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March 11-17, 2026

# CityPULSE

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Lansing's largest circulation newspaper

## Hearing from Iran

See Page 7



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## Sponsored Content

### Today's Alarmists Are Right

Silence in moments like this benefits the powerful — not the public.

For a few years now, I've written weekly essays, on and off, using the small platform I have as a business owner to say something simple: you are not alone if you believe Donald Trump is hastening the decay of America and our democracy.

I write them because many people feel this privately but are told publicly that they're overreacting, hysterical or victims of media panic. The goal has never been to change everyone's mind — it's to say out loud what many already see but are told they shouldn't.

Some critics have a standard script. They say I'm an alarmist. That nothing I say should be taken seriously. That eventually I'll pay for it in lost business — because, as the saying goes, "go woke, go broke."

Of course, the people who repeat that phrase rarely point to the so-called long list of businesses that supposedly collapsed simply because someone expressed a moral opinion. It's a catchy line. It sounds confident. But like many political slogans, it survives by discouraging follow-up questions.

Frankly, I couldn't care less.

My reputation isn't built on political silence — it's built on the work I do. It carried me through the 2007 recession and every year since. People hire me because I'm good at what I do. That reputation speaks for itself.

And many clients appreciate knowing they're working with someone who isn't blind to injustice. Competence matters. Character matters. Increasingly, people want professionals who understand the reality around them.

Democracies rarely collapse overnight. They erode gradually — through normalization, through partisan loyalty replacing principle, and through institutions accepting behavior that once would have been considered qualifying. The warning signs usually appear long before the breaking point.

What's remarkable is the selective memory of those who call me hysterical.

These are often the same people who spent eight years amplifying voices like Rush Limbaugh and Glenn Beck, insisting that Barack Obama would cripple America permanently, that the economy would never recover, and that the republic itself was hanging by a thread. Those warnings were repeated loudly and often.

Yet when Obama left office, the country had experienced years of economic recovery after inheriting the financial collapse of the Bush years.

Apparently, that wasn't the end of America after all.

Which raises a fair question: if predicting collapse during the Obama years wasn't considered alarmism — despite measurable recovery — why is raising concerns now treated as hysterical overreaction?

Maybe sounding the alarm isn't the problem. Perhaps the real issue is that too many people have grown comfortable ignoring it.

We've watched armed federal agents move into cities uninvited. We've watched scandals surrounding unreleased files and unanswered questions pile up. We've watched military actions expand across multiple countries and even into the waters around Venezuela.

That's just the short list.

Independent institutions, civil service norms, transparency mechanisms, and even international alliances are not partisan inventions — they are

guardrails that measure stability over time. When those guardrails weaken or are bypassed, it is visible in governance outcomes, not just political rhetoric.

None of these observations are partisan interpretations. They are events that anyone paying attention to can see unfolding in real time.

At this point, insisting everything is perfectly normal feels less like reassurance and more like a coping mechanism. Because admitting something is wrong would require confronting uncomfortable truths — and denial often feels easier than accountability.

And that's really what this moment comes down to.

Hypocrisy now moves at warp speed. The same people who demanded transparency about certain files are suddenly comfortable with those files remaining hidden. The promise of "no new wars" has faded into something that sounds like a memory of a promise rather than a governing principle.

Reasonable people can disagree about policy, priorities and political strategy. That disagreement is healthy in a democracy. But disagreement becomes dangerous when it requires ignoring facts in order to preserve loyalty.

Many of us saw this coming from the beginning. When Donald Trump rode down that escalator and turned grievance into a political movement, the warning signs weren't subtle — they were flashing like a five-alarm fire. Some ignored them. Some excused them. Others embraced them.

History will study this era for years. Books will be written. Documentaries will be made. And future generations will ask the same question people always ask when democracies begin to drift:

How did so many people fail to see what was happening in front of them?

The uncomfortable answer is that many didn't fail to see what was happening.

They saw it clearly.

They understood it.

They simply chose not to treat it like a problem — even when they once publicly opposed it.

Politicians like Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham and even JD Vance criticized him before aligning themselves with power. The shift wasn't about new information. It was about leverage. And for those of us watching, it's a stark reminder: when conscience yields to ambition, the consequences ripple far beyond the halls of Congress.

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### Exporting Chaos, Importing Fear

America is forcing itself into a deep state of fear.

For decades, Americans feared the sudden, shocking act of terrorism—the kind that arrived without warning, like the Boston Marathon bombing. Those events were traumatic precisely because they were rare and unpredictable. They reminded us that violence could intrude into ordinary life without warning.

But what we are witnessing now is different. Fear is no longer something Americans merely react to; it is something we appear to be actively cultivating.

By escalating military conflicts abroad, engaging in aggressive foreign actions, and constantly warning Americans that enemies surround us, the United States risks helping create the very instability it claims to be defending against. When a nation projects chaos outward, it rarely remains contained. Chaos has a way of echoing back.

The consequences will not only be geopolitical. They will be domestic.

Heightened tensions abroad inevitably produce heightened paranoia at home. Aggressive immigration enforcement and highly publicized raids have become central features of national politics. People have been detained, families separated, and in some cases killed during confrontations with federal agents. Each incident sends a message about who belongs and who is considered suspicious.

As global tensions rise, it becomes easier to channel fear toward those who look foreign, speak another language, or simply do not fit someone else's narrow definition of what an "American" is supposed to look like. Suspicion replaces trust, communities fracture, and entire populations become convenient political targets.

Ironically, this cycle makes the country less safe.

Escalating conflicts abroad fuel anti-American sentiment around the world. That resentment can, in turn, motivate the very acts of violence that are then used to justify further escalation. At the same time, the constant portrayal of immigrants as enemies feeds domestic extremism, emboldening individuals who see themselves as defenders of a nation under siege.

Fear begins to sustain itself.

There is another, quieter consequence as well. For generations, the United States attracted people from around the world who saw it as a place of stability, opportunity and relative freedom. But a nation defined by political chaos, internal hostility, and aggressive global posture may begin to lose that appeal. When the rhetoric is constant conflict, and the images are raids, protests, and militarized policing, the country begins to look less like a refuge and more like the instability people once fled.

But perhaps the most dangerous shift is happening inside the immigrant communities already here.

Many people came to the United States believing it was a place where they could build a life removed from the violence and instability of their home countries. Now, many are watching two unsettling realities unfold at the same time. On one side, American power is involved in escalating conflicts in regions

connected to their families and cultures abroad. On the other, they are witnessing increasingly aggressive enforcement actions and rhetoric at home that treat their presence as suspicious or unwelcome.

For some, the sense of security that once existed in both places begins to collapse simultaneously. The homeland feels threatened by American policy, while America itself begins to feel less like a refuge. That kind of psychological fracture—where neither place feels safe anymore—can fundamentally alter how people see the country they once hoped to belong to.

And while the country wrestles with the fear it has helped create, a few will quietly profit from the destruction. Once the dust settles, plans are already being discussed to "rebuild" cities and regions ravaged by American action—schemes like the so-called "Mediterranean Riviera" in Gaza, where devastation is repackaged as opportunity. The human cost—the soldiers who die, the families shattered, the communities erased—is minimized because it is not the country that benefits, but a handful of billionaires lining their pockets. Chaos, it seems, is always more lucrative than calm.

In trying to manufacture security through intimidation and escalation, we risk creating the very instability we claim to be preventing. The more chaos we project outward, the more likely it is to return.

For generations, many Americans have lived with the quiet privilege of believing that the world's violence and instability happen somewhere else—on other continents, in other countries, to other people. It was something we watched on the news, debated briefly, and then moved on from, confident that history's turbulence somehow stopped neatly at our borders.

But fear has always been politically efficient. It rallies crowds, simplifies complicated problems, and gives leaders a convenient list of enemies to blame for everything that feels uncertain or out of control. And once people are taught that danger is everywhere, they begin to see it everywhere.

If we continue down this path long enough, Americans may eventually learn what much of the world has known for generations—that a country cannot spend decades exporting chaos, cultivating fear, and turning death into profit, and still expect to sleep peacefully while the world burns.

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

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Elevate your bar or night with our Irish whiskey guide



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You've grooved to drummer Harvey Mason, catch him at MSU



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A \$20 chicken thali dinner that maxes flavor variety

Cover photo by Erick Diaz Veliz

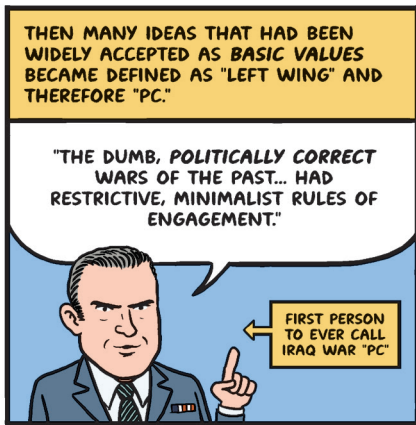
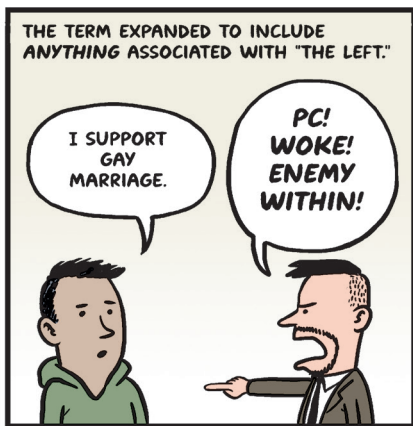
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## From failing MSU project to ‘zero chance this will fail’ on ‘Shark Tank’

Tanvi Gadamsetti and Madhav Aggarwal said they failed their initial class project at Michigan State University as sophomores a few years ago.

“It was the lowest grade in the class,” Aggarwal told City Pulse.

Last week, they ended up in tears on national TV as they pitched their product, a new grippy material being proven as shoelaces, and made a \$300,000 deal with two investors on “Shark Tank.”

It was good tears, they said, pure emotions from a pair of college students who were able to talk on national TV about their work, their BRCE company, MSU and carrying forward the dreams of their parents.

“We will not fail,” Gadamsetti told the “Shark Tank” investors during the ABC-broadcast show.

And that’s exactly what one of the investors whispered to another, in a moment that sealed the deal.

Guest shark Fawn Weaver, CEO of Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey, leaned over to Daniel Lubetzky, founder of KIND Snacks, and quietly said, “There’s zero chance this is gonna fail,” relying on her quick read of the students.

The two investors quickly jumped up to shake hands and seal the deal, for 20% of the company and right of first refusal on the pair’s next invention.

“I do not believe you all have fail in your bones,” Weaver told Gadamsetti and Aggarwal. “You don’t have quit anywhere in your bones, so I’m here to roll with you.”

### How it started

The engineering students met in college. The first drafts of BRCE were all for MSU courses and were created in the college apartments at Shaw Hall.

“Starting up, we got a lot of support, and we got a lot of absences because we now get to travel the world showcasing this,” Aggarwal said.

But it’s their senior year, and it’s intense, they said.

The product came from experience.

Both had been athletes and had injured their ankles, disrupting their dreams, and figured materials science could help solve a major problem.

Their innovation was patented. Aggarwal said it was the fastest approved



materials science patent in the country’s history.

In a phone interview the morning after their deal, the pair seamlessly described the technology.

“If you look with a naked eye, it looks and feels exactly like a shoelace, just like a regular textile,” Gadamsetti said.

“But under a microscope,” Aggarwal added, “it looks like Velcro, just way, way smaller. So, what we’ve done here is used the benefits and framework behind how Velcro works and made it into nanotechnology, so these loops and hooks are a fraction — 1% — of the size of hooks and loops. So, it works like Velcro, but you can’t feel the difference in tying or using them in your daily life.”

The product is shoelaces, for now, and with the airing of the “Shark Tank” episode, they also launched a kids’ shoelace line. Look for occupational partnerships next.

Untied or less-grippy shoes are one of the leading causes of ankle injuries, which is the most common injury in athletics and one of the most common occupational injuries, Aggarwal said.

It’s why they believe a better shoelace will help curb injuries and improve athletic performance, and that can translate to restaurants, construction sites and other occupations.

And a shoelace is something of a proving ground for their larger grippy technology.

### Where it can go

Gadamsetti said they are pursuing a model similar to other advanced materials like Gore-Tex and Kevlar.

“Those are great materials, but so expensive to integrate into gear and limited in what they can be integrated into,” she said. “We take regular everyday materials



Madhav Aggarwal (left) and Tanvi Gadamsetti appeared on “Shark Tank” last week to pitch their grippy material as a shoelace. The two Michigan State University engineering students received a \$300,000 investment agreement for their BRCE company.

and weave and extrude them to deliver these benefits at a fraction of the cost.”

She said there are a wide range of markets, from athletics and outdoors to tactical and medical applications.

### What it means to Gadamsetti and Aggarwal

Both of the MSU seniors are children of immigrants, they told the investors on “Shark Tank.”

Gadamsetti said BRCE is so important because it’s a way for her to provide for her family after her father’s death.

Aggarwal said his parents sold their house to fund a one-way ticket for him to come to Michigan State University, the first-ever person to fly in his family.

“I can’t fail,” he told the investors. “It’s not an option.”

The investors believed.

Lubetzky praised their energy.

“You are the American dream,” he said. “So much heart, and you’ve inspired the next generation who’s listening to you and is going to be in that place the next time around.”

Weaver could hardly wait.

“I believe you will figure it out. I do not believe you will fail, so I have an offer,” she said.

Weaver and Lubetzky asked for 25%



and quickly agreed to Gadamsetti and Aggarwal’s counteroffer of 20%, along with the opportunity to get first crack at the duo’s next big idea.

Gadamsetti and Aggarwal said much of the work was done in classes and through MSU, with plenty of support to help to bring the idea into markets and onto a national platform.

The company has been supported by Lansing Economic Area Partnership, the SmartZone, Burgess Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Michigan State University, MSU Research Foundation, Michigan Founders Fund, Small Business Development Center and others.

Gadamsetti said they were invited to pitch on “Shark Tank” this season.

“We didn’t know we could apply,” she said. “We were the only student team selected in the past three years. It was truly mind blowing.”

“To build this start-up from a college apartment, to get the fastest patent in materials science and to make it to national television while we’re still in college,” Aggarwal said, “we are very excited and very proud of ourselves.”

Gadamsetti said they like to end their pitches, as they did on “Shark Tank,” by saying, in unison: “Embrace the lace.”

— MIKE ELLIS

Images provided by BRCE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF LIENED PROPERTY**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a PUBLIC SALE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED and will be held on bid13.com, ending Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 1:00 P.M. The location of the storage unit items to be sold is State Mini Storage, 3946 E. State Road, Bath, Michigan of Clinton County. State Mini Storage will sell units via bid13.com to satisfy the lien on the property stored at this facility by the following persons:

Name	Unit	Contents
James Daggy	AA2	Shelving, Boxes, Tools, Appliances, Electronics, Household Items

Cash only accepted (Note: A credit card is required to create a bid13.com account but cannot be used to pay for the auction items). Winning bidders must pay the amount of their winning bid plus a \$100 deposit in cash when visiting our office to collect items won at auction. Deposit will be returned after the Property Manager confirms the unit has been left completely empty with no damage caused by the bidder or their associates. **No person under the age of 18 years is allowed to make bids at the sale.** Accounts will be sent to a collection service if a balance remains after the auction (to be paid by the original renter). All purchased goods are sold "as is" and must be removed no later than the Monday following the auction at 8:30 a.m. The unit is to be left completely empty in a clean and rentable condition. No usage of our site dumpster is allowed for the sale.

