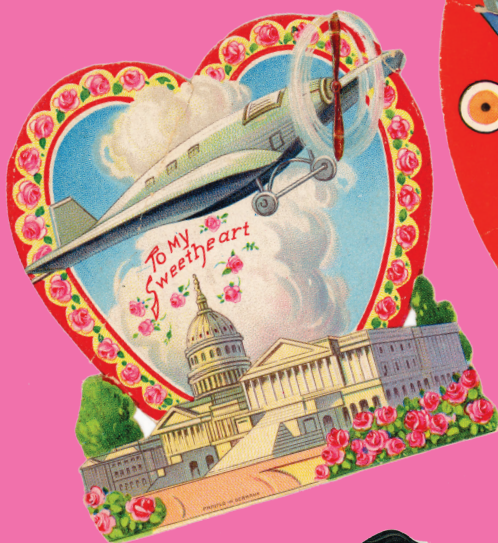


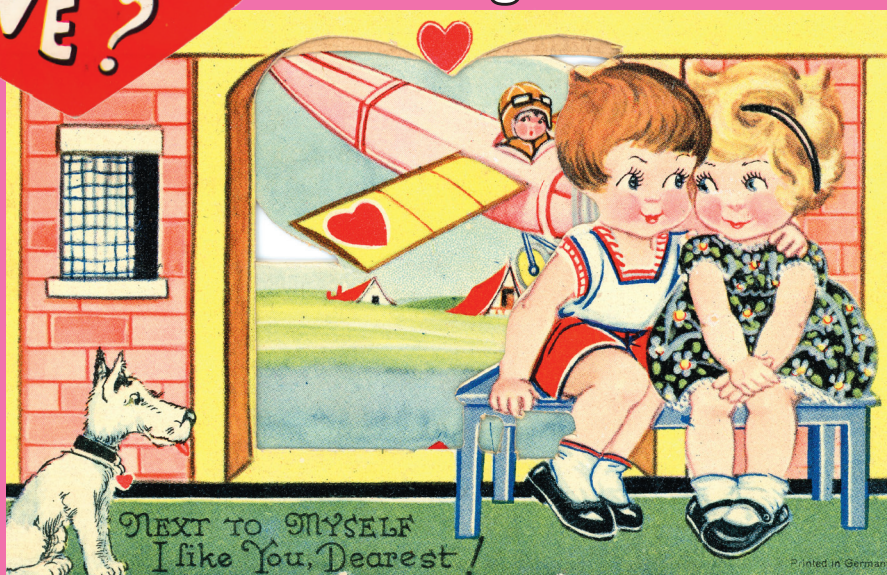
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See Page 13



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## Sponsored Content

### A Show So Hot That It'll Melt More Than The ICE In Your Drink

The Super Bowl halftime show is supposed to be a spectacle, but this year it felt like something rarer: a celebration. Bad Bunny didn't just perform—he brought an entire cultural universe onto the biggest stage in America, and it made me smile from beginning to end. It wasn't just music and choreography. It was history, identity, pride and joy woven together into something loud, radiant, and unmistakably human.

What struck me most was how effortlessly the performance represented Puerto Rico—not as a footnote, not as a novelty, but as a living, breathing force of creativity. It was a reminder that Puerto Rican culture is not separate from the American story. It is part of it, stitched into the fabric of the United States through generations of shared struggle, contribution and resilience. Bad Bunny didn't need to wave a flag to make that clear. The energy alone said it.

In a world where people are so often reduced to stereotypes, headlines, or political talking points, this halftime show did something powerful: it insisted on humanity. It showed people dancing, celebrating, existing unapologetically in their own skin. It felt like unity without erasure, pride without exclusion, and recognition without begging for approval.

To me, it was more than entertainment. It was a cultural extravaganza—and a reminder that America, at its best, is big enough to hold all of us. And it contrasted directly with the narrative being presented by those trying to control the media's narrative.

### Less Than 4% of Humanity, More Than 100% of the Audacity

The United States makes up less than 4% of the world's population, yet it somehow carries more than a third of the world's debt, accounts for more than a third of global military spending, and remains the only nation in human history to have used nuclear weapons in war. That isn't just an imbalance. That isn't just "global leadership." That is a grotesque concentration of power, violence and self-importance that should terrify anyone who still believes America is simply a well-meaning democracy that is trying its best.

And it forces an uncomfortable question: We are so smart... or are we?

Because if this is what intelligence looks like — endless borrowing, endless war preparation, endless domination — then maybe we've confused brilliance with brutality. Maybe what we call American "exceptionalism" is just an empire's talent for dressing its appetites in noble language.

We love to begin our national story with the romance of rebellion. A scrappy people rising up against kings, refusing to bow, demanding freedom, writing revolutionary words about liberty and self-rule. But the truth is that the revolution was never a clean break from tyranny. It was, in many ways, a transfer of power. We rejected monarchy, then built a system that allowed elites to rule through wealth instead of bloodlines. We threw off a crown and immediately began constructing something else: a nation that could claim it was free while grinding millions under its heel.

From the beginning, American expansion was not primarily a story of innovation or hard work. It was about conquest. It was the systematic removal and slaughter of Indigenous people, the theft of land and the breaking of treaties like they were disposable scraps of paper. Whole cultures were erased to make room for "development," for railroads, for private property, for profit. The United States didn't spread across the continent because it was destined; it spread because it was willing to kill for it.

At the same time, the country's wealth was built on the forced labor of enslaved African people — stolen from their homes, shipped across an ocean, beaten, raped and worked until death. This was not an unfortunate side chapter in American history. It was the foundation. Cotton, banking, trade, industry — much of what we now call American prosperity was purchased with human suffering. And when slavery ended on paper, the exploitation did not end in practice. It simply evolved into new forms: sharecropping, Jim Crow laws, lynching campaigns, redlining, segregation, mass incarceration, and a policing system that still treats Black communities as enemy territory.

We call ourselves the land of opportunity, but opportunity has always been selective. For most Americans, the system has been designed not to uplift but to extract. Workers are crushed under impossible wages. Unions are sabotaged. Communities are hollowed out. Healthcare is treated as a luxury. Education is turned into a debt trap. Housing is transformed into a speculative playground for

the wealthy. The American dream survives mostly as propaganda — something repeated loudly enough that people blame themselves when they can't reach it.

And then there's the global stage, where the United States has long operated like a self-appointed ruler of the world. Our military spending isn't about defense. It's about dominance. It's about ensuring that American interests — and more importantly, American corporate wealth — remain protected everywhere on earth. We install and overthrow governments, fund proxy wars, destabilize nations, and then act shocked when people flee the chaos we helped create. We call it "freedom" and "national security." But all too often it is simply imperial management.

The nuclear bomb is the clearest and most horrifying symbol of this reality. The United States remains the only nation to have used nuclear weapons in war, and we justify it as necessary, inevitable, even merciful. But World War II was already collapsing under its own weight. Japan was strategically cornered, its navy shattered, its infrastructure crippled, and its defeat increasingly unavoidable. Many historians argue that the war was effectively nearing its end. Yet we dropped the bombs anyway — not once, but twice. Not because victory depended on it, but because power demanded spectacle. Because America wasn't only ending a war, it was announcing itself as the new global authority. The nuclear blast wasn't just aimed at Japan. It was aimed at the world, and especially at the Soviet Union: this is what we can do, and this is who will be in charge now.

That is what it means to be an empire. Not merely to win, but to demonstrate dominance so completely that no one dares question you.

And now we are living through the inevitable consequence of all this history. For a nation that started by resisting kings, we have spent most of our existence building systems of control — murdering Indigenous people, enslaving Africans, exploiting immigrants, crushing labor movements, and protecting the wealthiest at every turn. We have spent centuries perfecting hierarchy while pretending to worship equality.

So perhaps it isn't surprising that we are now coming full circle, sliding toward authoritarianism, as if it is a familiar language we have never truly forgotten. The same country that taught its citizens to worship power, fear outsiders, and treat violence as patriotism is now shocked to find those instincts turning inward. We are watching politicians flirt openly with dictatorship, watching propaganda replace truth, watching cruelty become policy, watching the public get trained to accept the unacceptable.

This isn't a sudden accident. It's not a glitch. It's the logical endpoint of a nation that has always believed it was exceptional enough to escape accountability.

The United States is not collapsing because we are weak. We are collapsing because we have built our identity on domination and denial. Because we have mistaken military spending for moral strength. Because we have mistaken debt-fueled consumerism for prosperity. Because we have mistaken control for leadership.

And now we have to face the real question.

Not whether America is smart — but whether America is wise enough, brave enough, and honest enough to survive the truth of what it has been.

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

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Sanctuary #2 Public Streetlighting  
Improvement Special Assessment District No. 430  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN - LEGAL NOTICE SANCTUARY #2 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 430 NOTICE OF HEARING

TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: Lots 1 through 7 (inclusive), Sanctuary #2.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, acting on a request from property owners of Sanctuary #2 and on its own initiative, pursuant to Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, has determined to make the following described public streetlighting improvement: **Operate, and maintain four (4) 46-watt LED streetlights with Traditional fixtures with cut-off, and standard fiberglass poles along Crane Circle;** and to defray the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties specially benefitted thereby. Plans and estimates have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, for the purpose of hearing objections to the improvement and the special assessment district therefore. The Township Board is also interested in hearing those that favor the proposed project.

Appearance and protest at the hearing in the special assessment proceedings is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the state tax tribunal. Your personal appearance at the hearing is not required, but you or your agent may appear in person at the hearing and protest the special assessment. To make an appearance and protest, you must file your written objections by letter or other writing with the Township Clerk before the close of this hearing. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the state tax tribunal with 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll if that person appeared and protested the special assessment at this hearing.

The Township Board may proceed with the improvement and special assessment district unless written objections from more than 20% of the property owners are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing.

**"FOR PURPOSES OF THIS HEARING, THE AMOUNT TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY IS ESTIMATED TO BE:**

**First Year Cost: \$ 208.25/Lot**  
**Annually Thereafter: \$ 104.13/Lot**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
Angela Demas, Township Clerk

CP#26-035



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Sierra Ridge #4 Public Streetlighting  
Improvement Special Assessment District No. 431  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN - LEGAL NOTICE SIERRA RIDGE #4 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 431 NOTICE OF HEARING

TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: Lots 70 through 83 (inclusive), Sierra Ridge #4.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, acting on a request from property owners of Sierra Ridge #4 and on its own initiative, pursuant to Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, has determined to make the following described public streetlighting improvement: **Operate, and maintain four (4) 47-watt LED streetlights with Traditional fixtures with cut-off, and standard fiberglass poles along Fresno Lane;** and to defray the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties specially benefitted thereby. Plans and estimates have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, for the purpose of hearing objections to the improvement and the special assessment district therefore. The Township Board is also interested in hearing those that favor the proposed project.

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The Township Board may proceed with the improvement and special assessment district unless written objections from more than 20% of the property owners are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing.

**"FOR PURPOSES OF THIS HEARING, THE AMOUNT TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY IS ESTIMATED TO BE:**

**First Year Cost: \$ 104.13/Lot**  
**Annually Thereafter: \$ 52.06/Lot**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
Angela Demas, Township Clerk

CP#26-036



# CityPULSE

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Lansing School District now led by homegrown teacher

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.  
Member, AAN



Strange Matter adds Babe's Corner, keeps Bangos

**PAGE 24**

**Correction: Michigan has recreational marijuana laws; a story on page 6 of last week's issue included a quote with outdated information**

Cover images Courtesy of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, designed by Design2Pro

**The "SAVE Our Dictatorship" Act**

LADIES! YOU'VE DONE THE TRAD THING AND TAKEN YOUR HUSBAND'S NAME. GUESS WHAT—IT'S GOING TO BE HARDER FOR YOU TO VOTE!

HUH?

THE "SAVE" ACT WOULD REQUIRE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP, WITH ONLY A FEW DOCUMENTS ACCEPTED.

HERE ARE MY BIRTH AND MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES.

SORRY, MA'AM. A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE DOESN'T COUNT.

COME RIGHT THROUGH, SIR!

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

ACTUAL VOTER FRAUD IS EXTREMELY RARE. MEANWHILE, SOME 69 MILLION WOMEN NO LONGER USE THEIR BIRTH NAME.

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Eliminator

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**SABOTAGE AMERICAN VOTERS' ENFRANCHISEMENT**

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

*Valentine's Day Cards for 2026*

Valentine, are you the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul?

Because I intend to launch an authoritarian occupation-- of your HEART!

Darling, my love for you is BIG NEWS!

But you certainly won't read about it in that stupid newspaper I own! I've made SURE of THAT!

Sweetheart, my feelings for you are as pure and unsullied—

—as a nation purged of all those filthy immigrants I despise with such burning intensity!

Dearest, my passion for you is as uncontrollable—

—as a measles outbreak rampaging through an unvaccinated population!

Valentine, I love you more than Jeffrey Epstein loved... whatever it was he loved! How would I know?? I barely even knew the guy!

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

TOM TOMORROW © 2026-02-09... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: [thismodernworld.com/subscriptions](http://thismodernworld.com/subscriptions)

## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

# High costs, uncertainty among local impacts of Trump tariffs

In 2024, after a career in China spanning writing, acting, a State Department role and a stint in the startup world, Elyse Ribbons began considering a move back to her home country.

She chose Lansing as her new home because Old Town's zoning allowed her to live out a dream: Opening a Chinese-style teahouse in the U.S., serving the teas she had come to love during the decades she spent in China, while living upstairs.

But in February of 2025, just a few weeks before she opened the doors to Chengdu Teahouse, a few calls threw everything into disarray.

"The tariff stuff had already started," Ribbons said, "and I had all three of the tea distributors that I had made deals with contact me and say they weren't going to ship to America until this was dealt with, because nobody knew who was supposed to pay these tariffs."

President Donald Trump has dramatically escalated U.S. tariff policy in his second administration. It began with 25% tariffs on most goods from Mexico and Canada, and 10% on goods from China, on Feb. 1. In April, he declared sweeping "reciprocal" tariffs, which triggered a stock market crash and were eventually delayed. Tariff policy has changed several times since.

Operating the teahouse has been a whirlwind, Ribbons said. She only sells certain teas in-house, because she can't afford to order more. And crucially, an entire part of her original business plan — to get fresh, well-sourced Chinese teas on the shelves of American stores, which she said currently sell only stale, low-quality teas — fell apart entirely.

"It was, emotionally, very disheartening," Ribbons said. "I made all this effort to create these business ties in China to give normal Americans access to high-quality Chinese tea."

Instead, she's now working with tribal organizations to help introduce Native American-owned brands to Chinese markets. That market is more reasonable, she said, because Chinese grocery prices are holding stable and, in some cases, have actually gone down in recent months. That's because, when the U.S. imposed 50% tariffs on most Brazilian goods, Chinese importers seized on that market.

That tariff was around for fewer than four months, but David Ortega, the Noel



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Elyse Ribbons is pictured in March 2025, shortly before opening Chengdu Teahouse in Old Town. U.S. tariffs levied against China threw a major wrench in Ribbons' plans, increasing her prices, affecting her offerings and forcing her to pivot from a plan to bring Chinese tea to U.S. grocery stores.

W. Stuckman Chair in Food Economics and Policy at Michigan State University, said changes in relationships along the supply chain can keep prices high even after policy changes.

"Tariffs, by definition, are a tax on imports," he said. "But the amount of uncertainty is costly in itself because companies are having to come up with alternate sourcing strategies. There are relationships that are impacted. Some of our suppliers have turned to other markets, and that all translates into higher costs for consumers here in Michigan."

Trying to isolate how much of a price increase is due to a tariff is difficult; the supply chain impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are still affecting grocery prices. But in Michigan, Ortega said, higher prices on foods imported year-round, or during the winter, indicate a price increase due to tariffs. Bananas, for example, have gone up by 6% since 2025.

Steve Japinga, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's senior vice president, said active tracking and surveying of tariff impacts during the second Trump administration indicated the impacts "have probably touched every single business, and then every single business industry."

Japinga said the uncertainty of continued tariff policy shifts delayed businesses in several ways, such as hiring, capital investments and expansion plans. Tariffs on Canada have also impacted Michigan businesses, because many area businesses trade with Canada.

A major impact on Michigan has been the cost of steel and other construction materials. Tariffs on imported steel have led to decreased importing, giving domestic producers more ability to increase prices.

