), Rebecca Cameron, DIE:ODE, Diet Morning Dew, Basement Apes Family Band and Orion's Note.

Admission is free, both in person and online, but donations are greatly appreciated. There will also be a bake sale, a can and bottle drive, and information on kitten bottle feeding and how to make outdoor cat shelters. Food will be available for purchase from Hand Held Food Co.

Saved by Zade works to help cats through veterinary care, spaying and neutering, adoption and community education. Since 2019, more than 8,000 kitties have been adopted to loving homes across Mid-Michigan. Saved by Zade has adoptable kitties at Constellation Cat Café and the PetSmarts in Okemos and west Lansing. All proceeds raised will go toward helping the kitties of Saved by Zade.

**Weavers Imbolc Ritual** - This Sabbat marks the season of intentions. Each participant will set and charge a small number of personal intentions for the coming year. After ritual, we'll break bread together. 4-9 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

### Sunday, Feb. 1

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

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

**"Fatherland"** - The true story of the 18-year-old son who turned his father in to the FBI because of his role in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. 3 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

**"Hadestown"** - This musical intertwines two mythic tales — that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone — as it invites you on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

**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.

**Mediumship Development Series** - A four-part series designed to help you open, strengthen, and trust your intuitive and psychic senses in a grounded, practical way. 1-5 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

**Michigan Quarter Horse Association New & Used Tack Sale** - For more information, email info@miquarterhorse.com. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. miquarterhorse.com.

**MSU Women's Basketball vs. University of Michigan** - Noon. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lan-

sing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

**Natural Remedies for Cold & Flu** - Join us every first Sunday of the month for an interactive class on various health topics, where you'll learn practical, everyday tools you can use at home. 5-7 p.m. Lansing SDA, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy., Lansing. LPBcooking@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. redcedarfriends.org.

**River Walk Trash Cleanup** - Join us for our monthly ritual of community care: walking the neighborhood and cleaning up litter along the River Walk and surrounding blocks. 11 a.m.-noon. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.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.

### Monday, Feb. 2

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

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

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

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



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY**  
**LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 26-04**  
 5384 Van Atta  
 WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2026

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**Variance Request #26-04**  
 5384 Van Atta Road  
**Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from January Chvala. The applicant is proposing to create two lots from one existing lot. One proposed lot does not meet the minimum lot width requirement at 5384 Van Atta Road. The subject site is zoned RR, Rural Residential.

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

CP#26-024

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY  
meridian.mi.us

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Community Development Advisory Committee on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 6:00PM, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823:

A public hearing will be held on the Community Development Advisory Committee's draft budget recommendation for East Lansing's PY2026/FY2027 Annual Action Plan for the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan funding priorities. The proposed budget is based on previous allocations and is an estimate. PY2026/FY2027 allocations will be released in the spring, as such the proposed draft budget is subject to change to align with actual funding availability.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for this public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to [mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com), or by mail to: Community Development Advisory Committee, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

For more information on the agenda item listed above, please contact:

Matt Apostle, Community and Economic Development Specialist  
 517-319-6859 / [mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com)  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Materials related to this recommendation are available to review at the Department Community and Economic Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 between the hours of 8:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-5:00pm, or online at <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/2243/Community-Development-Advisory-Committee>.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the East Lansing Department of Community and Economic Development, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6859 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com).

**This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and published in compliance with the City of East Lansing's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan.**

Emily Gordon  
 City Clerk

Dated: January 28, 2026  
 East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#26-021

## Events

from page 17

**Crafty Story Time** - Preschool-aged children and their caregivers can enjoy fun activities, stories and a craft. 11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 South Bostwick St., Charlotte. [charlotteilibrary.org](http://charlotteilibrary.org).

**Daddy Daughter Dance** - Registration includes dancing, refreshments, a corsage for the young lady and more! Dinner is on your own. Space is limited — don't wait! 7-9 p.m. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. [deltami.gov/registration](http://deltami.gov/registration).

**Dementia Caregiver Series** - Three-session series intended to reduce stress for those caring for a person with dementia by providing useful tools and information. 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email [histedc@tcoa.org](mailto:histedc@tcoa.org).

**DJ Bingo at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - 7-8:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. [www.facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing](http://www.facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing).

