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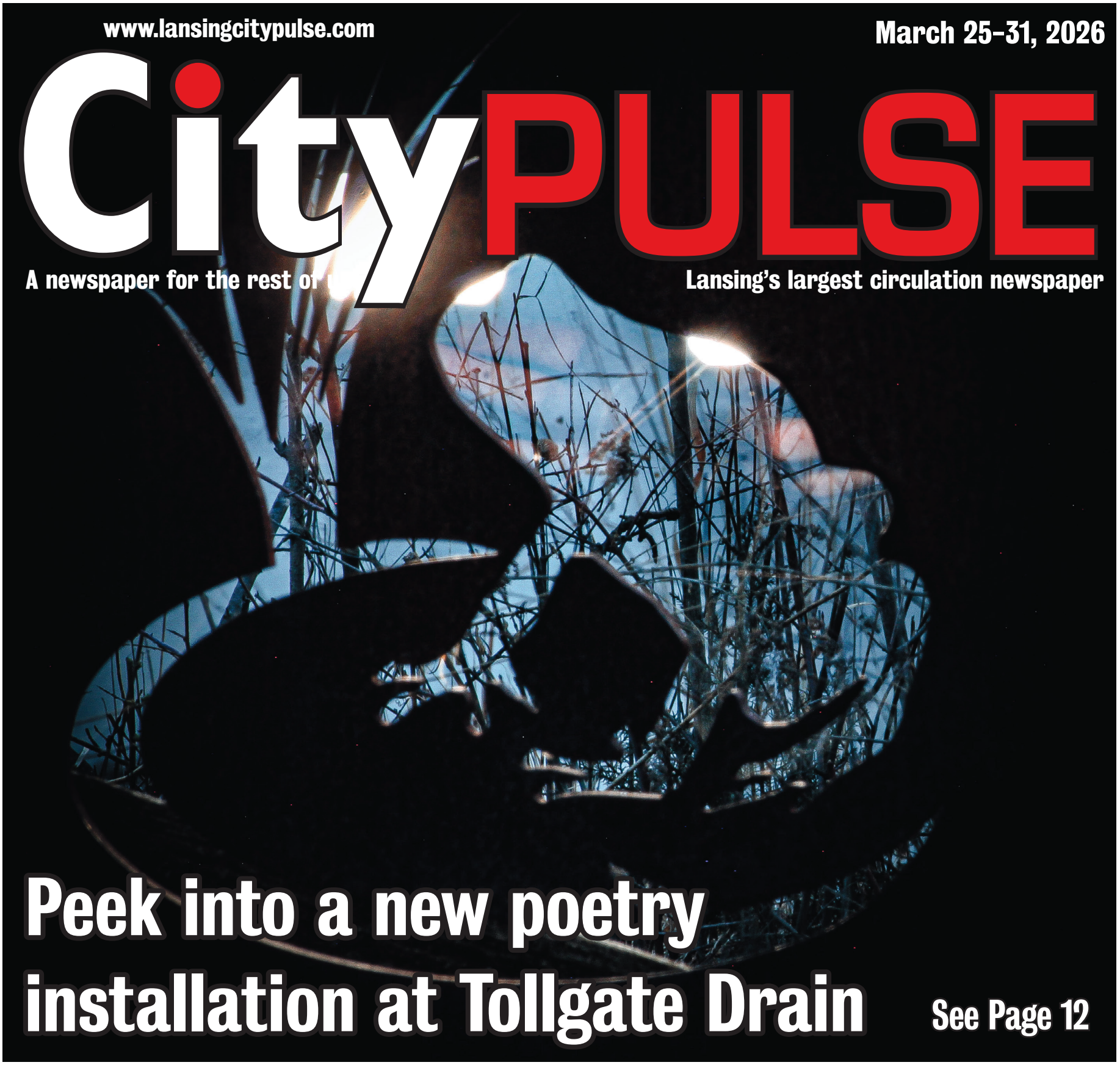

Peek into a new poetry installation at Tollgate Drain

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Third World Problems, First World Profits: Is the U.S. Winning?

My name is Larry Kirchhoff. Consider this my TED Talk—except there's no stage, no applause, and no sponsors, just the harsh reality I'm about to lay bare. In the "richest" country on Earth, children are detained in overcrowded cages, executives are getting bonuses for misery and the culture is cheering cruelty as strength—this is what happens when greed and moral indifference run the show.

There is a point at which a system stops being merely broken and starts working exactly as designed—just not for the reasons anyone would proudly admit. The treatment of children in immigration detention is often framed as a failure of logistics, a strain on resources or an unfortunate byproduct of a complicated system. But that framing collapses the moment you follow the incentives. Because when suffering becomes profitable, it is no longer accidental. It is structural.

After all, what could be more on-brand for modern America than finding a way to monetize even this? We have managed to take one of the most vulnerable populations imaginable—displaced children—and fold them neatly into a revenue stream. Somewhere along the line, someone looked at human desperation and thought, "There's a business model here." And not only did that idea survive—it thrived.

(Damon Hininger's pocketbook will give you an answer to scrutinize. I suggest you Google him.)

This is the part we are supposed to ignore. We are meant to focus on the rhetoric of necessity, the solemn language of enforcement, the idea that all of this is regrettable but required. Meanwhile, contracts are signed, profits are reported and wealth accumulates. The suffering remains constant; the balance sheets improve. It is a system that punishes vulnerability while rewarding those positioned to capitalize on it.

But why stop there? Why limit this moral flexibility to detention centers when it has proven so effective elsewhere?

We live in a time where consistency is treated as a liability and conviction as a kind of quaint relic. Public figures shift positions with the ease of changing clothes, aligning themselves not with principle, but with momentum. If the wind changes direction, so do they. And in a culture that increasingly values visibility over integrity, that strategy works.

Take Donald Trump, a figure who has turned contradiction into an art form. His approach to leadership often feels less like governance and more like improvisation—policy shaped not by coherent philosophy, but by instinct, grievance and whatever narrative best serves the moment. Strength is performed through bluntness, cruelty reframed as honesty and empathy dismissed as weakness. It is not subtle, but it is effective in a system that rewards spectacle.

Or consider Joe Rogan, whose influence rests on the appearance of open-mindedness while often drifting toward whatever perspective generates the most engagement. His platform thrives on the idea of "just asking questions," yet those questions—and the conclusions that follow—have a noticeable tendency to orbit attention. It is not that opinions evolve; it is that they orbit relevance.

This is not about singling out individuals so much as recognizing a pattern. When influence and profit are tied to attention, and attention is driven by outrage, controversy and tribal alignment, the incentives become clear. Nuance does not trend. Empathy does not go viral. But outrage? Outrage is a currency.

And so the tone of the culture shifts.

Cruelty becomes a kind of performance—sharp, dismissive and confident. Empathy, by contrast, is recast as softness, naivety or unseriousness. The question is no longer "Is this right?" but "Does this win?" And once that becomes the metric, the answers tend to follow a predictable path.

This is how the cruelty embedded in policy begins to bleed into everyday life.

It is evident in the way people interact with each other, in the casual dehumanization that now feels routine. It shows up in communities where suspicion replaces understanding, where the benefit of the doubt is no longer given, only earned—and often not even then. It shows up online, where anonymity strips away restraint and turns other human beings into targets rather than neighbors.

And all of it is connected.

Because when a society demonstrates—through policy, leadership or cultural incentives—that some people's dignity is negotiable, it does not stay contained. It becomes a lesson. One that is absorbed, repeated, and reinforced at every level.

Borders, we are told, must be protected. And perhaps they should be. But borders are only meaningful if what exists within them is worth protecting. If the interior is defined by opportunism, by grift, by a willingness to sacrifice principle for profit or relevance, then the line itself becomes hollow.

What exactly are we preserving?

A system where children can be reduced to cost centers? A culture where public figures bend with the wind as long as it keeps them powerful or popular? A society where cruelty is rebranded as strength and empathy as weakness?

If that is the case, then the issue is no longer immigration. It is identity.

Because the promise of this country was never that it would be efficient, or dominant, or even always successful. The promise was that it would strive—however imperfectly—toward something better. Toward fairness. Toward dignity. Toward a recognition of shared humanity that transcends status, origin or circumstance.

That promise does not survive contact with a system that profits from suffering.

And it certainly does not survive a culture that laughs it off, shrugs it away or monetizes the outrage it produces.

Empathy is not weakness. It is resistance—to cynicism, to opportunism and to the idea that human beings are only as valuable as what can be extracted from them. It is the refusal to participate in a system that asks you to look at a child in distress and see anything other than a responsibility.

The real satire, if there is any left to be found, is that we still call this strength.

Because there is nothing strong about a society that cannot protect the vulnerable, because that won't turn a profit. There is nothing strong about leadership that confuses cruelty with clarity. And there is nothing strong about a culture that trades its principles for attention.

If anything, that is the clearest sign of weakness there is.

#ReleaseTheFiles #NoNewWars #DefineImminent

Over 400 women have been arrested for "pregnancy-related" crimes since the overturning of Roe V Wade, and yet there have been no men arrested from the Epstein investigation.

By the way, I suspect we are all less safe than we were 3 weeks ago. My hope resides in the rest of the world understanding that many citizens of the U.S. do not wish for war. I'm not sure that'll do much good for the countless grieving mothers whose children have died from our bombs. I can't imagine their sorrow, and I can't pretend that words alone can repair the devastation. Their grief is real, immediate and unrelenting—a sorrow born of a violence that they did not choose and that no one should ever have to endure. And yet, it is exactly that humanity—the recognition of their suffering, their fear, their loss—that we so often fail to extend, both abroad and at home. If we cannot see their pain as fully human, how can we hope to act with compassion?

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

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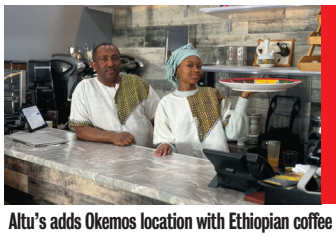
Salsa Verde brings Latin flair to Lansing



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Altu's adds Okemos location with Ethiopian coffee and breakfast

Correction: A caption on page 17 of our March 18 issue should have referred to Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

Cover photo by Mike Ellis

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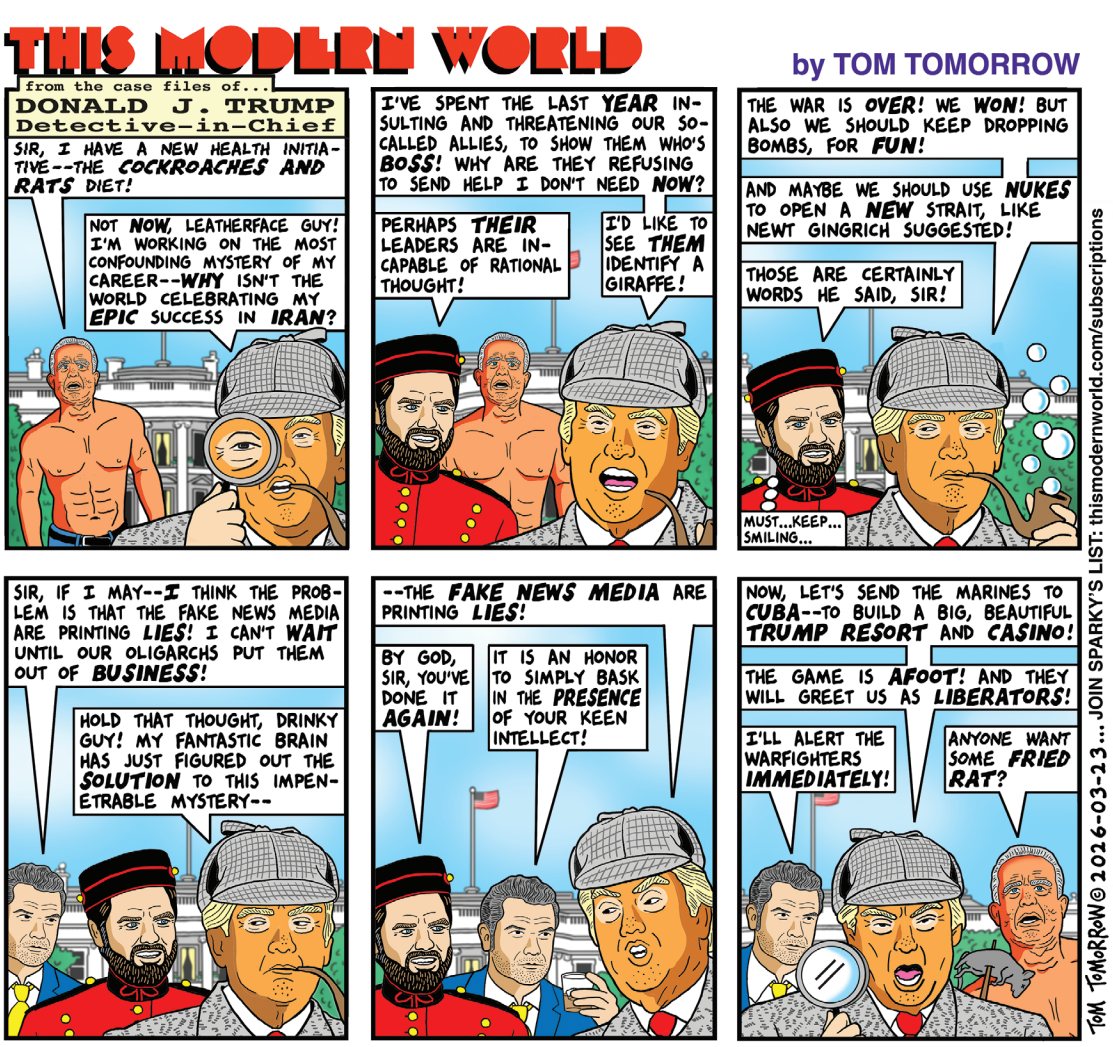


PULSE NEWS & OPINION

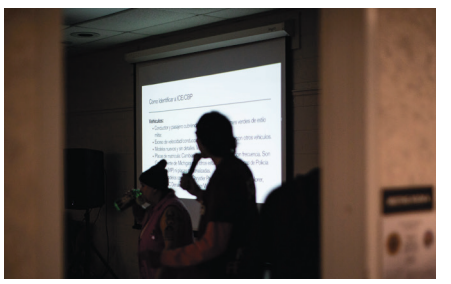
In Lansing, activists are solidifying actions to fight ICE: 'Only the community will save the community'

By ERICK DÍAZ VELIZ

Lansing residents filled a basement room at the city's downtown library on a Saturday afternoon in March for an orientation on how to identify ICE and CBP vehicles and agents.

The orientation was conducted in both Spanish and English by local mutual aid and ICE watch activist groups. The main activity — assembling bagged whistle kits containing small leaflets and a zine with the slogan "Form a Crowd, Stay Loud" on the cover — kept everyone working side by side.

The session also provided information and contact details for rapid-response groups, offered instruction on the use of whistles and urged attendees to join their actions.



Photos by By Erick Díaz Veliz

On a Saturday afternoon in March, Lansing residents attended an orientation about immigration enforcement activities and built whistle kits in a basement room at the city's downtown library.

"It is a way to educate people so they can report the presence of ICE — and their abductions," Diego Morales, a 26-year-old local activist, told City Pulse. "Because we aren't entirely sure about ICE's presence here. We don't know. We haven't fully tallied it. If there is no one watching or reporting, we will never know if they are here."

The blast of a whistle is a shrill melody that echoes through streets where immigration agents are spotted. Masked agents have been whistled at, and seen going after immigrant families, in cities including Grand Rapids, Dearborn, Pontiac and Detroit. Residents have gradually trained themselves to confront the potential violence of ICE arrests and the presence of the Border Patrol, engaging in daily "Migra Watch" routines, weekly distributions of whistle kits, the provision of delivery and transportation networks for immigrant families and financial support for families affected by arrests and deportations.

In Lansing, however, little activity has been observed. Any alleged instances can be counted on one hand. Activists and residents cite various theories, ranging from the potentially relatively low number of undocumented immigrants compared to other cities to political factors.

One of the most recent cases reported by the media involved CBP agents. On Oct. 9 of last year, agents were spotted conducting operations by residents in Meridian Township.

ICE has acquired a new detention center in Romulus and new offices in Southfield. In February, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel launched an online reporting form for residents to report evidence of illegal activity by federal immigration agents, citing concerns by Michiganders, from whom she had received more than 5,000 emails regarding immigration activity.

