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CityPULSE

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The Art of the Steal

There is something uniquely exhausting about watching a political grift unfold in real time—and then watching millions of people applaud it anyway.

Imagine, for a moment, a leader who announces he is renaming the Department of Defense the “Department of War.” Not as satire. Not as a critique. As branding.

The euphemism is inconvenient; let’s call it what it is. Fine. Brutal honesty has a certain appeal. But then—almost in the same breath—this same leader forms something called a “Board of Peace,” appoints himself its chair and arranges for \$10 billion in U.S. public funds to be quietly transferred under its authority, bypassing Congress in the name of “efficiency.” War on the label. Peace on the letterhead. Money in the shadows.

And millions cheer.

Why?

Because the grift isn’t about policy, it’s about identity.

Modern political grifts do not succeed because they are legally airtight or morally persuasive. They succeed because they attach themselves to grievances and a sense of belonging. Supporters aren’t defending the mechanics of a budget transfer or the constitutional limits of executive authority. They are defending a tribe. When criticism comes, it doesn’t register as “That seems unconstitutional.” It registers as “They’re attacking us.”

There’s also the seduction of spectacle. Renaming institutions, staging dramatic announcements, creating grandly titled boards—these are theatrical moves. They create the illusion of bold action. For many voters, decisiveness feels like competence, even if the substance is hollow or dangerous. A leader who moves money “without the red tape” may appear strong, even if the “red tape” is actually Congress, the body the Constitution explicitly empowers to control federal spending.

The irony is painful. The same citizens who speak passionately about limited government and constitutional fidelity will sometimes defend executive maneuvers that sidestep both. But again, this isn’t about consistency. It’s about trust. If the leader is seen as the champion of “real Americans,” then whatever he does must, by definition, serve the right cause.

There’s also the power of repetition. If enough voices insist that bypassing Congress is necessary because Congress is “corrupt,” or that transferring funds is “saving America,” the language itself reshapes perception. Words like “peace,” “security,” and “patriotism” are deployed as shields. Who could be against a Board of Peace? Who could object to decisive leadership in dangerous times? The framing dulls scrutiny.

And let’s be honest: some people know it’s a grift. They simply don’t care. If they believe the outcome benefits their side—or hurts the side which they oppose—they are willing to tolerate hypocrisy. The system becomes a tool, not a principle. If bending the rules keeps their champion in power, then bending feels justified.

But here’s the deeper concern: When citizens accept the idea that a leader can redirect billions of dollars without congressional oversight because he says it’s for “peace,” they are normalizing the erosion of checks and balances. Today, it’s \$10 billion. Tomorrow, it’s more. Today, it’s a renamed department. Tomorrow, it’s a redefined constitution.

Democracy depends less on laws than on the collective agreement to respect them. Once voters signal that they are comfortable with leaders skirting constitutional authority—as long as it’s their leader—the guardrails weaken for everyone.

So, what’s “wrong” with people who still support this man?

Often, nothing pathological. They are reacting to fear, cultural anxiety, economic frustration and a sense of displacement. They are responding to a narrative that tells them the system is rigged against them and that only one strong figure can fix it. The grift works because it meets emotional needs.

But understanding the psychology doesn’t make the consequences less serious.

If citizens cannot distinguish between bold leadership and constitutional overreach—between transparency and theatrical branding—then the grift stops being a scam and it starts becoming governance.

And once that happens, it’s no longer just about one man. It’s about whether the public still believes that power should be constrained at all.

But look closer.

Membership isn’t universal. Membership and participation are tied to financial contributions and political alignment, which are points of contention for many countries that declined membership. That alone should raise eyebrows. Peace is supposed to be a condition, not a club. It’s supposed to be the absence of coercion, not a membership tier.

When access depends on money and alignment, what you are building is not a humanitarian framework. You are building a consortium. A syndicate. A mechanism through which public funds and international leverage can be steered by the already powerful toward outcomes that consolidate their influence further.

And here’s the quiet brilliance of the branding for the willfully ignorant: who can publicly oppose “peace” without sounding monstrous? The genius of the grift is its linguistics. They wrap the consolidation of power in the vocabulary of virtue. They convert oversight into “delay,” dissent into “division,” and constitutional guardrails into “obstacles.”

If this were genuinely about humanitarian rebuilding, transparency would be the selling point. Broad coalition-building would be the goal. Oversight would be welcomed as proof of integrity. Instead, the structure seems to reward loyalty, prioritize capital and sidestep traditional democratic constraints. That doesn’t look like relief. It looks like leverage.

When boards become vehicles for transferring billions with limited scrutiny, when participation hinges on who pays and who pledges allegiance, when “peace” is administered like a brand extension—what we are witnessing isn’t conflict resolution. It’s asset management.

And not of land, but of power; or maybe both.

But peace is not a logo. It is not a revenue stream. It is not a political rewards program.

If we reach the point where massive financial transfers, executive self-appointment and loyalty-based membership structures are defended simply because the letterhead says “Peace,” then the grift has achieved its highest form. It has convinced people that the concentration of power is akin to compassion.

And that is the most expensive illusion of all.

Because when power enriches the powerful under the banner of virtue, it doesn’t just empty the treasury.

It empties the word.

Peace becomes branding.

Oversight becomes a nuisance.

Democracy becomes optional.

On another note: Has anyone seen John Barron’s Ted Talk? The call to C-SPAN on 2/22 was the troll of the year so far. It was a strange moment when political theater, parody and reality are so intertwined that a troll can feel indistinguishable from official commentary for a news cycle.

If nothing else, it was a reminder that in 2026, satire doesn’t even need exaggeration. It just needs timing.

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City PULSE

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Senior housing coming to REO Town, plus Ovation update

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Lebowsky's "Frozen" delivers on all hopes and expectations

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Enormous cinnamon rolls, more sweets at Simply Stacy's

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Cover photo by Raymond Holt

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

"Another One Bites the Dust"

WELL, THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE.

ANOTHER WHAT?

ANOTHER PUBLIC FIGURE WHO'S GONE DOWN A RABBIT HOLE OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES.

SO MANY WRITERS, MUSICIANS, ACTORS—PEOPLE I ADMIRE.

I USED TO GET ANGRY AT THEM, BUT NOW I VIEW IT AS A TRAGIC LESSON IN HUMAN FALLIBILITY.

I THINK IT'S MORE LIKE INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS.

SIGH ALL MY IDOLS ARE EITHER DEAD OR POD PEOPLE!

SORENSEN

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

SPARKY THE PENGUIN ANNOUNCES HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN...

ON MY FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, I WILL RAZE THE TRUMP BALLROOM TO THE GROUND, AND REMOVE HIS NAME FROM EVERY BUILDING HE'S DEFACTED.

IF HE BUILDS THAT STUPID ARCH, IT'S COMING DOWN TOO.

I WILL LOOK BACKWARD AS WELL AS FORWARD, HOLDING NUREMBERG-STYLE TRIALS FOR EVERY LAW-BREAKING MEMBER OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION--WITH **SPECIAL ATTENTION** TO STEPHEN MILLER.

THE TRUMP FAMILY'S ILL-GOTTEN ASSETS WILL BE **SEIZED** TO PAY FOR RESTORATION AND REPARATIONS.

I WILL DISMANTLE D.H.S. AND HOLD **EVERY** AGENT OF I.C.E. AND RELATED AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE CRIMES THEY HAVE COMMITTED. I WILL WORK WITH CONGRESS TO **IMMEDIATELY** EXPAND THE SUPREME COURT, AND TO IMPOSE TERM LIMITS ON JUSTICES.

FURTHERMORE, I WILL TAX BILLIONAIRES OUT OF **EXISTENCE**. AND I WILL HELP ELON MUSK ACHIEVE HIS DREAM OF MARS COLONIZATION--BY SENDING HIM THERE ON A **ONE-WAY TRIP**.

AND THERE WILL BE **NO** PUBLIC COMMEMORATION OF DONALD TRUMP--WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HIS EVENTUAL FINAL RESTING PLACE, WHICH WILL BE DESIGNED AS A EUROPEAN-STYLE **PISSOIR**. I EXPECT IT TO BE **VERY** POPULAR WITH TOURISTS.

BUT--ARE YOU EVEN **ELIGIBLE** FOR THE PRESIDENCY?

THERE'S NO RULE IN THE CONSTITUTION THAT SAYS A PENGUIN **CAN'T** PLAY BASKETBALL! ER, I MEAN, BE PRESIDENT.

BESIDES--HAVE YOU **SEEN** THE GUY WE'VE GOT **NOW**? HOW MUCH WORSE COULD I BE?

OKAY, FAIR POINT.

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Judge dismisses lawsuit seeking to unseal confidential utility contract

By **HEATHER VANDYKE**

LANSING — A lawsuit filed by a local environmental advocacy group - centering on a long-term agreement between the Lansing Board of Water & Light and a multi-billion-dollar electric vehicle battery plant in Delta Township - has been dismissed.

Capital Area Friends of the Environment, or CAFE, asked a Michigan judge earlier this month to force the state's largest municipal utility to unseal a confidential electricity contract that the group alleges triggered a series of residential rate hikes and the construction of a new fossil-fuel power plant.

The case was heard by Judge Wanda M. Stokes on Feb. 4 in the Veterans Memorial Courthouse and was dismissed the same day.

Although CAFE co-founder and former BWL commissioner Dusty Horwitt expressed disappointment in the ruling, the group said its efforts to achieve transparency on the contract continue.

Elaine Fischhoff, a representative for CAFE, said Monday, Feb. 16, that the group does not plan to appeal at this time. Instead, they intend to file a new Freedom of Information Act request tailored to address the legal basis of the dismissal once they have reviewed a transcript of the judge's ruling.

"This lawsuit is about the public's right to know what its utility is up to," Horwitt said. "The BWL should show that it takes its role as a public utility seriously by sharing the contract voluntarily."

A dispute over rates, responsibility

At the heart of the litigation is a disagreement over the financial impact of Lansing's industrial expansion on residential customers.

When the deal to power the Ultium Cells battery plant was first announced, BWL officials suggested the contract would not lead to higher costs for residents.

However, by August 2024, the utility proposed a series of rate increases: a 7.8 percent hike for residential electricity in 2024, followed by another 6.8 percent in 2025.

BWL executives have stated in public meetings that the increases were necessary to keep pace with inflation and fund clean energy targets.



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Lansing Board of Water and Light's Delta Energy Park.

Questions, however, regarding the hikes intensified after general manager Dick Peffley reportedly acknowledged in 2024 that the rate increases were partly intended to fund a new natural gas-burning facility. The 110-megawatt Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engine (RICE) plant was designed to meet the energy load required by the Ultium facility and other regional growth.

Criticism of 'shocking' secrecy

The BWL denied CAFE's initial records request by invoking a state law that allows public utilities to withhold electricity sales contracts containing "proprietary information," Horwitt said.

Amy Adamy, public relations and marketing manager for the Lansing Board of Water and Light, refrained from providing a statement regarding the case.

"We don't comment on pending litigation," she wrote in an email to City Pulse.

Horwitt, who said he has spent 20 years observing major decision-making at the state and federal levels, described the utility's lack of transparency as "shocking" and unusual for a government entity.

He noted that while other agencies typically issue detailed draft plans and allow 30-60 days for public comment, the BWL often operates with exclusivity.

"I have never seen secrecy and exclu-

sivity from a governing board like I have from the BWL," Horwitt said. He recalled an instance early in his tenure where a customer's simple request for the utility to list its electricity sources took months to fulfill, only for the utility to eventually post what he described as a "misleading graphic."

The lack of transparency extended to the governing board itself, Horwitt alleged. In December 2021, the board voted to give the general manager authority to negotiate the contract with the battery plant without further board approval.

Horwitt, who voted for the authorization at the time, said the board was not informed of the legal shield the utility would later use to keep the terms confidential.

"I had no idea that we were voting to give the general manager authority to negotiate a secret contract," Horwitt said. "I wouldn't have voted for secrecy if I had known because there is virtually no accountability for the BWL's management or governing board if contracts can be kept secret from the public."

Environmental impacts

The dismissal of the lawsuit leaves the details of the contract shielded as the RICE plant moves toward its expected 2026 completion.

State regulators at the Michigan De-

partment of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy approved air permits for the facility last year, despite an estimated 500,000 tons of annual carbon emission.