**Euchre** - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. [facebook.com/EatonRapids-SeniorCenter](http://facebook.com/EatonRapids-SeniorCenter).

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

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

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

**Women's AA Meeting** - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. [lansingdistrict6.org](http://lansingdistrict6.org).

## Tuesday, Feb. 3

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

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

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

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

**Farm Policy and Risk Management Series: Chestnuts Cost of Production Study Report from MSU** - We'll go over the main findings and discuss how to interpret the tables within the report. Noon-1 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/van\\_buren](http://canr.msu.edu/van_buren).

**Finance Committee** - 6 p.m. City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. [laingsburg.us/park-committee](http://laingsburg.us/park-committee).

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

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

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

**LAGE Game Night** - A Meetup group that facilitates free board/card gaming experiences for diverse people and cultivates a safe, inclusive, fun gaming community. 6:30-11 p.m. Reno's Sports Bar, 16460 Old US 27, Lansing. [meetup.com/lansing](http://meetup.com/lansing).

**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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

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

**Safe Food = Healthy Kids Online Class** - Learn the best practices for food safety in order for you to keep the children in your care safe. 6-9 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/Isabella](http://canr.msu.edu/Isabella).

## 'Hadestown'

7:30 p.m. Friday

2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday

1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday

Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

[whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com)

For a few short days, bitterly cold East Lansing will serve as the setting for the national tour of the hot new musical "Hadestown."

The Tony- and Grammy-award-winning show from celebrated singer-songwriter Anaïs Mitchell and director Rachel Chavkin ("Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812") is billed as "a love story for today ... and always." It weaves two mythic tales — that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone — as it takes audiences on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back.

"Mitchell's beguiling melodies and Chavkin's poetic imagination pit industry against nature, doubt against faith and fear against love," the show's website reads. "Performed by a vibrant ensemble of actors, dancers and singers, 'Hadestown' is a haunting and hopeful theatrical experience that grabs you and never lets go."

Recommended for ages 8 and above, the production uses strobe lights and haze. It runs about two and a half hours and includes an intermission. Tickets start at \$51, with a discount for students.

# FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

## Exploring new proteins at Paradise Biryani Pointe

By **LIZY FERGUSON**

Subzero temperatures and horrifying world events call for something warm and comforting to eat, and Indian food is the first thing that comes to my mind. Paradise Biryani Pointe in Okemos has never let me down, but I did want to try something new since I'm trying to be a little less stuck in my ways this year.

The menu is huge, with dishes from different regions of India, all kinds of different breads and even Indo-Chinese Hakka noodles. I decided on classic korma curry, but with a protein I've never tried in Indian food, fish, in addition to garlic naan and yogurt rice, which should be, but isn't, offered at every Indian restaurant.



### Fish korma

\$18.99

Paradise Biryani Pointe  
4760 Marsh Road, Okemos  
11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 5-9:30 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday  
11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 5-10 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday  
11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 5-9 p.m.  
Sunday  
(517) 483-2280  
paradisibiryanilansing.com

Korma's name comes from the Hindi-Urdu word "qorma," meaning "to braise." In the case of my selection, tender white fish was braised in creamy coconut milk, resulting in a velvety, rich gravy that contained a dizzying blend of aromatic spices — turmeric, ginger and fenugreek to name a few. Served over fluffy, floral-scented basmati rice, it had a slight, warming spice and a delicate, balanced flavor while still being rich and filling. I also got the mint chutney, which I drizzled over everything, providing a bright, acidic complement.

As I scooped up all of this with the buttery garlic naan, I took pauses to have spoonfuls of the yogurt rice. An incredibly simple dish, it's also one of my favorites. At Paradise, they cook the rice down to a porridge-like consistency and temper it with curry leaves, cumin seeds and ginger, then combine it with plain yogurt. It may not sound like much, but its creamy texture makes it the perfect accompaniment to any Indian meal, especially if it's a spicy one. I'd like to learn to make it myself — I think it would be an excellent breakfast food.

It's a hard time to be living in this country, and it's important to remain aware and bear witness to what is going on. It's also good to take time to rest and nourish yourself, and I can think of no better way than to purchase a delicious meal from a local business and enjoy it with people you love. Support the immigrant community, abolish ICE.