Last year, those increased prices led the Ovation Center for Music and Arts, which is in the works downtown, to retrench its design. A new, stripped-back design removed a cantilever roof and diagonal walls that would have required steel to be cut to custom lengths onsite.

"We were literally being told that — our bidders were upfront with us — these numbers are because of the uncertainty around tariffs, right?" Cochran told City Council members on Monday. "They had to pad their numbers. They're like, 'It probably won't be this expensive, but we can't take that and push go.'"

After shaving around \$3 million off the project, the Ovation Center's steel prices have been bid and accepted, Cochran told

City Pulse, meaning future changes won't affect the budget.

Another major impact of tariffs has been on the auto industry. Tariffs have been levied not just on imported cars (25%), but on parts used on cars, at different rates.

The effect on Lansing's General Motors plants is hard to quantify, with a GM representative declining to comment on specific Lansing challenges.

Democratic Oakland County Congresswoman Haley Stevens has been a proponent of vehicle tariffs in the past, even introducing the "No Chinese Cars Act" last year that would expand existing tariffs on Chinese vehicles to combat what she argues are unfair Chinese trade practices.

She said the impact on Michigan auto plants is likely to be negative.

"What goes into that plant are thousands of suppliers, producing and sourcing and making, you know, across Michigan and across the country," she said. "Their bottom line is being squeezed, and then that's coming down on the consumer."

"Businesses have to totally rework. So General Motors slows down as a result. Their price configurations change. Who they're putting on the line may change as a result."

In a statement, Charlotte Republican Tom Barrett, who represents the Lansing area in Michigan's 7th Congressional District, called the tariffs a useful tool to counteract what he called unfair trade restrictions and to bring other nations to the negotiating table.

"My focus in Congress continues to be supporting workers, encouraging job creation, and lowering costs, and I'm hopeful the trade deals the Trump administration negotiates will deliver on these critical goals," he said.

During Ribbons' time with the State Department, she got to watch some tariff negotiations of her own, at a time "when setting tariffs was still between two nations thinking about things," rather than sudden social media proclamations.

She said the impact of Trump's tariffs has been to reduce reliance on U.S. trade for many other countries, something she expects to have far-reaching impacts, not just on her tea business but on everyday people.

"Everyone who's buying groceries," she said, "we're going to be paying for these stupid decisions for a long time to come."

— LEO V. KAPLAN

# Lawmakers push for public media funding in next state budget

By **SONJA KROHN**  
Capital News Service

LANSING – The loss of federal funding sent Michigan’s public broadcasters scrambling for a long-term funding solution.

Now, some lawmakers are pushing for state support.

Legislation introduced by Rep. Jason Morgan, D-Ann Arbor, would create a \$13 million public media fund in the state budget, designated to support public television and radio stations.

Additional advocacy focuses on including money for public media in the next budget cycle as Gov. Gretchen Whitmer prepares to present her 2027 budget proposal to lawmakers on Feb 11.

“For folks who believe in supporting the continuation of public media, I think it’s essential that the state steps up and fills the void left by the federal government,” Morgan said.

In January, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) – which distributed federal funds to NPR, PBS and over 1,500 locally managed public television and radio stations – announced that it would officially dissolve the organization.

The move follows the congressional decision last summer to sign off on President Trump’s request to defund NPR and PBS, rescinding \$1.1 billion in previously allocated funds for the CPB and leaving public media outlets in Michigan and elsewhere in a lurch.

The executive order signed by President Donald Trump directed the CPB board to cease direct funding to NPR and PBS, stating, “No media outlet has a constitutional right to taxpayer subsidies, and the government is entitled to determine which categories of activities to subsidize.”

It further reads that the CPB “fails to abide” by “principles of impartiality” reflected in its governing statute, to the extent it subsidizes NPR and PBS.

Stations had those grants built into their budget because the money had already been approved, Michigan Association of Public Broadcasters’ president Molly Motherwell said.



Photo by Mike Ellis/City Pulse

People walk in and out of the WKAR offices on Michigan State University’s campus on Feb. 10, 2026.

Every grant was different, depending on factors like audience size and fundraising, but “we all had to make up that difference,” said Motherwell, also the general manager of WEMU in Ypsilanti.

While some public media outlets received increased donations to help keep them afloat this year, Morgan said that those contributions are not necessarily permanent because they were, in many cases, one-time gifts.

“This is where we have to, within the next year or two, contribute to public media and protect it at the state level if we’re going to ensure long-term sustainability,” Morgan said.

At Interlochen Public Radio (IPR) based in Grand Traverse County, annual grants from the CPB had provided between \$250,000 and \$300,000 for operations in recent years. In the fiscal year prior to the cuts, they amounted to 14% of IPR’s revenue.

“The generosity of our listeners has compensated for the loss of federal funds for now,” Executive Director Peter Payette said.

IPR’s annual fund drive started a week after the defunding vote in Congress, and donations amounted to three and a half times the station’s goal for the event, Payette said.

“That’s the thing we learned most – a lot of people care a lot about public radio in this country,” he said.

There were similar results at WKAR in East Lansing, where the loss of federal funding left a \$1.6 million funding gap in its annual operating budget, according to General Manager Shawn Turner.

The station had made various moves in anticipation of the federal cuts last summer – including elimination of nine positions – but “after all of that, it still left us with about a \$500,000 funding gap,” Turner said.

A fundraising campaign launched in response to ask community members to “close the gap” raised more money in the first couple of weeks after its launch than the five annual campaigns preceding it did in the same period.

“The response has been overwhelming,” Turner said, “The community has been very clear that they want to step in and help support WKAR.”

But regarding the sustainability of funding?

Motherwell said, “Nothing has been laid out in terms of a strategic plan for the industry.”

According to her, stations are working in groups with the networks NPR and PBS

and the noncomMUSIC Alliance organization to come up with proposals about how to move forward.

As some stations relied on federal funding more than others, Motherwell said the group is looking at which stations were most drastically affected.

“For the northern stations, the more rural stations, this was more catastrophic for them than it maybe was for the more urban stations that have larger populations to draw from,” she said.

According to Payette, there may be ways for stations to collaborate to be more efficient if they overlap or offer redundant services.

“One of the realities that I hope changes is there’s not a great discussion going on now in Michigan among the public media entities about how we could do things differently,” he said.

Morgan’s bill, introduced to the House, is pending in the House Appropriations Committee.

Cosponsors include Reps. Jason Hoskins, D-Southfield; Erin Byrnes, D-Dearborn; Emily Dievendorf, D-Lansing; Carol Glanville, D-Walker, and Phil Skaggs, D-East Grand Rapids.

But the House is currently controlled by Republicans, who Morgan said “have not been super-supportive of protecting public media,” adding that he doesn’t know whether the bill will pass.

Regardless, Morgan said lawmakers will continue to advocate for money to be included in the state budget, whether through his bill or the remainder of the budget process.

“This is something we’re continuing to try and get in the state budget,” he said.

In terms of a timeline, Morgan said he and the cosponsors are trying to “bridge this [Trump] administration” with state funding to ensure public media stations continue to function.

“On my end, the hope would be that there is a change in control of the U.S. Congress along with control of the Michigan House of Representatives, and that we can actually fully restore public media funding.”

# Lawmakers move to muffle nuisance noise lawsuits near racetracks

By **JUSTIN FOX CLAUSEN**  
Capital News Service

LANSING – A new bipartisan Senate bill would prevent nearby neighbors of raceways from filing nuisance claims against track owners.

The bill would prevent residents within a 5-mile radius of a track’s perimeter from suing the owner if they purchased the property after the track was built.

It was drafted months after the indefinite closure of Onondaga Dragway in Ingham County, which shuttered after years of battling lawsuits.

According to local press reports, Onondaga Dragway opened in the 1960s. It ran for several years before closing in 1978.

It officially reopened in 2010, followed by years of lawsuits from nearby residents

that caused multiple closures.

According to court documents, attempts to limit hours and install noise-cancelling berms proved unsuccessful, and a judge ordered it to close indefinitely in May 2025.

Sen. Roger Hauck, R-Mount Pleasant, introduced the bill to restrict nuisance suits.

“I don’t think it’s fair to a business

that’s been zoned to be there legally by the township to have someone start complaining about the noise of the racetrack when it’s been there since before the person has been there,” Hauck said.

Cosponsors include Sens. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, Rick Outman, R-Six Lakes, and Joseph Bellino, R-Monroe.

The bill is pending in the Senate Regulatory Affairs Committee.

# Is civility still attainable in the era of Trump? Four Michigan governors think it's possible

By **BEN SOLIS**

**Michigan Advance**

<https://michiganadvance.com/>

America is not that far down the path of political ruin, and a return to normalcy in politics is possible, but citizens and the media need to change the way they speak to each other and consume news media in order to get there.

That was the prevailing message from a forum held Wednesday in Lansing, featuring four former Michigan governors — Rick Snyder, Jennifer Granholm, John Engler and Jim Blanchard — speaking on the subject of civility in politics. It was hosted by the Michiganers for Civic Reliance, Oakland University Center for Civic Engagement, Democracy Defense Project, Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.

It was also a soft launch for the new Michigan Civility Coalition, which plans to continue holding events to fight back against new waves of political animosity in the public discourse.

The very notion of altruistic civility may be hard to conceive during the age of President Donald Trump, whose brash and abusive approach to political messaging has changed the game forever. The advent of social media and polarized national news hasn't helped but the former chief executives of Michigan said that too can be alleviated by focusing on local news instead of the alternate reality created by larger outlets and cable news.

Still, the event had its critics, some noting that civility from an old guard lens would neither help in dealing with Trump and his most loyal political acolytes, nor would it immediately repair some of the damage he's done to civility in politics writ large.

In that way, Granholm, a Democrat, said the goal for the governors was not to ignore what was going on at the federal level and down to the grassroots political fields, where civility has all but died on the vine.

The 47th governor, who joined the event virtually, said the rules of engagement have changed because extremism is more interesting and gets a greater number of clicks.

"Efforts like this should be part of the rules that everybody engages in, conversations that are focused on civility," Granholm said. "What I will say is, what I hope groups don't come away from this effort is that we're in denial. We're not sort of civility-washing the actions of a president who, for many, is not any of those values, does not demonstrate the values that we talk about, like presuming good, or showing respect, or leading with humanity and communicating truthfully."



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Former Michigan governors Jennifer Granholm, Rick Snyder, James Blanchard and John Engler appeared together Feb. 4 in a rare public gathering as they talked about boosting civic engagement and civility in politics at the Lansing DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

Snyder said that politics has become more about winning the game than making policy that uplifts people in a positive way, and that was one of the major sins of the new political landscape in the third decade of the 21st Century.

"Ask yourself this question? The way you see behavior in politics, would it be acceptable in any other part of your life?" Snyder said. "Would it be acceptable in the workplace? Would it be acceptable as your family? And I believe we can't control what everyone else does, but we can control ourselves. ... Politics has become an absolute win-lose sport."

Snyder, a Republican and Michigan's 48th governor, said the danger in that

thinking is that win-win environments in politics foster compromise and courtesy, and most of all, relationship building.

Blanchard, a Democrat and the state's 45th governor, was asked about acrimony being the moneymaker for those bad actors and the deepening divide. He said it was the same as when he was running for his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, which he held during the late 1970s before becoming governor in 1983 — the press loves a good fight and boring discourse was unremarkable.

Blanchard said outlets like Fox News have created an alternate universe for its viewers.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Former Michigan governors Rick Snyder, James Blanchard, John Engler and (not shown) Jennifer Granholm appeared together Feb. 4 in a rare public gathering as they talked about boosting civic engagement and civility in politics at the Lansing DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

"I don't know how you regulate the internet or social media. I wish I knew, but we talk about it all the time. ... So many people don't know what to believe. They don't know where they can get the truth. Now, if everybody read newspapers, frankly, regardless of who the publisher was, I wouldn't worry so much. But young people don't even read newspapers."

Engler, a Republican and the 46th governor, also agreed that there was no check on truthfulness in the current mass media environment, but it was social media that was acting as the accelerant to the fire burning throughout the nation.

His solution? More publicly aired debates between candidates in heavy election years. That was particularly imperative for the current elections, as Michigan will not only elect a new governor and the executive office holders, but also a new U.S. Senator, key Congressional seats that could decide the majority and control of both chambers in the state Legislature.

"Since there's going to be tens of millions of dollars spent on television in this state, those networks have an obligation to the people of Michigan to get together now, pick a date for a debate in August," Engler said. "And right after the primary, pick another date for another debate right after Labor Day, before we start voting."

"The media owes that with the millions of dollars of revenue they're going to have," he said. "They owe an hour or two to the people of Michigan."



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor listens as four former Michigan governors talk together at a Feb. 4 event at the Lansing DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

**CITY OF EAST LANSING, INGHAM AND CLINTON COUNTIES  
MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The City of East Lansing Board of Review will conduct its organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Court/Council Conference Room of City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

2026 Tentative Factors:	
Commercial Real Property	1.00000
Industrial Real Property	1.00000
Residential Real Property	1.00000
Personal Property	1.00000

The Board of Review will meet in formal session for assessment appeals in the Court/Council Conference Room of City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 on the following dates:

**Monday, March 9 2026: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 2026: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**The scheduled meetings are subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act**

Written appeals will be accepted and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 10, 2026. Further, written appeals will also be accepted by email at [mcruz@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mcruz@cityofeastlansing.com).

For an in-person appointment, please call the City of East Lansing Assessor's Office at 517-319-6880 by 1:00 p.m. on March 10, 2026.

**CP#26-040**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL**

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A request from Cody Dietrich on behalf of TDP Acquisitions, LLC, for approval of a Special Use Permit for a new building with height exceeding eight stories at 530 Albert Avenue. The applicant request is to construct a 13-story development consisting of one-, two- and three-bedroom multi-family dwellings, ground floor commercial space, and two levels of interior parking. The property is zoned B-3 City Center Commercial Business District.

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

3. A public hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance 1556, which would require new fences to be installed with the finished side facing outwards.

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

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

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

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Council's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6869 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [ajwilliams@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:ajwilliams@cityofeastlansing.com).

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

Dated: February 4, 2026  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon  
City Clerk

**CP#26-033**

# 'Homegrown' former teacher leads Lansing School District

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

Exactly one year of Jessica Benavides' career was spent out of the Lansing area.

"I applied to Lansing my very first year out of college, because I had subbed in Lansing during my internship and different things," she said. "And then I hadn't heard back, so I applied to other school districts because, of course, I was young and needed a job."

She got a call back from Lakewood Public Schools and accepted a job teaching middle school science — just a week before the Lansing School District called her back. She finished the year in Lakewood, but when the next year started, she was at Wexford Montessori Academy in Lansing.

That was 28 years ago. She continued to rise through the Lansing ranks, eventually becoming the principal of Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School, a role she loved. Four years ago, she became deputy superintendent.

Now, after former superintendent Ben Shuldiner left at the end of January, she's leading the school district for the next year as Interim Superintendent Benavides while the district figures out the next steps.

Benavides told City Pulse her focus will be on building a greater sense of community in the district and in Lansing, keeping community partnerships going and making sure students have all the experiences they want and need for life after high school.

"I really want to focus on what a wonderful community this is and how much we care about our students and families, and bringing that unification together to really benefit the entire city is going to be a huge focus of mine," she said. "We have phenomenal community partners, so I want to make sure that we keep those partnerships going, and if there's people in the community that want to come and mentor or tutor, we would welcome you to do that."

Benavides' roots run deep in Lansing. On a shelf in her office is her grandmother's diploma from Eastern High School, signed by J. W. Sexton and Dwight Rich, both of whom now have local schools named after them.

Her history with the district has already resonated with many locals, contrasting with to her predecessor,

a Harvard graduate who moved to Michigan to accept the job. While she said the district has had a great run over the last five years, with some "phenomenal" things such as establishing universal Pre-K, reducing chronic absenteeism and raising graduation rates and student achievement, she acknowledged that being a Lansing native appealed to residents.

"I think that homegrown is something that resonates with people, because I think we all care about the community we live in," she said.

Benavides is coming in at a difficult time to run a multicultural district, as fears of immigration enforcement are having a chilling effect, especially with Hispanic families, activists told City Pulse last week. Benavides said she understands those fears and knows that outreach to families has been key.

In addition, the district's special populations department "kind of keep their ears to the ground to make sure they're supporting families."

"If we see families not coming to school, we reach out proactively to say, 'Hey, what's going on?'" she said. "We try to quell their anxiety around things, and we try to let them know that, really, school is the safest place you could have your child."