During public hearings, EGLE officials noted they are not legally permitted to consider "environmental justice" — the impact on low-income or minority neighborhoods — when approving such permits.

The BWL has maintained that the gas plant is a "bridge" technology meant to balance the intermittent nature of wind and solar power. In prior statements, the utility said the units allow them to provide reliable energy for current needs while planning for future economic growth.

The legal battle comes as the BWL considers a new proposal from developer Deep Green for a large-scale data center in downtown Lansing.

"Deep Green designs and operates ultra-efficient, high-density data centers that capture and reuse the heat they produce with negligible water use. The company will partner with the Lansing Board of Water & Light to supply free, carbon-neutral heat directly into BWL's hot water system, cutting carbon emissions and creating lasting community benefits," according to the city's website.

Data centers, which require significant amounts of electricity and water, have become a focus for utility transparency advocates nationwide.

Previous media reports have indicated that developers by mid-December 2025 had expressed interest in at least 16 sites in 10 counties across the state's Lower Peninsula for the warehouses supporting artificial intelligence and cloud computing.



Rendering provided

A rendering of a proposed data center in Lansing.

Lansing Housing Commission rehabbing 927 Washington

By **MIKE ELLIS**

One of Lansing's largest vacant apartment buildings could be coming back to life. The 927 Washington St. building was once one of City Pulse's Eyesores of the Week (probably more than once) and could be revived as senior housing by the end of summer 2027.

The Lansing Housing Commission has received brownfield tax funding approval, one of the last steps before the 50 units of housing can be upgraded and converted into senior housing. The building is located across from Fountain Place Apartments in REO Town.

It is now expected to undergo about a year of construction following an expected closing this summer, said Doug Fleming, executive director of the Lansing Housing Commission.

City Council approval could happen as soon as March 9.

The renovated apartments will be for seniors, with all 50 units being for households that earn 60% of the area

median income.

Mayor Andy Schor said in a statement that "Lansing needs more housing options for everyone, especially people as they age."

City Pulse reported in January that the Lansing Housing Commission was reviving the building. Fleming said it is also coming alongside a planned renovation of 30 existing senior apartments at Oliver Gardens and the addition of 16 new units.

The Lansing Housing Commission also is opening up its 2200 Riverview and Grand Vista apartment buildings starting in mid-May, for Grand Vista, and soon after for Riverview. Both apartments have full waiting lists, but people are still encouraged to apply when the waitlist is expected to open up soon. Fleming said there were 1,200 people who initially applied for the 120 units between the two buildings, but many of those were duplicate applicants and even accepted applicants may find alternate housing in the several months before the buildings open.



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1558

On January 6, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 6, "Buildings and Building Regulations," Article III, "Property Maintenance Code," Section 6-175 "Amendments to International Property Maintenance Code," to add section 302.4 "Weeds" in order to amend the regulations relating to weeds in exterior property areas and to define "native garden" and "native lawn area" and exempt those areas from the definition of weeds.

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#26-063

New Lansing Public Media Center: A peek behind the curtains

By **LEO V. KAPLAN**

Lansing Public Media Center founding director Dom Cochran likes to call a new membership to the center "the best deal in town." That is to say, after the introductory all-day class (with a free lunch) and 2TB data card given to members, the center has already lost money.

"We charge the \$50 so you feel some ownership, and like you have some skin in the game, right?" Cochran said. "But it's actually heavily subsidized. We don't make money off it, obviously. We lose money."

Lansing residents who aren't yet members might want to consider it at the end of April when the new Public Media Center, built in the former Lansing Credit Exchange building next to the future Ovation Center, opens. Amenities will be far ahead of the capabilities of the current, temporary location.

Non-residents will pay twice the price



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

COLORSUITE: Lighting (or the lack thereof) is very important for color grading and requires a specially calibrated monitor. This room is perfect for the task, Lansing Public Media Center founding director Dom Cochran said.

and have to bring their own external drive.

When complete, members will have access to things like a classroom and small film screening studio, color grading room, podcast studio with rear-rangeable set, music recording studio and huge green-screen room.

State prisoner found guilty in 2021 murder; victim's body still not found

By **HEATHER VANDYKE**

LANSING — An Ingham County jury found a 57-year-old Lansing man guilty of second-degree murder in the 2021 death of Andrew Watson, a case local prosecutors won despite the fact that Watson's body has never been recovered.

The verdict against Willie James Jr. was delivered in the courtroom of Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, marking the conclusion of a trial that hinged on circumstantial evidence.

James, already a state prisoner, faces a mandatory consecutive sentence because he was on parole at the time of the killing.

The conviction stems from the January 2021 disappearance of Watson.

During the trial, Ingham County prosecutors argued that James shot and killed Watson inside his vehicle before disposing of the evidence.

According to previous media reports, the proceedings took an unusual turn when James testified in his own defense, attempting to distance himself from a trail of forensic inconsistencies.

Under cross-examination by Ingham County Prosecutor Bill Crino, James admitted to lying to investigators and scrubbing his vehicle in the hours following Watson's disappearance.

While James admitted to the cleanup, he maintained his innocence regarding the homicide itself. He testified that his son, Willie James III, and another associate had borrowed his car on the night of Jan. 12, 2021. He claimed Watson was killed during that window of time without his involvement.

James claimed that he was covering up for his son.

The younger James, Willie James III, is currently serving a minimum 70-year sentence for an unrelated homicide committed in Eaton County in late 2020.

The elder James has a significant criminal history. At the time of the 2021 murder, he was on parole for a 2014 conviction of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and a felony firearm charge. Following the allegations in the Watson case, he was returned to the custody of the Michigan Department of Corrections to continue serving that earlier sentence.

Records show James was previously eligible for parole on the 2014 charges and would have reached his maximum discharge date in November 2030. Under Michigan law, because the murder was committed while James was a parolee, the sentence for the new conviction must be served only after the completion of his prior term.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The Lansing School District has not commented publicly since the U.S. Department of Justice announced on

Feb. 18 that it had opened an investigation into the district, along with Detroit's district and Godfrey-Lee Public Schools. The DOJ said in the release that they are looking into whether those three districts have notified parents of their right to opt out of "sexual orientation and gender ideology content" and whether the districts include any such content in classrooms. The DOJ also declined to comment. The three districts represent about 64,000 students, or about 1 in 20 of Michigan's 1.3 million K-12 students. Godfrey-Lee is in Wyoming, a Grand Rapids suburb, and the smallest geographic district in the state at 1.4 square miles. "The investigation will also assess whether the Michigan School Districts limit access to single-sex intimate spaces, such as bathrooms and locker rooms, based on biological sex," the DOJ news release said. In a statement, the state Department of Education criticized the DOJ actions. "The breadth and scope of the federal requests, premised on a mischaracterization of the Michigan Health Education Standards Guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education, place a significant administrative burden on local districts and risk diverting time and resources away from the core mission of educating students," state Superintendent Glenn Maleyko said in the statement.

The Lansing School District also reported a graduation rate of 93.8% for the 2024-2025 school year, the highest in district history. The dropout rate was 1.75%. Michigan's average four-year graduation rate is 84%, with an average dropout rate of 7.1%, according to a statement from the Lansing district, citing state figures. "This historic achievement is a direct reflection



of the unwavering commitment of our students, their families, and our high school teams," Interim Superintendent Jessica Benavides said in the statement.



U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett's re-election campaign used the Freedom of Information Act to request records regarding the organization of a student demonstration at the East Lansing School District in January. Jason Roe, a spokesperson for the campaign, told City Pulse the records were sought as a routine political matter and are believed to be the only protest-related records the campaign has sought this year. "It was routine and had nothing to do with East Lansing High or students," Roe said. He said the FOIA was intended to find out whether challenger William Lawrence had been involved in the student demonstration, which happened just outside the school building and was attended by district and school officials as well as hundreds of students. Students were protesting ICE enforcement, demonstrating two days after the shooting death of Renee Good, 37, by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent in Minneapolis. Roe said the FOIA has not matured, and the campaign has not received any material from the school district. Lawrence told East Lansing Info that he had spoken with the Students for Political Action club in December, and at a library event, but had not communicated with them about the demonstration.

Eight players on the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic men's and women's hockey teams, each of which beat Team Canada in their respective finals last weekend, have Michigan connections. For the men, Dylan Larkin is a Waterford native, starred for U-M and is



now the Detroit Red Wings captain. Brothers Jack (who scored the medal-winning goal) and Quinn Hughes moved to Canton as teens and were schooled at the USA Hockey's National Team Development Program in Plymouth. Quinn also played for U-M, as did Zach Werenski, who hails from Grosse Pointe Woods, and Kyle Connor of Shelby Township. Commerce Township's Connor Hellebuyck, the hero in the net, makes it a half-dozen men from Michigan. Meanwhile, Megan Keller (Farmington Hills), who scored the winning goal for the women's gold and had already won gold with Team USA in 2018, and Kirsten Simms (Plymouth) are also Great Lakes State natives.



Lansing Shuffle's owner is looking to purchase the land it operates on, as part of an existing long-term lease agreement with the city. The agree-

ment allows the lessee to have the option of purchasing the building, the addition and the upper terrace, but would not include riverfront property or Rotary Park property, said Scott Bean, a spokesperson for the mayor's office. Because the land of the building is city property, the sale would be complicated and likely require City Council approval and then a ballot issue for voters to decide. If voters say yes, and the property closes in January 2027, the contractual price would be \$953,000, Bean said.

Lansing's Code Blue status has been triggered until at least 7 a.m. on Thursday, March 5. 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 Trans-

portation 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 or call 211 (a city information line separate 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).



A 55-year-old Ingham County man won \$1 million through a scratch-off Millionaire Maker ticket bought at Louie's Party Store, 1931 S. Washington Ave., in Lansing. The man opted to remain anonymous and take a lump sum of about \$693,000 instead of the full amount in an annuity. He told the lotto officials that he plans to pay off his home and buy a new truck.

A man in his 20s was struck and killed by a vehicle Saturday on the 4100 block of Capital City Boulevard, near the entrance to Lansing's airport. Police said the man was a pedestrian, but did not release the man's hometown, a vehicle description or other additional details. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the LPD at 517-483-4600.

The winter chill or a tax-induced freeze?

By CHRIS SILVA

Lansing's cannabis district is used to a little haze, but as we slog through the end of February, the fog over the local market is getting thick. If you've been looking at the January and February sales numbers, they look like a bad trip: January sales plunged nearly 16% from December, dropping to \$226.8 million — the largest New Year's dip in the history of Michigan's legal market.

Naturally, everyone is looking for someone to blame. The prime suspect? The new 24% wholesale tax that hit the books Jan. 1. But before we declare Michigan's green rush officially dead and buried under a layer of fresh asphalt, we need to take a beat. While the tax is a heavy hitter, it's currently swinging in the middle of a perfect storm of winter weather, a "Dry January" cultural shift and a post-holiday exhaustion that may have happened even without the taxman.

Is this a permanent market shift, or are we just watching a winter slum meet a tax jump?

The 'one-two punch' of January

Local operators like those at House of



Dank and Pure Options in Lansing are describing the start of 2026 as a one-two combo.

Punch one was the tax.

We know customers spent the last two weeks of December stocking up like the world was ending. At Pure Options, the "pre-tax blowout" sales were legendary, effectively cannibalizing January's numbers before the year even started. If you could buy 4 ounces in December for the price of 3 in January, you did it. That "stockpile effect" created a huge artificial spike in December, followed by

a predictable hollow-out in January.

Punch two was the weather.

Michigan didn't just get a "dusting" this year; we got hammered. Data from market analysts at Headset shows that during the peak of the late-January storms, Michigan retail revenue cratered by 40% in a single day. When the roads are a mess, even the most dedicated smoker is going to think twice about trekking out to Michigan Avenue. Revenue lost to a blizzard may not be a delayed sale, for many shops, that's just money that's gone forever.

The Dry January and total reset shift

We also have to talk about the cultural shift. Dry January has become a retail juggernaut, and while many people used to swap alcohol for cannabis (the "Cali sober"), we're seeing a new trend in 2026: the "total reset."

Post-holiday burnout is real. After a December filled with parties and over-consumption, some segment of the market may take a T-break or tolerance break. It's not necessarily that they've quit for good; it's that they've chosen the most expensive month in history to stop buying.

