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May 6-12, 2026

CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us

Lansing's largest circulation newspaper



Fond farewell to Lansing Symphony Orchestra's Timothy Muffitt

See Page 11



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This Is How the Line Disappears

We are exhausted—drowned in a constant flood of headlines, outrage, corrections and contradictions that blur together until even the extraordinary begins to feel routine. The sheer volume of information has not made us more informed; it has made us more numb. And numbness is dangerous. It creates the illusion that awareness alone is action, that scrolling is engagement and that recognizing a problem is the same as confronting it. But history does not measure how much we consumed—it measures what we resisted. Fatigue is understandable; complacency is not. Because the longer we mistake exhaustion for helplessness, the easier it becomes to accept what should never be normal—and once that line moves, it rarely moves back.

A defining moment in a nation's life rarely announces itself with clarity. More often, it arrives disguised as another day, another decision and another opportunity to either confront what we've long avoided—or to kick the can further down the road. The question is not whether we've faced moments like this before. We have. The question is whether this will be another one we choose not to face.

There are chapters in American history that remain unresolved—not because we lack the information, but because we lack the collective will to reckon with them. Harm acknowledged only halfway is harm that lingers. And there are still many who deny that harm altogether, who echo the very ideas and behaviors that made constitutional amendments necessary in the first place. A nation that is willing to confront its past—even to the point of reparative action—has a chance at moral clarity. But a nation that insists it never benefited from injustice is not confused. It is willfully blind. That blindness has a name: privilege.

Diplomacy, at its best, is not transactional. It is not a series of photo opportunities or polite fictions exchanged for strategic convenience. It is supposed to reflect values. That is why the symbolism of presence matters.

An invitation to the White House is not just ceremonial—it is an endorsement of legitimacy, whether intended or not. To attend in a moment like this is to make a choice that will echo beyond the present. One day, people will look back and ask who showed up, who spoke out and who chose comfort over conviction.

When King Charles spoke of checks and balances, the words themselves were not the issue. The contradiction was. To invoke democratic principles while standing alongside a government accused of undermining them is not neutrality—it is participation. History rarely remembers the

nuance people believe they're preserving in the moment; it remembers the alignment.

The same is true at home. The absence of accountability is not subtle. It is visible in what we choose to ignore, in the standards we selectively apply and in the outrage we reserve for some and not others. It is a contradiction embedded in the culture: a willingness to express fierce protection in theory, and a reluctance to demand accountability in practice.

Even the smaller stories—the inflated claims, the failed promises, the grift that reveals itself over time—are not separate from the larger narrative. They are reflections of it. A pattern of exaggeration followed by quiet correction. A spectacle followed by silence. It is not just about what is said, but about what people are willing to believe and for how long.

This is what makes a moment defining. Not the headlines, speeches and ceremonies—but the accumulation of choices. Who we believe, what we tolerate, where we show up and where we refuse to.

History is shaped not only by those in power, but also by those who accept that power without question—and by those who don't.

When this moment passes, as all moments do, the record will remain. It will not ask what we intended. It will ask what we did—and how far we allowed the line to shift before we even noticed it was gone.

Bring the troops home. Release the files. If you really want to Make America Great Again, then RESIGN!

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

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State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case 26-000552-DE, Hon. Judge Shauna Dunning. Estate of Nancy F. Brown – DOB: 2/20/1951. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Nancy F. Brown, died 1/28/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kistine Carolan, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 5/6/2026. Attorney: Bruce L. Townley, P46937, 3001 W Big Beaver Rd, Ste. 408, Troy, MI 48084, (248)643-9530. Personal representative: Kistine Carolan, 143 W Walnut Ln, Apt 2R, Philadelphia, PA 19144, (269)873-0201.

CP#26-176

State of Michigan, County of Ingham, Notice to Creditors, Decedent Trust: TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Patricia A. Andrews (DOB: 02/05/1945), Grantor of the Living Trust of Patricia A. Andrews, dated December 2, 1999, died on 3/2/2026. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of Grantor are notified that all claims against the Living Trust of Patricia A. Andrews will be forever barred unless presented to Andrea Andrews, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication, 5/6/2026. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Prepared by: Andrea Andrews, Successor Trustee, 4401 Willesdon Ave., Holt, MI 48842.

CP#26-177

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (Tiered Review)

May 6, 2026

City of Lansing
316 N. Capitol Ave., Suite D-1
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 483-4056

On or about **May 15, 2026**, the City of Lansing will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of **Lead Hazard Reduction Grant** funds under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, as amended, to undertake the following multi-year program/project: **Lead Safe Lansing 5**

The **City of Lansing** is requesting the release of \$6,872,347.31 for the lead safe Lansing grant, including a match of \$821,755.47.

The city of Lansing, lead applicant/responsible entity, was awarded \$6,872,347.31 of Lead Hazard Reduction Grant (LHRG) funds and proposed to utilize the funds to complete lead-based paint remediation to income eligible households in Lansing, MI. The target area for this grant is all pre-1978 residential housing units within the opportunity zones in the city limits of Lansing. The program funds will be used to complete lead inspection/risk. More specifically, the program grant funds will be used to complete lead-based remediate of 120 income eligible units with prioritization for households with a child under the age of 6 and/or pregnant women. All units will be constructed prior to 1978 and include single-family owner-occupied, as well as rental units and assistance provided to those with incomes at or below 80% of the AMI (Area median income). Each unit will be provided with up to \$35,000 in Lead Safe Lansing 5 funds and \$3,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) cost sharing funds to each unit for the lead-based paint remediation. Lead Safe Lansing funds will be used to accomplish lead hazard remediation activities. These activities will include lead abatement, interim controls, or a combination of these activities at each unit, with the most common activities involving interior paint stabilization, interior environmental cleaning, door and window replacement, and exterior siding repair/replacement. To further assist with the lead remediation grant, Lansing will complete 180 Lead Inspection /Risk Assessments (LIRAs) and provide Lead Abatement Supervisor training and EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) training to a total of 25 contractors. Further, the Ingham County Health Department, a community partner, will conduct direct outreach to at least 1,000 people, including lead-based paint education and application assistance to 250 targeted households, specifically low-income families with children, pregnant women and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) recipients. Additionally, lead-based paint remediation work will be monitored on-site by the Rehabilitation Construction Specialists to ensure proper containment, occupant protection, and adherence to the scope of work. A Tier II site specific environmental review record will be completed for each project location once the lead inspection assessment and scope of work have been completed.