She said Sergio Keck, deputy superintendent of special populations, is "really connected to the community, and we have worked very hard on creating those connections with our families and making sure that they feel safe and supported."

Asked how she would define her own success at the end of her tenure, Benavides said she wants to see good trends continue, alongside student happiness, "a pride in the Lansing School District that will be palpable in the city."

How do you measure happiness and pride? Part of it is increased enrollment, she said, with more families choosing to enroll their children in a well-loved district. But part of it is a feeling.

"Having been a principal of a school and having been a teacher," she said, "when kids are happy and families are happy, there's a feeling to that."

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



**Most MSU classes will be cancelled on Friday, marking the third year since the Feb. 13, 2023 mass campus shooting that killed three students and injured five others.** University dining rooms and other functions will be open and there

will be several opportunities for organized remembrances throughout the day. There are student support spaces, service/advocacy opportunities, a resource and support tent, luminaries and art materials. People are welcome to come near Beaumont Tower around 8 p.m., where there will be music, a moment of silence and ringing of the tower bells from 8:10-8:30 p.m. The tower, the MSU Union and Berkey Hall will be lit in green from dusk on Feb. 13 until dawn on Feb. 14. A livestream of this will be available for viewing by Spartans and supporters around the world. For more about the day's events, including times and locations, visit [spartanstogether.msu.edu](http://spartanstogether.msu.edu).

**MSU trustees voted Friday and approved the demolition of IM West by a 6-1 margin.** The



iconic recreational center was built in 1958 and is the university's largest. The university considers it to have "exceeded its useful life," and the board's resolution calls for the place to become green space. The demolition, which will cost \$6.9 million and be funded by capital reserves, is still more than a year off, scheduled for spring 2027 and the indoor pool is expected to be open until January. The demolition has been discussed for years and twice in 2025 the board punted, first delaying and then approving a study, ahead of last week's vote. Many of IM West's features, including a natatorium, are expected to be part of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center that could open this year.

**Former MSU running back Kenneth Walker III was named the Super Bowl MVP Sunday after a stellar performance that led the Seattle Seahawks to a 29-13 victory over the New England Patriots.** Walker, in his fourth year with Seattle, ran for 135 yards on 27 carries and caught two passes for 26 more. He is



the first MSU letterman to win the Super Bowl MVP, as well as the first running back of any team to capture the honor since 1998. Walker was a breakout star during his only year as a Spartan in 2021, winning the Walter Camp Player of the Year and Doak Walker Awards. He led MSU to 11 wins, including the Peach Bowl over Pittsburgh, and scored 5 touchdowns in a victory over Michigan.

**Mike LaFleur became the second NFL head football coach to be born in Mount Pleasant, as he was given the top job with the Arizona Cardinals.** And he is the second NFL football coach to be raised in his house, because his older brother, Matt LeFleur, is the head coach of the Green Bay Packers. They are the third NFL head coach-brother duo. This elevates Mount Pleasant into a somewhat rare category of having had two head coaches. According to a USA Today database, from 2025, of head football coaches since 1970, there were 15 cities with two or more head coaches. Mike LaFleur makes it 16. Chicago is the champ, raising seven head coaches. Mike LaFleur is the 12th head coach from Michigan, including Super Bowl-winning Tony Dungy from Jackson and Bob Hollway from Ann Arbor (a previous Cardinals head coach).



**The State of Michigan has moved to ban smartphone use in the classroom, beginning with the 2026-27 school year and with some exceptions.** Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed House Bill 4141 Tuesday, requiring school districts to develop policies to prohibit K-12 students from using phones, tablets and computers during instructional time, hoping to limit distractions and address cyberbullying. Also exempted are medically necessary devices and those used for special education programming or for specific lessons. Since



the policy also allows for use during emergencies, Senate Bill 495 requires districts to create a protocol for when and how students can use devices during such events.



**The Capital Region International Airport (LAN) was awarded a \$7.8 million federal grant for new passenger boarding bridges, the movable tunnels that let you walk onto a plane.** "Replacing our passenger boarding bridges is a necessary upgrade that directly supports the safety, efficiency, and reliability of our facilities for our tenants, airline partners and passengers," said Nicole Noll-Williams, president and CEO of the Capital Region Airport Authority (CRAA), in a statement. She credited a bipartisan group of legislators for helping to secure the funding in the recent federal budget: Sen. Gary Peters and Sen. Elissa Slotkin and U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett. "This was a no-brainer, and I'm proud we were able to work together to get it done," Barrett said, in the statement. Added Peters, "Michiganders need safe, reliable transportation infrastructure to get where they need to go, and our airports are a vital part of this."



**Lansing's Code Blue status has been triggered until at least 7 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14.** The city's Code Blue declarations allow local shelters to have more flexibility during extreme cold or snow. Many public buildings – including the Foster, Gier, Letts and Schmidt community centers; libraries; and the Capital Area Transportation Authority Transportation Center in downtown – will be open during the day as well. CATA will offer free rides to warming centers and is running a 24/7 warming bus along Route 1 and some other locations. For more information, visit [LansingMI.gov/coldweatherplan](http://LansingMI.gov/coldweatherplan) or call 211 (a city information line distinct from 911). Day shelters are available at Advent House (743 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.) and City Rescue Mission (2216 S.

Cedar St. for women and children; drop-in center at 415 W. Kalamazoo St.).

Overnight shelters are available at Holy Cross New Hope Community Center (430 N. Larch St.), City Rescue Mission's drop-in center (415 W. Kalamazoo St.), Letts Community Center (1220 W. Kalamazoo St.) and Unity Missionary Baptist Church (500 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., families only).

**Oneida Township Supervisor Rick Jones was arrested for drunken driving last weekend.** He told news outlets, including the Lansing State Journal and WLNS, that he was only human and had cooperated with state police and was punished like others would have been. News outlets, including City Pulse, were not able to confirm the charges pending an arraignment. Jones, a Republican, is the former elected sheriff of Eaton County and served three terms as a state representative and one term as a state senator. He was elected supervisor in 2024.



**Lansing police are investigating the shooting death of Vincent Beeman, 53.** He was found in the 3900 block of Burne-way Drive, after a medical call. Investigators believe he was injured and have not released an exact cause of death. The police department said Monday they did not have anyone in custody and are working to identify possible suspects. Anyone with information about the homicide is asked to contact the police department at 517-483-4600, or Crime Stoppers at 517-483-7867.

**Two young children died and three people, including a firefighter, were injured in a Sunday fire in Jackson, according to Fox47News, and other media reports.** The fire was on South Gortham Street and is under investigation by the Michigan State Police.

# When is it time to turn around and stare?

“HEY, WAGLER! FUCK YOU!”  
That was the first one I heard.

The barrage of shouted insults, including toward University of Illinois’s Keaton Wagler, was well underway by the time I took my seat in front of the upper-deck Izzone.

“Sounds like someone didn’t leave his tailgate thirsty,” I told the guy next to me in Section 231. Saturday was an 8 p.m. game.

Lots of pregame opportunities.

“He’s been at it since we got here half an hour ago,” my neighbor said.

It wasn’t hard to spot the culprit and his buddies. The college kid was wearing his “FUCK Michigan” shirt with pride.

I can’t imagine anyone on the court could hear this kid hurl a continuous string of profanities at anyone wearing an orange Illinois jersey or a zebra-striped referee jersey. That didn’t stop him.

Using common slang for the external male reproductive organ was a favorite for the vulgar heckler.

As a fan sitting directly two or three rows in front of him, I heard it all.

At first, I rolled my eyes and ignored him. I’ll admit it, he was funny sometimes. His agitation was understandable at times. At no time was the language appropriate.

It went on. And on. And it probably would have continued until the end of the game had he not crossed the line by targeting a young Illini fan in a beanie hat. Maybe he was 10?

The boy was sitting, presumably, with his mom, who was wearing a not-inexpensive orange coat and sitting with a row of adult Illini fans.

“HEY, BEANNIE! YOU CAN’T CLAP THAT!”

“HEY, BEANNIE! SIT DOWN!”

Then he tied an expletive to his bullying. Mom turned around and glared upward. Section 231 started to revolt.

“This isn’t how we conduct ourselves here,” one Spartan mom yelled back at him.

“This isn’t how we conduct ourselves?” he sneered back loudly. “This is MY school.”

Another woman glared back at him. “The game is over there,” he shot back rudely. “Over there.”

The guy next to me got into the mix. “Hey, you gotta shut your hole,” my

neighbor said. “We’ve had to put up with your crap all game and we’re tired of it.”

I gave him a glare and locked eyes. “The game is over there!” he shouted at me.

“I’m looking at you,” I shot back. Jeremy Fears drove to the hoop. The game was tight. Tensions were high.

“The game is over there,” he returned back, a little more meekly.

“And I’m looking at you,” I sneered back.

A couple of ushers came up at that point. Even his friends started backing away from him. He was forced to cover up his shirt, and he earned himself a babysitter for the rest of the game. The alternative was a one-way escort out.

You didn’t know any of that, but you did know this: A union worker at Dearborn’s Ford plant yelled, “pedophile protector” at President Donald Trump. The President retorted with a middle finger and a couple of “Fuck you”s.

On a recent social media post, the President put the faces of former President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama on a pair of monkeys.

His spokesperson tried to defend it before the whole post was taken down. U.S. Rep. John James and South Carolina’s U.S. Sen. Tim Scott were among those not impressed.

Putting all policy aside, the President has pushed the bounds of what is socially acceptable since he’s been in the political sphere – the nicknames, the bullying, the name calling.

Yet, for years, almost half of the population has tolerated it, if not overtly encouraged it. And let civility erode. And let the prestige of the world’s highest elected position deteriorate.

Is there that point where people in that other half break away and say, “No. This is not acceptable. We’re not tolerating this anymore?”

Will they turn around and stare? Will they not back down? Will they say, “We’ve had to put up with your crap for 10 years and we’re tired of it.”

For the good of the country, you’d hope so.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

For all of my 86 years, I never thought, nor did it even occur to me, the question: Will I continue to enjoy living in this Republic in 2027? Hard to contemplate, but it’s becoming more of a reality with each passing day.

For me, the most significant concern occurred with recent Trump castings for federalizing our voting process. Many of my friends and relatives respond to my musings as, “Oh, he’s just blowing smoke”. Granted, I believe that Trump is incapable of single-handedly running amok of the Constitution. But he’s done it already in some matters; Trump is our Strong Man. He has neutered the GOP and by threat or intimidation, silenced others in his orbit.

My anxiety is further driven by the cabal I call the ‘Trump Administration’, supported by a feckless Supreme Court.

I have mistakenly believed that in our government, the separation of powers is a separation of the branches of our government, namely, the Executive, the Con-

gress and the Supreme Court each sharing the common goal of supporting the Constitution. While true, what makes the United States really unique is our overriding ‘Separation of Powers’ that resides with the government on one hand and We the People on the other.

Which brings me to my purpose: I submit that in November 2026, I call upon us to exercise our Power, to reiterate our wish for the continuation of the current form of our government by plebiscite.

We the People (the check on the Government) to support our Constitution accept that in this 2026, mid-term referendum, there are no Democrats, there are no Republicans, there are no Independents, there is only us, the people. This call for action will be distasteful for some, when we must consider voting Democratic, but I submit that such a vote will preserve our country so that there will be a next time, with opportunities to vote differently in the future.

**William Swartz,  
Howell, MI**

**Letter to editor**

**Submit editorials (letters to the editor) to City Pulse by emailing them to letters@lansingcitypulse.com. Letters should generally be 250 words or fewer and include your name, address and telephone number for verification. Alternatively, correspondence can be sent to 1905 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912.**

**Williamstown Township  
2026 March Board of Review Notice**

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 11:00 am (Organizational Meeting)

The Williamstown Township Board of Review for 2026 will be hearing assessment appeals at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd, Williamston, MI on the following dates by appointment:

**Monday, March 9, 2026**

**9:00 am—12:00 pm, 1:00—4:00 pm, & 6:00—9:00 pm (Assessment Appeals)**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

**6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Assessment Appeals)**

Contact Jeanne Caselli at 655-3193 for an appointment.

Residents unable to attend may protest by letter, *provided protest letter is received at the Williamstown Township office by 4:00 pm Tuesday, March 10, 2026.*

Board of Review Members: Brian Johnston-Chairperson, Gerald Eidt, Mike Rice, and Lisa Fletcher, alternate

**Williamstown TWP Tentative Ratios 2026**

Agriculture	Commercial	Industrial	Residential
48.67	50.44	49.46	47.88

*The Williamstown Township Board of Review will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five a (5) day notice to the Williamstown Township Board of Review. Individuals requiring these services should contact the Township Clerk at (517) 655-3193 or clerk@williamstowntownship.com to request assistance.*

Robin A. Cleveland, MIPMC  
Clerk, Williamstown Township  
clerk@williamstowntownship.com

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## ‘Hamilton’ actress to star in Sandra Seaton’s ‘Sally: A Solo Play’ at Wharton

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

After writing three bodies of work about Sally Hemings — a woman who was enslaved under President Thomas Jefferson and is widely recognized as the mother of several of his children — East Lansing playwright and librettist Sandra Seaton has become part of her world.

Seaton wrote an operatic work about Hemings, “From the Diary of Sally Hemings,” in 2001. It was performed at Coolidge Auditorium, which is, ironically enough, located inside the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in Washington.

“Afterward, 45 of Sally Hemings’ descendants came to the reception,” Seaton said. “That’s how I got to know them, and we’ve stayed in touch since.”

They will be in attendance for the world premiere of “Sally: A Solo Play,” Seaton’s second play about Hemings. (The first was “A Bed Made in Heaven.”)

“Sally” stars Sabrina Sloan, who toured the country as Angelica Schuyler in “Hamilton,” and is directed by Hannah Ryan, the former resident director of “Hamilton” on Broadway. It will make its world premiere Feb. 19 through 21 the Wharton Center’s Pasant Theatre.

“Sally” is a one-woman drama is set at Monticello, Jefferson’s home near Charlottesville, Virginia, in the days leading up to Jefferson’s death on July 4, 1826, as he’s writing his will. Sloan plays multiple characters: Sally; Jefferson; Sally’s mother, Elizabeth Hemings; Sally’s brother, James Hemings; and Jefferson’s daughter, Martha “Patsy” Randolph.

“When the play opens, Sally’s worried whether Jefferson will include their children in his will,” Seaton said. “Sally goes through all

this emotional turmoil about what will happen with his will. Of course, there are flashbacks to other times. How does she deal with that?”

Sloan said, “When I read the piece, it’s just so moving and so empowering, and there’s so much to unpack. Each time I’ve done it, I’ve unpacked more and discovered more. We’re constantly reshaping it, rewriting it, and asking questions. It’s just an amazing, really nuanced piece that has so much depth and so many layers. I feel it’s something I can do again and again and again and still find new things, so it’s always exciting when you find a piece like that.”

Sloan feels a connection with Hemings. Both are multiracial. Hemings was of approximately three-fourths European descent and one-fourth African descent, legally classified as Black in Virginia during that period.

Sloan is the daughter of a German English father and an African American mother.

“I know that she’s an unknown to so many people — we don’t know what she looked like, we don’t know much about her,” Sloan said.

“What ‘Sally’ does for me is offer an example of a woman in a very challenging situation who has found her power, found some agency, and found a way to create and carve out a future for her children. What’s forefront on my mind is making sure my two children have the best future that they can have in a world that’s uncertain



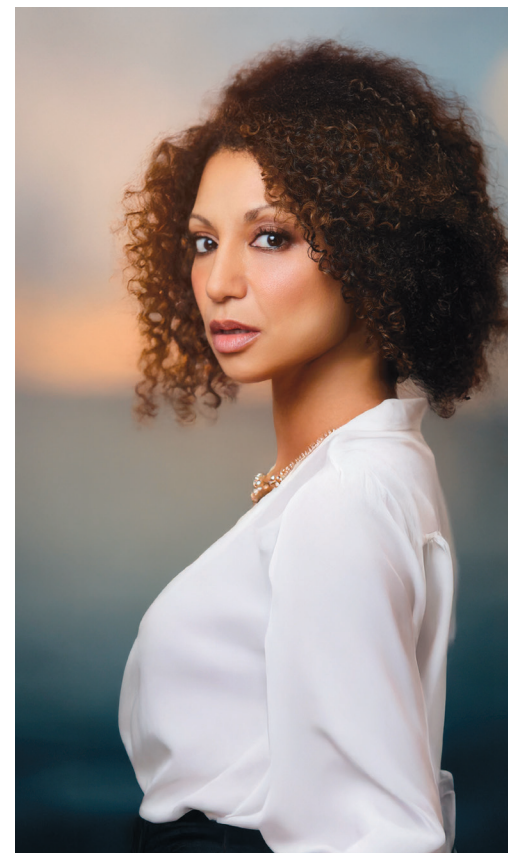
Courtesy

“Sally: A Solo Play,” premiering at the Wharton Center next week, is East Lansing playwright Sandra Seaton’s second play and third work about Sally Hemings.

right now. The themes of freedom, of choice, of family — there’s so much that’s relevant to our lives. For me, it’s important this piece of oral history continues to be passed down, is shared, and continues to be shared.”