Seasonal slumps: The February standard

Historically, January and February are the "softest" months for any retail business, and cannabis is no different. People have spent their holiday bonuses, they're staying inside, and the "New Year, new me" resolutions tend to can slam vice industries, or maybe until the first sign of a thaw.

In 2025, we saw a similar three-month slide starting in December. The difference this year is the scale. A 16% month-over-month drop is significantly steeper than the 6.9% dip we saw this time last year. It's enough to make any



Will warm weather revive pot shops?

business owner nervous, but it's still too early to tell if this is the new normal or just a particularly brutal winter.

Voices from the counter: 'The quietest winter yet'

I took a walk down Michigan Avenue last week — one of those gray, slushy days where the sky matches the sidewalk — and stopped into a few shops. The vibe was quiet.

"Usually, even on a Tuesday, we've got a line of three or four people," one bud-tender told me, leaning over a display of pre-rolls that hadn't moved since the morning. "But since the storm hit and the tax kicked in, it's been a ghost town. People come in, they look at the new prices, and they walk out with a single gram instead of an ounce. It's like everyone is just holding their breath."

At another shop, the manager was more blunt. "We're not even worried about the tax yet. We're worried about the snow-plows. If people can't get to the curb, they can't buy. We're just praying for March."

The tax factor: The long-term unknown

There's no denying the 24% wholesale tax is the elephant in the grow room. It has forced retailers into a defensive crouch. Some shops are eating the tax to keep customers coming in, while others have been forced to bump prices.

But the real impact of the tax won't be clear until April or May. Why? Because the market needs to see what happens when the sun comes out. If sales don't spring back when the snow melts and after December's stockpile finally runs dry, then we will know the tax has fundamentally changed the math.

The bottom line: Don't panic — yet

The takeaway for late February is simple: Wait for the thaw.

Between the historic winter storms, the Dry January reset, and the first-ever Road Tax bills coming due, the industry is bruised.

If the state wants to "Fix the Damn Roads" with weed money, they need the shops to stay open. If the sales numbers stay this low through March, the conversation in the Capitol is going to have to shift from "how much can we take" to "how much can they survive." For now, we're all just waiting for the frost to break to see what's actually left of the garden.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FY2026, 7/1/2026 – 6/30/27 CORRECTION TO THE LOCATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing's FY 2026 Annual Action Plan which covers the time July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS
FROM: LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PLACE: LANSING CITY HALL
124 W. MICHIGAN AVE
10TH FLOOR, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
LANSING, MI 48933
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2026 (7/1/2026-6/30/2027)

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2026 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2026 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity.

CP#26-058

Cut taxes? Just eliminate them! Why didn't we do this before?

Pretend you didn't know President Donald Trump's approval rating is 42% in Michigan.

You can tell Republicans are sweating the 2026 elections by the far-fetched, pie-in-the-sky ideas their candidates are floating to gin up support.

We're figuring out why our paycheck isn't going as far as it did three years ago, and for Republicans, the best answer is to eliminate a tax or two, something so unrealistic it's hard to take seriously.

What else can they do? They can't mention Trump's tariffs, which have driven up costs.

Groceries are more. Coffee is more. Buying a brand-new house is a dream out of reach for just about everybody. A cottage Up North? Yeah, maybe if it's been passed down through the family.

The Republican Congress jacked up our health insurance rates while shutting down the federal government a record number of days.

They've tried to distract us all by drumming up the nearly non-existent problem of non-citizens voting in elections.

Maybe they'll present us with a ballot proposal that will require us all to dig up our passports, birth certificates and marriage licenses before we can vote again so a couple of Chinese nationals don't vote in an election of 5 million people. Great.

Republicans presumed ... and rightfully so ... they could campaign off Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's unpopularity. Typically, an outgoing governor's favorability numbers are in the toilet. Rick Snyder's were at 26% in his last year. Jennifer Granholm was sitting in the mid-30s in 2010. John Engler's were underwater.

But Gretchen Whitmer's favorability number has been sitting somewhere between 53% and 51% since we left the pandemic.

She's softened her partisan edge, disengaged from anything remotely controversial and posts slice-of-life social media posts that everyone can relate to.

Campaigning off Whitmer is off the list.

Can't use immigration as an issue anymore. Trump's ICE agents are shooting disobedient protestors in the face.

Abortion? Settled issue. Gay rights issues? Society, especially younger voters, has accepted the LGBT community. Looser gun restrictions? That's a big loser in the suburbs.

Republicans can't even use their tried-

and-true union bashing. A lot of them are Trump voters now!

So, where are Republican gubernatorial candidates going for an issue to run on? Suddenly, simply lowering taxes isn't good enough.

Let's get rid of them altogether! Who needs taxes?

It started a few years ago with this half-baked AxMiTax ballot proposal to eliminate all property taxes, but has leaked into the platforms of its gubernatorial candidates.

Anthony Hudson -- who wants to hang people he's personally convicted of treason -- has embraced property tax elimination lock stock and barrel.

Paying for police, fire, local road improvement and public schools? We'll figure that part out later.

If you're prefer to figure that out now, though, here's what the Tax Foundation says we need to do. Unless we're fine ending police and fire service, we'd need to raising the state income tax from 4.25% to 11.93%.

What about the sales tax? The Tax Foundation says there's no "feasible sales tax rate" we could charge to make the numbers work.

More serious candidates like Perry Johnson, Mike Cox and Aric Nesbitt want to end the state's income tax.

The tax brings in \$14 billion in revenue. The state's General Fund is \$14 billion.

Forget about waste, fraud and abuse in the budget.

Getting rid of the income tax is getting rid of the budget!

Private prisons? Privatize all public colleges and universities? Corporate ownership of public schools? Sell the parks and roads to private management companies? Maybe we get the churches and non-profits to care for the sick and least among us?

Eliminate the State Police, Department of Civil Rights, abandon all state licensing and protections that can't pay for itself.

This isn't apocalyptic. Unless Perry Johnson is paying for state government, we're talking a tourism-killing 12% sales tax to cover the cost of everything.

That's why Republicans never tried this when they oversaw Michigan government during the Engler and Snyder years.

Who wants to lead the charge on dismantling state government?

Apparently, we're getting our answer.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Reflections on a half-century of reporting

By ERIC FREEDMAN
Capital News Service

LANSING — It was 50 years ago this month when I took a big gamble.

With a fresh law degree, student debt, a new Volkswagen Rabbit with a car loan — and a 3-week-old baby — I gave up a safe congressional staff job I enjoyed, took a 13% pay cut and became a newspaper reporter.

No regrets.

It might sound naïve, it might sound outdated, it might sound blind to America's political and economic climate today, but I still believe in the mission of independent journalism.

The phrases may sound cliched, but I still contend that it's the job of the press to speak truth to power, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to be a lens of the truth, to shine a spotlight on the misdeeds of powerful institutions in government, politics, the private sector and the nonprofit world.

And believe in doing it ethically, with fairness, balance and accuracy.

As Bilbo Baggins of "The Hobbit" and "Lord of the Rings" observed, true tales are meant to be told.

I've reported about countless government officials, public employees, judges, political leaders and business leaders. The overwhelming majority of them were honest and committed to a greater good.

But some were crooks, bribe-takers, bribe-payers, cheaters, liars and frauds — and we journalists unwrapped their wrongdoing and exposed them.

It is a privilege to be able to do that in these troublous times when constraints on press freedom are tightening in the U.S. amid a disturbing downward trend in public support for the news media.

For example, a recent American Communities Project/Ipsos survey found that "very few Americans actually know a working journalist. Journalists ranked at the bottom of a long list of professionals and/or groups that people know well. Second, most people believe the mainstream media are more interested in making money than telling the truth."

As my Michigan State University journalism colleague Dante Chinni, who heads the nonprofit American Communities Project, wrote, "Ultimately, those attitudes matter because the fights between the [Trump] administration and the press seem likely to intensify, and as they do, journalists may find it harder to garner support for their work in the court of public opinion."

A new Pew Research Center report found that 57% of Americans "express low confidence in journalists to act in the best interests of the public. This includes 40% who say they have not too much confidence and 17% who say they have none at all."

"By comparison, 43% of adults say they have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in journalists," the Pew report said.

And with shrinking and disappearing local news outlets across the nation, it's no surprise that Civic Information Needs Census reported that "Americans find it harder to stay informed about their neighborhoods, towns and cities than about national and international news."

I think those disappointing survey results reflect, in part, the nonstop politically motivated bashing of individual journalists, their news organizations and journalism itself at the highest levels of government, as well as an eagerness by some of the powerful to thwart the First Amendment's pledge of freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

It is the First Amendment that made it possible for me to write literally millions of words and edit literally millions of others on topics ranging from corrupt legislators and environmental hazards to historic Great Lakes shipwrecks and the wolves and moose of Isle Royale National Park.

Now I spend much of my time guiding and editing talented, motivated students who write for Capital News Service — our statewide public affairs reporting practicum — and Great Lakes Echo — our regional environmental news outlet.

Many of my students may go on to careers unrelated to journalism, but the journalistic skills of interviewing, organizing information, observation, analytical thinking, scrutinizing documents, crunching data and creativity will serve them well no matter what direction they head in.

After all these decades, I'm still not tired of interviewing people, observing events, exploring behind the scenes and telling the public stories that matter, inform and entertain.

I've been privileged to train, interview, collaborate with and teach hundreds of journalists, students and press rights defenders on five continents — including countries with only a pretense of press freedom. Many of them are heroes who persevere at great personal risk in the pursuit of our mission.

And for all its flaws and vulnerabilities, I believe American journalism still has important lessons and skills to offer to journalists there.

As my sixth decade in the profession begins, I'm privileged to continue doing journalism while teaching — to both preach and practice what the First Amendment envisions.

As for my big gamble 50 years ago: No regrets.

(Eric Freedman is a journalism professor at Michigan State University and director of Capital News Service.)

**CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY
OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1538**

On February 17, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend City Code and add a new Chapter 7 to include amended and restated rental housing regulations in the city of East Lansing.

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#26-060

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

TOWNSHIP BOARD
Synopsis of Meetings

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, and Trustee Joshua I. Lyman. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Assessing Director Ted Droste, Township Engineer Jacob Kleinhenz, Interim Fire Chief John Kahler, Sergeant Josh Turner, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane, Water Distribution Supervisor John Stopczynski.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$3,472,875.85
2. Minutes – a. Monday, January 20, 2026
3. 2026 Eaton County Road Commission Millage Program

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

4. Resolution Supporting State Designation and Continued Development of the Middle Grand River Water Trail
5. Special Land Use Permit #PSL2025-0006 (Raising Cane's Restaurants, LLC), construct 2,821 square foot restaurant with two drive-through lanes at the northwest corner of Elmwood Rd. and W. Saginaw Hwy
6. Delta Mills to Hawk Meadow Pathway Project Engineering Construction Phase Services Selection Recommendation
7. Eaton County Road Commission Agreement for Delta Mills to Hawk Meadow Pathway

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

8. Assessing Department Annual Report
9. IFT Audit Report

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman and Trustee Karen J. Mojca. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Interim Fire Chief John Kahler, Sergeant Josh Turner, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane, Water Distribution Supervisor John Stopczynski.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Willow Force Main Update

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$5,716,252.80
3. Minutes – a. Monday, February 2, 2026
4. MTA Principals of Governance

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5. Board & Commission Appointments

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6. Tree Replacement Policy Discussion
7. Utilities Annual Report
8. Clerk's Annual Report

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:49pm

CP#26-059



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW
MARCH 3, 9, 10 AND 11, 2026**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864
(517) 853-4400
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The Charter Township of Meridian Board of Review will conduct its organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

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 for assessment appeals at the Township Municipal Building on the following days:

Monday, March 9, 2026:	2:00 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 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026:	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

For an appointment to appear before the Board of Review, call (517)853-4400 by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Written appeals will be accepted if received by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Appeals must be in office by this time, post marks are not accepted.

**ANGELA DEMAS
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP CLERK**

CP#26-050

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



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



Job and Internship Fair

2 – 5 p.m. • March 18 • Downtown Campus • Register at lcc.edu/fairs



Halatu Musa films content for TikTok at Nubian in downtown Lansing.