For Jonas, a 28-year-old local activist who didn't feel safe using a full name, what's happening in the country is an escalation of fear approaching Lansing, and that's why activists are trying to organize more public events and reach more neighbors.

"We're trying to do more outreach to spread the word about the hotline number and get people joining the rapid response chat if there's a confirmed sighting," he said. "Some of us have been going door to door at least once a week as a group, handing out flyers. We also hand out 'Know Your Rights' flyers.

"We get a call on the hotline or a report sometimes, and some of us will go and take a look. But we haven't been doing daily patrolling. So far, it seems like there's not enough ICE activity, and there's not enough of us to make the patrols."

Just as the orientation concluded, and everyone was ready to begin assembling the kits, a 28-year-old woman wearing a face mask, who goes by TH, raised her hand to address the group.

"We've all been taught to not really get to know the people around us," she said. "Those people, our neighbors, are scared, and they need safety. And it's really important to get to know each other. I can't stress enough right now on how important it is to get to know the people around you."

For TH, a Lansing resident, an isolated community makes it easier for the government to act violently against the people. If immigration agents take someone away from an apartment complex or neighborhood, there will be no outcry or reporting of the abuse if there is no connection among the neighbors, she said.

"We very much live in an isolated society where, because there aren't third spaces, because you have to pay for things to go outside, and because we don't have public infrastructure where people have natural places to commune with each other, we're not talking to each other, and it creates this very isolated society," she told City Pulse.

Nearly 3,000 federal agents were deployed to Minnesota earlier this year — sometimes indiscriminately firing tear gas and arresting anyone who stood in their path — which escalated into the deaths of two American citizens and the detention of thousands of immigrants.

Activists and neighbors have begun using new ways of communication and surveillance to stand more united than ever. The spirit of mutual defense is contagious, they said.

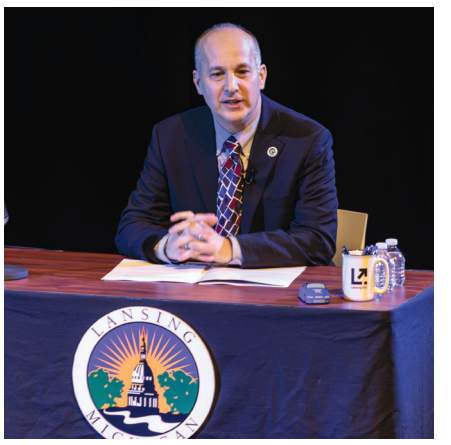
For Janet Nuñez, 30, a librarian at Michigan State University, only the community will save the community.

"At the end of the day, they will look after each other and take care of each other," she told City Pulse. She was born and raised in Santa Cruz, California, in an immigrant household and community where it was common for neighbors to take care of her or ask for groceries when needed.

"It was almost kind of a shock to not see people talking to each other here in Michigan," she said. "It has made it so that we're scared of each other instead of our common enemy, which is those in power. I think this is one of the first events here in Lansing, and it is the start of something that will become stronger."

Welcome to the State of the City

'The Lansing Show,' with Mayor Andy Schor



Mayor Andy Schor.

By MIKE ELLIS

[intro music (feat. AnnaMaria Horn)]

ANNOUNCER: Here's your host tonight, Maaaayyyoooorrrr Aaaaannnndddy Schor!

ANDY: Thank you, thank you. Last year I said we're changing up formats and doing this State of the City as a talk show. I was tired of being the talking head. So, this year I'll be sitting.

[cymbal crash]

(CITY PULSE IS WRITING THIS SCRIPT. THERE WAS NO CYMBAL CRASH, BUT THIS IS PRETTY CLOSE TO WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN THE DART AUDITORIUM AT LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 ... IN FRONT OF A LIVE STUDIO-ISH AUDIENCE.)

ANDY: Tonight you will see and hear about economic development, roads, housing, human services, parks and ways we can all work together to ensure Lansing continues to grow and thrive.

[hold for applause]

ANDY: Please welcome my friends Zac Clark, general manager of the Lansing Lugnuts, and Big Lug!

CLARK: We're here for our 30th anniversary. LAFCU fireworks. Coors Light thirsty Thursdays. Capital City Market kids' days. We're expanding on the Locos (Lugnuts alias) this year, and the Olive Burgers (another one).

ANDY: Only here.

CLARK: "Harry Potter." "Star Wars." Barbie. "Peanuts." The list goes on and on. Let's go nuts!

[applause]

MASCOT BIG LUG WALKS OUT, THROWS THINGS AT PEOPLE, WALKS BACKSTAGE.

[more applause]

ANDY: Next up are the three people who lead housing programs for Lansing: Kris Klein, president of Lansing Economic Development Corp.; Julie Pingston, president and CEO of Choose Lansing; and Rawley Van Fossen, the city's director of economic development and planning.

VAN FOSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Letterman.

ANDY: This is unscripted.

VAN FOSSEN: On the preservation side, we take existing houses, anywhere from historic mansions to everyday homes, and ensure they can survive another 100 years. We've put $900,000 of federal money toward that. We have new housing projects galore, with more than 1,000 units in production or in the pipeline, including New Vision's skyscraper downtown.

Joining Mayor Andy Schor, sitting at a talk show-style desk, are, from left: Kris Klein, president of Lansing Economic Development Corp.; Julie Pingston, president and CEO of Choose Lansing; and Rawley Van Fossen, the city's director of economic development and planning.

Photos by Raymond Holt

ANDY: It's not just housing, we also expect Lansing to be the best place in the world. Let's hear from Julie Pingston.

PINGSTON: I'm an anomaly on stage tonight. I am not a city of Lansing-affiliated employee. I do market and promote the city through Choose Lansing. We hide tourists well, but we have 6.7 million visitors come to this community. It might be an Ohio soccer team that you thought was from Haslett. That's $750 million in visitors a year.

KLEIN: We had a battery cell plant announcement with Tesla this week. We've had over 2,000 housing units since 2018 and more on the way.

COMMERCIAL BREAK: Lansing Economic Development Partnership's SEED Academy for emerging developers.

ANDY: Last year, I was standing during this speech instead of sitting, and I put landlords on notice.

VAN FOSSEN: There are good developers here tonight — wave hello! We've taken action to ensure others are accountable. Autumn Ridge is now Evergreen Park and under new ownership. Sycamore Townhomes is under new ownership. If you're looking to be a developer in the future, you're playing by our rules.

COMMERCIAL BREAK: Video of people dancing all over Lansing. Bass solo. More dancing. Cute kid in a dino costume.

ANDY: So, you can see we had a lot of fun last summer, and this year, we're going to reopen the historic Moores Park Pool and celebrate 100 years of Groesbeck Golf Course. Residents expect good services — one of the areas I hear the most about is roads. Anyone surprised?

ANDY: Welcome Andy Kilpatrick, the city's public service director, and Nicole McPherson, city engineer

ANDY: Everyone who drove here wants to know about potholes.

KILPATRICK: We're the real fun department. March and April are peak months for potholes. Here are my top 10 ways to report potholes: Call 311 during the business day. They put it in for you; if you want to DIY, download Lansing Connect on your phone; use the city website and type in "report an issue"; and the 24/7 operations number is (517) 483-4161. MDOT and freeways are not us. NOT US. Report it to them. That's not 10, but it's a lot of ways to report a pothole.

MCPHERSON: Expect more neighborhood roads to get fixed soon.

ANDY: Neighborhood roads have been neglected. We haven't had the money. We have $300 million in need; we'll get a few million more in the new state budget this year.

KILPATRICK: Most of this will go toward neighborhood streets because our main streets already have plans. Maybe another 9 miles of roads may get funding. You'll see more as that funding ramps up.

ANDY: The legislature ratcheted that up little by little. Good news for once on roads.

ANDY: My next guests provide basic service needs. Welcome Delvata Moses, interim director of the city's Human Relations and Community Services Department, and Daphine Whitfield, contract manager.

MOSES: We gave out $1.6 million to assist agencies. We recently collected 900 coats in a coat drive, helped 350 people and gave out lunches, too. Thanks to everyone who helped!

ANDY: We started work on the Mod Pods last year. We call it the NOVA project now.

MOSES: When council passed this, it was packed in the room. That began the adventure we've been on since last year, with two goals: one, create a robust transitional housing program; two, we don't care if you're yelling at us. We want to listen to what you're asking for, so we want this to be planned by the community.

COMMERCIAL BREAK VIDEO: Police Chief Rob Backus saying there have been reductions in fatal and non-fatal shootings and that there is one open homicide case currently with prosecutors. Our summer safety plan, starting last summer, began with gun locks, and we'll do that again this year.

ANDY: Welcome our newly appointed Fire Chief, Carrie Edwards-Clemons!

EDWARDS-CLEMONS: We have a kids' car seat program, CPR program, AED program, Safe Sleep program, and we have all these things going on for the community for free. Not only do we respond to fires and EMS, but we respond to community needs as well.

COMMERCIAL BREAK VIDEO: "The Office" spoof with ANDY as a Michael Scott-like boss of the city's 311 phone line, which routes calls about just about anything.

[applause]

ANDY: I could talk about more. No talk show would be complete without the host telling you to check under your chairs for a special gift. Just kidding, we didn't do that. But, as Oprah likes to say, "You get a car! You get a car!"

ANDY THROWS CAR-SHAPED STRESS BALLS OUT INTO THE CROWD. AS FAR AS HE CAN.

ANDY: We told our special guests yesterday that they were doing this today. The state of our city is strong. Lansing's time is now. Thank you for watching the first, and probably the last, "Lansing Show."

A boiling, spicy pot called Salsa Verde

MSU band has maintained salsa culture in the capital city since 2008

By ERICK DÍAZ VELIZ

Salsa isn't a rhythm you hear very often in Michigan's capital city; at least not as much as in Detroit or Grand Rapids. However, whenever the Michigan State University student ensemble Salsa Verde takes the stage, Lansing venues become a boiling pot where dancers polish the floor with elegance and spice.

"It's familiar to me," Angel Hernandes, an MSU music grad student and conga player, said. "We're just playing the music because we enjoy it, and the people who come to our shows are coming because they also enjoy it. It's mutual."

Playing salsa is about flavor and charisma, as Jon Weber, the band's director and a percussion instructor at MSU, knows. He founded Salsa Verde, meaning "green salsa" in Spanish, around 2009 to teach and perform Afro-Caribbean genres.

From its inception, the group became a unique space where MSU music students from diverse backgrounds could explore Afro-Caribbean rhythms such as salsa, cha-cha-chá, bolero, merengue and other popular styles.

"Weber has a genuine appreciation for the music," Hernandes said. "So, when the students approached him, saying that they were interested in playing, he decided to form a group out of that shared interest in playing salsa music." Hernandes has taken over directing duties for now, while Weber takes a rest.

He is one of the longest-serving members of the band. His interest in Afro-Caribbean music came to him while he was taking classes on hand drumming and African diaspora history. As he grew more familiar with playing, he joined Salsa Verde in late 2021, during his junior undergraduate year.

"I think I got it pretty naturally in the band; it was a similar feeling to the music that I grew up listening to in my Mexican household," Hernandes said. He grew up listening to Mexican banda, cumbia and corridos, thanks to his parents, who are from Mexico.

It's winter in Lansing, and there aren't many places open to warm up on a cold night out. But Saturday evening (March 21), the swinging shadows dancing across the foggy windows at the UrbanBeat venue in Lansing's Old Town showed that the rumba had been unleashed inside.

Alirna Koreiva was on stage singing "Quimbara" by the legendary Afro-Cuban singer Celia Cruz, who, along with Fania Records, took salsa to its highest peak around 50 years ago.

A native of Uzbekistan, Koreiva grew up with Turkish and Slavic language groups spoken in her country, and a culture with more Arab and Turkish influences than Latin.

Salsa came to Koreiva shortly after she moved to Michigan to study music at MSU five years ago. She describes it as a dream.

Growing up, she envisioned herself performing in a Latin band, singing "Cambio dolor" by Uruguayan singer-songwriter Natalia Oreiro, which she heard on a TV show. Koreiva doesn't speak Spanish, but she's used to singing in languages she's never spoken and has been mistaken for a native Spanish speaker more than once.

"People from different countries would ask, 'Oh, can you sing songs for us? We've been living here for years, and we miss our culture.' So, I started learning songs in Arabic, French, Italian, Spanish, Ukrainian — so many different languages," she said. "I never thought that would help me in so many ways, like learning all those songs for Salsa Verde, even without actually learning the languages. And people don't always realize that I don't speak them.

"I love this music, and I love the culture," she continued. "It is close to my heart and spirit because my people from Uzbekistan are also passionate, and although our music is not similar, we approach it with the same intensity and romanticism. I just feel like I found myself in the good space, surrounded by good people."

The group's concerts bring together local salseros, as salsa dancers are known in Spanish. Many come from places where the genre is well known, such as Colombia, Cuba, Panama, Peru, Venezuela and Puerto Rico. The music is also a magnet for Lanstronauts, both the experienced listeners and the curious. They dance and sing along with Koreiva; many of them know the lyrics, often from childhood or days gone by.

"Dancing to their songs doesn't just help me release work-related stress; it makes me feel closer to my home country, Panama, at least for a few hours," Fidel Jimenes, a doctoral student in plant pathology, said. "In Lansing, the options for enjoying salsa are limited, and nightclubs rarely play it, so Salsa Verde fills that social and cultural gap in the community."

On UrbanBeat's dance floor, the energy had reached a different caliber; everyone was dancing body to body. It was bursting at the seams.

"Idilio," by the late singer-songwriter and trombonist Willie Colón, was being played. Leaders spun their partners around, took them by the waist, and pulled them close again. Intertwining hands and flowing hair moved freely in the air throughout the romantic piece. Smiling was key.

"I believe Salsa Verde is a gift for all true salsa lovers and a reminder that, far from disappearing, salsa is still very much alive," Jimenes said.

Photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

Salsa Verde performs at UrbanBeat in Lansing's Old Town neighborhood on Saturday, March 21.

The green industry's dirty little secret: It hates unions

By CHRIS SILVA

Cannabis was supposed to be different. Ask the budtenders at Exclusive Brands how that worked out.

When Emily Hull, a budtender at the Ann Arbor dispensary of the Livonia-based chain with seven locations in Michigan, and a handful of coworkers walked off the job in August, they were asking to join a union.

They wanted to join UFCW Local 876, the same union that represents 18,000 workers in grocery, meatpacking and food processing. And cannabis.

"This industry is about healing and caring about people and lifting each other up," Hull said at the time. "And this company is actively doing the opposite to its own workers."

What happened next was not a surprise to anyone who pays attention to labor in this industry. It was a masterclass in how to crush a union drive.

The strike at Exclusive began on August 28, 2025, a day after UFCW Local 876 filed an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board. The charge stemmed from the termination of a pro-union employee at Exclusive's processing facility; the union called it retaliatory and illegal.

It became the longest strike in the history of the American legal cannabis industry.

The previous record was less than two weeks. Workers and union allies held the picket line outside the Ann Arbor store, convincing customers to shop elsewhere, and they urged the state's Cannabis Regulatory Agency to consider Exclusive's conduct in any future licensing decisions.

The CRA already had its own complicated history with Exclusive Brands, with several examples of tracking system problems.

And yet, Exclusive had a trump card that most union-busters would envy.

Illegal/legal loophole

The company retreated behind a legal argument as cynical as it is clever.

Essentially, because cannabis remains a Schedule 1 controlled substance under federal law, the NLRB has no jurisdiction over cannabis businesses — meaning workers can be fired for organizing, and there's nothing a federal labor board can do about it.

Translation: We're going to argue that federal labor law doesn't apply to us because our product is federally illegal — even as we operate under state law, pay state taxes, maintain state licenses, and build multi-million dollar businesses.

It's a legal argument that may be a long shot. But it doesn't have to win in court to be effective. All it has to do is buy time. And this time, it bought enough.

While the legal arguments played out and the NLRB charges wound their way through bureaucratic channels, Exclusive hired new employees. The four workers who had organized the drive eventually lost their jobs.

When the vote finally came, the union supporters lost. According to sources with direct knowledge of the campaign, it wasn't close.

The NLRB charges? Dropped — largely because the current administration has shown little appetite for aggressively enforcing labor protections in an industry the federal government still considers criminal.

Start to finish, it took a few months, a handful of replacement workers, a convenient legal theory and a friendly political environment to snuff out one of the most significant union campaigns in Michigan cannabis history.

If the story at Exclusive sounds familiar, it should.