“Sally” makes its debut several months before the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

“You think about all the struggles, all the suffering, all that was endured to get to that point,” Seaton said. “The story about Sally Hemings is really about a woman who, in spite of all the things she had against her — she was a slave, she was afraid — was able to stand up for her rights at a time when women were not standing up for their rights. She struggled, yet she stood firm to assure that her chil-



Courtesy

“Sally” stars Sabrina Sloan, who toured the country as Angelica Schuyler in “Hamilton.”

dren would be free as she and Jefferson agreed to originally. This is another story about this country’s independence, another story about this country’s fight for freedom. This is a story about a woman who fought for the freedom of her children.”

### Sally, Sandra, and Sabrina

Seaton’s interest in Hemings came about after meeting Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom. Bolcom wrote about Seaton’s great-uncle Flournoy Miller, the visionary behind “Shuffle Along.”

“What we know as the Broadway musical was invented at the time of that production in 1921,” Seaton said.

Florence Quivar, considered to

See Sally, page 12

### “Sally: A Solo Play”

7:30 p.m. Feb. 19-20

2 p.m. Feb. 21

Wharton Center Pasant Theatre

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

(517) 432-2000

whartoncenter.com

## Sally

from page 11

be one of the most prominent mezzo sopranos of her generation, approached Bolcom about collaborating on a piece about Hemings. In turn, Bolcom asked Seaton if she wanted to participate.

“I thought about my own family history and my great-grandmother who was a child of a plantation. I thought about Hemings’ life. I said yes, and that’s how it happened. I ended up writing an operatic work about Sally Hemings (which became ‘From the Diary of Sally Hemings’).

After “Diary” made its debut at the Library of Congress, two sponsors from the Elinor Remick Warren Society spoke to Seaton about writing a play on Hemings. She wrote “Sally” in the next year. Since then, it’s undergone more than 20 revisions.

Seaton’s agent, Barbara Ferguson, informed her that the Aspen theater festival was looking for one-person plays and submitted “Sally.” At the time, Hannah Ryan was working at Theatre Aspen.

“We were looking for someone to play Sally, and Hannah had worked with Sabrina before on ‘Hamilton.’ They’re very knowledgeable about each other. Hannah greatly admired Sabrina’s work, and Sabrina was happy to work with Hannah again. That’s how it all came about,” Seaton said. “Sabrina’s extraordinary. She’s classically trained. She’s able to use these different voices. She’s able to take on all these personas believably. She’s really committed to the play and really brilliant.”

Seaton also holds Ryan in high regard.

“Hannah has a great vision,” she said. “She’s really able, with just one character, to visualize the stage and have in her mind how this all works as a piece of theater. We interviewed the set designer, the lighting designer and the costume designer, and Hannah’s been working with all of them to make this incredible show.”

In turn, Sloan had nothing but high praise for Seaton and Ryan.

“Sandra’s the best!” Sloan said. “Truly one of my favorite experiences is working with her and Hannah. When you have a solo

piece, you have the opportunity to dig into the writing and the vision. She’s a historian in her own right — she’s done so much research about Sally, Jefferson, and that period. She’s a poetic, beautiful writer and a joy to be around.

“Hannah’s just an incredible and special director,” Sloan continued. “I’ve never worked with anyone like her. She’s good at hearing your perspective and what you need in the moment and will help you get to the next moment. She’s very patient — we’ll take the time to go through something thoroughly until we’re happy with it, which is an anomaly with directors. She always makes me feel incredibly comfortable and confident in the work.”

Part of the design team for “Sally” has Michigan State University ties. Kirk A. Domer, interim chairperson and professor of scene design, is designing the set. Alison Dobbins, a professor of integrated performance media design, is doing project design.

Dobbins is no stranger to Seaton’s plays.

“I’m very excited to work with Sandra!” Dobbins said. “Her work is impactful, powerful and poignantly beautiful. I’ve had the pleasure of featuring several of her plays as projects in my courses at

MSU over the past few years, and Seaton has generously discussed her process with my students. ‘Sally’ is one of my favorite Seaton plays, as well as one of my favorite plays full stop. Being a part of the premiere is thrilling.”

Although Seaton’s work has been performed at the Trump-Kennedy Center in Washington and Carnegie Hall in New York City, she’s thrilled to have “Sally” debut at the Wharton Center.

“My portrayal of Sally Hemings challenges the way she has been viewed in the past. I want audiences to see Sally not as an appendage to Jefferson, but as an individual in her own right. Not as a stereotype, but as a woman on a mission. The Wharton stage is the perfect setting to bring ‘Sally’ to life,” she said. “Eric Olmscheid and the Wharton people have been doing everything they can to realize it. Most people in the East Lansing community don’t know me as a playwright. All my work is done outside the community. The fact that I’m having something done here where I live is very nice because it gives me the opportunity to have people I know come out and see my work.”

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from George Eyde, property owner of 845 Tanglewood Ln. The request is for a dimensional variance from the maximum ground coverage ratio of 40% required by Section 50-301 in order to install paving surrounding a new in-ground pool.

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

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City’s website located at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [coelzba@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:coelzba@cityofeastlansing.com). Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on the business day prior to the meeting.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [gwhitney@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:gwhitney@cityofeastlansing.com).

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

Emily Gordon  
City Clerk

Dated: February 5, 2026  
East Lansing, MI 48823

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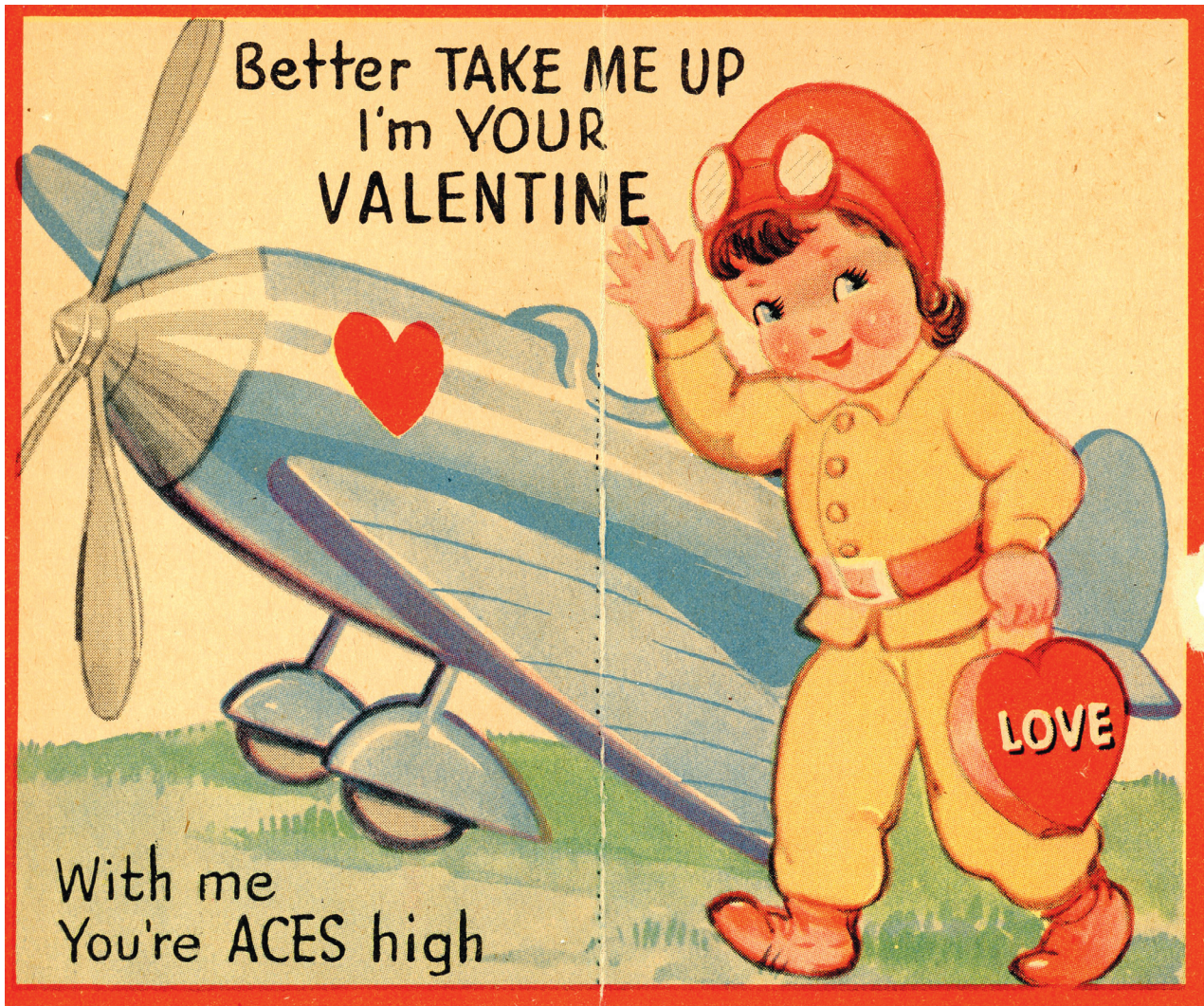
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**BIG STEAM**

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**Feb. 21 • LCC Downtown Campus**  
Event registration at [lcc.edu/bigsteam](http://lcc.edu/bigsteam).

Courtesy Historical Society of Greater Lansing

The new Historical Society of Greater Lansing exhibit, “Love Is in the Air,” grabs your attention with 50 aviation-themed valentines from the golden era of aviation — and the golden age of postcards — in the early 20th century.

# Speed dash with racing heart

## Historical Society’s ‘Love Is in the Air’ exhibit mixes aviation and romance

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

You’re above the clouds. Your heart is pounding. Your guts twist up, down and sideways as you swoop, dive and accelerate.

Are you falling in love or flying a small, open-cockpit airplane?

Both, in a new Historical Society of Greater Lansing exhibit opening this weekend.

The Historical Society has delved into many meaty subjects over the years, but this Valentine’s Day, it’s serving up a box of candy to make the history lesson go down easier.

“Love Is in the Air” grabs your attention with 50 cherry-red, aviation-themed valentines from the golden era of aviation — and the golden age of postcards — in the early 20th century.

The curators hope these bonbons will draw the visitor into a deeper collection of memorabilia from a nearly forgotten

time when aviation was a revelation and spectacular air shows, daredevil pilots and hair-raising stunts were a wildly popular and frequent sight across the nation, including at Lansing’s own Capital City Airport and other local airfields.

### Kiss of death

About 100 years ago, in the heyday of air shows, people did strange, spectacular and dangerous things to get other people to look up.

“Lansing was part of that whole culture of daredevils,” Historical Society President Bill Castanier said. “It was a really big deal.”

Michigan’s own “bat man,” Clem Sohn, jumped out of planes wearing a winged suit of his own design, 5 feet wide and made of steel tubing and canvas. Defying gravity, he steered himself as he floated down to Earth from as high as 10,000 feet.



See Aviation, Page 14

### “Love Is in the Air” exhibit opening & program

**6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12**  
Historical Society of Greater Lansing  
528 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing  
[lansinghistory.org](http://lansinghistory.org)

To launch the Historical Society of Greater Lansing’s latest exhibit, “Love Is in the Air,” President Bill Castanier promises a “different kind of event than you would expect from a historical society” — a crazy-quilt celebration of love, with readings of love letters, poetry, “funnier than hell” lonely hearts ads from the 1990s and many surprises, including romantic correspondences between R.E. Olds and his wife, Metta, and a romantic recording of “In My Merry Oldsmobile” by Judy Garland and Bing Crosby.

“People don’t know it’s a love song,” Castanier said. Castanier himself will read a mysterious, recently discovered letter from an unknown woman to his grandfather, asking, “When are we going to tell your family?”

“He was married at the time,” Castanier said. “We don’t know what that means, but we have a suspicion.”

# Aviation

from page 13

He waited until he was 1,000 feet from the ground, or even lower, before deploying his chute.

Sohn grew up in Fowler, just north of Lansing, and graduated from Eastern High School.

He once dove 18,500 feet before pulling the cord, a world record in the 1930s.

"I don't know how these guys did it," Castanier said. "They had to be massively strong, and massively..."

He deleted the word on his lips and found a substitute.

"... brave."

On April 25, 1937, at the age of 26, Sohn plunged to his death in front of a crowd of 1,000 people at an air show in France when his parachute failed to open.

Lansing, an obscure Midwestern city with a muddy, underdeveloped airport, has produced more than its share of aviation pioneers.

The name Art Davis, a titan of Lansing aviation, comes up a dozen times in an air show schedule from Somerville, Tennessee, on display in the Historical Society exhibit.

At 11 a.m., Davis was already up in the air, "smokewriting over [the] city," a stunt he performed many times across the nation. At 1:45, he put on a display of "balloon strafing." At 2:20, he was the first leg of a "trio in smoke." At 4:35, he reenacted a "war-time dog fight." At 5:45, he flew through the "wall of smoke." At 3:10, he performed "the kiss of death."

"They called it 'deadstick,'" Castanier said. "They'd just drop the plane and see how close they could get to a mark on the field."

The same afternoon, between doses of Davis' derring-do, other daredevils landed planes on automobiles, started a stalled plane in midair and did upside-down acrobatics on the wing. Of course, there was a bat man — two bat men, in fact — performing the "double-bat-wing parachute jump" from 10,000 feet.

Air shows at Capital City Airport involved up to 70 planes and drew up to 8,000 spectators on a weekend afternoon, Castanier said.

A budding aviator in his youth, Castanier flew over the Lansing area as a student and was keen to find a way to bring the city's lively aviation history to the Historical Society's new digs on the Lansing Community College campus.

About a year ago, he got an exciting call from MSU. While clearing out some historical objects accumulated over the decades, historians ran across a set of trophies from Davis' collection and offered to donate them to the Historical Society.

Yes, trophies are boring, but not Davis' aviation trophies. This guy wasn't exactly bowling for a living.

On display as part of "Love Is in the Air," these babies are swooping art deco masterpieces — just what you'd expect from a unique and rar-



Courtesy Historical Society of Greater Lansing

In their own naïve way, the valentines collected in "Love Is in the Air" reflect the public fascination with women flyers, and with aviation in general.

efied arena of competition, and from a man who thrilled airfield crowds thousands of times.

Davis trained as an aviator with the U.S. Army in 1918 and bought an open-cockpit biplane as soon as World War I was over. Using a dairy farm south of Lansing as an airfield, he barnstormed



about the state, doing exhibitions and taking passengers.

"Those air circuses were hugely popular from about 1920," Castanier

er said. "After the war, a lot of planes were available, and pilots bought them cheap and started barnstorming all over the country and Canada."

In 1922, Davis teamed with another Lansing aviation pioneer, Talbert "Ted" Abrams, to start Michigan Airways, a scrappy outfit that mixed passenger service with exhibitions, selling airplanes and parts on the side.

Abrams, a daredevil wing walker, went on to become a pioneer of aerial photography and the namesake benefactor of the MSU planetarium. In an era when airplane rides were considered risky, Abrams drummed up passenger business by taking dramatic aerial photos and exhibiting them at air shows.

"He gave rides from Capital City Airport for \$5 a pop," Castanier said.

Davis flew nearly every aircraft in existence during World War II and went on to lead an aviation school at Capital City Airport that trained many pilots to work for major airlines.

## Shot down by an arrow

Davis' spiffy trophies made a perfect anchor for a broader collection of aviation memorabilia, but the show needed a colorful hook.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Air shows, daredevil pilots and hair-raising stunts drew thousands to airfields like the Capitol City Airport from the 1920s to the 1940s.

Castanier had a sudden inspiration. While going through the aviation memorabilia, he discovered that it was common at air shows for intrepid couples to get married on a plane.