Lansing's hometown tourist Halatu Musa showcases city's 'hidden gems'

By **LEOV. KAPLAN**

When Ragis “Halatu” Musa plans vacations with her friends, her travel brochures are TikToks.

Especially during a lingering Michigan winter, those short, picturesque videos of influencers around the world showcasing shops, restaurants and other “hidden gems” are just tailor-made to feed vacation cravings.

Musa, a Lansing resident since age 3, has long wanted to recreate what she saw in those videos. The dream? She wanted to move to a big city and live that fabulous TikTok lifestyle after graduating from college in 2019.

That didn't happen.

First there was the lockdown.

Then, the realization that her family, friends and other loved ones were all in Lansing.

A travel binge in 2021 showed Musa many of the sights she'd been craving while being cramped inside. She even started making some travel content herself. At the end, she came back — but she kept making those travel videos. Minus the travel.

“Whenever I travel, when I go to look up places to eat or things to do, I always go on TikTok,” she said. “But I'm like, we have none of that in

Lansing. No one is doing that.”

It was a revelation.

The lack of recognizable influencers showcasing Lansing didn't mean there was nothing to do.

It just meant the interesting spots were harder to find.

They were ready for their spotlight.

And so was Musa.

In late 2021, she focused her tourist's eye on her own home city, making the sorts of videos that had always fueled her dreams of moving somewhere else. Since early 2025, she's been taking videos more seriously, accumulating about 10,000 followers on TikTok (where she can be found at @outragis33) and modest but loyal followings on other platforms like Instagram and Facebook.

“I saw, like, that wasn't a thing, and I was like, why not try it?” she said.

Step behind the camera, to watch Musa record and it's clear how she pulls it off.

As she showcased Nubian, an African fashion and cultural shop downtown, she strides in with positive expectations: She turns it on and is smiling well before she even enters the building.

**Photos by
Raymond Holt
for City Pulse**



See Hidden gems, page 12



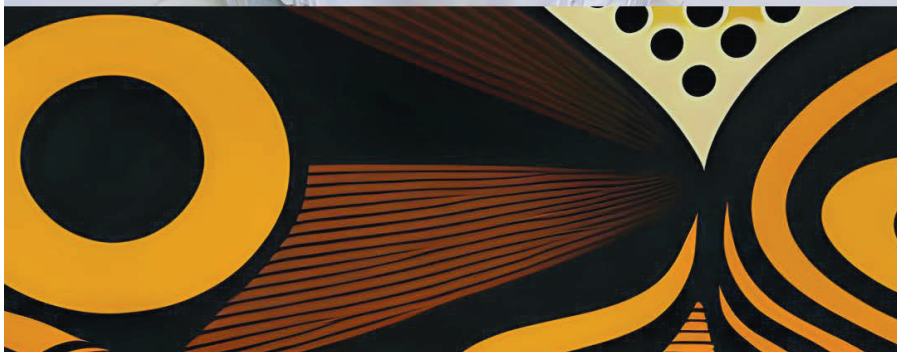
Hidden gems

from page 11

She glides quickly and quietly (her iconic “Hey y’all, it’s your girl Halatu” will be recorded later, af-



Follow Halatu



ter editing). She takes videos and photos of eye-catching items that she always places carefully back.

That energy is a core part of Musa’s brand, and not just because she sometimes uploads positivity-focused content alongside the usual fare.

- “It’s never about the place, it’s always about the people. If you have good people with you, the place doesn’t matter.”

- “Whatever you do in life, just make sure at the end of the day you are happy. Life is way too short for stress and unhappiness.”

- “If y’all ever see me in public please say hi!! I get so excited to see y’all”

- “Every day may not be good but there is something good in every day.”

— *Recent positivity content from Musa.*

Dreams are to be lived and showcased, not reviewed

Musa considers herself a “showcaser,” not a “reviewer.”

Her opinions are honest, but she sets herself up by always going in with the expectation that she’ll enjoy herself. And usually, she does.

“I feel like there’s beauty in anything, and if you’re going in there thinking negative about the store, you’re most likely gonna find something negative,” she said. “So I go in there with more of a positive mindset to show what is unique and different in these individual stores, rather than looking for something that I don’t want to see.”

While Musa’s reviews aren’t fully glowing — a recent restaurant video describes one menu item as “just okay,” for instance — they’re always somewhat positive, usually beginning with Musa telling audiences that the place was highly recommended by locals.

Those recommendations make Musa’s relationship with her audience symbiotic. For every viewer who learns about a new spot from her videos, another has a new place to recommend that she’s never heard of before. The comments under her food videos are littered with

nods of knowing agreement and lists of curious recommendations.

“I don’t have a thing that draws me somewhere,” she said. “I listen to what people tell me. I might post a Mexican restaurant, and then everyone else is like, ‘Oh, if you like that one, go here.’ So I take recommendations.”

Musa’s videos aren’t her primary source of income. In fact, they’re not a source of income at all. Asked how she profits from her work as an influencer, Musa just laughed.

“I don’t,” she said. “I don’t make any profit. I’m just doing this for fun. It started as a hobby, and now people are watching it.”

Many of Musa’s food videos are recorded on her lunch, taking a break of sorts from her day job in event planning. Her visits aren’t coordinated with business owners, and she spends her own money on items. That means the food videos couldn’t exist without her spending money, but she usually buys at least one item wherever she goes, out of a desire to support the business.

But even if the whole Lansing-tourist-as-a-local showcase has yet to turn a profit, Musa is glad to share her dreams. Not only does it help residents and visitors find more things to do, it’s helped Musa herself realize the city’s business scene is a lot bigger and more diverse than many lifelong residents like her ever bothered to give it credit for.

“There’s so many unique shops that we’ve never heard of, or that are in our city that we’ve never seen,” she said. “So I feel like this experience helped me realize that the city is large. There are so many parts of the city that I’ve never seen before.”

It’s something Musa finds particularly important, because “we all talk real bad when it comes to Lansing.”

Coming out of the lockdown, she said, many locals stopped going out often, missing the chance to discover the new restaurants, shops and other spots that have opened or reopened in recent years. She hears people insist there isn’t anything to

Hidden gems

from page 12

do in the area.

“I wanted to show beautiful parts of Lansing and kind of showcase what we have, rather than saying that Lansing doesn’t have anything,” she said. “Because we do have a lot.”

That doesn’t just mean business- es. Musa’s desire to try (and docu- ment) all the city has to offer has, in recent memory, led her to attend an MSU hockey game, compete in Quality Dairy’s yearly pączki eating contest (she was credited with two, said she only finished one in five

minutes, but still enjoyed herself) and be a guest on a podcast host- ed at recording studio Crack House Studios.

To those people who say Lansing doesn’t have anything to do, Musa recommends getting out there the way she did.

For those in need of ideas, her videos are a good start.

“Get out there and explore,” she said. “I feel like after COVID, a lot of us kind of got used to staying at home, doordashing, or like not re- ally going out there. So I would say to go out there and explore. Like, the place is big and it’s beautiful. And it’s just waiting on us to go and see it.”



State of Michigan Probate Court, County of Eaton, Publication of Notice of Hearing, File #'s 26-60952-GA and 26-60953-GA. In the matter of Cheryl A Potter: To all interested persons, including Diane Jenkins, 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 April 1, 2026 at Eaton County Probate Court, before Judge Amanda Pollard, P75272, for the following purpose: Uncontested hearing-Petition for appointment of Guardian and Conservator. Date: 2/19/2026. Petitioner: Heather Townsend, 1050 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813, 517-231-3866.

CP#26-064

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

CP#26-034

Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy

Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy, a Tuition-Free Public-School Academy, announces its Open Enrollment period for the 2026-27 school year for grades K-8. Applications may be picked up at the school, 730 West Maple St. Lansing, MI 48906, (517)485-5379, during the Open Enrollment period March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026: Mon - Fri from 8:00am – 3:30pm, Monday 3/9/26 8am- 6pm and Saturday 3/7/26 8am-12pm If enrollment applications exceed the number of available spaces, a random selection drawing will be held at Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy on 4/17/26 at 4pm.

CP#26-067

CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1557

On January 6, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 49, “Wetlands,” of city code to amend findings and purpose, amend the definition of “remove,” to add to “activities requiring a wetland use permit,” to amend application requirements for a wetland use permit, to update review standards for wetland use permits, to update the wetland mitigation performance standards and to update references to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

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#26-062

Abandoned vehicle auction will be held 3/6/26 @12pm located at PJ's 2200 Olds Ave Lansing MI 48915 NO PHONE CALLS

- 2005 Suzuki Boulevard S50 JS1VS52A952102387
- 2013 GMC Sierra 1500 3GTP2VE71DG369155
- 2002 GMC Envoy 1GKDT13S422270419
- 1994 Mercedes S Class WDBGA51EXRA165675
- 2015 Chevy Equinox 2GNFLGE33F6279061
- 2015 Jeep Patriot 1C4NJPBB0FD116004
- 2003 Cadillac Escalade 1GYEK63NX3R251693
- Single Car Trailer NO VIN
- 2013 Chrysler 300 2C3CCABG4DH553163
- 2014 Jeep Cherokee 1C4RJFCMXEC492743
- 2005 Yamaha XVS 1100 JYAVP11E15A066345
- 2011 Ford Fusion 3FAHP0HG0BR336501
- 2007 GMC Envoy 1GKET63M872253536
- 2017 GMC Terrain 2GKFLSEK6H6185718
- 2012 Dodge Journey 3C4PDDFG1CT166503

CP#26-066

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

February 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes, Trustee Currie, and 6 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved an update to the complaint form on the township website.
- 2) Approved payment of February 2026 bills.
- 3) Adopted Resolution 02-17-2026-05 to update the IZO to allow moratoriums.
- 4) Adopted Resolution 02-17-2026-06 to impose a moratorium on data centers to allow the Planning Commission time to study data centers and update to the zoning ordinance.
- 5) Award a bid to replace the kitchen flooring at the township hall.
- 6) Adopted salary resolutions for the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustees with no increase for fiscal year 2026-2027.
- 7) Approved budget policy updates to the Board Policy.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is March 17, 2026, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#26-065



Saturday, February 28th

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Live & Local

CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Hattie & Blue Medicine + School of Rock Adult Band spring show

Sunday, March 1, 7 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge

Radio Flyer

Fri., Feb. 27, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

The Dangling Particles

Sat., Feb. 28, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Chengdu Teahouse

100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing

Jeff Boog & Friends

Fri., Feb. 27, 5:30-7 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing

Showdown

Fri., Feb. 27, 8 p.m.-midnight

Showdown

Sat., Feb. 28, 8 p.m.-midnight

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing

Ben Awrey

Wed., Feb. 25, 9 p.m.

Moth Duster

Thurs., Feb. 26, 9 p.m.

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing

Bart Moore and the Hot Boyz

Wed., Feb. 25, 7-9 p.m.

Songwriters' night, with Cody Wilson

Wed., March 4, 7-9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

Bill Hunt

Fri., Feb. 27, 6-9 p.m.

Helena Lost

Sat., Feb. 28, 6-9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Wavelength

Wed., Feb. 25, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Capital Soirée, The Maples

Fri., Feb. 27, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

Austin Meade, Goodbye June, Ace Monroe

Sat., Feb. 28, doors 6:30 p.m., show 7:30 p.m.

Wavelength

Wed., March 4, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing

Matteo Mancuso

Thurs., Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

A Night Under Covers (tribute show)

Sat., Feb. 28, 5 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

Jacob McLeod

Wed., Feb. 25, 5-8 p.m.

Deadly String Band

Thurs., Feb. 26, 5-8 p.m.

Crooked Root

Fri., Feb. 27, 5-8 p.m.

Lexi Blue

Sat., Feb. 28, 5-8 p.m.

John Beltran

Sun., March 1, 1-5 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing

CABS blues night, with Gina Garner & the All Night Long Band

Wed., Feb. 25, 7-10 p.m.