**CP#26-068**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER  
NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office – 707 Buhl, Mason, MI 48854  
**QUESTIONS:** Carla Clos, Deputy Drain Commissioner, (517) 676-8395

The Ingham County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries for the Drains listed below on the above date, time, and location. At the Day of Review, the Drain Commissioner will hear the proofs and allegations and carefully reconsider and review the description of lands comprising the Drainage Districts, and determine whether the addition or deletion of lands will more accurately define the boundaries of the land benefited by the Drains and whether the revisions are just and equitable pursuant to Section 197 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended. The Drain Commissioner, engineers, and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day and make revisions where necessary. There is no need to schedule an appointment for a specific time on the Day of Review.

A licensed professional engineer has recommended lands be added or removed from the Drainage Districts listed below. A general description of the lands by section number proposed to be added or deleted from the Drainage Districts is as follows:

Drain Name	Municipalities	Portions of Sections to be Added and/or Removed
Bolter Drain	Delhi Charter Township	15, 16
	City of Lansing	3, 4, 9, 10
Pine Dell Drain	Delhi Charter Township	11
Costigan Drain	Meridian Charter Township	3, 4, 5, 9

Maps of the proposed Drainage District boundary revisions can be found on the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's website at: <http://dr.ingham.org>.

Comments may be submitted to the Drain Commissioner in writing before the Day of Review at the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl, Mason, Michigan 48854 or [drainoffice@ingham.org](mailto:drainoffice@ingham.org), or comments may be submitted in writing or verbally at the Day of Review. Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner prior to the Day of Review to ensure consideration.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Patrick E. Lindemann, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at (517) 676-8395, or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Pursuant to Section 197 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended, persons aggrieved by the decision of the Drain Commissioner to revise or not to revise the Drainage District boundaries may, within 10 days after the order to revise the Drainage District boundaries is entered, institute an action in the Ingham County Circuit Court.

Dated: March 2, 2026

Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

**CP#26-080**

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**CP#26-084**

**NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF AVAILABILITY  
CITY OF LANSING  
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, FY 2026**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing proposes to present notice of availability on the City of Lansing's Annual Action Plan for FY 2026 (7/1/26-6/30/2027). A draft of the document will be available for public review and comments during the 30-day comment period from March 12, 2026 – April 13, 2026.

Copies of the document and the proposed use of Community Development funds are available for review on the City of Lansing's website at: [www.lansingmi.gov/development](http://www.lansingmi.gov/development)

All written comments submitted by citizens of Lansing will be considered and reviewed for possible inclusion in the final Annual Action Plan for FY 2026 to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than May 14, 2026. A summary of all comments received will be attached to the final document.

For information regarding the City of Lansing's Annual Action Plan Action Plan please contact:

Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner  
City of Lansing, Michigan  
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316 North Capitol, Suite D-2  
Lansing Michigan 48933-1236  
Telephone (517) 483-4063  
[doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov](mailto:doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov)

**CP#26-083**

**ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA**

Under the provisions of Section 14-51 of Article III Grass and Noxious Weeds, Chapter 14 of the Charter Township of Delta Code of Ordinances known as "An Ordinance to Regulate Grass and Noxious Weeds" and Section 4, Act 359, P.A. 1941, as amended. No person owning or occupying any premises in platted subdivisions or property on which single-family and two-family dwellings are permitted by right of two acres or less, being within 200 feet of platted subdivisions or commercial lots and on improved streets shall permit or maintain on any such premises or the abutting margin, or on any portion of any such premises or the abutting margin, any growth of noxious weeds, nor any growth of grass or other rank vegetation, to a greater height than eight inches on the average; nor permit any accumulation of dead weeds, grasses or brush to a height greater than eight inches on the average. In addition, no person owning or occupying any developed commercial property, office zoned property on improved streets, or property on which multiple family dwellings and/or condominiums are permitted by right shall permit or maintain on any such premises or the abutting margin, or on any portion of any such premises or the abutting margin, any growth of noxious weeds, nor any growth of grass or other rank vegetation, to a greater height than eight inches on the average; nor permit any accumulation of dead weeds, grasses or brush to a height greater than eight inches on the average.

It shall be the duty of the occupant of every premises and the owner of unoccupied premises within the Township, to cut and remove or destroy by lawful means all such noxious weeds and grass, as above described, as often as may be necessary throughout the growing season, which shall be May 1 through October 31 of each year, to remain in compliance with the provisions herein.

Grasses and weeds not cut, removed, or destroyed by May 1, 2026, and further maintained as often as necessary to remain in compliance through October 31, 2026, will cause to be cut by the Charter Township of Delta, and the owner of a parcel up to 0.5 acres upon which same are cut will be charged with the cost of \$70.00 investigation charge, \$120.00 per hour mowing charge, and any other expense that may be incurred in such destruction, plus 10% overhead, with a minimum charge of \$209.00. Lots between 0.5 acres and 2 acres will receive a minimum charge of \$280.50. Any removals requiring specialty equipment will be charged the actual cost plus overhead and administrative fees.

You are advised that charges not paid before September 1, 2026, are deemed delinquent and the cost shall be assessed against the property of the taxpayers as shown on the tax roll.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA  
BRIAN THELEN, COMMISSIONER OF NOXIOUS WEEDS  
MARY R. CLARK, TOWNSHIP CLERK

**CP#26-081**



Farzaneh Holasu, 28, a doctoral student at MSU, wears a necklace in the shape of Iran.



Mitra Aliabouzar, 39, holds a photo of her parents in the Caspian Sea.

# Iran doesn't feel too far from Michigan

## Iranian and Iranian-American Michiganders share emotions about ongoing conflict

By **ERICK DIAZ VELIZ**

When the first bombs dropped on Iranian soil, information was limited and uncertain. The Iranian regime's communication blackout inside the country made calls and messages difficult, as always.

Ali, a 27-year-old doctoral student at Michigan State University who asked that his full name not be used, said his mother, from her neighborhood in downtown Tehran, tried to let him know that she and the rest of the family were safe.

It wasn't until hours later, after trying seven or eight times, that his mother eventually was able to call him.

"Didn't you see the news?" his mother asked.

"Which one? A lot is going on," Ali said.

"He is gone, he is dead," his mother yelled, as she celebrated in the streets.

The death of 86-year-old Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in the bombings — carried out jointly by the United States and Israel — was for Ali nothing but hopeful news. He and his friend Farzaneh Holasu, a 28-year-old MSU doctoral student, stayed glued to their phones in the early hours after the first bombs for as long as their eyes allowed, switching tabs and messaging to see if there was any new information about what many compatriots have called the liberation of Iran.

The news about the current interven-

tion by the U.S and Israel and Khamenei's death was relieving for Holasu and her family.

However, she said, it isn't over, and what people want is regime change.

"It would be naive to say that Trump is the savior of the Iranian people," Holasu said. "Of course, they

(U.S. and Israel) have their own geopolitical interests, and this is a moment when those interests align with those of the Iranian people. Right now, we are on the same side, fighting the same enemy."

Holasu's mother called from Shahin Dezh city in northwest Iran, where Holasu was born and lived for about 20 years. She learned some bombs were dropped in

the city, where a military facility is located, and that no civilians were injured.

"My mom just sent me a message saying, 'We are so happy. I wish you were here. We are celebrating,'" Holasu said. "But then, after that, it was all cut."

By Thursday evening (March 5), Israel had once again flexed its military muscle in the region. Hundreds of thousands are estimated to be displaced as attacks intensify in southern Lebanon and Shiite Muslim neighborhoods of the Lebanese capital, intensifying its attacks against the Iranian regime proxy, Hezbollah.

Inside the White House on Thursday, President Donald Trump was joined by international soccer superstar Lionel Messi and his Miami-based Inter Milan soccer team. Trump said Iranian military forces were being reduced from missiles and air power to communications and navy.

"What is left?" Trump said. "But they're tough, and they want to fight, and they're calling. They're saying, 'How do we make a deal?' I said, 'You're a little bit late.' And we want to fight now more than they do."

The president said he is promising immunity to forces who desert the regime and "absolute death" for those who continue fighting.

"They're only going to be killed," Trump said. "And now is the time to stand up for the Iranian people and help take back

Photos by  
Erick Diaz  
Veliz



The American and Iranian flag, with its Persian influences.

# Iran

from page 7

your country.”

As the armed conflict enters its second week, the death toll has already surpassed 1,500. Among the dead are a reported 175 civilians killed at an elementary school in southern Iran. The New York Times has analyzed the bombing, and its reporting suggests it was likely carried out by the United States, though no one has claimed responsibility.

By Sunday (March 8), the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency reported that 1,215 civilians, 187 military forces and 317 unclassified people had died in Iran. The Lebanese Minister of Public Health, Rakan Nasreddine, said 394 people died in Lebanon. Eleven civilians died in Israel, according to Israeli authorities. Seven American soldiers and dozens more have died in a conflict that has engulfed eight other countries in the region.

The Iranian flag — a Persian symbol before the 1979 Islamic Revolution depicting a lion holding a sword in front of a sun — was carried alongside Israeli and American flags in demonstrations in the days after the bombings in cities including Los Angeles, New York, Boston and Detroit. The demonstrations were in support of the conflict, as many members of the Iranian diaspora thanked Trump. At the same time, anti-war demonstrators also took to the streets in cities across the country, demanding American taxpayers stop spending money on foreign wars and cease funding Israel's military interests.

On March 2, around 100 people gathered outside the Michigan State Capitol for a rally called “No War with Iran.” Speakers and slogans condemned Trump's “Operation Epic Fury.”



William Lawrence, a candidate for the 7th District congressional seat, appeared at an Iran rally on March 2.

William Lawrence, a congressional candidate for the 7th District seat, criticized the actions.

“All this is just a waste of money, human life and human creativity that we're pouring into a war that brings us absolutely nothing back here at home,” he said.

Standing in front of Lawrence, wearing a USS John F. Kennedy cap, an 81-year-old who gave his name as Heverly said he doesn't believe the government about the current conflict.

“I just don't believe it. Come on. War doesn't do anybody any good. That's a platitude,” said the veteran, who said he served on the USS John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier, deployed to the Mediterranean during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Mohsen Zayernouri, 43, a MSU associate professor who has not returned to Iran in almost 19 years, said the Khamenei re-

gime poses a threat to the United States and its own people. He said he believes that now that its leader has been overthrown, the conflict might not last long. He said he is hopeful since Trump said that “help is on the way” and Trump also urged Iranians to continue the mass protests that shook the regime from within earlier this year.

These protests, which began over economic problems, have resulted in a sea of deaths, with estimates of between 3,000 and 25,000 people killed in massacres allegedly orchestrated by the regime and clashes, according to reports from the Islamic government and independent investigations.

“The people of Iran do not feel that this government belongs to them,” Zayernouri said. “They are aware that every election has been carefully manipulated and that

none of their representatives are present. They have no voice. They have no freedom of speech. They have no freedom to choose their religion.

“This country does not cooperate with the rest of the world. This country is not serving its own people.”

A large majority of Iranians in the diaspora say the attacks have left them worried about family and friends back home.

A bittersweet sense of relief, perhaps.

“We are very cautiously happy about this news,” Zayernouri said. “Although these combat operations were supposed to be pinpointed, there have definitely been civilian casualties. So, we are really hoping and praying that Iranians remain safe.”

On the wall of a small office at the University of Michigan, faculty member Mitra Aliabouzar, 39, has hung up childhood photos with her family — the same photos she carried on with her on the plane when she left Iran 13 years ago. Originally from Tehran and a student activist, Aliabouzar was imprisoned three times by the regime for her activism in support of Iranian women's rights. Aliabouzar hadn't talked to her parents since the bombings began, but a neighbor told her they were safe and staying at their home in the capital.

“This time, the explosions are much louder than during the war last June,” Aliabouzar said. “And this time, it is definitely very different and more horrifying than last year. It's not safe to move because the timing of the bombings is not very clear.”

She remained critical of Netanyahu and Trump's intentions regarding her country; however, she added that the regime's fall aligns with the demands of the majority of Iranians. A demand, she said, that had gone unheeded by several American presidents, who did not respond during numerous mass protests and mass deaths over decades.

See Iran, Page 9



Mitra Aliabouzar, 39, at her office on the University of Michigan campus.



Aliabouzar's wall of family memories.

# Iran

from page 8

Aliabouzar was critical and said she was disappointed by anti-war protesters who have taken to the streets.

“This regime has killed thousands of its own citizens. Were these ‘no to war’ crowds out there last month?” she said.

“That’s a very simple question. I understand people’s instinct to oppose war — every sane person should be against it. What I don’t understand, and what is very hurtful and painful, is the inconsistency. Didn’t they pay attention, or were they completely deaf and blind during the massacres last month?”

The question of whether to return home is big in the Iranian diaspora. On Sunday (March 8), as Tehran awoke shrouded

in thick black smoke following Israeli nighttime bombings of petrol depots, the still-dormant Islamic regime confirmed Mojtaba Khamenei, son of the deceased leader, as successor. In Delaware, a military plane landed before Trump’s eyes with the bodies of six soldiers killed in action, and Netanyahu again threatened the Lebanese government with “disastrous consequences” for the country if it does not disarm Hezbollah.

When Aliabouzar left Iran, she didn’t really think about returning while the regime remained in power. Now, she hopes to be able to return to her family.

“They let me leave without saying a proper goodbye to my mom, and that’s always in the back of my mind,” she said. “I never hugged her goodbye. I didn’t know if I would ever be able to go back. And now, for the first time in 13 years, I feel like this is the closest I’ve been.”



Protesters speak out about the Iran actions by the U.S. and Israel on the Michigan Capitol grounds on March 2.

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



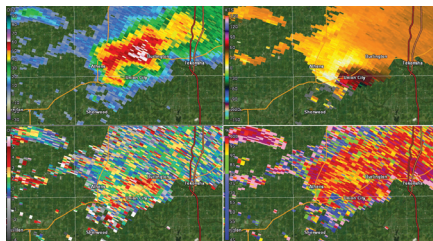
**K.J. Torbert has been named Michigan's Mr. Basketball, just like his father. K.J. Torbert is an East Lansing High student and the new 2025-26 Hal Schram Mr. Basketball in Michigan, according to WILX.** There were five stand-out players considered and voting wasn't even close. Torbert won 53% of the vote, the runner-up won 18%. Torbert was part of the state championship-winning East Lansing High team last year and has committed to Bowling Green State University. Kelvin Torbert, his father, was Mr. Basketball in the 2000-2001 season (for Flint Northwestern High). The last time a Lansing area player was picked as Mr. Basketball was 1999-2000, when Waverly High's Marcus Taylor was awarded.

**A new report shows Michigan's low-income housing gap is growing wider, according to MLive.**

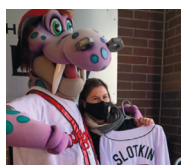


The publication cites the National Low Income Housing Coalition's latest report, which finds Michigan is nearly 200,000 housing units short of meeting demand. Many of the people who need low income housing are seniors, people with disabilities, low-wage workers and caregivers. The study found that in Michigan, there are 37 available housing units for every 100 extremely low-income renters, according to MLive.

**Michigan has declared a state of emergency after an EF3 tornado hit the Union Lake area on March 6, killing at least four people and injuring others.** A state of emergency can open up additional state resources and in the declaration, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Branch, Cass and St. Joseph counties qualify for the state of emergency following the storms. Three of the deaths happened in Branch County, one happened in Cass County and at least 22 people reported injuries. The winds reached up to 160 miles per hour in Union Lake



in a rare March tornado for Michigan. It was the earliest EF3 to hit Michigan ever by about 10 days. EF3 is the strongest category of tornado to hit Michigan since an F4 in 1977, according to the National Weather Service's initial report on the tornadoes. Three other tornadoes were recorded: Edwardsburg in Cass County had winds up to 95 miles an hour for an EF1, Three Rivers in St. Joseph County had winds up to 130 miles an hour for an EF2 and Clarendon Township in Calhoun County had winds up to 85 miles an hour for an EF0.