The catchphrase "love is in the air" popped into his head and wouldn't leave it.

He knew a local collector who had a cache of aviation-themed cards. He gave her a call and asked if any of them were valentines.

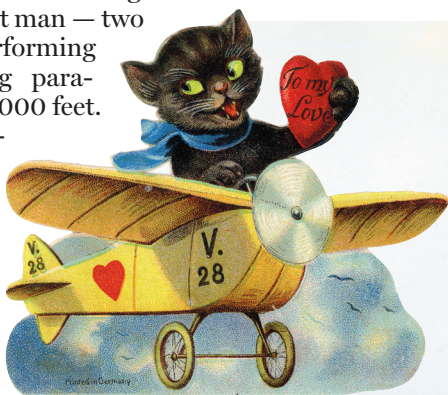
"Over 100 of them," she replied.

Lark (our name for the anonymous collector) isn't a pilot, but she has been fascinated with aviation all her life. She found her first vintage aviation valentine at a second-hand shop. "Shortly after, I found the second one, and then by the time you have the third one, it's a collection," she said.

It so happens that the golden age of postcards, from about 1905 to 1915, coincided with the beginnings of aviation.

According to a September 2022 Ephemera Journal article by retired Michigan archaeologist Mary L. Kwas, aviation-themed valentines

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Courtesy Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Lansing aviator Art Davis won dozens of races and competitions and performed a wild variety of stunts, including the "kiss of death" (a "deadstick" plummet to Earth), as he barnstormed across the nation in the 1930s and 1940s.

## Aviation

from page 14

crisscrossed the nation by the millions, in a “mind-boggling” variety of formats — not just postcards and bi-fold cards, but also “cutouts, mechanicals and cards with embellishments of honeycomb paper, lace and ribbons.”

The craze tapered off in the 1930s but never completely went away.

As an admirer of Amelia Earhart and other women aviators, Lark found it interesting that many, if not most, of the valentines showed women at the controls.

The Historical Society exhibit includes memorabilia relating to the life and career of pioneering Lansing aviator Marion “Babe” Weyant Ruth, who soloed for the first time in 1936, at age 18. Ruth



lived next to Capital City Airport, where her mother ran a restaurant. She was fascinated with planes, hanging around the airport and getting frequent rides from obliging pilots in her early teens.

In 1933, she got a letter of encouragement from Earhart herself: “I believe that if you are not afraid to work very hard, and you really wish to enter aviation, you will be able to do so someday.” She met her idol in person when Earhart visited Eastern High School later that year.

At age 19, Ruth became the youngest licensed pilot in the nation, male or female.

She went on to win a slew of awards at air shows, became one of the first woman flying instructors in the nation and taught in the aviation department at LCC in the 1970s.

She died in 2004, leaving behind a huge collection of aviation memorabilia. Castanier knew her and recalled her as “an adventurer.”

“She’d go off to Alaska and shoot elk, probably from a plane,” Castanier said. “She was that kind of lady.”

In between sundry stunts by Davis, the air show schedule in the Historical Society exhibit lists a “speed



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Soaring, gleaming trophies from the collection of Lansing aviation pioneer Art Davis, on display at the Historical Society of Greater Lansing’s “Love Is in the Air” exhibit, conjure up the heyday of barnstorming and daredevil shows.

dash with racing turns” by celebrated racing pilot (and friend of Earhart) Jacqueline Cochran.

“Miss Cochran will fly the Beechcraft with which she won the New York to Miami race in January,” the flyer announces.

“Jackie Cochran was the greatest woman pilot, the first woman to break the sound barrier,” Lark said.

In Lansing, Leota Pearl Abrams (wife of Ted Abrams) also climbed into the cockpit, to the delight of the public.

“She flew competitions in the first aerial shows here in Lansing,” Lark said. “The women flyers were particularly exciting to the public. They were breaking records all the time in the 1920s and 1930s — distance, speed, time in the air — and they got

a lot of press.”

By the early 1930s, Castanier said, women-only air races were common.

In their own naïve way, the valentines collected in “Love Is in the Air” reflect the public fascination with women flyers, and with aviation in general.

Not for the first time, Castanier found that fleeting, lighthearted cultural artifacts come with invisible strings that lead in many meaningful directions.

“I didn’t realize how deeply this was embedded in our culture,” Castanier said. “Women were dressing like Amelia Earhart. These people were glamorous. I don’t know what would excite everyone the same way now. It was a very special time.”

# Book explores Hemingway’s experiences ‘Up North’

By JULIA BELDEN  
Capital News Service

LANSING — Long before he became one of America’s most beloved authors, Ernest Hemingway found solace and inspiration in Northern Michigan’s pristine environment.

Hemingway’s Up North connection is detailed in Michael Federspiel’s “Picturing Hemingway’s Michigan” (Wayne State University Press, \$39.99). The book, first released as a hardcover in 2010 and now available in paperback, contains over 250 high-quality photographs of Hemingway, his family and the greater Petoskey area, where they spent their summers in the early 1900s.

Federspiel’s interest in Hemingway’s Michigan experience began when he worked as a high school English teacher in Midland, convincing his ninth-grade class to slog through Hemingway’s classic “Old Man and the Sea.”

“What I discovered in a hurry was that a slow-moving story about an old man fishing in the Gulf Stream off the shore of Cuba had very little relevance

to 14-year-olds,” Federspiel said.

He remembered the Hemingway family’s yearly pilgrimage from their Chicago-area home to their cottage on Walloon Lake, a tradition familiar to many Midwestern families.

“So I kind of jumped on that notion of ‘you 14-year-olds, you’ve been Up North in the summer. You know what it’s like to take vacations up there. Well, Hemingway did the same thing,’” Federspiel said.

“Those places that burn themselves into your memory as a child stay with you forever,” he said, adding that Hemingway was an “experience junkie” with a penchant for outdoor adventures.

“The Nick Adams Stories,” a collection of Hemingway’s short stories written in the 1920s and 1930s, features Northern Michigan locales and scenery.

Having grown up in Alanson, northeast of Petoskey, Federspiel was acquainted with many of the sites referenced in “The Nick Adams Stories.”

“I began to put the puzzle pieces together and learn more” about Hem-

ingway’s time in Michigan, Federspiel said.

In 2007, the Michigan Humanities Council chose “The Nick Adams Stories” for the first Great Michigan Read.

Through his involvement with the Michigan Hemingway Society and the Clark Historical Library at Central Michigan University, Federspiel helped secure grant funding from the council for additional materials to support the Great Michigan Read.

Federspiel gathered images and historical documents for the education materials, which involved traveling to the Kennedy Library in Boston to leaf through its Hemingway collection. “Picturing Hemingway’s Michigan” is the result.

Like the original hardcover edition, all author profits from the 2025 paperback support the Michigan Hemingway Endowment, a fund supporting the Clark Historical Library’s acquisitions of Hemingway materials.

The book is split into three parts: The first section provides an overview of Northern Michigan during Hem-

ingway’s time, the middle section focuses on the Hemingway family and the final third centers on Ernest Hemingway himself.

Although Hemingway stopped visiting Michigan after his early 20s — he returned only once in his later years — he continued to draw inspiration from his time Up North.

Hemingway “tacked a map of Michigan on the wall” when he lived in Paris in the mid-1920s, Federspiel said. “His mind was back in Northern Michigan.”

Michigan is an ideal place for “Hemingway tourism,” Federspiel said, because much of the landscape remains unchanged since Hemingway’s day.

For those interested in learning more about Hemingway’s time in Michigan, Federspiel recommends visiting the Little Traverse History Museum in Petoskey, or, for the more adventurous, taking a self-guided driving tour of Hemingway’s Up North haunts.

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## Live & Local

## CityPULSE

### The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Rinbossanova, Flatroom, PlanetKaia, Grapefruit Jacuzzi**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 9 p.m.  
**Jacob Largen, Noah Miller**  
 Sun., Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

### BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge  
**Music showcase**  
 Thurs., Feb. 12, 7-9:30 p.m.  
**Malarkey Bros.**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Rich McLaughlin**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

### Chengdu Teahouse

100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing  
**Jeff Boog & Friends**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 5:30-7 p.m.  
**Platonic Love: A Non-Romantic Valentine's Day Show**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 6 p.m.

### Christ United Church

1000 W. Webb Road, DeWitt  
**Jamie-Sue Seal performs the music of Dusty Springfield**  
 Sat. Feb. 14, 4-6 p.m.

### Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing  
**Just Magnetic**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 8 p.m.-midnight  
**Parted Waters**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 8 p.m.-midnight

### Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing  
**Ben Awrey**  
 Wed., Feb. 11, 9 p.m.

### EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing  
**Songwriters' night, with Cody Wilson**  
 Wed., Feb. 11, 7-9 p.m.  
**Chad Benson & Ed Lutz**  
 Wed., Feb. 18, 7-9 p.m.

### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**Scott Seth**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 6-9 p.m.  
**Chris Muethel**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 6-9 p.m.

### Fraternal Order of Eagles

3022 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing  
**Blues from Beale Street**  
 Sun., Feb. 15, 4-8 p.m.

### Graham Vineyards

8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg  
**Chris Milbourne**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 6-9 p.m.

### The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Wavelength**  
 Wed., Feb. 11, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.  
**Dead Hour Noise, Rot Knot, Dog Skull, Cemetery Girl**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.  
**Laura Jane Grace x Rodeo Boys**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.  
**Sold out — waitlist available**  
**Wavelength**  
 Wed., Feb. 18, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

### Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing  
**Dinosaur Pile-Up, Honeyknife, Slumlord Radio**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 7 p.m.  
**The Insiders (Tom Petty tribute)**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

### Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
**Dueling Pianos**  
 Thurs., Feb. 12, 5-8 p.m.  
**Mix Pack**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 5-8 p.m.  
**Wild Honey Ramblers**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 5-8 p.m.  
**John Beltran**  
 Sun., Feb. 15, 1-5 p.m.

### The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing  
**Open mic night, with Scott Seth**  
 Thurs., Feb. 12, 6:30-11 p.m.  
**Universe Band**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 8-11 p.m.

### Lansing Duckpin

3224 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Aaron Manbeck**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 3 p.m.

### Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing  
**A Night at the Soul Lounge: Lovers & Friends Party**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 9 p.m.

### Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Brugada, Sins Ov Madness, Already Over, Through Our Eyes, Inaudible Darling**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 6 p.m.  
**A Rueful Noise, All Over the Shop, Ladyship Warship**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 8 p.m.  
**Unity — In Music**  
 Thurs., Feb. 5, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.  
 Tues., Feb. 10, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

### Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing  
**The Polaroids**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 9:30 p.m.

### Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing  
**Matthew Shannon**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

### Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Open mic night, with Jen Sygit**  
 Wed., Feb. 11, 8-11 p.m.  
**Blues jam**  
 Thurs., Feb. 12, 9 p.m.  
**The Louderthans**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 8 p.m.-midnight  
**Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band**  
 Sat., Feb. 4, 8 p.m.-midnight  
**Jazz Tuesdays**  
 Tues., Feb. 10, 7-10 p.m.  
**Open mic night, with Jen Sygit**  
 Wed., Feb. 11, 8-11 p.m.

### MSU College of Music

**Dmitri Bertinsky and Gleb Ivanov**  
 Thurs., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
 Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing  
**Organ Remembrance: A Time for Reflection**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 12:30 p.m.  
 Alumni Memorial Chapel, 636 Auditorium Road, East Lansing  
**Jazz nonets with Jeff Haas, piano**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
 Murray Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing  
**Oboe Romances**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
 Cook Recital Hall  
**The Ruckers: Here We Go Again**  
 Sun., Feb. 15, 3 p.m.  
 Cook Recital Hall

### Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale  
**Papa Clutch**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 7-11:30 p.m.

### One North Kitchen & Bar

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
**Rush Clement**  
 Thurs., Feb. 12, 6-9 p.m.  
**Darin Lerner Sr.**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 7-10 p.m.  
**Greg Smith**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 7-10 p.m.  
**Open mic, with Kathy Ford**  
 Mon., Feb. 16, 6:30-9 p.m.

### Pablo's Eastside

2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Benny Zydybel, Steve Opp & Samantha Shessia**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 5-9 p.m.

### The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
**Norberto Aguado Perez**  
 Tues., Feb. 17, 6-8 p.m.

### Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
**Tiffany Gridiron, Neil Gordon, Sam Corey**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 7:30-10:30 p.m.  
**Randy Napoleon Trio**  
 Sun., Feb. 15, 6-9 p.m.

### Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing  
**Showdown**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 6-9 p.m.  
**Showdown**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 6-9 p.m.

### The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
**Pure Winds Quintet: Music for Meditation, part II**  
 Wed., Feb. 11, 7 p.m.  
**Wilson Thicket**  
 Thurs., Feb. 12, 7 p.m.  
**Sold out**  
**Reverberator: experimental music festival**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 1-6 p.m.

### Sholty's Bar

1819 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
**Northside Rhythm Kings**  
 Tues., Feb. 17, 6-9 p.m.

### Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing  
**Deer & Elk**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 5-8 p.m.  
**Dave Menzo**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 7-10 p.m.

### Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**DJ Patino & friends**  
 Sun., Feb. 15, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.  
**Lady Luck**  
 Tues., Feb. 17, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

### Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt  
**Gimme Five**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 8-11 p.m.  
**The Lynx Band**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 8-11 p.m.

### University Lutheran Church

(Ten Pound Fiddle)  
 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing  
**Katie Dahl, RJ Cowdery, Hope Dunbar**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30-10 p.m.  
**Solas**  
 Tues., Feb. 17, 7:30-10 p.m.

### UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing  
**Lansing Live! open mic**  
 Wed., Feb. 11, 6-9 p.m.  
**Darin Lerner Band**  
 Thurs., Feb. 12, 6-9 p.m.  
**Michael Dease Big Band plays Gregg Hill**  
 Fri., Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.

### Valentine's Dinner & Show, with Twyla Birdsong and Stuart Christoff

Sat., Feb. 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Lansing Live! open mic**  
 Wed., Feb. 18, 6-9 p.m.

### Wharton Center

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
**Lansing Symphony Orchestra: From Broadway with Love**  
 Sat., Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.

# Reverberator unites boundary pushers and sonic sorcerers

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

Lansing is home to more than its share of music festivals, but something was missing from the scene prior to last year: a dedicated day for experimental music. Stephanie E. Vasko, an experimental artist and senior research and innovation consultant at Michigan State University's College of Arts and Letters, sought to change that with the inaugural Reverberator festival in January 2025. Having already worked with The Robin Theatre and owner Dylan Rogers on her experimental music showcase series, Ambient Annotations, she partnered with the REO Town venue to spotlight 10 local artists, who played to a packed house that was limited to standing room only most of the day.

Reverberator returns Saturday, featuring 12 acts united by their affinity for "pushing boundaries and playing with sound," Vasko said. Some have played at Ambient Annotations events, while others are brand-new to the Lansing experimental community. Vasko chatted with City Pulse about the festival and her own art, which will be on display at Saturday's event.

**How did the idea for the festival come about?**

For the past two years, I was running an experimental music series at The Robin. It was usually a bill of three artists, sometimes four. For a while, it was every month, and from noon to 1:30, people could come and listen to experimental music or perform in the show. The reason for getting that started was that I didn't find a lot of places in Lansing where you could perform an ambient set or try something out, a place that was friendly and amenable to helping you through that process. So, we had done a year of those, and I was like, 'What if we had a festival for that kind of thing?'

**How did you come to partner with Dylan and The Robin Theatre?**

I've lived in Lansing for 10 years now, and I've known Dylan for a large chunk of that. A few years ago, I got the idea of doing these ambient shows. I would go in and talk to Dylan and be like, "Hey, we should try this out." So, one year, I just set up with my laptop in the back of the bookstore, between



Courtesy Stephanie E. Vasko

Artist Stephanie E. Vasko performs at her experimental music showcase series, Ambient Annotations, in October 2025.

some of the books, and played some tunes for people. And then we were like, "Okay, let's formalize this a bit more," and we started reaching out to people we knew.

There's this huge desire in Lansing for these kinds of events and curation of this type of community. There are all these really cool experimental musicians around town who are doing their own thing in their own spaces. At least for me, coming out of the pandemic, it's been hard to find those spaces. So, it was really intentional to create them, and to start creating a place where people who did this kind of thing could meet and develop collaborations or just see what kind of techniques other people were using.