Black Barn Band

Sat., Feb. 28, 8 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

Main Street Dueling Pianos

Fri., Feb. 27, 7:30-10:30

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing

Afro Rave

Sat., Feb. 28, 9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Grupo Monte, DJ Isma

Sat., Feb. 28, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Unity — In Music

Thurs., Feb. 26, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Tues., March 3, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

MacDonald Middle School

1601 Burcham Drive, East Lansing

Mason Orchestral Society mid-winter concert

Sat., Feb. 28, 7-9 p.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing

JP & the Energy

Fri., Feb. 27, 9:30 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Open mic night, with Jen Sygit

Wed., Feb. 25, 8-11 p.m.

Blues jam

Thurs., Feb. 26, 9 p.m.-midnight

Dead Honey Collective

Fri., Feb. 27, 8 p.m.-midnight

Spoonful

Sat., Feb. 28, 8 p.m.-midnight

Jazz Tuesdays

Tues., March 3, 7-10 p.m.

Open mic night, with Jen Sygit

Wed., March 4, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music

Concert Band & Campus Band

Wed., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

Concert Orchestra: Spotlight and Spirit

Thurs., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Wharton Center

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale

Spellbound

Fri., Feb. 27, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Okemos High School

2800 Jolly Road, Okemos

Red Cedar Festival of Community Bands

Sat., Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Old Town General Store

408 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing

Greg Klyma

Thurs., Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

One North Kitchen & Bar

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

Mike Skory

Thurs., Feb. 26, 6-9 p.m.

Justin Holcomb

Fri., Feb. 27, 7-10 p.m.

Cal Moultime

Sat., Feb. 28, 7-10 p.m.

Open mic, with Kathy Ford

Mon., March 2, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

CJ Lowe

Fri., Feb. 27, 8-10 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing

B3 Music Group

Fri., Feb. 27, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Randy Napoleon Trio

Sun., March 1, 6-9 p.m.

Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing

The Polaroids

Fri., Feb. 27, 6-10 p.m.

The Polaroids

Sat., Feb. 28, 6-10 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

LSO at The Robin (string quartet)

Thurs., Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Sholty's Bar

1819 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Frog & Koop

Tues., March 3, 6-9 p.m.

Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing

Joel Jacobs

Fri., Feb. 27, 7-10 p.m.

Jeremy Kratky

Sat., Feb. 28, 7-10 p.m.

Sir Pizza Grand Cafe

201 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing

Sassiety

Fri., Feb. 27, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Chicago Muzik

Sun., March 1, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Spoonful

Tues., March 3, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt

The Shellouts

Fri., Feb. 27, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Rush Clement

Sat., Feb. 28, 8-11 p.m.

University Lutheran Church

1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing

Jerron Paxton and Dennis Lichtman (Ten Pound Fiddle)

Fri., Feb. 27, 7:30-10 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing

Lansing Live! open mic

Wed., Feb. 25, 6-9 p.m.

Generator

Thurs., Feb. 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Urban Suite Jazz Series: Phil Denny

Fri., Feb. 27, 8-11 p.m.

Salsa Verde

Sat., Feb. 28, 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

The Watershed Tavern & Grill

5965 Marsh Road, Haslett

We're Mike & Steve

Thurs., Feb. 26, 7-11 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston

Rollin Brummette

Wed., Feb. 25, 7-10 p.m.

Red Tag Squirrel

Sat., Feb. 28, 7-11 p.m.

Peggy Nusz

Wed., March 4, 7-10 p.m.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

‘Born into a gold mine’

Carl Craig, Rodney Whitaker share memories of Detroit at MSU Museum

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

One man’s music walks the earth. The other man’s music floats above it. One plucks rhythm and soul from strings and wood. The other makes machines cry.

Jazz bassist Rodney Whitaker and techno pioneer Carl Craig inhabit different musical worlds, but they found plenty of common ground Thursday (Feb. 19) at the MSU Museum.

The discussion, a rare meeting of two internationally recognized musical giants, was the first public event of Craig’s January-through-April residency at MSU. Future events include a screening of “Desire: The Carl Craig Story” at the Capital City Film Festival and a mind-bending multimedia collaboration between Craig and MSU’s Facility for Rare Isotope Beams this fall.

Whitaker, director of jazz studies at MSU, couldn’t resist the chance to stroll over from the nearby Music Building and compare notes with a fellow legend.

The title of the talk, “Made in Detroit,” mapped out their common ground. Both artists grew up in the rich musical landscape of 1980s Detroit and would eventually shape that landscape in countless ways.

For both men, it’s mind and soul that drive the music. The hardware is secondary.

“The thing about techno that’s important to understand is that it’s not about using certain drum machines, certain synthesizers, the combination of those things,” Craig told MSU Museum curator Julian Chambliss in an April interview. “It’s about the mentality, the emotion that comes from it.”

Craig’s music melts the jagged edges of reality — including the blighted cityscapes he and Whitaker witnessed in Detroit as youth — into a pristine paradox of purple and pink, sorrow and hope, dusk and dawn.

“I felt the music I was making was my contribution to beautifying the city,” Craig said at Thursday’s event.

“There you go,” Whitaker agreed. “We both remember when the drugs came through the city. It devastated my neighborhood. We have to talk about that part. It put us in survival mode. De-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Techno music pioneer Carl Craig (left) and MSU jazz studies director Rodney Whitaker looked back on their upbringings in Detroit in a joint discussion Thursday (Feb. 19) at the MSU Museum.

troit people can survive anything. And the music was spiritual to us. It transported us to other places, and it made us dream.”

Craig grew up on the west side, Whitaker on the east side, but they were both enthralled by the music bursting from Detroit radio. A legendary Detroit DJ, The Electrifying Mojo, lived up to his name by blasting plugged-in funk, R&B and pop artists like Prince, Parliament-Funkadelic, the B-52s and Kraftwerk across lower Michigan in the 1980s, sending electrified vibes into the air.

Craig started out on acoustic instruments, but in 1982, he plugged in and never looked back.

“Once I got my hands on a synthesizer, it was all over,” he said.

It’s not surprising that Whitaker listened to jazz station WJZZ and DJ Ed Love’s jazz program on WDET. It was more of a revelation to learn that jazz is at the root of Craig’s music as well.

“I listened to WJZZ constantly. It was part of my being,” Craig said.

Both men expressed amazement at the abundance of great teachers, mentors and musicians who called Detroit home when they were growing up, from

jazz to Motown, funk, hip-hop, techno and more.

“Growing up in Detroit was like a kid that’s born into a gold mine,” Craig said. “You take it for granted because it’s around you all the time.”

“We knew at a young age that Detroit was connected to musical excellence,” Whitaker said. “We were surrounded by people who changed the world.”

Detroit drummer, composer and bandleader Francisco Mora, a visiting professor at MSU in the 1990s, was a key influence on Craig’s distinctive, jazz-rooted brand of techno and played on Craig’s 1999 jazz-electronica album, “Programmed,” released under the alias Innerzone Orchestra.

Craig, Whitaker and Mora have recorded together, most notably on the irresistible “Bug in the Bass Bin” (also released under the Innerzone Orchestra moniker), a killer groove that oscillates with so much subatomic energy you wonder why Craig would bother with the FRIB.

In the jazz version of the track, available on YouTube, the acoustic and electric threads are so tightly wound you can’t even call it crossover music. How

can you cross over when there is no gap?

“Francisco and Rodney sound like they’re both dancing around the original structure of it, and that makes it even more special,” Craig said. “Rodney killed it. He always does.”

“Collaborating with you felt like jazz,” Whitaker said.

It’s one thing to talk about breaking boundaries, but Craig was clearly pleased that he and Whitaker created something new together.

“I come from a background of programming synthesizers and drum machines and stuff,” Craig said. “I have some musical knowledge, but I’m not trying to play structured tunes, and you guys come from being able to play avant-garde, even. We just came together and made something phenomenal.” “We’ve got to do it again,” Whitaker said, to a burst of applause from the audience.

Craig lamented that many people think of DJs as party and wedding hosts and don’t appreciate the deep artistry involved.

“Some of those guys are like John Coltrane,” Craig said. “It’s another level of an art form I can’t do in that way, but I have my own version of it that’s less performative and more meditative.”

Whitaker shared Craig’s high regard for virtuosic DJs of the 1980s, like Chuck D and Grandmaster Flash.

“I’ve never known anyone who knew more about every kind of music than Chuck D,” Whitaker said. “He grew up in the Bronx, similar to us in Detroit, where he had mentors who listened to jazz, R&B and all these different things. He wanted to be a musician, and there was no music in the schools, so he started working with turntables. It’s the same story in all these communities.” Whitaker recalled that when he worked with other DJs, he felt like he was doing “their thing,” but working with Craig felt like a true collaboration.

“Carl is always open to trying things,” Whitaker said, turning to his colleague. “I think it’s because you grew up in Detroit. We didn’t think of jazz as bebop, avant-garde, whatever. We just played jazz. It was a color. It encompassed all these things.”

'Brothers Grimm' and 'Pillowman' are an interesting juxtaposition

By **MARY CUSACK**

Twists of fate are a common element in fairy tales, and in an interesting twist of fate, two local theaters are currently producing very different shows based on such tales. Both highlight the dark nature of classic folklore, one poking fun at familiar tropes and the other reminding us why these stories are the stuff of nightmares.

Lansing Community College's theater program is offering up the family-friendly farce "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon," a satirical piece that combines all the Brothers Grimm fairy tales into one fast-moving theatrical extravaganza. Meanwhile, Ixion Ensemble Theatre is taking things in a more adult-oriented direction with "The Pillowman," an intense drama about a writer whose frightful fairy



Review

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon"

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27-Saturday, Feb. 28
LCC black box theater
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
(517) 483-1122
lcc.edu/showinfo

"The Pillowman"

Friday, Feb. 27-Sunday, March 1
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday
3 p.m. Sunday
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
(517) 775-4246
facebook.com/IxionEnsemble

tales start to come true.

The Brothers Grimm collected and published fairy and folk tales that were often quite, well, grim. "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" remains true to the original tales, highlighting the bizarre nature of plot devices such as characters making deals with supernatural entities and witches eating children. The play also focuses on the ridiculously unfair fates that many of the characters suffer. Yet as dark as that might sound, the show is a hilarious romp for audiences of all ages.

Don Zolidis' clever script is goofy enough to keep children engaged while entertaining adults with references to Monty Python and the Disneyfication of the source material. Another rewarding bit for parents is the portrayal of Rapunzel (Denisse Huguez) as a moody, resentful teen. Huguez is perfect as



Photo by Kevin Fowler

Amirah Abaalkhail (right) as Gretel and Zander Pierce as Hansel in LCC's production of "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon," by Don Zolidis.

the petulant brat, stomping her feet and screaming at her oblivious parents (Rachael Ngasala and Avery Martin).

A significant portion of the play is spent recreating the story of Hansel (Zander Pearce) and Gretel (Amirah Abaalkhail) as the first horror film, with full audience participation. Abaalkhail exhibits her versatility in multiple roles but really shines as she takes on all the characters in "Cinderella" in an exhausting tour de force.

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" runs a lean 70 minutes, a perfect length for a high-energy show that keeps the whole audience engaged. With the added benefit of free admission and free parking, this is a great show to introduce children to live theater.

In contrast, Ixion's "The Pillowman" is most definitely for mature audiences only. Katurian (Heath Sartorius), a contemporary writer of fairy tales, has been arrested because several children have been murdered in ways that mimic his stories. The plot takes place in a totalitarian society where the police serve as investigators, judges and executioners. Katurian has two hours to prove his innocence or die.

The officers, Tupolski (Jeff Kennedy) and Ariel (Brian Farnham), play good cop-bad cop as they try to threaten, cajole and beat a confession out of Katurian. At first, the plot seems to be an indictment of authoritarian suppression of free speech, but the story takes a turn when it's revealed that they have also arrested Katurian's brother, Michal (Sam Johnson).

Katurian is protective of Michal, who has some unspecified special needs. Act two focuses on the brothers' childhood and relationship. As played by Johnson, Michal



Photo by Ixion Ensemble

From left: Brian Farnham as Ariel, Heath Sartorius as Katurian and Jeff Kennedy as Tupolski in Ixion Ensemble Theatre's production of "The Pillowman," by Martin McDonagh.

is an enigma. He doesn't seem to have any specific disability, but he's clearly damaged. Johnson brings a unique, unsettling physicality to the role. He's disaffected, emotionally remote and darkly self-centered, the product of a very dysfunctional childhood.