A year before, in November 2024, workers at PharmaCann's LivWell cultivation facility in Warren — one of the Detroit metro area's first cannabis operations to seek union representation — voted overwhelmingly to join Teamsters Local 337. There were 59 newly minted Teamsters, celebrating what felt like a breakthrough moment. The union was already representing PharmaCann workers in Illinois. There were plans for bargaining, for contracts, for careers.

Within weeks, PharmaCann announced it was shutting the facility entirely. All 222 workers lost their jobs.

Lansterdam in Review: Cannabis union representation

The union didn't even have a contract yet.

The company cited Michigan's low prices and competitive market conditions. The Teamsters president said he believed it. Maybe he's right. But the optics are impossible to ignore: in Michigan's cannabis industry, the surest way to lose your job is to vote for a union.

The larger pattern

Michigan's cannabis industry employs somewhere around 41,000 workers statewide, depending on who's counting and how generous they're being with part-time positions.

But job creation and job quality are not the same thing. An industry that responds to union organizing by firing the organizers, replacing the workforce and running out the clock on labor charges isn't building careers.

The 24% wholesale tax that went into effect in 2025 has given companies another excuse to squeeze labor. When an ounce of recreational flower is selling for $60-something and taxes are assessed on the wholesale price — not the profit — payroll becomes the first casualty. Workers are kept part-time to avoid benefit triggers. Raises don't come. Schedules get cut when someone complains. And if they try to do something about it collectively, they find out that the marijuana industry isn't much different from the rest.

The Lansterdam verdict

Cannabis legalization was supposed to repair some of the damage prohibition caused.

What we actually got, in part, is an industry that can use the plant's federal legal limbo as a union-busting tool.

Emily Hull stood on a picket line in Ann Arbor for months. She and her coworkers documented retaliation, filed charges, and fought for what workers in every other sector of the economy are entitled to do without losing their jobs.

They lost anyway.

This industry likes to say it's about healing. It's going to need to do a lot more of it before that claim holds up.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor introduced his annual budget on Tuesday. It is about 1% higher than the current budget and proposes to increase the amount set aside for a rainy day. The budget is for $307.2 million, with $182 million of that being general fund. Schor's budget asks for additional fire, police and code compliance workers as well as $7.5 million for wastewater treatment plant upgrades and $1.5 million for sidewalk repairs. His budget proposal outlines how the city plans to spend an estimated $1 million in new taxes, if a controversial downtown data center is approved. He plans to spend $400,000 on firefighter equipment, training and personnel; another $400,000 on housing rehabilitation and related programs and the rest split between facade improvement and neighborhood grants.

The Lansing City Council voted Monday by a 6-2 margin to increase its pay by 3.5% and that of Schor and City Clerk Chris Swope by 5%. The city's elected officers compensation committee recommended the raises, but they had to be approved by council. Schor's current pay is $148,112 and Swope's is $123,600; both are full time positions. Each will increase by 5% this year and again by that amount Jan. 1, 2027. Council members currently receive $28,146 (part-time), with the president earning $30,730 and vice president i$28,999. Council members Ryan Kost and Adam Hussain voted against the increases.

Margo Powers has received the highest honor a postal employee can get for her act of courage while on the clock: the Postmaster General Hero Award for bravery. Powers heard a customer yelling for help while delivering her Dewitt route during the busy holiday season in December, according to a Post Office announcement. She was able to help someone who had fallen on the ground and was bleeding for two hours, according to the Post Office. Powers called 911 and assisted the person until emergency workers took over. The Post Office ended their announcement with an extremely Post Office stamp of approval: "The grateful customer sent Powers a card thanking her for her efforts."

Lansing's César E. Chávez Avenue, like many others across the nation, could soon be changed. Grand Avenue was named for the workers' rights champion in 1994, but that was quickly reversed. Then in 2017, the Old Town section of Grand River Avenue from Oakland Avenue to Pine Street was renamed for Chávez. Last week, Delores Huerta, a labor leader who shared space with Chávez, accused him of abuse in the New York Times, prompting a wide-spread reckoning. The United Farm Workers, the union closely associated with both Chávez and Huerta, has called the allegations, from Huerta and others, serious and has cancelled any Chávez Day-related activities. In Lansing, council member Trini Pehlivanoglu introduced a resolution to change the name. It could be reverted back to Grand River Avenue or changed to something new.

Justin Drwencke has been named the permanent director of East Lansing's Parks, Recreation and Arts Department. He has been serving as interim director since July and has been working for the city since 2019, including as assistant director and on issues including capital improvement projects and coordinating community events. Drwencke leads a department with 16 full time and more than 150 part-time or seasonal staff. The new role covers 34 parks as well as trails, the Hannah Community Center, East Lansing Family Aquatic Center, sports complexes, city festivals and more. "I am thrilled to continue leveraging my skills, expertise and passion to make a meaningful, positive impact on the East Lansing community as the next Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts," Drwencke said in a city statement. He is a Michigan State University graduate and is working on his Master of Public Administration degree from Cornell University.

Hal Heard III has been selected by the Holt Public Schools Board of Education to be its next superintendent. Heard, who previously worked 13 years for Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, most recently as the district's executive director of student services, is negotiating a contract with the board and is expected to start on July 1. He said he plans to work with current superintendent Dr. David Hornak, until the latter's retirement in December, to create a smooth transition. The board stated in a release that Heard provides "cultural competency, ethical integrity and collaborative spirit necessary to champion every student and staff member within the diverse Holt Public community."

The application window for Meridian Township's Green Grant program is open until Tuesday, March 31, inviting project proposals from schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, congregations, clubs, and other parties located in the Township. The Township encourages applicants to submit grant applications in the $300 to $4,500 range for project proposals focusing on supporting green infrastructure in the community. It suggests projects such as tree plantings, or those related to gardens or green gathering spaces used for pre-K-12 education, pollinator gardens, invasive species mitigation, habitat protection and restoration, renewable energy systems and more. The Township may hold a second grant application window in April. Those interested in more information and applying can go to https://www.meridian.mi.us/living-in-meridian/conservation-green-initiatives/green-grants/.

Michigan Independent Media Group (MIMG) is announcing the acquisition of the Tri-City Times, marking the organization's newest expansion in Michigan and continued investment in strengthening local journalism across the state. The Tri-City Times, a longstanding and trusted source of news serving the Imlay City, Almont, Capac, and Dryden communities, becomes the latest addition to a growing portfolio that includes the Yale Expositor, Hamtramck Review and Lansing City Pulse. Like the other newspapers in its portfolio, Tri-City Times will be operated by Buried Lede Media. Through a partnership with Civic Media out of Wisconsin, MIMG also formed the joint venture Michigan Civic Media Alliance, which owns five radio stations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, further expanding its commitment to local media across multiple platforms. "We are thrilled to welcome the Tri-City Times into the MIMG family," said Jason Franklin of Michigan Independent Media Group. "This publication has deep roots in its community, and we see tremendous opportunity to build on that legacy while ensuring it remains a strong, independent voice for local news."

***

Lonnie Scott, CEO of Buried Lede Media, echoed that sentiment. "Local newspapers are the backbone of informed communities, and the Tri-City Times has a proud history of serving its readers with integrity and consistency. We are honored to carry that work forward." Scott also expressed appreciation for the publication's previous ownership. "We want to sincerely thank the prior owners for their years of dedication to the community and to this newspaper. Their stewardship has made the Tri-City Times what it is today, and we are excited to build on that foundation."

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SPECIAL USE PERMIT #26007
(TAILGATERS)
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Special Use Permit #26007 (Tailgaters)
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in a request from TG Properties Meridian LLC to allow the construction of a Tailgaters gas station and convenience store, on an approximately 8.7-acre project site located at 1614 and 1622 Grand River Avenue and a vacant parcel on \Central Park Drive. The site is zoned C-2 (Commercial).

Materials related to the request are available for viewing in the Department of Community Planning and Development office (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, 48864), Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, or on the Township's website at https://www.meridian.mi.us/businesses/development-projects 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.

Angela Demas, Township Clerk
March 25, 2026

CP#26-109

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

State of Michigan Probate Court, Eaton County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 26-60941-DE, Judge Hon. Amanda G. Pollard (P75272). Estate of Mildred Louise Templeton, Date of Birth: August 1, 1945. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Mildred Louise Templeton, died December 3, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Donell Templeton, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1045 Independence Blvd, Charlotte, MI 48813, 517-543-7500, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 3/25/26. Attorney: Daniel E. Nickerson, Jr., P36294, 4116 Harbour Cove, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-927-3173. Rep.: Donell Templeton, 4355 MacDougal Circle, Lansing MI 48911.

CP#26-112

State of Michigan, County of Ingham, Notice to Creditors, Decedent Trust: TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Ronald H. Halsey (date of birth: Nov. 10, 1935), Grantor of the Living Trust of Ronald H. Halsey, dated April 13, 2012, died on March 3, 2026. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of Grantor are notified that all claims against the Living Trust of Ronald H. Halsey will be forever barred unless presented to Tammy Flynn, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication, 3/25/2026. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Prepared by: Kenneth L. O'Deen (P58004), Attorney at Law, 133 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813, (517) 543-5551. Successor Trustee: Tammy Flynn, 16125 Jeff Court, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

CP#26-111

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

For the purpose of voting on the following proposal:

INGHAM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL
FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
NOT TO EXCEED $99,960,000

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Ingham Intermediate School District, 2630 West Howell Road, Mason, Michigan 48854-9392, telephone: (517) 676-1051.

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. Registration forms may be obtained at www.Michigan.gov/vote and mailed to or dropped off at the office of the local clerk. Any qualified elector that has a Michigan Driver's License or Personal ID can also register to vote at www.Michigan.gov/vote. Voters who are already registered may update their voter registration at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk's Office is **Monday, April 20, 2026.**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours March 26 – May 1
Lansing City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm
Lansing Elections Office	701 W. Jolly Rd. Lansing, MI 48910	Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm Wednesdays 9am – 7pm

Additional times outside of the above listed regular business hours are as follows:

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Monday May 4 8am – 4pm Election Day May 5 8am – 5pm
Lansing Elections Office	701 W. Jolly Rd. Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday May 2 10am – 4pm Sunday May 3 10am – 4pm Monday May 4 9am – 4pm Election Day May 5 7am – 8pm

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

The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application from the voter to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above tables or by visiting our website at lansingvotes.gov.

Friday, May 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Monday, May 4, 2026, at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person, except for those who register to vote on Election Day.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, May 5, 2026, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC
Lansing City Clerk
Phone: 517-483-4131
Email: city.clerk@lansingmi.gov
Website: www.lansingvotes.gov
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#26-110

Maybe we don't view the world so differently after all

POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

Republican and Democratic voters disagree on a lot, don't they?

Immigration. Acceptable tax levels. The extent of public programs. Whether Donald Trump is an acceptable president.

Especially the last one.

But when it comes to morality issues, the difference between Republicans and Democrats isn't massive. In fact, R's and D's agree more than they disagree.

At least that was the upshot of a Pew Research report from earlier this month, which showed that when presented with 15 subjects, a majority of Republican and Democratic voters agreed on 12 of them.

We'll start with this one. Cheating on your spouse.

It doesn't matter if you're a Republican (93%) or a Democrat (88%), the research shows you're going to frown on that as "morally wrong."

Under the "no big deal" tab we have "eating meat." Only 6% of Democrats and 2% of Republicans think it's morally wrong.

Next to that folder, we have "using contraceptives." A combined 9% of Republicans believe that's morally wrong compared to 7% of Democrats.

Along the same lines is the use of in vitro fertilization. Again, 12% of Republicans and 6% of Democrats believe it's morally wrong.

A few more people have a problem with gambling (24% of Dems, 33% of Republicans) or using marijuana (15% Democrats, 33% of Republicans), but the split isn't systemic.

A minority of both Republicans and Democrats believe it's morally wrong to spank kids (12% R's, 35% D's). That same holds true about getting a divorce (13% D's, 33% R's).

Even two historically contested issues – euthanasia and the death penalty – finds that majority of both parties are OK with both practices. With euthanasia, 48% of Republicans and 23% of Democrats are opposed to it.

On the death penalty, 48% of Democrats and 20% of Republicans find it morally wrong.

So, what do we disagree with? Abortion, of course.

The gulf between R's and D's is the largest on this one with a 71% majority of Republicans saying its morally wrong while 24% of Democrats say so.

Pew asked about "homosexuality" -- 59% of Republicans believe it's morally wrong. Only 20% of Democrats do.

The last one is "viewing pornography," but the gap between the two parties isn't as large. A 65% majority of Republicans and 39% minority of Democrats view it as morally wrong.

The data brings up a point that's easy to forget in our era of perpetual campaign cycles.

Republicans and Democrats are both Americans, and they're a lot more alike than they think they are.

Political campaigns are about persuading voters. It's about pulling together groups of people around a common banner. Ultimately, it's getting more support than the other guy.

Doing that means accentuating the differences. Over and over and over again.

No political candidate is running on protecting your right to eat a chicken sandwich or take birth control pills. The opposition to either is so small that they're not at risk.

Transgender kids in sports? Abortion? Now, that's a different story.

Both are divisive issues. Both sides are pretty well dug in. The viewpoints tend to fall along party lines. So, in the past few cycles, candidates have pounded these issues so often we think they're the only issues confronting the Republic. It's as if nothing else is going on.

When, in truth, there's all sorts of things Republicans and Democrats agree on. Pew polled on moral issues, but what about basic threats? Identity theft. Child predators. Addictive mind-rot crap masqueraded as news on social media (see last week's column).

We could make a Mad Lib of all the issues and values most Americans are on the same page on, regardless of party.

This column isn't a noble call for everybody to sing kumbaya. I'm naive enough to think that we're all going to bury the hatchet and hit restart on our political allegiances.

The data shows what we all know in our hearts.

In campaign season, it's hard to keep it in perspective.

Our views on the things that really matter are more alike than we're led to believe.

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

Lansing has a soccer team. You may not have heard about it.

By NICKOLAS HIRONAO HARRIS

Most Americans who follow soccer have at least heard of MLS. The league drew over 11 million fans in 2025, Messi plays there and it keeps getting better. But here's something the algorithm isn't going to show you: the United States has a full soccer pyramid that goes six divisions deep. MLS is just the top floor of a building most people don't know exists.

Opinion

Below Division 1 sits the USL Championship at Division 2, fully professional. Below that is Division 3, then a semi-professional and amateur ecosystem stretching all the way down to state recreational leagues. We're talking hundreds of teams, thousands of players, and almost certainly at least one club playing within an hour of wherever you're reading this.

I didn't grow up here. I grew up in Tokyo, Japan, about 6,500 miles from Lansing. But my wife grew up in this city, and for the past decade plus, I've returned twice a year, every summer and every winter, to a place that has quietly become one of my favorite places on earth. And somewhere along the way, I started paying close attention to what's happening on its soccer fields.

Lansing Common FC was founded by fans after the previous Lansing professional team folded in 2019. It is supporter-owned, plays home games at a local high school football stadium and a ticket costs $5.30 online. Most players are college athletes. The club donates thousands of dollars to local organizations every year and logs over 100 volunteer hours at community events, not as a PR move, but because community is why the club exists. This isn't a franchise. It's a neighbor.

That distinction matters more than it seems.

Many sports teams are businesses that happen to play in your city. Lansing Common is the other way around: a community institution that happens to play soccer. The people running it, playing in it and watching are all from the same zip codes. And even as a Division 5 team, they still get hundreds of people regularly in the audience. When you're in those stands, you're not watching a product. You're watching your city show up for itself.

Not too far away, Lansing residents can also venture off to Detroit to watch Detroit City FC (Le Rouge) at Keyworth Stadium, which holds just under 8,000 fans. Detroit FC is not an MLS team, but the 7,000-person average attendance can create a great environment and more noise than many of the MLS games I've been to. Tickets start at $14, and the whole experience, including a March to the Match through the streets of Hamtramck before kickoff, feels like a neighborhood event with professional soccer in the middle.

And it's not just Michigan. Vermont Green FC only began play in 2022 , a brand new club in Burlington, Vermont, a city with no major professional sports team to speak of. They play in Division 4. They went undefeated in 2025, won the national championship, and sold out a 2,500-seat stadium in seconds. The founders estimate they could have filled 15,000. Most of their fans don't even consider themselves sports fans, the club's environmental justice mission was the entry point, the soccer followed. The lower you go in this soccer pyramid, the less it's about the sport and the more it's about community. An MLS team REPRESENTS your city. A Division 5 club IS your city. The $5 ticket isn't just affordable, it's a signal that this wasn't built for shareholders. It was built for people who live on your street.