It's been a fun experience to see the collaborations that have come out of this.

**Tell me a little bit about your performance art.**

It's been an evolution, but there are a few things that have stayed consistent. I'm really interested in the ways that we can use materials you haven't thought about the sounds of to create sounds. I do a lot of field recording, so I'll go out in nature. I like to do Foley work, figuring out how to make the sound of something with something else, both physically and electronically with software. Over the past year, I've also been combining it with interactive performances with the

sound, with this kind of performance piece in there.

**Tell me about some of the other performers at Reverberator this year.**

We really try and focus on local Lansing artists, to give them a space to connect and try new things. We have a really cool selection of people. We have some people who will be doing spoken word plus sound. We have some minimal electronic work. There will be some screens and some projections. We have a lot of people who work with field recordings.

**Do you have anything you want to add?**

I've been going to the Lansing Collage Club for a few months, and I asked Dylan if he had art that would be hanging up during Reverberator. Bringing the Collage Club to the Reverberator space is happening in that some of the pieces that were at the show the club had at Hooked will also be up for Reverberator. Chelsea, the head of the club, is re-curating that show. I'm really excited that we were able to make that partnership happen.

**ECHOES FROM THE BANKS OF THE RED CEDAR**

Written and choreographed by Alexandria Davis

**Dance Performance**

**FEBRUARY 14 - 22, 2026**

Fairchild Theatre at MSU Auditorium

If I plant you, what will you grow? Experience dance and music inspired by William J. Beal's seed experiment!

**MSU Students get in free!**

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# The cannabis job miracle: Are we growing careers or just trimming expectations?

By CHRIS SILVA

In the boardrooms and legislative offices of Lansing, the green rush is often framed as a historic victory for Michigan's labor market. By the end of 2025, economic reports touted cannabis as the state's leading driver of new private-sector job creation. On paper, the marijuana industry reportedly supports over 41,000 workers, accounting for a massive chunk of net job growth.

However, for those in the industry, the reality is far more volatile. While the state is excellent at counting new

licenses and potential positions, it is less adept at tracking the high rate of churn and the increasing instability of the cannabis workforce. The supposed miracle of job creation is currently facing its toughest test yet: a combination of market oversaturation, a new 24% wholesale tax and a shift toward automation that threatens to replace human labor with mechanical efficiency.

## The paper jobs vs. the reality of churn

The state's employment data often

functions as a net calculation, which masks the instability beneath the surface. For every new dispensary that opens on a Lansing corner, older operations are restructuring behind closed doors. The wave of layoffs seen recently — including the closure of major facilities like C3 Industries in Webberville — has left a pool of experienced workers competing for a shrinking number of stable roles.

Many professionals joined the industry under the promise of a long-term career, but now find themselves bouncing from one startup to another. There's an overtrained workforce, increasingly exhausted by the market.

## The rise of the machines: Automation hits the grow room

One of the primary reasons for the growing disconnect between record volume and job seekers is the rapid adoption of automation. In the early days of legalization, the industry was labor intensive, requiring armies of trimmers and packagers. In 2026, the landscape looks significantly different.

Cultivation facilities across Michigan are increasingly investing in automated trimming machines and industrial-scale pre-roll injectors. High-tech facilities in the Detroit and Lansing areas now have machines that can roll 2,000 to 3,000 joints an hour — a task that would have previously required a large team of manual laborers.

While this increases consistency and lowers the cost of production (a necessity in a market where an ounce can go for \$60), it effectively raises the barrier to entry for human workers. The entry-level job is disappearing, replaced by a smaller number of specialized technicians to maintain the equipment.

## The union response: Teamsters and UFCW move in

As job security wavers and automation scales up, the labor movement has taken notice. The Teamsters and the United Food and Commercial Workers have been aggressively moving to organize Michigan's cannabis workforce. Their pitch to workers is centered on stability: codified seniority, grievance procedures and protection against at-will layoffs.



Labor organizers argue that a more mature and corporate industry needs unions as much as the automotive or grocery sectors. We've seen successful unionization drives at several retail locations and cultivation centers in the Lansing and Battle Creek areas, with workers pushing for "labor peace agreements." For many, a union contract is the only thing standing between a career and a pink slip in an industry currently obsessed with trimming overhead to survive the new tax environment.

## The 24% pressure cooker

The elephant in the room remains the fiscal pressure from the state. The new 24% wholesale tax has made labor the primary target for cost cutting. Because this tax is assessed on the wholesale price — not the profit — it creates a situation where a grower might pay more in taxes than they do in payroll.

Business owners are being forced to choose between paying the "Pothole Tax" or keeping their full-time staff with benefits. Often, the tax wins. This has led to a "part-time-ification" of the industry, where budtenders and trimmers are kept below 30 hours to avoid benefit triggers, further destabilizing the lives of the people who were supposed to be the primary beneficiaries of the cannabis boom.

## The Lansterdam outlook

The city of Lansing — or "Lansterdam," as we call it for its high density of cannabis commerce — is at a crossroads. We can continue to brag about record-breaking job creation, or we can start looking at the quality and longevity of those jobs.

If the goal of legalization was to create a sustainable new economy, then we must address the fact that thousands of qualified workers are currently sitting on the sidelines while machines and taxes take over the floor. The green rush isn't a success story if the only ones making money are the state treasury and the companies that can afford to replace their workers with robots.

2026

MSU  
Latinx  
Film  
Festival

February 19-22

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Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies  
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MSU BROAD ART MUSEUM

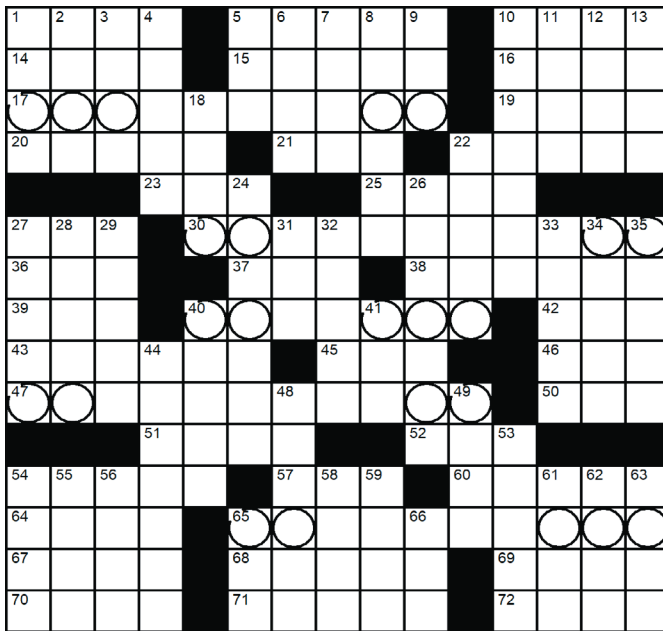
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Born and Bread” -- going with the grain. by Matt Jones © 2026 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. San \_\_\_ (Costa Rica's capital)
- 5. Motel swimming spots
- 10. Accelerate, with “up”
- 14. Element with the symbol Fe
- 15. City where Van Gogh painted
- 16. Mirror shape
- 17. Stranded, in a baseball game
- 19. Flat-topped landform
- 20. Pacific Northwest tribal symbol
- 21. Part of TBS, for short
- 22. Like dirty water
- 23. “Get Out” actor Lil \_\_\_ Howery
- 25. Fiery gemstone
- 27. 18-wheeler
- 30. Site of the 1998 Winter Olympics
- 36. Gloomy music genre
- 37. Gloomy guy?
- 38. Laptop brand partially from Latin for “new”
- 39. Has the knack
- 40. Bar soap alternative, maybe
- 42. Pickleball divider
- 43. Makes invalid
- 45. Billion years
- 46. Forgotten rapper?
- 47. One of 32 works by Beethoven
- 50. Ave. crossers
- 51. Cupcake decorator
- 52. Belt-hole maker



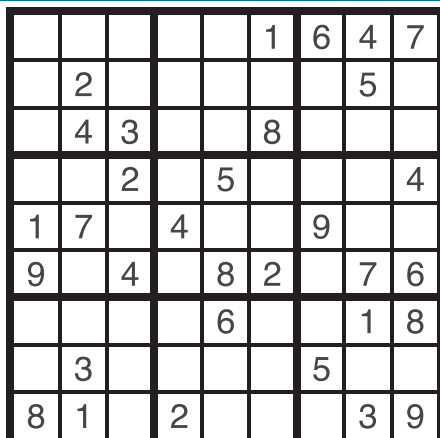
- 54. Baffled
  - 57. Do something
  - 60. De-squeaked
  - 64. Cruise ship deck
  - 65. Sign seen near crossing guards
  - 67. Love, in Latin class
  - 68. Adjust, as wheels
  - 69. “La Cage aux Folles” character
  - 70. He does way more talking than Teller
  - 71. Amtrak terminal
  - 72. Stank
- DOWN**
- 1. Dump abruptly
  - 2. Nabisco mainstay
  - 3. Like some pretzels
  - 4. Go in
  - 5. Move while filming
  - 6. Space balls?
  - 7. Regenerist brand
  - 8. Something to learn
  - 9. 157.5 deg. from N
  - 10. Green-blooded “Star Trek” antagonist
  - 11. Say with confidence
  - 12. Zorro’s accessory
  - 13. Remote button
  - 18. Future sign
  - 22. “Star Trek” actress Barrett married to Gene Roddenberry
  - 24. Chef Emeril
  - 26. Italian cornmeal dish
  - 27. “Previously on ...” segment
  - 28. “Legend of a Cowgirl” singer Coppola
  - 29. It comes between haters and hate
  - 31. Microbiome site
  - 32. Pale with fright
  - 33. Ducks’ habitats
  - 34. Prevent, as danger
  - 35. Post-its, e.g.
  - 40. Jenga piece
  - 41. “Can you \_\_\_ little slower?”
  - 44. Mythical horned beast
  - 48. Fortune teller
  - 49. Off the grid
  - 53. “Truth Hurts” performer
  - 54. Bass player’s technique
  - 55. Gauge with a stopwatch
  - 56. Noodle in Japanese dishes
  - 58. Fry, in Felixstowe
  - 59. Benin neighbor
  - 61. Burden
  - 62. Auto designer Ferrari
  - 63. “Happy Birthday” word
  - 65. Lacking mirth
  - 66. CN Tower’s prov.

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Answers on page 25

## SUDOKU

## Beginner



### Fun By The Numbers

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

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

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Feb. 11-17, 2026

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** “The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them,” wrote Ernest Hemingway. This Valentine season, I propose you experiment with his approach. Take a smart risk with people who have shown glimmers of reliability but whom you haven’t fully welcomed. Don’t indulge in reckless credulity, just courageous and discerning openness. Be vulnerable enough to discover what further connection might bloom if you lead with faith rather than suspicion. Your willingness to believe in someone’s better nature may help bring it forth.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Taurus singer Barbra Streisand addressed her legendary perfectionism. She said that truly interesting intimacy became available for her only after she showed her dear allies her full array of selves, not just her shiny, polished side. In alignment with astrological omens, I encourage you to experiment with the daring art of unfinished revelation. Let the people you care for witness you in the midst of becoming. Share your uncertainties, your half-formed thoughts, and your works in progress. Surprise! Your flaws may prove as endearing as your achievements.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Author Anaïs Nin wrote, “Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.” I believe this understanding of camaraderie should be at the heart of most Gemini’s destinies. It’s your birthright and your potential superpower to seek connections with people who inspire you to think thoughts and feel feelings you would never summon by yourself. You have an uncanny knack for finding allies and colleagues who help you unveil and express more of your total self. Now is a good time to tap further into these blessings.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Poet David Whyte said that “heartbreak is unpreventable.” It’s “the natural outcome of caring for people and things over which we have no control.” But here’s the redemptive twist: Your capacity to feel heartbreak proves you have loved well. Your shaky aches are emblems of your courageous readiness to risk closeness and be deeply affected. So, let’s celebrate your tender heart not despite its vulnerability but because of it. You should brandish your sensitivity as a superpower.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Choreographer Twyla Tharp said she fell in love with her husband partly because “he was the only person who didn’t seem impressed by me.” I will extrapolate from that to draw this conclusion: Our most valuable allies might show their most rigorous respect by seeing us clearly. This Valentine season, Leo, I invite you to test the hypothesis that being thoroughly known and understood is more crucial than being regularly praised and flattered. Enrich your connections with the perceptive souls who love you not for your highlight reel but for your raw, genuine self.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The famously kind and caring author Anne Lamott confessed, “I thought such awful thoughts that I cannot even say them out loud because they would make Jesus want to drink gin straight out of the cat dish.” That’s a liberating insight. She revealed that even kind, caring people like her harbor messy internal chaos. This Valentine season, Virgo, I dare you to share a few of your less-than-noble thoughts with soulful characters whom you trust will love you no matter what. Let them see that your goodness coexists with your salty imperfections. Maybe you could even playfully highlight the rough and rugged parts of you for their entertainment value. What’s the goal? To deepen spirited togetherness.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** How do we eagerly and daringly merge our fortunes with another person while maintaining our sovereign selfhood? How do we cultivate interesting togetherness without suppressing or diluting our idiosyncratic beauty? In some respects, this is a heroic experiment that seems almost impossible. In other respects,

it’s the best work on the planet for anyone who’s brave enough to attempt it. Luckily for you Libras, this is potentially one of your superpowers. And now is an excellent time to take your efforts to the next level of heartfelt grittiness.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Here’s a quote by the character Carrie Bradshaw from the TV show “Sex and the City”: “The most exciting, challenging, and significant relationship of all is the one you have with yourself. And if you can find someone to love the you that you love, that’s fabulous.” I invite you to make this a prime meditation, Scorpio. To begin, get extra inspired by your own mysterious beauty: captivated by your own depths, fascinated by your mysterious contradictions, and delighted by your urge for continual transformation. The next step is to identify allies and potential allies who appreciate the strange magnificence you treasure in yourself. Who devoutly wants you to fulfill your genuine, idiosyncratic soul’s code? Spend the coming weeks enriching your connections with these people.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** This Valentine season, I propose that you infuse your intimate life with a fun dose of playful curiosity. Visualize your beloved allies, both current and potential, as unfolding mysteries rather than solved puzzles. Ask them provocative questions you’ve never thought to ask before. Wonder aloud about their simmering dreams and evolving philosophies. (Breznsky’s Togetherness Rule No. 1: when you think you’ve figured someone out completely, the relationship withers.) In fact, let’s make this one of your assignments for the next five months. Heighten and nurture your nosiness about the beautiful people you love. Treat each conversation as an expedition into unexplored territory. (Breznsky’s Togetherness Rule No. 2: A great way to stoke their passion for you and your passion for them is to believe there’s always more to discover about each other.)

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Ecologists studying symbiosis know that successful partnerships aren’t always between similar organisms. Some bonds link the fortunes of radically different creatures, like clownfish and sea anemones or oxpeckers and buffalo. Each supplies resources or protection the other lacks, often assuring they live more successfully together than they would on their own. This is useful information for you right now. At least one of the allies you need looks nothing like you. Their genius is orthogonal to yours, or they have skills you don’t. The blend may not be comfortable, but I bet it’s the precise intelligence you need to achieve what you can’t accomplish alone.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Poet Mary Oliver asked her readers, “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” This Valentine season, I propose a collaborative version of this prod: Ask those you care for to help you answer Oliver’s question and offer to help them answer it for themselves. Now is an excellent time to act on the truth that vibrant intimacy involves the two of you inspiring each other to fulfill your highest callings. Do whatever it takes to make both of you braver and bolder as you learn more about who you are meant to be.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Can you care for stressed people without making it your duty to rescue them? Can you offer support without being taken advantage of? I hope so, Pisces. Life is inviting you to be more skilled at expressing your love without compromising your own interests. How? First, offer affection without signing up for endless service. Second, don’t let your empathy blur into entanglement. Third, monitor your urge to care so it doesn’t weaken your sovereignty. Your gift for soothing others’ struggles evokes my deep respect, but it’s most effective when it’s subtle and relaxed. Give people room to carry out their own necessary work.

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

# 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, Feb. 11

**"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).

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

**AI-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).

**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 by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/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).

**Find Your Valentine Speed Dating for Singles 34-49** - Meet up to 12 potential matches. Will you be our next success story? 6-8 p.m. Buddy's Pizza, 2010 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [eventbrite.com/o/802314159](http://eventbrite.com/o/802314159).