To say much more about the plot would spoil its stunning reveals, but one additional element can be mentioned: Katurian narrates several of his fairy tales throughout the show, and Sartorius is mesmerizing as he unspools them. In one story, "The Little Jesus," Neysa Nohara portrays a young girl who believes she's Christ reborn and is forced by her adoptive parents (Edric Haleen and Liv Challa) to replicate the Passion of Christ. It's a harrowing scene due to Little Jesus' commitment to her belief.

"The Pillowman" runs two and a half hours, but it doesn't feel long. The three-act structure and the way playwright Martin McDonagh reveals the plot twists create a compelling pacing. In addition, the fairy tales built into the play are haunting, sometimes horrifying. Sartorius is well cast as a seemingly innocuous creative type whose art comes from a very deep, dark past.

Revisiting the Brothers Grimm's works at LCC before seeing "The Pillowman" at Ixion will provide an interesting juxtaposition for adult audiences. Children can stay innocent a little longer and enjoy the ridiculous nature of fairy tales without being fully exposed to their darkness at the "Spectaculathon."



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Lebowsky's 'Frozen' is community theater at the highest level

By **MARK GMAZEL**

From the moment one first sets foot in the venue, it's evident that the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts' production of Disney's "Frozen" is going to deliver on all hopes and expectations.

There are plenty of pre-show activities to peruse and ample restaurants and taverns downtown. Parking is close by and plentiful. The charming facility is large enough to accommodate substantial crowds, the staff is knowledgeable and courteous, and the concessions are reasonably priced.

The show itself features a spectacular array of lights, sound, projections, music, voices, costumes, props and scenic elements that combine in such a way that you feel like you're actually in the world of Arendelle. The technology used in this production is truly cutting edge, and I look forward to seeing future shows presented with the polish, modernity and skill I witnessed Friday night (Feb. 20). Like most events at Lebowsky, this production is community theater elevated to the highest level.

No effort by the crew is wasted as the talented, trained and polished ensemble makes it clear from the opening number on that they're ready to meet the challenge of performing this difficult musical score. You'll hear Michigan State University grads Leah Collins and Joe Gill (Pabbie), MSU music student Gavin Fedewa and DeWitt High School graduate Juliana Carey shine in

their moments in the chorus, while East Lansing MacDonald Middle School student Nelly Aste is direct, clear and charmingly confident in her turn as young Elsa.



Review

"Frozen"

Through March 8
 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
 Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts
 122 E. Main St., Owosso
 (989) 723-4003
 lebowskycenter.com

Jake Przybyla (Hans), also the show's voice director, has excellent acting chops and a voice that is sweet yet powerful. I was quite impressed with the athleticism of Zae Clark (Sven), who is animated and funny while performing in a push-up position demanded by his intricate costume. Matt Apostle (Oaken) takes his moment and runs with it, delighting the audience. And Josh Holliday strikes the right balance between acting and puppeteering in his role as the beloved snowman Olaf.

Jazlyn Dingfelder (Anna) brings warmth and openness to her performance, along with a beautiful voice. Her sensitivity and kindness are major assets to this role, allow-

ing viewers to really experience the confusion and compassion she feels towards her sister.

All the performances are memorable, but the star of the show is MSU grad Madison LeMieux (Elsa). She is purely transcendent singing "Let It Go," one of the most technically difficult songs in the musical theater canon, infusing every octave with power, control and accuracy. No fan of "Frozen" can walk away from her assured interpretation wanting anything more than what she delivers. A true powerhouse of a performer, she is sure to inspire the next generation of actors and fans who filled the auditorium with delighted cheers, laughter and applause.



Photo by The Mattessons Photography

Madison LeMieux as Elsa in the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts' production of Disney's "Frozen."



Burt's bridge breaks winter fast

Two facts for you this week

1. Burt Reynolds was born in Lansing in 1936. The acclaimed actor appeared on film and television from the 1950s until shortly before his death in 2018. He probably fell in love with the bridge, just like the rest of us.
2. Big Penny, the Pennsylvania Street bridge that munches on trucks, has broken her winter fast. According to eyewitness accounts, the bridge munched around 11:19 a.m. on Feb. 12, gnawing on a semi-truck. The mild feast was the first of 2026 for Big Penny and the 107th documented munching since 2004.



City Pulse will be donating this month to Mitten Misfits Farm Sanctuary on behalf of STUPID Lansing.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Drainage Board Meeting For Determination of Practicability

DARLING AND CHRISTIE INTERCOUNTY DRAIN
 (Jackson and Ingham Counties)

DATE: March 10, 2026
TIME: 10:00 am
LOCATION: Tompkins Township Hall
 9999 Tompkins Rd. Rives Junction, MI 49277

The Darling and Christie Intercounty Drain Drainage Board will meet at the above date, time and location to consider the petition, dated January 28, 2026, for maintenance and improvement of an intercounty drain, located in Tompkins Township in Jackson County and Onondaga Township in Ingham County, pursuant to Chapter 8 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, to determine the sufficiency of signatures on said petition, to go over the route of the intercounty drain, and to further determine whether the maintenance and improvement of the intercounty drain is practicable.

Proceedings conducted at this public meeting will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Public comment will be received at the meeting from anyone owning lands liable to an assessment, or whose lands will be crossed by the drain, or any municipality affected. Written comments may be submitted prior to the meeting, or additional information may be obtained from the following offices:

Geoffrey Snyder
 Jackson County Drain Commissioner
 120 W. Michigan Ave.
 Jackson, Michigan 49201
 517-788-4398

Patrick E. Lindemann
 Ingham County Drain Commissioner
 707 Buhl
 Mason, Michigan 48854-0220
 517-676-8395

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Drain Commissioner of their County at the number listed above or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

Dated: February 17, 2026

Joseph P Brezvai, Deputy
 For Dr. Tim Boring, Director
 Michigan Department of Agriculture
 and Rural Development

CP#26-057

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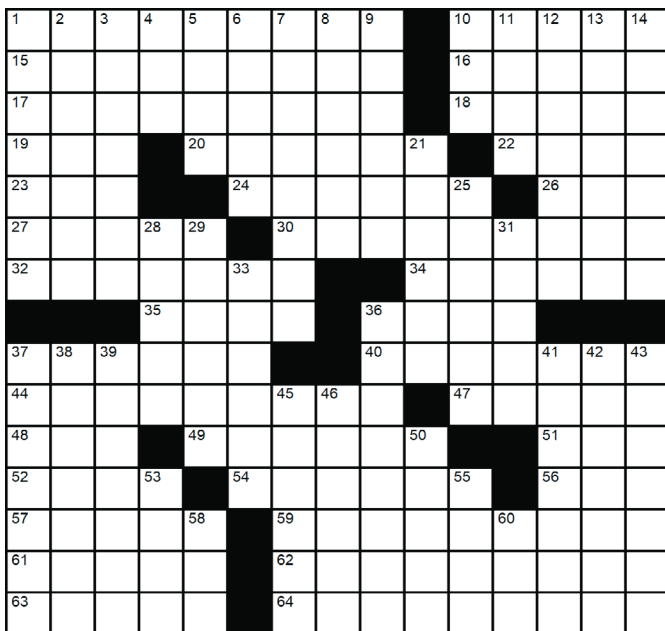
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Free Ticket”
-- another tricky
themeless.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Reach half a century (which yours truly will do in March!)
- 10. SI unit named for a Serb
- 15. Differently
- 16. How some bras are available for order, color-wise
- 17. Fuel that can be made from soybeans
- 18. Yarn
- 19. Shady character?
- 20. To a tee, slangily
- 22. Envelope acronym
- 23. Seafood restaurant item
- 24. Pixelated image, on old computer displays
- 26. Major label broken up in 2012
- 27. ___ Pacific University (Christian institution near L.A.)
- 30. Doctor (Richard Dreyfuss) antagonized by Bob (Bill Murray) in “What About Bob?”
- 32. White Stripes album named after a Dutch art movement
- 34. Not raw
- 35. Fair
- 36. Hill crest, in England (or “sack” lead-in)
- 37. Diversion using parts of speech
- 40. Low-cost carrier based in Kuala Lumpur
- 44. The current record for one is 275.97 knots
- 47. Time served



- 48. System that reads credit cards
 - 49. Rolled snack?
 - 51. “Let There Be ___ ... Ruff Ryders’ First Lady” (1999 debut rap album)
 - 52. Piz Bernina and Schreckhorn, for two
 - 54. Live dangerously
 - 56. Miss Piggy tagline
 - 57. Tale of Troy that doesn’t get to the Trojan Horse
 - 59. Misleadingly named little pet
 - 61. Ours in Tours
 - 62. Area affected by plantar fasciitis
 - 63. Promotional link
 - 64. Enterprise is its flagship
- DOWN
- 1. Words after “Good” or “Born”
 - 2. Draw on
 - 3. Diamond figure

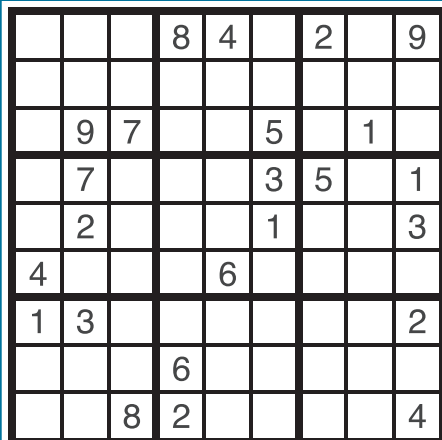
- 4. Australian bushranger Kelly
- 5. “Looney Tunes” animator Freleng
- 6. “___ my sunglasses at night” (Corey Hart lyric)
- 7. Regarding money
- 8. Sleeping sickness vector
- 9. Summon loudly
- 10. Contracted agreement
- 11. They’ll check your head
- 12. Ski town near Montpelier, on envelopes
- 13. Wyoming’s only university town (so their website says)
- 14. “You pick which one”
- 21. Mocha resident
- 25. Detection systems
- 28. Snatched
- 29. Martial art involving wrist and elbow grips
- 31. Tear
- 33. Half of #33?
- 36. Counterpart of kanji and hiragana
- 37. Classic drawing program with Airbrush and Curve tools
- 38. Retroactively named space mission of 1967
- 39. Notwithstanding
- 41. Always, in Acapulco
- 42. Dunning focus
- 43. When some primetime shows are scheduled
- 45. Ache near the stapes, maybe
- 46. Roll call entry
- 50. Potato gadget
- 53. Wrapped garment
- 55. Domain
- 58. Woodchuck’s home
- 60. Tight one

