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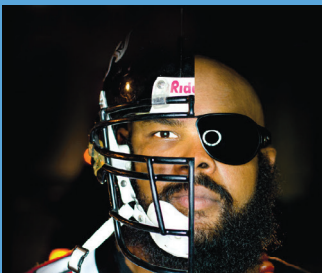


Lansing's Comedy Scene is No Joke

See Page 13



Lansing's largest circulation newspaper
A newspaper for the rest of us



TECH FORWARD: MEN OF COLOR

Featuring guest speaker, Todd "TJ" Duckett
April 10 at LCC West Campus · Register at lcc.edu/tfmoc



**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

Date: March 6, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.

/s/ Timothy M. Perrone

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EXHIBIT A

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

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.

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-recorded 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

Thousands come to Lansing for No Kings III

Anti-Trump protesters return to Capitol grounds

Photos by Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Thousands of people came to the third No Kings rally at the Michigan State Capitol grounds on March 28.

Protesters carried signs as leaders gave speeches, and the event was followed by a procession from Capitol Square to the Michigan Hall of Justice.



Pastor Rich Burstall, Lansing Central United Methodist Church, addresses the audience at the March 28 No Kings III event in Lansing.



James Clift and Wendi Tilden, of Bath, attended the protest. "I am hoping more and more people realize the impact this administration is having on families across the country," Clift said. "High costs, the war in Iran, billions in new taxes ... what does this all mean to families at the end of the day?"



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BAD BOOKS **PAGE 20**
—Sharyn Roffstein—
New playwright deftly handles library banning script "Bad Books"

PAGE 26
330-pound disco ball transforms old body shop into Okemos Coffee Shop

Correction: The names of Alirna Korieva and Fidel Jiménez were misspelled in a story on page 7 of the March 25 edition.

Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.

Member, AAN

HOSTILE TAKEOVER
 A RIGHT-WING BILLIONAIRE TOOK OVER TWITTER.
 **twitter**
 **@eel_crust**
 I rule now! 🍌

AS IF FOX AND NEWSMAX WEREN'T ENOUGH, THE RIGHT WING IS TAKING OVER CBS, TIKTOK, AND CNN.

 NO LIBS HERE!

RIGHT-WING SINCLAIR BROADCASTING HAS BEEN BUYING UP LOCAL TV NEWS STATIONS.

 UP NEXT: IMMIGRANTS ARE SCARY!


LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN GUTTED.

 4 PAGES

EDUCATORS ARE BEING HARASSED FOR TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY.

 The Civil War

AND YET...
 THE PROBLEM WITH YOU KIDS TODAY IS THAT YOU'RE NOT OPEN TO OTHER POINTS OF VIEW!
 © Jen Sorensen - jensorensen.com



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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING TRUMP
 DURING A VISIT TO ONE OF ELON MUSK'S FACTORIES, THE PRESIDENT IS EXPOSED TO A MYSTERIOUS CLOUD OF GAS...
 ELON! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
 JUST A LITTLE UNREGULATED INDUSTRIAL BY-PRODUCT, SIR! I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING!
 BUT MAYBE WE SHOULD MOVE ALONG.

AND SOON-- SIR, YOUR APPROVAL NUMBERS ARE SHRINKING RAPIDLY DUE TO THE UNPOPULARITY OF THE WAR! AND, UH--YOU APPEAR TO BE GROWING SMALLER AS WELL!
 LIES! FROM THE FAKE NEWS MEDIA!

THE WHITE HOUSE'S FINEST MEDICAL MINDS ARE BROUGHT IN. IT IS MY PROFESSIONAL DIAGNOSIS THAT YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ACUTE ENSMALLIFICATION!
 I'D SUGGEST A DIET OF RAW MILK AND BEEF TALLOW, SIR!
 AND MAYBE SOME IVERMECTIN!

HE CONTINUES TO SHRINK--BUT IS STILL (BARELY) ABLE TO POST ON TRUTH SOCIAL.
 PAY NO ATTENTION to the deranged Radical Left! The photos you have seen are "A.I." Could a "three inch" tall President have defeated Iran so decisively (except for the very unimportant and poorly-rated "Straight" of Hormuz)? Thank you for your attention to this matter!
 --President DJT (normal sized)

EVENTUALLY, HE IS KNOCKED OFF THE RESOLUTE DESK BY A CARELESS HOUSEKEEPER, AND IS NEVER SEEN AGAIN.
 YOU'RE FIRED!

BUT AMERICA'S TROUBLES AREN'T OVER! STEPHEN MILLER IS EXPOSED TO A DIFFERENT GAS CLOUD--WHICH CAUSES HIM TO GROW LARGER!
 IT'S THE ATTACK OF THE 50 FOOT NATIONALIST!
 SHOW ME YOUR PAPERS--OR SUFFER MY WRATH!
 BWAH HA HA HA!

Tom Tomorrow © 2026-03-30 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE NEWS & OPINION

Winter has ended. What's next for those living on Lansing's streets?

By **ERICK DÍAZ VELIZ**

The past winter was one of the coldest in years, and while everyone feels the chill, it doesn't punish everyone equally. People were sleeping on the streets, in backseats and in tents even on the coldest days.

Kelsea Hector, 34, executive director of Punks with Lunch, said that although shelters ran at maximum capacity, some chose neither the shelters nor the bus, but their tents. Hector, a former mayoral candidate, said that during the coldest storm, around 20 to 25 people stayed outside.

Mobile teams checked on at least that many people and provided some supplies to make sure they didn't freeze to death, Hector said.

"We did try to convince them to go into the Women's Center or Letts or wherever. They chose not to," she said. "But that's the reality of what we're dealing with."

Persuading people who are living outside to come indoors has become an urgent battle in many American cities where winter carries the risk of death. There are plenty of reasons for those who choose to stay cold.

Strict shelter rules that don't fit everyone are one reason. Having to leave what goods they carry — such as bicycles, tents and even pets — is a challenge because shelters often don't allow them to bring it in or don't have enough space, so people have to risk leaving their belongings on the streets, vulnerable to being stolen.

"It could be the way the system has treated them in the past, and they're not comfortable enough going into shelters or the bus," Hector said. "It has something to do with how people are treated sometimes. They have an unfortunate experience, and they don't want to go back."

Code Blue

Lansing activated its "Code Blue" protocol around 70 times between late 2025 and March of this year.

During a code blue, warming shelters extend their operating hours and capacity so they can accommodate as many people as possible, and bus routes extend their schedules and offer free rides to shelters. Route 1 extends its service to 24 hours a



Kelsea Hector

day, serving as a mobile warming center where people can spend the night traveling between downtown Lansing and Okemos.

The number of Code Blue days exceeded the city's budget of \$40,000 by 58%. An initiative established as an emergency plan to protect affected people whenever temperatures drop to extreme colds or severe snowstorms strike, Code Blue days accounted for about 20% of the calendar year, and more than half of the days between Nov. 11 and March 19, the first and last Code Blue days.

Shelters like New Hope, one of the largest in Lansing, and part of the homeless services provided by Holy Cross Services, opened its doors to anyone in need during the Code Blue days. When their beds were at capacity, said Shelbi Frayer, director of Holy Cross, they provided extra cots, extra staff, more bed supplies, additional meals and often overtime for security.

"While this response is critical, it significantly increases operational costs," Frayer said. "Like many nonprofits operating on lean budgets, we do not have the financial flexibility to absorb these unexpected expenses each month."

Gaps persisting

For Hector, this shows the gaps that exist even when Code Blue is active and



Khadja Erickson



Interior of the Tenant Resource Center.

that programs like Code Blue are necessary until everyone has housing.

"Until we shift our priorities to truly prioritize housing first — and treat housing as a human right — we will continue to need spaces like that to ensure people are cared for," she said.

Those who can will usually sleep in their cars, but they face risks.

Where can someone park for longer than eight hours without being kicked out, ticketed, harassed by the police or even towed? Rest areas are an option, but the Michigan Department of Transportation is seeking to ban camping and limits stays to only 48 hours.

Khadja Erickson, 32, director of the Tenant Resource Center, says there used to be more places to go, but options are being eliminated.

If someone's car is towed, it can lead to

losing everything they have left.

"Every day it grows more expensive to retrieve your car, and thus your items, and presumably everything that you had," she said.

Homeless encampments serve as prime examples of last-ditch situations when there is nowhere left to go, when people cannot find shelters or are forbidden to set a tent in public parks or parking lots, and finding a home again feels like an eternal process.

Encampments are typically situated in the woods, an easy walk from urban areas and close to what few public services are available but still far enough away to remain out of sight.

Some last only a short while, until a neighbor or a city worker reports them to the city or the police, who will often clear out the encampment.

On the other hand, some encampments can endure for years. They can evolve into small communities housing dozens of people in sometimes complex, semi-constructed structures under a certain degree of urban organization, Erickson said.

"The biggest threat to any encampment is their nosy neighbors who feel uncomfortable at the fact that there is open poverty in their sight," Erickson said. "They start to develop their own mini city, in my opinion. They start turning the space into their own with unique decorations."

When an encampment is cleared, it's a traumatic experience for those who live through it, she said. Erickson criticized the presence of police officers during these processes because there may be an "antagonist" relationship they have had with homeless residents.

The city of Lansing, following ordinances 656.05 and 656.06, fines those who stay in city park areas after dusk when they are closed. Littering is also prohibited and is penalized with 90 days in jail and/or a \$500 fine. If a person decides to stay in a city park with all their belongings after it is closed, police are allowed to remove the individual and their possessions.

"We said we needed a place for people to be housed right now, as a stopgap, so

See Homelessness, page 6

Homelessness

from page 5

they're not being harassed by police," Erickson said. "It's like they just get kicked out of the system. They are literally outside of it."

Fallen Angels

One of those encampments was called Fallen Angels. It was a small community of tents, beds, stoves and a few pets that sheltered more than 50 people for nearly four years across two private properties next to Dietrich Park in north Lansing.

The city filed a lawsuit against the owners for allowing the encampment to occur. After several legal battles about relocation, and with significant media scrutiny, the encampment was evicted in the middle of December, and 57 encampment residents were sent to the Causeway Bay Hotel for six weeks as a temporary measure, backed by a court order.

The case pushed Mayor Andy Schor into the media spotlight as the city publicly wrestled with solutions to growing homelessness while he wrapped up the race for his third term as mayor.

Funds from the city and county, along with donations from various organizations, helped extend the residents' stays from six to nine weeks, but they are now largely gone from the hotel.

A few have since managed to escape homelessness, but the vast majority were eventually evicted from the hotel with less stuff than they had when they lived in the encampment. Some have gone back to shelters, other back to the streets in the middle of winter due to non-compliance. Fewer than a dozen of the original 57 remained at the hotel in mid-March.

"They took a whole community of people and put them under one roof," Erickson said. "But saying you can't visit each other's rooms, you can't have outside visitors in your room, you can't do this, you can't do that, and all of this would result in your removal, it's crazy."

Erickson and Hector think Lansing should have made better plans to handle the encampment residents. They each said the problems ran from the proposal stage through the actual transition. Both organizations helped to provide encampment residents with rental storage rooms to organize and store their stuff.

"What the city of Lansing specifically does is take everybody's stuff," Erickson said. "It all goes in a pile in a big dumpster truck in a different location. Then they (the people) have five business days to come and get it. All your stuff that's all mixed up with everybody else's stuff. How are they supposed to get it from that location to wherever they are now? Come on."



Supplies available for various needs.

Complaints ranged from inconvenient shuttle schedules to the hotel and court sessions without some residents present to strict monitoring and rigid rules within the facility — non-compliance with which would result in eviction — as well as a hotel stay deemed too short relative to the job-finding and housing procedures, and a lack of preparedness among the hotel staff to deal with individuals in sensitive emotional states or those dealing with substance use issues.

"I don't think that there was enough planning put into what could have been a really beautiful study of how Housing First works and operates when you have all the right agencies in the same place," Hector said.

On March 5, 11 residents were evicted from the hotel.

A Lansing spokesperson told WILX News 10 they were sent to shelters, but both Erickson and Hector said they're back on the streets. The city said some residents had not complied with self-improvement rules and housing progress. Around 16 people were notified about the eviction about a day ahead of time.

Temporary solution

For Hector, the temporary solution — the transition — and the demands the city placed upon the camp residents during the weeks in the hotel did not align with reality.

Both she and Erickson said the entire transition process — and the abrupt shift away from an environment the residents had created and grown accustomed to over the course of more than a year — was a traumatic experience.

The ideal way to hold residents accountable is to engage with them through a "trauma-informed lens and understanding" to facilitate their optimal



Clothing is one of the needs met by places like the Tenant Resource Center.

functioning, Hector said.

"We have someone who's been in abject poverty," she said, "who is in active substance use, who has a lot of intersectional things going on, and you gave them hope. And then you took it away from them. I don't think that was necessary."

Winter has ended, and according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Michigan's unemployment rate is lower than it has been, but homelessness advocates believe rent prices will remain high.

Expect more tents

Advocates expect that more tents, and even clusters of tents, will begin to appear around the Lansing area, and that more encampments will likely spring up within the city.

"It is getting nicer, so landlords are going to feel less bad about whipping up their eviction machine. We're getting into eviction season," Erickson said.

Frayer said that last winter, New Hope saw an increase in individuals over age 55 seeking shelter. "They now make up roughly 30% of the people we serve," she said.

Last September, state representatives introduced a package of laws, House Bill 4995, that would limit landlords' decisions over tenants, including landlords' ability to deny housing to tenants based on poor credit history, and would allow for the concealment of eviction records, among other measures. The bill is still under review.

Erickson noted that once a tenant has been evicted, it remains on their record, which makes it virtually impossible for them to be accepted as a renter again — even if they have the means to pay rent. And even if that's not a problem, the process of getting new documents, a job application, a house list, a new house and going through the transition will usually take months, even in the easiest cases.

Scott Bean, a city spokesperson, said the hotel stays were intended to be tem-

porary and the city is preparing for cooling shelters in the summer. "The hottest parts of the day occur during regular business when facilities are open and air conditioned," he said.

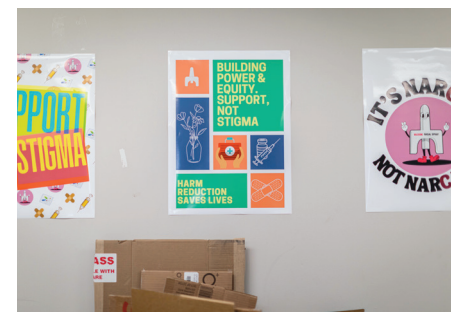
Erickson and Hector said many of the problems stemming from homelessness can be resolved by prioritizing housing, rather than relying on temporary solutions, encampment evictions, camping bans, or the ModPods/Nova Housing Initiative (a project by the city of Lansing intended to provide transitional housing for the homeless population).

On March 16, the city of East Lansing voted against a proposal to ban sleeping, camping or setting up temporary living spaces in public areas. This proposal had originated as a measure to combat rising crime rates in the downtown district. Erickson said she welcomed the rejected vote as "one less layer of harm," but she and Hector were critical about the measure even being considered. It's already prohibited to camp or sleep in private areas, and the council approved a ban on loitering in parking structures.

For Hector, these aren't real solutions.

People need to be prioritized over capital, she said, and solutions need to be well executed.

"It doesn't help them. It doesn't make the problem go away. All you're doing is indicating to them that you want them to disappear," she said.



Signs advocating for people and various causes, including drug harm reduction.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Mayor Andy Schor's submitted budget for the City of Lansing is nearly the same amount as last year, less than 1% higher, at \$307 million with \$182 million of that being general fund dollars. The general fund is about 5% higher than last year. Schor's proposed 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 proposal outlines how the city plans to spend an estimated \$1 million in new revenue through BWL payments, assuming the approval of a controversial data center downtown.