The proposed lead-based paint remediation activities to be funded under this/these program(s) is/are categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, but subject to compliance with some of the environmental laws and authorities listed at § 58.5 of 24 CFR Part 58. In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed and studied for the intended target area(s) listed above. Compliance with other applicable environmental laws and authorities will be met when individual projects are reviewed, i.e., Flood Insurance, Historic Preservation, Contamination/Toxics. Should

individual aggregate projects exceed the threshold for categorical exclusion detailed at §58.35(a), an Environmental Assessment will be completed and a separate Finding of No Significant Impact and Request for Release of Funds published. Copies of the compliance documentation worksheets are available at the address below.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the City of Lansing – Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N Capitol, Lansing, MI 48933. The ERR can also be viewed on the City of Lansing Community Development website at: www.lansingmi.gov/development and/or email to request an electronic copy and may be examined or copied on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, attention: Tyler Blakely (517) 483-4056. All comments received by May 15, 2026, will be considered by City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification to HUD.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning certifies to HUD that Rawley VanFossen in his official capacity as Director, Economic Development and Planning consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning to utilize federal funds and implement the Program.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning certification for a period of fifteen days following either the anticipated submission date (cited above) or HUD's actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if the objections are on one of the following bases: (a) that the Certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning; (b) the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to HUD and sent to the email address: OLHCHHPE-COS@hud.gov

Rawley VanFossen
Director
City of Lansing, Department of Economic Development and Planning

CP#26-170

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CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS FAMOUSLY SAID:



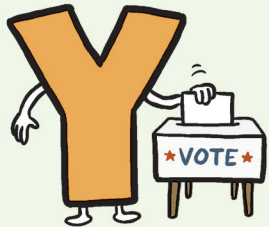
"THE WAY TO STOP DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE IS TO STOP DISCRIMINATING ON THE BASIS OF RACE."

OKAY, THEN. LET'S BE "COLORBLIND."

GROUP X DISCRIMINATES AGAINST GROUP Y, FIRST ENSLAVING THEM, THEN SUPPRESSING THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE



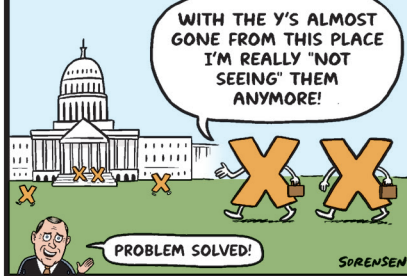
AFTER A LONG STRUGGLE, LAWS ARE PASSED SO GROUP Y CAN FREELY ELECT REPRESENTATIVES



GROUP X CLAIMS POINTING OUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GROUP Y IS DISCRIMINATION



MEMBERS OF GROUP X AGAIN WEAKEN VOTING RIGHTS LAWS PROTECTING GROUP Y



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PAGE 7

Photos: Old-timey golfing at Groesbeck with hickory clubs



PAGE 17

U.P. author's debut novel tells rural coming-of-age tale



PAGE 26

A sweet Mother's Day treat

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

WE'VE LEARNED VALUABLE LESSONS FROM THE INCIDENT AT THE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER! FIRST AND FOREMOST--THE PRESIDENT NEEDS HIS NEW BALLROOM IMMEDIATELY!

TAXPAYERS WILL FOOT THE BILL, AND WE ARE GOING TO PRETEND THAT WE NEVER SAID ANYTHING TO THE CONTRARY!

ONLY IN A FABULOUS GOLDEN BALLROOM CAN THE PRESIDENT TRULY BE SAFE!

PERHAPS WE NEED AN INTERSTATE BALLROOM NETWORK--SO THAT HE NEVER NEEDS TO STEP OUTSIDE AGAIN!

AND IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY--JIMMY KIMMEL MUST BE FIRED!

IS HE TELLING JOKES--OR SENDING CODED MESSAGES TO HIS VAST NETWORK OF SLEEPER AGENTS?

FURTHERMORE, DEMOCRATS MUST STOP CRITICIZING DONALD TRUMP, AND INSTEAD SHOWER HIM WITH CONSTANT, EFFUSIVE PRAISE!

THE VIOLENT RHETORIC COMING FROM THESE AMERICA-HATING VERMIN, WHO SHOULD ALL BE LINED UP AND SHOT, IS TRULY DIVISIVE!

AND OBVIOUSLY ANYONE WHO ARRANGES SEASHELLS INTO A THEORETICALLY MENACING SEQUENCE OF NUMBERS SHOULD FACE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY POSSIBLE!

THIS APPLIES EQUALLY TO DECOUPAGE ENTHUSIASTS, BEDAZZLER HOBBYISTS, AND ANY OTHER DECORATIVE STOCHASTIC TERRORISTS!

FINALLY--THE DINNER WILL BE RESCHEDULED! AND WE'VE PERSUADED THEM TO REPLACE THAT MENTALIST GUY WITH AN EVEN LESS CONTROVERSIAL ENTERTAINER!

WE'VE GOT A GUY WHO DOES BALLOON ANIMALS! AND HE CAN PULL A QUARTER OUT OF YOUR EAR!

HE'S PERFECT FOR JOURNALISTS WHO THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST AMENDMENT... WITH US!

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Lansing teen charged with attempted murder in Pleasant View School shooting

By **HEATHER VANDYKE**

An 18-year-old Lansing man faces multiple felony charges, including assault with intent to murder, following a shooting April 30 week outside of Pleasant View School that left a student injured, authorities said Monday.

The man, a teenager, was arraigned by the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office in 54-A District Court in connection with the April 29 incident. The charges include carrying a concealed weapon, two counts of weapon-free school zone violations, carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, and three counts of felony firearm.

The shooting happened during school hours at the Pleasant View campus, which serves as a site for testing and as the Lansing School District's Lansing Learning Hub. According to investigators with the Lansing Police Department, the confrontation involved two people who were both enrolled as students at the school.

Officials have not publicly detailed a specific motive for the shooting.



The Pleasant View campus.

"Our focus remains on the safety of our students and the integrity of the judicial process," Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane's office said, in a statement.

During the arraignment, a magistrate set the teenager's bond at \$750,000 with monitoring and house arrest if he is released.

The accused man is scheduled to appear for a probable cause conference on May 14 at 10:30 a.m., followed by a preliminary examination at 10 a.m. on May 21. The case has been assigned to Judge Stacia J. Bu-



The intersection of Chestnut and Hillsdale streets.

chanan.

The preliminary examination will determine if there is probable cause; if a judge finds sufficient evidence, the case will be "bound over" to Ingham County Circuit Court for trial.

Pleasant View School remained closed for two days following the shooting to provide counseling services to students and staff. District officials have since implemented restricted access protocols at the building's entrance.

Meanwhile, an unrelated April 23 mass shooting remains under inves-

tigation, according to Jordan Gulkis, a spokesperson for the Lansing Police Department.

Six people were shot Thursday night at the intersection of Chestnut and Hillsdale streets in downtown Lansing.

The night before, a car was shot at the same intersection. The mass shooting was non-fatal, and all six victims are in stable condition. Most of the victims were shot below the waist, but one, a 14-year-old girl, was grazed in the ear.

The youngest victim, a 5-year-old girl, was shot in the leg. The Lansing Police Department said the suspect was reported to have walked up to a crowd of more than 30 people at the intersection and opened fire.

The suspect fled on foot. Police Chief Rob Backus said at a press conference the day after the shooting that it had brought the city's total number of non-fatal shooting victims to 14 this year.

Decades of defiance: Serial offender convicted in nursing home assault faces life sentence

By **HEATHER VANDYKE**

A habitual sex offender with a criminal record stretching back nearly 60 years was convicted April 27 of sexually assaulting a mentally incapacitated resident at an Ingham County nursing home.