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Advanced



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Feb. 25-March 3, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In woodworking, “spalting” occurs when fungi colonize wood, creating dark lines and patterns that make the wood more valuable, not less. The decay creates beauty as long as it isn’t allowed to progress too far. Here’s the metaphorical moral of the story for you, Aries: What feels like a deteriorating situation might actually be spalting, Aries. Are you experiencing the breakdown of a routine, a certainty, or a plan? It could be creating a pattern that makes your story even more interesting and heroic. So keep in mind that an apparent decomposition may be transforming ordinary into extraordinary beauty. My advice is to play along with the spalting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): I suspect you will soon be invited to explore novel feelings and unfamiliar states of awareness. As you wander in the psychological frontiers, you might experience mysterious phenomena like the following. 1. An overflow of reverence and awe. 2. Blissful surprise in the face of the sublime. 3. Sudden glimmers of eternity in fleeting moments. 4. A soft, golden resonance that arises when you hear arousing truths. 5. Amazingly useful questions that could tantalize and feed your imagination for months and even years to come.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If I were your mentor, I’d lead you up an ascending trail to a high peak where your vision is clear and vast. If I were your leader, I’d give you a medal for all the ways you’ve been brave when no one was looking, then send you on an all-expenses-paid sabbatical to a beautiful sanctuary to rest and remember yourself. If I were your therapist, I’d guide you through a 90-minute meditation on your entire life story up until now. But since I’m just your companion for this brief oracle, I will instead advise you to slip out of any silken snares of comfort that dull your spirit, cast off perks and privileges that keep you small, and commune with influences that remind you of how deeply you treasure being alive.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Biologist Barbara McClintock won the Nobel Prize by developing what she called “a feeling for the organism.” She cultivated an intimate, almost empathic relationship with the corn plants she studied. She didn’t impose theories on her subjects. She listened to them until she could sense their hidden patterns from the inside. When you’re not lost in self-protection, you Cancerians excel at this quality of attention. Here’s what I see as your task in the coming weeks: Transfer your empathic genius away from people who drain you and toward projects, places, or problems that deserve your devotion and give you blessings in return.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sufi writers describe heartbreak, grief, and longing as portals through which divine love enters. They say that a highly defended ego and a hardened heart can’t engage with such profound and potent love. In this view, suffering that makes the heart ache strips away illusions and fixations, allowing greater receptivity, humility, and tenderness toward all beings. I’m not expecting you to get blasted by an influx of poignancy in the near future, Leo, but I’m very sure you have experienced such blasts in the past. And now is an excellent time to process those old breakthroughs disguised as breakdowns. You are likely to finally be able to harvest the full power they offered you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In traditional Balinese culture, Tri Hita Karana is a concept that means there are three causes of well-being: harmony with God, harmony with people, and harmony with nature. When one is out of balance, all suffer. I’m wondering if you would benefit from meditating on this theme now, Virgo. Have you been focused on one dimension at the expense of the others? Are you, perhaps, spiritually nourished but socially isolated? Or maybe you’re maintaining relationships but ignoring your body’s connection to the earth? Here’s your assignment: Do a Tri Hita Karana audit. Which harmony is most neglected? Add to your altar, call a friend, or go walk in the

great outdoors—whichever one you’ve been shortchanging.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You are a diplomat in the struggle between beauty and inelegance. Your aptitude for creating harmony is a great asset that others might underestimate or miss completely. I hope you will always trust your hunger for classiness even if others dismiss it as superficial. One of your key reasons for being here on earth is to keep insisting on loveliness in a world too quick to settle for ugliness. These qualities of yours are especially needed right now. Please be gracefully insistent on expressing them wherever you go.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The bad news: You underestimate how much joy and pleasure you deserve—and how much you’re capable of experiencing. This artificially low expectation has sometimes cheated you out of your rightful share of bliss and fulfillment. The good news: Life is now ready to conspire with you to raise your happiness levels. I hope you will cooperate eagerly. The more intensely you insist on feeling good, the more cosmic assistance you will garner. Here’s a smart way to launch this holy campaign: Renounce a certain lackluster thrill that diverts you from more lavish excitements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In classical music, a “rest” isn’t the absence of music. It’s a specific notation that creates space, tension, and meaning. The silence is as much a part of the composition as the sound. I suggest you think of your current pause this way, Sagittarius. You’re not waiting for your real life to resume. You’re in a rest, and the rest is an essential part of the process you’re following. It’s creating the conditions for what comes next. So instead of anxiously filling every moment with productivity or distraction, try honoring the pause. Be deliberately quiet. Let the silence accumulate. When the next movement begins, you’ll understand exactly why the rest was necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Interesting temptations are wandering into your orbit. You may be surprised to find yourself drawn toward entertaining gambles and tricky adventures. How should you respond? Should you say “Yes! Now! I’m ready!”? Or is open-minded caution a wiser approach? Conditions are too slippery for me to arrive at definitive conclusions. What I can tell you is this: Merely considering and ruminating on these invitations will awaken uplifting and inspiring lessons. PS: To get the fullness of the blessings you want from other people, you must first give them to yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The engineer Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) said he envisioned his inventions in intricate detail before building them. He didn’t need literal prototypes because his mental pictures were so vivid. I suspect you Aquarians now have extra access to this power. What scenarios are you dreaming of? What are you incubating in your imagination? I urge you to boldly trust your thought experiments. Your mental prototypes may be unusually accurate. The visions you’re testing internally are reconnaissance missions to futures that you have the power to build. Regard your imagination as a laboratory.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Sufi mystics tell us that the heart has “seven levels of depth,” each one bearing progressively more profound wisdom. You access these depths by feeling deeper, not thinking harder. Let’s apply this perspective to you, Pisces. Right now, you’re being called to descend past surface emotions (irritation, worry, mild contentment) into the layers beneath: primal wonder, the wild joy you’re sometimes too cautious to express, and the sacred longing that can lead you to glory. This dive might feel risky. That’s good! It means you’re going deep enough. What you discover down there will reorganize everything above it for the better.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Feb. 25

125th Anniversary Gala - This special event will take the place of our traditional annual dinner. We can't wait to honor the outstanding people and organizations shaping our region's future. 5-8 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

"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.

Adult Tabletop Board or Card Games - Gather in the daytime with other adults for coffee, conversation and games. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

AI-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.

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.

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.

Day Zero Breakdown - This evening of poetry and experimental music features Dennis Hinrichsen, author of "dementia lyrics," with ambient artist Worm Moon and electronic artist bioPrism. 7 p.m. RCAF Theater, Snyder-Phillips Hall, 361 Physics Road, East Lansing. poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

Enrollment Open House: Wacousta Coop Preschool - Join us for an exciting night meeting teachers, enjoying fun activities, and checking out our new space! 5 p.m. Wacousta Coop Preschool, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. facebook.com/WacoustaCoopPreschool.

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.

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.

Independent Painting Class - Receive one-on-one instruction while exploring the painting genre of your choice (still life, landscape, portraiture, etc.). Six-week class. Noon-3 p.m. Shiawassee Arts Center, 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. (989) 723-8354. shiawasseearts.org.

Meditation - Meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. 7-9 p.m. Chùa Vạn Hạnh, 3015 S. Mar-

tin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. 517-420-5820. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.

Meridian Speaker Series - MSU Professor Emeritus Sally Helvenston Gray will present on women's dress reform in Michigan in the 19th century. Free admission. 2-3 p.m. Meridian Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 347-7300.

MI Ag Ideas to Grow with Conference - This educational experience features tracks focused on animal agriculture, field crop production, vegetable production, food preservation, irrigation and drainage, beginning farmers, and solar photovoltaic. Sessions will be held via Zoom through March 5. For a schedule of sessions and to register, visit canr.msu.edu/miagideas.

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.

Mortgage Foreclosure Basics - This webinar will describe the options to keep, sell, or let foreclosure happen. 5-6 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth.

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.

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

RELAX: Alternatives to Anger - This program helps teens, adults, parents and caregivers understand and manage anger/stress and develop the communication and problem-solving skills needed for healthy relationships. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/alternatives_to_anger.

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

Speak with Impact: Public Speaking Mastery Workshop - This interactive workshop is designed to help you shed stage fright, speak with poise, and deliver powerful presentations that leave a lasting impact. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Regus - One Michigan Avenue, 120 N. Washington Square, Ste. 300, Lansing. eventbrite.sg/o/43284464053.

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

Walk-in Wednesday: Thumb Print World - Create new worlds using your own personal stamps — your fingerprints! Free. 4:30-5:45 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Weaving the Web: Deity - 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.

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

Lake Michigan Film Festival

Thursday, Feb. 26 - Sunday, March 1
Studio C Meridian Mall
1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos
elff.com/festival

The Lake Michigan Film Festival is going out with a bang. This year's event, the final hoorah, will feature 65 films from Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Festival director Susan W. Woods gave some insight into why the festival is coming to a close: "When we started the film festival in 1997, all films were only available on VHS, 16mm and 35mm. Now all the films are digitized, available electronically and by Blu-ray or DCP."

The festival begins with the documentary "The Best of the Best: Jazz from Detroit." Director Dan Loewenthal, producer Roberta Friedman and producer/writer Mark Stryker will be in attendance to discuss the film.

Other feature-length films include: "1969: Killers, Freaks, and Radicals," a documentary examining a string of brutal murders in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti in the late '60s and how the social and political tensions of the time may have contributed to the crimes.

"Reverie," a drama following a lonely writer who journeys too deep into his own fantasy world, casting aside reality.

"Premarital," a comedy about a pastor who launches a campaign to convert his daughter's fiancé to Christianity before their wedding.

"The Daughters of the Domino," a modern noir about a detective who arrested her serial killer father, fracturing her relationship with her sister Laura, whose own daughter goes missing years later.

The festival will also offer three programs of short documentaries, a block of social justice documentaries, three programs of short films and a block of student films. Visit the event website for a full rundown of the schedule, films, directors and more.



ELFF.COM FEB 26 - MARCH 1, 2026
for complete schedule Studio C - Okemos, MI

THE MICHIGAN FOUNDATION studio C MICHIGAN ARTS CENTER EAST LANSING ARTS

Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

Thursday, Feb. 26

29th and Final Lake Michigan Film Festival - The largest and most comprehensive regional film festival, screening 65 films from Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana. Many of the filmmakers will be on hand. 7 p.m. Studio C, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. elff.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

"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.

Fairy Tale Fest - Dress up in your finest fairy tale garb to celebrate Tell a Fairy Tale Day! We'll listen to a few fairy tales from around the world and create our own stories with words and pictures. 4:30-5:30 p.m. South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cadl.org/about/our-locations/south-lansing.

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.

Hay Production 101 - Topic: field establishment & renovation. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/forages.

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.

See Events, Page 20

Greg Klyma in concert

7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26

Old Town General Store

408 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
musicisthefoundation510c3.ticketspice.com/

greg-klyma-at-the-old-town-general-store



The Old Town General Store will be transformed this summer into the Old Town Cultural Center, an arts hub offering concerts, lessons, retreats, art demonstrations and exhibits, poetry slams and so on.

To give patrons an idea of what to expect from the new venue, the still-open-for-now Old Town General Store will host a concert Thursday featuring Buffalo, New York's Greg Klyma. It's the first time the seasoned road performer will play in mid-Michigan since 2018.

After nearly 30 years of touring and with more than a dozen studio albums under his belt, Klyma, a prolific songwriter known for his energetic live performances and clever, story-telling lyrics, isn't slowing down. A self-proclaimed scholar of rock 'n' roll and country music, he's developed a distinctive sound, performing for audiences across the country. His songs have been played on SiriusXM and the syndicated radio shows "The Midnight Special" and "WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour," as well as being covered by international indie artists.

Tickets are \$21 and are available online or at the door while supplies last.

Events

from page 19

"Jesus Christ Superstar" - This Tony Award-winning rock opera, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, tells the story of Jesus Christ's final days, culminating in his crucifixion. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.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.

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.

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. laps.org.

Preserving MI Harvest: Making Sweet Maple Syrup - We'll go through the steps of making maple syrup. We'll talk about the process, including filtering and preserving this sweet treat in a jar. 1-2 and 6-7 p.m. Virtual — register at 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.

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

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

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

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

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. 27

2026 Paddling Film Festival - Join us for a night of film to kick off the 2026 Quiet Adventures Symposium. This event will feature six films, including the award winners for Best Canoeing Film, Best Instructional Film, Best Short Film, Best Documentary, and a special jury mention. 7-10 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. quietadventures.org.

29th and Final Lake Michigan Film Festival - 12:30-10 p.m. Studio C, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. elff.com.

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - 6 a.m.-9 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-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" - The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this fast-paced, rollicking ride. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Confident Witch Circle: Hagalaz - Join Lord Solinox Silverstar for a practical two-hour workshop on navigating crisis through the lens of Hagalaz, the rune of necessary destruction. 8-10 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Cornbread & Beans Ent. Stand-up Comedy Showcase - Expect fresh jokes, good vibes, and a crowd that's all about having a great time. 8-10 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/120626855359.

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" - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamston-theatre.org.

Fish Fry - Baked & fried fish, baked potatoes & fries, homemade mac and cheese, coleslaw, bread & more. 5-7 p.m. St. Martha Catholic

Church, 1100 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-349-1763. st-martha.org.

Fish Fry Fridays Fundraiser - \$8 to \$15 — kids under 5 eat free. 4:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing. 517-485-1666.

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.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalk-theatre.com.

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival - This year's event continues the live entertainment, flavorful meads, unique vendors, elaborate costumes, games and contests that festivalgoers are accustomed to, but will also feature the largest Viking encampment yet. 5-11 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. michiganordicfirefestival.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 Ice Hockey vs. Ohio State University - 8:30 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

Name That Song - Enjoy '90s/2000s music, dance-offs, lip sync battles, confetti showers and crazy prizes. 7:30 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Online Extension Extras for Professionals Fourth Fridays: Inquiring Minds Want to Know - This program helps adults understand how science experiences promote child development, build self-confidence, stimulate curiosity and develop language skills. 1-2:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/parenting_education_classes.