I come back to Lansing twice a year from thousands of miles away. One of the things I look forward to is a $5 soccer match at a high school field. That probably tells you everything you need to know.

Lansing Common's season is coming up. Go find them.

Nickolas Hironao Harris is an IB Economics and World History teacher at the American International School of Riyadh and a founder and consultant at Harris International Education.

Photo by Mike Ellis

Words before worms

'We Are Water' poetry contest winners herald spring at Tollgate Wetland

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Despite the stubborn chill, nature is springing back to life in every backyard, meadow and ditch.

That means it's showtime, in more ways than one, at the Tollgate Drain at 1101 N. Fairview Ave., on Lansing's east side.

This year, the first things to spring to life there weren't daffodils, grubs, worms or tardigrades. On March 3, six eloquent poems by local poets, framed in the exquisite photography of Kim Kauffmann, have already blossomed on the drain's snow-swept paths.

Poetry on the Pathway at Tollgate Gala Celebration

3–5 p.m. Sunday, March 29
UrbanBeat,1213 Turner St., Lansing
Free of charge and open to the public

The winning poems in Lansing's "We Are Water" poetry contest offer up a perfect occasion to celebrate the coming of spring and the return of running water and burgeoning life to our part of the world.

It's a chance to celebrate the power of local creativity, local talent and local action to cherish the environment and keep the rivers and groundwater clean.

The occasion will be marked on Sunday with a gala celebration at UrbanBeat, free and open to the public.

All six winning poets will read their work, a video about the project will be shown and Michigan State University scientists will share insights from the front lines of the fight to keep water clean.

Tollgate is a local gem with many facets — a human-made landscape that mimics the rhythms and processes of nature while filtering stormwater as it weaves to ponds, rivers and underground aquifers.

Lansing Poet Laureate Ruelaine Stokes organized the "We Are Water" contest last fall after becoming one of 23 poet laureates across the nation to receive a $50,000 Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets to mount a community-based poetry project.

She visited the wetland last year and fell in love with Tollgate. She had planned to use the grant to place poems along the River Trail, but she had a feeling that Tollgate's heady mix of science, nature, practicality and poetry would provoke unique and eloquent poetry. The contest results proved her hunch.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, a poet himself, loved the idea of placing poems along the Tollgate trail to explain, interpret and to humanize the science behind the drain.

The six selected poets are a diverse group. Some are longtime residents; others are newcomers to the area. Some are experienced poets; others are just starting out.

Three poets with strong Lansing connections judged the contest: Toby Altman, director of the RCAH Center for Poetry at MSU; Janine Certo, associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education at MSU; and Lee Upton, an MSU grad and Emerita Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence at Lafayette College in Eaton, Pennsylvania.

With future support, Lindemann and Stokes hope to add poetry to two more of Lansing's stormwater management Edens: the Groesbeck Drain on the north side of town and the Montgomery Drain next to the Frandor Shopping Center.

"There is such vitality, such living presence in the

See Poetry, page 13

Poetry

from page 12

poems," Stokes said. "I keep re-reading them and I'm blown away by the precision and vividness of their images."

Her goals for the project sound modest at first blush.

"Folks wandering by will be moved to look more closely at their surroundings, and perhaps will be a little more interested in their surroundings," she said.

But her love of poetry is anything but modest.

"What a gift, in this vast universe, to have language," she said. What more can we add?

Melodie Wright: 'I always turn to nature'

Melodie Wright first visited the Tollgate Wetland in September.

"I was taken aback at how beautiful it is," she said. "It's tucked into this little pocket of neighborhoods, not what I would have expected."

Now she'll walk the trail and see her own words, moist with the morning dew.

"It's very exciting, but also a little scary," she said. "But it's also a really cool accomplishment, especially since it's at a park, not at a mall or something."

She watched the ducks sun themselves. She listened to the water swooshing over the limestone cascade at the drain's southeast corner.

"There were so many sounds, so much wildlife, people walking through," she said. "I just sat on a bench, thinking about life."

With a notebook on her lap, she jotted down the fragments that later evolved into her winning poem, "Alone, but together, at Tollgate."

The poem articulates a mystery that is surprisingly hard to put into words: Why does it feel so good to be in the midst of nature? What is the connection?

It occurred to Wright that the unseen insects were singing, not for her, or for any audience at all.

"Singing is what the body knows to do in the presence of abundance," she wrote.

For plants and animals, just being there is enough. Wright's poem reflects the light-bulb moment when she realized she is a part of that whole, merely by the grace of being born: "For a moment I am certain that belonging has always been this simple."

When Wright was young, she dreamed of being a writer. It hasn't worked out that way — yet.

"I was always afraid to share the things I had written," she said.

Her outlook changed when her grandfather suddenly died a year and a half ago.

"Life is just so short," she said. "I started looking at things differently and saying, 'Why not do this?'"

Wright didn't know about Tollgate before the poetry contest was announced last fall, but became excited at the prospect of finding a new place to connect with nature.

"I had a very spiritual time there," she said. "At this point in my life, a feeling of rebirth and renewal hit me very hard."

She was a ranger for Ingham County Parks for about four years.

"That really sparked my love of nature," she said. "Whenever I have turmoil going on, I always turn to nature."

Three of the winning "We Are Water" poets cited the poetry and prose essays of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver as an inspiration. Wright keeps Oliver's books on her bedroom nightstand.

"I love the way she speaks about nature," she said. "Her poem 'Wild Geese' was one of the first ones I ever heard from her, and it just spoke to my soul."

With a contest win under her belt, Wright plans to go ahead with a few book projects she's had in mind for a long time and even try an open mic at the Robin Theatre.

"I've never been courageous enough to go on stage, but it's something that's on my list to do this year," she said. "Now that I have this little encouragement, I feel strong to go up there. I have so many poems in my notebook and on my phone that I'm excited to share."

Jasmine Snow: 'You have to be nosy'

In classic graduate student fashion, Jasmine Snow waited until the day before the "We Are Water" contest poems were due to visit Tollgate.

While going out for coffee beforehand, she took a spill and sprained her ankle, but hobbled around the wetlands anyway.

"I literally left from Tollgate and went to urgent care," she said.

The paths at Tollgate reminded her of walkways along the Mississippi she enjoyed as an undergraduate, living in Minneapolis.

"It was so beautiful, one of the most natural areas I'd been in for a while," she said.

Snow has been writing poetry since fifth grade. Her poems have evolved from rhymes to free verse, and her subject matter has changed along with the phases of her life, from emotions and relationships to culture, identity, race and politics, but nature has always been a constant.

"I lost it a little bit in college when I fell into journalism, but after moving here for grad school, I've been trying to get back into poetry and other creative writing," she said.

Her poem reveals a keen eye for small things, from ants to algae. She has found that journalism and poetry have a lot in common.

"You have to be nosy, and find lots of details you love, although they don't always make it in," she said. "You're telling a story, and that's all any form of communication really is. You're trying to glean the most salient, rich details that lead back to some kind of universal experience. What's your lead? The lead is the poem."

She's now in a stressful phase — her last semester of grad school, with a thesis looming.

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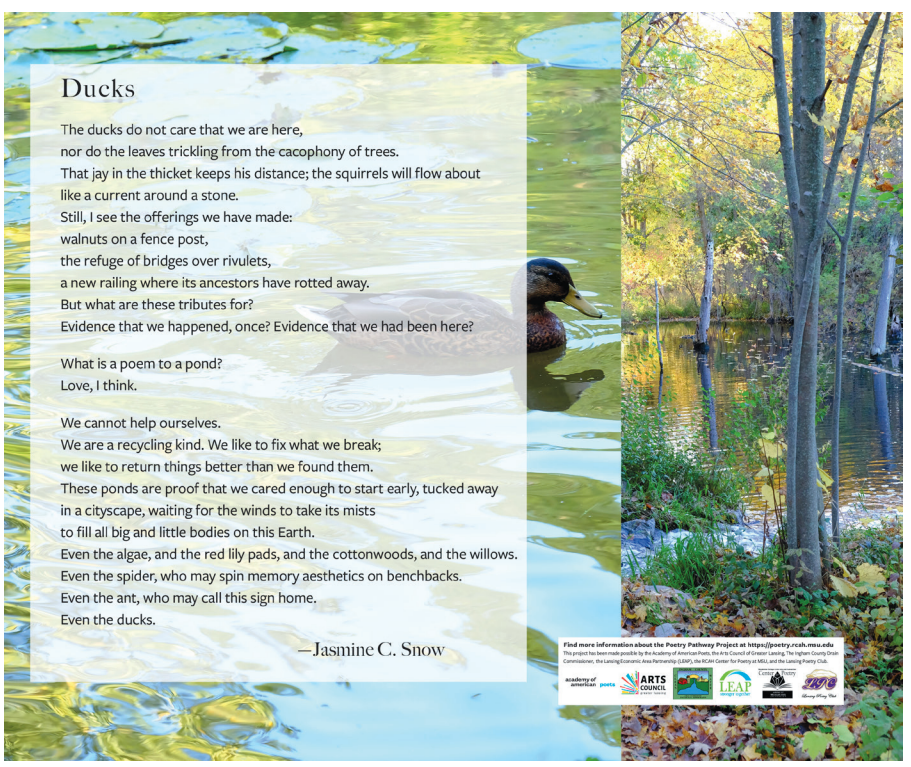


Poetry

from page 13

"Lately I've been getting into poets like Mary Oliver, and I've always loved Robert Frost, so I've been getting more into nature, and the world around me, and that's been kind of healing," she said.

And Tollgate will be there for her.

"In order to not go crazy, I have to get out of my apartment and take more walks than I've been doing," she said.

She was shocked to find her poem selected to be enshrined there.

"It was almost existential to find out that my work would have a physical space to exist, a sign, that doesn't easily rot, like paper," she said. "I've only been here a year and a half, and if something I created could have a home here, whether I stay or not, means so much to me. It's very cool."

Kendall Stilwell: Channeling the drain

The Tollgate Drain can't speak for itself. Or can it? Is that a voice rising from the shallows?

"Do not call me 'drain.'"

Oops.

"Do not call me a 'drain' as if I were hollow. I am full."

In Kendall Stilwell's poem "The Drain Remembers," the drain does speak — and eloquently.

"I am a mirror that swallowed the sky."

Stilwell, a senior at MSU studying animal science, is new to poetry and admits she has a "scientific brain," but a blend of science and soul helped her ace her very first poetry contest entry.

As a sophomore, she moved to the Groesbeck neighborhood, near Tollgate, and began walking the area. She saw a flyer for the poetry contest on one of her frequent walks and decided to give it a go.

In early drafts, she described what she saw on her walks, especially the animals.

"I grew up in a rural background, in Holly, and I'm not used to city life," she said. "Seeing a deer at Tollgate drain was fascinating to me. It says that you shouldn't limit your expectations."

At some mysterious point in the process, she took the bold leap of dropping her own voice and speaking in the voice of the drain itself.

"I originally planned to describe what I saw," she said. "But I felt that since it's in a neighborhood, in a city, it can get overlooked. Giving voice to it gave me a different perspective."

The aesthetic and scientific duality of Tollgate inspired two of the contest winners to channel the drain's imagined voice, but in opposite directions. Fellow winner Dana Hardy began her poem, "This is Not a Park," with a pointed reminder of the drains' drainosity: "I am not a jewel-encrusted beach."

Although Stilwell only recently took up poetry, she cherishes the memory of her fourth-grade teacher reading poems to the class.

"That was the first spark of learning what poems are and understanding it," she said.

She kept journals in college to express the non-scientific side, but only recently leaped to verse.

Enjoying success with her first contest entry was a shocker.

"It feels amazing, incredible," she said. "I can't believe it."

Encouraged by her contest win, she plans to continue writing poetry as she works toward veterinary school, hopefully at MSU.

"It takes a few revisions, edits and drafts to fully understand what my brain wants me to think about and write," she said. "It comes a little more difficult because I have a scientific brain, but at the same time, the process of putting my thoughts into words is relaxing."

Tim Lane: A cosmic shrug

Tim Lane's terse, funny, winning poem is a sly cosmic shrug, a bit of an outlier among the six winners of the "We Are Water" contest.

The title alone reveals Lane's mordant sense of humor: "I've Begun to Run Out of Ideas, Good or Bad."

Unlike some of the other winning poets, Lane doesn't let the tone get solemn, and tiptoes around high-minded ecological and spiritual themes. His disarming humility reaches a peak in the middle of the poem: "Sometimes I have a hard time just finishing a sentence."

"I've always been very serious about not being serious," Lane admitted. "It's kind of unexpected and it's a good way to nail a message home."

When Poet Laureate Ruelaine Stokes sent out the call for poems last fall, Lane was already working on a cycle of poems called "The Wetland Poems."

"I hadn't entered a contest in a while, but I knew I had to enter this one," he said.

He's walked the paths at the Tollgate Wetland hundreds of times.

"I live on North Hayford and Grand River, a few blocks from the wetland," Lane said. "I remember when it wasn't there and I saw it being built."

Walking has always been a big part of his writing practice. "When you're walking, you're thinking," he said. "It's very good for sorting out thoughts, coming up with one-liners, just figuring out how to continue."

Lane grew up on the east side of Flint, Michigan, came to MSU in 1985, moved around a bit after graduating and returned to Lansing in 1993.

He's not only a poet, but a novelist and painter. He ran SCENE (Metrospace) from 2008 to 2015. He's been working as a visual artist for about 20 years. He's also a member of the artist and writer collective at the Buckham Art Gallery in downtown Flint.

"I've been plugged into the local creative scene for quite a while," he said.

He learned about poetry (and chess) from an uncle in his early teens. He has self-published the first two volumes of a trilogy about coming of age in Flint in the 1980s; he is working on the third.

His reaction to his poem being selected was typically droll.

"I was glad that I made the cut," he said. "I'm sure a few photo ops will be involved."

Daisy Roberts: Steeping like tea

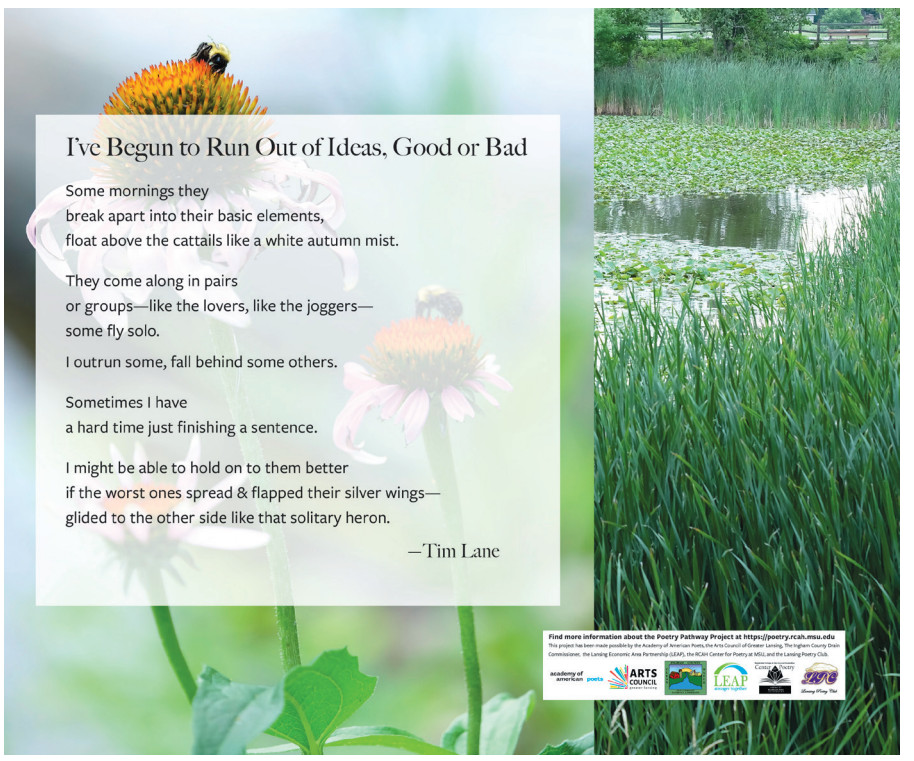
At first glance, scientific writing and poetry seem at odds. One thrives on copious, even tedious, detail. The other pares things down to essentials.