An Ingham County jury found Melvin Edward Barhite, 76, guilty of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and failing to report as a sex offender. Barhite, who was also a resident of the facility at the time of the assault, now faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison due to his status as a fourth-strike habitual offender.

The verdict is the latest chapter in a history of sexual violence and litigation for Barhite, whose prior convictions served as the legal foundation for the enhanced charges.

According to the Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Barhite's record of felony convictions dates to 1968, when he was convicted

of uttering and publishing in Washtenaw County.

"Assistant Prosecutor Steve Kwasnik, who leads our Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Unit, worked closely with law enforcement, victim advocates and the victim's family to secure this verdict," Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney John J. Dewane said in a statement.

In 2001, a Kent County jury convicted Barhite of two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct and two counts of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. Those convictions, combined with his earlier felonies, triggered the habitual offender fourth-offense notice in the current case.

While serving his previous sentence, Barhite often represented himself without the assistance of an attorney. Acting as his own lawyer, Barhite filed a series of federal lawsuits and appeals, including a 2008 claim alleging religious discrimination.

In that case, Barhite sued the Michigan Department of Corrections after officials confiscated a photo album containing images of young women and girls as young as 14. Barhite claimed the seizure was a reaction to national news regarding a 2008 raid on a polygamist ranch in Texas.

Federal judges dismissed the suit, ruling that the "provocative" photos were not related to religious practice and could hinder the rehabilitation of a sex offender.

Barhite also made several unsuccessful attempts to overturn his 2001 convictions, at one point claiming he had been "kidnapped" by authorities during a transfer from Ohio to Michigan. He further alleged his rights were violated because he was forced to stand trial in prison clothing, an argument the Michigan Court of Appeals later rejected.

Under Michigan law, the fourth-offense habitual offender notice carries



Melvin Eugene Barhite Jr.

a penalty of up to life in prison because the primary offense of first-degree criminal sexual conduct is a felony punishable by 5 years or more.

Barhite remains in custody pending a sentencing date, which has yet to be scheduled.

Student loan borrowers who hoped for debt forgiveness may find new programs too expensive

By **MADISON MERRELL**
Capital News Service

LANSING – During the first year of the Trump administration, the student loan delinquency rate rose nearly 25%, according to the Century Foundation.

Currently, almost 9 million borrowers are in default, meaning they missed several payments and are at risk of having wages and tax refunds taken directly out of their accounts as payment toward their loans, according to the foundation, which is based in New York City.

In 2023, the federal Saving on a Valuable Education plan (SAVE) was created by the administration of then-President Joe Biden.

It was intended to reduce monthly loan payments for undergraduates, prevent loan balances from growing due to unpaid interest and make in-

dividuals eligible for loan forgiveness after 10 years, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The plan set payments based on the borrower's income, with the lowest being 5% of the borrower's discretionary income. Loan payments are traditionally calculated by the amount borrowed, the interest rate and the time period of the loan.

However, the department said the SAVE plan has been ordered shut down as of April 2026 due to federal court rulings that determined that the Biden administration exceeded its authority in authorizing such large-scale debt cancellations.

The department says beginning borrowers must leave the SAVE plan as of July 1 and find other legally approved repayment plans within 90 days.

"This change will limit access to higher education and push prospective

students to explore the private loan market," said the Student Debt Crisis Center in Los Angeles.

The problem with the private loan market is that it doesn't offer loan forgiveness, borrower protections or repayment plans, the center said.

"Student borrowers are in crisis due in part to a rise in average debt and a decline in average wage values," the Education Data Initiative said.

When Biden created SAVE, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer hailed its impact on Michigan residents.

"The decision to cancel \$10,000 in student loan debt and \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients will make a real difference for 1.4 million Michiganders," Whitmer said in a press release.

Starting on July 1, the change will overhaul federal loans by introducing the Repayment Assistance Plan, according to the Department of Educa-

tion.

The new plan will calculate payments based on income, and borrowers will have to choose between a fixed "standard" payment that many can't afford and an income-based option that may be too expensive for a large number of people, the Institute of College Access and Success reported.

"Proponents of the plan approach this as 'enabling borrowers to repay their debt more quickly,' which is another way of saying it requires much higher payments," the institute said.

The institute said earlier repayment plans were meant to help struggling borrowers stay on track and avoid default, even if they earned very little. But under the Repayment Assistance Plan, those same borrowers would have to pay more than under any other plan — making default much more likely.

New study criticizes long prison stays, says Michigan's progress stalled

By **CRISTIAN VAZQUEZ**
Capital News Service

LANSING – A newly released report suggests Michigan's effort to reduce prison stays has stalled.

The Crime and Justice Institute said there was a 3% increase in the prison population between 2021 and 2023, "with more individuals receiving additional sentences while already incarcerated."

Over 65% of prisoners are serving sentences of 10 years or longer, according to the nonprofit institute.

Its report identified mandatory minimum sentences and lack of time off for good behavior as contributors to long sentences.

"These policies contribute to longer stays, an aging incarcerated population and rising corrections costs," said Len Engel, the institute's director of policy and campaigns.

Maura McNamara, the institute's deputy director, said Michigan can take two specific steps. First, it can

enact credit reduction policies, McNamara said.

Second, is addressing the habitual offender law and consecutive sentences, said McNamara.

Jenni Riehle, the public information officer for the Michigan Department of Corrections, said there were 32,335 inmates, according to the newest report from March.

"The state has significantly reduced the prison population over the last two decades," Riehle said. "The decrease and subsequent increase in the population between 2021 and 2023 was due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

"During the pandemic, there were several things that impacted the prison population, such as an overall drop in crime as people stayed home and court proceedings that were often delayed."

"The state has achieved the lowest recidivism rates in its history," Riehle said, referring to the number of former inmates who return to prison.

Chuck Warpehoski, the program director of the Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration, said there

is a need to look at sentencing research and data.

"Michigan politicians have not been willing to move sentencing policies," Warpehoski said, calling for a longer-term campaign to build support to reduce sentences and "send people home."

The institute report said, "Michigan has taken meaningful steps to address its criminal justice challenges in recent years, but long-term incarceration policies remain largely unchanged."

Heather Thompson, the leader of the Carceral State Project, said there are important efforts in the Legislature to release prisoners who have served long terms, as well as similar efforts at the federal level.

The project is a collaboration of communities and advocacy organizations with researchers from the University of Michigan to address the consequences of mass incarceration.

"There is a great deal of effort to get more punitive bills when it comes to mandatory minimum sentences," said Thompson.

Bill would require candidates for county offices to disclose felony convictions

By **GEORGIA HILL**
Capital News Service

LANSING — Proposed legislation in the House would mandate candidates for county offices to disclose felony convictions.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Reggie Miller, D-Van Buren Township, and co-sponsored by Veronica Paiz, D-Harper Woods, would require candidates running for a county office to submit an affidavit disclosing any felony convictions.

The disclosure would include any felony conviction, even if sentencing is pending or under appeal, but would not apply to felonies that have been expunged, set

aside or pardoned.

"This is not about disqualifying good candidates for office — it's about transparency and ensuring that voters have information readily available to them before making their choice for who they want to represent them," Miller said in a Facebook post.