**It's a big week for Lansing mascots with Lansing Community College looking for a new name for their new mascot and the Lansing Lugnuts looking for someone to inhabit their Big Lug mascot this season.** Big Lug applicants need to fill the biggest shoes in town, be available at game times and be able to handle the hot days inside the costume. LCC's new athletic mascot needs a name, many of the suggestions so far are based on the Stars nickname for the college. Orion, Apollo, Nova, Halley, Hubble, Celeste, Lance, Astro and Starry. People can vote on those names or suggest their own at lcc.edu.

**Potter Park Zoo announced the death of Amur tiger Vikentii, who arrived at the zoo in 2023.** The male tiger was 16 years old, past the median life expectancy for a captive tiger. The zoo said he took a sudden decline in mobility and after a week of treatments, staff decided on euthanasia. Amur tigers are one of the most endangered big cats in the world. The zoo has a lion, another one of the most endangered big cats. Look for more



about the zoo's plans in next week's City Pulse.



**East Lansing approved its annual deer cull, where federally-licensed sharpshooters kill deer at city parks at night, according to East Lansing Info.** The culls began five years ago and each year claim about 50 to 60 deer, with a high of 79 in 2022, over two to four nights, according to figures shared by East Lansing Info. The cull is intended to reduce the population of deer, which can cause collisions.

**Pinball Pete's in East Lansing is facing a civil rights lawsuit from a job applicant who alleges that a hiring manager refused to take her application because she is a woman.** According to the complaint, the hiring manager said he was "skirting the law a little," but would not let his own daughter close the establishment. He reportedly told the applicant he typically hires men for night positions because of the perceived risks and would not let his own 26-year-old daughter walk from the venue at night. The applicant has said she was denied a second request for an application and was told she was "too petite" to stop a robbery. Read the full details at LansingCityPulse.com



**Flooding has closed a small section of the Lansing River Trail underneath Cesar Chavez Avenue.** There is no timetable for the repair of this section of River Trail. Northbound detour: north on the Turner Street sidewalk, then west on Dodge River Drive back to the River Trail. Southbound detour: east on Dodge River Drive, then south on the Turner Street sidewalk back to the River Trail.



**Lansing Police officers are investigating the death of a 30-year-old man found with a gunshot wound early Tuesday morning (March 10).** Police were dispatched to the 100 block of South Hosmer, near the city's stadium district. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene and no arrests have been made, according to a statement from the police department. The shooting is considered a homicide and police said they are working to determine what happened.

**A 74-year-old Laingsburg man died in an ice fishing accident on March 5, according to the Clinton County Sheriff's Office.** Responders were called to Lake Victoria that morning, where they found the man in the water and began efforts to rescue him. He was transported by ambulance and was declared dead at University of Michigan Sparrow hospital, according to the Sheriff's Office. Warmer temperatures have made hazardous ice conditions across the region with apparently solid ice quickly becoming unsafe, according to a statement from the Sheriff's Office. "Anyone planning to venture onto frozen lakes or ponds should use extreme caution and check ice conditions frequently," the Sheriff's Office said.

**A 72-year-old man was found dead on a property on S. Dewitt Road in Bingham Township on Monday afternoon, according to Clinton County Sheriff's Office deputies.** The Sheriff's Office said, in a statement on Facebook, that the man was found deceased in a burnt area of the property, which had several grass fires. The death remains under investigation.

**Police are investigating after a report that a man working at KFC on S. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard said he was sprayed in the face by "bear spray," according to the Lansing State Journal.** Police told the newspaper that they could not initially verify if the substance the man was sprayed with was bear spray.

# Can new CEO Bryan Lloyd wash the ‘corporate’ off Skymint?

By CHRIS SILVA

Lansing’s cannabis district is used to a little haze, but as we slog through the end of March, the fog over the local market is getting thick. For years, Skymint (formerly Green Peak) was the undisputed Goliath of the Michigan scene — an empire built on aggressive expansion, private jets and a brand identity that often felt more like a faceless corporate invader than a local partner.

I’ll be the first to admit it: I disliked Skymint and Green Peak for what they did to caregivers. Their high-priced lobbying efforts to dismantle the caregiver system, paired with a perceived hubris that seemed to look down on the pioneers of the medical market, made them, to many, the ultimate villain. By the time they spiraled into a \$127 million receivership crisis, it felt less like a tragedy and more like a reckoning.

But as we move into 2026, a new face is leading the effort to dig Skymint out of the rubble. Enter Bryan Lloyd, a 40-year-old Michigan native originally from DeWitt. In a recent interview, Lloyd didn’t lean on the flashy “lifestyle brand” tropes of his predecessors. Instead, he preached a sermon of operational discipline and a return to the absolute fundamentals of business. In my opinion, Lloyd has genuinely helped turn things around — not just for the company’s books, but for its very soul.

## The architect of turnarounds

Lloyd isn’t just a local face; he’s a seasoned operator with deep roots in retail management and sales operations. At 40, he brings a disciplined business logic that was sorely lacking during the company’s “spend-first” era. His background in complex retail environments — including stints at Dick’s Sporting Goods and major management companies like GTI and Jushi — lets him manage high-volume sales while keeping overhead lean. He isn’t guessing; he’s applying business operations experience to a company that previously operated like a venture capital experiment gone wrong.

## Tearing down the ‘golden tower’

Lloyd’s approach is a 180-degree turn from the previous regime’s “growth at any cost” philosophy. He has done away with the traditional corporate office, opting instead to run the company from the ground floor. For Lloyd, the turnaround is personal and hands-on, requiring a level of oversight that doesn’t happen from a boardroom.

“I’ve gone to great lengths to make sure this company is running the best way possible,” Lloyd told me, saying he is personally looking over every single cost and line item. By scaling down to roughly 18 stores, Lloyd is betting that a smaller, more focused Skymint can survive a market that is being squeezed from every direction.

## The ‘everyday value’ promise

Perhaps the most significant shift under Lloyd is his aggressive pivot toward the value consumer. He’s now competing directly on price, bringing many of Skymint’s core items down to the most competitive levels the market has ever seen. He calls this his “everyday value” strategy — a far cry from the “boutique” aspirations of the past.

“We are leaning into what the customers are actually demanding,” Lloyd said. Despite the new 24% wholesale tax that is crushing the industry, Lloyd is adamant about shielding his customers. He told me he will not pass the 24% tax cost on to consumers. In a landscape where many shops are hiking prices just to keep the lights on, Skymint is eating that cost to ensure its “everyday value” remains more than just a marketing slogan.

## Vertically integrated control

A major part of how Lloyd is pulling this off is through Skymint’s vertically integrated model. By controlling its own house brands from seed to sale, the business can absorb those massive wholesale tax hits in ways that third-party retailers simply can’t. This vertical integration allows Lloyd to maintain strict quality control over the flower and concentrates while cutting out the middleman markups that usually drive up retail prices. It’s the engine under the hood that makes the “everyday value” promise possible without bankrupting the farm.

## The ghost of the caregiver conflict

Even with Lloyd’s “native son” credibility, the ghost of 2021 still haunts Skymint. The company was once the lead voice in a PR campaign that labeled caregivers “unsafe” and “untested.” That wound runs deep in Lansing.

The irony remains that while the old leadership was attacking the “little guy,” they were reportedly using the company as a personal piggy bank. Lloyd’s challenge isn’t just fixing the balance sheet; it’s proving that the company’s new direction includes a



Bryan Lloyd

respect for the grassroots community it once tried to legislate out of existence. Lloyd’s bluntness about the past suggests he knows exactly how much bridge building is left to do.

## Building back better

Lloyd is refreshingly honest about the mistakes that nearly sank Skymint’s ship. But he still has his eyes on the horizon.

During our conversation, he made his ultimate goal clear: He wants to build the company back “better and stronger” and eventually expand once the foundation is solid. By focusing



on his DeWitt roots and a refusal to tax his customers into the ground, he’s setting out to do the nearly impossible: make people like me actually root for a Skymint comeback.

## The verdict

Can operational discipline and a lean budget actually bridge the gap?

Lloyd is clearly doing the hard work: visiting shops, cutting the fat and looking at the business with the eyes of an operator rather than a venture capitalist. In my opinion, if anyone can wash away the bad taste of the Green Peak era, it’s this 40-year-old from DeWitt who is willing to look at every penny to make sure the customer comes first.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: MSHDA MI NEIGHBORHOOD  
PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION (CDBG)  
TUESDAY MARCH 4, 2026

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE MI NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM  
THROUGH THE MICHIGAN  
STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MSHDA)

Notice is hereby given that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Room, Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment concerning the Township’s application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the MI Neighborhood Program.

Meridian Township intends to request \$700,000 in CDBG funds to support the rehabilitation of seven (7) unoccupied rental housing units in Downtown Meridian Township. Once completed, these units will serve households earning 80% or less of Area Median Income (AMI) for a minimum of five (5) years. The total project investment is estimated at up to \$5,300,000, inclusive of private investment and local administrative expenses. All CDBG funds will be used solely for rehabilitation activities. At least 51% of the overall project benefit will serve low- to moderate-income persons, and no residents will be displaced due to project activities.

Meridian Township has successfully administered CDBG programs funded by the State of Michigan before. Currently Meridian Township is administering the CHILL CDBG Program through MSDHA, MSF-2023-10538-CDB. Funding award amount for \$480,000 was fully executed in February 2024. This program has been authorized through MSHDA to be administered in Meridian since 2024.

For further information, or to review the draft application, please visit the Department of Community Planning & Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. Comments may be made in writing addressed to the Economic Development Director Amber Clark, at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864, emailed to [clark@meridain.mi.us](mailto:clark@meridain.mi.us) or may be made at the hearing.

Angela Demas  
Township Clerk

CP#26-079

# Johnson spending big bucks to make you believe: your government for free

If it feels like you've seen a lot of Perry Johnson ads on TV lately, it's because you have.

As of today, the super-rich Republican gubernatorial candidate has spent \$12.1 million on broadcast, cable and streaming services to air his commercials from mid-January to April 7.

It's a never-before-seen sum of money that's only fully appreciated in context.

Put Progress First, a Super PAC created to benefit Mike Duggan has spent \$6.4 million. Duggan's campaign has spent roughly another \$1 million.

Everyone else in the race – John James, Jocelyn Benson, Mike Cox, Aric Nesbitt, Tom Leonard, etc. -- have spent a combined \$1.4 million.

Remember those "Tough Nerd" Rick Snyder commercials back in 2010? He spent \$6 million for the entire primary.

Yes, billionaire Dick DeVos and his wife, Betsy, spent \$35.5 million of their own money back in his unsuccessful 2006 bid to unseat Gov. Jennifer Granholm. At that time, it was the most a Republican gubernatorial candidate had ever spent from his personal fortune in the country.

Johnson is spending in that stratosphere, making him, instantly, a viable contender for the Republican nomination and to win in November.

But money only gets Johnson so far. If money was everything, we'd have had a Gov. Dick DeVos or a Gov. Shri Thanedar.

There's a likability factor that's evaded Johnson up to the point. DeVos didn't have it. Thanedar had it, but he came off a little too goofy.

Snyder had his lovable self-deprecating "nerd" shtick that felt was so genuine that it connected.

Johnson isn't humble, isn't self-deprecating and definitely not lovable. According to him, he saved the U.S. auto industry. True or not, the arrogance is off-putting. If you've noticed, he's dropped that line in favor of a new pitch.

Eliminate the income tax. It's a great line this time of year. You see how much you pay to the Department of Treasury. Complain that the "damn" roads still aren't fixed. Wouldn't it be great just to get rid of it?

Same with the property tax. Who looks forward to writing that beefy

check every six months?

Johnson is with you on that. Shave off a little waste, fraud and abuse. Tell state government to cut a percent off their budgets. Viola!

Which gets to the real point of today's column.

Can a political candidate spend enough money on an unrealistic gimmick and win?

Can the unrealistic become realistic if the message is repeated on your screen over and over and over again?

It's along the same lines of "if you tell a lie long enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."

Look, I'm not going to tell you eliminating Michigan's income tax is fantasy, but I'm going to give you two numbers.

According to the Department of Treasury, Michigan brought in \$13 billion from the income tax last fiscal year.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposed General Fund Fiscal Year 2027 budget is \$13.6 billion.

Michigan's doesn't have Florida's massive tourism industry revenue. It doesn't have Texas's oil fields. It doesn't have Tennessee's sales tax, which is 9.75% in some places.

It brings in money primarily from a 4.25% sales tax and a 6% sales tax. The property tax pays for your local services and schools.

The General Fund pays for such things as the Michigan State Police, the Department of Corrections, the state's share for Medicaid, fixing Michigan's roads and hundreds of other programs and services.

As Bill Ballenger from the Ballenger Report said in this week's edition of MIRS about Johnson's idea: "Forget about funding government and school and infrastructure altogether. There's a word for this – anarchy!"

Wasn't it Fox Mulder from the X-Files who had the poster in office reading, "I Want to Believe?"

The public wants to believe. Not in UFOs and extraterrestrials, but something just about as fantastic.

Here's an amazingly successful person telling us that we can pay basically nothing for a functional government.

Do we buy it?

He's got \$12.1 million on the table saying that we do.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Act-7-2025, Lot 49, 200 block S Cedar St., Sale of Real Property Parking Lot #49/49A

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider Act-7-2025 a request to sell three parcels of real property, Parking Lot #49/49A; (33-01-01-16-427-082, 33-01-01-16-427-122, 33-01-01-16-427-051) to Deep Green Technologies USA LLC. The sale agreement is on file with the City Clerk for public review.

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

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

CP#26-077



## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: Zoning Amendment #26001 Parking Ordinance Update MONDAY, March 23, 2026

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Zoning Amendment #26001 – Parking Ordinance Update Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 to hear all persons interested in a proposed zoning amendment. The Meridian Township Planning Commission has proposed to amend several sections of Article VIII of the Zoning Ordinance to update the requirements for off-street parking and loading.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Community Planning and Development office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517-853-4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to [shorkey@meridian.mi.us](mailto:shorkey@meridian.mi.us).

Angela Demas  
Township Clerk

CP#26-078

## CITY OF GRAND LEDGE BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers and property owners of the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan:

The Board of Review will meet at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, 10 March 2026, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in organizational session and be presented the 2026 Assessment roll to review. This meeting is not for public protest of property assessments. The Board of Review will meet to review the 2026 Assessment Roll and hear objections on the following dates and times:

Monday, 23 March 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., break from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, 24 March 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., break from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Appointments must be scheduled by contacting the City Assessor at (517) 622-7932 or [assessor@cityofgrandledge.com](mailto:assessor@cityofgrandledge.com). Questions pertaining to valuation can also be answered prior to the meeting of the Board of Review by contacting the City Assessor. Mail-in appeals are strongly encouraged and must be RECEIVED by 12:00 p.m. on 24 March 2026.

	Tentative Assessment Level	Estimated Equalization Multiplier
Real Property		
Commercial	48.57%	1.0294
Industrial	49.56%	1.0089
Residential	46.59%	1.0732
Personal Property	50%	1.0000

Individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency planning to attend City meetings or hearings should contact the City at (517) 627-2149 or [cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com), seven days in advance of the meeting or hearing to request services.

Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

CP#26-070



# Job and Internship Fair

2 – 5 p.m. • March 18 • Downtown Campus • Register at [lcc.edu/fairs](http://lcc.edu/fairs)



Bartender James McPherson pours a flight of Irish whiskey at the Irish Pub in Lansing.

## More than a St. Patrick's Day cliché: Why Irish whiskey deserves your attention

By **JAMES BRAINS**

I'll admit it: When City Pulse asked me to write about Irish whiskey, I had to take a quick inventory of my own liquor cabinet to figure out how little I actually knew. I've spent years tasting and reviewing bourbon and rye, touring the Kentucky Bourbon Trail and interviewing the biggest master distillers. But Irish whiskey?