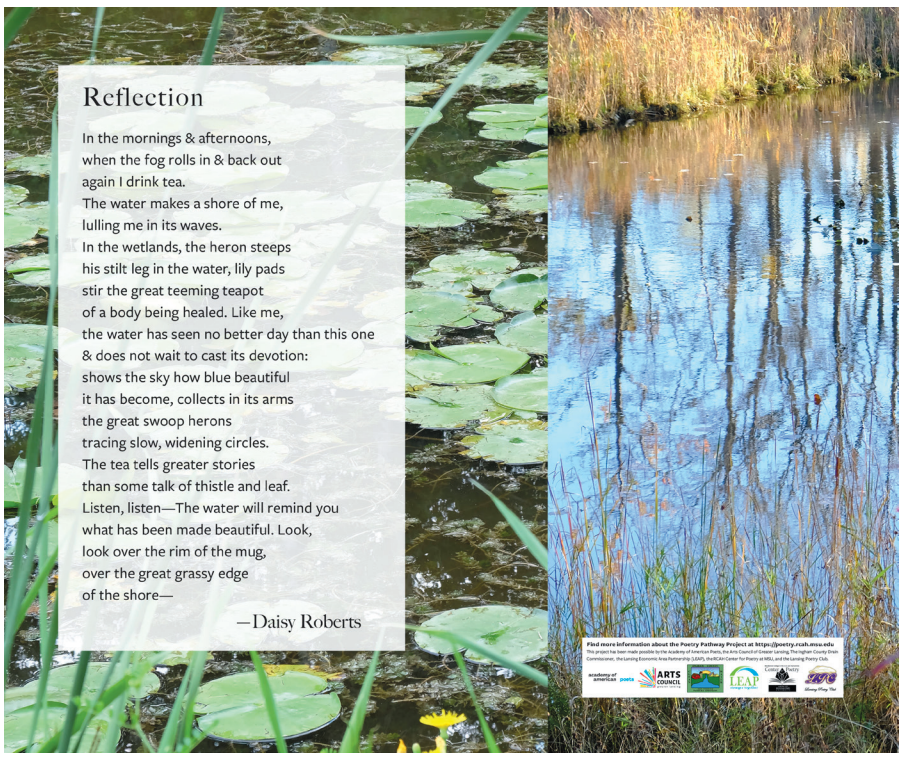
Daisy Roberts knew that the holding ponds at Tollgate are lined with natural and human-made filters, designed to encourage the myriad chemical and biological processes that clean the water and provide habitat for wildlife. She lives about a mile away and walks the paths all the time.

But how is that a poem? She was ready with the perfect metaphor.

"I couldn't help but think of tea, because it's my favorite thing ever," she said. "I'm drinking tea constantly. I thought about the tea in my body and the metaphorical, but also literal, tea in the wetlands — all the steeping happen-

See Poetry, page 15





Poetry

from page 14

ing."

That led her to the language of healing.

"I thought about how tea heals me, and the wetlands heal the natural world, by cleaning and filtering the water," she said. "It all fell into place, and I'm glad, because I love the wetlands and I love tea."

Roberts is a recent Lansing transplant from Columbus, Ohio, and said she plans to stay in Lansing at least as long as her partner is working on a Ph.D. She studied creative writing and Spanish at Ohio State University.

"I feel like poetry connects me to my life and to nature in a way nothing else does," she said. "There are so many little moments that seem small, but are big, between people and animals. I love to observe the happenings of our days with attention, shedding a light on them that might invite people to notice more in their days."

Like many of the "We Are Water" winners, she read the poetry of Mary Oliver in high school.

"I'd never read anything like that," she said. "I felt like poetry was abstract and complicated, and I love that kind of poetry too, but her poetry was just so simple and profound."

She also loves the poetry of Rumi, T.S. Eliot and other philosophical and existential poets.

"I could go on and on," she said. "There are so many."

Philosophical or folksy, profound or whimsical, poetry has nearly limitless potential, in her view.

"Poetry feels like a profound way to connect people with the natural world, which is sometimes inaccessible, or intimidating, or it can feel exclusively meant for certain kinds of people," she said. "It can tune you in to this little moment, this little happening in nature, that connects people to nature in a bigger way."

Now her poem will reach people in ways published poetry seldom does, planted squarely in the burbling micro-world that inspired it.

"I'm so grateful that this contest is presenting poems that way," she said. "It connects poetry with ecology and the natural world. They're inextricably linked and I think that's just brilliant."

Dana Hardy: 'This wasn't just a place for me'

To strike poetry gold, all you have to do is keep your eyes open, according to Dana Hardy.

"A good poem can come from almost anything," she said. "There are so many poems that are just lying dormant around us."

Around the same time as the Tollgate contest began, Hardy tried to write a poem for another contest, with climate change as a central theme, but that poem went nowhere.

"It wasn't really coming to me in the way I liked," she said. All of the winning "We Are Water" poets described their visit to Tollgate as an invaluable source of direct inspiration.

"I think the reason this poem came easier to me was being able to actually go to the wetlands, to see and experience it," she said.

Hardy is a second-year education student at Michigan State majoring in music education. She was born in California but grew up in Michigan.

Walking the path at Tollgate, Hardy was not inspired by the birds and bees, but by an informational plaque about the mechanics and function of the drain.

"There was so much wildlife, so many birds, but it wasn't just a park, a pretty natural feature," she said. "It has such an important function as a system in the community, and that's what I wanted to explore — how it's part of a larger ecosystem."

That makes Hardy's poem, "This is Not a Park," a reverse-image bookend to fellow poet Kendall Stilwell's winning entry, "I Am Not a Drain."

"People tend to view nature in terms of what it can do for us, how it can be beautiful or aesthetically pleasing, when it's so much bigger than that," she said.

Hardy sees the poem as a gentle push-back against "the idea that we value aesthetics over everything else."

"It was something I had to learn when I was working with nature and invasive species throughout middle school and high school," she said.

She volunteered with the Meridian Conservation Corps, removing invasive plant species and planting native species in natural areas around Meridian Township.

"There are so many things we think are beautiful that are actually harming the environment around us. When we prioritize the aesthetics over the function, it can be a detriment to us."

A friend encouraged her to enter the We Are Water contest after reading some of her poetry.

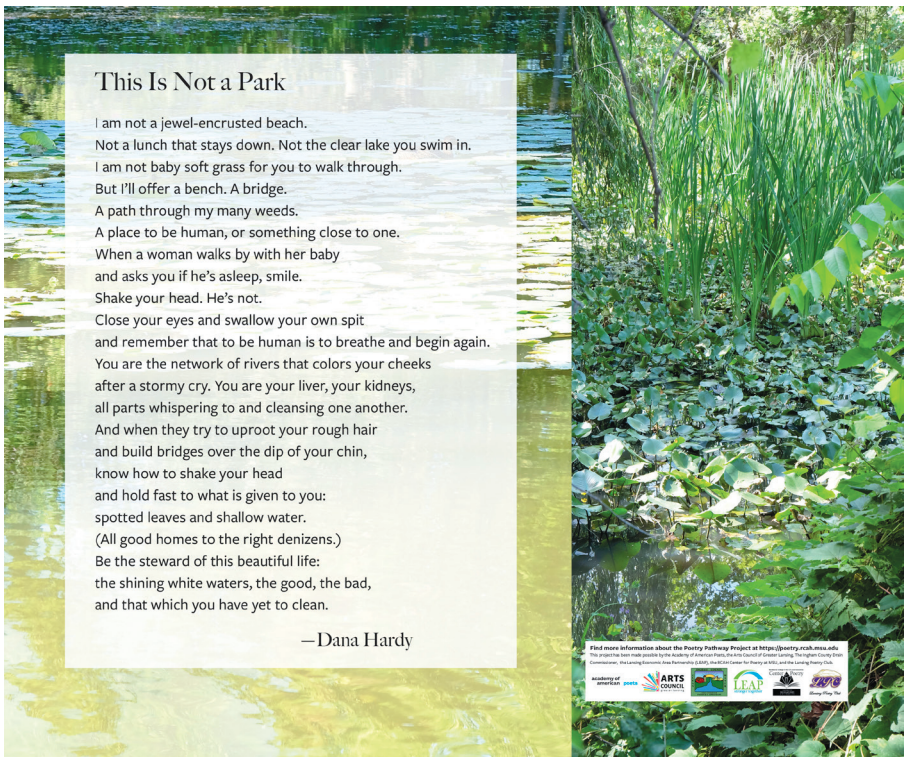
"I'm a music education person, but I've always felt closely connected with nature," she said. (She also plays the violin in the MSU Symphony.)

Although she loves taking walks at local parks like the Albert White Memorial Park in East Lansing and the botanical gardens on the MSU Campus, she hadn't visited Tollgate in several years.

"I went on a late afternoon in October, after I had a really long day, and I decided that I really wanted to take a walk, so I might as well go there," she said.

She took particular notice of messy features that would be cleared away from a golf course, a formal garden or a cemetery, but play a key role at Tollgate.

"They have these fallen trees that were actually placed there to house many of the animal species that live around there," she said. "I watched these ducks sleeping on one of those logs and saw a heron near a little island that was not accessible to people. It was making me feel better, being in nature, but it made me realize this wasn't just a place for me."



Upcoming poetry events

- Dynamic performance poet Tracie Morris comes to Michigan State University's campus for "Colors through Darkness" on Friday, March 27 at 7 p.m. in the Broad's central gallery, 547 East Circle Drive, East Lansing.
- Julia McConnell, author of Landlocked, and special guest Thomas Lynch, author of No Prisoners (Godine, 2025), will read from their works in a conversation moderated by Wheelbarrow Books Series Editor and Center for Poetry Founding Director Anita Skeen along with the announcement of the 2026 Annie Balocating Undergraduate Prize for Poetry on April 1, at RCAH Theater, Snyder-Phillips Hall, 361 Physics Rd., East Lansing.
- Join poet, essayist and novelist Thomas Lynch for a craft talk on April 2, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing.
- The Poetry Room Open Mic presents Retro on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.
- The Poetry Room presents Native Child Youth Slam on April 25 at 3 p.m. at The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.
- Lansing Poetry Club featuring Natasha Thomas, plus an open mic on April 19 from 4 p.m.–6 p.m. at the Copper Chimney Lounge of University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing.
- Poetry and Jazz at The Blue Owl on Sunday, May 4th, from 3 p.m.–5 p.m. Featuring Shelia Burks, Lisa Sarno and Ruelaine Stokes from «Voices of the Revolution,» a feminist spoken-word group, plus a gifted jazz trio featuring Hank Horton on bass, Steve Talaga on keyboard, and Larry Ochletree on drums, with vocals by Mike Eyia, the founder of Orquesta Ritmo.
- Poetry in the City 2026 is July 16 from 7 p.m.–9 p.m. at the Michigan State Capitol.

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Live & Local

CityPULSE

The Avenue
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Boygirl, Skinned Knees
Sun., March 29, 7 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.
200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Flipside
Fri., March 27, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Shane Gruesbeck
Sat., March 28, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Chengdu Teahouse
100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
Jeff Boog & Friends
Fri., March 27, 5:30-7 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill
16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Capital Sundogs
Sat., March 28, 8 p.m.-midnight

Dublin Square
327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Matthew Shannon
Wed., March 25, 9 p.m.

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Bart Moore & the Hot Boyz
Wed., March 25, 7-9 p.m.
Songwriters' night, with Cody Wilson
Wed., April 1, 7-9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Darin Larner Jr.
Fri., March 27, 6-9 p.m.
JT Sunden
Sat., March 28, 6-9 p.m.

The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Quinn XCII (sold out)
Wed., March 25, doors 8 p.m., show 9 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., March 25, 10:30 p.m.-1 a.m.
Chuck Ragan, Mike Reed (Small Brown Bike)
Sat., March 28, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., April 1, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Homegrown Throwdown finals: From This Point On, Sins Ov Madness, Hyporium, Renegade Train, Exit 73, Forge the Sun
Fri., March 27, 5:30 p.m.
Riff Raff, Kasper Gme, 2-Eazy
Sat., March 28, 7 p.m.

High Caliber Karting & Entertainment
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
Electric Flower Co.
Fri., March 27, 7:30 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market
7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
DJ Big Dutch
Thurs., March 26, 5-8 p.m.
Frog & the Beeftones
Fri., March 27, 5-8 p.m.
Dead Honey Collective
Sat., March 28, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., March 29, 1-5 p.m.

The Irish Pub
1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Tomás Esparza Blues Band
Wed., March 25, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic, with Scott Seth
Thurs., March 26, 6:30 p.m.
Gimme Five
Sat., March 28, 8 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.
108 W. Main St., Dewitt
Aaron Manbeck
Fri., March 27, 6 p.m.

Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Simken Heights CD release party
Fri., March 27, 7 p.m.
Hunt the Dinosaur, Mantra of Morta, Let It Rot, Dead Witxh, Room 101
Sat., March 28, 7 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., March 30, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., March 26, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., March 31, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Moriarty's Pub
802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., March 25, 8-11 p.m.
Blues jam
Thurs., March 26, 9 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Doggs
Fri., March 27, 8 p.m. midnight
Your Dad
Sat., March 28, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., March 31, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., April 1, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music
Erinys Quartet
Thurs., March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Piano Etudes: A Musical Journey Through Time, with Stanislav Khristenko
Mon., March 30, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall
Bach Cello Suites, with Suren Bagratuni
Tues., March 31, 7 p.m.
Alumni Memorial Chapel, 636 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

Nico's Pub and Grill
117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
The Lynx
Fri., March 27, 7-11 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Dan Dan Laird
Fri., March 27, 8-10 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., March 29, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
The Boblo Islanders, The Fabulous Heftones
Wed., March 25, 7:30 p.m.
Mia Chinni Trio + session
Sat., March 28, 1-3 p.m.
Hiroya Tsukamoto
Sun., March 29, 2 p.m.

Sholty's Bar
1819 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Spoonful
Tues., March 31, 6-9 p.m.

Side Bar
246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Henry Herig
Fri., March 27, 7 p.m.
The Dangling Participles Duo
Sat., March 28, 7 p.m.

Sir Pizza Grand Café
201 E. César E. Chávez Ave, Lansing
Sassiety
Friday, March 27, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Stober's Bar
812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Side Track
Sun., March 29, 10 p.m.
Your Dad
Tues., March 31, 10 p.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.
1957 Cedar St., Holt
Spoonful
Fri., March 27, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Napoleon
Sat., March 28, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Twin bill: Joy Clark & Kate Peterson (Ten Pound Fiddle)
Fri., March 27, 7:30-10 p.m.
Le Vent du Nord (Ten Pound Fiddle)
Tues., March 31, 7:30-10 p.m.

University United Methodist Church
1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Ingham Festival Chorale Presents: Songs of Faith, Hope & Community
Sun., March 29, 4-5:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., March 25, 6-9 p.m.
Amanda Jane Ross
Thurs., March 26, 6:30 p.m.
ABtrio
Fri., March 27, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Twyla Birdsong
Sat., March 28, 7:30-9 p.m.
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., April 1, 6-9 p.m.

Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Unlimited Miles: Miles Davis at 100
Thurs., March 26, 7:30 p.m.
Lansing Symphony Orchestra: Sibelius, Puts and Beethoven
Fri., March 27, 7:30 p.m.
"Dirty Dancing" in concert
Sat., March 28, 8 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse
3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Caleb Parisian
Wed., March 25, 7-10 p.m.
Frog and the Beeftones
Sat., March 28, 7-11 p.m.
Billy Jo Hunt
Wed., April 1, 7-10 p.m.

ARTS & CULTURE

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Marimba-rama

Matthew Beck rolls out a resonant rack of ribs

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Matthew Beck's work routine usually consists of long stretches of tense, vigilant waiting, punctuated by sudden, dangerously exposed bursts of activity.

He's not a firefighter. It's more like the opposite. Whenever Beck picks up a stick, mallet, dinger or banger, it means he's about to pour gasoline on the flame.

This Friday, the principal percussionist of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra will show another side of his inflammable art as the featured soloist in a melodic, mellifluous marimba concerto by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts.

The concert also features Jean Sibelius' wistful "Valse Triste" and Beethoven's rollicking, dance-driven Seventh Symphony.

Each season, music director Timothy Muffitt features one of the orchestra's principal players as soloist. Last fall, he asked Beck to move to the front of the stage.

"Since he came on board with us, Matt has transformed our percussion section with his artistry, attention to detail, knowledge and leadership," Muffitt said. "The orchestral percussion illuminates the music, and that takes a very special artist leading the section. Matt has provided that for us, and then some."

Beck said he was "honored" to be the last LSO musician to be featured this way in Muffitt's 20-year run as maestro.