County elected offices include clerk, treasurer, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, commissioner, circuit and probate judges and, in some counties, the county executive.

Currently, the only requirements to run for these offices are residency and voter registration in that county.

Miller's office did not provide any examples of candidates who had undisclosed felony convictions.

However, some previous county officials have faced high-profile criminal charges or convictions.

For example, Mark Brant was elected in 2024 as a Monroe County commissioner while facing federal drug charges, according to USA Today. Brant had been elected three times while the feds were after him, and won a fourth time even after the news broke. He spent the first year of his term behind bars.

John Gleesen, the Genesee County clerk, was charged with felony witness

interference in 2022, according to the Detroit Free Press. He agreed to retire as part of a plea agreement with the prosecution.

Paiz said that the bill is "rooted in transparency in leadership," and while she did not cite any specific instances of candidates with undisclosed felony charges, she said the public deserves to have all available information about candidates.

"As public servants, the people we aim to serve have a right to make informed decisions about candidates they choose to represent their best interests," she said.

The bill is pending in the House Committee on Election Integrity.

Golfing like it's 1926, but with better sneakers

By MIKE ELLIS

On a cool and windy Sunday, May 3, members of the Capital Area Hickory Golfers and the Michigan Hickory Tour gathered at Groesbeck Golf Course in Lansing to celebrate World Hickory Golf Day and the 100th anniversary of the course.

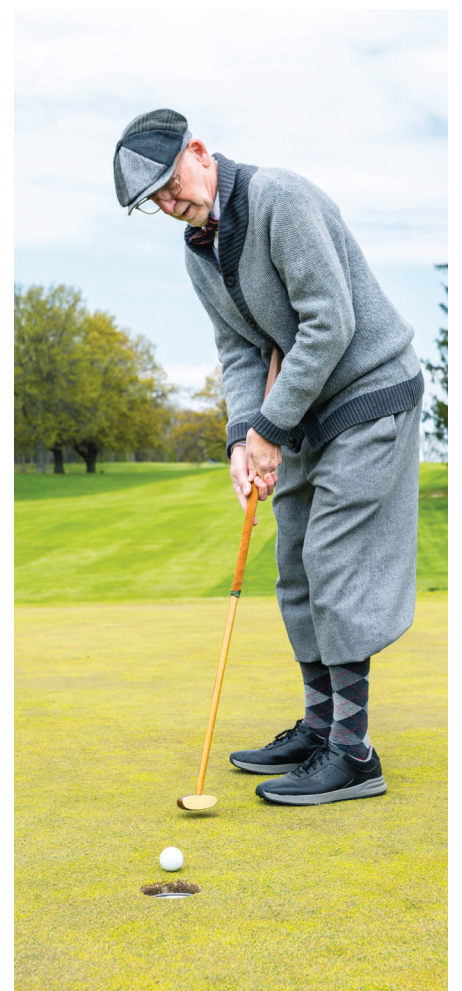
The golf enthusiasts play using vintage wooden-shafted clubs, rules and attire (allowing for modern shoes) in much the same way as when the course opened in 1926.

The shafts are typically made from hickory.

Players said they're drawn to the challenge, history and camaraderie of the early era of American golf.

They pointed out that one thing that hasn't changed in the last 100 years is the hooks, slices and landing golf balls in the rough.

Photos by Raymond Holt for City Pulse



REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Someone tried to make the East Michigan Avenue Quality Dairy into a drive-through early Tuesday morning. According to police, a recent model dark gray Honda SUV smashed into the front windows of the QD at 2400 E. Michigan Ave. at the intersection of S. Foster Ave around 5 a.m. and drove away. The store was not yet open at the time and no injuries were reported.



Wells Hall, MSU's largest academic building, reopened Monday after having been closed during the last week of spring semester after a man was arrested on April 26 on trespassing, property damage and methamphetamine charges. Xin Tong, 31, was charged with malicious destruction of a building over \$20,000 and felony-controlled substance-operate/maintain lab involving methamphetamine. Officials said they had been looking for someone who caused property damage at the building between April 10-26. While widely reported to be a meth lab inside a university building, it was probably nothing like a Breaking Bad-style lab but rather more like the shake and bake method, which uses commonly available chemicals in a pop or water bottle, which can cause toxic byproducts. It is not clear whether police believe the chemicals were used to make methamphetamine inside the building, which will be critical during the prosecution, said Tonya Krause-Phelan, associate dean of academics at Cooley Law School and an attorney who has worked with methamphetamine cases. University officials said multiple tests inside the building showed no risks.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's 2026-27 budget is about to go before city council members. The budget needs to be approved by May 18. Schor's pro-

posed budget is less than 1% higher than the current budget and it proposes to increase the amount set aside for a rainy day. The budget is for \$307.2 million, with \$182 million of that being the general fund. Schor's budget asks for additional fire, police and code compliance workers as well as \$7.5 million for wastewater treatment plant upgrades and \$1.5 million for sidewalk repairs. The withdrawal of a data center proposal means more than \$1 million in previously proposed add-ons, like \$400,000 each in firefighter equipment and additional housing dollars, don't exist in the budget.



Maybe you'll take the train to Chicago after a planned launch of daily non-stop flights from Lansing's Capital Region International Airport to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport has been pushed back from May to October. United Airlines said the decision stems from Federal Aviation Administration restrictions that limit the number of flights it can operate at O'Hare, according to WILX. The flights were expected to start May 7 and have been postponed through Oct. 25. Customers can reach United Airlines if they have not already been notified.

A live-fire training exercise took place at the Capital Region International Airport on Tuesday, with enough heavy smoke and flames that the airport's safety department officials alerted the public to the training drills, which did not affect flights. The training, which usually takes place annually, is designed for public safety officers to practice aircraft firefighting and rescue techniques in a controlled environment. The exercise used a propane-fueled aircraft simulator.

A 74-year-old man died Monday after his 2010 Harley-Davidson

motorcycle crashed into a pickup truck that had pulled in front of him on South Clinton Trail (M-50) in Eaton County. A Charlotte man, also 74, operating the 2026 GMC Sierra entered the road from East Bellevue Highway, Michigan State Police said. He was not injured. The motorcyclist died later from his injuries at UM Health-Sparrow. An investigation is ongoing and police said alcohol and drugs do not seem to be factors.



Residents in Oscoda County returned to their homes on Monday night after a 100-acre wildfire destroyed two structures and caused an evacuation in the Camp 10 Road area in Mio. The wildfire also took out power at the county sheriff's office. Firefighters said the blaze was 80% controlled by Monday night and were continuing to work on the rest of the fire.

April showers bring May flowers, and mosquitoes and ticks. Extensive flooding last month has led state officials to add extra warnings about mosquitoes and ticks for both people and animals. "Preventing tick and mosquito bites is the best way to avoid diseases including Lyme disease, West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, the state's chief medical executive. "Use insect repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors to help prevent bites. If you find a tick attached to your body, promptly remove it, monitor your health and consult with a medical provider if you become ill." Signs and symptoms of tick-borne disease typically begin one to two weeks after a tick bite, often after being in wooded or brushy areas where ticks commonly live. Early symptoms can be nonspecific and include fever or chills, rash, headache, fatigue and muscle aches.