The budget includes a plan to spend \$400,000 of that potential new revenue on firefighter equipment, training and personnel and another \$400,000 on housing rehabilitation and related programs with the rest split between facade improvement and neighborhood grants. Other proposals for Lansing's fiscal year 2026-27 include \$750,000 for parking system improvements and \$50,000 for Jackson Field Stadium improvements. The city's budget presentations and meetings have started with departments advocating for their work. There are budget hearings set for April 20 and May 4. The city's fiscal year starts July 1. City council is required to make any changes and approve the budget no later than May 18 this year.

The NAACP Lansing Branch announced Tuesday that President Harold A. Pope is stepping down from his position as he runs for a state representative seat in Michigan's 74th House District. James McCurtis, Jr. will move into an interim president role for the organization, effective immediately. "The NAACP Lansing Branch expresses deepest gratitude to Harold A. Pope for his tireless leadership and heart he has poured into the fight for justice and equity," the statement add-



ed. "Mr. Pope will continue his longstanding support of the organization as a Diamond Life Subscribing Member of both the local branch and the national association."



Lansing School District juniors are part of the first class to hit a major milestone in the city's Lansing Save college savings account program.

Two of the students, Xavier McKissic and Nautikah Garcia-Sams, were highlighted in a recent profile of the program by Fox 47 News. Students in the class are the first cohort to be fully funded - \$500 per student with 730 students total - and that is the second program nationwide to reach full distribution. Some students, including Garcia-Sams, have kicked in their own money, which has grown to \$1,200 for some. Fox 47 reported on a recent event at Eastern High, where students contributed to their own college savings account. The program is a partnership between Lansing, the school district, Lansing Promise and MSUFCU. There have been about 16,000 accounts opened in the 13 years of the program. Visit Lansing-Promise.org for more information.

It has been about a year since the end of the demolition of old Eastern High School in Lansing. The



site will become the home of a UM Health-Sparrow behavioral health hospital, with the regents overseeing the system having approved in February the construction of an \$83 million, 64-bed facility. It will serve adult and geriatric behavioral health care patients as well as introduce child and adolescent services to the area. UM Health-Sparrow Lansing President Ann Marie Creed told WKAR in February that there are plans for a "remembrance garden" near the site. "That garden will encompass the cornerstone from the old Eastern High School as well as arches from the old Eastern High School that we have saved," she told WKAR. UM Health-Sparrow spokesperson John Foren told City Pulse on

Tuesday that groundbreaking is expected this summer.



A 36-year-old Lansing man was killed, and five other people were taken to Lansing area hospitals with serious injuries after an SUV crossed into oncoming traffic on Saturday on W. Saginaw Street near Rosemary in Lansing. The SUV was traveling eastbound and crossed into the westbound lanes, striking a westbound vehicle and causing a crash with another westbound vehicle. Police said they believed speed and alcohol "to have been contributing factors" and have launched a criminal investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call the department at 517-485-1700. The police also received unconfirmed reports that the at-fault vehicle in the collision may have been involved in another nearby crash, having fled that scene.

A 28-year-old Lansing man died Thursday after his Range Rover struck a Ford F-350, ending a high-speed police chase that began when the vehicle, reported stolen in East Lansing five days earlier, was identified by a Livingston County Sheriff's Office deputy while traveling east on Interstate-96 near Mason Road in Marion Township. The Range Rover exited the freeway and turned south onto D-19, reaching 120 mph after the driver failed to yield to a traffic stop, according to the sheriff's office. When the driver tried to overtake and struck the front of the F-350 at the intersection of Swarthout Road in Putnam Township, he lost control and collided with a F-450 that was stopped on the shoulder of the road. The driver died after suffering critical injuries, but both drivers of the trucks were uninjured.

Clinton County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested two 18-year-old men in St. Johns on Monday after an extended chase that began when they tried to pull over a white Buick Enclave for reckless driving on Interstate-96 near Grange Road. The vehicle, which was recorded traveling at 110 mph, became disabled after deputies used stop sticks

on it. The two men, from Detroit and Roseville respectively, then fled on foot but were caught by officers. They were taken to the Clinton County Jail on multiple felony charges. A third person was released with no charges.



The Michigan Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction of a man convicted in 2024 in connection to a 2012 sexual assault cold case. Marshawn

James Curtis, 32, will continue to serve a sentence of 17.5 to 80 years for a first-degree criminal sexual conduct conviction stemming from a 2012 assault — a case that sat cold for years until the state's push to process backlogged evidence kits. The conviction of Curtis is a direct result of the Ingham/Jackson Regional Sexual Assault Team. Established in 2016, the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative project, or SAKI, was designed to tackle a backlog of untested sexual assault kits across the state, providing a trauma-informed framework for re-investigation. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel praised the appellate decision, emphasizing the specialized work required to bring decades-old cases to trial.

In his appeal, Curtis launched a multi-pronged attack on the trial's conduct, arguing that his conviction was built on procedural errors. His defense team challenged several key elements, including that some evidence and testimony should have been excluded, that a witness for the prosecution was allowed to testify via videoconference and that Curtis's sentence was at the top of the recommended guidelines — which he argued was disproportionate to the crime. The Court of Appeals, however, rejected each of the claims, finding that the trial court acted within its discretion and that the evidence remained robust enough to support the jury's original verdict. Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane said the ruling is a validation of the rigorous standards maintained by local and state investigators.

**ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE
LANSING MI**

NORTHSIDE SERVICE
226 RUSSELL ST, LANSING, MI 48906
517-487-5921

All sealed bids will be accepted in the office of Northside Service by 1pm 4/8/26

Winner of the bid will be contacted by 2pm 4/8/26

Winner must then go to corresponding police department for titling information for the vehicle before vehicle can be removed from northside service.

Vehicle must be removed by 5pm 4/9/26

Vehicles up for Auction

- 2020 Dodge Charger - 2C3CDXBG1LH213290
- 2007 Toyota Sienna - 5TDZK23C87S019387
- 2008 Chevrolet Impala - 2G1WU583189260900
- 2019 Kia Optima - 5XXGU4L16KG332170
- 2019 GMC Acadia - 1GKKNKLA5KZ199737
- 2008 Chrysler Town & Country - 2A8HR54P08R105760
- 2014 Chevrolet Cruze - 1G1PC5SB7E7293727
- 2004 Honda Accord - 1HGCM56674A060269
- 2011 Chevrolet Impala - 2G1WG5EK7B1111318
- 2021 Toyota Corolla - 5YFS4MCE1MP072834
- 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer - 1GNDDT13S252365312

CP#26-118

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A public hearing to receive comments on a request from Michael Mudrey on behalf of For Crepe Sake for approval of a Special Use Permit located at 601 E. Grand River Avenue. The applicant request is to allow alcohol service. The property is zoned B3 - City Center Commercial.
2. A public hearing to receive comments on an application from Gib King on behalf of US Fish and Wildlife Services for the property at 2651 Coolidge Road. The property owner is Cooloff Group LLC. The request is to remove five existing trees to facilitate the installation of a pollinator garden on the property. The property is zoned B5 - Community Retail Sales Business.

The public may attend and participate in all meetings in person. Members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information or contact staff for more information:

Landon Bartley, AICP, Principal Planner
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6930 or lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

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

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

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

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

Dated: March 26, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#26-122

CITY OF EAST LANSING

**NOTICE OF 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR CITY OF EAST LANSING
2026-2030 CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND 2026 ACTION PLAN**

On April 2, 2026 the City of East Lansing will release a draft of the 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan for a required 30-day public review and comment period. The Consolidated Plan document is available for public review online at <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/2458/Active-Public-Notices>. If members of the public would like to receive a printed copy of the document to review, please call the Community and Economic Development Office at 517-319-6907, and accommodations will be made so that the document is mailed to you.

PURPOSE

The Consolidated Plan is a strategic guide that outlines how the City will use federal housing and community development resources (Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program) over the next five years. It identifies local needs such as affordable housing, homelessness services, neighborhood improvements, and economic opportunities, and sets priorities for how these funds will be invested. By aligning federal programs with community input, the plan ensures that CDBG and other resources are used effectively and transparently to improve quality of life for residents.

PRIORITIES FOR ASSISTANCE

Based on an analysis of housing and community development needs within the City of East Lansing, the following priorities for assistance have been developed for use in the 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan:

- Homeless Supportive Services
- Affordable Housing
- Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements
- Public Services
- Program Administration

FY2027 ACTION PLAN

Included within the 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan document is the first year of proposed annual funding for Program Year 2026 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). The City's anticipated PY 2026/2027 CDBG Entitlement Grant is \$401,425. This anticipated budget is an estimate based on previous funding and is subject to change pending the release of PY2026 CDBG allocations from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The proposed budget will be approved as part of the City of East Lansing's FY 27 budget process.

AGENCY/PROJECT	PROPOSED BUDGET
COEL Dept. of Parks and Recreation - Youth Scholarship Program	\$2,850
COEL Dept. of Planning, Building, and Development - Successful Leasing Program	\$4,750
EVE, Inc. – Domestic Violence, Shelter, and Support Services	\$8,550
Haven House – Homeless Shelter for Families	\$20,060
MSU Migrant Student Services – Support Services for Low-Income Migrant Students	\$11,400
MSU Safe Place – Shelter & Support, Domestic Violence and Stalking	\$5,000
Tri-County Office on Aging – Meals on Wheels	\$7,600
COEL Dept. of Public Works – Combined Sewer Improvements	\$168,775
COEL Dept. of Parks and Recreation – Northern Tier Trail Extension	\$100,000
Spartan Housing Cooperative – Rental Rehabilitation	\$12,900
COEL Dept. of Planning, Building, and Development – CDBG Planning and Administration	\$59,540

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizens, public agencies, and other interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the City of East Lansing's Consolidated Plan. Public comment on the draft will be received for a period of thirty (30) days from April 2, 2026 until May 4, 2026. Written comments may be sent to: City of East Lansing, Department of Community and Economic Development, 410 Abbot Road, Room 217, East Lansing, MI 48823. Comments must be received in writing in order to be acknowledged by the Plan. All final funding allocations are approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

Dated: April 1, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#26-126

Obscure board race becomes proxy battle in Middle East tensions

Off the top of your head, name of one member of the University of Michigan Board of Regents.

Just one. Not Tom Brady. Nope, Madonna is a famous alum, too. Not on the board.

Fact is, you need to be pretty deep into Michigan politics to even think about U-M's governing board, let alone name one of the eight members on it.

Yet, the race for two Democratic nomination slots on this board is top of mind for delegates attending this month's endorsement convention, mainly because of what it represents.

Students and progressive activists see the University of Michigan's investments in Israeli companies and its rough treatment toward pro-Palestinian demonstrators nearly two years ago as a microcosm of the bigger struggle in the Middle East.

It goes back to May 21, 2024, when campus police drove out some 50 protesters who were living in an encampment at the University of Michigan's Diag.

The protestors claimed about a third of U-M's \$18 billion endowment was tied to

"weapons manufacturing and war-profiteering companies," and they wanted it to stop. The administration said only one-tenth of 1% of its investment matched that description.

After a month of folks living in some 60 tents and 10 canopies, a fire inspector said the overloaded wiring wasn't safe. One spark and it could be catastrophic.

The U-M president, with the support of the board, got the cops involved. In the early morning hours of May 21, about 50 protestors were pushed out and weren't happy about it. Some threw metal objects and pieces of furniture at the police. Eleven were arrested.

Dearborn-based civil rights attorney Amir Makled became the lead attorney for the group that ultimately got the crew off the hook legally, but it was a long process.

Jordan Acker, one of eight regents, became the face of the Board – the one protestors felt had led the charge on the encampment's demolition.

Acker acknowledged that, for safety, it had to come down. In hindsight, he regrets not visiting the protestors and hearing them out.

Since the incident, Acker's home was vandalized twice. The law office where he

practices was hit once.

All the while, Acker rejects the insinuation that he stands with Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli government for their treatment of Palestinians living in the West Bank since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

Again, he said whatever decision the U-M Board made on May 21, 2024, was for the health and safety of the campus, not an affront to the protestors' movement.

On April 19, 2026, nearly two years later, Acker is running for renomination to the board along with Paul Brown.

Their one opponent for the Democratic nomination – yup, Amir Makled, who was detained at DTW a year ago as he returned with his family from spring break. He strongly suspects it was because of his role in helping the Diag protestors.

Rightly or wrongly, the race has become a symbol of the tension within the Michigan Democratic Party itself, between the traditional supporters from Southwest Michigan's Jewish community and the progressive activists who plan on bringing a strong contingent to the convention.

Acker's supporters see the campaign against him as antisemitic in that the

union-backed regent is not a tool for the Netanyahu government. He isn't receiving money from the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) (they don't get involved in university board races). There's no reason for the attacks against him, they argue, other than the fact that he is Jewish.

In fact, Acker visited Israel and Palestine to meet with students about what can be done to create a more peaceful existence.

Makled's supporters say it's high time for a more diverse Board and to promote someone to regent who will more strongly support free speech. They want someone to restore Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the face of President Trump's request to do otherwise.

It's possible that the other issues the candidates are running on will become deciding points for the delegates.

But it's more likely this one will come down to organizational strength and where the heart of the party lies on an issue much bigger than the University of Michigan.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Watch movies Listen to music Eat popcorn

at the Capital City Film Festival

April 8-18, 2026

get your pass at ccff.co

A tech-forward alternative

I am not on a bandwagon against data centers. I founded multiple tech businesses in Lansing, including one co-located at ACD.net, one of our own local micro data centers. I have worked in economic development and believe in distributed data infrastructure. I spent 35 years as an ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 auditor — assessing management systems and evaluating risk. I am writing against Deep Green because this project is not primarily a data center. It is a non-clean energy power plant with a data center attached, and what it asks this community to accept on faith is not acceptable.

Before any vote to sell or rezone this land, the council needs answers it has not been given. The service contract between Bloom Energy and BWL has not been made public — the council is being asked to approve a 20-year energy commitment without seeing its own terms. No independent environmental impact study has been completed. No noise study has been conducted for a facility running industrial-scale fuel cells and cooling systems around the clock. No independent economic analysis has been commissioned — only numbers from the developer and an estimate using an inflated assessment basis. This is not due diligence. This is a leap of faith with permanent consequences.

Even if every promise holds, the deal is not worth it. Right now, \$660 million in investment is actively being built within blocks of this site — the Tower on Grand, the new Public Safety Complex, Riverview 220, the new City Hall, Ovation Center and Brick Row. Our downtown is not desperate. It is in a once-in-a-generation moment. Deep Green's commitment to this community is fifteen permanent jobs. Fifteen. That is a bad trade for a prime parcel at the center of everything we are building.

The \$900,000 annual property tax claim does not reach residents the way it was presented. The property sits in the Downtown TIFA district, which captures tax increment before it reaches the general fund — the mayor himself estimated only about \$200,000 actually gets there. The headline number is not money for residents. Most of it is already spoken for.

These solid oxide fuel cells (SOFCs) run on natural gas and produce CO₂. The claimed 50% emissions reduction is measured against the dirtiest power on the regional grid — not the status quo, not a clean energy standard — and SOFCs still emit 60 to 70 percent of what direct combustion produces. Bloom Energy's record makes this worse. In 2013, Bloom told a waste contractor their canisters were nonhazardous and could be dumped at any public landfill. The contractor tested them and found benzene. The EPA later designated Bloom a Large Quantity Generator of hazardous waste and fined them over \$1 million for mishandling it. Last month, Bloom's VP told your city council that fuel cells do not contain or generate any toxic chemicals. Don't take my word for it — search Bloom Energy and the EPA, then search Bloom Energy and Delaware, and read what their own legislators said after a decade of promises.

The risks here are structural and permanent: land committed, emissions added, energy obligations locked in. The benefits are uncertain, conditional, and — even at their best — modest. Fifteen jobs. Tax revenue that mostly won't reach us. Aesthetic promises not written into the contract. Forty-three residents spoke against this at the public hearing. Six spoke in favor. The council should not vote until the Bloom service contract is public, independent environmental and noise studies are complete, and an independent economic analysis has been conducted. Lansing deserves answers before a decision — not promises after.