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

**Group Dance Class: Beginning Salsa** - Learn the basic steps of one of the most popular Latin dances. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

**Intro to Fly Tying Workshop** - Too chilly to fish? Learn to tie flies for the summer with the Red Cedar Fly Fishers! Ages 12+. Registration req. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**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).

**Mindfulness** - Mindfulness in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. 7-9 p.m. Chùa Vạn Hạnh, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. 517-420-5820. [lamcsangha.wordpress.com](http://lamcsangha.wordpress.com).

**MSU Women's Basketball vs. UCLA** - 8 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. [msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball](http://msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball).

**Parkinson's Exercise: Tai Chi** - Free group class tailored for people with Parkinson's and their

caregivers. Improve balance and strength. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. [lpsg.org](http://lpsg.org).

**Parkinson's Support Group: Informal Discussions** - Small discussion groups. People with Parkinson's meet in a separate room from caregivers for confidential conversations. 1-3 p.m. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. [lpsg.org](http://lpsg.org).

**Tap II Class for Teens & Adults** - 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Weaving the Web: Humility** - 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).

**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, Feb. 12

**"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).

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

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

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/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).

**"Dial M for Murder"** - A smart, tight, compelling update of Frederick Knott's tale of jealousy, deception and homicide. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Dine & Discovery: Date Night Cake Decorating** - Erin Witt of Brewitt Cafe & Bakery will share her cake decorating expertise with you and your honey while you decorate a heart-shaped cake together. 6-8 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org).

**Family Dance** - Join us for a night filled with music, laughter, and memories! Enjoy great tunes from our live DJ, family-friendly activities, and plenty of space to show off your best dance moves. 6:30-8 p.m. Royal Scot, 4722 W. Grand



### Hope Dunbar, Katie Dahl and Rj Cowdery

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14  
University Lutheran Church  
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing  
[tenpoundfiddle.com](http://tenpoundfiddle.com)

Three talented women songwriters will share a bill at the Ten Pound Fiddle's Valentine's Day show: Katie Dahl, making her sophomore Fiddle appearance, and Fiddle newcomers Hope Dunbar and Rj Cowdery. Known for their razor-sharp lyrics, wicked humor and unflinching truth telling, the three women will perform in a song-swap format. They are all alumni of the Kerrville New Folk Competition and are on a tour of the Great Lakes states.

Dahl is based in Wisconsin and roots her work in the people and landscapes of the Midwest. Dunbar, representing New Jersey, leans into Americana and folk styles with a clear-eyed perspective. Cowdery, from Ohio, commands the room with her smooth, compelling vocals. Tickets are \$25 for the public, \$20 for Fiddle members or \$5 for students and are available at [tenpoundfiddle.com](http://tenpoundfiddle.com) or at the box office one hour before showtime.

River Ave., Lansing. [parksonline.lansingmi.gov](http://parksonline.lansingmi.gov).

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

**History Makers** - Learn about Esther Howland, who popularized Valentine's Day cards in the U.S. Afterward, we'll make our own handmade cards. Ages 5+. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**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. Biggby Coffee Ice Cube, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. [ladiesilverblades.org](http://ladiesilverblades.org).

**Lifestyle Strategies to Boost Brain Health** - In this workshop, we'll learn what research has shown about lifestyle choices that help keep your brain and body healthy as you age. Noon-1 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/aging](http://canr.msu.edu/aging).

**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: 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. [lpsg.org](http://lpsg.org).

**Preserving MI Harvest: Beyond the Bean** - Love beans? Learn how to safely home-can dry beans from start to finish using a pressure canner! Plus, get tips on preparing canned beans for delicious meals. 1-2 and 6-7 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/food\\_preservation](http://canr.msu.edu/food_preservation).

**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).

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## Events

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

**Sweetheart Treats Cookie Decorating Workshop** - Join Coco's Confections at MP Social for a step-by-step Valentine's Day-themed cookie decorating class! 6:30-8 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

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

**Thursday Night Open Forge** - Try your hand at blacksmithing and create your own metal masterpieces! 6-9 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Church Hill 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. homebrewgame lounge.com.

**Wicked Ball** - Inspired by the magic of "Wicked," we invite you to join us for an enchanting evening. Enjoy a DJ, cookies, refreshments, a photo booth, a craft table, sing-alongs and more! 7-8:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

**Wine Bingo Night** - Come play a bit, win some swag, and hang with us. It's free to play. 6-7:30 p.m. Horrocks Wine Bar, 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/HorrocksWineBar.

## Friday, Feb. 13

**4th Annual "Acts of Love" Audio Theater** - Enjoy a series of one-act plays with the theme of "love" in honor of Valentine's Day. Each year, we feature original scripts written Audio Air Force members. 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. audioairforce.com.

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

**A Night Out, presented by Waverly Robotics** - Join us for a fun-filled evening packed with excitement and cool vibes. Meet fellow enthusiasts, enjoy hands-on demos, and soak up the amazing atmosphere. 5-10 p.m. The Studio at 414, 410 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/76384403003.

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

**Couples' Night Valentine's Day Dinner** - Join Kingdom Ministries for couples' night! Love, laughter, and a romantic Valentine's dinner with live music by Brandon Marceal. 6:30-9:30 p.m. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/31632245513.

**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.

**"Dial M for Murder"** - A smart, tight, compelling update of Frederick Knott's tale of jealousy, deception and homicide. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Feel the Love in Downtown Lansing: Valentine's Weekend** - From Feb. 13-15, enjoy special events and promotions from your favorite downtown businesses. See facebook.com/downtownlansing for more info.

**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.

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

**Fundraiser Fish Fry** - Served takeout style, with seating available. We may close early if we run out. There will also be a bake sale. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wacousta-DeWitt Masonic Lodge, 9030 W. Herbison Road, Grand Ledge. wacousta.net.

**Galentine's Night at the Greenhouse** - Grab your gals and head over to the greenhouse for a fun evening filled with sweet treats and lots of make-and-take activities! 6-8 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Bath. vanattas.com.

**Galentine's Night out at Dusty's Cellar** - It's ladies' night with the Massage Bliss & Beauty team! Enjoy demos, massages, giveaways, wine, charcuterie, skincare, crafts and more. Only 30 tickets available! 5-8 p.m. 1839 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. Call 517-381-5000 to join the fun!

**Kindergarten Craft Club** - Create a pipe cleaner cat tail! Registration req. 4:15-5:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**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.

**Mystery at the Museum** - Participants will explore the museum to search for clues, interview suspects and identify the murder weapon, culprit and motive. 6:30-9 p.m. Michigan History Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. michigan.gov/mhc.

**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.

**Revivalist Alex Parkinson: Chosen** - Join us for a powerful weekend of teaching, ministry, and healing with international healing evangelist and revivalist Alex Parkinson. 10 a.m.-noon and 6 p.m. Gilead Healing Center, 306 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/7740042673.

**TGIF Valentine's Dance Party** - Doors 7 p.m., line dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dance 8 p.m. to midnight. DJ Ben Kitchen in the house. Wear pink/red. Dinner buffet provided. Cash/credit bar available. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

## Saturday, Feb. 14

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

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

**Burning Desires** - An afternoon of love poetry, erotic and otherwise, and jazz music. No cover! 3-5 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

**Community Book Swap** - Free books, fresh bagels and treats, prizes and gifts, kids' activities. February's theme: Black History Month. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The Reading People, 1028 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. thereadingpeople.org.

## Burning Desires: An Afternoon of Love Poetry & Song

3-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14  
UrbanBeat  
1213 Turner St., Lansing  
urbanbeatevents.com

If poetry and jazz can dispel the chill of the season, this will be a dangerously hot afternoon. The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art's Valentine's Day tradition, which has been burning since 1993, attracts lovers of poetry and anyone else who wants a little inspiration, or warmth, during this dreary, chilly month. Poets and musicians come together every year to celebrate love — comic, profound, eternally hopeful, tragic, lusty, neurotic and otherwise wild. This year's fire is stoked by poets Toby Altman, Shelia Burks, Carlton Evans, Kim Griffin, Jay Artemis Hull, Tari Muniz, Jan Shoemaker, Ruelaine Stokes, Terry Terry and "a mysterious Dr. Mojo." The hot jazz trio features Hank Horton, Jeff Kressler and Larry Ochletree, with Mike Eyia on vocals. The event is free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated. Parking is available on the street and in the large lot at the intersection of César E. Chávez Avenue and Turner Street.



**Date Night: Valentine's Dinner!** - A two-hour, three-course dinner meets cooking class. 6-8 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

**"Dial M for Murder"** - A smart, tight, compelling update of Frederick Knott's tale of jealousy, deception and homicide. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Fasching Dinner Dance** - Enjoy a German dinner, German beverages from our fully stocked bar, live music by the Enriettis and costume parade/contest. 5-10 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingLiederkrantzClub.

**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.

**Keller's Plaza Valentine Art Show** - Find a diverse group of artisans and makers at Williamston's hidden gem, Keller's Plaza Upstairs. Many mediums, many styles, a lot of genres, and a lot of magic. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 100 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. facebook.com/WilliamstonPopUpArtAndCraftShows.

**Lighthouse Love Paint Party** - Whether you're with your friends or a date, you'll fall in love with this gorgeous painting. Pre-traced canvas for your ease. We'll guide you step by step! 7-9:30 p.m. High Caliber, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. paintyourpoison.com.

**Micro-Lot Cupping with 517 Coffee Co.** - Join us for a micro-lot coffee tasting with 517 Coffee Co. Sip, chat, and discover! 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 701 E. South St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/the-517-coffee-company-120090724531.

**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.

**Mitten Mania** - Join us in the Main Arena as we celebrate all things Michigan with a «Mitten» themed craft show! We'll have 100 vendors with quality items made right here in Michigan! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 730 E. Ash St., Mason. villagecrafters.net.

**Najwa Foundation Sudanese Synergy Summit** - A two-day gathering bringing together Sudanese communities, refugees, immigrants, students, professionals, creatives, and allies during a pivotal moment in our history. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/120784477041.

**Pints, Roses & Poses: Valentine's Day Yoga at Looking Glass Brewing Co.** - Sip, stretch, and celebrate love with a beginner-friendly yoga flow, plus priority seating for brunch after! 10:30-11:30 a.m. 115 N. Bridge Street, DeWitt. 3ldyoga.org.

**Revivalist Alex Parkinson: Chosen** - Join us for a powerful weekend of teaching, ministry, and healing with international healing evangelist and revivalist Alex Parkinson. 10 a.m.-noon. Gilead Healing Center, 306 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/7740042673.

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## DIAL M FOR MURDER

ADAPTED BY JEFFREY HATCHER  
FROM THE ORIGINAL BY  
FREDERICK KNOTT

FEB. 5 - MAR. 8, 2026

ONLY FOUR WEEKS LEFT!  
SECURE YOUR SEATS TODAY.

WILLIAMSTONTHEATRE.ORG

## Wicked Ball

7-8:30p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12  
Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing  
cityofeastlansing.com/classes

Move over, sweethearts.  
\*witch's laugh\*

Inspired by the world of "Wicked," the East Lansing Parks, Recreation and Arts Department is doing away with its Sweet-heart Ball this year and shaking things up with a witchy theme.

Come dressed in your best "Wicked" costume, whether Elphaba, Glinda, Fiyero, Nessarose, Dorothy, Dr. Dillamond or Cowardly Lion. The night includes a DJ, dancing, singalongs, refreshments, a photo booth, crafts and more. Tickets are \$15.



Miyamoto Haruka/Shutterstock

## Events

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

**Terrarium Date Night** - Join us for our very first terrarium-making class, with a date night theme! Sign up required. 4-5 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Bath. vanattas.com.

**Valentine's Date Night Sudsery Social** - A fun, hands-on workshop where creativity meets self-care. Craft, customize, and take home your own unique soap. 7-8:30 p.m. Sylvia's Sudsery, 223 S. Washington Square, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/114975164531.

Abandoned Vehicle Auction at Swift Motors  
2/18/26, 9 a.m., 2347 N. Cedar, Holt, MI 48842  
2016 Ford Transit, VIN: 1FBZX2ZM9GKA68143

CP#26-043

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #90 – Capitol Walk Apartments Redevelopment pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for properties commonly referred to as 0 S. Chestnut Street located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

0 S. Chestnut Street (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-16-358-002):

LOTS 1 & 2 HARRY J PERSONS SUB, ALSO LOTS 1, 2, 11 & 12 BLOCK 146 ORIG PLAT;

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Chelsea Dowler, Project Coordinator, Lansing Economic Development Corporation, 401 S. Washington Sq, Suite. 101, Lansing, MI 48933, 517-898-1709.

For more information, please call 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., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#26-042

State of Michigan Probate Court, County of Ingham, Publication of Notice of Hearing, Case No. 26-128-GM-P33. In the matter of Eyzick Iveson and Noah Iveson: To all interested persons, including Justin Iveson & Angela Caudill, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: Take Notice: A hearing will be held on February 24, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI, 48933, before Judge Lisa McCormick for the following purpose: Guardianship hearing. Date: 2/9/2026. Petitioner: Denise Iveson, 222 N. Grace St., Lansing, MI 48917, 845-826-4968.

CP#26-039

**Yoga With Mackenzie** - Move through a beginner-friendly vinyasa flow, settle into guided meditation, and linger afterward for coffee, tea, or a bite to eat (not included in ticket price). 9-10 a.m. Foster Coffee Co., 120 W. Hamlin St., Eaton Rapids. eventbrite.com/o/10530102328.

## Sunday, Feb. 15

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 8 a.m.-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. williamstonfarm-market.org.

**Conversations with the Runes, with HG Wyndell** - This ongoing workshop series is designed to deepen your connection with the runes through story, animism and hands-on practice. 3-5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

**Copper Chimney Lounge Poetry Series: Lisa Sarno and Rachel Stock** - After their readings, the poets will be available to sell and autograph books. Attendees are welcome to share a poem of their own in the open mic. 4-6 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub.

**Couples' Massage Class** - This class is designed to help you and your partner enjoy the relaxing and therapeutic benefits of massage. You will not only learn how to give a great massage but also some techniques to prevent hand fatigue. Noon-1:30 p.m. or 2:30-4 p.m. Massage Bliss & Beauty, 1859 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. Call 517-381-5000 to reserve your spot.

**"Dial M for Murder"** - A smart, tight, compelling update of Frederick Knott's tale of jealousy, deception and homicide. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Galentine's Brunch** - Enjoy making your own bouquet flights, mimosas, charcuterie boards, a photo booth, limited-edition Galentine's tees, and swag bags filled with the cutest Galentine's accessories. 12:30-3 p.m. Oopsey Danesy Floral Boutique, 107 W. Lovett St., Charlotte. eventbrite.com/o/119388251401.

**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.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

**Mitten Mania** - Join us in the Main Arena as we celebrate all things Michigan with a «Mitten» themed craft show! We'll have 100 vendors with quality items made right here in Michigan! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 730 E. Ash St., Mason. villagecrafters.net.

**Najwa Foundation Sudanese Synergy Summit** - A two-day gathering bringing together Sudanese communities, refugees, immigrants, students, professionals, creatives, and allies during a pivotal moment in our history. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/120784477041.

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

**Sunday Brunch at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - We've updated our hours and menu to bring you the perfect Sunday experience, whether you're craving something classic, something coastal, or something hearty. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

## Monday, Feb. 16

**"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. omialanon.org.

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

**Bottling Success: How to Start a Sauce, Salsa or Condiment Business** - This webinar will walk beginners through the essential steps of starting a sauce, salsa or condiment brand, from understanding food safety requirements and licensing to preparing your product for market and attracting customers. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/productcenter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

**Mindful Monday Lunch and Learn: Changing Negative Self-Talk** - Participants will learn about the brain's negativity bias and how it affects our response to stress. In addition, we'll discuss the benefits of positive self-talk and explore tools for dealing with negative self-talk. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mindfulnessforbetterliving.

**No Paintbrushes Allowed!** - Join us for a hands-on art adventure where creativity knows no limits. Explore painting in a whole new way, using balloons, potato mashers and other surprising objects to create your masterpiece! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

See Events, Page 23

# Events

from page 22

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

**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.

**Serving up Food Safety: Cutting Boards and Knives** - Learn how to sharpen knives and how to keep your cutting boards safe and sanitary. We'll also explore different types of knives. Noon-12:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/safe\_food\_water.