...
"The standing water created after flooding and excess rain makes for ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes

and increases the likelihood that ticks will move into new areas," said Dr. Nora Wineland, Michigan's state veterinarian. "Livestock and pet owners should check their properties for pooled water and take action to empty those pools, use veterinarian-recommended preventives like insect repellents and monitor animals for any signs of illness." The best way to prevent mosquito- and tick-borne illnesses is to reduce the number of mosquitos and ticks around your home and to take personal precautions to avoid bites. Try reducing standing water, trimming tall grass around homes and buildings, creating a three-foot barrier of wood chips or gravel between property and wooded areas to limit tick movement, keeping lawns and pastures maintained and mowed, stacking firewood in a dry area to avoid rodents that can harbor ticks. Also: use an insect repellent registered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Always check for ticks on yourself and your animals after being outdoors, including in your own yard. If a tick is found, safely remove it as quickly as possible.



If you're having a tougher time breathing than normal, it may be allergies. WLNS spoke to Dr. Manoj Mohan, an allergist at Okemos Allergy Center PC, who said pollen may be making your nose stuffy and your throat tight and sore. With warmer weather on the way, it's a recipe for disaster for people with allergies. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, the common culprits are birch, oak and even grass. According to Accuweather's allergy forecast, the Lansing area is expected to come down slightly on its tree pollen, from very high to high, this week. Other pollens - ragweed and grass, along with mold - are at a low level and expected to remain there for the next several days.

Mike Rogers' leaked health care plan will lead to more preventable deaths

By DIANE HOLLAND

I live with multiple sclerosis, and I'm a breast cancer survivor. I rely on the Affordable Care Act to live with dignity, to manage my chronic condition and to get the care I need without facing financial ruin. But right now, my ability to afford that care is under attack — and depending on the outcome of Michigan's U.S. Senate election, it could get even worse.

My monthly premium has more than doubled since Republicans in Congress allowed ACA subsidies to expire, jumping from \$124 to \$252 a month. For someone living with a chronic condition, that cost increase is a massive burden.

I already knew Republican U.S. Senate candidate Mike Rogers opposes extending the subsidies that made my health care more affordable — but Rogers' newly leaked health care plan is even more dangerous than I feared.

At a recent campaign event, Rogers complained that “the sickest part of our society ends up consuming the most” health care, and that his solution is to separate us into a “catastrophic fund.”

To translate, Rogers is saying he wants to segregate older and sicker patients into separate plans, which leads to massive premium increases for people with pre-existing conditions. As a result, those with medical concerns are priced out of coverage entirely or left with plans with such high deductibles they were essentially uninsured when they actually needed care.

I would almost certainly be shunted into one of these high-risk pools under Rogers' plan. My premiums, already doubled, could skyrocket even further, and I could face coverage limits on the treatments I need to manage my condition.

And I'm far from alone. More than 6 million Michiganders, over 60% of the adult population, live with chronic conditions — and many could face the same impossible choice under Rogers' plan.

But it gets worse. Rogers' plan would also create new out-of-pocket costs for preventive care.

Right now, most private insurance plans are required to cover

preventive services at no cost to patients. That includes annual physicals, blood pressure screenings, diabetes tests, and cancer screenings — services that catch diseases early, when they're most treatable and least expensive to manage.

Opinion

But Mike Rogers wants to end no-cost preventive care. He said it's “probably ok” if you have to pay “\$50 for your annual physical,” and that Michiganders should be fine having to bear those new out-of-pocket costs.

As a cancer survivor, Rogers' proposal is infuriating. Cancer caught early is often treatable, but cancer caught late can be a death sentence. If people have to pay more for cancer screenings, many won't do it, especially those already struggling with rising costs. Then, by the time symptoms appear, the cancer will likely have progressed to a more difficult and costly stage to treat.

Creting new financial barriers to preventive care like cancer screenings, which Mike Rogers supports, would be a public health disaster that leads to more late-stage diagnoses, higher costs, and more preventable deaths.

Mike Rogers' health care plan is a moral failure. It would take health care away from those who need it most, forcing Michiganders with pre-existing conditions into a system that treats us like our health and our lives are worth less. It reveals that Rogers doesn't think we deserve the same access to affordable care as everyone else.

We are in the middle of an affordability crisis, and Rogers is on the side of the policies that are driving up costs, from supporting Trump's cost-hiking tariffs to backing the costly foreign war that's driving up gas prices. His health care plan only promises to make it worse.

This election is too crucial for people like me with chronic conditions who need access to affordable health care. We can't afford to let Mike Rogers anywhere near our health care in the U.S. Senate.

Diane Holland is an Okemos resident, a breast cancer survivor, and lives with multiple sclerosis.

Trump's policies are hurting farmers and Tom Barrett isn't helping us

By DENNIS KELLOGG

Farmers like myself are struggling right now. We're scrambling to keep our operations afloat. Seventy percent of farmers say that they're unable to afford the fertilizer that they need to start the growing season. Energy costs are going through the roof. The Trump administration gave farmers a one-time \$12 billion “bridge payment” in February this year, but most of that money was merely spent on remaining debt that our operations incurred. All of this is leading to a crisis: farmers are simply stopping production altogether.

What does all of this mean? Rotten crops in the field and less food in grocery stores, which will drive up costs for you and your family. On top of this, we still don't have a new farm bill to instill greater security for how we plan our long-term operations — and the new version of the farm bill House Republicans put forward misses the mark in many ways.

But one thing is certain: we need elected officials who will stand up against these reckless tariffs, expensive wars that are driving up costs for farmers and everyone else, and deep cuts to agriculture and rural funding at the federal level. Unfortunately, Congressman Tom Barrett is failing on all counts.

Rural communities have arguably been hurt the most due to President Trump's policies. Almost one in four rural Americans rely on Medicaid for health care, and nearly one in seven rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps. Additionally, many farmers take SNAP dollars as payment for their products, serving as an important form of income. Since Michigan's former Sen. Debbie Stabenow championed the Double Up Food Bucks program, allowing SNAP recipients to double their purchasing power when buying fresh fruit and vegetables, we've seen the success of this program and how this kind of support can be expanded and improved upon.

While families go hungry, we are looking for leadership at all levels of government to protect this assistance. Let's be clear: Nobody is looking for a handout. But with grocery bills the way they are, our elected officials should be doing everything possible to alleviate the stress that we're all facing — not making the situation worse. Tom Barrett has stood by these cuts,

even going as far as saying that he was “proud” to take away these critical lifelines for his constituents by voting for the budget reconciliation package last year. Often known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” this legislation cut hundreds of millions from Medicaid and SNAP over the next decade.

Opinion

Barrett's vote clearly made his constituents angry, because some organized a food drive in front of his office after his “yes” vote. In fact, Tom Barrett has led the charge to have state governments turn over data about who is receiving food stamps in an effort to delegitimize SNAP. Despite Barrett's office claiming that food assistance dollars are going untouched, this budget reconciliation package he voted for in 2025 led to the largest drop in funding for SNAP in history. Of course, this was all to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

Independent family farmers like myself are just trying to get by, and the agriculture policy that we're seeing from the Trump administration has been unhelpful to say the least. Now, with a budget from the U.S. Department of Agriculture that intensifies cuts to programs for farmers and rural communities, we're left wondering who these policies actually benefit. At the end of the day, who is going to want to live in rural communities when there are no opportunities for folks?