Jerry Norris
 Founder, The Fledge
 Lansing, Michigan

Deep Green project can strengthen Lansing's future

We support having Deep Green, a leader in sustainable computing infrastructure, work in partnership with the Lansing Board of Water & Light to create a small-scale data center on E. Kalamazoo Street that is thoughtfully informed by community input.

Like many others, we are unnerved by the rapid and unconstrained growth of artificial intelligence. That concern is real. But the need for computing infrastructure is not going away. Every sector we rely on — health care, engineering, finance, higher education, advanced manufacturing — depends on secure, physical data facilities. Avoiding that reality will not slow demand; it will simply shift investment elsewhere. Deep Green's model appears scale-appropriate for Lansing's needs.

It is important to distinguish this proposal from the hyperscale facilities making headlines in Saline Township and elsewhere. The proposed Deep Green model is dramatically smaller. What is being discussed for Lansing is not the kind of data center designed to serve global AI giants. Deep Green anticipates that their five to fifteen clients will likely be regional engineering firms, pharmaceutical companies, and university researchers with high computational modeling needs. That is a fundamentally different profile.

While it is true that data centers, once opened, do not employ large numbers of people, economic development is not measured solely by permanent headcount. Construction jobs are real jobs, often skilled trades that provide good wages without requiring a four-year degree. Beyond that, infrastructure investments strengthen our tax base and signal that Lansing can support 21st-century industry.

We are especially encouraged by Deep Green's plans for a closed-loop system that will cool the computers by transferring the otherwise wasted heat into a hot water system that will serve buildings in the downtown area. This has the effect of cutting carbon emissions and potentially reducing energy costs for downtown businesses. In Europe, waste-heat recycling is far more common; in the United States, we lag behind. Deep Green has a track record of waste heat recovery and use in the UK.

We have also been assured that installation of the data center will not increase rates for any other BWL customers and that all infrastructure costs will be absorbed by Deep Green.

Concerns about noise have been raised at several gatherings we have attended. Deep Green representatives have assured participants that they will take necessary steps to mute production sounds. Those commitments should be written clearly into any final agreement. That is how good governance works: identify concerns, negotiate protections and hold partners accountable.

The fuel cell technology being considered

would be the first of its kind in Michigan and, if designated as "clean energy" by the state, would help BWL reach its clean energy requirements. In further negotiations, city council members and the community should explore additional ways this project might accelerate renewable energy development in our region. If Lansing wants influence over its energy future, participation is more effective than opting out.

Regarding the location on E. Kalamazoo between Cedar and Larch, we believe this edge-of-downtown site makes sense. In theory, any parcel could host housing, retail, entertainment or green space. In practice, projects require market demand, financing and committed developers. If shovel-ready, mixed-use proposals were in place, they would be visible. In the absence of that, leaving the site as surface parking does little to strengthen our tax base or modernize infrastructure.

Deep Green commits to nearly \$2 million in new revenues our city government will receive each year through property taxes and Return on Equity (ROE) payments from the BWL. These new resources — some \$20 million over the next decade — can have a transformative impact on our city if allocated wisely. Think of the impact we could have on housing, placemaking, public safety and other areas of concern in our community.

Deep Green is not requesting any local financial incentives, which is unusual for a project of this scale. The company may pursue state-level incentives, which are standardized tools used nationwide to compete for investment. They are designed to produce net-positive returns over time. Lansing should negotiate firmly, ensure community benefits are concrete and enforceable, and maintain transparency throughout the process.

The timing of this request, amid news about much larger, hyper-scale projects elsewhere, has understandably created confusion. People are conflating very different models. It is worth taking the time to examine the scale, technology, and community integration of this specific proposal.

Rather than blind acceptance or outright rejection, we are encouraging thoughtful negotiation that strengthens our community and aligns with our long-term economic and environmental interests. Cities across the country are crafting detailed agreements with project developers to address noise, environmental performance, meaningful community benefits, and grid resilience. Lansing can do the same.

Tom Stanton is an energy and environmental policy consultant and founder of Community Energy Solutions, LLC.

Liz Harrow is an architect in private practice and a member of MidMichigan Environmental Action Council (MidMEAC).

Joan Nelson was the founding director of Allen Neighborhood Center (1999-2022) and is a long-time advocate for Lansing's east side.

No more power plants in poor neighborhoods

Call the Deep Green “data center” what it is: a power plant in a poor neighborhood.

The community learned only recently that the proposed project at “220 S. Larch Street and 3 adjoining parcels” would rely upon fuel cell technology (“New Details Emerge About New Data Center,” LSJ 2/5/26).

The US Department of Energy writes “A fuel cell uses the chemical energy of hydrogen or other fuels to cleanly and efficiently produce energy” (energy.gov). Setting aside arguments about whether the process really is “clean” or “efficient,” it is clear that fuel cells are used to produce energy, such as electricity or heat. Fuel cells “provide power,” as the DOE states.

The UK start-up Deep Green wants to situate a power plant in our urban core, in a neighborhood with one of the lowest tree equity scores in the city of Lansing. Lack of tree canopy goes hand in hand with poverty. Supporters of the “data center” call this area “vacant” and “derelict,” erasing material realities of that specific part of the city, which, yes, is a neighborhood.

The “vacant parking lot” is perhaps a vestige of the historic removal and partition of residential communities surrounding downtown Lansing. Engineering and urban planning projects, like the creation of Interstate 496, forced people to give up their homes for those downtown parking lots.

Opinion

Close to the land Deep Green wants to buy, “affordable housing” is appearing. Many children will live in these developments. Look up Bloom Energy, the company hired to provide fuel cells to Deep Green. Pay attention to its record of environmental violations. We cannot allow this kind of industrial activity among children. City and BWL leaders and Deep Green representatives brush off resident concerns about an environmental impact study. Absent this information, the city council is set to vote on the future of this project and the livability of the city without taking into account the potential impacts to the environment and ramifications on human health.

At the recent Westside Neighborhood Association meeting, panel

representatives from Deep Green, BWL, city council and the city planning commission pointed to luxury apartments in the Stadium District. They implied that residents will be equally impacted across demographics, as if to say, “look who lives there, too, it can’t be that bad.” But you cannot compare living in a luxury loft apartment to living on Kalamazoo Street at ground level, in an 80+ year-old wood-framed home with drafty wood-frame windows and no insulation. Closer to the intersection of Cedar and Kalamazoo Streets, where the architecture changes and resources lessen, the urban experience is different. The neighborhood around the parcel of land targeted for data center development now also faces front-line exposure to the environmental effects of power production.

Deep Green’s application was halted for a few weeks due to procedural inconsistencies. It was important to identify these issues, but the pause was only ever a temporary fix. We must continue to expose the profound, fundamental and recurring

environmental injustices upon which this proposal depends, and which it will perpetuate. Stopping Deep Green is a step towards ending this cycle.

Our city council must deny the sale of property to Deep Green, or any other company that requires industrial zoning. City council must also deny the recent flurry of zoning change requests attempting to create spots of increased industrial activity in the midst of residential neighborhoods close to downtown Lansing. City leaders would be well-served by reviewing the archive, most especially the Design Lansing 2012 Comprehensive Plan, for a reminder of the city’s stated obligations to the people.

Every city council member should vote no to data centers in our city. Let’s mark a new era in the city of Lansing, one guided by the principles of environmental justice and equity.

Sheila Marie Contreras is a university English professor specializing in Mexican-American/Chicana and US Latina literatures. She lives in Lansing.

Thursday, April 9, 6-10 PM
Central United Methodist Church

sweet 16

Red Carpet Premiere Party
We're celebrating our 16th year!

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\$20 in advance | \$30 at the door | admission included with Festival Pass

State of Michigan Probate Court, County of Ingham, Publication of Notice of Hearing, Case No. 26-000241-GM-P33. In the matter of Hector Aldair Salazar Cabeza: To all interested persons, including Zuleyma del Carmen Salazar Cabeza, whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: Take Notice: A hearing will be held on April 16, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI, 48933, before Judge Shauna Dunnings for the following purpose: Guardianship of minor. Date: 3/26/2026. Petitioner: Manuel Cabeza, 3244 Beaujardin Dr., Lansing, MI 48912, 517-962-3757.

CP#26-113

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

TOWNSHIP BOARD
Synopsis of Meetings

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman, and Trustee Karen J. Mojica. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Fire Chief John Kahler, Captain Robert Block, Library Director Mary Rzepczynski, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Utilities Director Rick Kane.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution of Recognition of John Hanieski for his service on the Economic Development Corporation

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMUNICATIONS

2. Windsor Township Notice to Update Comprehensive Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$\$14,048,072.03
4. Minutes – a. Monday, February 16, 2026
5. Parks & Recreation Mower Purchase for Mount Hope Park
6. Parks & Recreation Annual Mower Replacement Program
7. Parks & Recreation Truck Purchase

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

8. Library Annual Report

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:26pm

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, and Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Township Engineer Jacob Kleinhenz, Fire Chief John Kahler, Captain Robert Block, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Director Marcus Kirkpatrick, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane, Deputy Utilities Director Water John Stopczynski.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Chief John Kahler Badge Pinning
2. Lansing Board of Water & Light Update
3. Granger Waste Management Update

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Oldsmobile Homecoming Annual Car Show Noise Waiver
5. St. Gerard Annual Festival Noise Waiver

COMMUNICATIONS

6. Eaton County 911 Annual Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

7. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$4,666,430.91
8. Minutes – a. Monday, March 2, 2026
9. Utilities Vehicle Order Request
10. St. Gerard Amusement Packet
11. Menard, Inc. Yard Expansion Project Closeout
12. Acceptance of Utility Agreement for Tri-State Lease Group, LLC
13. Payment of Vouchers

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

14. Anderson Park Trail Expansion
15. Topographic Mapping & Right of Way Retracement – 22 Acres of roadway mapping along Snow Rd and Cornerstone Dr
16. Board & Commission Appointments

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

17. 2026 Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update Final Plan Presentation
18. Parks & Recreation Department Annual Report

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

CP#26-123

Congressman Barrett should be more afraid of high energy prices than he is of Trump

Tom Barrett may be trying to shift the blame, but I know from personal experience that supporting cheaper, cleaner energy saves money. Like many Americans, I'm upset about Trump's self-inflicted affordability crisis, from the rising cost of electricity and gas to the capricious tariffs that make it harder to afford everyday goods. One area of relief my family was able to secure in 2023—installing solar panels thanks to the clean energy tax credits—has now been yanked away from our neighbors by Congressman Tom Barrett and Donald Trump.

On top of everything else, Michiganders are in economic pain because of EV job loss, clean energy project job loss and ever-higher costs of health care thanks to cuts and tariffs. Gas prices have risen more than 60 cents since the start of Trump's war in Iran, with diesel climbing even higher. Americans spend roughly \$3.7 million more per day for every penny increase in the national average price of gas, and as of March 8, drivers were spending about \$187 million more per day than the previous week.

Trump is advancing a war that is deeply unpopular with Americans and threatens to further disrupt prices. And Congressman Barrett is right there with him, supporting policies that aren't in the best interest of mid-Michigan families. Too many Americans are being forced to decide between what they can afford each month—groceries, medicine, gas or keeping the lights on.

Thanks to our solar panels, our average monthly bills are closer to \$15 or \$20. It's galling to know that many of our neighbors now don't have the option of installing solar panels like my family did because Trump and congressional Republicans passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act last summer. This legislation wiped out the clean energy tax credits and investments that would have added more energy to the grid when our country needs it most.

Trump cut federal clean energy investments and hamstrung our clean

energy economy, leaving us more vulnerable to global price spikes, all to appease his Big Oil donors. Since Trump assumed office, more than \$61.4 billion in clean energy investments have been canceled or stalled, leading to nearly 27,000 announced MW being taken off the grid, enough to power more than 14.2 million homes.

And then there are the tariffs, which have been devastating for American manufacturing, including the clean energy industry. Trump's tariffs are projected to decrease U.S. solar capacity by 9% and battery energy storage capacity by 4% by 2035. Tariffs won't reinvigorate domestic clean energy manufacturing, because companies are only willing to invest in building factories when there's long-term certainty about the profitability of these investments.

Our elected officials in Michigan should be working to advance our best interests by investing in clean energy and pushing back against Trump's reckless tariffs and foreign wars. Some of them are fighting back.

Others in Michigan have proposed capping rates and protections for ratepayers, as well as building on the successful Michigan Clean Energy laws that allow us to provide cheaper, cleaner energy as a buffer against war, tariffs, and other attacks from the federal administration. But Congressman Barrett has been unwilling to put our needs first in the face of an administration beholden to big oil CEOs and wealthy corporations.

Though I am 'represented' by Barrett in Congress, I've never felt more abandoned by an elected official. He doesn't put his constituents first and he continues to follow policies that are harmful to Michigan's clean energy economy. He's been too afraid of Trump to stand up for mid-Michigan families, and now the economic harm he's done is only going to get worse as prices continue to escalate.

Ann Siegle is an East Lansing homeowner who installed solar panels in 2023.

Opinion

H&H Mobil Abandoned Auto Auction

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Lansing, MI 48912

Call 517-332-6335

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CP#26-124

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The three showrunners for Mac's Bar's Monday comedy open mic before the show on Feb. 16. From left: Darius Kennedy, Nicole Melnyk and Rio Riojas.

Mid-Michigan's comedy hub is here

No joke, the Lansing comedy scene is full of fun, laughter and heart

By **BARB MODRACK**

The chairs come out a little before 9 p.m. at Mac's Bar on Michigan Avenue. Scurrying around to set up the stage and sound system are Nicole Melnyk, Darius Kennedy and Rio Riojas, the current stewards of the venue's long-running comedy open mic. All have day jobs. But Mac's on Mondays is their labor of love.

"You can't put a price on it, really," Melnyk said. Melnyk, 36, is in hot pursuit of her own comedy aspirations and travels widely for gigs big and small. She recently performed at Zanies in Nashville, Tennessee. She feels strongly that Mac's provides an outlet for comics of all skill levels to hone their talent.

"We make dreams come true," she said, with only a little hyperbole.

Half an hour or so before showtime, a crew of aspiring stand-up comedians arrives to wait their turn to try out or practice their jokes. All have been selected from a large group of applicants — by Melnyk, Riojas and Kennedy — to go up on stage. If the trio is familiar with the applicant's act, that can help, but it's not a requirement. The group welcomes new-

comers and will give pretty much anyone a chance, at least once.

"Lansing wants comedy," Melnyk said.

Mac's is one of two comedy opportunities for amateurs or even semi-pros on Mondays. Crunchy's offers "The Weekly Crunch" an hour earlier, at 8 p.m., and many comics try to squeeze both into one night. The back-to-back Monday events help draw performers from the Grand Rapids and Detroit areas.

An invitation for performers goes out toward the end of the month for the upcoming month. It's announced on Mac's Facebook page and various Facebook comedy pages like Michigan Comics Network. The Weekly Crunch, run by Emilie Burkhart and Jay Eoff, both 23, takes submissions in the same way.

Lacking a dedicated comedy club, the trio at Mac's said they believe the open mics do a lot to nourish Lansing's growing comedy landscape.

"This scene, I feel we are just trying to water it," Riojas said. "I want to do for Lansing what Eminem did for Detroit," as well as provide a safe space for comics to grow.

"We are not competitive at all," Melnyk said. "We

all care. We're all friends. We can't afford to be mean. We all have unique voices and bring our voices to the stage."

Kennedy, 44, moved to Lansing from Chicago four years ago in search of an affordable house and a place he could work while pursuing comedy.

"I was shocked there was no comedy club here, given that it's the capital city," he said.

In addition to the open mics, which are free to attend and unpaid for the comics, there are several locations with regular ticketed shows starting to pop up.

Kennedy and Riojas have formed a production company called Cornbread and Beans Ent., which holds shows at Buddies Pub in Okemos, featuring professional headliners.