I had three bottles collecting dust on a shelf. I tried the two cheaper ones first and was not impressed. Then I opened a Red-breast 12-Year and thought, "Okay, there's something to this brown juice."

As it turns out, there's quite a history. What most American drinkers and I don't know is that Irish whiskey isn't just something you order on St. Patrick's Day. It's actually the spirit that gave whiskey its name.

### A quick history lesson

The word "whiskey" comes from the Irish "uisce beatha," meaning "water of life." Irish monks brought perfume distillation techniques to the island around 1,000 A.D., and by the 12th century, the Irish had repurposed the process to make the first whiskey. Though it looked nothing like what we drink today (barrel aging hadn't been invented

yet), Irish whiskey predates Scotch, bourbon and every other form of whiskey available on your local shelf.

Some credit Kilbeggan Distillery, founded in 1757, as the first licensed distillery. Others point to Bushmills' 1608 date. Both claims have asterisks, but the point stands: Irish whiskey has a centuries-long history. By the 1700s, the increasing demand led to a decline in quality.

Then came Prohibition in the United States, which dealt a near-fatal blow to the industry, not because distillers could no longer export to the United States but because illicit moonshiners flooded the market with counterfeit expressions, giving Irish whiskey a bad name. For most of the 20th century, Irish whiskey was a category on life support.

The comeback, however, has been remarkable. Over the last few decades, the number of distilleries operating in Ireland has exploded from a handful to over 40, and the demand continues to grow.

### What makes it Irish

To be legally called Irish whiskey, a spirit must be distilled and matured on the island of Ireland, aged a minimum of three years in wooden casks and bottled at no less than 40% ABV (80 proof). Most Irish

whiskeys are triple distilled, meaning they're run through the still three times instead of the standard two. This strips out impurities, producing a notably cleaner, smoother spirit.

"It's kind of like the redheaded stepchild of the whiskey world," Henry Kwok, owner of Henry's Place in Okemos, said. "If you're deep in the bourbon world, you kind of miss it."

Kwok, a bourbon devotee, described Irish whiskey as "very clean, floral, never really high proof, never offensive." He compared it to vodka in its purity, with the subtle fruit and oak notes of a Scotch.

The comparison to Scotch is apt, but there's a key difference. Scotch uses peat smoke to dry the malted barley used in production, giving it that distinctive smoky character. Irish whiskey almost never uses peat, which is a big reason it tends to taste lighter and more approachable.

### Four styles worth knowing

Not all Irish whiskey is the same. There are four main categories:

- **Single-pot still:** made from a mix of malted and unmalted barley, distilled at a single distillery, and uniquely Irish; you won't find this style anywhere else in the world.

See Irish whiskey, page 14

Photos by  
**James Brains**

## Irish whiskey

from page 13

- **Single malt:** made entirely from malted barley at a single distillery, and similar in concept to Scotch single malts.

- **Single grain:** typically used as a blending component, made from a variety of grains in a column (or “Coffee”) still for a lighter style.

- **Blended:** the most common category, combining two or more of the above styles and accounting for most of the big commercial brands.

Premium expressions often gain their complexity through finishing in a secondary cask after the primary aging period. Sherry casks, port pipes and even cider barrels are common. This is where whiskeys like Redbreast really come alive.

### So, why does everyone just drink Jameson?

Jameson is affordable, smooth and ubiquitous. “Jameson is king,” said Breanna Bauer, category manager for alcohol at Quality Dairy, who has spent 21 years in spirits retail in Lansing. “Nobody’s really touching that.”

Jameson’s mass production via continuous distillation keeps costs down and maintains consistency. Kwok put



Henry Kwok, owner of Henry's Place in Meridian Township, pours a flight of Irish whiskey.

it bluntly: “When you taste Jameson, you really taste just alcohol. You don’t really taste much flavor.” That’s not necessarily a criticism, since it makes Jameson an ideal mixer and an approachable entry point. But it’s a long way from representing what the cate-

gory can actually do.

The bottom line is that Irish whiskey was once the most popular spirit on Earth, and based on what’s on shelves and in glasses around Lansing, it’s well on its way to making a comeback.

*(James Brains runs Brains Report, a humorous product review website and YouTube channel. He’s also the founder of Lansing Foodies and a former senior reporter for Business Insider, where he covered American whiskey.)*

# Neat, rocks or cocktail? A guide to getting the most out of Irish whiskey



### By JAMES BRAINS

Now that you know the basics of what Irish whiskey is and where it came from, the more pressing question is: How do you drink it without looking like a newbie? Whether you’re hosting a St. Patrick’s Day gathering, browsing the shelves at Quality Dairy or belling up to one of the bars that has a serious whiskey program, here are some tips from the experts.

### Start with the basics: How to taste it

If you’re trying a new bottle, start neat. No ice, no mixer, just whiskey in a glass.

The Glencairn glass is considered

the standard for tastings because it’s easy to swirl and nose. Give the whiskey a moment to breathe, nose it gently (don’t stick your nose all the way in), then take a small sip and let it coat your palate before swallowing. Note what you taste: fruit, oak, vanilla, spice, sweetness and the finish. There are no wrong answers: What you taste is dependent on your lifelong flavor experiences.

Once you’ve assessed the spirit neat, try adding a few drops of water. I like to use a dropper. This isn’t sacrilegious by any means: Water genuinely opens up the aromatics and helps different flavors come through. If you’re drinking a standard Jameson, you’ll notice

the difference isn’t dramatic. If you’re drinking a cask-strength Redbreast, it’s transformative.

On the rocks is perfectly fine for blended or budget-friendly expressions, though it will dull the more nuanced flavors in a premium bottle. The staff at the Irish Pub prefers a single large ice cube, which gently chills the whiskey without drowning it.

“We love our big ice cubes here,” bar manager Sarah Carter said. “That’s how my bartenders drink it.”

### What to buy: Three price points

Breanna Bauer has been stocking spirits for Lansing shelves for over two decades, including managing 16



Quality Dairy locations. Here’s how she’d guide you through the category at different price points:

- **Entry level (\$20): Paddy’s Irish Whiskey.** An accessible, budget-friendly option that represents solid value for its price. Good for mixing or casual sipping.

- **The sweet spot (\$30): Jameson.** The undisputed king of the category. Smooth, light and approachable, Jameson is ideal for mixed drinks, shots or introducing someone to Irish whiskey for the first time. If you want to step it up slightly, Jameson also offers a Black Barrel expression (\$40) and the newer Triple Triple (\$35), both of which add complexity at a modest price increase.

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# Guide

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• **The splurge (\$75): Redbreast 12-Year.** This is the bottle every local expert interviewed for this story mentioned unprompted. Bauer called it “a phenomenal choice” and said it’s the best Irish whiskey available under \$100. Henry Kwok agreed: “Redbreast is probably my favorite Irish whiskey.” The 12-Year is the entry point for the Redbreast line, which gets significantly better and more expensive from there.

Also worth seeking out: Slane Irish Whiskey (\$30), which the Irish Pub’s head bartender rates as comparable to Redbreast at a fraction of the cost. And, if you want to venture into the premium tier beyond Redbreast, the Spot Whiskey line — Green Spot (\$70), Yellow Spot (\$150) and Red

Spot (\$200) — features some of the most acclaimed single-pot still expressions available.

## Cocktails worth knowing

Irish whiskey’s clean, light profile makes it a natural mixer. Here are three cocktails worth trying this St. Patrick’s Day:

• **Irish coffee:** The classic. Jameson (or your preferred Irish whiskey), hot coffee, a touch of brown sugar and fresh cream. Baileys Irish Cream is often used; try Carolans for almost half the price. The Irish Pub has poured a lot of these this winter. A proper Irish coffee is best in the early afternoon.

• **The pickleback:** Kwok’s recommendation. A shot of Jameson followed by a shot of pickle juice. “Pickle juice really cuts that alcohol taste,” he said. “If you don’t love the taste of Jameson neat, this is your move.” It sounds uninged, but it works.

• **The Irish car bomb:** Not subtle, but

culturally unavoidable on St. Patrick’s Day. Shots of Jameson and Baileys Irish Cream are dropped into a half pint of Guinness and consumed quickly. The name is considered offensive in Ireland and parts of the United Kingdom, where it is called “Irish slammer” or other names.

## A word on green tea shots

You may hear about green tea shots on March 17th. They’re made with Jameson, peach schnapps and sour mix. The Irish Pub sold more than 400 of them last St. Patrick’s Day alone. “Especially with college kids, it’s just, ‘Let’s do green tea shots.’” Carter said. “Whiskey is more than that.”

She’s right, but also, they’re kind of fun. No judgment. After all, if you like it, then it’s the “right” way to drink whiskey.



The Irish Pub

## 2026 area St. Patrick’s Day events:

### Thursday, March 12

**The Gallowglass: Irish Renaissance Warriors** – Swordsmanship Museum and Academy historian Jerry Berg leads us on a journey back to the 1500s to explore the unique warriors who fought in and defended Ireland during this century of conquest and invasion. Ages 10+. 6–7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

**Sip ‘O the Wine** – Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day the Burgdorf’s way, with wine in hand and Irish-inspired bites to match! Join us for a guided tasting experience that blends festive flavors with thoughtfully paired wines in a warm, welcoming setting. 6–8 p.m. Burgdorf’s Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. burgdorfwinery.com.

### Friday, March 13

**Blarney in the Ballroom! An Evening w/ Fein & McCartney Irish Dance** – 6:30 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

**St. Patrick’s Day Celebration at the Grand Ledge Opera House** – Enjoy an evening of singing and dancing as the Pub Runners Band performs traditional Irish favorites. Your admission includes an Irish beverage. 6:30–10 p.m. 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. gloperahouse.com.

**TGIF St Patrick’s Shake Your Shamrock Dance Party** – Doors 7 p.m., line dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dance 8 p.m. to midnight. DJ Jim Kitchen in the house. Dinner buffet provided. Cash/

credit bar available. Wear your luck of the Irish green! Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

### Saturday, March 14

**Leprechaun Cookie Trap Kit Assembly Party** – Join us for a magical morning of cookie decorating, creativity and leprechaun-catching fun in the Burgdorf’s Winery Tasting Room. Each child will decorate 6 festive cookies, snap photos with our special leprechaun guest and create their very own leprechaun trap! A special green drink will be available for purchase. 10–11:30 a.m. 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. burgdorfwinery.com.

**Lucky Leprechaun Party** – Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with a bit of library magic! Stop by our Lucky Leprechaun party before the parade downtown for festive crafts and a fun scavenger hunt. 12:30–2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

**The Official Lucky’s St Patrick’s Day Bar Crawl** – Join us for the ultimate St. Paddy’s bar crawl in Lansing, where good vibes, green drinks and festive fun collide! 4 p.m.–midnight. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. crawlwith.us/lansing/stpattys.

**Shamrock Crawl** – Follow the rainbow to Bridge Street for the ultimate St. Patrick’s Day experience. Explore downtown, scan hidden codes and unlock amazing giveaways, plus a chance to win the Grand

Ledge pot o’ gold. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Downtown Grand Ledge. lparade.com.

**St. BADDy’s Day Party** – Come on and get lucky with us with live Irish music by Wesley Maharas, incredible food specials, and some great beer. 3–6 p.m. BAD Brewing Co., 440 S. Jefferson St., Mason. facebook.com/BadBrewing.

**St. Patrick’s Day Celebration at the Grand Ledge Opera House** – The Grand Ledge Opera House will open its doors starting at 11 a.m. for lunch. Stop by and enjoy a cup of potato soup and a Guinness beer before the parade. After the parade, the Opera House will continue to serve Irish fare and beverages, along with entertainment by the Glen Erin Pipe Band and the Hubbardston and McCartney Irish Dancers. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/stpatsparade.php.

**St. Patrick’s Day Celebration Parade** – If you have Celtic pride or just want to see a wee bit of Irish, come on down to Bridge Street and take in the sights and sounds of the parade. Noon–3 p.m. Downtown Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/stpatsparade.php.

### Tuesday, March 17

**St. Pat’s Day Sing-Along** – Let’s sing a few Irish songs on St. Pat’s Day! Grab a beverage at nearby Sleepwalker or the REO Town Tavern and come sing! Lyric sheets provided. Song leaders Michael

McConeghy, Abbey Hoffman and Sally Potter. 7–9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**St. Patrick’s Day Party** – Join us in wearin’ the green this St. Patrick’s Day! We’ll have a “Firkin” tapping but no green beer! Everyone is Irish on March 17. Door prize drawings every half hour 6:30–9 p.m. EagleMonk Pub, 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. eaglemonkbrewing.com.

**St. Patrick’s Day Party at Horrocks** – Follow the rainbow to the pot of gold here at Horrocks! We’ll be pouring seasonal Irish beers in both the Tavern and Beer Garden, as well as green beer on tap! Our Wine Bar will be serving shamrock sangrias and orange creamsicle mimosas. Enjoy complimentary bean soup and an electric performance by the Roane Celtic Band. Noon–4 p.m. 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/HorrocksFarmMarket.

**St. Patrick’s Day Party at MP Social** – Grab your green and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day at MP Social! We’re throwing a festive party with drink specials created just for the occasion! 4–10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. 517-679-7365. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

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## Live & Local

## CityPULSE

### The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

**DJ Kindly, The Louderthans**

Sat., March 14, 9 p.m.

**Jenison 55: A Grateful Dead Celebration w/ Deadly String Band, Dead Honey Collective, Quality Jerry**  
Sun., March 15, 4 p.m.

### BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge

**Music showcase**

Thurs., March 12, 7-9:30 p.m.

**Sweet C & the Sunset Riders**

Fri., March 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**Malarkey Bros.**

Sat., March 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

### Chengdu Teahouse

100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing

**Jeff Boog & Friends**

Fri., March 13, 5:30-7 p.m.

### Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing

**Medusa**

Fri., March 13, 8 p.m.-midnight

**Northside Rhythm Kings**

Sat., March 14, 8 p.m.-midnight

### Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing

**The Reason You Came**

Wed., March 11, 9 p.m.

### EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing

**Jimmy Likes Pie**

Wed., March 11, 7-9 p.m.

**The Malarky Brothers**

Tues., March 17, 7-9 p.m.

**Chad Benson & Ed Lutz**

Wed., March 18, 7-9 p.m.

### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

**Rory Nevins**

Fri., March 13, 6-9 p.m.

**Matt Carlson**

Sat., March 14, 6-9 p.m.

### Elderly Instruments

1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing

**The Montvales**

Thurs., March 12, 7:30 p.m.

### The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

**Wavelength**

Wed., March 11, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

**The New Models, Chance We Take, Sean Anthony Sullivan, The 3148s**

Fri., March 13, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

**Be Kind Rewind**

Sat., March 14, doors 8 p.m.

**Geech**

Tues., March 17, doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.

**Wavelength**

Wed., March 18, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

### Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing

**Aaron Gillespie & Friends**

Fri., March 13, 7 p.m.

**Here Come the Mummies**

Sun., March 15, 7 p.m.

### Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

**The Dangling Particles**

Thurs., March 12, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Lucid Vibe**

Fri., March 13, 5-8 p.m.

**Atomic Annie**

Sat., March 14, 5-8 p.m.

**Roane Celtic Band**

Sun., March 15, noon-4 p.m.

### The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing

**Open mic night, with Scott Seth**

Thurs., March 12, 6:30 p.m.

**Pinter Whitnick + Alex Mendenall**

Sat., March 14, 1 p.m.

**Miranda & the M80s**

Sat., March 14, 8 p.m.

**Stringtown Trio**

Sun., March 15, 3 p.m.

**Barley Priest**

Mon., March 16, 3 p.m.

**Larner-Callis Duo, Malarky Bros., Whorted, Mix Pack**

Tues., March 17, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

### Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing

**David Shelby**

Fri., March 13, 8 p.m.

### Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

**Brokencyde, Dot Dot Curve, From This Day Forward,**

**The Bunny the Bear**

Wed., March 11, 7 p.m.

**Open mic night**

Mon., March 16, 6-8 p.m.

**Unity — In Music**

Thurs., March 12, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Tues., March 17, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

### Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing

**Geech**

Fri., March 13, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

### Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing

**Deacon Earl**

Sat., March 14, 7-9 p.m.

**Open mic night**

Mon., March 16, 6-9 p.m.

### Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

**Open mic night, with Jen Sygit**

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

**Blues jam**

Thurs., March 12, 9 p.m.-midnight

**The Polaroids**

Fri., March 13, 8 p.m.-midnight

### Spoonful

Sat., March 14, 8 p.m.-midnight

**The Green Crow**

Tues., March 17, 1-4 p.m.

**Jazz Tuesdays**

Tues., March 17, 7-10 p.m.

**Open mic night, with Jen Sygit**

Wed., March 18, 8-11 p.m.

### MSU College of Music

**Guest organist Peter Sykes**

Sun., March 15, 3 p.m.

Alumni Memorial Chapel, 636 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

**Jazz orchestras with Harvey Mason, jazz drums**

Sun., March 15, 3 p.m.

Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

**Dialogues for Cello and Piano**

Mon., March 16, 7:30 p.m.

Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing

**Symphony Band**

Tues., March 17, 7:30 p.m.

Wharton Center

### MSU Community Music School

4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing

**Community Songs for All Ages, with Joe Reilly**

(Fiddle Scouts)

Sat., March 14, 11 a.m.

### Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale

**Tad & the Fat Katz**

Fri., March 13, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

**Deer & Elk**

Tues., March 17, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

### One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

**Rush Clement**

Thurs., March 12, 6-9 p.m.

**Justin Holcomb**

Fri., March 13, 7-10 p.m.

**Crystal Hoffman**

Sat., March 14, 7-10 p.m.

**Open mic, with Kathy Ford**

Mon., March 16, 6:30-9 p.m.

### One North East Lansing

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing

**Justin Holcomb**

Sat., March 14, 7-10 p.m.

### The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

**Mercadez Kelley**

Fri., March 13, 8-10 p.m.

### Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing

**517 Funktet**

Fri., March 13, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

**Randy Napoleon Trio**

Sun., March 15, 6-9 p.m.

### The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

**Tune In, inclusive music showcase**

Thurs., March 12, 7:30-9 p.m.

**St. Patrick's Day Sing-Along**

Tues., March 17, 7-9 p.m.

### Sholty's Bar

1819 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

**Black Barn Band**

Sat., March 14, 8-11 p.m.

**Keith Minaya**

Tues., March 17, 6-9 p.m.

### Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing

**RavenDay**

Fri., March 13, 7-10 p.m.

**Cal Delo**

Sat., March 14, 7-10 p.m.

### Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

**DJ Patino & Friends**

Sun., March 15, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

**Rodney Page, Patino & Friends, DJ Spot, Your Dad,**

**The Back of the Class, DJ Duke, DJ Cutt Nice**

Tues., March 17, 9 a.m.-midnight

### Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt

**Electric Flower Co.**

Fri., March 13, 8-11 p.m.

**Two Fifths**

Sat., March 14, 8-11 p.m.

### University Lutheran Church

1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing

**BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet (Ten Pound Fiddle)**

Fri., March 13, 7:30-10 p.m.

### UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing

**Continuous six-hour jam**

Wed., March 11, 6 p.m.-midnight

**Absolute Music Chamber Series: Woodward**

**Quartet**

Thurs., March 12, 7:30-9 p.m.

**Time 2 Play, Cahill & Murphy**

Fri., March 13, 6:30 p.m.

**Tomás Esparza Blues Band**

Sat., March 14, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**Rock the Vote show, with Darin Larner Band, Lava**

**Rock, Gavin McDonnell, Bruce & the Originals,**

**Cowboy Mike LaCross & Chuck Jensen**

Sun., March 15, 3 p.m.

**Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic**

Wed., March 18, 6-9 p.m.

**Gabriela Sarai Aboites-Nuñez**

Wed., March 18, 9-10:30 p.m.

### Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston

**Blake James**

Wed., March 11, 7-10 p.m.

**Potts Rd**

Sat., March 14, 7-11 p.m.

**Whoa Nelly Duo**

Wed., March 18, 7-10 p.m.

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## ‘It all becomes one thing’

### Drummer Harvey Mason brings lifetime of music to MSU jazz studies

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

What’s cool about a chameleon? Rippling patterns and shifting colors; alert, all-seeing eyes; a paradox of vivid presence and artful blending.

Legendary drummer Harvey Mason, 79, is among the most distinguished artists to join Michigan State University’s jazz studies students for a week of teaching, mentoring and rehearsing, culminating in a concert with the jazz orchestras on Sunday.

“Chameleon” is Mason’s musical sobriquet. It’s also the name of a famous track on keyboardist Herbie Hancock’s 1973 megahit “Head Hunters,” a groovy, electrified percolation that pushed jazz into the fusion era and became the biggest-selling jazz record of all time. (It was dethroned by George Benson’s *Breezin’* in 1976.)

Mason is best known as the original *Headhunters* drummer, but he has accomplished much more. As the era’s ultimate session drummer, he’s played with an astonishing range of artists, from Duke Ellington and Frank Sinatra to Carole King, Björk, Carlos Santana, Beck, Beyoncé and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Does he have stories? Are you kidding?

One Saturday night in 1968, he was sitting at home in Boston when the phone rang.

The voice said, “Duke Ellington needs a drummer. You’d better get over there right away.”

Mason hustled two blocks to the Prudential Center, where the band was already playing without a drummer.

“I just walked onto the stage. People clapped. I thought they were clapping for me, but I had a black suit on, and everybody else was wearing a white suit.”

There was no music on the stand. Between tunes, Mason could hear trumpeter Cootie Williams, who was standing next to him, ask bassist Jeff

Castleman, “What’s next?”

“I just sat down and started playing by ear,” Mason said. “Duke looked back at me and gave me a big wink and a thumbs up. It was a wonderful experience. After the concert, he thanked me and paid me.”

Mason may be the only human being to have played for both Lucille Ball (on her 1970s TV show) and James Brown. He’s an uncredited drummer on Brown’s 1974 live album, “Hell.”

“It was in the studio basement,” Mason recalled. “He was standing in the middle of the band, playing a little organ. I don’t know how we ended up playing that session, but it was a fun session.”

Being a go-to drummer for everybody, a true chameleon, takes skill, a wicked work ethic and a bit of luck.

Mason proudly calls himself “a product of public schools, a 50-cent set of sticks and a drum pad.” As a teenager, he performed at jazz clubs, bar mitzvahs, strip clubs and even played in a surf band.

It was fun, but he imagined himself as a lawyer, not a musician.

“I saw the way musicians were living,” he said. “It was a tough life.”

Then he read an article in *DownBeat* magazine about the lives of studio musicians, the often-unheralded pros who accompanied top pop and jazz artists and played for TV and movie soundtracks, commercials and stage musicals.

“I loved all kinds of music, so I thought it was perfect for me,” he said.

Nevertheless, he got degrees in both education and performance, just in case.

“I’m still covering my bets,” he said with a chuckle.



Courtesy photo

Drummer Harvey Mason, 79, is among the most distinguished artists to join Michigan State University’s jazz studies students for a week of teaching, mentoring and rehearsing, culminating in a concert with the jazz orchestras.

Take that with a grain of salt. Even before Mason finished his studies at the New England Conservatory of Music, his reputation spread like fire.

At a session for baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan, the drummer didn’t show up. Mason, hired as a percussionist, filled the chair ably, and pianist Dave Grusin hired him to play both drums and percussion.

Grusin’s ties to the movie world led to a parallel career for Mason.

His drumming can be heard in more than 200 movies, including “Shaft,” “Saturday Night Fever,” “Sleepless in Seattle” and both the “Star Trek” and “Star Wars” franchises — and that’s just the letter “s.”

When Hancock decided to swerve into the lane of electrified funk with “Head Hunters,” drummer Billy Hart recommended Mason, who was touring with Carole King in Japan. Mason met Hart as a teenager while playing in a jazz club in Atlantic City, and they became friends.

Hancock called Mason in Japan to pin him down. Mason recalled being hired after a “one-minute” audition.

“It just snowballs,” Mason said. “I’m

very fortunate to be able to feel, adjust, adapt and play sensitively in a lot of different ways. That’s the key for me.”

To his surprise, Mason has also recorded 14 studio albums under his own name. Legendary record producer Clive Davis was so impressed with Mason that he signed the drummer to a six-album contract, including the hit albums “Marching in the Street” and “Funk in a Mason Jar.”

“I didn’t set out to do that,” Mason said. “I thought I would be anonymous.”

Adapting to so many diverse musical settings isn’t a question of switching gears.

“You build a tool kit. You build chops,” he said. “I don’t think about whether it’s one thing or another thing. The music just drives you into playing certain ways. You naturally adapt, and it all becomes one thing.”

Mason last worked with MSU students in 2017, but he’s been following the program and its many top-tier graduates in the interim.

“I run into MSU students frequently, from Japan to the United States,” Mason said. “They’re here, there and everywhere. It’s a great program.”

As a teenager, Mason met MSU drum instructor Randy Gelispie when Gelispie visited his hometown of Atlantic City.

“I was playing a club, and he watched me play several times,” Mason said. “We hung out and became lifelong friends.”

A big-band arrangement of “Chameleon,” the standout track from “Head Hunters,” is among several tunes Mason will rehearse and perform with the students this week.

“I enjoy being around the students and the questions they ask,” he said. “They bring a lot of energy to me. I try to inspire them and give them a real clear idea of what it’s like to become a session musician.”

#### MSU jazz orchestras

Harvey Mason, drums  
3 p.m. Sunday, March 15  
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
(517) 353-5340  
music.msu.edu

# A short, strange trip

## Grateful Dead cover bands pop up like mushrooms

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

A familiar, country-flavored groove, spun from tie-dyed infinity, permeated the Peanut Barrel on the cold afternoon of Feb. 3. Diners put down their burgers, and servers slowed to a standstill. The fries got cooler, and the beer got warmer, but nobody cared. The comfort food was already in the air.

There's a 50-year spread between the oldest and youngest members of the eight-piece Grateful Dead cover band Quality Jerry. Whether it comes wafting through fading memories, bootleg recordings or living avatars, the Grateful Dead's multi-generational spell shows no sign of dissipating.

A mix of seasoned musicians and devoted amateurs, Quality Jerry sounds like it's been together for decades. But for all three (yes, three) Lansing-area Dead cover bands, it's

been a short, strange trip. None of the bands were around two years ago.

"We're all pretty new on the scene," Quality Jerry co-founder Tad Boehmer said. "Suddenly there's a critical mass."

That's why Boehmer, a Michigan State University Libraries archivist, singer and multi-instrumentalist, decided it was time to put together a project he's dreamed of for years.

"Jenison 55: A Grateful Dead Celebration" will assemble all three Dead cover bands — Quality Jerry, Dead Honey Collective and the Deadly String Band — to mark the 55th anniversary of the Grateful Dead's only Lansing-area appearance on March 13, 1971, at MSU's Jenison Field House.

"I wanted to involve as many people as possible, make it a big party, and see where we could take it," Boehmer said. He's also putting out the call for anyone who attended the 1971 concert to come and

share their memories.

Boehmer is only 36, but he's fascinated by the music of the 1960s and '70s, when his parents came of age.

"I was always curious about the experimentation that was going on, the culture, the politics, and felt comfortable with the music, film, art, graphic design," he said.

He only became immersed in the Grateful Dead's world in 2022. For most of his life, he didn't have the patience for free-form songs that went on for 20 minutes, even though he played in an amateur jazz band back home in Urbana, Illinois.

His attitude changed in late 2021, when an older scholar and collector of 1960s and 1970s music invited him to a concert by the Grateful Dead's successor band, Dead & Co., at Chicago's Wrigley Field.

"It just clicked for me," he said. "I'd written it off for so long, but now I thought, 'There's something to this.'"

As a music lover and a student of history, he could no longer resist the gravitational pull of the Deadheads and their world.



"People are obsessed with it," he said. "They collect the tapes, catalogue the shows and will talk to you ad nauseam about how the best show was 'definitely

See Grateful Dead, Page 19

### WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP Board Meeting March 4, 2026 Synopsis

The Williamstown Township Board held the annual Budget and Police Assessment Roll Public Hearing and Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 with Supervisor Poth, Clerk Cleveland, Treasurer VanErp, Trustee Brinker, Trustee Creagh, and Trustee Steinberg present. In addition to the Public Hearing, the Board approved/authorized the following:

- Election Commission Resolution 2026-1 to combine Precincts 1 & 2 for the May 5, 2026 election
- Election Commission Resolution 2026-2 to authorize the Absent Voter Counting Board and its location for the May 5, 2026 election

The next regular Board meeting will be held on March 11, 2026 at 6:30 pm. in the Community Room of the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Visit [williamstownmi.gov](http://williamstownmi.gov) for the latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193. Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC Township Clerk

CP#26-075

### WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING DATA CENTER MORATORIUM

Ordinance No. 60  
Notice of Adoption

Please take notice that on February 11, 2026 the Township Board of Williamstown Township adopted Ordinance No. 60, which imposes a one (1) year moratorium on the permitting, consideration, approval, location, erection, construction, and/or installation of Data Centers in the Township in order to allow appropriate time to study and potentially adopt revised regulations governing Data Centers. Copies of the Ordinance may be obtained from Robin A. Cleveland, Williamstown Township Clerk, at 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, Michigan 48895 during regular business hours.

Published by Order of the Township Board  
Williamstown Township, Ingham County  
Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC  
Williamstown Township Clerk  
[clerk@williamstowntownship.com](mailto:clerk@williamstowntownship.com)

CP#26-076

### CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1555

On March 3, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend an ordinance, pursuant to Chapter 50 – Zoning, Article VII, Division 5 of the code of the City Of East Lansing, to rezone and establish an R-O-1 Residential Rental Restriction Overlay District as to properties within the Harvard-Cowley Neighborhood and to amend the Zoning Use District Map of Chapter 50 - Zoning-of the Code of the City Of East Lansing for such purposes.

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#26-085

### CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1556

On March 3, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend an Ordinance to amend Chapter 50 – Zoning, Article III, Section 50-47, of the Code of the City of East Lansing for purposes of adding a new subsection 50- 47(1)e requiring the finished side of fencing to face abutting properties and streets.

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#26-086

# Okemos author releases latest middle-grade novel

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

When asked what inspired her to write for a living, Okemos author Christina Wyman didn't have an answer.

"I get that question all the time, especially when I visit schools. The answer is, I don't know. I really don't," Wyman admitted. "I remember being 7 and loving writing and being good at it. My love of writing was nurtured by teachers in the New York City Public Schools system, so I ran with it. It was something I always loved to do."

Wyman — whose articles and essays

have been published in *New York Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Elle*, *Ms. Magazine* and *The Independent*, among others — will launch her latest middle-grade novel, "Breakout" (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$9.99), Saturday at Schuler Books in Okemos. Michigan author Ruth McNally Barshaw, writer and illustrator of the middle-grade "Ellie

McDoodle Diaries" series, will interview Wyman in a conversational setting.

Afterward, Wyman will take questions from the audience and sign copies of "Breakout." Bake N' Cakes will provide a themed dessert.

"This is the third time Schuler has hosted me. They've been very, very supportive of my books. There are no words to express my gratitude,"

Wyman said. "This will be a breakout celebration. Ruth, who is beloved in the community, will be moderating. This will be an amazing event."