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins recently visited East Lansing alongside Rep. Barrett where Rollins essentially lied in public about the proposed closure of U.S. Forest Service offices across the state, while the congressman stood there in silence. So much for bringing jobs to rural areas. All this administration is doing is eliminating them.

Lawmakers in Washington have a responsibility to stand up to these disastrous policies that will imperil independent family farmers and rural communities. We need a farm bill and other federal policies that will sufficiently invest in the hardworking folks who feed our country while ensuring that nobody goes hungry. I encourage our Michigan congressional delegation to oppose the current version of the farm bill and Trump's USDA budget. I hope that Tom Barrett does right by his constituents by voting against them instead of falling in line with the Trump agenda.

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CP#26-169

Legal Notice

Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy
Attention:
Vestibule Addition 2026

The Mid Michigan leadership Academy is requesting proposals for the construction of a new secured entry vestibule addition at the exterior of the building.

Vendors or their representatives may submit proposals to:

Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy
730 W Maple Street
Lansing, MI 48906
Attn: Jeana Bolton-Carrasco

The Academy School Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the School District.

A copy of the RFP will be available by email at dblackmar@charterschoolpartners.com by April 27, 2026. A voluntary walk-thru inspection is scheduled for April 30, 2026, at 1:30 pm, 730 W Maple Street, Lansing, MI 48906.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 12:00 pm, May 8, 2026. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy and be clearly marked: "Vestibule Addition 2026".

002426

CP#26-171

It's time for professionals to run these convention elections

If you think you're having a bad day, check in with Michigan Democratic Party Chair Curtis Hertel Jr.

The East Lansing politico has seemingly all segments of the party breathing down his neck over the sloppy voting system the party used at last month's endorsement convention.

The immediate issue is over the Michigan State University Board of Trustees race, where incumbent Kelly Tebay Zemke won by an alleged 15 votes over former Sen. Sylvia Santana, who was supported by MSU Trustee Dennis Denno.

Santana's team, which now includes the technology fraud team at the Miller Law Firm, found dozens of Tebay votes came from Democrats who were not voting from the convention hall at Huntington Place in Detroit — a violation of party rules.

All off-site votes need to be discounted, they claim.

The off-site voting is understandable. Delegates thought they'd vote at 3 p.m., but after the speeches and some technical problems, things didn't get rolling until 5:30 p.m. People started leaving before then.

Meanwhile, hundreds of attendees didn't get the email from the party on how to use the ElectionBuddy tool for voting, so they stood in line until 7:10 p.m. to cast their votes on a few tablets that were made available.

After that, the formula the MDP uses to calculate its proportional voting got messed up, and the party needed a couple of hours to straighten it out. Results came out at 9 p.m.

Basically, people lost their patience and went home before 5:30 p.m., thinking they could just vote from their car, home or wherever.

That's not allowed.

So now Santana and her attorney, former MDP Chair Butch Hollowell, are calling for a full audit to make sure everything is on the up and up. They have support.

In the spirit of transparency, the MDP thought it was doing the right thing by giving each campaign access to the raw vote. Instead, someone leaked the information to a news site, giving the public a brief peek into which delegates voted for which candidates.

If that wasn't concerning enough for the roughly 7,200 people who attended the convention, Attorney General Dana

Nessel said the votes attributed to her were not accurate.

The losing candidate for attorney general, Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald, is cheering Santana along as well.

An intraparty appeals process is underway, with a report expected by May 18. None of the options here are great.

If the party shuts down the chance of an independent audit, it could accelerate the story. A contested nominating convention could break out in August. The MDP doesn't want that.

They also don't want the story that the political party that prides itself on "free and fair elections" only has the "free" piece of that slogan to claim. The election was free, but arguably not fair.

If the audit is allowed to happen, the results could validate the announced totals.

They could also change the results in favor of Santana and possibly other candidates. That could, again, put egg on the face of the MDP for not being able to pull off an election with reliable results.

Democrats hammered Trump and other Republicans for claiming fraud in the 2020 election, but now they can't run their own election? What does Jocelyn Benson think of that? She's the secretary of state and a leading gubernatorial candidate.

Honestly, I'm fine with the caucus selection process Democrats and Republicans use to pick their attorney general, secretary of state, Supreme Court and state board nominees.

It gives lightly funded candidates a chance to target the delegates they need one-on-one, as opposed to raising a ton of money for TV spots.

However, professionals need to run these things.

Just as corporations and retirement funds hold secret elections for their board positions, so too should election management companies be called upon to run these party elections.

Just as Republicans screwed up four years ago by hand-counting ballots, Democrats need to either keep voting on-site or change their rules.

Otherwise, they risk sacrificing their moral high ground on voting integrity.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC



Photo by Olivia Beebe

Timothy Muffitt will conduct his final concert as music director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra May 15.

‘Every minute was a joy’

Timothy Muffitt looks back on 20 years as Lansing Symphony maestro

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

To lovers of classical music, Timothy Muffitt’s 20 years as music director of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra went by in a flash.

But not to him.

“There was no going by in a flash,” Muffitt said softly, settling onto a bench in the courtyard of The Peoples Church in East Lansing last week. “That’s not to say it wasn’t a blast, because it was. But it definitely feels like 20 years.”

That’s two 10-year cycles of the great symphonic classics — two Beethoven’s Ninths, two “Carmina Buranas,” two blasts of “The Planets,” even two rounds of Bartók’s thorny concerto for orchestra.

Muffitt has uncorked more fifths than a Boston bartender — the mighty fifth symphonies of Beethoven,

Mahler, Shostakovich, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius.

Reaching beyond the great works of the past, Muffitt deftly stirred dozens of significant new works, many of them world premieres, into a decades-spanning, ear-stretching cocktail of sounds.

He made a point of showcasing mid-Michigan’s rich pool of musical talent while drawing major guest stars who can write their own ticket in New York, Vienna and London.

In tandem with executive director Courtney Millbrook, he launched an innovative new music series, LSO at The Robin Theatre, and an ambitious composer-in-residence program that poked the ancient shoots of orchestral music into the bracing air of here and now.

The Muffitt years also gave the lie to the persistent idea that you have to be a self-obsessed jerk to get big things done.

The saga of his tenure in Lansing is both exciting and boring, because the drama is all in the music. Everyone who works with him, from rank-and-file musicians to the world-class stars he drew to Lansing, joined in the same choral fugue: “Tim is all about the music.” No one could recall a single tantrum, a humiliating callout, a wasted minute in rehearsal.

Popular movies about orchestra conductors roil with ego-driven conflict, scandal and confrontation. Sorry to disappoint, but Muffitt’s time in Lansing has been a wall-to-wall mutual lovefest.