Several other venues in the area host professional comedy shows and tours, including Grewal Hall and The Green Door.

At any given time, there are an estimated 12 to 30 aspiring comics in the Lansing area, depending on who you ask. Some come and go. Others have been

See Comedy scene, page 14

Comedy scene

from page 13

mainstays for years.

Pat Sievert, 44, was one of the show runners for both Mac's and Crunchy's for many years.

He has since stepped back from the weekly routine of that and now helps run a monthly show at Ozone's in Old Town on the last Thursday of the month alongside Nick Earl, another longtime member of the Lansing scene.

"It was a blessing, and a curse, to go up every week," Sievert said of the weekly obligation to book and run two open mics. But he can't shake his desire to perform and still chases mic time all over the state. He will be the opener for national act Gary Gulman at the Traverse City Comedy Fest later this month.

"If I get to keep experiencing more cool things from comedy," he will be satisfied, he said.

Sievert began his comedy career in 2012 at an event at Lansing's defunct Connxtions Comedy Club.

"It was something I'd wanted to do for a while, so I was looking for open mics to sign up for," he said. "I started trying to get on anything I could."

One of the side benefits of comedy has been making friends in the Lansing scene.

"When someone a few years ahead of me would tell me whether a joke worked or not, that was important early on," he said. "Right now, I'm trying to keep writing things I'm proud of and perform at more places."

An employee at Lansing Community College, Sievert said, "I'll probably always have to have a day job. But I want to keep comedy as part of my life. I think that's fine, for now."



Chris Fredricks of Grand Rapids performs at The Weekly Crunch open mic at Crunchy's Bar on March 9.

Sievert believes the comedy scene in Lansing is growing. "People are always trying to find a place to perform," he said. "And what's good about Lansing is that we're about an hour away from Grand Rapids and Detroit, so we can get stage time and try out jokes in different places."

On a recent Monday, a Haslett resident who goes by the name of Ryan G., 38, was awaiting his turn at the mic at Crunchy's. He works from home, so one of his goals for comedy was to find some socialization. And it's worked, he said, as he's made friends and acquaintances in the year and a half he's been at it.

"It's mostly for fun," he said as he worked on his notes for his set.

How did he get started? "I didn't find Joe Rogan to be very funny," he said. "So, I just wrote a few jokes about it."



Dave Lesnieski performs at the Mac's Monday open mic on March 23.

Burkhart got her start in an MSU comedy class.

She said The Weekly Crunch is a good entry point, though she also travels to other cities when she can, so she can compare them to the Lansing scene.

"It's like shell shock going from here to the Ann Arbor comedy scene," she said. In Lansing, there is much more of a community spirit, she noted, and it's much more informal.

Her cohort Eoff, a recent biochemistry grad, has been dipping his toe into comedy for about a year. While



Rio Riojas of Lansing, one of the show-runners for Mac's Monday, performs on March 23.

he thinks it would be great if something akin to fame and fortune were an eventual outcome, he's hedging his bets and is about to begin an accounting program.

Angelo Flores, 28, of Lansing, took the plunge into comedy for the first time in February at The Weekly Crunch.

"When I told that first joke and I got a laugh, I got addicted," he said. "It's just fun."

A barber by profession, Flores grew

See Comedy scene, page 15



Nicole Melnyk, a showrunner for Mac's Monday, checks the lineup on her phone at the March 23 event.



Comic Morgan Sterling of Grand Rapids prepares to go on stage at Mac's Monday on Feb. 16.

CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1565

On March 17, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 26, Article II, Division 2, Section 26-52, "Prohibited Acts," of the code of the City of East Lansing for purposes of adding subsection 26-52(11) prohibiting persons from using, occupying, or remaining in public parking structures and parking lots for purposes other than the designated purposes of such public facilities, in order to provide for the safe use of such facilities by the public for their intended purposes, and to require advising violators of subsection 26-52(11) prior to issuing violations, and to establish violations of subsection 26-52(11) as a municipal civil infraction with a fine not to exceed \$100.00.

Effective date: Pursuant to Charter Section 6.3, Upon publication
 Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 1st Floor, City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Emily Gordon,
 East Lansing City Clerk

CP#26-125



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE MAY 5, 2026, SPECIAL ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Meridian Township will hold the Special Election on May 5, 2026 for the purpose of voting on the following proposal as listed below:

• INGHAM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND PROPOSAL

The full text of the ballot proposal and sample ballots can be found at www.mi.gov/vote or can be viewed at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the Clerk's Office.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Meridian Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch Office, or other designated state agency. Qualified electors who have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID, may register online at <https://m-vic.sos.state.mi.us/>. Registration forms may be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed or dropped off at the office of the Meridian Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

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

Meridian Township Clerk's Office - 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

- Regular Business Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 2nd and Sunday, May 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, May 5th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. The Meridian Township Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. You may apply online at www.mi.gov/vote or at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

Monday, May 4, 2026, at 4 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, May 5, 2026, are eligible to receive an Absent Voter Ballot at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

EARLY VOTING CENTER

All qualified electors in the Meridian Township Clerk's Office have the option to vote early in person, beginning Friday, May 1st through Sunday, May 3rd, 2026. The Early Voting Center will be held at the Meridian Township Municipal Building – 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864, and is open 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Publish: City Pulse

Angela Demas
 Meridian Township Clerk

CP#26-120

Comedy scene

from page 14

to love comedy specials by watching them with his dad, who died when he was in his teens.

“It was a good way to settle the world up,” he said. After losing his mother last year, he decided he wanted to try standup, but he felt he wasn’t good at writing jokes.

His aunt, who has stepped in as a mother figure, gave him the advice that tipped him over.

“She said, ‘Tell your life.’” And Flores said he has found it therapeutic. He has since tried to find mic time at least once a week, and not just in Lansing. He has traveled to open mics in Grand Rapids and Detroit, finding each one a learning experience.

“But Lansing isn’t just home,” he said. “I love Lansing and the support you get here. Lansing is very inspirational.”

Flores said he usually doesn’t have much prepared before he goes up. But he thinks about what he might talk about throughout the day.

“I tell this story related to my dad,” he said. “I say my dad was an urban retail associate. That’s a fancy way of saying he sold weed.” It gets a laugh, he enthused.

Starla Manchester was on hand to watch the show at Mac’s on a recent Monday. It has become a regular pastime for her, and she was greeted warmly by several comics as she ar-



Jeffrey Scott, a public defender at the Ingham County Circuit Court, performs at Mac’s Monday on Feb. 16.

rived. “They’ve become my friends,” she said. “I like that part of comedy.”

For Noor Hassan-Contreras, of Okemos, watching local comedy has been a longtime interest. It has come with an unexpected benefit, as she and Melnyk have recently become engaged. They met at Crunchy’s. But long before that relationship, she developed warm feelings for the comedy community.

“I was at Crunchy’s the night of the MSU shootings,” she said, referring to the night in February 2023 when a gunman entered two university buildings and killed three students. As a



Mark Kroll performs at The Weekly Crunch on March 9.

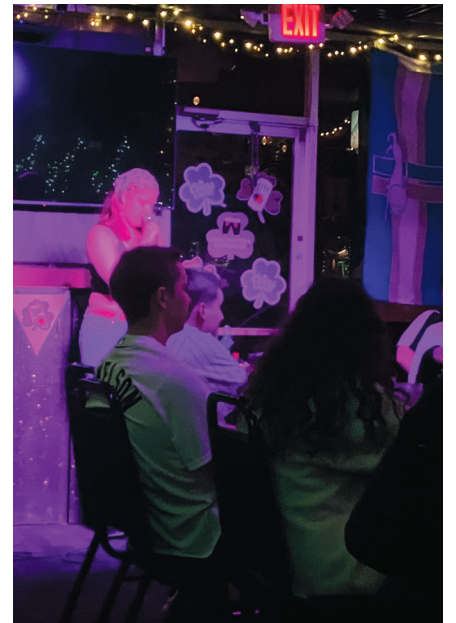
result of the lockdown, she said, she sheltered in place at the comedy venue.

“I was in Crunchy’s kitchen for five hours,” she said, along with the comics scheduled for that night. “The community in that kitchen was strong,” she continued. “I felt like I had people there.”

She praised the comedy scene. “They have a real community here,” she said. “Even on off nights, we clap. It’s a beautiful thing.”

The goals of the comics around town vary.

Some are hoping for a big break eventually, even the chance to move to Chicago or New York, for a taste of the



Emilie Burkhart, a showrunner for The Weekly Crunch, performs on March 9.

larger amateur or even professional pies.

But in Lansing, as Melnyk says, there is enough “pie” for everyone to eat.

“We’ve got such a good scene,” Melnyk said. “You have to be in it for the love of it. Comedy’s not supposed to pay your bills. It’s art.”



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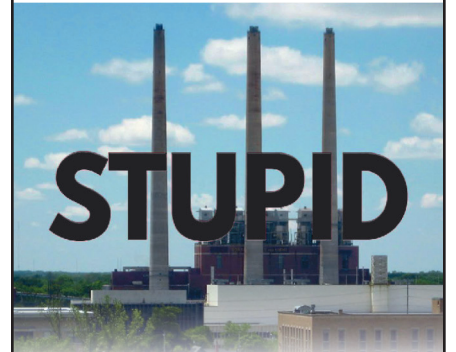
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A proposed downtown Lansing data center has undergone a radical and totally plausible redesign to try and appease Lansing locals.

The latest STUPID - LANSING rendering incorporates smokestacks similar to Wynken, Blynken and Nod as well as googly eyes and teeth like our beloved Big Penny. Is this enough to win over the hearts of Lansing citizens?



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



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Live & Local

CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
No Problemo, Ultra Deluxe, Hemmingway Lane
 Sun., April 5, 6 p.m.

Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
Elements of Soul
 Fri., April 3, 8-11 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Capo the Second
 Fri., April 3, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Chris Muethel
 Sat., April 4, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Chengdu Teahouse

100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
Guzheng at the Teahouse, with Emmy Lu
 Sun., April 5, 3 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Gimme 5
 Fri., April 3, 8 p.m.-midnight
 Sat., April 4, 8 p.m.-midnight

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Aaron Manbeck
 Wed., April 1, 9 p.m.-midnight
Coaster
 Thurs., April 2, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Songwriters' night, with Cody Wilson
 Wed., April 1, 7-9 p.m.
Jimmy Likes Pie
 Wed., April 8, 7-9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Rian Mohre
 Fri., April 3, 6-9 p.m.
Scott Seth
 Sat., April 4, 6-9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
 Wed., April 1, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Wayne Hancock, Cash O'Riley
 Thurs., April 2, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Mike Paski, Jacob Largen, Noah Miller, Brandon Z Smith
 Fri., April 3, doors 6 p.m., show 6:30 p.m.
James Gardin, DJ Y'z
 Fri., April 3, doors 10 p.m., show 10:30 p.m.
Happy Landing, Motherfolk
 Sat., April 4, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Wavelength
 Wed., April 8, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Kait Rose & Co. (Fleetwood Mac Tribute)
 Fri., April 3, 7 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Edye & Mike Hyde
 Thurs., April 2, 5-8 p.m.
DJ Moon Hop
 Fri., April 3, 5-8 p.m.
Lucid Vibe
 Sat., April 4, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
 Sun., April 5, 1-5 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic, with Scott Seth
 Thurs., April 2, 6:30 p.m.
Full House
 Sat., April 4, 8 p.m.

Jackson Field

505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Darin Lerner Band
 Thurs., April 2, 5 p.m.
Capo the Second
 Sat., April 4, noon

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

108 W. Main St., Dewitt
Bill Oeming
 Fri., April 3, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Suburban Ants, Night Starts, LSD Dream Emulator, The Capstone Volunteers
 Fri., April 3, 8 p.m.
Open mic night
 Mon., April 6, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
 Thurs., April 2, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
 Tues., April 7, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Coaster
 Fri., April 3, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Open mic night
 Mon., April 6, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
 Wed., April 1, 8-11 p.m.
The Further Adventures of Fatboy & JiveTurkey
 Thurs., April 2, 9 p.m.-midnight
The Louderthans
 Fri., April 3, 8 p.m.-midnight
Summer of Sol
 Sat., April 4, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
 Tues., April 7, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
 Wed., April 8, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music

Viridis and Campus Choir
 Thurs., April 2, 7:30 p.m.
 Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Mosaic and Singing Spartans
 Tues., April 7, 7:30 p.m.
 Fairchild Theatre

One North East Lansing

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Evan James
 Thurs., April 2, 7-10 p.m.
Crystal Hoffman
 Fri., April 3, 7-10 p.m.
Justin Holcomb
 Sat., April 4, 7-10 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Rush Clement
 Thurs., April 2, 6-9 p.m.
Greg Smith
 Fri., April 3, 7-10 p.m.
Peter Trappen
 Sat., April 4, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
 Mon., April 6, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
JP Peters
 Fri., April 3, 8-10 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Frog & Koop
 Fri., April 3, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
 Sun., April 5, 6-9 p.m.

Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
We're Mike and Steve
 Fri., April 3, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Tune In inclusive music showcase
 Thurs., April 2, 7:30-9 p.m.
James Keelaghan (sold out)
 Fri., April 3, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Ryan Records

210 Abbot Road, Ste. 44, East Lansing
Mia Chinni Trio and jazz jam
 Thurs., April 2, 6:30 p.m.
Boiler Room, Town Scratch FC, The Aubergines, Good Decision
 Fri., April 3, 6:30 p.m.
Soccer, Town Scratch FC, Sordid, Leisure
 Sat., April 4, 6 p.m.

Sholly's Bar

1819 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Frog & Koop
 Tues., April 7, 6-9 p.m.

Side Bar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Rory Nevins
 Fri., April 3, 7-10 p.m.
David Salvador
 Sat., April 4, 7-10 p.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
Roadside Attraction
 Fri., April 3, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Martini & Rossi
 Sat., April 4, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
 Wed., April 1, 6-9 p.m.
Blue Avenue Delegates
 Thurs., April 2, 6 p.m.
Jeff Haas Quintet
 Fri., April 3, 6:30 p.m.
Lava Rock & Gavin McDonnell, 800G & Jeff Boog
 Sat., April 4, 7 p.m.
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
 Wed., April 8, 6-9 p.m. (at MICA, 1210 Turner St.)

The Watershed Tavern

5965 Marsh Road, Haslett
We're Mike and Steve
 Thurs., April 2, 7-11 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Billy Jo Hunt
 Wed., April 1, 7-10 p.m.
Crash Landing
 Sat., April 4, 7-11 p.m.
Kevin Wolff
 Wed., April 8, 7-10 p.m.

ARTS & CULTURE

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Quality quincunx

Lansing Symphony names five candidates for next music director

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra took a big step toward filling the shoes of departing maestro Timothy Muffitt today (April 1) by naming five finalists for the position of music director.

Muffitt will conduct his final concert May 15. Each candidate will conduct one MasterWorks concert in the 2026-'27 season, as part of a week of rehearsals and meetings with musicians, staff, board members and community groups. The orchestra plans to announce the new music director in summer 2027.

The announcement marks the start of a transition rarer than the transit of Mercury. Four presidents, three Lansing mayors, three Popes and three "Jeopardy!" hosts (including that guy who lasted only a week) have ruled their respective roosts since Muffitt took the reins in Lansing in 2006.

Beginning in March 2025, a 10-member volunteer selection committee spent hundreds of hours reviewing materials and video submissions from 140 applicants worldwide, according to LSO executive director Courtney Millbrook. The committee comprised five LSO musicians, two community members, two board members and former board President Darcy Kerr, who served as chair.

Artistic vision and musical ability came first and foremost, Millbrook said, but the committee also looked at candidates' skill at interacting with their communities, the musicians, staff, orchestra boards and donors.

"A huge part of our artistic vision is to continue to program and share the classical works," Millbrook said. "But also, over the past several years here, we've had a real commitment to new music and emerging composers, and that was very important to the committee."