In "Breakout," eighth-grader Ellis Starr is dealing with the bane of every teen's existence: acne. To make matters worse, her BFF has perfect skin — not a single zit in sight. Further, Ellis and her mom are butting heads, especially since her mom is dating again for the first time since her parents separated. Her

See Novel, Page 20

**"Breakout," with Christina Wyman and Ruth McNally Barshaw**

2 p.m. Saturday, March 14  
Schuler Books  
1982 W. Grand River Ave.,  
Okemos  
schulerbooks.com/events

## Grateful Dead

from page 18

at Cornell, 1977: I wanted to know why."

True to his calling as a library researcher, he set himself a listening project. Each day beginning in spring 2022, he would listen to the same show the group played 50 years ago. All the tapes are out there.

He listened while cleaning the house. He listened while running. He listened and sang along while driving five hours to visit his mother in Illinois. (The singing came in handy in *Quality Jerry*.) And he didn't stop at 1972.

"I'm still listening," he said. "I'm up to 1976 now. It's a musical education."

He got in so deep that listening wasn't enough. He already played trumpet in an informal, MSU Libraries-based band led by longtime Special Collections guru Randy Scott. That band dissolved when Scott retired and the pandemic came along, but it gradually reformed around Boehmer and fellow Deadheads like Peter Alegi (percussion and vocals), a professor of history; Joshua Barton (guitar), the library's head of cataloguing; and Anne-Marie Rachman (piano and vocals), another library staffer.

They enjoyed jamming in the library and in the neighboring Beal Botanical Garden, but they quickly began to think bigger.

Boehmer was surprised to learn that MSU Broad Art Museum communications director Zoe Kissel, a rhythm guitarist, was interested in a Dead tribute project.

She and her brother, Dylan Kissel (a sound engineer and electronic scoreboard wizard for MSU athletics), were already accomplished musicians, recording and touring in a punk-y garage band called Sidewatcher.

"They played loud, powerful, short



Courtesy photo

The Grateful Dead played MSU's Jenison Fieldhouse on March 13, 1971, but no recording has yet surfaced. Three local Dead cover bands will converge on Sunday to mark the 55th anniversary of the concert.

tunes, not much improvisation — the opposite of the Dead," Boehmer said. "They were able to pivot really quickly to play this kind of music."

When the band first got together, some members had heard Grateful Dead tunes "hundreds of times," others "zero times," Boehmer said, but the mix of younger and older members made the music feel fresh off the vine.

In October 2024, the band had a ball jamming at mandolinist Eddie Gildner's house in rural Laingsburg, fighting off the chill with a bonfire and the 1977 Grateful Dead movie, projected on the side of a garage.

Following an irresistible urge to "be in the room where it happened," the band got permission to infiltrate Jenison Field House and "semi-covertly" play a few tunes on the running track, to the amusement of the participants of a nearby wheelchair basketball game.

They made their Lansing debut at a benefit concert at the Fledge this January. The Peanut Barrel show soon followed, surpassing Boehmer's expectations.

"It was a great feeling for everybody," he said. "We were blown away by the turnout

and the energy."

Tucked into the Peanut Barrel crowd was the Broad Art Museum's new director, Phillip Bahar, a not-so-closeted Deadhead who couldn't resist the siren call from across Grand River Avenue and stayed for the duration.

Boehmer decided the group was ready for prime time and invited two more local cover bands to join Sunday's Dead-athon. Dead Honey Collective performs the music of the Dead, along with 1970s compatriots like The Band, John Prine and the New Riders of the Purple Sage (who shared the stage with the Grateful Dead at the 1971 Jenison concert). Dead Honey is an offshoot of Wild Honey Collective, formed in 2020 to perform originals and traditional American folk music in an electro-acoustic style.

The third band on the slate, the Deadly String Band, is an all-acoustic country-Americana ensemble formed only last year.

Boehmer hopes Sunday's event will stir up new information about the 1971 Jenison concert.

"This is a black hole in Grateful Dead history," he said. "There's very little infor-



Courtesy photo

The members of Quality Jerry, seen here at the Peanut Barrel in February, span three generations and include both accomplished and amateur musicians.

mation about the show."

The Jenison lacuna is an anomaly in the meticulously catalogued Dead saga.

"Every Grateful Dead concert from the day after Jenison to the day Jerry Garcia died was recorded," Boehmer said. There's always hope that an audience recording, or even a few more photographs, will surface.

If that happens, Boehmer the archivist will be overjoyed, but for Boehmer the artist, keeping the music going is the main thing. The Grateful Dead's original members are passing from the scene — founding member Bob Weir died in January — but the Dead are far from dead. With 20 Dead cover bands in Michigan alone, and countless more around the world, there is a deep craving for the group's comforting, welcoming vibe in 2026.

"People want light and joy in their lives," Boehmer said. "There are some dark things in Grateful Dead songs — songs about excess, people who have lost their way, loss and death. But overall, it's a hopeful and unifying message. Nobody ever feels bad after listening to the Grateful Dead."

# THE PULSIFIEDS

## Novel

from page 19

Gestamp has openings for Senior Quality Engineer, Production in Mason, MI: rep. qual. in tech supp. for mfg. issues. Bach: Ind. Eng, Mfg. Eng or rtd tech fld of study; Exp: 2yrs as Qual Engr, CMM Prgmr, Metrologist or rtd qual. eng role. Will accept equiv foreign degree; will accept no degree & 4yrs full-time relv. work exp as Qual Engr, CMM Prgmr, Metrologist or rtd qual. eng role; will also accept any fully equiv combo of edu, trng &/or exp. Send resume: R. Kelley, Gestamp Mason LLC, 200 E Kipp Rd, Mason, MI 48854. Attn: LC25-101

### CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION MAY 5, 2026, SPECIAL ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of East Lansing will hold a Special Election on May 5, 2026.

#### To vote on the following proposals:

Ingham Intermediate School District Bond Proposal

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office, 410 Abbot Road, Room 100, East Lansing, MI 48823. Sample ballots can also be found at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote).

Any qualified elector who is not already registered may register to vote at the office of their local clerk, the office of their County Clerk, a Secretary of State Branch Office, or other designated state agency. Qualified electors who have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID, may register online at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>. Registration forms may be obtained at [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) and mailed or dropped off at the office of their local clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at [www.expressSOS.com](http://www.expressSOS.com).

**The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the East Lansing City Clerk's Office is April 20, 2026. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:**

East Lansing City Clerk – City Hall  
410 Abbot Road, Room 100  
East Lansing, MI 48823

- **Regular Business Hours:** Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm
- **Lunch Hour:** The Clerk's office is closed every day from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm
- **Additional hours:** May 2, 2026, from 8 am- 4 pm

#### ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. You may apply online at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) or at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

May 4, 2026, at 4 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot, except for those who register to vote on Election Day.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, May 5, 2026, are eligible to receive an Absent Voter Ballot at the East Lansing City Clerk's Offices.

Emily Gordon  
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#26-082

only solace is Rocco, her aunt's adorable puppy, as she navigates the trials and tribulations of puberty.

According to Wyman, there is a lot of her in Ellis.

"She is — in her way — a piece of me and a piece of my childhood experiences," the author said. "Acne is a universal struggle everyone must deal with. Ellis is dealing with acne in ways her best friends are not. She feels like has it the worst, and it's very unfair."

Wyman also addressed Ellis' contentious relationship with her mom.

"Her mom is blaming her for this nat-

ural thing that's happening to her face," she said. "The women in my family, including my own mom, blamed me for my acne. There was no limit to how I could have been responsible for how my body was responding to puberty: I wasn't washing my face properly, I was eating too much pizza ... It was very traumatic."

The characters in Wyman's three novels represent the angst she experienced growing up as the eldest of two daughters in Brooklyn, New York, where her books are set. In "Breakout," it's acne. In "Jawbreaker," it's braces and orthodontic headgear. In "Slouch," it's being self-conscious about height.

"I think I have a knack for these universal struggles because I remember my own struggles really, really well," Wyman said. "My struggles were very dramatic and relentless."

Wyman graduated from Pace University in New York with a bachelor's degree in communications. She later received a doctoral degree in curriculum, instruction and teacher education from Michigan State University. She used to teach at the middle school level and now teaches at MSU on an adjunct basis, but most of her time is devoted to writing.

In fact, she's putting the finishing touches on her next novel, "Mean," which will be released in 2027.

"This particular book is about the



Courtesy of Christina Wyman

complicatedness of friendship during the middle school years, especially for girls," she said.

According to Wyman, the book centers on a small clique of girlfriends who are popular and mean, in the vein of 1989's "Heathers" and 2004's "Mean Girls."

"Even though they're mean, everyone wants to be friends with them," Wyman said. "They also have an insidious way of being mean to each other. Drama blows them up, and the group has to deal with how they've been treating each other."

The New York Times, Publishers Weekly and Kirkus Reviews have praised Wyman's novels. Additionally, "Jawbreaker" was recently picked as New Jersey's Garden State Teen Book Award selection. Her work has drawn comparisons to Judy Blume, the best-selling author of children's and young-adult fiction.

"I have the chills just talking about this! She's a legend. I grew up reading her books; she's a staple of my childhood. To even be compared to her is magical, just absolutely magical!" Wyman said of Blume. "I've been given an opportunity here that not everyone who wants to be a writer gets. I'm so grateful to get to do what I do, and I hope I get to do it forever."



# Jonesin' Crossword

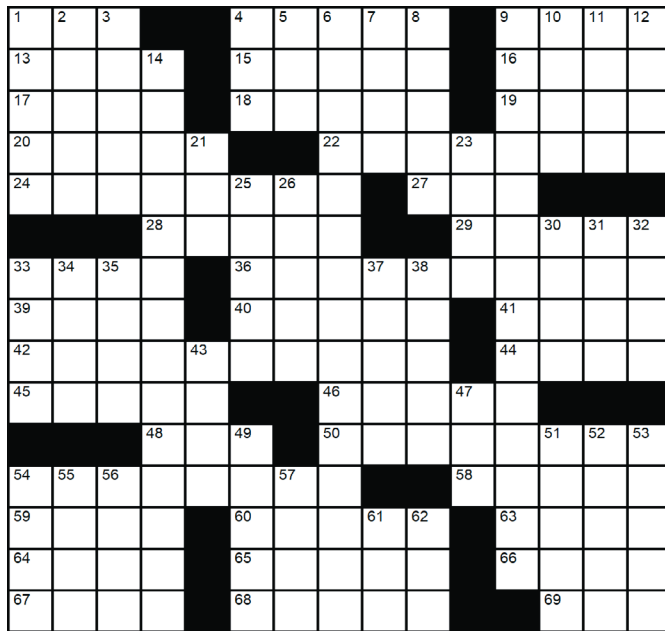
By Matt Jones

"Rows and Columns" -- really, more of the latter.

by Matt Jones  
© 2026 Matt Jones

### ACROSS

1. Halloween mo.
4. Sauce on some pizzas
9. Eyelid nuisance
13. "Avatar" language
15. Drink, cat-style
16. Henchman
17. Ticklish Muppet
18. Assigned duty
19. Croatian currency
20. Not together
22. "I did perfectly!" (even if not)
24. City southeast of Los Angeles
27. Traffic jam ingredient
28. Band of schemers
29. Calculator component
33. "It's \_\_\_ vu all over again"
36. Decorative
39. Racetrack shape
40. Renaissance Faire title
41. "\_\_\_, Interrupted" (1999 drama)
42. 1991 Red Hot Chili Peppers hit
44. Out on the briny
45. \_\_\_SmithKline (pharmaceutical company now known by its initials)
46. "Bed" or "home" ending
48. Cute animal reaction
50. Andes dweller, maybe
54. Undeveloped expanse



58. In a suitable way
  59. Bugs Bunny antagonist Elmer
  60. Energetically excited
  63. Reach by phone
  64. Compulsion
  65. Michelangelo work in St. Peter's Basilica
  66. 2025 Pixar film
  67. One with a crystal ball
  68. Rescue shelter resident
  69. Japanese bread?
- DOWN
1. Shaq's surname
  2. Lily variety
  3. Lois Griffin or Marge Simpson
  4. "Thx" preceder
  5. Grab a bite
  6. Publication with a lot of backbone?
  7. Fish in a flat can
  8. Concerning sight

9. "Keep your hands at ten and two," say?
10. Dull sound from a weight
11. Space pioneer
12. Elton John achievement
14. Hamilton, when focused on molecular particles?
21. Time period for Taylor Swift
23. Put cargo on
25. Like \_\_\_ from the blue
26. Cartoon spun off from "Beavis and Butt-head"
30. Elevator company
31. Challenge
32. Jazz singer
33. Rap's Snoop \_\_\_
34. Wicked (and not for good)
35. Coffee
37. Marbled stone
38. "Twilight" author
43. State home to Blank Park Zoo
47. "\_\_\_ Wiedersehen!"
49. Tortilla-based sandwiches
51. "Boot" of Europe
52. "Hyperbole and a Half" writer/illustrator
53. 1930s DuPont fabric invention
54. "The Last \_\_\_"
55. Unadulterated
56. Jigsaw starting point, maybe
57. Release
61. Incoming train stat
62. When it's light out

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

March 11-17, 2026

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In theater, "breaking the fourth wall" means acknowledging the audience. An actor steps out of the pretense that what's happening on stage is real. It's a disruptive moment of truth that can deepen the experience. I would love you to break the fourth wall in your own life, Aries. It's a favorable time to slip free of any roles you've been performing by rote and just blurt out the more interesting truths. Tell someone, "This isn't working for me." Or say, "I need to be my pure self with greater authenticity." Breaking the fourth wall won't ruin the show; it will be more fun and real and entertaining.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** English speakers like me use the terms "destiny" and "fate" interchangeably. But a scholar of ancient Sumer claims they had different meanings in that culture. Nam, the word for "destiny," was fixed and immutable. Namtar, meaning "fate," could be manipulated, adjusted, and even cheated. I bring this to your attention, Taurus, because I believe you now have a golden chance to veer off a path that leads to an uninteresting or unproductive destiny and start gliding along a fateful detour.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** The coming months will be a favorable time for you to shed the fairy-tale story of success that once inspired you when you were younger and more idealistic. A ripper vision is emerging, calling you toward a more realistic and satisfying version of your life's purpose. The transformation may at first feel unsettling, but I believe it will ultimately awaken even deeper zeal and greater creativity than your original dream. Bonus: Your revised, more mature goals will lead you to the very rewards your youthful hopes imagined but never quite delivered.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Even if you're not actually far from home, Cancerian, I bet you're on a pilgrimage or odyssey of some kind. The astrological omens tell me that you're being drawn away from familiar ideas and feelings and are en route to an unknown country. You're transforming, but you're not sure how yet. During this phase of exploration, I suggest that you adopt a nickname that celebrates being on a quest. This will be a playful alias that helps you focus on the pregnant potential of this interlude. A few you might want to consider: Journey Seed, Threshold Traveler, Holy Rambler, Map-Edge Maverick, or Wanderlust Wonderer. Others? Choose one that tickles you with the sense that you are being born again while you travel.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Love is more than a gentle glow in your heart or a pleasurable spark in your body. When fully awakened and activated, it becomes a revolutionary way of being in the world that invites you to challenge and rethink all you've been taught about reality. It's a bold magic that alters everything it encounters. You can certainly choose a milder, tamer version of love if you wish. But if you'd like to evolve into a love maestro—as you very well could during the next 12 months—I suggest you give yourself to the deeper, wilder form. Do you dare?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Octopuses have neuron clusters in their arms that enable them to "think with their limbs." Let's make them your spirit creature for now, Virgo. Your body's intuitions are offering you guidance that might even be as helpful as your fine mind. This enhanced somatic brilliance can serve you in practical ways: a creative breakthrough while doing housework, a challenging transition handled with aplomb, a fresh alignment between your feelings and ideas. I hope you will listen to your body as if it were a beloved mentor. Trust your movements and physical sensations to reveal what you need to know.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** I love your diplomatic genius: the capacity to understand all sides, to hold space for contradictions, to find the middle ground. But right now it's in danger of curdling into a kind of self-erasure where your own desires become the one thing you can't quite locate. Another way to understand this: You are so skilled at seeing