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Fish korma with mint chutney and garlic naan.

## TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

### TOP 5 CUPCAKES

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

#### 1. Bake N' Cakes

Long-established bakery offering a range of sweets, plus custom cakes  
3003 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
(517) 337-2253  
bakencakes.com  
8 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday

#### 2. Flour Child Bakery

Family-owned, made-from-scratch bakery and cafe  
323 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge  
(517) 622-4772  
flourchildbakeryandcafe.com

6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday  
6 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

#### 3. Nothing Bundt Cakes

Franchise bakery specializing in handcrafted bundt cakes  
2090 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos  
(517) 220-0303  
nothingbundtcakes.com  
9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday  
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

#### 4. Sugar Shack

Sweet shop with a rotating cupcake selection, plus other treats  
215 N. Clippert St., Lansing  
(517) 316-2009  
sugarshackshop.com  
11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#### 5. Sweetie-licious

Bakery and cafe with a selection of confections, plus sandwiches and coffee  
108 N. Bridge St., DeWitt  
(517) 669-9300  
sweetie-licious.com  
7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday  
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

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- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)

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# Tantalizing tofu

By **ARI LEVAUX**

My friend Brad would sooner shoot tofu with his 9-millimeter than eat it. At least, those are his vibes. But when I found myself in his hometown of Houston and emailed him for a restaurant recommendation, I was blindsided by his hyper-specific instructions. With so many meaty options in the vicinity, including Texas barbecue and some very large steaks, Brad insisted that I visit a certain Vietnamese restaurant and order the tofu.

“That peppery broth,” he wrote, wistfully recalling the luscious liquid that contained the golden cubes of crispy tofu. “And the mushrooms and celery.

I miss it so much!” Considering the source, I was intrigued. I had no option but to visit Van Loc and order the clay pot tofu.



It arrived simmering at my table. Shards of cracked black pepper coated lengths of celery, whole shiitake mushrooms and delectable cubes of deep-fried tofu that had somehow absorbed the penetrating aromas of the broth without losing their pleasing resistance to my canines.

There was so much black pepper that the dish was spicy in the absence of chili pepper. This makes sense given that Vietnam is the world’s largest producer and exporter of black pepper, while chili peppers, though popular in Asian food, are from the Americas.

Elsewhere in the pot, humble pieces of celery took a rare post at center stage, their flavor balanced artfully with the earthy gravitas of the mushrooms. Shiitake mushroom is the most authentic variety to use in clay pot tofu, but it’s not mandatory. I recently made a batch with wild-harvested oyster and morel mushrooms and cultivated creminis. (Full disclosure: I also added sliced jalapeño, which isn’t authentic but was oh so good.)

This recipe begins with the preparation of the crispy tofu. If it ended there as well, few would complain. Because of the corrupting delectability of these golden cubes, the wise cook will often double the quantities of tofu, egg and cornstarch so that after the inevi-



Photo by Ari LeVaux

Van Loc-style clay pot tofu will make even the most hardened carnivore forget about meat altogether.

table attrition due to snackers and nibblers, a satisfactory quantity of cubes will remain for the pots.

## Clay pot tofu

While “clay pot” is in the name and procedure, you don’t need an official clay pot to prepare this. You just need a vessel that is small, oven safe and has a lid.

*Serves two, with plenty of leftover fried tofu*

### Ingredients

One 16-ounce brick of firm tofu, drained  
One egg  
6 tablespoons cornstarch (or sweet potato or tapioca starch)  
3 cups fry oil (I use wagyu beef tallow)  
2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil  
2 large cloves garlic, minced  
Three green onions, chopped  
One jalapeño, sliced thinly (optional)  
One medium onion, sliced into

thin rings

1 cup whole shiitake mushrooms (or other kinds of mushrooms), cut or whole depending on their size. If using dried mushrooms, soak them in three cups of boiled water and don’t discard the soaking water

Two celery stalks  
1/4 cup soy or ponzu sauce  
1/4 cup rice vinegar  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon black pepper  
1 teaspoon white pepper  
2 tablespoons fish sauce  
Jasmine rice for serving

### Procedure

Cut the tofu into 1-inch cubes and place them in a medium-sized bowl. Heat a quart of water with 1/4 cup of salt. When it boils, pour the hot brine over the tofu. Let

it soak for 15 minutes. Drain the brine and pat all the faces of each chunk of tofu dry with a paper towel.