**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.

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

## Tuesday, Feb. 17

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

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

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

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

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

**Beautiful Bovine Paint Party** - Grab some friends and get creative in Laingsburg! Local artist Melissa will guide you step by step. 6:30-9 p.m. Twilliger's Tavern, 116 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. paintyourpoison.com.

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

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

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

**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.

**Keystone Habits** - Keystone Habits explores how small, consistent behaviors can create powerful positive change over time. You'll learn why habits stick, why change is so difficult, and how to build new routines in a realistic, sustainable way. 6-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. 517-321-1963.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**Online Extension Extras for Parents: The ABCs of Early Literacy** - This workshop will help participants understand the importance of reading on grade level and teach simple ways to help children acquire these skills. 7:30-9 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/parenting\_education\_classes.

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

**Parkinson's Support Group: Education** - Join us for an informative, educational and fun afternoon. Phil Dannewitz of Medtronic will discuss deep brain stimulation. 3-4:30 p.m. Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. lapsg.org.

**Selling MI Honey & Maple Syrup** - Learn how to safely handle, package and store honey and maple syrup and understand the exemption guidelines for selling these products in Michigan. 2-4 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/isabella/index.

**Tai Chi for Better Sleep** - This series combines Tai

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

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

## Wednesday, Feb. 18

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

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

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

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

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



**ART BY NEVIN**

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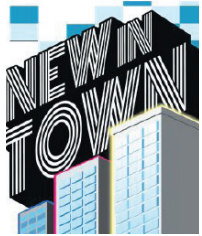
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<sup>1</sup>Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 0% is valid for the first six months from the date the Visa Credit Card account is opened and applies only to balance transfers from another financial institution's credit card. After six months, rate will revert to your standard rate, between 9.90% and 17.90%. Accounts 60 days late revert to the penalty rate of 17.90%. Introductory APR does not apply to purchases, cash advances, or delinquent loans. APR is annual percentage rate, and is stated for qualified members having high credit scores. Actual rates may be higher and will be determined by member's credit score. <sup>2</sup>9.90% APR is lowest rate offered for Platinum Visa Credit Card. Rate offered is based on member's credit score. A Penalty APR of 17.90% will be applied if your account becomes delinquent for 60 days. International transactions and cash advances will be charged a fee of 1% of the transaction or cash advance amount for ATM transactions and 3% for all other transactions calculated after the transaction has been converted to U.S. dollars. The late payment fee is \$25.00 if the minimum payment due is \$25.00 or more; \$15.00 if the minimum payment due is \$15.00 to \$24.99; or \$0 if the minimum payment due is less than \$15.00. There is a \$25 charge for each returned convenience check. See full terms and conditions at msufcu.org/visa.

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### A triple threat downtown



By LEO V. KAPLAN

When Strange Matter Coffee owner Cara Nader began planning the downtown location's 2023 expansion, she considered expanding the shop's food offerings from donuts to a full menu.

#### Strange Matter Downtown, Babe's Corner and Bangos

331 S Washington Square, Lansing

#### Strange Matter Downtown

7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Fri  
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat-Sun

#### Bangos

8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tues-Fri  
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat-Sun  
Closed Mondays

#### Babe's Corner

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues-Sat  
Closed Sundays and Mondays

Fresh food goes over well with customers, she said, but she wasn't raring to do it. She didn't want Strange Matter's food operation to be "secondary" to the coffee, as she said it is for



Babe's Corner co-owner Aharon Hebert stands behind the window in the literal corner of Strange Matter Coffee that will now house his sub shop. Sibling store Bangos, which he also co-owns, has been operating in Strange Matter since 2023.

many coffee shops, which can lose money on the kitchen side or offer mediocre products just to check that box.

That led her to seek advice from Aharon Hebert, co-owner of breakfast sandwich food truck Bangos and sub spot Babe's Corner, on how to make a

See Triple threat, Page 25

### If you're reading this, you might be too late!

Because if you're still making plans a few days before Valentine's, it might be a tight squeeze to fit into local restaurants. But here's a few places to get you started, late.

Or: You can build a romantic local charcuterie board dinner (Candy at Fabianos, nuts at The Peanut Shop, cheese at The Cheese Lady, wine and protein at Horrocks).

#### Toscana

Lansing

The Tuscan-inspired restaurant has a special weekend menu.

Reservations at OpenTable or 517-246-4980

#### One North Kitchen and Bar

East Lansing

One North is neither pretentious nor overly relaxed, both in terms of culinary options and atmosphere.

Reservations at 517-900-4678

#### REO Town Clubhouse

Lansing

Join us for a memorable evening featuring shared appetizers, your choice of entrées, and sweet desserts to finish the night.

Reservations at 517-698-9700

#### Graham Vineyards

Laingsburg

Fine dining at the winery and restaurant, where you can enjoy a relaxing evening by candlelight while listening to live music by Chris Melbourne.

Reservations at grahamvineyard.com

#### EnVie

Lansing

Casual upscale dining in the heart of Lansing's downtown district.

Reservations at 517-318-6135

#### Grains Indian Cuisine

Lansing

Family-owned, authentic Indian flavors served with love.

Reservations at 517-855-0648

#### English Inn

Eaton Rapids

Enjoy a four-course dinner with a selection of appetizers, our English Inn salad, your choice of entree, and a selection from our dessert tray.

Reservations at EnglishInn.com or 517-663-2500

#### Comfort Zone Cigar Lounge and Bistro

Lansing

Celebrate love and chill vibes at The Comfort Zone this Valentine's Day with good times and cozy feels. Reservations at eventbrite.com or 517-882-7500

#### Maru Sushi

East Lansing

Plans for Valentine's? Sushi, of course!

Reservations at MaruSushi.com or 517-337-1500

#### Beggars Banquet

East Lansing

Beggar's loves LOVE! Celebrate your loved ones on Valentine's Day here at Beggar's Banquet with an Exclusive menu for only \$40! Call to book a reservation today.

Reservations at

517-351-4540 or beggarsbanquet.com

#### Tony M's Restaurant and Banquet Center

Lansing

Spoil your loved one with a night of fine dining and make this Valentine's Day one to remember.

Reservations tonynms.com or 517-322-2069

#### Fiesta Charra

Several locations

Celebrate love at Fiesta Charra.

Reserve at 517-669-1918 (DeWitt) or 517-721-1800 (Lansing) or 517-575-0855 (East Lansing)

#### Chick-fil-A

Lansing and Okemos

Chick-fil-A's heart-shaped trays have returned, and they're perfect for Valentine's Day, Galentine's Day or just because.

Swing by or call 517-321-7800

#### Jollof Afro-Caribbean Lounge

Lansing

Spend Valentine's with us at Jollof in Lansing for a night full of flavor and fun.

Reservations at 517-220-4650

#### Grand Grillin

East Lansing

An exclusive one-night-only menu.

Reservations at 517-580-3945

#### People's Kitchen

Lansing

They have a Galentine's deal on Friday and some space late on Saturday.

Reservations at 517-507-5730

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A \$23 value!

**Butcher's Savory Collection** SAVE 56%

- 4 Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)

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# Get rolling to Shove It Pizza Truck

By **COURTNEY BOWERMAN**

If you frequent downtown Lansing, odds are you've seen the Shove It Pizza Truck parked on Allegan Street in front of the post office. Owned by Cameron and Brenda Glinke, Shove It rolled into the area in 2016. Originally known as Pie Hole Pizza Truck — the change came after the owners were contacted by another company with the same name — the restaurant on wheels serves gourmet brick-oven pizza. It has become a popular vendor at events in Lansing, East Lansing, Okemos, Williamston and Holt.

Each week, the truck's upcoming locations are posted on its website as well as Facebook and Instagram. It stops by downtown Lansing for its "Capitol lunches"

almost every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Most people think of food trucks as a warmer-weather dining option, but from what I can see whenever I happen to walk by Shove It's Allegan stop, the recent cold and snowy conditions have not deterred the truck's loyal customer base in the slightest. There's always a crowd of patrons gathered around.



**Half cheese pizza and breadsticks**

**\$12**

Shove It Pizza Truck  
(517) 803-5093

See [shoveitpizzatruck.com](http://shoveitpizzatruck.com), [facebook.com/shoveitpizza](https://facebook.com/shoveitpizza) or [instagram.com/shoveitpizza](https://instagram.com/shoveitpizza) for weekly locations and hours

Fortunately, the service is relatively fast.

The menu rotates, featuring six to 10 different items every week. The oval-shaped pizzas are a good size, roughly 12-by-6

inches, so they're filling enough on their own. If you're in the mood for both pizza



Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

and breadsticks, though, I recommend taking advantage of the Shove 2 deal, which comes with a half order of any two items for \$12. For my Shove 2, I went with half a cheese pizza and cheesy garlic breadsticks with a side of ranch dressing.

I'm not a huge fan of brick-oven pizza, since I prefer a thicker crust. Shove It's pizza is on the flatter side of crusts, but it's topped with so much cheese and Awesome Sauce that the base just plays a supporting role. What is "Awesome Sauce"? It's Shove-It's version of red sauce, made with a custom blend

of herbs and spices. Whatever is in it, it gives the pizza a unique taste.

The breadsticks are also loaded with cheese, so much so that they're practically another pizza. Without sauce to balance things out, however, they can be very rich, which is another reason to get a half order instead of a full one.

Although I'm still not a fan of brick-oven pizza, it's easy to see why Shove It has become so popular. If you're craving pizza and want to try something new, track down the food truck for a unique pie at an affordable price.

## Triple threat

from page 24

small food operation work. Eventually, that conversation turned into taking Bangos out of a food truck and into the Strange Matter kitchen, which was needed at night to bake donuts but available during the day.

More than two years later, their arrangement has blossomed, Hebert and Nader said. Customers get breakfast food with full quality, and Nader can stay focused on the coffee side of things. It's been going so well that Hebert and co-owner Will Green recently decided to bring Babe's in too.

Babe's Corner opened inside Strange Matter this week, serving the same subs and ice cream that customers who frequented the former Michigan Ave. location have come to expect. The move continues the three owners' mutually beneficial relationship, helping cut costs and drive traffic to each other's businesses while increasing offerings at the downtown Strange Matter.

The new Babe's operation isn't run out of the kitchen.

Staying true to its name, Babe's took over a corner in the shop, a corner that Nader said "wasn't being utilized to its fullest."

For Strange Matter, it means being able to sublease an underutilized corner

of the shop. For Babe's, it means cheaper rent and proximity to their sibling businesses, making it easier to share supplies and split time across the two.

The move will also expand hours for the downtown Strange Matter, which formerly closed at 2 p.m. on weekdays. Nader acknowledged that current hours are confusing, with the businesses working out a new normal. The owners hope to eventually have Strange Matter and Babe's open until 6 p.m. most days.

Like with Bangos before it, customers can order Babe's sandwiches at the same register where they order their lattes. Customers can grab a coffee, tea or Italian soda from Strange Matter, fried potatoes from Bangos and a sub from Babe's, or any other combination they can dream up. (Hebert said there are no plans to introduce an affogato option at Strange Matter using Bangos ice cream — yet.)

Hebert hopes access to a kitchen can eventually expand food offerings, such as meatball subs or hot turkey sandwiches.

As restaurants tighten their budgets amid high food prices, Nader and Hebert said this model is one worth following, as the businesses share values.

And for Hebert, it's just great to see more people coming together.

"When it's lunchtime, and it gets busy, it just kind of feels good," he said. "Like, after COVID, it feels good to be in a place where there's a bunch of people enjoying themselves."

### CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1561

On January 6, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 44, Article II, Section 44-37, "Permitted and Prohibited Traffic Stops", for the purposes of removing loud exhaust from the list of prohibited traffic stops or detentions.

Effective date: Pursuant to Charter Section 6.3, Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 1st Floor, City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Emily Gordon,  
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#26-030

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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



**TOP 5 DESSERT**

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

**1. 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

**2. Mr. Leslie's Cheesecakes**

Bakery offering a variety of homemade cheesecakes, as well as standard cakes  
1967 N. Aurelius Road, Holt  
(517) 618-1763  
mrlesliescheesecakes.com  
Noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday  
4-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday

**3. MSU Dairy Store**

Cozy outpost with many flavors of fresh-made ice cream, plus soups and sandwiches  
474 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
(517) 355-8466  
msudairystore.com  
Noon-8 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday

**TOP 5 DINING GUIDE**

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

**4. Sweetie-licious**

Bakery and cafe offering a selection of confections  
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

**5. That New Place**

Casual restaurant with an abundance of fresh-baked pastries  
(517) 242-1810  
facebook.com/ThatNewPlace517  
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

**DELTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP**

7710 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, Michigan 48917  
517-323-8520

**BOARD OF REVIEW 2026 MEETING DATES**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to the taxpayers and property owners of the Charter Township of Delta, Eaton County, Michigan:

The Board of Review will meet in organizational session and is presented the 2026 Assessment Roll to review. This meeting is not for public protest of property assessments. The Board of Review of said Township will meet in Public Meeting Room "B" of the Delta Administration Building 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 on the following:

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 8 am

The Board of Review meets for the purpose of reviewing the 2026 Assessment Roll and hearing objections in the Public Meeting Room "B" of the Delta Administration Building located at 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 on the following:

Monday, March 9, 2025 9 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm

Tuesday, March 10, 2025 2 pm – 5 pm & 6 pm – 9 pm

Appointments must be scheduled by calling the Assessor's office at (517) 323-8520.

Questions pertaining to valuation can also be answered prior to the meeting of the Board of Review by calling the Assessor's Office.

<u>Tentative Assessment Level</u>	<u>Estimated Equalization Multiplier</u>	
Real Property		
Agricultural	50%	1.00000
Residential	50%	1.00000
Commercial	50%	1.00000
Industrial	50%	1.00000
Developmental	50%	1.00000
Personal Property	50%	1.00000

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA  
MARY R. CLARK, TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#26-038

H&H Mobil Abandoned Auto Auction

Viewing 2/19/26 By Appointment

2818 E. Kalamazoo St.

Lansing, MI 48912

Call 517-332-6335

Bids must be submitted by 8 am 2/23/26  
at 1500 Haslett Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823

For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

CP#26-031

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Approval of the First Amendment to and Extension of the Agreement for Operating Downtown Facilities with the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority ("LEPFA")

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on February 23, 2026, in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, to consider a resolution to approve the First Amendment to and Extension of the Agreement for Operating Downtown Facilities with the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority

Details of the agreement are on file with the City Clerk's Office and are available at Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. or www.lansingmi.gov/clerk. For more information about this agreement, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177.

For more information, please call 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., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#26-041

# Treat your Valentine to gluten-free sweets



## From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Valentine's Day is an opportunity to lavish love and attention on a special person in your life. Exchanging gifts, enjoying dinner out and snuggling with your sweetheart are common ways to celebrate this mid-February holiday. It is equally common to enjoy a sweet treat to cap off this romantic day.

Food allergies and intolerances do not take a holiday when Valentine's Day rolls around. For those who don't eat gluten, finding a pre-made treat might prove a tad challenging. Luckily, it is relatively easy to whip up a gluten-free dessert yourself. This recipe for snickerdoodles from "Cozy Kitchen Allergy-Friendly Cooking," by Jeanette Smerina, is gluten, soy and dairy free but certainly not free of delicious flavor.

What's fun about these cookies is that home cooks can use colored sugar to customize them for any occasion. Use red and pink for Valentine's Day.

### Snickerdoodles

Makes 25 to 30

- 2 1/2 cups gluten-free flour, 1-1 blend
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- Two eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3 tablespoons almond milk

### For rolling and coating:

- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon

1. In the bowl of a stand mixer, add the flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt. Mix on low to combine.

2. In a small bowl or large measuring cup, whisk together the oil, eggs, sugar and vanilla extract until thickened.

3. Add the egg-and-sugar mixture to the dry ingredients and mix until combined. Then add the almond milk and blend once more.

4. Cover and chill the dough for 30 minutes or more. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper or use

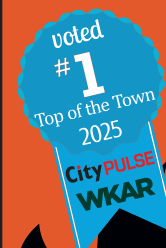
silicone baking mats.

5. In a shallow bowl, combine the cinnamon and additional sugar. Scoop small balls of the cookie dough (about an inch in diameter) and roll them in the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Place each ball 2 inches apart on the cookie sheets. Repeat until all the dough is used. The cookies will puff and enlarge while cooking.

6. Press down slightly on the cookie balls to flatten them a bit. Bake the cookies for eight to 10 minutes, or until the edges are looking set up.

7. Cool the cookies on racks. Store in covered containers for up to one week.

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