There's been a surge of percussion concertos in the 21st century, and most of them call for all the (figurative) bells and whistles. Muffitt hasn't shied away from presenting show-stopping percussion concertos by contemporary composers like Jennifer Higdon and Paul Dooley, but Beck wanted to make a different kind of statement.

The Puts concerto gives him a chance to roll out his resonant, ringing, five-octave Adams marimba and take it for a nice, long ride.

Courtesy

Matthew Beck, principal percussionist of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, will be the featured soloist in a marimba concerto by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts at Friday's MasterWorks concert.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Matthew Beck, marimba
7:30 p.m. Friday, March 27
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
(517) 487-5001
lansingsymphony.org

"It gives me a lot more opportunity to show off the expressive character of the instrument," Beck said.

The cadenza — the solo stretch of rocking out that comes just before the end of a concerto — will really take Beck off the leash.

"That will be a chance to really show off what the instrument is capable of, in terms of dynamics and expression," he said.

Puts wrote the concerto early in his career, inspired by Mozart's crystalline piano concertos. It's a spellbinder, not a banger. Muffitt said the concerto flips the usual roles of percussionist and orchestra.

"This time, the orchestra illuminates the qualities of the percussion instrument, instead of the other way around," Muffitt said. "The listener can feel the orchestra moving into the color world of the marimba."

Photo by Dave Trumpie - Trumpie Photography

LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt said that Beck "has transformed our percussion section with his artistry, attention to detail, knowledge and leadership" since he joined the orchestra.

The way Muffitt reads the score, Puts was "very much inspired by the deep, rich color palette of the marimba and its characteristic tremolo used to create a sustained tone."

"He frames the expressive possibilities of the instrument so beautifully," Muffitt said. "It is an immensely attractive work from the very beginning to the end."

"It's not a stereotypical percussion piece," Beck said. "It's comparable to any other instrument that would play a concerto. Like Mozart, it's very melodic, with simple melodies the audience will walk away remembering."

Beck became interested in percussion at around 11 years old, when his mother, then in her 40s, decided to take lessons from a heavy-metal drummer.

"I sat in on a couple of lessons and started to pick up on it real quick," Beck said. "I would practice when she wasn't around. I got better than her, and she got upset and quit. The drum set was just sitting there. She said, 'You'd better stick with it now.'"

He stuck with it, all right, earning degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and DePaul University and studying with top musicians from the Cleveland Orchestra and Chicago Symphony.

In addition to his Lansing Symphony gig, Beck is principal percussionist with the West Michigan Symphony and plays as a guest percussionist with orchestras throughout the Midwest.

Beck has a fabulous menagerie of some 50 percussion instruments at his rural Michigan spread. To help make ends meet, he runs a "chop shop" out of his barn, renting, refurbishing and selling musical instruments from school programs and other sellers.

Among his more unusual pieces are bass chimes, 7-foot-long resonating tubes he has rented more than 30 times to performing arts organizations.

A percussionist has to take all kinds of big and small jobs, but Beck said his Lansing gig has been pure pleasure, with or without the chance to step out as a soloist.

"Tim is all about the music," he said. "With a lot of conductors, it's all about themselves. They have egos, and they want to make big gestures for board members and that sort of thing. With Tim, the music comes first."

Lyn Farrell kicks off new series of Michigan-based books

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Having written 11 books set in Tennessee and another set in Wisconsin, author Lyn Farrell was encouraged to set her latest novel in Michigan — specifically Charlevoix, where she owns property.

"In the Dead of Winter" discussion and signing, with Lyn Farrell

6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26
Schuler Books
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
facebook.com/schulerbooks

The result is "In the Dead of Winter" (Camel Press, $17.95), the first in her "Blue Water Mysteries" series. Farrell — the pseudonym of Lynda Farquhar — will speak about and sign copies of the novel Thursday at Schuler Books in Okemos.

"I was in Schuler this morning (March 17) and saw a display of the poster and all my books. I was tickled to see it," Farrell confessed.

In "Winter," Victoria Treadwell, a dispatcher for the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office, is driving in a snowstorm when she sees the car behind her swerve off the road. After she stops to help, she finds the driver, Carly Yellowwood, bent over the steering wheel and barely breathing. In the backseat is a tiny child in a pink snowsuit. Victoria calls an ambulance and her boss, Undersheriff Pete Manstead. Despite the first responders' best efforts, they can't save Carly.

The coroner lists the cause of death as murder. Pete sends his deputies to visit Carly's neighbors and learns she had been seeing two men. One was her ex-husband, Joe Yellowwood, a Native American living on the nearby reservation. No one knows the second man. Pete believes it was a crime of passion. However, Victoria, who wants to adopt Carly's motherless child, thinks the motive was far darker.

What makes "Winter" stand out from Farrell's previous books is the new setting and the new characters.

"Charlevoix County, having very little crime, presented a challenge of how to write a murder mystery in a place with no violent crime and make it plausible," Farrell said.

The impetus for the plot came from the Native American reservation located just outside Charlevoix. Farrell wanted to include that element in "Winter."

"So, I made Carly divorced from a Native American man who had been in jail, which allowed me to have legal questions raised about who would have custody of Carly's young child," the author said. "I also wanted to make Carly opposed to drugs, and I threw in a twist when she dies of an overdose, which the perplexed coroner struggles to understand because he sees no signs of drug use in or on her body at the post-mortem."

Courtesy
Lyn Farrell.

The book is also set on Beaver Island, where Manstead and his fellow police officers track down the villain.

"I enjoyed writing the parts where Pete and his girlfriend, Ashley, work out the bumps in their relationship, which come when Pete puts his job before his girlfriend," Farrell explained. "I also wanted several of my characters to struggle with moral challenges, especially Victoria, who wants to adopt Carly's motherless child but isn't sure it's the right thing to do. It was a timely conundrum due to the Supreme Court's most recent reinforcement of the (Indian Child Welfare Act) law that states Native children must be raised by Native families."

The eldest of three daughters, Farrell was born in Endicott, New York. Twice widowed, she has two daughters, six stepchildren and 12 grandchildren. She's a graduate of Okemos High School and a three-time alumna of Michigan State University. She spent 35 years in academics, working for MSU until her retirement in 2008.

Retirement has allowed her the time to pursue her lifelong ambition of being an author, something she's aspired to since seventh grade, when her teacher read "The Pearl" by John Steinbeck.

She began her writing career alongside her daughter Lisa Fitzsimmons and under the pseudonym Lia Farrell, with the duo penning seven novels together in the "Mae December" series of cozy mysteries.

Asked if she's a plotter (does she plot her books?) or a pantser (does she fly by the seat of her pants?), Farrell confessed she's a little bit of both.

"When my daughter and I wrote our first book, we were two-thirds of the way through when we talked and discovered that each of us thought someone else was the perpetrator," she said. "After that, I have always known whodunit, except for my most recent book. In that one, I didn't figure it out until the next-to-last chapter. I hope it will surprise readers."

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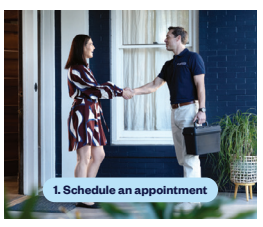
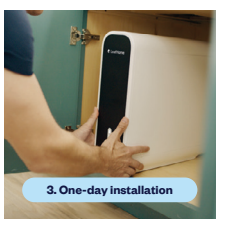
Better Water in 3 Simple Steps

1. Schedule an appointment

2. Get a custom water analysis

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"The Power of Three" -- buy one, get two free.
by Matt Jones
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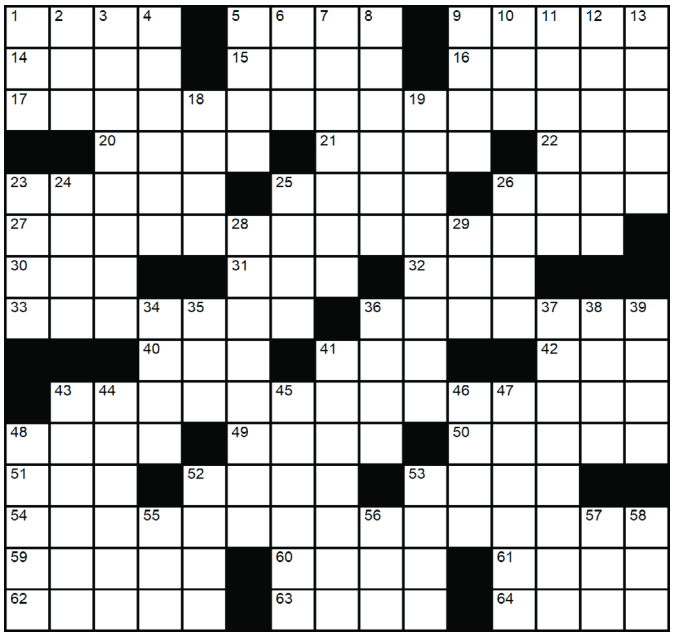

ACROSS
1. Salad with bacon and eggs
5. Airport boarding site
9. Hairy like a lion
14. Explorer on TV
15. James Patterson sleuth Cross
16. "Superfudge" author Judy
17. Mic check you can feel in your vertebrae?
20. "Monster" of the southwest
21. Brisbane hoppers
22. "Ay, Dios ___!"
23. Plot surprise
25. British conservative
26. Hanukkah coins
27. Bird feature for Buster Poindexter?
30. Murals and mosaics, e.g.
31. Hive noise
32. Santa ___ winds
33. Conical shelters
36. Pastry coating for shine and color
40. Certain Wall St. trader
41. Progressive mascot
42. Letters on a "4" button
43. Grouch eating like Cookie Monster?
48. Stuck in ___
49. They get in a row
50. Basketball
51. "I Want Your ___" (George Michael hit)
52. Tight-fitting
53. Tiny marchers
54. Bottom-of-the-page section about a devilish number?
59. Festoon
60. At any point
61. Comedian Rudner
62. Toyota subcompact discontinued in the U.S.
63. Nautical beginner?
64. Phishing offer

DOWN
1. Some physical media
2. Alley-___ (sports maneuver)
3. Actress/model Nielsen of "Rocky IV"
4. Vote out at the Round Table, on "The Traitors"
5. Big party
6. Part of a PC-resetting combo
7. Restaurant with samovars
8. Ship abroad
9. Yale School of Management degs.
10. European peak
11. Pumpkin spice component
12. Folder fodder
13. Railroad terminal
18. Low voice
19. Radio Flyer, for instance
23. The one over there
24. Had on
25. Therefore
26. Sink teeth into
28. Where hip-hop originated
29. Activity suffix
34. Agreement
35. Distinct period
36. Shady tree
37. Without a strong opinion
38. Search for bargains
39. Telehealth company for men
41. Cancel, as a debt
43. Big name in frozen potatoes
44. Is really awful, in 1990s leet-speak
45. Ill feeling
46. "Yeesh!"
47. The "M" of GM
48. Evaluate
52. "Deadly" septet
53. Hairstyle for Questlove
55. ___ Lanka
56. Gen ___
57. Rideshare app stat
58. Battering item

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Answers on page 21

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny — March 25-31, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Aries poet Maya Angelou proclaimed, "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." In that spirit, Aries, I urge you to tell everyone everything — all your secret thoughts, hidden feelings, and private opinions. Post your diary online! Confess your fantasies to strangers! Share your unfiltered inner monologue with authority figures! APRIL FOOL! I lied. Angelou urged us to bravely communicate our authentic truths, but not to overshare or be careless about observing good boundaries. Here's the deep wisdom: Express thoughts and feelings that make you feel real and whole, but be discerning about when, where, and to whom.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Taurus writer Charlotte Brontë said, "I would always rather be happy than dignified." Given your current astrological potentials, I think you should tattoo her motto across your forehead so everyone knows you're committed to pleasure over propriety. Burn your dressy clothes! Quit doing boring duties! Dance naked in the woods! APRIL FOOL! I don't really think you should tattoo your forehead or dance naked in public. But Brontë's sentiment is sound: In the coming weeks, if forced to choose between joy and respectability, pick joy every time. Just do it with a modicum of common sense.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Gemini actress Marilyn Monroe said, "A wise girl knows her limits. A smart girl knows that she has none." I propose we expand that counsel to include all genders. And I especially recommend this approach to you right now. It's time to shed, ignore, and surpass ALL your so-called limits. Be as wild and free and uninhibited as you dare. APRIL FOOL! I worry that it's irresponsible to give you such utter carte blanche. Would you consider honoring one or two limits that prevent you from indulging in crazy and extreme behavior? Otherwise, be wild and free and uninhibited!

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Psychologist Carl Jung wrote extensively about the importance of embracing our shadows: the dark, problematic aspects of ourselves we would rather not acknowledge. In the coming weeks, I recommend that you stop hiding that weird stuff! Throw a coming-out-of-the-closet party for all the questionable parts of you. Let your inner monsters run wild! APRIL FOOL! Please don't do that. What Jung actually advocated was recognizing and integrating your shadow, not being ruled by it. So, yes, explore your moody, unruly impulses, but with consciousness, kindness, and containment, not reckless expression.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Leo author James Baldwin observed, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." With that in mind, I advise you to spend the next two weeks obsessively staring at every dilemma in your life. Don't look away! Don't take breaks! Just face every dilemma constantly until you're overwhelmed! APRIL FOOL! Baldwin's insight is brilliant, but it doesn't require masochistic endurance. Here's the truth: Yes, you should courageously acknowledge what needs attention, but you should do so with care and discernment. And then actually work on changing it! Awareness is the beginning, not the entire process.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Virgo author Agatha Christie wrote 66 detective novels in which she meticulously planned every plot twist. I think you should apply her approach to your daily life: Script every conversation! Anticipate every contingency! Control every variable! Leave nothing to chance! APRIL FOOL! Christie's obsessive planning worked for fiction, but life requires improvisation. For you, the coming weeks favor spontaneity and flexibility. So, make rough plans, sure, but stay loose enough to experiment with whatever emerges. Over-control would diminish the magic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): My favorite Libran writer, bell hooks, didn't capitalize her name. I recommend you stage a similar rebellion against all rules and structures. Ignore social conventions! Flout traffic laws! Pay your taxes with paintings and poems you've created! APRIL FOOL! I was exaggerating. I do love hooks' charming revolt, but it would be counterproductive for you to randomly break all the rules of daily life. Instead, be judicious and selective as you question conventions thoughtfully and only violate those that genuinely deserve to be spurned. Be a strategic rebel, not a chaotic one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Scorpio poet Sylvia Plath wrote this passage in her journal: "I desire the things which will destroy me in the end." I think you should consider embracing her approach — for the sheer, exotic thrill of it! Pursue interesting chaos! If it might unravel you, welcome it passionately! The more unruly, the better! APRIL FOOL! I lied. Plath was describing her struggle with depression, not offering us advice. Here's what I think you should actually do: Examine which of your yearnings serve your evolution and which ones undermine it. Fully embrace the fact that intensity is one of your greatest gifts, but channel that intensity into experiences that build you up, not tear you down. Choose ardent aliveness over fervent destruction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Sagittarian philosopher Baruch Spinoza spent years alone in his room developing his radical ideas about God and nature. I recommend total isolation for you, too. In accordance with astrological omens, avoid human contact! Put your relationships on hold while you contemplate the infinite! APRIL FOOL! I totally lied. Spinoza's solitude served his unique genius, but a similar approach won't work for you — especially now. Here's what I really think you require in the coming weeks: periods of meditative alone time balanced by intervals of rich connection with interesting humans. You need to commune with both your deep inner sources and nurturing alliances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Capricorn astrologer Linda Goodman wrote that your sign's "ambition is boundless" and that most Capricorns dream of ruling the world. In accordance with astrological omens, I urge you to indulge this attribute. Launch a campaign for global domination! Start with your neighborhood and work your way up to more and more conquests! APRIL FOOL! The truth is, world domination is exhausting and impractical. What Goodman was referring to is your gift for structure and leadership. Use your organizational genius to improve your corner of the world, not tyrannize it. Think stewardship, not empire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Aquarian inventor Thomas Edison said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." In that spirit, I recommend you falter spectacularly in the coming weeks. The more blunders and bungles, the better! Engage in a holy quest to seek as many fizzles and misfires as possible! Make Edison look like an amateur! APRIL FOOL! I lied. Edison wasn't deliberately courting snafus, of course. His approach was similar to that of many creative artists: driven by exploratory persistence that capitalizes on mistakes and hassles. Here's your real guidance, Aquarius: Experiment boldly, yes, and don't fear stumbles and bumbles. But learn from each one and adjust your approach. The goal is eventual success that's informed by humility and resiliency.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Piscean physicist Albert Einstein said, "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." In the spirit of his genius, I recommend that you abandon logic completely! Never think rationally again! Make all decisions based on fantasy and feelings! APRIL FOOL! Einstein was advocating for the creative power of imagination, not the abandonment of reason. What you truly need is a marriage of visionary thinking and practical logic. Ask your imagination to show you possibilities, then call on lucid logic to help you manifest them.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, March 25

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

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

Adult Craft - Gather in the daytime with other adults for coffee, conversation and a fun seasonal craft: string Easter eggs! 2:30-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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

Art 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.