This technique is one of several ways of removing water from the tofu, which is essential for making it crispy. You can also freeze the cubes, which will give them a durable, spongy texture that makes it easy to squeeze out the water and renders them extremely pleasing to eat.

However you remove the moisture from the tofu cubes, you then place them in a mixing bowl, beat the egg and pour it over them. Stir gently by lifting from below to thoroughly coat all faces of each cube. Add the starch and gently stir it in to coat the cubes.

Add 2 tablespoons of toasted ses-

ame oil to the fry oil for extra flavor and heat it to the point where it sputters angrily when you flick in some water (about 350 degrees). Submerge the tofu cubes in the hissing oil. Don’t overload the fryer or let the pieces touch, or they will adhere together

Remove and drain the fried chunks. Keep them in safe place, away from snaggers, snackers and tangy sauces.

Add 2 tablespoons of the fry oil to a wok or pan on medium heat and fry the garlic, onions, green onions and mushrooms.

Break each celery stalk in half and pull the strands out. Then cut the de-fibered halves into 2-inch pieces and add them to the wok. Cover and simmer for about five

See Flash, Page 21



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# Flash

from page 20

minutes on medium heat.

Whisk together the black and white pepper, sugar, soy sauce, fish sauce and rice vinegar and add it to the stir fry. Add 1 cup of stock or mushroom soaking

water, taste, and adjust the seasonings until it tastes how you want it.

Add the tofu to the wok. Stir fry on high heat for two minutes, then transfer the tofu, mushrooms and celery to the clay pots and pour in as much broth as you can. Put the lids on the pots, place them in a pre-heated oven

at 350 degrees and bake for 10 minutes. Serve the simmering pots. Be careful not to let anyone

burn themselves. Eat the contents straight from the pot or spoon them over jasmine rice.

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 15

R	E	L	A	Y	A	P	T	W	I	S	E	R		
I	M	A	G	E	R	A	H	I	N	A	W	E		
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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 15

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

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 25-1623-DE. Estate of Marguerite Lucille Platte, Deceased – Date of Birth: 04/06/1936. Notice to all creditors, known & unknown. The decedent, Marguerite Lucille Platte, died 02/15/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Phillip Platte, 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, 1/28/2026. Attorney: Benjamin L. Cwayna, #P70266, 11973 Sweetwater Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Personal representative: Phillip Platte, 5239 Witherspoon Way, Holt, MI 48842, 517-282-7043.

CP#26-025

### COUNTY OF INGHAM 2025/2026 TENTATIVE RATIOS AND TENTATIVE FACTORS PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT OF EQUALIZATION AND TAX MAPPING

Unit	Real Property												Personal Property	
	Agricultural		Commercial		Industrial		Residential		Timber-Cutover		Developmental		All Classes	
	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor	Ratio	Factor
ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	46.25	1.08109	47.10	1.06158	48.42	1.03264	49.92	1.00000	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
AURELIUS TOWNSHIP	44.51	1.12335	47.73	1.04756	49.98	1.00000	47.13	1.06090	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	43.21	1.15714	43.54	1.14837	49.31	1.00000	43.87	1.13974	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
DELHI CHARTER TOWNSHIP	52.02	0.96117	46.55	1.07412	47.84	1.04515	46.75	1.06952	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
INGHAM TOWNSHIP	40.36	1.23885	45.93	1.08862	47.70	1.04828	45.09	1.10890	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
LANSING CHARTER TOWNSHIP	NC	NC	48.77	1.02522	55.64	0.89864	46.10	1.08460	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
LEROY TOWNSHIP	44.15	1.13251	48.34	1.03434	46.71	1.07044	46.39	1.07782	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
LESLIE TOWNSHIP	46.45	1.07643	50.57	0.98873	42.22	1.18428	47.20	1.05933	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
LOCKE TOWNSHIP	46.76	1.06929	44.12	1.13328	48.99	1.02062	43.52	1.14890	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP	NC	NC	48.21	1.03713	49.92	1.00000	47.06	1.06248	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
ONONDAGA TOWNSHIP	49.75	1.00000	45.41	1.10108	48.77	1.02522	47.48	1.05308	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	44.13	1.13302	44.89	1.11384	57.31	0.87245	45.41	1.10108	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
VEVAY TOWNSHIP	48.21	1.03713	45.20	1.10620	49.33	1.00000	44.05	1.13508	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	48.61	1.02860	44.80	1.11608	46.89	1.06642	46.62	1.07251	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	46.34	1.07899	49.64	1.00000	47.02	1.06338	46.87	1.06678	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP	48.67	1.02733	50.44	0.99128	49.46	1.00000	47.88	1.04428	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF EAST LANSING	NC	NC	45.27	1.10449	48.20	1.03734	45.55	1.09770	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF LANSING	NC	NC	49.94	1.00000	48.73	1.02607	46.17	1.08296	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF LESLIE	NC	NC	45.36	1.10230	46.51	1.07504	48.94	1.02166	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF MASON	NC	NC	46.97	1.06451	45.52	1.09842	47.84	1.04515	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000
CITY OF WILLIAMSTON	49.69	1.00000	46.84	1.06747	44.24	1.13020	47.40	1.05486	NC	NC	NC	NC	50.00	1.0000