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. laps.org.

TGIF Dance Party - Doors 7 p.m., line dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dance 8 p.m. to midnight. DJ Pat Johnson in the house. Dinner buffet provided. Cash/credit bar available. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

Travelogue: Fantastic Fishing in Canada - Join host Nancy Norton as we "travel" near and far, hearing firsthand accounts. Admission \$2. 7-8:30 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-482-4235. parksonline.lansingmi.gov.

Saturday, Feb. 28

29th and Final Lake Michigan Film Festival - 12:30-10 p.m. Studio C, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. elff.com.

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

Awaken! Lansing's Premier Wellness Expo - Vendors will offer their services to Awaken! your mind, body and spirit. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Cadillac Room, 1115 S. Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-798-6175. facebook.com/brooketheintuitive.

Bench Bar Conference - Join us for a continental breakfast, followed by several judge speakers! Free to attend for all ICBA members, casual dress code. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/23030758648.

Blood, Leather & Rock Gods - A "Queen of the Damned"-inspired midnight drag brunch. Vampires, rock gods, leather, and a late-night dining experience. 7 p.m. The Studio at 414, 410 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/77771454873.

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.

"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" - 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Campfire Program: All About Owls - Join Harris Nature Center naturalists around the campfire for a fireside chat, s'mores and a guided walk. 7-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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

"Dial M for Murder" - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

February Artist of the Month: Kat Fike - Join us at the Art & Soul Gallery as we celebrate CCAC artist Kat Fike. Meet the artist, join the Q&A, and purchase some of her work. 5-7 p.m. 215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. facebook.com/ClintonCntyArts.

Greater Lansing Orchid Show and Sale - Enjoy the beautiful flowers and exhibits, a welcome respite from winter's cold. Learn how to grow orchids with free classes and brighten up your home with some of the spectacular flowers on sale! 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett. greaterlansingorchidsociety.info.

Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner - Join us for an interactive dinner where you dress up as a character. Socialize with other characters to get more clues about who the murderer is. Prime rib and grilled chicken dinner with green beans and potatoes. 6-9 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/47067531443.

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.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalk-theatre.com.

Lego Palooza - An annual fundraising extravaganza packed with LEGO-themed activities for all your friends and family! 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

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

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival - 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. michiganordicfirefestival.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 Ice Hockey vs. Ohio State University - 8 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

Mid-Michigan 3D Printers Meetup - Come hang out, show projects and talk 3D printing. Public welcome! 1-4 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. 517-234-4566. mm3dp.org.

Potato Derby - Join us for a wacky race where potatoes are the stars of the track. Decorate your very own "spud mobile" and race it down the derby ramp. Registration req. 1-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Quiet Adventures Symposium - Learn how you can support environmental stewardship of land and water, enjoy hands-on demonstrations, and choose from over 30 engaging talks. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Farm Bureau Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. quietadventures.org.

See Events, Page 21

Events

from page 20

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

Sunday, March 1

29th and Final Lake Michigan Film Festival - 12:30-10 p.m. Studio C, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. elff.com.

APS Carnival Celebration - Rescheduled from Feb. 22. 2-4 p.m. Aux Petits Soins, 2824 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. apsfrenchclass.com.

"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 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. williamstonfarmmarket.org.

"Dial M for Murder" - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Greater Lansing Orchid Show and Sale - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Haslett. greaterlansingorchidsociety.info.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" - 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

Lego Palooza - 9-30 a.m.-5 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

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

Michigan Nordic Fire Festival - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. michiganordicfirefestival.com.

MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit Awards Reception - 1-2:30 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Ohio State University - Noon. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

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

Quaker Meeting for Worship - 10:30 a.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org.

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

Sunday Brunch at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Pure Options Stand-up Presents: T.J. Miller - 6:30 p.m. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Monday, March 2

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

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

Better Process Control School - Students who successfully complete this course will meet FDA certification requirements. 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Erickson Hall, 620 Farm Lane, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/food-safety-regulations-and-courses.

Brewers Meetup at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 6-7:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

Crafty Story Time - Preschool-aged children and their caregivers can enjoy fun activities, stories and a craft. 11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 South Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

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

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.

Matter of Balance - Eight-session workshop designed to improve balance, flexibility and strength, helping older adults reduce fall risks and become more active. 1-3 a.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 Okemos Road, Okemos. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedo@tcoa.org.

Mother Son Dance - Join us for a fun and memorable evening. Space is limited. 7-9 p.m. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/deltatowship.

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: Ready for Power Outages? - Learn how to keep yourself and your family healthy and safe from foodborne illness during power outages. 12-12:30 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, March 3

"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.



29th Annual Red Cedar Festival of Community Bands

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28

Okemos High School

2800 Jolly Road, Okemos

meridiancommunityband.org/red-cedar-festival

Community bands are where musicians of all ages, from teenagers to octogenarians, get together to perform for local audiences. This year's Red Cedar Festival of Community Bands features ensembles from across Michigan, giving public performances and participating in clinics all day long.

With a focus on continuing education and direct feedback for both musicians and conductors, the Red Cedar Festival has helped to grow musicianship in Michigan's community bands for nearly three decades.

Throughout the day, eleven bands will perform, including two ensembles from Greater Lansing: the DeWitt Community Concert Band and host Meridian Community Band. Other groups include the Oakland Community College Symphony Band, West Michigan Concert Winds, Saginaw Area Concert Band, North Oakland Concert Band, Flint Symphony Wind Ensemble, Waterford New Horizons Band, Southshore Concert Band, Schoolcraft College Wind Ensemble and Royal Oak Concert Band.

Audiences can stay for a little bit or a full day of immersion in the energy of community bands. Admission is free, though donations are gratefully accepted.

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.

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

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

Better Process Control School - 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Erickson Hall, 620 Farm Lane, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/food-safety-regulations-and-courses.

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.

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

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

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

The Green Door Comedy Showcase - The Green Door features some of the state and beyond's best stand-up talent every week! Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-482-6376. greendoorlive.com.

Group Dance Class: Beginning Cha Cha - A very fun Latin dance. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888. themac.org.

Hay Production 101 - Topic: harvest and post-harvest management. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/forages.

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.

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.

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.

Passport to Retirement: LCC Adult Enrichment Course - This two-day course will help you gain confidence in your financial decision making so that later on, you're better prepared to enjoy the rewards and face the challenges that retirement can bring. 6-8:30 p.m. LCC East Campus, 2827 Eyde Pkwy., East Lansing. register at lcc.edu/keeplearning.

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.

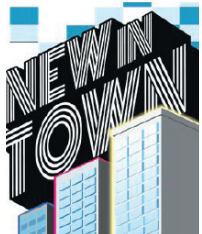
Trivia at Lansing Shuffle - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. lansingshuffle.com.

Webcast Viewing for National Alliance for Children's Grief Trauma Support - Attendees will engage with the webcast and learn with a community of like-minded, grief-focused professionals. 1-4:30 p.m. Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Home, 900 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121022025320.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Simply Stacy's gets a warm welcome in Eaton Rapids



Simply Stacy's Bakery and Deli

115 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday
(517) 836-2146

By LEO V. KAPLAN

When Dave Crawford first told Stacy VanElls, a close friend and home baker, that he wanted to open a bakery with her, she didn't think it was possible.

"I first brought it up to her about a year ago, and she didn't believe me," Crawford said. "But here we are today."

Simply Stacy's Bakery and Deli

celebrated its grand opening Monday (Feb. 23), bringing fresh-baked goods and deli-style sandwiches to downtown Eaton Rapids. The business is run by VanElls and Crawford, alongside Crawford's wife, Tammy, and is the first of its kind in the city.

ford's wife, Tammy, and is the first of its kind in the city.

"Eaton Rapids is an amazing community," Crawford said. "They have a bakery, per se, but they don't have the deli-style sandwiches. They've got a couple of restaurants, a couple of bars and fast food. So, I just felt as though having a place like this would be a great addition to the community."

Seeing how busy the shop was on its first day, it's clear the community agrees. Crawford spoke with City Pulse quickly between taking and preparing orders, mentioning that eight dozen cinnamon rolls had already been sold after about five hours of operation.

"It's been busy since the time we opened the doors," Crawford said.

The enormous cinnamon rolls, as well as cupcakes, cookies and more unique options like chocolate-covered pretzels and Oreos, will please the sweet teeth among

the shop's clientele.

But the deli isn't an afterthought. The meats, including ham, roasted turkey, roast beef, grilled chicken and hard salami, are Boar's Head brand, and so are the cheeses. Customers can order from the menu or build their own sandwich on white, wheat, sourdough or ciabatta bread.

"My goal was to serve quality products at as affordable prices as possible," Crawford said.

The shop does not offer dine-in seating, just takeout.

Crawford said he's excited to bring more variety to the Eaton Rapids food scene, particularly with the deli, and to



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Tammy (left) and Dave Crawford serve a cinnamon roll made by Stacy VanElls at the trio's new bakery and deli in downtown Eaton Rapids.

help a friend take the next step in pursuing her passion.

"I know this has been a lifelong dream for her," he said of VanElls.

Everyday's duck is a crowd pleaser

By LIZY FERGUSON

My friends and I were playing the ever-so-fun game of "where should we eat?" a couple of weeks ago, each trying to come up with something that would please the crowd while driving around, knowing we might have to head back in the opposite direction once a decision was finally reached. Why, at these moments,



Peking duck (two-course)

\$55

Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine

1375 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily
(517) 337-1882

everydaychinesecuisine.com

does the mind go completely blank?

Thankfully, as soon as someone suggested Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine, everyone was in immediate agreement.

It's always best to 1. dine in at Everyday as opposed to taking out, and 2. go in a group of at least three, so you can order too much without really realizing it and cover one of the big, round tables

with platters of some of the best food you can get in the Lansing area. The one problem is that your group then has to agree upon which dishes to select.

Thankfully, because there were only three of us, when I suggested the Peking duck, we were again in easy agreement that it would have to be one of our choices. We also got the delicious stir-fried green beans and eggplant with garlic sauce, but I will focus on the duck.

When you order the duck, you have a choice of either one or two additional courses. The options are duck fried rice and/or a soup made from the duck bones. The soup is incredible, but we went with the fried rice because it better complemented our other selections.

To prepare Peking duck, air is pumped through the neck cavity to separate the skin from the fat. It's roasted in a special oven, hanging vertically, and is glazed with honey and/or malt sugar, soy sauce and Chinese five-spice powder. The result is glistening, crispy skin over tender, melt-in-your-mouth meat.

The sliced duck is served with thin, steamed pancakes in addition to julienned cucumber, pickled daikon and



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

carrot, spring onion and hoisin sauce. I like to fill a pancake with all of the above and enjoy the mesmerizing combination of rich duck, fresh vegetables and umami hoisin. And repeat.

The fried rice is lovely and paired excellently with the vegetables we chose, but for me, nothing compares to the

See Dish, Page 23

CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1549

On February 17, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 6, "Buildings and Building Regulations," of the East Lansing Code to Repeal Provisions Relating to Rental Housing Inspections and Licensing.

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#26-061

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 DONUTS

Based on your votes in WKAR and 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. Groovy Donuts — both locations

Donut shops offering a variety of specialty flavors
 See groovydonuts.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

3. Phillips Cider Bar and Market

Bar serving cider-focused drinks and baked goods
 3000 Vine St., Lansing
 (517) 580-7581
 phillips ciderbar.com
 2-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday
 Noon-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
 Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

4. Quality Dairy — all locations

Convenience stores with fresh donuts daily
 See qualitydairy.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

5. Strange Matter Coffee — all locations

Coffee shops serving house-made vegan and gluten-free treats
 See strangemattercoffee.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

Dish

from page 22

duck-filled pancakes. Dinner with

friends at Everyday is the perfect way to spend a gloomy, freezing winter evening, something to remember the next time you're going around and around about where to eat.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

T	U	R	N	F	I	F	T	Y	T	E	S	L	A
O	T	H	E	R	W	I	S	E	I	N	T	A	N
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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

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 Best BBQ Sauce
 Best Wings
 Best Caterer/
 Catering service

Meat

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5⁹⁹ 8⁹⁹ 13⁹⁹

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