Illustrious pianist (and Radiohead proponent)

See Symphony maestro, Page 12

Symphony maestro

from page 11

Christopher O’Riley, who soloed twice with the LSO, called Muffitt “the most warmhearted person I know.”

“With a lot of conductors, it’s all about themselves,” principal percussionist Matthew Beck said. “They have egos, and they want to make big gestures for board members, and that sort of thing. With Tim, the music comes first.”

Principal bassoonist Michael Kroth has been on board for the whole ride.

“It speaks to how the orchestra, the audience and the board feel about Tim that 20 years went by so fast,” Kroth said. “That’s a long stint for a conductor. That shows how well he did in this role, and it’s going to be sad to see him leave.”

“I love playing with the Lansing Symphony,” principal oboist Stephanie Shapiro said. “It’s a big, big joy in my life. I treasure the orchestra, I treasure Tim, I treasure the staff. It’s a place I really love to go to. My only complaint is that we just don’t have enough concerts.”

If you insist on adding drama to the story, take a stiff drink every time Muffitt drops the word “extraordinary.”

“It’s not hyperbole to say that every minute I spent with the orchestra was a joy, even when we were under pressure,” Muffitt said. “This orchestra has been, and continues to be, an extraordinary team of positive spirits that want to make it as great as they possibly can.”

‘Everybody bloomed’

In fall 2005, Muffitt led the Lansing Symphony in a galvanizing perfor-



Courtesy photo

Muffitt visited a scale model of the sun at Lansing’s Impression 5 Science Center in 2009 to promote a performance of Gustav Holsts’ “The Planets.”

mance of Prokofiev’s rarely performed Fifth Symphony, a searing document of war, survival and hope for better times written in the cataclysmic year of 1944.

It was a bold choice for a try-out concert, but Muffitt was in no mood to play. As music director of Louisiana’s Baton Rouge Symphony, he was swept up in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, organizing relief concerts as his city doubled in size and the future of New Orleans hung by a thread.

This particular Fifth had never been uncorked in Lansing before. Muffitt seized the moment and drew a thundering performance from the orchestra that left many faces with a far-away, ravished expression last seen on their honeymoon.

“As soon as Tim got on the podium, it was clear that he was the choice,” Kroth said. “The audience felt it, and the orchestra felt the same way. There was a real excitement, and everybody kind of



Courtesy photo

Muffitt’s tenure featured collaborations with some of the world’s top musicians, including fierce harpist Yolanda Kondonassis. “Tim is a blast,” Kondonassis said. Muffitt called her “a force of nature.”

bloomed.”

Violinist Lauren Hansen, a 24-year veteran of the LSO, said Muffitt was “the perfect fit for this orchestra when he came.”

“It was pretty much unanimous from the symphony musicians,” Hansen said. “His personality, his musicality, the results he got from the orchestra were just amazing.”

From the start, there was some tough love in this lovefest. In rehearsals for his try-out concert, Muffitt took big chances for the sake of the music. Knowing that musician surveys would help decide his fate, he still couldn’t swallow the vinegary snarl of the violin section and respectfully read them the riot act. Hansen was impressed.

See Symphony maestro, Page 13



Photo by Olivia Beebe

Under Muffitt, the LSO played the biggest works in the classical repertoire, including Carl Orff’s wild and rustic “Carmina Burana” in November 2023, with full orchestra, large chorus and vocal soloists.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Muffitt gamely agreed to pose as a magician for a cringey brochure cover in his first year as Lansing Symphony maestro, but the following year he shucked the corn and played up the orchestra’s power.



PINES OF ROME

05 Masterworks Series

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Symphony maestro

from page 12

“We were not sounding great,” she said. “He looks at the section and says, ‘Frankly, I expected more from you guys. It’s not acceptable. You have to go home and work on this.’ That took guts to do on his interview concert. But every single violin respected that.”

In the following months, Muffitt massaged the violins, a persistent trouble spot for years, into a plush and pliable magic carpet that took the orchestra on many a sweet ride.

“Our dynamics got so much better,” Hansen said. “His standards were so great, and everyone wanted to rise to that.”

Kroth still has the orchestra surveys from eight weeks of try-out rehearsals and concerts in late 2005-‘06, a memento of his service on the search committee charged with finding a successor to 27-year maestro Gustav Meier.

Muffitt dominated every category, from communication of emotion to eye contact, baton technique and cueing, and scored more than double the other three candidates in the crucial category of knowledge of the score.

“He was clearly the winning candidate, and the orchestra was entirely behind him,” Kroth said. “That first season, it was new for everybody, and we did some terrific repertoire. It was an exciting time.”

Muffitt felt the chemistry, too. He didn’t envision staying in Lansing for 20 years, but he sensed a big opening.

“I remember thinking that the orchestra had an extraordinary potential for growth,” he said. “It had undergone considerable growth under Gustav Meier. I felt like if I were to come here, I would be inheriting an extraordinary situation.”

(Drinking game update: better make it half a shot per “extraordinary.”)

Things changed so fast that the orchestra’s PR people couldn’t keep up with the vibe shift. On the cringey cover of the LSO’s 2006-‘07 “Feel the Magic” season brochure, the newly minted maestro gamely posed as a magician pulling music out of a hat.

The next season, with Muffitt firmly in the driver’s seat, the gloves were off — literally. The cover photo captured Muffitt in all his grimacing, hair-flinging majesty, summoning up symphonic storms under a new slogan: “Feel the Power.”

Make it go ‘ping’

Some of Muffitt’s rehearsal tricks defied logical explanation. One piece of direction stuck in principal cellist Jinyun Kim’s mind.

“Very often in rehearsal, when he



Photo by Olivia Beebe

Muffitt conducts the audience in “The Star-Spangled Banner,” an opening-night tradition for him.

wants a very pure sound, he says, ‘Make it go “Ping!”’ Somehow, that one word communicates everything immediately,” Kim said. “It’s very effective. I carry it with me and use it in my teaching. Ping!”

As soon as Muffitt came on board, he established a rapport with audiences, donors and the front office, but his relationship with the orchestra was the bedrock.

“One time in rehearsals, he referenced Bill Evans,” violist Madeline Warner said. “I was like, ‘the jazz guy?’ I can tell it’s about music, not about the big three old, dead composers. He has well-rounded musical tastes that bring so much to the rehearsal process.”

“Rehearsals are fun with him,” Hansen said. “He has a clear vision of what he wants, and he’s good at communicating that, whether it’s words, gestures, actions — sometimes he’ll dance on the

podium to show what he wants.”

As they worked together on difficult, long and often unfamiliar scores with precious few rehearsals, the musicians came to consider him more of a colleague, a partner in music making, than a boss.

Warner boiled Muffitt’s bond with the musicians down to a small but meaningful gesture.

“The thing that stands out to me is that he knows all our names,” she said. “There’s, like, a hundred people up there, some of them he’s never seen before, and he learns all our names. I’ve worked with a lot of great conductors, and none of them did that.”

When Warner ran into Muffitt backstage before a rehearsal, she wasn’t sure how to address him.