The committee also looked at ways each candidate reached into the community, "asking for specific examples of how they took the orchestra out of the hall or worked with communities that aren't obvious for collaboration,"



Scott Seaton



Yue Bao



Joshua Gersen

Millbrook said.

Although all five candidates are in their 40s or younger, it would overheat China's Inner Mongolia data centers to list all their awards and achievements, but the quintessence of this quality quincunx is musical excellence and a passion for communication.

"At this point, when it comes down to the last five, they're all amazing artists," Millbrook said. "Yet they're all so different from each other."

Scott Seaton (guest conducting Oct. 2) is in his 11th season as music director of the North State Symphony in Northern California and his fourth season as artistic director of the Signature Symphony in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

On the podium, Seaton is athletic and graceful, a frictionless superconductor of musical energy. Off the podium, he's a marathon runner and virtuoso saxophone player.

Seaton made his international debut in 2007 with the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg. He's toured all over the world, but he seems to favor the American Midwest, appearing with the Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Detroit symphony orchestras. He's also a champion of new music. In 2014, he came to Michigan to guest conduct the Jackson Symphony in a program called "A Tale of Two Cold Places," combining the music of Ann Arbor composer Evan Chambers and Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Shanghai-born Yue Bao (guest con-



Shizuo Kuwahara

ducting Oct. 16) has worked with many of the heaviest maestros in the symphonic world, including Michael Tilson Thomas, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Marin Alsop and Itzhak Perlman. She started out as a pianist and later studied conducting at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. She made her Chicago Symphony debut at the 2021 Ravinia festival and debuted with the Houston Symphony, where she's currently assistant conductor, on the opening night of the 2020-'21 season.

On and off the podium, Bao exudes musical joy and a brightness of spirit. Her conducting style melds clear and precise timekeeping with a bone-deep feeling for the flow of the music. She has conducted several operas and is also an accomplished pianist. In spring 2022, she led the Detroit Symphony in four concerts that combined music



James Blachly

by Mozart and Haydn with works by Black composers William Grant Still and Joseph Bologne.

Joshua Gersen (guest conducting Nov. 20) is the former assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic. His podium style is intense and muscular, with a deep-seated pulse that reverberates in his arms, shoulders and torso.

He pulled off a dramatic performance with the orchestra in 2017, when he filled in for maestro Semyon Bychkov on a few hours' notice. The New York Times took note of his big moment: "Impassioned and incisive, the performance earned a standing ovation and prolonged applause from his colleagues in the orchestra."

Shizuo Kuwahara (guest conducting

See Music director, Page 18

'Thank You for Being a Friend'

Saugatuck author's new novel is a love letter to a beloved 1980s sitcom

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

USA Today best-selling author Wade Rouse's latest novel, "That's What Friends Are For" (MIRA, \$28.99), is the first he's published under his own name instead of his pseudonym, Viola Shipman.

"After 20 books — including five memoirs under my own name and 15 novels as Viola Shipman, the pen name I use to honor my working-poor Ozarks grandmother whose sacrifices changed my life and inspire my fiction — this is the first novel under my own name, and the wait was worth it. I've never been prouder of a book in my life!" said Rouse, 61, who lives in Saugatuck with his husband, Gary.

"Friends" is a story Rouse has been

wanting to write for years. He pitched the idea about two years ago, after signing a contract with his publisher for three new Viola Shipman novels.

"When I sent proposals to my editor and agent, I ended up tacking the proposal for 'Friends' onto the end. The timing just seemed right, in the country and in my soul, to write it," he explained. "I was nervous. My editor got back to me immediately and said, 'You've written so many beautiful stories that honor your grandmother and family; this is a story that honors yourself and your history. You have to write this book!' And we decided it should be published under my own name to really crystallize the importance."

"Friends" follows Teddy Copeland,

who shares a home in Palm Springs, California, with three friends: Barry, a former actor still clinging to his youth; Ron, an uprooted Christian from the Midwest; and Sid, who, after coming out late in life, has never found love. Teddy is the caustic, de facto leader of "The Golden Gays," the foursome's monthly drag tribute to the TV show "The Golden Girls." Despite their foibles and bickering, they've turned their golden years into a golden era.

But their happiness becomes a carousel of emotional baggage when Teddy's estranged sister, Trudy, shows up with her teenage granddaughter. While Teddy tries to keep Trudy at arm's length, she manages to wheedle her way into the lives of the four men, until the real reason behind her visit

See New novel, Page 19



Photo by Ivan Hurdic Photography

Keep up with Rouse at waderouse.com.

Music director

from page 17

Jan. 29, 2027) got a big career boost when he took first prize at the Georg Solti International Conductors' Competition in Frankfurt, Germany. Born in Tokyo, Kuwahara got his conducting degrees at Rochester and Yale. After scoring big with Verdi and Puccini operas at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, he was named principal guest conductor there.

Kuwahara's love of opera shows when he's on the podium, as he channels every second of music with expressive, vigorous, mercurial engagement. His facial expressions alone provide a gripping parallel drama to the sounds coming from the stage.

James Blachly (guest conducting March 20) is music director of the New York City-based Experiential Orchestra and the Johnstown Symphony in Pennsylvania.

Blachly is a strong advocate for contemporary music. His 2020 recording of Ethel Smyth's "The Prison" won a Grammy and breathed passionate life into a dark and serious choral work from the mid-20th century.

Blachly has commissioned and premiered more than 40 works by living composers, including Jessie Montgomery, Courtney Bryan and Viet Cuong. His Experiential Orchestra lives up to the name, with immersive performances in non-conventional venues like parks and churches.

All the candidates have local ties. Kuwahara spent part of his youth in Michigan. Seaton's family lived in several Michigan towns when he was a boy. Most of the five have guest conducted with the Detroit Symphony or another Michigan orchestra, and two have worked with retiring LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt. Kuwahara has named Muffitt among his mentors (along with heavy hitters like Leonard Slatkin and David Zinman), and Bao was one of Muffitt's conducting fellows at the Chautauqua Music Festival in New York state.

The LSO's old guard is taking pains to keep its fingerprints off of what amounts to a generational handoff. Millbrook did not serve on the committee, but she kept the process moving over a full year of intense research and deliberations, compiling scores and metrics from each member and helping the committee rank the candidates.

Muffitt was not directly involved in the selection process, but he will stay on for the 2026-'27 season as artistic advisor and help program the chamber series and the LSO at the Robin series.

Muffitt also helped Millbrook draw up guidelines for the five candidates' audition concerts. (The full programs will be announced shortly after Muffitt's May 15 swan song.) To ensure a level playing field, all five candidates must use the same size orchestra, program music by a new or emerging composer and avoid works the LSO has played in the past few years.

Each candidate will spend a busy week in Lansing, meeting with musicians, staff and community groups, touring music venues and getting to know the area.

The board will make the final choice after gathering input from the selection committee, the musicians, audience members and other interested parties.

Millbrook was pleased, but not surprised, at the caliber of candidates the committee reviewed and nominated.

"Every one of the candidates we interviewed had such a deep respect for each other and for the orchestra," Millbrook said. "They really want to be here and be a part of this."

Under Muffitt, the orchestra's international reputation has risen to the point where it has attracted some of the world's top musicians to be guest soloists, from pianists Benjamin Grosvenor and Christopher O'Riley to violinist Ray Chen, harpist Yolanda Kondonassis and Broadway star Audra McDonald.

"He's put the orchestra in an amazing position," Millbrook said. "People see his legacy and say, 'Wow, this is a great orchestra to be at, that musical directors can stay this long and grow the orchestra so much.'"

In a world where everyone, from high-profile arts leaders to the person serving your cappuccino, changes jobs like dirty socks, is it reasonable to hope for another long and stable run on the LSO podium?

"Will we get 20 years, like we did

with Tim, or 26, like we did with Gustav Meier? Probably not," Millbrook said. "But this isn't a process we want to go through every two or three years. Many music directors have more than one gig. I think we can make it work for the right person."

The process has now gone as far as it can go on the basis of research, applications and interviews. What's left is the "X factor" of personal interaction, audition and performance that no spreadsheet or audition video can predict.

Several LSO musicians who were around 20 years ago have testified that in spite of the high credentials of all five candidates who took their turn in the transitional 2005-'06 season, the game was all but over as soon as Muffitt took the podium to crush Sergei Prokofiev's epic Fifth Symphony. Muffitt's musical acumen, rapport with the musicians and ease with the Lansing community quickly became evident, almost turning the rest of the season into a formality. Whether the choice will be as clear this time around, or whether the committee will suffer migraines sifting through their quincunx of quality candidates, only time will tell.

"There's something special when a conductor and an orchestra and a community click, and it's either there or it isn't," Millbrook said. "On paper, we could be happy with any one of these candidates, but we'll see how it plays out."

New novel

from page 18

is revealed and the secrets they've all been keeping from each other begin to unravel.

Rouse said "Friends" is a love letter to friendship, "The Golden Girls" and Palm Springs, where he and Gary spend winters.

"I set the novel there because I wanted to celebrate Palm Springs and its history, diversity and beauty," Rouse said. "For those who don't know, Palm Springs is in the desert amid the majestic San Jacinto Mountains and is renowned for its mid-century architecture, palm trees, warm weather and Rat Pack vibe. It's where Frank Sinatra and all the Hollywood stars of yore used to live and vacation, and gays have flocked there for decades. It's hip, cool, gorgeous and filled with people who have endured hate and rejection across the United States and have relocated there to find a community and their people."

He continued, "Palm Springs is sunny 360 days a year, and I love the juxtaposition of that relentless sunshine and optimism against the dark secrets these men are hiding from one another. So many people are drawn to Palm Springs for a reason — not just the sunshine or the mountains, but the ability to be their authentic selves and to find a family of friends, which is what the novel is all about."

When "The Golden Girls" debuted in 1985, Rouse bonded with his mother and grandmother by watching the show long-distance. At the time, he was attending Drury University in Springfield, Missouri.

"That show was not meant for a 19-year-old frat boy," he said. "I mean, four old women living together in a pink house in Florida? C'mon!"

However, though he lived the stereotypical '80s frat boy lifestyle, Rouse was harboring a big secret about his

sexuality.

"And I hated myself for that," he said. "So much so that I adopted a new persona in college that made me the life of the party. I buried my secret, much like I had buried my older brother, Todd, who had died a few years earlier in a tragic accident.

"I believed God had made a mistake and should have taken my life," he continued. "I believed my brother, a true country boy, would have given my parents what I believed they wanted: A family, a daughter-in-law, grandchildren. I believed the rest of my life should be dedicated to not creating another moment of pain for my parents. So, I lived a lie to make others happy. And I died a little every single day until I nearly ended my life."

On Sundays, Rouse would speak to his mother and grandmother via the payphone at the end of the hallway in his fraternity house. He learned they were watching "The Golden Girls."

"So, on Saturday evenings before the fraternity parties started, I'd stretch that cord of the rotary phone until it snaked into my room and watch the show with the two women I loved most in the world, our laughter crossing the miles. That show also, I didn't realize at the time, bridged a cavernous divide between generations," he said. It allowed him to see his mother and grandmother in a new light. And it eventually allowed them to understand and accept him because it tackled topics, like coming out, that were rarely broached on network TV.

"What could four old women say that would resonate with a 19-year-old boy struggling to find his place in the world? Plenty, it turns out. Because we

were the same in so many ways. Ostracized and overlooked. Diminished by society. Our voices and worth dismissed. Unlovable due to age, shame, sexuality," he said. "And yet, somehow, we found our friends and community,

we bonded together, and our individual strengths made each other stronger. Old women and the gay community, it turned out, were exactly the same."

He noted that "The Golden Girls" addressed many major issues during its seven-year run — aging, family dynamics, friendships, LGBTQ+ issues, coming out, women over 60 having sex, the search for meaning after marriage and children, mortality, fidelity, racism, depression, the HIV/AIDS crisis — and it did it all with humor.

"It's what I've done my entire existence in life and writing: lessen the pain with laughter. Break down walls with humor," Rouse said. "The Golden Girls' is still considered one of the most progressive shows ever to air on television, even some 40 years later, and it enjoyed an epic rebound during COVID, when so many younger people discovered the show as a way to understand what their isolated elders were going through. They watched it together, as I did some 40 years earlier with my mom and grandma."

Of the characters in "Friends," Rouse is most like Teddy, who, in turn, is like "Golden Girl" Dorothy. Like Dorothy and Teddy, Rouse has used humor both to make friends and to keep people at a safe distance.

"I can give someone a wicked side eye," Rouse said. "Humor can unite, and yet it can also protect you from getting hurt, which it did for me grow-

ing up gay in the Missouri Ozarks. Dorothy, Teddy and I have that in common, and yet our wit, sarcasm, and good-natured needling are also our deeply personal ways to show love."

"The Today Show" recently named "Friends" to its must-read list, which gobsnocked Rouse.

"To see it featured on 'Today' felt incredible, not only because they called it 'laugh-out-loud hilarious,' but also because they said, 'This book made me call all of my best friends and tell them I loved them!' I feel this book is special and deserves a wide audience, especially at this moment in our history," he said.

For Rouse, "Friends" is a deeply personal story, filled with the beauty and struggles of his own life, his friends and the gay community. He felt a great sense of responsibility in writing these men's stories.

"It's the perfect balance of the laugh-out-loud humor of my memoirs and the heart-wrenching poignancy of my fiction. 'Friends' is about four gay men over 60. It's ferocious and funny, hopeful and heart-wrenching, a story about what so many of us have endured in this life to find friendship, love and respect. I feel as if this is not only the book I was meant to write but also the right moment for this story of friendship, family, faith, aging and acceptance.

"This novel is a huge departure for me in my career, and I wrote this story because it called to my soul, and I knew that I needed to follow my heart," he continued. "I've learned that sometimes the greatest moments in our lives happen when we are most terrified, and that if we can just corral that fear and walk through the fire to emerge on the other side — heart racing, a bit scorched — what we dreamed of and fought so hard to achieve has the chance to change the world. I believe this novel does."



CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an amendment to Chapter 404 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances Section 404.03 to allow payment of a reduced rate for an expired meter violation until midnight of the day of issuance.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, April 6, 2026 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#26-116

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an amendment to Chapter 404 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances Section 404.01(e) to modify Uniform Traffic Code parking regulation Rule 141 to provide that the operating hours of time and location regulated parking in the Lansing Municipal Parking System shall be between 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, April 6, 2026 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#26-115

Williamston's 'Bad Books' gives nuance to polarizing politics

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

As artistic director and co-founder of Williamston Theatre, Tony Caselli knows how it feels when material is met by backlash from the community. When Williamston put on an updated version of "Dial M for Murder" in February, people accused the theater of "playing politics" and changing the story to "make a statement" just because it featured a relationship between two women.

"We didn't make those changes," Caselli explained. "That wasn't a casting choice; that was in the script we produced. Even if we had control over it, we don't agree with the idea that we shouldn't present something because you don't agree with its existence. You're not the only one in the world."

After that controversy, it's fitting that Williamston's next production is "Bad Books," a new show by playwright and screenwriter Sharyn Rothstein, whose credits include "Suits" and "Orphan Black." The production is part of the National New Play Network's Rolling World Premiere, a theatrical program that gives playwrights the opportunity to workshop and debut new works in three or four different markets.

"Bad Books" centers on a confrontation between a school librarian and a concerned parent. What starts as a civil discussion regarding a book the mother doesn't want her child to read quickly escalates into a situation that affects the whole community. It's a situation many real-life libraries have faced in recent years. More and more parents have been leading campaigns to ban books that have themes they believe are "inappropriate" for younger readers, including racism, gender identity, LGBTQ+ issues and sexual content.

The cast consists of only two players: Molly Garner as the mother, and Alysia Kolasz as the librarian, the mother's boss and a book editor.

"It's one of those plays that is just biting funny and so spot-on with what's going on in the world today," Caselli said. "Like what happens so often in this country right now, nobody is listening to hear the other person. Nobody is listening to understand. Everyone is listening to interrupt."