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.

BOGO Book Sale - Buy a book, CD, DVD, jigsaw puzzle or magazine and get one of equal or lesser value free. 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org.

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.

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.

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/21Uid62jS6mrN71A7.

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.

"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: 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. lapsg.org.

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

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

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

Tips to Build and Protect Your Credit - This webinar will address credit myths, explain the importance of credit reports, demystify credit scores and provide strategies to build and protect your credit. Noon-1 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth.

"Triangle Fire": Historians at the Movies Event - Each month, the LCC history program presents some of our favorite movies that explore significant eras and events. We'll watch the movie together on WebEx, then engage in lively discussions about the topics and themes behind the plot. 6:30-8:30 p.m. lcc.edu/historymatters.

Waxing Moon Ritual - 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.

Wine Down Wednesday - We're open a little later, so you've got extra time to unwind. Enjoy $1 off glasses of wine all day long, plus featured monthly wine specials you won't want to miss. Noon-7 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. burgdorfwinery.com.

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

Thursday, March 26

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

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

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

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

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

Art Exhibition & Sale by Lansing Women Artists Collective - LWAC is composed of 15 artists specializing in a variety of art forms. All works are for sale. Check hours as they are variable. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. That New Place, 146 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-242-1810.

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

BOGO Book Sale - 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org.

'Puccini and Rossini: Operas of Consequence and Comedy'

7 p.m. Wednesday, March 25; Friday, March 27-Saturday, March 28
3 p.m. Sunday, March 29
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
music.msu.edu

Audiences can get a double dose of Italian opera with Michigan State University Opera Theatre's final production of the season, "Puccini and Rossini: Operas of Consequence and Comedy."

The fully staged and costumed show pairs separate one-act works, Puccini's "Suor Angelica" and Rossini's "La Cambiale di Matrimonio," performed with the MSU Symphony Orchestra.

"Puccini's score supports the opera's intimate and dramatic story with soaring vocal lines and expressive orchestration," a College of Music press release reads. "In contrast, Rossini's lively music moves quickly, with crisp rhythm and energy that highlight his early comic style."

"Presenting these two productions together highlights the remarkable expressive range the art form of opera can deliver," Melanie Helton, director of MSU Opera Theatre, said. "One invites reflection through deeply personal sacrifice, while the other celebrates wit and comic chaos. For our students, it's an opportunity to inhabit two very different musical worlds in a single evening. And for our patrons, it offers a rare immersion in the full spectrum of human experience."

Conducted by Katherine Kilburn and directed by Helton, Both operas are sung in Italian with English subtitles.

Tickets are available at music.msu.edu/events or by phone at (517) 353-5340.

Bookend Gallery Display by Kevin Epling - Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

Conservation Easements within Farm Succession Planning - This webinar will explain how conservation easements work for farmland. Noon-1 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/farm_management.

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.

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series: Spring Field Management - Topic: "Can soil management get you in the fields earlier?" with Dr. Anna Cates, associate extension professor – University of Minnesota. 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/field_crops.

Garden Glass Craft Night at Burgdorf's - Join us for an evening of creativity and wine as we design beautiful garden glass pieces perfect for adding a little sparkle to your outdoor space. 6-7:30 p.m. 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. burgdorfwinery.com.

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.

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.

"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. lapsg.org.

Preserving MI Harvest — Back to Basics: Drying Made Simple - Join us for this introduction to drying herbs, fruit and jerky! Equipment, storage and recipes are all covered. 1-2 or 6-7 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/food_preservation.

Queer Representation in AI Art - Join us for a multimedia performance in AI's visual language that explores the "trap of visibility" facing transgender Americans amid 500+ anti-trans bills introduced in the past few years. Following the screening, stay for a dialogue and light reception. 7-8:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

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.

See Events, Page 21

Events

from page 20

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

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

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

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

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

Friday, March 27

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

All Your Friends - An indie dance party for the ones who still romanticize a scratched iPod, American Spirits, and a blurry night soundtracked by bloghouse and bloghouse and post-punk revival. 7:30-9:30 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.com.

Art Exhibition & Sale by Lansing Women Artists Collective - Check hours as they are variable. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. That New Place, 146 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-242-1810.

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

BOGO Book Sale - 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org.

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

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. meridian50plus.com.

Joy Clark & Kate Peterson - Clark dazzled folk music promoters at last October's FARM conference. Then, she stole hearts at November's Women in the Arts Festival. Now, she'll team up with Kate Peterson to present a night full of skillful songs filled with deep sentiment. 7:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church (ULC), 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

MLK's Letter from Birmingham Jail: A Staged Reading - Directed by Metro Melik, this production brings together local actors and community leaders to give voice to Dr. King's words, written from inside a jail cell and still pulsing with urgency today. 7 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/stageonemi.

"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.

One Team//One Sound - Join us for an unforgettable night of worship, unity, and praise as talented worship leaders come together with one sound to honor God. 7-9:30 p.m. KM Center, 3000 West Miller Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/31632245513.

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 deepsoulcreativeart.my.canva.site.

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

Travelogue: Peru, with Ian Broughton - Broughton visited the land of the Incas to explore the Sacred Valley ruins, Rainbow Mountain, Amazon rainforest and Machu Picchu. 7-8:30 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-482-4235. parksonline.lansingmi.gov.

Vernal Pool Discovery Hike - Drew Monks, Director of Wildlife Programs, will lead the hike. Learn about how to identify and locate vernal pools, why they are critically important, and what types of critters rely on them for habitat. 5:30-7 p.m. Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. facebook.com/miwildlife.

Yart Sale - Half yard sale and half art sale! Cash and Venmo happily accepted. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 221 Hilltop Drive, Delta Township. For more information, contact Jane Reiter at 517-515-9662.

Saturday, March 28

2026 MFA Exhibition Opening Reception - Celebrate the creative and scholarly research of the MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design master of fine arts degree candidates featured in the 2026 MFA Exhibition! 6-8 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Action Figure/Toy Photography Workshop, with Kevin Epling - Enjoy a fun and engaging beginner's session of one of the fastest-growing aspects of toy collecting and modeling. Registration req. Noon-1:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

April 2026 Art Show: Lino Ladies - Celebrate creativity at the April 2026 Art Show, featuring the talented "Lino Ladies" and their distinctive printmaking works. This exhibit showcases a diverse collection of bold, handcrafted pieces. Through April 28. Framer's Edge Gallery, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Art Exhibition & Sale by Lansing Women Artists Collective - Check hours as they are variable. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. That New Place, 146 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-242-1810.

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

BOGO Book Sale - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org.

Bookend Gallery Display by Kevin Epling - Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

The Erinys Quartet

7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26
Cook Recital Hall
333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
music.msu.edu

The Erinys Quartet is sure to delight classical music enthusiasts and casual listeners alike as it performs some of the greatest masterworks of the string quartet repertoire Thursday evening at Michigan State University.

The program will include Beethoven's beloved String Quartet No. 12 and Béla Bartók's Third String Quartet, the shortest and perhaps most unique of his six quartets. A video of the Erinys Quartet's recent gold prize-winning performance of the Beethoven piece at the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition is available on the competition's YouTube page.

Additionally, the quartet will perform Gabriella Smith's joyful, raucous work "Carrot Revolution," which features extended techniques from each player and draws influence from multiple genres, from folk to jazz to rock.

The Erinys Quartet is Elizabeth Stewart, violin; Joosep Reimaa, violin; Marija Räisänen, viola; and Stergios Theodoridis, cello. The ensemble was founded in 2018 at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and recently served as the fellowship quartet at the Curtis Institute of Music. The group has also received prizes from the Bad Tölz International String Quartet Competition and the Fischoff Chamber Music Competition.

cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

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

Divination Roundtable - Meet like-minded individuals, expand your knowledge, and refine your craft in a casual, friendly setting. 5-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Easter Egg Hunt Hoppy Hour at Lansing Shuffle - Thousands of eggs. Easter Bunny. Kids' and family karaoke. Free drink from The Grand Bar for the first 100 adults, compliments of Sycamore Creek. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Eaton Rapids Egg Hunt - Hunt through the amphitheater grounds, pavilions and Playground of Dreams to search for over 5,000 Eggs! 11 a.m. Martin Hansen Amphitheater, 315 W. Knight St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/CityOfEatonRapids.

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THE PULSIFIEDS

Digital Marketing & SEO Specialist. Dvlp & implmnt mktg strats to promote trucking srvcs. Conduct mkt rsrch to idntfy target custs & mkt trends. Mng online mktg campaigns, maint & update co website, Google My Business & social media accts. Perf SEO audits, keyword rsrch, on-page, off-page optimization & create new content. Track performance using analytics tools & provide regular reports to improve mktg efforts. Req Bachelor's in any field & 2 yrs exp in digital mktg & SEO working w/ Ahrefs, Serpstat, SEMrush, Similarweb, Moz, Collaborator.pro, Screaming Frog, Meta Business Mngr. $76,500/yr. Send resume to: Daljinder Mann, Mann Trucking Services Inc, 10140 W Grand River Hwy, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

C	O	B	B	■	G	A	T	E	■	M	A	N	E	D
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

3	1	4	8	9	6	5	2	7
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Kate Peterson and Joy Clark

7:30 p.m. Friday, March 27
University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
tenpoundfiddle.org

Contemporary folk and Americana artists Kate Peterson and Joy Clark make music that's good for the soul. Their shared Ten Pound Fiddle concert happens to fall on the eve of the latest No Kings protest.

Each artist will perform a full set of original music, wrapping audience members in the hope that comes from community gathering, instead of the darkness of political matters.

Local folk enthusiasts will likely remember Clark, who headlined the 2024 East Lansing Women in the Arts Festival. She's a Louisiana-born artist who is making big waves with her blend of soul, folk and fearless storytelling.

Like many of her peers, Clark's musical journey began in her father's church. Her critically acclaimed debut album, "Tell It to the Wind," released under Ani DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records, marks her arrival on the national stage.

Peterson is a Michigan State University alumna who has also headlined the Women in the Arts Festival, both solo and with her Lansing-rooted, nationally touring duo Nervous But Excited. An openly queer artist, her songs explore identity, resilience and connection. She is no longer touring full time, and this show marks a special return to the stage.

Events

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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/21Uid62jS6mrN71A7.

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

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

MLK's Letter from Birmingham Jail: A Staged Reading - 7 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/stageonemi.

Monsters in the Making: Resurrection - A one-night-only reunion celebrating the performers and community that helped shape Monsters in the Making, Michigan's competitive platform for monster drag and alternative performance. Ages 18+. 7-11:30 p.m. The Studio at 414, 410 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/77771454873.

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

Sunday, March 29

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

Art Exhibition & Sale by Lansing Women Artists Collective - Check hours as they are variable. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. That New Place, 146 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-242-1810.

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

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

MLK's Letter from Birmingham Jail: A Staged Reading - 10:30 a.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/stageonemi.

"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.

Narcotics Anonymous Support Group - This meeting is open to anyone seeking support in recovery. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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.

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.

Monday, March 30

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

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

Art 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-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 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.

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.

Bunny Paint Night - Paint an adorable bunny munching on some of his favorite snacks! We'll guide you step by step. We pre-trace the painting, so you don't have to worry about drawing. Your ticket includes one themed cocktail. 6:30-9 p.m. Gravity Smokehouse, 2440 Cedar St., Holt. paintyourpoison.com.

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

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

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

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

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

"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. lapsg.org.

Performing Arts Night: Maya Angelou Birthday Celebration - This year's theme explores the many lives Maya Angelou touched, featuring an interactive living history experience and incredible performances by LCC talent. 5-7 p.m. 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. facebook.com/lccstars.

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

Serving up Food Safety: Preventing and Responding to Poison Emergencies - Find out more about preventing accidental poisoning and some things you may be doing that may introduce poison into our food supply. Noon-12:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/safe_food_water.

Switch Gaming: Mario Kart - Join us for a night of fun and friendly Switch gaming. Feel free to bring your Switch to play between turns. All skill levels welcome! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

Tuesday, March 31

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

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

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

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

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

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-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

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

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

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.

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.

Le Vent du Nord - The award-winning and highly acclaimed band Le Vent du Nord is a leading force in Québec's exciting and progressive Francophone folk movement. 7:30-10 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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.

"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: Mathematics for Infants and Toddlers - Parents and caregivers can learn and practice ways to help children develop a strong foundation for important math skills. 7:30-9 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/parenting_education_classes.

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

The Poetry Room Open Mic Presents: Retro - Whether you're a seasoned poet or stepping onto the stage for the first time, this is your platform to share your words with a supportive audience. Optional theme: Revisit something in your past. 7:30-

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Events

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10:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom.

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

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

Wednesday, April 1

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1-3:30 p.m. Bath Senior Center, 14480 Webster Road, Bath. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

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

Free Community Meal - 5:30-7 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 411 Harrison St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-3256.

Giggliana Ritual - 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.

Matter of Balance - Eight-session workshop designed to improve balance, flexibility and strength, helping older adults reduce fall risks and become more active. 1-3 p.m. Mason First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Ash St., Mason. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Friends of Historic Meridian Speaker Series - Author Maurice Imhoff presents his new book, "The 1st Michigan Colored Regiment: Free Men Who Fought Slavery." Free. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Village Chapel, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

Mindful Wednesday Lunch & Learn: Sleep Basics - Objectives of this workshop include understanding the importance of sleep, recognizing the importance of sleep hygiene, identifying strategies to improve sleep, and learning how to participate in the Sleep Education for Everyone program. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/stress_less_with_mindfulness.

"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: 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. lapsg.org.

PEARS Deeper Dive: Quarterly Efforts - Participants should have attended the PEARS Crash Course. Learn how to enter a Quarterly Effort report. 9-10 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od.

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

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

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

Thursday, April 2

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

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

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

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

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

Art Exhibition & Sale by Lansing Women Artists Collective - Check hours as they are variable. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. That New Place, 146 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-242-1810.

Biology on Tap - Biology on Tap features talks by MSU researchers at local bars/pubs each month. Learn about science and interact with researchers. We also have a short trivia contest during intermission! 7-9 p.m. Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. sciencefestival.msu.edu.

Capital Area Modelers Society Meeting - Learn about building scale models, display what you're working on and get to know others interested in the hobby. 6:30-8 p.m. Judson Baptist Church, 531 Glendale Ave., Lansing. capitalareamodelerssociety.wordpress.com.

MLK's Letter from Birmingham Jail: A Staged Reading

7 p.m. Friday, March 27-Saturday, March 28
10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 29
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
facebook.com/stageonemi

Stage One invites the community to a staged reading of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from Birmingham Jail, the late civil rights leader's powerful defense of nonviolent resistance and call to morally resist unjust laws.

Directed by Melik Brown (aka Metro Melik), the production brings together local actors and community leaders to give voice to King's words, which are still urgent today.

Sycamore Creek Church has produced readings of the letter many times — with adults, with children, live, and on video. "Each time, the words land fresh," organizers say. "Each time, they ask something of us."

This year, experience the words yourself.

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING, CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

All citizens are advised that CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has prepared an application for State of Michigan financial assistance for fiscal 2027 as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended, as follows:

State Operating Assistance	$	20,654,784
FTA/State Urban Capital Program (Section 5307)	$	11,300,000
State Specialized Services	$	24,475
FTA Rural Operating Assistance (Section 5311)	$	732,598
FTA/State Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339)	$	1,062,500
FTA/State Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	$	125,000
FTA/State Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310)	$	546,875
TOTAL	**$**	**34,446,232**

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. Capital projects to be funded include the purchase of large and small buses, paratransit vehicles and support vehicles. This notice meets the Federal Transit Administration 5307 public notification requirement. The above program will be the final program, unless amended.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service are provided without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding CATA's Title VI Program and the procedure for filing a complaint, contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1100. Members of the public may also complete the CATA Title VI complaint form online at www.cata.org/TitleVI, email titlevi@cata.org or visit CATA's Administrative Offices at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

The proposed application is on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (March 15, 2026 – April 14, 2026), Monday – Friday, between the hours of
8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5 p.m. April 14, 2026. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, FY 2027 Grant Application, Attn: Planning and Development Department, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910 or via email to: marketing@cata.org.