These Tentative Ratios and Estimated Factors are published in compliance with PA 165 of 1971 [MCL 211.34a(1)]. These figures are temporary in character and are intended to be informative in nature as of the third Monday in February. Local assessing units and board of review activities may significantly change the tentative figures. Finalized Ratios and Factors will result from the activity of the local units and through Equalization procedures. The recommended Tentative Ratios and Estimated Factors shall not prejudice the Equalization procedures of Ingham County or the State of Michigan.

Rosemary Anger MMAO GISP, Director  
Ingham County Department of Equalization & Tax Mapping

CP#26-018

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA**  
7710 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, Michigan 48917  
(517) 323-8500

TOWNSHIP BOARD  
Synopsis of Meetings

**MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, and Trustee Joshua I. Lyman. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Deputy Assessing Director Brian Thelen, Interim Fire Chief John Kahler, Captain Robert Block, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane.

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. IFT Certificate #2015-175A Transfer – a. Public Hearing, b. IFT Certificate #2015-175A Transfer

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$2,804,063.55
3. Minutes – a. Monday, December 15, 2026
4. Ambulance Purchase
5. Poverty Exemption guidelines for the 2026 Tax Year

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

6. Rezoning #PRZ2025-0002 (Robert and Victoria Worthy): W. Mount Hope Hwy., Parcel #040-021- 300-018-00) - FINAL ADOPTION

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7. Supervisor Brewer announced the State of the Township Tri County Regional Planning Commission – Trustee Bowen

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**CLOSED SESSION**

8. Closed Session – Material Exempt

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman, and Trustee Karen J. Mojica. Others Present:

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

1. Moment of Silence for Larry Leatherwood and Family
2. Pledge of Allegiance

**PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

3. Badge Pinning Ceremony – a. Brennan Bunker
4. Paramedic Presentations – b. Donte Childs, c. Jonathan Leigh, d. Patric Raymond, e. Robert Stahelin, f. Jack Tingay

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

5. LG Update
6. Willow Force Main & Pepper Ridge Update
7. Board and Commission Appointments Status 2026

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

8. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$9,890,492.72
9. Minutes – a. Monday, January 5, 2026
10. Willow Force Main & Lift Station Change Order #2

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

11. Board/Committee Appointments
12. G2 Fire Station Alerting System MOU with Eaton County

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

EATRAN Board – Clerk Clark  
Eaton County Materials Management Planning Committee – Trustee Bowen  
Election Commission – Clerk Clark

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

13. State of the Township Discussion

**CLOSED SESSION**

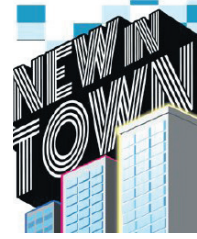
14. Closed Session – Attorney Consultation – a. Motions to consider after closed session

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm

CP#26-019

# Okemos staple reopens with new menu, familiar chef



By LEO V. KAPLAN

## Dusty's Wine Bar

1839 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos  
4:30–9 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday  
(517) 349-8680  
dustyscellar.com

When Kevin Cronin ended a nearly 20-year stretch as executive chef at Dusty's Wine Bar in 2015, he didn't intend to come back.