He praised the unique way the play covers such a divisive issue. De-



Courtesy photos

The cast of "Bad Books" consists of only two players: Molly Garner (left) as the mother, and Alysia Kolasz as the librarian, the mother's boss and a book editor.

spite the fallout that results from the characters' actions, neither side is completely vilified. Instead, both characters are permitted to express themselves in a way that allows the audience to sympathize with them, even if they don't necessarily agree with the characters' opinions.

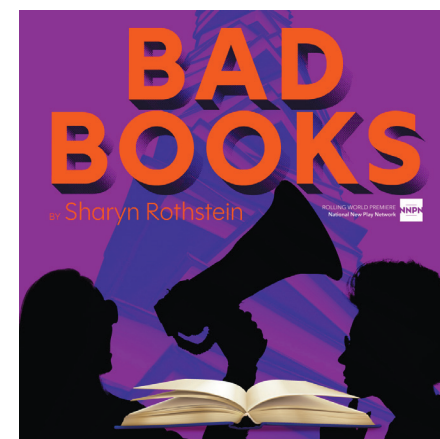
"One of the things I think Sharyn did really well is tap into all aspects of this discussion," Caselli said. "It's very much balanced in all areas of the conversation. You come away caring about everybody in this show. That's partly why it's so great: the idea that if we stop and talk with one another, I think we'll find that we have more in common than the polarized state of our nation now would let us believe."

Through the Rolling World Premiere, the show has been staged at three other venues in the past year: Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland; Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota, Florida; and Curious Theatre in Denver. Williamston will be its final stop.

"After that, I'm sure it'll be picked up," Caselli said. "It's already gaining a lot of attention because it's a really great script. I think what Sharyn has done is created a very beautiful, funny piece that's going to last for a while."

The play's nuanced characterizations and insightful dialogue may not be enough to keep it out of the line of fire from certain audiences. However, Caselli thinks most viewers will have

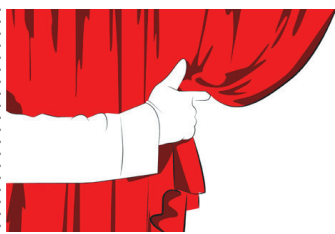
open minds and use what they learn to hold more productive discussions about literature and social issues in



the future.

"The play isn't about politics; it's about people," he said. "I hope people leave having been moved, having laughed their butts off, but also wanting to talk with people and realizing the importance of communication, putting yourself in other people's shoes. As long as we remember to listen to each other, we can make the world a better place."

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



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April and early May theater productions:

"Clue"

Tuesday, April 7-April 12
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday
1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

"1984"

April 10-12 and 17-18
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Dart Auditorium
500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

"Kindness"

April 10-12 and 17-19
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday
3 p.m. Sunday
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
facebook.com/IxionEnsemble

"Jane Austen's Persuasion"

April 14-19
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

"A Jukebox for The Algonquin"

April 17-19 and 24-26
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts
122 E. Main St., Owosso
lebowskycenter.com

"Grumpy Old Men: The Musical"

April 18-19 and 24-26
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Waverly East Intermediate School
3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
facebook.com/StarlightDinnerTheatre

"Bad Books"

April 23-May 31
Opening weekend showtimes:
7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Rest of run showtimes:
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

"Dandelion"

April 23-26
7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Studio 60 Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

"The Little Mermaid Jr."

April 24-26
7 p.m. Friday
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Fowlerville High School
700 N. Grand St., Fowlerville
fowlervilletheatre.com

"Little Women"

April 24-26 and May 1-3
7 p.m. Friday
3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing
alofusexpress.org

Renegade Theatre Festival returns with new name, focus

By NICOLE NOECHEL

For many local theatergoers and performers, the annual Renegade Theatre Festival, which ran mostly annually from 2005 to 2022, was a highlight of the year.

“There were a lot of things that I was able to try out and test through Renegade that I probably wouldn’t have been able to on my own, or at least not at the rate that I wanted to,” said local actress Sally Hecksel, who added that the festival was her “gateway into community theater” after graduating from Lansing Community College’s studio program.

The festival, run in the past by Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. founder/artistic director Chad Swan-Badgero and LCC arts outreach and academic coordinator Melissa Kaplan, came to a close due to a few factors, according to local actor, director and Peppermint Creek board Chair Ben Cassidy.

“One was making sure we could find venues that were appropriate for what we were trying to do. I know a lot of our history has been with Old Town, and it’s really exciting to see Old Town is now compared to when we were there, at the height of Renegade. It’s really thriving over there, which is fantastic. However, it made it a little bit more difficult for us to do the kind of work that we’ve historically done with Renegade,”

he said. “Eventually, things started spreading out to different neighborhoods. There would be a couple of shows in Old Town, there would be a show downtown, and there would be a show in REO Town. And I think that wasn’t what festivalgoers really want. They want something more walkable, more contained.”

That’s something Cassidy, Hecksel, Swan-Badgero and Kaplan, along with local theater veteran Shannon Bowen, are hoping to address with a new iteration of the festival this fall.

The newly named Renegade Fringe Festival, running Aug. 7 and 8 at “a variety of venues and non-traditional performance spaces” in REO Town, aims to draw a larger and more diverse crowd with a fo-



Courtesy

From left: Renegade Theatre Festival organizers Chad Swan-Badgero and Melissa Kaplan, alongside Icarus Falling and Ixion Theatre Ensemble founder/artistic director Jeff Croff, applaud after the first Renegade Ruckus, a 24-hour playwriting and performing extravaganza, in 2022.

cus on cross-disciplinary performing arts, as opposed to strictly theater.

Cassidy said the updates stemmed from “recognizing both what we lost when Renegade went away and what’s changed in the community since then.”

“There are so many artists here now, and a real desire for spaces that are flexible and accessible,” he said. “It feels less like just bringing something back, but finding a way to kind of reimagine it in a way that fits what Lansing means right now. I think a lot of us have felt the absence since Renegade ended, and at the same time, there’s this new wave of artists who’ve never gotten to experience it.”

Organizers hope to attract a variety of acts, such as improv comedy, cabaret, storytelling, music, live painting, fiber arts, dance, poetry, theater — “any kind of performing art is what we want to see there,” Hecksel said.

The name “Fringe” comes from the festival’s focus on bold, original and unconventional work. Performers are encouraged to experiment, take risks and workshop ideas. Those interested in performing, from theater companies to independent artists of all experience levels, are encouraged to apply on the event website.

Hecksel noted that volunteers are also in high demand.

“It’s not super hands-on. It would be things like watching spaces, helping set up or tear down chairs,” she



Courtesy

Local actress/ventriloquist Kellie Stonebrook performs puppetry for youth at the 2011 Renegade Theatre Festival.

said. “Part of the reason why Renegade struggled in the past is that the entire festival was being run by, like, 85 people. That’s just not sustainable. So, if the idea of a performing

I think this festival is a great way to help make that visible. And I’m really hoping that people will show up and support in any way possible.”

arts festival is important to people, or if Renegade is something that they want to see in their community, we need volunteers to help us.”

Cassidy sees the festival’s return as an opportunity to show the community why the arts matter.

“I think this first year coming back in particular feels really important,” Cassidy said. “So, I’m really encouraging people to get involved, whether that means just patronizing the festival, but also volunteering to help, as well as spreading the word and submitting to perform at the festival. To really demonstrate how vital the arts are in Lansing,

Renegade Fringe Festival

Aug. 7-8
REO Town, Lansing
renegadefringe.org

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

March 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie, Trustee M. Hoppes and 8 citizens

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved continuing participation in Clinton County Early Voting.
- 2) Approved bills for March, 2026.
- 3) Approved agreement with Planning Commission recommendation on Land Division Act.
- 4) Approved sending Eagle Township Land Division Ordinance to attorney for review.
- 5) Approved maintenance to waterproof the west side of township hall.
- 6) Approved Clinton County Road Commission contracts for 2026.
- 7) Approved attorney to review assessor agreements.
- 8) Approved assessor job posting.
- 9) Adopted Resolution 03-17-2026-01 Opposing State Preemption of Local Zoning.
- 10) Approved clerk to sign letter of engagement for audit of FY 25-26.
- 11) Approved 3 year lawn maintenance agreement for Niles Cemetery.
- 12) Approved budget amendments for FY 25-26 budget.
- 13) Approved contribution to Tri-County Metro Narcotics Unit.
- 14) Approved lawyer to review 2026 Grand Ledge Master Plan draft.
- 15) Approved zoning administrator provide response to 2026 Grand Ledge Master Plan draft.

Budget Workshop Synopsis

March 17, 2026, at 8:40 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie, Trustee M. Hoppes and 4 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved increase to hourly maintenance wage.
- 2) Approved update to deputies’ salary.
- 3) Approved chipseal of Eden Trail subdivision.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is April 21, 2026, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

Interlude of quietude

Matthew Beck plays marimba whisperer at LSO concert

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

A lean, sinewy ensemble of some 60 musicians closed ranks to infuse Friday's (March 27) Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert with a chamber-music level of intimacy.

The LSO has proved over and over that it can blow you away. (Of course, it did it again Friday, but you had to wait for it.) This time, the musicians seemed mainly intent on demonstrating how softly they could play, how much tenderness and reverence they could conjure within the evanescent bubble of live performance.

The evening's chief husher was an unlikely figure, principal percussionist Matthew Beck.

Beck seemed to relish his liberation from the noisy engine room of the ship, with its drums, bells, clackers and gongs, savoring his time on the airy up-

per deck, nearer to the angels.

Dancing through a lyrical marimba concerto by composer Kevin Puts, Beck wielded his four mallets with so much delicacy and restraint that he almost dared the audience to sit back or breathe too deeply.

The strings wafted a warm, luminous melody, and Beck sent low marimba vibrations outward in response.

The tune was unabashedly schmaltzy — it would not have been out of place in a movie about the return of a Labrador retriever who wandered 1,000 miles from home — but Beck's intricate counterpoint gave it rippled, moody substance.

Usually, the star player in a concerto is a piano, a violin, a trumpet or some other high-end voice that drives the drama and mood. Beck's marimba, by virtue of its hollow, low-end resonance, functioned more like a subsonic substrate,

suddenly revealed to human perception through the chest as much as the ear.

The strings and woodwinds flowed above Beck like a sunlit stream, with the marimba's pebbly pulsations glinting beneath. In a lovingly sculpted solo cadenza at the end of the first movement, Beck rose to the surface and danced like a water strider, bringing the hall to a complete hush.

By now, the orchestra was drawn fully into the marimba mood, trading downy, dark legato caresses with Beck's gently drumming love taps.

When the idyll was spent, Beck summoned up an impressive volley of virtuoso runs, backed by stern chords in the brass, as if that beleaguered black Lab were making a last desperate run to the old back porch. Did he make it? The return of the schmaltzy melody from the beginning, followed by a pro forma bit of orchestral rejoicing, left no doubt.

The stage was already set for this interlude of quietude by an even quieter curtain raiser, Finnish composer Jean Sibelius' "Valse Triste." Among the countless things to thank Timothy Muffitt for after nearly 20 years as maestro is his willingness to jettison the table-pounding overtures of bygone days and draw the audience thoughtfully out of their everyday lives, into the world of music. The orchestra let the waltz's sorrow and nostalgia sift down like snowflakes on a bleak and stony landscape, laying the groundwork for the intimate marimba echoes to follow.

Now, about that late-inning outburst.

There were, no doubt, many people in the audience who were thinking to themselves, "Do I really need to hear Beethoven's Seventh Symphony again?"

I don't read minds, but I'd bet a Sir Pizza Royal Feast that's just the kind of challenge that turns mild-mannered maestro Muffitt into the Terminator.

And he terminated the concert, all right, with a Seventh that gathered up every "energy saver" credit earned from all that quiet music that came before and blew it all in one place.

Even the famous second-movement march, often played in a lugubrious, funeral mode, seemed to hurtle along with a purpose, as if to cheat time and escape whatever sorrowful event the music appears to mourn.

Muffitt would probably tell you he



Photo by Olivia Beebe

LSO principal percussionist Matthew Beck, on marimba, and maestro Timothy Muffitt.

was just following Beethoven's markings (allegretto), but there was some special sauce in there. The briskness and brio of the first three movements were surprising, but it was really a shocker when all forces went into full overdrive in the finale.

Some things are best experienced live. Food and sex come to mind. The sheer, bone-shaking joy of a Beethoven barn-burner is right up there.

As he cued the various sections and assembled the instant architecture of the music before your eyes, Muffitt's body seemed to teleport through time, like a film with frames missing. One split second, he was throwing a Molotov cocktail at the horns; the next, he was skewering the violins with his baton. How anyone could move so fast, and so much, while standing in the exact same spot is beyond me.

A strangely thinnish turnout on Friday could be chalked up to any number of things: the distractions of March Madness, the relative brevity of the program, the use of an in-house soloist or persistent late-winter blahs.

But those who attended were privy to a thoughtfully planned and well-played program. Maybe quietude doesn't sell tickets, and people need a more momentous occasion to get their butts off the couch. Well, like it or not, they'll get it at the season finale May 15, Muffitt's final concert as music director.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING NOTICE OF POSTED MEETING MINUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all meeting minutes for the Charter Township of Lansing are posted to and available on the Township's website at www.lansingtwpmi.gov. Meeting minutes may also be obtained by emailing clerk@lansingtwpmi.gov.

Meeting minutes are also posted in, and available for inspection at, the office of the Township Clerk (located at 3209 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan) during normal business hours.

Cortney Lighthouse, Clerk
Maggie Sanders, Supervisor

CP#25-289



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY LEGAL AD NOTICE: WETLAND USE PERMIT #26-01 INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER HOSKINS DRAIN PROJECT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE

Wetland Use Permit #26-01 – Ingham County Drain Commissioner Public Comment

Notice is hereby given that the Director of Community Planning and Development for the Charter Township of Meridian will receive public comment until Monday, April 6, 2026, at 2:00PM p.m. to hear all persons interested in a wetland use permit request. The Ingham County Drain Commissioner's office has requested a wetland use permit for a series of fills in regulated wetlands to improve the functioning of the Hoskins Drain.

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent to Director of Community Planning and Development Timothy Schmitt, AICP, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to schmitt@meridian.mi.us.