everyone's perspective that you sometimes lose track of your own. Here's the antidote I recommend: Practice the revolutionary act of having strong opinions, of preferring one thing over another without immediately undercutting your preference with a counter-argument. I guarantee that your relationships will survive your decisiveness. In fact, they will deepen as people locate the real you beneath your exquisite balance.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** New love cravings have been welling up inside you, Scorpio. These cries of the heart may confuse you even as they delight you and invigorate you. One of your main tasks is to listen closely to what they're telling you, but to wait a while before expressing their messages to other people. You need to study them in detail before spilling them out. Another prime task is to feel patient awe and reverence for the immensity and intensity of these deep, wild desires.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** If you are fulfilling your birthright as a Sagittarius, you are a philosopher-adventurer with a yearning for deep meaning. As you seek out interesting truths, your restless curiosity is a spiritual necessity. You understand that wisdom comes from collecting diverse, sometimes contradictory experiences and weaving them into a coherent worldview. You have a fundamental need to keep expanding and reinventing what freedom means to you. All these qualities may make some people nervous, but they really are among your primary assignments now and forever. They are especially important to cultivate these days.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** In traditional navigation, "dead reckoning" means finding your position by tracking your previous movements. Where you have been tells you where you are. But it only works if you've been honest about your course. If you've been misleading yourself about the direction you have been traveling, dead reckoning will get you lost. I bring this to your attention, Capricorn, because I really want you to rededicate yourself to telling yourself the deepest, strongest, clearest truths. Where have you actually been going? Not where you told yourself you were going or where other people imagined you were going, but where your choices have actually been taking you. Look at the pattern of your real movements, not your stated intentions. Once you know your true position, you can chart a true course for the future.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You're entering a rambling zigzag phase. Each plot twist will branch into two more, and every supposed finale will reveal itself as the opening act of another surprise. Fortunately, your gift for quick thinking and innovative adaptation is sharper than ever, which means you will flourish where others might freeze. My suggestion? Forget the script. Approach the unpredictable adventures like an improv exercise: spontaneous, playful, and open to the fertile mysteries.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Can you compel acts of grace to intervene in your destiny? Can bursts of divine favor be summoned through the power of your will? Some spiritual scholars say, "Absolutely not." They claim life's wild benevolence arrives only through the mysterious tides of fate—impossible to solicit and impossible to predict. But other observers, more open-minded, speculate that your intelligent goodness might indeed attract the vivid generosity of cosmic energies. I bring this up because I suspect you Pisceans are either receiving or will soon receive blessings that feel like divine favor. Did you earn them, or are you just lucky, or some of both? It doesn't matter. Enjoy the gift.

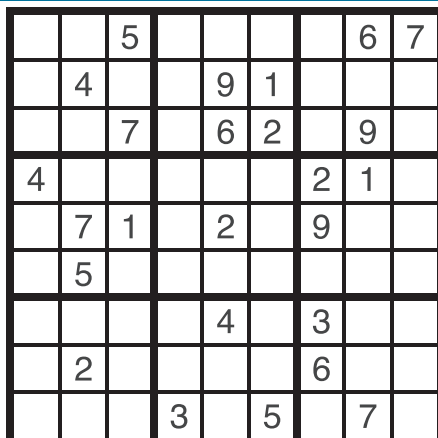
Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

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Answers on page 26

## SUDOKU

## Intermediate



### Fun By The Numbers

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

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

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

### Wednesday, March 11

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

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

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

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

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

**Angels & Abstracts Public Encounter Viewing** - Join us for the first public viewing of new artwork by Jason Keusch. Win a 42-by-42-inch custom artwork. John Beltran provides tunes in the evening. Pop in, pop out. Hang out. BYOB. Noon-9 p.m. The Snug - Popup Art Gallery, 615 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [facebook.com/AngelsAndAbstracts](http://facebook.com/AngelsAndAbstracts).

**Art of Zentangles Exhibit & Sale** - Zentangle artist Dorothy Hughes Engelman is the artist of the month. All pieces are for sale. Noon-7 p.m. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. [facebook.com/KatalystGallery](http://facebook.com/KatalystGallery).

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

**Bookend Gallery Display** - Kevin Epling is sharing his "toy photography" for the month of March. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett).

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

**Coffee and Conversation** - A monthly Chamber of Commerce networking event. 9-10 a.m. City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge. [facebook.com/GrandLedgeChamber](http://facebook.com/GrandLedgeChamber).

**Euchre Tournaments** - Euchre games are played every Wednesday and Saturday throughout March at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each game costs \$5 per person. Ms. Laura's Art Gallery, 1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-894-2962. [forms.gle/21Uid62jS6mrN7IA7](http://forms.gle/21Uid62jS6mrN7IA7).

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

**"Kimberly Akimbo"** - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

**"Moments in Time"** - Lansing artist Janis Barr McElmurry invites you to pause and savor life's beautiful, fleeting moments through her vibrant watercolor paintings. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Peoples

Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

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

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

**Ready to Read Storytime for Preschoolers** - Parents and caregivers will learn how to talk, sing, read, write and play with their little ones to promote pre-reading skills. Concludes with hands-on activity stations. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Safe Food = Healthy Kids** - Two-day class. 1-2:30 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/Isabella](http://canr.msu.edu/Isabella).

**Speculative Futures | The Future is Feminine** - Detroit-based poet and educator Brittany Rogers joins MSU student poets for a reading exploring imagination, resilience, and possibility through a feminist lens. 6-7:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [museum.msu.edu](http://museum.msu.edu).

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

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

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

### Thursday, March 12

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

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

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

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

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

**Art of Zentangles Exhibit & Sale** - Noon-7 p.m. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. [facebook.com/KatalystGallery](http://facebook.com/KatalystGallery).

**Book Swap & Social at MP Social** - Join us for an evening centered around good conversation, thoughtfully crafted drinks, and discovering a new book! 4-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. [facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing](http://facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing).

### Rosie the Riveter Day

4 p.m. Friday, March 13

Capital Region International Airport  
4100 Capital City Blvd., Lansing  
[mirosieday.org](http://mirosieday.org)

The can-do spirit that helped lift women into the workforce in the early 1940s will be celebrated at the fourth annual Michigan Rosie the Riveter Day, which hopes to bridge the worlds of manufacturing and agriculture with a first-of-its-kind tribute to "Rosies on the farm."

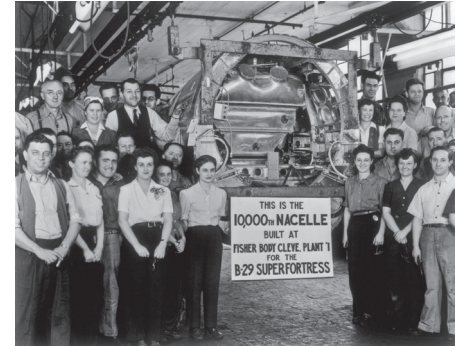
The event will honor the women who redefined the American workforce during World War II and the trailblazers in today's industries. Speakers will include Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, UAW Region 1 leaders, and representatives from Jiffy Mix and the Michigan Department of Corrections' Vocational Village.

Ten Rosie Awards will honor outstanding women in industry across Michigan, Rosie families in memoriam and educators who empower their students with Rosie spirit.

"Seeing my grandmother's story honored alongside these incredible women is more than just a history lesson — it's a homecoming," Madelyn Taylor said. "For our family, this day is about ensuring that her courage and hard work aren't just remembered, but are used to fuel the dreams of her great-grandchildren."

The original plane-building Rosies share the same spirit as today's shop and farm workers, event coordinator Tanya Blehm said.

The airport will be transformed into a history hub with interactive exhibits from Impression 5 Science Center, local robotics teams and Jiffy Mix. "From the legendary Tuskegee Airmen and RE Olds Transportation Museum to the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and the League of Enchantment, there is something to spark curiosity in every generation," event organizers promise.



**Bookend Gallery Display by Kevin Epling** - Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett).

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

**The Gallowglass: Irish Renaissance Warriors** - Swordsmanship Museum and Academy historian Jerry Berg leads us on a journey back to the 1500s to explore the unique warriors who fought in and defended Ireland during this century of conquest and invasion. Ages 10+. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Haslett Beautification Association Meet and Greet** - HBA is a not-for-profit service group that was formed to enhance the aesthetic appearance of Haslett. We maintain 12 flower gardens at various locations in Haslett. 6 p.m. St. Luke Lutheran Church, 5589 Van Atta Road, Haslett.

**Hay Production 101** - Topic: cost of production & marketing. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/forages](http://canr.msu.edu/forages).

**Ignite Talks MSU** - The MSU Museum CoLab Studio is excited to present the sixth edition of Ignite Talks MSU, featuring the fast-paced stories of ten MSU student research rockstars. 7-8:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [museum.msu.edu](http://museum.msu.edu).

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

**"Kimberly Akimbo"** - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.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. [ladiessilverblades.org](http://ladiessilverblades.org).

**Lansing Home & Garden Show** - The largest home & garden show in mid-Michigan fills the MSU Pavilion with hundreds of local home improvement businesses. 2-8 p.m. 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. [lansinghomeshow.com](http://lansinghomeshow.com).

**"Moments in Time," Watercolors by Janis Barr McElmurry** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

**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. [lapseg.org](http://lapseg.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](http://lcc.edu/keeplearning).

**Preserving MI Harvest: Fresh to Frozen** - Learn how to freeze fruit, veggies, meat and even prepared meals so they taste great months later! 1 and 6 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/food\\_preservation](http://canr.msu.edu/food_preservation).

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

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## Events

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

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

**Thursday Night Open Forge** - Try your hand at blacksmithing and create your own metal 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.

**Tune In** - An inclusive music showcase for performers and songwriters from Greater Lansing. Share a song (must sign up in advance) or just enjoy great music by your neighbors. 7:30-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**Weathered Nest Vintage Market Crafting Connection** - Free open crafting in our studio. Bring your own crafts to work on, or we offer a variety of craft supplies for purchase. Bring friends or make new ones. 5:30-8 p.m. Weathered Nest Vintage Market, 200 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. 517-918-0529.

**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, March 13

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

**Art of Zentangles Exhibit & Sale** - Noon-7 p.m. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. facebook.com/KatalystGallery.

**BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet** - For the past 42 years, BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet has been making some of the most potent and popular Cajun music on the planet. 7:30-10 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**Bookend Gallery Display by Kevin Epling** - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

**CGFF Brew & View Screening** - You're invited to The Avenue for a screening of the cult sci-fi slasher "Jason X." Ages 21+. 9 p.m. 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. capitalcityfilmfest.com.

**Fish Fry** - Baked & fried fish, baked potatoes & french 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. 517-485-1656.

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

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

**"Kimberly Akimbo"** - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

**Lansing Home & Garden Show** - 11 a.m.-8 p.m. 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. lansinghomeshow.com.

**"Moments in Time," Watercolors by Janis Barr McElmurry** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

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

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

**Self-Honoring Circle — Chapter 2: What Did I Say?** - What did you say to yourself today — or yesterday? Chapter 2 of the Self-Honoring Circle invites you to pause, notice, and transform the words you speak to yourself. 1-4 p.m. Virtual — register at deepsoulscreativeart.my.canva.site.

**Travelogue: Terence Blackburn in Papua, New Guinea** - See magnificent island scenery and visit a few of the iconic locations of the War in the Pacific. 7-8:30 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-482-4255. parksonline.lansingmi.gov.

**Unwind | Bratty** - The MSU Museum and Union Activities Board invites you to a Charli XCX-inspired silent disco. 7-9 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

**Youth Beginning Chess Workshop** - This workshop series offers a structured and engaging introduction to the "game of kings," taught by professional chess coach Tyler Hug. Attend one or all sessions. Ages 8-18. 3-4:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

## Saturday, March 14

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

**Art of Zentangles Exhibit & Sale** - Noon-7 p.m. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. facebook.com/KatalystGallery.

**Bookend Gallery Display by Kevin Epling** - Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

**Charcoal Landscape Art Class** - Learn to draw with charcoal to create simple, moody, magical winter landscapes. Beginners welcome! 3-5 p.m. Foster Coffee Co., 120 W. Hamlin St., Eaton Rapids. eventbrite.com/o/10530102328.

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

**Community Songs for All Ages, with Joe Reilly** - Fiddle Scouts is a gathering of music enthusiasts ages 3-13 and their families. Each gathering features a local or regional folk musician who is adept at sharing music with everyone in the room. 11 a.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**Euchre Tournaments** - Euchre games are played every Wednesday and Saturday throughout March at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each game costs \$5 per person. Ms. Laura's Art Gallery, 1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-894-2962. forms.gle/21UId62jS6mrN7A17.

**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.

**"Kimberly Akimbo"** - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

## 'Women of the Watch, Keepers of the Light'

4 p.m. Sunday, March 15  
University United Methodist Church  
1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing

Kamryn Marck wraps her one-woman plays in layers.

In "Women of the Watch: Keepers of the Light," Marck weaves together early memories of her family trips to Michigan lighthouses and stories of the lives and legacies of four women who kept the lights shining over the Great Lakes.

Marck is a performer, writer, actress, storyteller, musician and ecological gardener based in Royal Oak. She studied musical theater at Oakland University and has worked as an actress and teaching artist with theatrical companies in the Midwest. She has toured Michigan with her one-woman plays, which have been performed more than 100 times.

Sunday's performance is free, though donations are appreciated. A social break will follow, with an open mic to cap the event.



**Lansing Area Vintage Computer Club** - The Lansing Area Vintage Computer Club is holding its first event. There will be several VCF-style displays, some meeting and greeting, an information table, and more! 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. lavcc.org.

**Lansing Home & Garden Show** - 10 a.m.-8 p.m. 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. lansinghomeshow.com.

**Pi Day 5K** - This fun run raises money for Impression 5 Science Center's scholarship program. 9 a.m. Hawk Island Park, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/PiDay5kLansing.

**Pi for Pie Fun Run/Walk/Roll** - Join Clearly Fit Studio and Sweetie-licious Bakery for our third annual Pi for Pie fun run/walk/roll. March 14 for 3.14 km or miles. 9 a.m.-noon. 137a W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. eventbrite.com/o/29740090499.

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

**Visible Mending Community Workshop** - Make your old stuff feel new again with visible mending! Explore hand stitching to reinvent and restore your clothes and/or accessories. Bring items you wish to repair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. retreatart.xyz.

## Sunday, March 15

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

**Art of Zentangles Exhibit & Sale** - Noon-5 p.m. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. facebook.com/KatalystGallery.

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

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

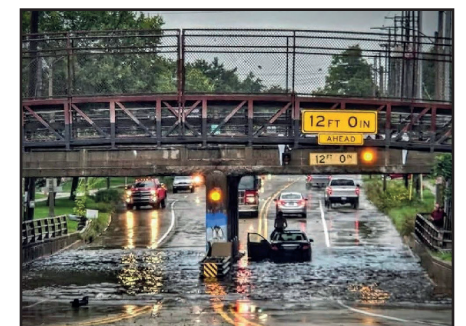
**The Creative Club's Drag Show** - The Creative Club's second annual drag show, hosted by Mag n Cheez and Trifecta. Fundraising for A Place For Us. 4

p.m. Arena Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. instagram.com/thecreativeclubmsu.

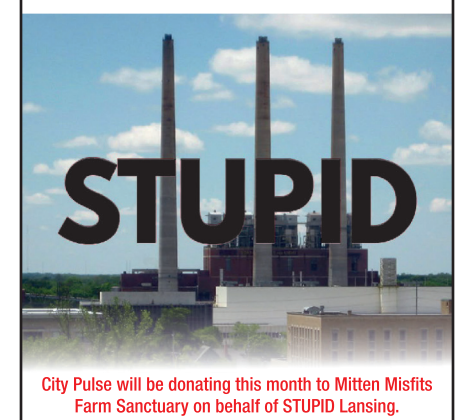
**Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers** - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhan-ka@gmail.com.