CP#26-098

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

In re: Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property

Case No. 26-1157-CH

Hon. Richard J. Garcia

Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.
Attorneys for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Mayhla Murray, Charles Trainor, 917 Chittock St., LLC (Neil Wright, Agent), Rama Gupta, Estate of Amar N. Gupta (Rama Gupta, PR), Stanley Bloomfield, Daniel D'Haene, Evelyn D'Haene, Nicholas Male, and all persons having an interest in the subject properties listed in Exhibit A

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property shall be held before the Honorable Richard J. Garcia, Ingham County Circuit Judge, at the Ingham County Courthouse, 315 S. Jefferson St., 3rd Floor, Mason, MI 48854, on **Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 2:00 p.m**., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

This Notice pertains to the real property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, as set forth in Exhibit A.

Notice of Pending Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure Action (Form 4329) for each of the subject properties was recorded with the Ingham County Register of Deeds on March 4, 2026.

Judgment of the Court after this hearing may result in title to the property vesting in the Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority, 3024 N. Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906 – Telephone (517) 267-5221.

Any persons with information regarding the owner or prior owner of the subject properties are requested to contact the Land Bank.

Any rights of redemption and any ownership interest in the subject properties may be extinguished by the judgment of the Court.

Any person with a property interest in the subject properties may lose his or her interest, if any, as a result of the quiet title and foreclosure hearing.

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE INGHAM COUNTY LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AND IS SUBJECT TO AN EXPEDITED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. PERSONS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRIOR OWNER OF THE PROPERTY ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AT 3024 N. TURNER ST., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906, TELEPHONE (517) 267-5221.

Date: March 6, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.

/s/ Timothy M. Perrone
Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
Attorney for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

EXHIBIT A

Individual parcels of property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, legally described as:

1. Lot 58 Park Manor Heights, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-01-03-376-161
Commonly known as (2116) High St., Lansing, MI 48906

2. West 39.5 feet of Lot 114 and South 33 feet of North 66 feet of Lot 119, Knollwood Park Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the re-corded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.

Parcel ID #33-01-01-08-282-161
Commonly known as (1312) Roosevelt St., Lansing, MI 48915

3. South 21 feet of Lot 8 and the North 26 feet of Lot 7, Smith's Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 7 of Plats, Page 7, Ingham County Records.

Parcel ID #33-01-01-09-180-011
Commonly known as 1342 N. Walnut St., Lansing, MI 48906

4. Lot 2 except West 1 Rod, Assessor's Plat No. 30 of Block 19, Original Plat, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-01-09-430-401
Commonly known as (528) E. Maple St., Lansing, MI 48906

5. West 2 Rods of Lots 42 and 46, Torrance Farms Addition, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 27, Ingham County Records.

Parcel ID #33-01-01-21-431-045
Commonly known as 613 Avon St., Lansing, MI 48910

6. Lot 6, Duplex Park Addition, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.

Parcel ID #33-01-01-28-102-181
Commonly known as.(619) W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing, MI 48910

7. North 116 feet of Lot 179, Webster Farms Subdivision No. 3, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.

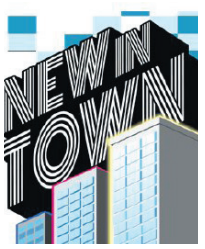
Parcel ID #33-01-05-06-427-065
Commonly known as (0).Horace Rd., Lansing, MI 48911

CP#26-108

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Altu's new Okemos location has traditional Ethiopian breakfast



Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine
4738 Central Park Drive, Okemos
8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily
(206) 393-7458
eatataltus.com

By LEO V. KAPLAN

It's been about 30 years since Altu Tadesse opened Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine in East Lansing.

Longtime staff have watched some customers grow from children to adults and as they get older, leave the East Lansing area and miss the convenient access to Ethiopian food.

When Altu's nephew Gutu Lencha took over in 2023, he heard from some older customers in the Okemos area that they wished they could come in more often, but it was just too inconvenient.

"I met a couple of retirees, who have been really good customers to Altu's for a long, long time," Lencha said. "And they're retired, they don't drive that much, and several of them complained about the traffic between Grand River and Michigan Avenue. Most of them told me they wish they could have this meal every day, or once a week, but they really don't like to drive or they don't have anyone to drive them."

That got Lencha thinking about opening a location in Okemos, closer to what he said is a large portion of his customer base.

That Okemos location opened doors on March 14, the first Altu's expansion in its 30-year history. In a location roughly the same size as the original, the restaurant offers the same authentic Ethiopian cuisine, including injera flatbread and beef stew, from shareable "family feasts" to take-out.

The new location coincides with a new menu, adding more stir-fry options as well as a breakfast menu offering authentic Ethiopian breakfast foods. From 8a-10:30 a.m. at the new location, customers can order options such as fir-fir, a traditional Ethiopian breakfast dish made with shredded injera sauteed with onions, tomatoes, garlic, jalapeños and berbere spices; and ful, a spiced fava bean dish.

Lencha said the breakfast menu has good options for vegan and gluten-free customers. Injera is naturally gluten-free because it is not made with wheat flour.

Along with the breakfast menu, Altu's also now serves traditionally roasted Ethiopian coffee. Ethiopia is the world's fifth-largest coffee producer, but Lencha said Ethiopian coffee beans are rarely made into Ethiopian-style coffee in the U.S. Rather than roast them in a commercial coffee drum, Altu's roasts its coffee beans on the stovetop.

Leo V. Kaplan for City Pulse

Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine owner Gutu Lencha, left, and staff member Aleah Lewis pose behind the counter of the local staple's new Okemos location.

Why go through the effort of roasting green coffee beans the old-fashioned way?

"That's part of sharing the culture," Lencha said.

Altu's is also now hosting Ethiopian coffee ceremonies every Saturday, from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., at alternating locations.

Lencha said the new location has already been a marked success, with some customers driving from Williamston to try the breakfast food. Some customers from Ethiopia and surrounding areas are grateful for the chance to eat their regional breakfast cuisine somewhere so close to home, he said, and others are trying it for the first time.

It's all gratifying, Lencha said, but he's partial to the first-timers.

"That's the most exciting part," he said, "sharing your culture. When people sample your food and like it, that's the most exciting part."

A taste of something new at Angela's

By LIZY FERGUSON

Dining in East Lansing is a hard sell when the students are in town, but my desire to try something new overpowered those reservations last Sunday. Angela's Cafe opened over a year ago in the spot formerly home to the sorely missed Aloha Cookin', and its distinctive, Balkan-influenced menu options had been piquing my interest for some time.

Honey-cured ham sandwich
$12.50
Angela's Cafe
350 Albert Ave., East Lansing
9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday
(517) 253-7146
angelas.cafe

Angela's offers breakfast and lunch options, as well as a full menu of cafe beverages, including matcha and espresso drinks. At first glance, it might seem like a normal diner menu, but when you look closer, the ingredients used make things much more exciting.

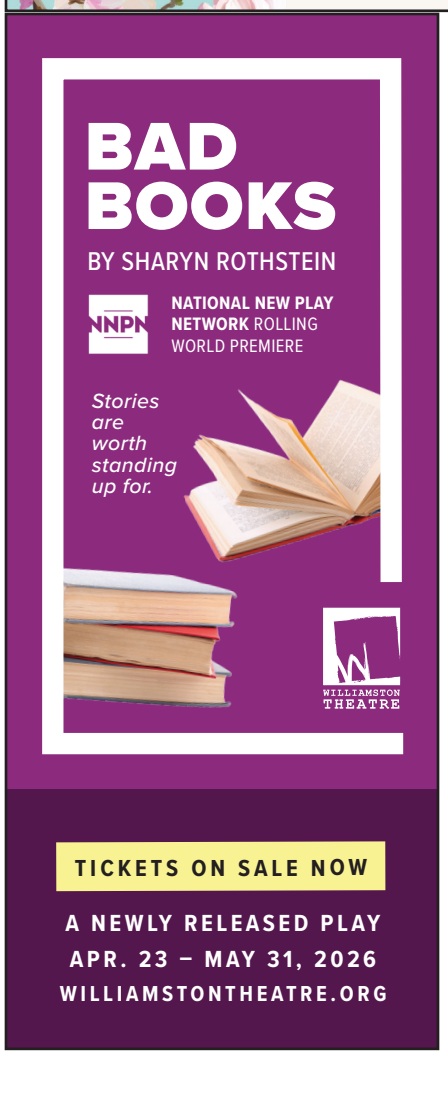
Instead of regular old pancakes, Angela's has thin, crêpe-like Swedish pancakes, which are served with your choice of topping, including pistachio Nutella, fresh fruit and caramelized apples. Instead of a Cobb salad, the restaurant has a fennel and cannellini bean salad with feta cheese and olives, and instead of a boring veggie burger, it has a roasted veggie sandwich with plum chutney, brie cheese, zucchini and squash. It also has byrek, a savory pastry filled with meat, cheese, or potato and served with yogurt.

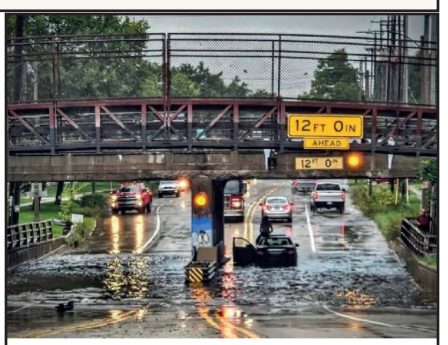
As much as I was tempted by literally all of the above, the apricot jam and mascarpone cheese on the honey-cured ham sandwich was a combination I couldn't say no to. Served on a crusty, toasted baguette, the buttery, faintly sweet cheese and the tart, rich jam tasted incredible with the savory, juicy, thick slice of real ham (not the thinly sliced, mostly just salty ham you'd expect), all of which was brought down to Earth by some fresh arugula.

My one regret is choosing fries over the chicken-lemon-rice soup or salad. The fries were excellent, but I would have liked to see more of what Angela's has to offer that stands out from the ordinary — there's a limit to how special a fry can be.

Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

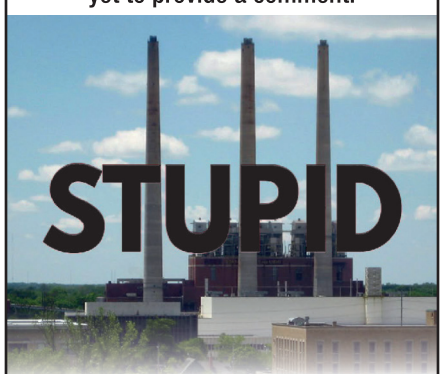
My plate came with a side of pesto aioli, and whether that was meant to go with the fries, the sandwich or both, it was a tasty addition. Another reason I wish I'd picked soup or salad is that I would have felt more justified taking home something from the case of baked goods, the pistachio-ricotta cake in particular. But there's always next time, and there's about 10 other things I need to try anyway.





Big Penny is facing a hungry summer with construction detours in place to direct all but local traffic away from Lansing's Too Tall Truck Munching Bridge.

We asked City Officials if they are going to feed Big Penny while the road is blocked off for 22 weeks. They have yet to provide a comment.



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

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 FRENCH FRIES

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

1. Cask & Co. Kitchen & Bar
Chef-driven eatery and bar serving fresh cocktails and elevated food
3415 E. Saginaw St., Lansing
(517) 580-3720
caskandcompany.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

2. The Cosmos
Funky, space-themed parlor known for wood-fired pizzas and duck fat fries
1200 N. Larch St., Lansing
(517) 897-3563
thecosmoslansing.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday
Noon-11 p.m. Saturday
Noon-10 p.m. Sunday

3. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
Sports bar offering handcrafted burgers, sandwiches and fresh-cut fries
2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 374-0390
dagwoodstavern.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

4. HopCat
Craft beer bar serving elevated pub fare, including beer-battered fries
300 Grove St., East Lansing
517-816-4300
hopcat.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday
10 a.m.-midnight Saturday
10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday

5. Meat BBQ
Casual barbecue joint with a variety of loaded fry options
1224 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 580-4400
meatbbq.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
Noon-5 p.m. Sunday

Easter-themed cupcakes make a great treat for youngsters

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Easter is widely characterized as the holiest day of the year on the Christian calendar. The Easter bunny and Easter egg hunts are not necessarily the focal point of the holiday for adult Christians, but children greatly enjoy these traditions.

It's customary to give young children a basket of treats on Easter Sunday. Though store-bought treats are easy to come by, homemade items can be even more special. This recipe for Easter-themed cupcakes from Lines+Angles is sure to get a laugh out of youngsters, who also won't mind taking a bite or two.

Vanilla cupcakes

Makes 12

For the cupcakes:

4 ounces butter
1/2 cup sugar
Two eggs, beaten
1 1/4 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the grass:

4 1/2 ounces unsalted butter
1 1/3 cup icing sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 tablespoon milk
Green food coloring

To decorate:

11 ounces white sugar paste/fondant
4 ounces pink sugar paste/fondant
Icing sugar
Mini sugar eggs

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Place paper cupcake liners in a 12-serving muffin tin.

2. Beat the butter and sugar in a mixing bowl until light and fluffy.

3. Gradually beat in the eggs until fully incorporated into the mixture.

4. Sift in the dry ingredients and gently stir them into the mixture. Stir in the milk and vanilla until blended.

5. Spoon the mixture into the paper liners. Bake for about 20 minutes, until golden. Cool in the tin for five minutes, then place on a wire rack to cool completely.

6. Beat the butter until soft. Sift in the icing sugar and beat until smooth. Beat in the vanilla and milk until blended. Reserve about 2 tablespoons of buttercream and set aside.

7. Beat the food coloring into the larger amount of buttercream.

8. Spoon into a piping bag with a grass nozzle. Pipe on top of the cupcakes, starting at the outside edge and working in circles, pulling up and away when a buttercream strand is long enough.

9. Roll pieces of white sugar paste into 12 medium balls for the bodies and 24 small, thick rectangles for the paws. Reserve some white sugar paste.

10. Brush the paws lightly with a little water and attach them to the bodies (see photo).

11. Roll 12 small balls and 72 tiny balls of pink sugar paste. Cut the larger balls in half and press into oval shapes. Brush lightly with water and attach to the paws. Attach three tiny balls to each paw with a little water.

12. Put the reserved buttercream into a piping bag with a grass nozzle and pipe a "tail" on each bunny.

13. Arrange the sugar eggs on the cupcakes.

14. Roll out the sugar paste trimmings separately on a surface dusted with icing sugar. Cut out flowers (see photo) and place on the cupcakes.

Thank You For Voting Us The Best!
voted #1 Top of the Town 2025 CityPULSE WKAR
Best BBQ
Best BBQ Sauce
Best Wings
Best Caterer/ Catering service
meat
SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

SAVE THE DATE ▶ SATURDAY APRIL 18, 10AM-4PM
FREE HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR
BETTER HEALTH FRANDOR
305 N. CLIPPERT AVE. LANSING, MI 48912
• Meet Dr. Tracy Kreider, ND and National Educator for Vital Planet for expert advice on Digestive Health
• FREE Healthy Snack and Drink Samples throughout the store
• FREE Hand Massage with Belle Lavande Lavender Products
• FREE Frequency Therapies, AcuDetox and Ear Seeds with LiveWell Healing Community
• FREE 5-minute Chair Massage With Colton Hughes From Element Massage
• Raffle for a certificate for 50% off a CIMT (carotid intima media thickness scan) from The Center for Optimal Health
• Free 10 minute Pulse Electro Magnetic Field Sessions with Centropix
• Free B12 injections with Revive Wellness
• Gift Baskets for Raffle Every Hour and More!!
• Large Amounts of FREE Samples
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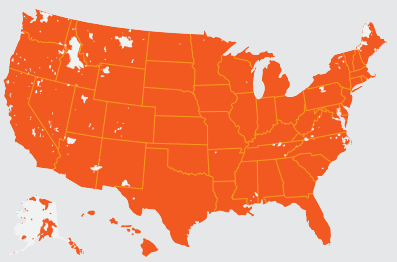

PREMIUM NATIONWIDE 5G COVERAGE.
Get the exact same nationwide coverage as the largest carriers, including 5G for up to half the cost.

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