Angela Demas, Township Clerk
April 1, 2026

CP#26-119

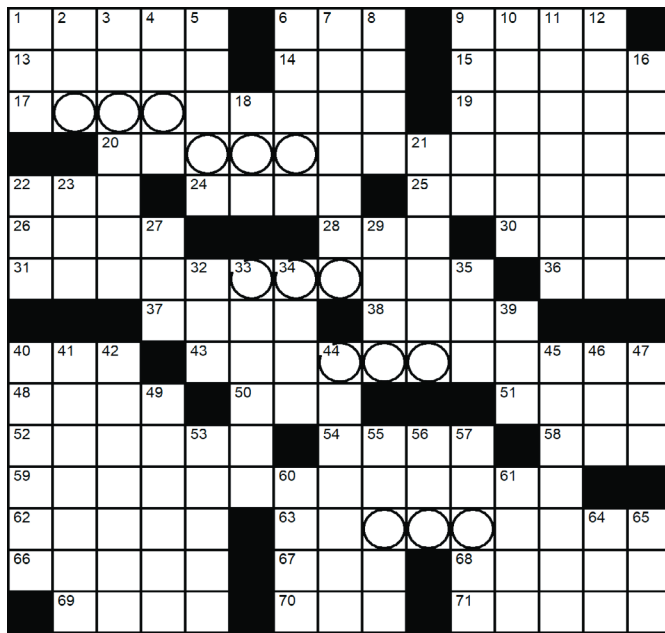
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Take a Chance” -- you might get it right.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. More genuine
- 6. Mount St. Helens output in 1980
- 9. Former L.A. Dodger Chin-Hui ___ (first MLB pitcher from Taiwan)
- 13. Moisten, as a roast turkey
- 14. ___ 180 (turn around)
- 15. Lisa on the 2026 season of “The Traitors”
- 17. Online tracker of U.S. economic stats
- 19. “Citizen Kane” actress Moorehead
- 20. Portrayer of Lydia Tár
- 22. To opposite
- 24. Prefix with “gram” or “logical”
- 25. Bilingual world capital
- 26. Costumed IRL fantasy game
- 28. Pocketlike structure
- 30. Drudgery
- 31. With certainty
- 36. 157.5 degrees from N
- 37. Spot in the water
- 38. Invisible glow
- 40. ___-relief
- 43. “That’s ludicrous”
- 48. “The Simpsons” German exchange student (he’s Swiss in the German dubbed version)
- 50. Bob Hope tour gp.
- 51. Lotto prefix before “Millions”
- 52. Bring a library book back
- 54. Spice Girl married to David Beckham
- 58. Brewpub unit



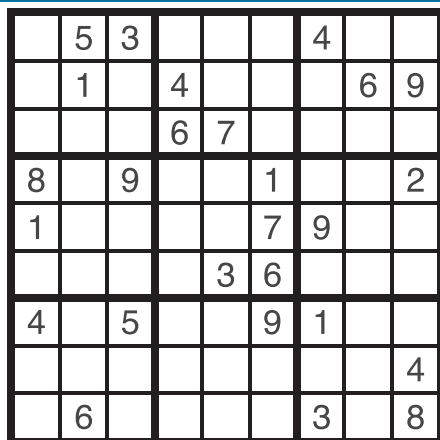
- 59. “Anything could happen!” (or what’s happening with the circled letters)
 - 62. Salon specialty
 - 63. Root beer option (before it got rebranded as “Zero Sugar”)
 - 66. Confused
 - 67. Confusion
 - 68. What colors may do in hot water
 - 69. Crafty marketplace
 - 70. Jennifer Lien’s Ocampo character on “Star Trek: Voyager”
 - 71. Snow day rides
- DOWN**
- 1. “Not sure yet,” on a sched.
 - 2. Songwriter Corinne Bailey ___
 - 3. Item from a wall socket to a phone charger, familiarly
 - 4. ___ Candy (ally of Wonder Woman)
 - 5. Lead-in to “linear”
 - 6. Acrobat software company
 - 7. “Not quite!”
 - 8. Dance for New Zealand’s All Blacks team
 - 9. Parcel of land
 - 10. Vacation highlights
 - 11. Toughens, as metal
 - 12. Boxing combos
 - 16. “All the world’s ___”
 - 18. Headed up
 - 21. “Beats me”
 - 22. Winter melody
 - 23. Published, as an article
 - 27. Mashed luau staple
 - 29. Just ___ (minimal amount)
 - 32. \$, in exchange rate tables
 - 33. Humorist Roy ___ Jr. (the writer, not the standup)
 - 34. Big turnout for a birthday party
 - 35. Soph., jr., and sr.
 - 39. Spearfishing asset
 - 40. “Carmina ___” (Carl Orff composition)
 - 41. Dined at 9, perhaps
 - 42. Songs to be played at a concert
 - 44. Chief assistant to a politician, informally
 - 45. Released
 - 46. Airport near the U.S. Open site
 - 47. Bark
 - 49. Moscow money
 - 53. Utter again
 - 55. Snacks whose anniversary number is more than twice its calorie number
 - 56. Collector’s goal
 - 57. “Fast & Furious” pair ___ & Shaw
 - 60. Badlands National Park st.
 - 61. It arrives with an equinox
 - 64. Proof-ending letters
 - 65. ‘60s activist gp.

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Answers on page 25

SUDOKU

Intermediate



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

April 1-7, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Now is an excellent time to decide your favorite color is amaranth (a vivid red-violet), or sinopia (earthy red-orange), or viridian (cool blue-green, darker than jade). You might also conclude that your favorite aroma is agarwood (deep, smoky, resin-soaked wood), or heliotrope (cherry-almond vanilla), or petrichor (wet soil after a rain). I’m trying to tell you, Aries, that you’re primed to deeply enhance your detailed delight in smells, colors, tastes, feelings, physical sensations, types of wind, tones of voice, qualities of light—and everything else. Indulge in sensory and sensual pleasures!

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): My Taurus friend Elena keeps a “gratitude garden” in her backyard. When she feels grateful for a specific joy in her life, she writes it on biodegradable paper and buries it among her flowers, herbs, and vegetables. “I feed the earth with appreciation,” she says. “Returning the gift.” She feels this practice ensures that her garden and her life flourish. Her devoted attention to recognizing blessings attracts even more blessings. Her cultivated appreciation for beauty and abundance leads her to discover more beauty and abundance. Elena’s approach is pure Taurean genius. I invite you to create your own rituals for expressing your thankful love. Not just paying dutiful homage in your thoughts, but giving your appreciation weight, texture, and presence in the actual world.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Many of us periodically slip into the daydream that everything would finally feel right if only our lives were somehow different. If we’re single, maybe we imagine we ought to be partnered; if we’re partnered, we wish our beloved would change, or we secretly wonder about someone else entirely. That’s the snag. The blessing is this: In the days ahead, you’re likely to discover a surprising ease with your life exactly as it is, and feel a genuine, grounded peace. Congratulations in advance!

CANCER (June 21–July 22): A cautious voice in your head murmurs: “Proceed carefully. Don’t be overly impressed with your own beauty. Stick with dependable methods. Live up to expectations and avoid explorations into the unknown.” Your bold genius interrupts: “Tell that fussy, boring voice to shut up. The truth is that you have earned the right to be an inquisitive wanderer, an ingenious lover, a fanciful storyteller, and a laughing experimenter.”

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): In medieval European gardens, there was a tradition of creating “pleasure labyrinths.” They were walking meditations that spiraled inward to a center, then back out again. There were no decisions and no wrong turns, just the relaxing, meditative journey itself. I think you need and deserve a metaphorical pleasure labyrinth right now, Leo. You’ve been treating every choice as a high-stakes dilemma and every path as potentially problematic. But what if the current phase isn’t about making the perfect decision? Maybe it’s about trusting that the path you’re on will take you where you need to go, even if it meanders. By cosmic decree, you are excused from second-guessing every turn.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Your eye for imperfection is a gift until it becomes the lens through which you see everything. The critical faculty that drives you to refine and enhance may also shunt you into a dead end of never-being-good-enough, where impossible standards immobilize you. In the coming weeks, dear Virgo, I beg you to use your vaunted discernment primarily in the service of growth and pleasure rather than constraint. Be excited by buoyant analysis that empowers constructive change. Homework: For every flaw you identify, identify two things that are working well. You won’t ignore what needs attention, but instead will compensate for the excessive criticism that sometimes grips your inner critic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): You Libras shouldn’t expend excessive effort trying to force the external world to be more tranquil. That’s mostly a futile task

that distracts from your more essential work. The secret to your happiness is to cultivate serenity within. How do you do that? One reliable way to shed tension is to continually place yourself in the presence of beauty. Nothing makes you relax better than being surrounded by elegance, grace, and loveliness. Now is a good time to recommit yourself to this key practice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): In computer science, there’s a concept called “graceful degradation.” When a system encounters an error, it doesn’t crash completely. It loses some functionality but keeps running with what remains. According to my reading of the astrological omens, Scorpio, you’d be wise to acknowledge a graceful degradation like that. Something isn’t working as you had hoped and planned. A relationship? Project? Adventure? In classic Scorpio fashion, you’re tempted to burn it all down. But I encourage you to practice graceful degradation instead. Keep what still works and release only what’s actually broken. Not everything has to be all-or-nothing. You can lose some functionality and still run. You can be partially out of whack and still be valuable. PS: The awkwardness is temporary.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): At your best and brightest, you are a hunter—though not the kind who stalks prey with weapons and trophies in mind. Your hunt is noble: the fervent pursuit of adventures that nourish your curiosity and the brave forays you make into unfamiliar territories where intriguing new truths shimmer. And now, as the world drifts deeper into chaos, you are called to respond with even more exploratory audacity. I invite you to further refine your hunter’s craft. Lift it up to an even higher, more luminous form of seeking.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Capricorn meditation teacher Wes Nisker guided his students to relax the relentless mental static that muddled their awareness. But he also understood that excessive striving can sabotage the peace we’re seeking. I invoke his influence now to help you release some of the jittery goal-obsession you’ve been gripped by. Nisker and I offer you permission to temporarily suspend the potentially exhausting drive to constantly be better and more accomplished. Instead, just for now, simply be your authentic self. Loosen your high-strung grip on self-improvement and allow yourself the radical luxury of purposelessness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Here’s a danger you Aquarians are sometimes prey to: spending so much energy fixing the big picture that you neglect what’s up close and personal. You may get so involved in rearranging systems that immediate concerns get less than your best attention. I hope you won’t do that in the coming weeks. Your aptitude for overarching objectivity is a gift because it enables you to recognize patterns others can’t detect. But it may also divert you from the messy, intricate intimacy that gritty transformation requires. Your assignment: Eagerly attend to the details, which I bet will be more interesting than you imagine.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): In horticulture, “hardening off” is the process of gradually exposing seedlings started indoors to outdoor conditions before transplanting them. Too much exposure too fast will shock them; no exposure at all will leave them unprepared. Let’s invoke this as a useful metaphor for you. I believe you are being hardened off, Pisces. Life is making small, increasing demands on your tender self. Though this may sometimes feel uncomfortable, I assure you that it’s preparation, not cruelty. You’re being readied for a shift from protected space to open ground. My advice is twofold: 1. Don’t retreat back into the ultra-safe greenhouse. 2. Don’t let yourself be thrown into full exposure all at once.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, April 1

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

Crosstown Showdown - Lansing Lugnuts vs. MSU Spartans baseball. 6:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

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. meridian50plus.com.

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

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.

Gigliana 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.

Mindful Wednesday Lunch & Learn: Sleep Basics - Objectives of this workshop include understanding the importance of sleep, 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. lpsg.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.

Spurcle Live Trivia - Join us at HopCat East Lansing every Wednesday for trivia! Two rounds, two chances to score prizes. First game: 7 p.m. Second game: 8 p.m. 300 Grove St., East Lansing. facebook.com/HopCatEastLansing.

Thursday, April 2

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

Clones of the Dance, with Peter Spurling - Join us for a talk that combines spoken presentation with continuous video excerpts spanning four decades of screen-based work, followed by a Q&A and a light reception. 5:30-7 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

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 - Topic: early weed control, with Dr. Christy Sprague. 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/field_crops.

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.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons - 6:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

"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

See Events, Page 25

MSU Science Festival

April 1-30

Various locations

Visit sciencefestival.msu.edu for the event lineup



Michigan State University's annual Science Festival starts this week, offering a slew of events throughout the month, including nights at the museum (Potter Park Zoo and the Broad Art Museum), STEAM Expo days (April 11 and 12), a statewide astronomy night (April 25) and a jam-packed choose-your-own-adventure day for youth (April 18).

The month kicks off with a Biology on Tap session Thursday evening (April 2), featuring talks by assistant horticulture Professor Mason McNair about how Dungeons & Dragons can be used as a tool for high-school-level botany education and by post-doctoral fellow Aathmaja Anandhi Rangarajan about how bacteria decide to live alone or in communities and what that means for human health, industry and agriculture. The event is open to all ages, but the topics may be most appreciated by those 18 and older.

Most of the Science Festival events are interactive and geared toward youth, such as Tuesday's (April 7) demonstration of the En-ROADS climate simulator, which gives anyone the ability to test their own global climate scenarios.

April 18 will be an especially eventful day, with more than two dozen campus events geared toward kids and teens, including campus bicycle tours and tours of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams as well as sessions about comics, plants, virtual reality, salt, conservation, spiders, birding, soil painting, botanical pigments and much more.

The Habibi Dancers

PRESENT

METAMORPHOSIS



FEATURING

Devin Alfather

ANNUAL CONCERT
04.11.26
DOORS AT 7:30
SHOW AT 8:00

PLEASE SCAN HERE FOR WORKSHOP DETAILS



Hannah Community Center
Albert A. White Performing Arts Theater
819 Abbott Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823

Events

from page 24

permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

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.

Spring Charcuterie Board Workshop - Create your own spring charcuterie board! \$35 includes your first glass of wine. Limited to 12 guests. 6-7:30 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 Holt Road, Webberville. eventbrite.com/o/120959429193.

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

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

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

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

Virtual Divorce Workshop - Provides legal considerations, practical financial strategies and emotional resources for those considering or going through divorce. 6:30-8 p.m. Register at secondsaturday.com/locations/lansing.

What's the Weather Like on Mars? (Adult Program) - Look at a set of NASA online images for signs of clouds above Mars. Every cloud you spot helps NASA scientists understand daily and seasonal weather patterns on the Red Planet. 2-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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, April 3

"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden" - 6 a.m.-9 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. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. That New Place, 146 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-242-1810.

Comic Con at the Museum - Step into a night where imagination meets community at CREATE, a celebration of comics, cosplay, and creative expression. 7-9 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

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.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons - 6:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

"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.

Open Old-Time Jam | First Friday of Every Month - Join the legendary Mike Ross for an old-time-centric jam. Even if you don't play, feel free to listen along! 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100

N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com/collections/events.

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.

Saturday, April 4

"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. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. That New Place, 146 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-242-1810.

Broadway Rave - A Broadway dance party celebrating the best in show tunes and musical theatre. Sing along to all your favorite Broadway hits while dressed up as your favorite character! 7 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

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

Contra and Square Dance - No partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Caller: River Abel. Band: Birdhouse Hollow. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Family Day: PLAY - Why do artists play with ideas? Let's find out as we celebrate the young artists in the Saturday Morning Art (SmART) pop-up exhibition, in collaboration with the MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Final Four Watch Party at MP Social - We're turning up the energy with great drinks and a crowd that's ready for every buzzer beater, upset, and highlight moment! 4-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

Good Friday on the Border | Crossing Lines with Faith, Immigration and Poetry - Learn from the Refugee Development Center while hearing the story of Good Friday through the voices of local poets. 7 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/sycamorecreekchurcheastwood.

James Keelaghan Performance Workshop - Spend the afternoon reviewing each and every element needed to sculpt a marvelous performance from one of the finest performers in the acoustic music community. Noon-2 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

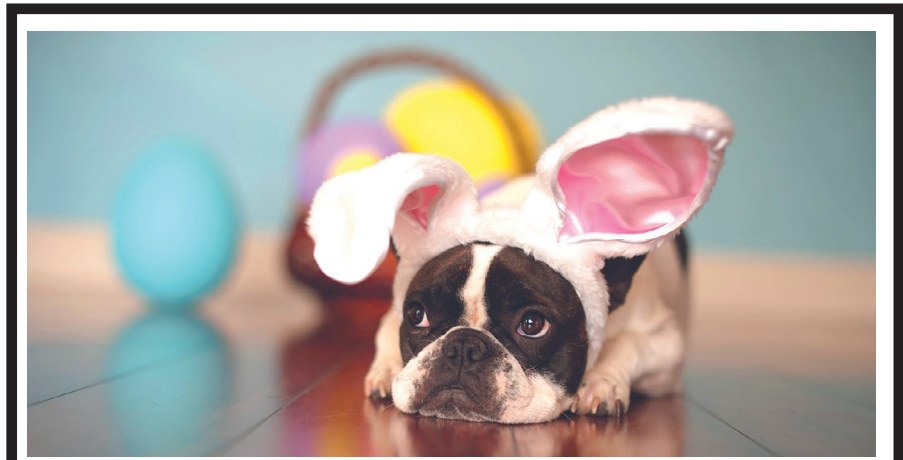
Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons - 1:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

Tiger and Dragon Kenpo Martial Arts Training - Based on a variety of martial arts systems, tiger and dragon kenpo is designed to develop self-confidence in the warrior. 1 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Wonders & Perils of Bird Migration: Campfire Science & S'mores - Dr. Susan Elbin of Capital Area Audubon presents an exploration of the benefits/costs of strategies used by migrating birds. We'll do a craft, take an early spring birding hike and make s'mores. 4:30-6 p.m. Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Sunday, April 5

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



Ear-resistable Easter events

- The Allen Neighborhood Center will hold its third annual Eastside Easter Egg Roll at 6 p.m. Thursday (April 2), featuring an egg hunt, egg dying with Dragonfly Downs Farm, crafts, food and photos with the Easter Bunny. The event is free.
- Downtown Lansing Inc.'s Downtown Eggstravaganza, running from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday (April 4), will offer an Easter egg hunt on the Capitol Lawn in the morning and a candy giveaway along Washington Square to follow. The egg hunt will be divided into staggered age groups.
- It's the 10th anniversary of the Hippy Hop 5K, happening Saturday morning at Potter Park Zoo. The event includes a chip-timed race along the Lansing River Trail, photos with the Easter bunny and an egg hunt, plus complimentary entry to the zoo. The egg hunt starts at 10:30 a.m., and the race starts at 11. Proceeds from registration fees support the Child Benefit Fund.
- The Kiwanis Club of East Lansing will kick off its Saturday candy hunt at 10 a.m. sharp at Patriarche Park. The hunt is open for kids through fifth grade, with three separate age brackets.
- Pop-ity Popcorn's free Easter Fest, running from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the shop in Old Town, is a family-friendly event with an Easter egg hunt, visits with the Easter bunny, games, crafts, cotton candy and a \$3 popcorn/frozen drink combo.