**"Kimberly Akimbo"** - 1 and 6:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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Big Penny is wily and can use water as an ally. Not content to height-check trucks, the Pennsylvania Street railroad bridge also is prone to floods that can stall a car of any height as well as that concrete which can shear off a top. It's best to give Big Penny respect and drive carefully.



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



## Easter Bunny at the Meridian Mall

Through April 4  
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
Noon-6 p.m. Sunday  
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos  
vipholidayphotos.com/mall/H-MM

The Easter Bunny begins his spring visit to Okemos on Thursday. The beloved bunny plans to nestle in his garden for the season to take free family photos, but he will be busy with work to do on Easter Sunday, when the mall is closed anyway. Photo packages are available for purchase. Pet photos are available on Mondays, but pets must be on a leash or in a carrier, and the Bunny isn't picking up after them. Reservations can be made online. Walk-ins are welcome.

## Events

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**Lansing Home & Garden Show** - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. [lansinghomeshow.com](http://lansinghomeshow.com).

**"Moments in Time," Watercolors by Janis Barr McElmurry** - 9:30 a.m.-noon. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

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

**SpARTan Wellness: Art You Can Rest With** - With midterms behind you, treat yourself to a nap! This month, we're printing designs on pillowcases. We'll have all the materials you'll need, but feel free to bring your own supplies. 2-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

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

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

### Monday, March 16

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

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 8 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**Art of Zentangles Exhibit & Sale** - Noon-7 p.m. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. [facebook.com/KatalystGallery](http://facebook.com/KatalystGallery).

**Beginning Conversational Spanish Course** - Learn the fundamentals of Spanish and gain intercultural competence in Spanish-speaking communities. Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m., March 16 - May 6. LCC East Campus, 2827 Eyde Pkwy., East Lansing. Register at [lcc.edu/keeplearning](http://lcc.edu/keeplearning).

**Bookend Gallery Display by Kevin Epling** - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett).

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

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

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

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

**Glow-in-the-Dark Egg Hunt** - Venture into the darkened children's department to find three eggs per child, then trade the eggs in for a small treat. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

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

**Level I Dance Class for Kids** - Ages 5-8. 4-5 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**"Moments in Time," Watercolors by Janis Barr McElmurry** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

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

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

**Selling MI Honey & Maple Syrup** - Learn how to safely handle, package and store honey and maple syrup and understand the exemption guidelines for selling these products in Michigan. 4-6 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/isabella/index](http://canr.msu.edu/isabella/index).

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

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

### Tuesday, March 17

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

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

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

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

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

**Art of Zentangles Exhibit & Sale** - Noon-7 p.m. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. [facebook.com/KatalystGallery](http://facebook.com/KatalystGallery).

**The Big Read: Creative Writing Workshop** - Join us at the Downtown Lansing Library for a writing workshop, where you can learn how to write personal essays, reflections and creative nonfiction. There will be prompts available and opportunities for feedback, if desired! 5:30-6:30 p.m. 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. [midmeac.org](http://midmeac.org).

**Bookend Gallery Display by Kevin Epling** - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett).

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

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

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

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

**Keystone Habits** - Keystone Habits explores how small, consistent behaviors can create powerful positive change over time. You'll learn why habits stick, why change is so difficult, and how to build

new routines in a realistic, sustainable way. 6-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. 517-321-1963.

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

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

**Minecraft Mania** - An evening of fun and friendly competition. We'll have our server set up and laptops ready to go. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**"Moments in Time," Watercolors by Janis Barr McElmurry** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

**Online Extension Extras for Parents: Exploring Parenting Styles** - In this workshop we'll explore and reflect on our parenting styles, the benefits and drawbacks of each kind of parenting style, and how to find a balance that best supports a strong family for you. 7:30-9 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/parenting\\_education\\_classes](http://canr.msu.edu/parenting_education_classes).

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

**Parkinson's Support Group: Education** - Join us for an informative, educational and fun afternoon. Aaron Ellenbogen of the Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders will discuss ONAPGO (Supernum Pharmaceuticals), a continuous apomorphine infusion. 3-4:30 p.m. Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. [lpsg.org](http://lpsg.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](http://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](http://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](http://lansingshuffle.com).

### Wednesday, March 18

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

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

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

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

**Art of Zentangles Exhibit & Sale** - Zentangle artist Dorothy Hughes Engelman is the artist of the month. All pieces are for sale. Noon-7 p.m. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. [facebook.com/KatalystGallery](http://facebook.com/KatalystGallery).

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

**Bookend Gallery Display** - Kevin Epling is sharing his "toy photography" for the month of March. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett).

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Thali offers variety, the spice of life

By LIZY FERGUSON

As my friend and I sat down in the Curry House dining room, we were surprised how empty it was on a Saturday night — until we looked behind the register to see that the restaurant was doing an absolutely booming business in takeout orders. To be fair, we would usually get takeout ourselves, but we were after something that evening that you can only order when you dine in: thali.

Thali refers to the round platter on which the dish is served, topped with a number of bowls containing small

portions of different dishes. If you like variety in your meal, it doesn't get any better than this. The discovery of thali has solved my age-old problem at Indian restaurants of wanting to have so much more of the cuisine's delicious offerings than I could ever afford or eat.

Our platter came with roti, an Indian flatbread a bit less decadent than naan, and rice, along with (to be clear, these are my educated guesses) rice pudding, dahl (a lentil stew), navratan korma (vegetables in a nutty cream sauce), aloo gobi masala (potato and cauliflower in a cumin and turmeric sauce), chicken

curry and achar (pickled, mustardy daikon radish).

My favorites were the navratan korma with its velvety, bright yellow sauce and still toothsome green beans and peas, the savory and aromatic aloo gobi, and the rosewater-inflected rice pudding. Though perhaps unconventional, I included the pudding in all my bites, scooped up with roti, as a sweet counterpoint.

The combinations of flavors were endless and all delicious, and I'm thankful we also ordered the Kashmiri naan — stuffed with coconut, dried fruit, and nuts — to make sure we didn't run out of dipping bread and to add even more flavor to the party. Even without this addition, if you have a not-huge appetite, you could get away with dinner for two for under \$20, which is almost unheard



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**Curry House**

930 Trowbridge Rd, East Lansing



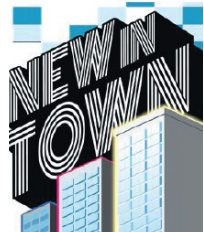
Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

of today.

Thali provides a well-balanced meal, bursting with flavors and textures that can be combined or enjoyed on their own. I wish more cuisines where every dish complements the others would adapt this model. It's important in a world that pushes ever more towards homogeneity to enjoy as much variety as you can. Food is always as good a place as any to start.

### Airport Tavern reopens as The ATS with new menu, new owner, same staff

By LEO V. KAPLAN



Marcus Powers renamed the former Airport Tavern and Steakhouse to The ATS of Lansing for two reasons.

The first is that the new name, “an homage to the past while moving to the future,” preserves the legacy of the century-old building by abbreviating its former name while marking the beginning of a new era.

But the name is also a reference to the Cadillac ATS, a luxury car that represents what Powers wants to turn the steakhouse into: “The Cadillac of restaurants.”

That was the goal that Powers, a classically trained chef who moved to Lansing last year after a 24-year career in Las Vegas, had in mind as he crafted The ATS' new menu. That menu debuted Tuesday (March 10) as the restaurant celebrated its grand reopening. It had been operating with the former menu since Jan. 30, a decision manager Nick Kidd said was made in respect of the staff, who all stayed on amid the

transition.

The menu still includes staples from the former menu, Powers said, but with more steak options, elevated items like a root-beer-glazed pork chop and more salads and appetizers, such as a wedge salad and truffle chips.

Powers said his determination to revitalize the restaurant comes from speaking with locals, who remember the building's past fondly.

“When you hear people talk about this place 20, 30, even 50 years ago, there's a huge memory that a lot of people have,” he said. “But after you hit a certain age range, it kind of cuts off. So, I want to reach out to a whole other group, along with keeping the old, saying, ‘Hey, I want to bridge that gap. I want everybody to have a memory of The ATS or Airport Tavern.’”

Powers described the new menu as a “remix” of the former menu and other items he'd worked with before, bringing his personality and experience to the table while letting the classics speak for themselves. He also brought in new glassware and table linen, because he thinks his customers “are worth that type of service.”

For Powers, who moved to Lansing

to raise his twin daughters in the more tight-knit, “family-oriented” environment that his wife, a Haslett native, grew up in, taking charge of The ATS is a great way to introduce himself to the community.

“I think having something that had such a legacy made it a little bit easier for me to come, in terms of having the torch passed to me,” he said.

Pete Sinadinos, who sold the restaurant to Powers, has been immensely supportive, Powers said.

“For me, it was a little tough, thinking, ‘Oh man, these are big shoes to fill,’” Powers said. “But Pete, being the pillar of the community that he is, graciously introduced me to all his regulars and supported the change-over in a very positive way. I mean, he could have just sold the building and retired. But he comes in weekly. He makes sure his friends come in. He even calls it The ATS.”

As he looks forward, Powers hopes to integrate, more specials focused on seasonally available food, incorporate weekend brunch and add prime rib on Sundays. He has more ideas, he said, but he plans to earn the trust of the community and make gradual chang-



Leo V. Kaplan for City Pulse

The ATS of Lansing owner Marcus Powers (left) and manager Nick Kidd stand behind the bar during a family and friends event ahead of the restaurant's grand reopening Tuesday.

es rather than a dramatic overhaul.

“There's a lot of ideas in this noggin that I'd like to show Lansing and see how they respond,” he said. “And the best way to do that for people is to get trusted. That's why I didn't come here and just say, ‘Oh, this flashy Las Vegas restaurant.’ No, I've got to get the trust of the guests that we're doing something quality.”

# Creamy carrot pasta

By ARI LEVAUX

Some of my favorite recipes come from vegetable farmers. These dishes tend to be veggie-forward, local and seasonal. They usually come together quickly and can satisfy the voracious bellies of hardworking, hungry crews. In winter, when not much is in season, farmy dishes will be geared toward preserved or stored ingredients in the freezer, pantry or root cellar.

Carrot pasta is always in season because fresh, local carrots are available year round, either from the ground or from storage. But this recipe seems to shine especially bright during the dark days of winter, when the seasonal pickings are slim.

Farm cooks pass around recipes like heirloom seeds, with each kitchen acting like a pristine habitat in which a recipe can evolve. My friend Josh learned today's carrot pasta recipe from our friend Luci in a very short phone conversation and immediately went his merry way with it. Luci had learned it from her sister's ex-husband, Ernesto, who had learned it from his mom in Milan. Josh changed the recipe to fit his own personality and circumstances.

He has no prep cook, but he does



Above: Luci's carrot pasta. Below: Josh's carrot pasta.



have a full cleanup crew. These circumstances allow him to tornado through the kitchen and let others deal with the consequences. Luci, meanwhile, is more of a clean-as-you-go type, and her method affords ample time to do so. If

she needs a chopper, she'll rope anyone within shouting range — which is quite a large area given her sizable lung capacity. By that time, Josh, all by his lonesome with a podcast playing, will have already grated a load of carrots in a Cuisinart.

Carrot pasta — or pasta carota, as they would say in Milan — is like dinner and dessert in every bite. It delivers a creamy, aromatic sweetness inside a savory sauce that is rich but light. The richness comes from a glorious redundancy of fatty ingredients, including olive oil, milk, cream and but-



ter. Simmering together, these luscious lipids dissolve the cheese. And the lightness comes from the puffy carrot paste, which delivers faint whiffs of summertime.

This sauce is the heart of this dish, and the stove-top-braised carrots are the heart of the sauce. The braising takes a while, but once you have a stash of braised carrots on hand, it's nothing to whip up a carrot sauce and cook up a quick batch of pasta carota on the spot.

## Pasta Carota

The meat and anchovy paste are optional, but the parsley at the end is not. It isn't just a splash of green garnish. Parsley is a cousin to carrot, and the two flavors interact ethereally.

Big noodles like rigatoni are best for carrying this decadent sauce, which fills the tubular cavities and makes the noodles taste like savory cream-stuffed cannoli.

*Serves four*

### Ingredients

- 2 pounds peeled carrots
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon thyme or Italian seasonings
- A few pinches of ground nutmeg
- Four large cloves garlic, pressed, minced or crushed
- 6 ounces grated Parmesan
- 1/2-1 cup heavy cream
- Red pepper flakes, to taste
- Optional: one teaspoon anchovy paste
- 1/2 cup mayo or veganaise
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

- Meat option: 1 pound ground Italian sausage
- 1 pound rigatoni
- 1/2 bunch parsley, chopped

### Step One: - The carrots

Cut the carrots into coins. Add them to a heavy-bottomed pan with the olive oil and cook on low for about an hour, covered with a heavy lid. Stir occasionally to scrape the bottom and check the moisture content. Carrots release water as they cook, and they will simmer gently in the bubbling mix of olive oil and water. When the moisture inevitably runs out, add the milk and a cup of water. Bring to a boil on medium heat, then simmer for another hour on low.

Add the cheese, butter, mayo, pepper flakes, thyme, nutmeg, half of the garlic and the anchovy paste, if using. Let the sauce simmer with the lid on, stirring every 20 minutes or so. If it starts to get stiff, add another cup of water and keep simmering until the cheese dissolves.

Finally, add the cream. Season

See Pasta, Page 27

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# Pasta

from page 26

with salt and black pepper and mix it — but not too much, according to Luci's husband. "When the carrot coins have almost turned into a paste, at the very end, you add the cream. It's like when you add milk to hot cereal but don't totally mix it. The oil is floating on the cream, and the cream isn't integrated." His voice trailed off.

Having nibbled upon those unmixed, creamed, fall-ing-apart carrot coins myself, I share his enchantment. However, there is no doubt that the sauce coats the noodles better if you liquify it first with an immersion blender.

Josh is usually more pressed for time and consequently has a quicker version of the sauce. He grates the carrots, which allows them to cook in about 45 minutes. Prepare as above, under a heavy lid with a mix of milk and water to prevent the pan from drying out, adding cheese, garlic, butter, mayo, spices, anchovy paste, cream, salt and pepper to finish it off.

**Step Two: The meat option**

Cook the ground Italian sausage in a pan until browned. Set aside.

**Step Three: La pasta**

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil and cook the noodles. Drain and toss with 2 table-spoons olive oil and the other half of the minced garlic. In a large bowl, mix together the noodles, sauce, parsley and meat. Serve.



**TOP 5 FAST FOOD**

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

**1. Culver's – Eastwood**

Fast food chain specializing in frozen custard and burgers made with Midwest beef and dairy  
3115 Town Centre Blvd., Lansing  
(517) 374-1301  
culvers.com  
10 a.m.-midnight daily

**2. Culver's — Okemos**

3440 Okemos Road, Okemos  
(517) 220-4687  
culvers.com  
10 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

**3. Fuel'd**

Laid-back restaurant serving

build-your-own stir-fries, salads and noodles  
1500 W. Lake Lansing Road, Ste. B, East Lansing  
(517) 220-4983  
fuelfoods.com  
10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

**4. Nip N Sip Drive-In**

Old-school drive-through joint serving American classics like burgers, wings, subs and shakes  
2603 N. East St., Lansing  
(517) 372-3734  
10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday  
10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

**5. Olympic Broil**

Casual fast-food outpost with hefty burgers, coney dogs, wraps and sandwiches  
1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing  
(517) 485-8584  
olympicbroil.com  
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

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