Over the next decade, while Cronin opened a food truck, worked as executive chef at Morton's Fine Catering and cooked up other ventures, Dusty's went through changes of its own. It rotated through several menu concepts, pricing models and target markets. Cronin said there were six different chefs in that time. In July, the wine bar closed temporarily.

"There was no consistency; there were pricing issues, guys that didn't really have their finger on the pulse of this market," Cronin said. "This market doesn't want super high-end, expensive things. They want nice, comfort-style foods done well, with good ingredients, at a price people can afford."

Last year, owner Matt Rhodes, son of founder Clarence "Dusty" Rhodes, suggested Cronin make a guest appearance for an Italian wine dinner. It went well, spawning a discussion about reopening the wine bar with Cronin at the helm.

"I told Matt that I'm pretty much retired, but I wanted to come back here, work with Matt again and get this place straightened out," Cronin said.

On Nov. 21, Dusty's held a soft reopening with Cronin back in the kitchen. It's a homecoming for "Chef Kevin," as he's known locally, but the Italian-focused concept is new, inspired by dishes he encountered while working with chefs in Rome.

"It's more of an urban, trendy Italian style," he said. "Not spaghetti and meatballs, but more regional Italian dishes."

Cronin said a major focus for him is quality. That means using authentic ingredients like real San Marzano tomatoes and branzino, a fish popular in Italy. It means working with local farmers and visiting the places he sources food from, sometimes switching purveyors if he doesn't like the way they run things. It also means implementing authentic cooking methods.

"I was inspired when I went to Rome



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Kevin Cronin, executive chef of Dusty's Wine Bar from 1995 to 2015, recently returned to the Okemos eatery, taking things in a more Italian-focused direction.

and the guys were making a different pasta every day," he said. "They showed me how they were doing it, and I said, 'I want to replicate that. I want to do it the right way.'"

Cronin said Rhodes has allowed him near-complete freedom in the kitchen. Cronin controls the ingredients, the menu and the hiring.

"Matt has given me the freedom and trust that very few chefs deserve, and I'm humbled by that. I take that very seriously," Cronin said.

It's not the first time Cronin has felt humbled by Rhodes' actions. In 2023, when Cronin was struggling financially amid a years-long battle with colon cancer, Rhodes, along with local culinary entrepreneurs Matt Gillett and Bethany and John Morton, hosted a fundraiser for him.

Now on the upswing from cancer, Cronin sees coming back to Dusty's as a way to pay back the favor.

"Those three owners put together a fundraiser for me, and I'm not going to forget that," he said. "So, it's paying it forward right now. That's what we're trying to do."

Looking onward, Cronin is trying to instill a "value-oriented" approach in Dusty's. He hopes it will bring customers in more often.

"Before, you'd go out on a special occasion, maybe once a year," he said. "I want you here once a month."

# A hot breakfast for relaxed weekend mornings

## From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

On weekends, a hot breakfast can be just what the doctor ordered. Weekday mornings might be too hectic to whip up a warm meal, but that's often not the case come Saturday and Sunday. For those with time to cook breakfast over the weekend, this Peasant Omelet recipe from Lines+Angles is delicious and simple to prepare.

### Peasant Omelet

Makes one serving

1 tablespoon olive oil

One small potato, peeled and chopped into small pieces

One clove garlic, peeled and minced

Two slices cooked ham, cut into bite-size pieces

2 teaspoons fresh parsley, finely chopped, plus extra for garnish

1 tablespoon butter

2 tablespoons milk

Three fresh eggs

Salt, to taste

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

One pickle, sliced lengthwise (optional)

1. Heat the oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chopped potatoes and sauté until almost fork tender. Add the garlic and continue cooking until the potatoes are tender. Add the ham and fresh parsley, stirring until heated through. Remove from the heat and cover to keep warm.

2. Melt the butter in a sauté pan over medium heat. Beat the milk and eggs together. Pour the egg mixture into the pan. Gently move the eggs by sliding a spatula under them, to promote even cooking. Cook until the eggs are set.

3. Slide the cooked omelet onto a plate. Season with freshly ground black pepper and top with the potato and ham mixture. Garnish with fresh parsley and pickle slices. Serve immediately.



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