Community Easter Celebration: When It All Feels Uncertain ... Gather Anyway - Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with all the joy and love of the full Sycamore Creek community. Children's program and nursery available. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/sycamorecreekchurcheastwood.

Community Easter Sunrise - Greet Easter morning where it happened: outside in a garden. Weather permitting. 7 a.m. Cooley Gardens, 213 W. Malcolm X St., Lansing. facebook.com/sycamorecreekchurcheastwood.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

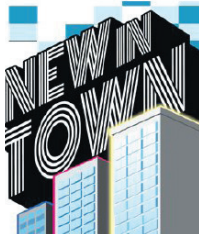
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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Local mother transforms former auto repair shop into whimsical coffee spot



By LEO V. KAPLAN

Okemos Coffee Shop

1732 Hamilton Road, Okemos

7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday

8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

facebook.com/OkemosCoffeeShop

When Angela Risk moved with her husband and children to Okemos four years ago, she was surprised by the lack of “third places” — spaces outside of home or work to meet up with people.

“There were a lot of chill vibes, like, things that are called ‘third places’ in Seattle,” she said. “And I just noticed that, especially over here in Okemos, we don’t have many spaces where you can just go, chill and relax, have a cup of coffee or tea.”

At the same time, Risk was feeling adrift in her career. She had become a stay-at-home mother shortly after finishing her master’s degree, and was feeling a crisis of identity.

“I was like, ‘I have got to build something that’s mine,’” she said. “I didn’t

have a career, I had kids kind of early — I’m ready to have my thing.”

The coffee shop that opened Friday, March 20 is definitely Risk’s own thing. Beside the coffee bar serving local 517 Coffee Co. beans and other drinks, like refreshers, it is a “shrine” to Risk’s girlhood, complete with Barbie and She-Ra figures. A “crazy board” maps out her life journey with red string. An event space in the back features a 330-pound disco ball that Risk purchased from the MSU Surplus Store, and a small retail section in the back features art from local artists as well as hippie-shop staples like gems and sage. Even the bathroom doors are painted with whimsical, Lisa Frank-esque art.

It’s a staggering transformation for the building, a former auto repair shop. The disco ball-ed event space once looked “very death-trappy,” Risk said. Renovating the space was a yearslong process, but Risk said transforming the unused space was important to her.

“We already have enough buildings in the world where, if we have just a little imagination, we can make something



Leo V. Kaplan for City Pulse

Angela Risk on opening day at Okemos Coffee shop, a personality-filled spot that aims to transform a former auto repair shop into a “third place.”

really beautiful on the inside,” Risk said.

She said a space like this allowed her to be more creative with her vision as she remodeled the shop, a process she documented on social media like Instagram, where she has about 70,000 followers under the name “ADHD Angela.”

If the shop’s atmosphere feels a little all over the place, Risk knows. That’s the

point, she said.

“I would never have done anything like this five years ago,” she said. “I would have been like, ‘it has to be perfect, there has to be more of a brand, everything has to match,’ but as I’m getting older and I see my children aging, I wanted to prove that you can have kind of a sporadic brain and still be successful.”

Events

from page 25

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, April 6

“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.

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.

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

DJ Bingo at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 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.

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.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers - Caregiving is rewarding but can also be stressful. Attend a six-week workshop that can help. 1-2:30 p.m. Delta Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histeddc@tcoa.org.

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

Serving up Food Safety: The Art of Safe Sourdough - Let’s chat about food safety issues to keep in mind when making sourdough bread and other goodies! Noon-12:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/safe_food_water.

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

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

Tuesday, April 7

“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.

“Clue: The Musical” - Murder and blackmail are on the menu when six mysterious guests assemble at Boddy Manor for a night they’ll never forget! 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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.

En-ROADS Climate Interactive - Design your own strategies and see how they would impact global warming and climate change. This is an MSU Science Festival Science After Dark event. 6-8 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. sciencefestival.msu.edu.

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

Game Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Bring your favorite board game, card game, or party game — or jump in on one of the games we already

have here. 6-9 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

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

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.

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: Screen Time for Children - Participants will learn how screen time and other media exposure impact children, screen time recommendations for young children, and ways to decrease screen time. 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.

Preschool Family Storytime - Ages 1-6 and caregivers: join us for fun stories, songs, and a simple craft each week! 11 a.m.-noon. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

An eggsperience to dye for

By **ARI LEVAUX**

The egg came first. For millions of years before humans domesticated the feathered lizards we now call “chickens,” countless generations of beings, including dinosaurs, were laying eggs.

This Easter, people will steam their homes with vinegar to recreate the pretty colors that appear naturally in diverse hen eggs. We backyard hen keepers, aka flocksters, understand. There is something deeply captivating about a diverse basket of eggs.

For the flockster, every day is like Easter. Especially if the flock includes a blue egg-layer, like an Araucana or an Ameraucana, because you can have a mix of white, brown and blue eggs. Next to blues, the brown eggs look reddish, so your basket will appear red, white and blue.



Last fall, my flock had dwindled to just two golden buff orpington hens, ages 2 and 8, only one still laying.

They needed reinforcements, and they got some, thanks to a deal that went down in a parking lot near the bountiful Missoula Winter Market.

At home, I set my box of boisterous cargo in the chicken yard and took off the lid. A single feathered head popped up like a periscope to survey the new digs. After a polite, deferential period of about 30 seconds, the new chickens were soon running around like juvenile delinquents, indifferent to the concerned old hens in the corner.

By nightfall, the new girls had snuggled up on perches alongside the old girls. The flock merger was complete.

But if chicken farming is not your thing, or you don't have the yard space,

extra bandwidth or desire, you certainly don't have to. Support your local chicken farmer.

And since my new girls are not yet big enough to lay their spectrum of eggs, I'll be coloring other eggs by soaking them in strong teas made from intensely colored natural materials.

Natural dyes give a more “realistic”

look, making them look like magical treasures from the nest of some fabulous bird, rather than perfect cookie-cutter models with a flawless, airbrushed finish of synthetic dyes.

My favorite materials for “tea dyed” eggs are turmeric, black tea and dried pea flower, which is easy to find online and makes for a bright indigo color.

Tea-dyed eggs

I dyed my eggs with black tea (brown), turmeric (yellow) and pea flower (blue). Like making tea, the concept is always the same regardless of which type of leaves you use, but each person has different tools in their kitchen and a personal preference on how strong they like their tea.

The depth of color is dependent on how much material you use and how long you let the eggs “steep.”

If you want to eat the eggs, go for it. Just keep them refrigerated as they steep.

- Six white eggs
- 1 quart water
- 1 cup vinegar (or more, which might help depending on the material)

Choice of colorant:

- 1 cup powdered turmeric
- ¼ cup pea flower
- Three bags black tea

Place the water, vinegar and eggs in a pot over medium heat. Add the dye materials and boil. Turn down to low heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Turn the heat off and let the eggs steep until they reach the desired hue. For the darkest shades, let them sit overnight (in the fridge, if you plan to eat them).

Remove the eggs gingerly and dry on a rack. Wet coating can rub off, just like paint. Once completely dry, the eggs can be handled easily.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 GREEK RESTAURANTS

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

1. Athena's Diner

Diner whipping up a variety of dishes, including Greek options like gyros
3109 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 394-0072
athenasdiner.com

7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday

7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

2. Bell's Greek Pizza

Bare-bones parlor serving pizzas, sandwiches, wings and other casual fare
1135 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
(517) 332-0858

thebellspizza.com
10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
10 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday

3. ChouPli Wood-Fired Kabob

Casual eatery serving wood-fired kebabs made with chicken, beef, veggies or haloumi cheese
4411 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
(517) 708-0404

choupli-kabob.com

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday

4. Niko's Taverna

Sports bar serving Greek and American dishes and authentic Greek beverages
151 S. Putnam St., Williamston
(517) 550-6456
nikoswilliamston.com

4-9 p.m. Monday

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday

5. Woody's Oasis

Quick-serve Mediterranean joint offering classic eats and veggie options
1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing
(517) 351-2280
woodysoasis.com
11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (the “District”), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 418 Baker Street in the City of Lansing, Michigan, legally described as:

418 Baker Street (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-21-429-051):

LOTS 1 & 2 EXC N 53.06 FT OF W 41 FT; BLOCK 1 AMENDED PLAT OF HALL'S SOUTH SIDE ADD

Approval of this District will allow the owners of real property within the District to apply for an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to their property located within the District. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Kris Klein, President & CEO, Lansing Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), 401 S. Washington Sq. Suite 101, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 599-1136.

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

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

Sponsored Content

A Dealmaker's Fantasy — Gadzooks! — Look, a Shiny New Trump Memecoin!

There's something almost admirable about a man who insists he's the greatest dealmaker alive while refusing to show a single receipt. Not admirable in the traditional sense—more in the way you might admire a street magician who swears he just made your wallet disappear for your own benefit.

Donald Trump has, in recent form, claimed he has stopped eight wars. Eight. Not one, not two—eight. Conflicts apparently extinguished with the diplomatic equivalent of a firm handshake and a knowing nod. The only catch? We don't know which wars. We don't know where. We don't know how. But we are told, quite confidently, that it happened. Somewhere. Somehow. Trust the process.

Now we're told that there are negotiations underway with Iran. Not only that, but Iran has supposedly offered a "very special, very expensive gift." What is it? Can't say. Why not? Because—well, because it's very special. You wouldn't understand. It's classified. It's exclusive. It's the diplomatic equivalent of "I totally have a girlfriend, she just goes to another school."

To be fair, Iranian officials have disputed these claims. But if we're being honest, taking either side purely at their word feels less like analysis and more like picking a favorite magician and insisting their tricks are real.

So instead, let's look at what we can actually observe.

Publicly, Trump's negotiating style has been remarkably consistent: attack first, attack louder, and if necessary, attack the concept of attacking. Reporters asking straightforward questions are "nasty." Political opponents are "losers," "crooked," or whatever insult happens to be within arm's reach. Complex issues are flattened into playground taunts. Subtlety is treated like a communicable disease.

This is not a criticism of his tone alone—it's a question of function. Because if this is how he engages in visible, low-stakes exchanges, what exactly are we meant to believe happens behind closed doors in high-stakes diplomatic negotiations? That he suddenly pivots into a quiet, measured practitioner of statecraft? That somewhere between the press conference and the private meeting, he transforms into a patient listener with a deep respect for nuance?

History offers... mixed signals.

From the housing discrimination cases that shadowed his early business career in New York, to his full-page newspaper ads calling for the execution of the Central Park Five case defendants—young men who were later exonerated—to the years spent popularizing conspiracy theories about Barack Obama's birthplace, the pattern isn't exactly subtle. Add in the public feuds, the reality TV theatrics of *The Apprentice*, the attacks on women, and the well-documented association with Jeffrey Epstein, and you start to see a throughline emerge.

It's not that the dots are hard to connect—it's that they connect themselves.

Which brings us back to the idea of delicate, high-level negotiations with Iran. Serious conversations. High stakes. Nuclear tensions, regional stability, global consequences. The kind of discussions that typically require discipline, preparation, and the ability to stay on topic for longer than a commercial break.

Now imagine that meeting.

Not the idealized version. Not the one where everything suddenly becomes presidential and composed. Imagine the version that aligns with the public record—the one we've all seen, repeatedly, in real time.

Because if there's one thing that strains belief more than the claim of eight invisible peace deals, it's the idea that the man making them is doing so in a way that resembles anything we'd recognize as diplomacy.

And now, to give it the old college try: a completely fictional, satirical glimpse into those "negotiations."

Setting: A polished conference room. Flags arranged. Translators ready. A long table. On one side, Iranian diplomats. On the other, Donald Trump.

Iranian Diplomat: We are here to discuss sanctions relief and regional—

Trump: First of all, nobody does diplomacy better than me. Nobody. You guys, you're lucky I'm even here, frankly.

Translator: *(pauses, sighs internally, translates anyway)*

Iranian Diplomat: We would like to begin with a framework for mutual de-escalation—

Trump: De-escalation? I've already de-escalated eight wars. Eight. You ever hear of that? No, you haven't. Because the media doesn't cover it. Very unfair.

Iranian Diplomat: Could you specify which conflicts you are referring to?

Trump: All of them. The big ones. The really big ones. Some of the best wars, actually—gone. Because of me.

Iranian Diplomat: That is... not a recognized category of conflict.

Trump: That's because your categories are terrible. Frankly, your categories are a disaster.

Iranian Diplomat: Perhaps we can return to the topic at hand—

Trump: And by the way, I hear you have a gift for us. Very expensive. Very nice. People are talking about it.

Iranian Diplomat: We have no knowledge of any such gift.

Trump: Interesting. Very interesting. Sounds like something someone with a gift would say.

Iranian Diplomat: We are attempting to engage in serious negotiations.

Trump: I am serious. I'm the most serious person in this room. Possibly ever.

Iranian Diplomat: Then let us discuss uranium enrichment limits.

Trump: Before we do that—does anyone have one of those \$1,000 pens? I heard about these pens. Incredible pens. The best pens. I might sign something. Maybe the greatest deal ever. People will say, "Sir, how did you do it?" and I'll say, "It's the pen."

Iranian Diplomat: ...we can provide a standard writing instrument.

Trump: Standard? I don't do standard. That's your problem. You think too small.

Iranian Diplomat: *(to colleagues, quietly)* Is this... the negotiation?

Colleague: *(equally quietly)* I believe this is the negotiation.

If nothing else, it clarifies one thing: if world peace is indeed being brokered in rooms like this, it's happening in spite of the process—not because of it.

Imagine the knock on the door. Imagine the flag folded into careful triangles. And then imagine learning it was all for a perpetrated fraud—something engineered, repeated, and protected long after the truth was within reach.

And now imagine all of that resting on the judgment of a man who has made truth debatable, a performance. Donald Trump doesn't just bend reality—he steamrolls it, reshapes it, and dares anyone to keep up. The same voice that can't stay on topic, that lashes out at the slightest challenge, that confuses bluster for strength—that's the voice asking to be trusted with decisions measured in coffins.

Because wars don't care about bravado. They don't respond to insults, branding, or volume. They deal in consequences—permanent ones. And every time leadership mistakes arrogance for strategy, someone else pays the price. Not in headlines, not in talking points, but in lives that don't come home and families that are left to make sense of why.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

ALL STAR
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HEATING • COOLING
517-490-4642
LC. 7115371