“You try to be friendly, but there’s this whole hierarchy thing,” she said. “Do you call him maestro? But he was like,



Photo by Olivia Beebe

Muffitt (center) commissioned and premiered several major new works for the LSO and loved to feature top musicians from the orchestra. He got a twofer in January 2024 when the orchestra premiered a profound trumpet concerto by MSU composer David Biedenbender (left), with principal trumpeter Neil Mueller (right) as soloist.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A Muffitt Bobblehead.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Muffitt announcing at an outdoor concert during the pandemic in 2021. He is proud of the creative programming the orchestra developed during COVID, including an innovative series of live streams in partnership with the Lansing Public Media Center.

“Hi, Madeline, and I was so touched.”

The rolling thunder of principal timpanist Sarah Christianson is one of the orchestra’s many pleasures. When Christianson joined the orchestra in 2023, she was new to the community and knew almost no one in the orchestra. Muffitt made a point of approaching her after every concert with praise and encouragement.

“I don’t know any other conductors who have given me that much one-on-one attention and made me feel that welcome in their group,” she said.

As much as the musicians appreciate Muffitt’s warmth and approachability, his musicianship is what impresses them most. Kim said it’s rare for a conductor to perform so many of the biggest works in the repertoire without a score. Countless hundreds of pages of music, often for 70 to 80 musicians or more, are all in his head.

“It’s not just about memorization,” Kim said. “It really shows how deeply the music is internalized inside of him. That level of experience and dedication is really inspiring.”

See *Symphony maestro*, Page 14



Photo by Olivia Beebe

MSU composer David Biedenbender (facing away) and LSO principal trumpeter Neil Mueller embrace after the premiere of Biedenbender's "River of Time" concerto in January 2024, while Muffitt applauds in the background.

Symphony maestro

from page 13

The organized rigor of Muffitt's rehearsal style gives the orchestra the confidence to express themselves with juicy spontaneity in performance.

"We're not worried about how things are going to go," Christianson said. "Tim irons out all of those details so we can really shine as musicians."

Muffitt himself follows the philosophy of learning the book inside and out, then throwing it away.

"I've always felt I wanted to do everything, even the warhorses, as though I was doing the world premiere," Muffitt said. "I would disregard what other people were doing. Didn't listen to it. I would put out of my memory how I might have heard it, and that's hard, because you've been listening to it since you were a teenager."

"Tim really comes alive in a different way during the performances," Christianson said. "He has the freedom to do that because of the discipline he has in rehearsals."

'What's a Korngold?'

With audiences in the palm of his hand and a rocket of a band on the launching pad, Muffitt felt ready to launch the LSO into new worlds. In 2008, he brought fiery young percussionist Lisa Pegher to rampage through a wild percussion concerto by Joseph Schwantner. Pegher would return twice in the following decade to energize LSO programs.

A blazing concerto for two trumpets by Stephen Paulus in March 2009 drew a riotous response and multiple curtain calls from the audience.

"That one stands out," Muffitt said. "It was a major work, and we tackled it. I've always felt that mix is important. Music of our time is how we stay relevant."

In 2011, Muffitt brought in Yolanda Kondonassis, arguably the world's finest classical harpist, a give-no-quarter musical warrior who fought tooth and nail to expand her instrument's genteel reputation and unleash its full range and impact.

Their electric performance of Alberto Ginastera's spiky harp concerto, written

in 1956, was a stunner.

"Oh my God, that was a career highlight," Muffitt said. "That person, that instrument, that piece — that's a force of nature right there."

Impressed by the performance, Kondonassis asked the LSO to join a nationwide consortium of orchestras to commission a new harp concerto from the country's most in-demand composer, Jennifer Higdon.

The orchestra melded with Kondonassis again, and the new concerto put another feather in Lansing's cap.

"Tim is a blast," Kondonassis said. "Jennifer's music is very complex. You need to be able to look up for a split second and know where 'one' is, where 'three' is. You need a traffic cop at the podium in addition to a wonderful musician, and Tim is both."

Muffitt and the orchestra were clearly on a roll. An orchestra with a budget just above \$1 million a year, less than one-tenth that of Grand Rapids and one-thirtieth of Detroit's, was punching way above its weight, drawing internationally acclaimed guest soloists and building a national reputation.

"As things continued to snowball with the new music, that just even gave us even greater momentum for all different kinds of things," Muffitt said.

He took another chance by placing an epic 53-minute symphony written in 1952 by Erich Wolfgang Korngold at the center of a 2018 concert. It wasn't exactly new by the calendar, but it's likely that fewer than a handful, maybe zero, listeners in the hall that night had ever heard it.

"That was a risk in a lot of ways," Muffitt said. "What's a Korngold, right? It's a major, massive symphony, and it's immensely difficult. But I felt we could build on that trust and go there. That was another really great moment."

Muffitt saw that the audience would let him take them to new places — a music director's fondest dream.

The triennial suspense of whether Muffitt would renew his contract or ship his skills to a larger market began to recede.

"There was good reason to stick around for a few years," Muffitt said. "It just all felt like a very good fit. I felt really good about how the orchestra was strengthening its relationship with the



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Muffitt rehearses a Mozart double concerto in March 2023 with violinist Hye-Jin Kim (left) and violist Ara Gregorian.

community. I wasn't looking around. I was ready to settle in and see this through."

'Let's try this seagull'

As the orchestra generated more excitement, major donors began to sprout up from an appreciative audience — supporters who would help Muffitt realize dreams that would otherwise have been out of reach.

Early in Muffitt's tenure, Thomas Hofman and his wife, Wendy Granger Hofman, were sucked into the symphony's orbit as concertgoers. Like much of the orchestra's core audience, their kids were grown, and they found themselves with more time and energy to explore other sides of life.

"It started with the music," Tom Hofman said. "We were hearing really dynamic and interesting programs, and Tim was at the center of that."

As Hofman became more interested in the workings of the organization, he learned that ticket receipts only cover about a third of the orchestra's budget. He ended up serving on the orchestra's board of directors for 10 years and is currently its president.

"It was a natural progression from going to concerts, becoming informed and becoming patrons," Hofman said.

To his surprise, Hofman loved some of the new pieces he heard.

"We didn't come to these concerts thinking we wanted to hear something new," he said. "He kind of worked his magic on us. We'd go to the car thinking, 'Man, that really worked.'"

The newer music struck other listeners as a long-overdue course correction.

Sam Austin, a retired Michigan State University physics professor, and his wife, Mary, were longtime concertgoers, but they often went out of a sense of duty.

"In the time before Tim, we somehow found the LSO kind of boring, concentrating so much on the old masters," Austin said. "That seemed strange to me. If I gave a lecture on Isaac Newton, nobody would come."

After a few rounds of discussions with Muffitt and Millbrook, the Austins set up a 20-year endowment "to support the creation of new orchestral music, develop an understanding and enthusiasm for new music in our community

and create a nurturing environment for composers."

"We left it open-ended and trusted Tim and Courtney to work out the details," Austin said.

Nationwide, the quality, accessibility, sincerity and variety of 21st-century classical music was winning over a new wave of listeners and overcoming old prejudices. Austin likes to wryly quote a friend of his who approached the LSO's first composer in residence, Patrick Harlin, after one of his premieres with the orchestra and said, "You know, it wasn't so bad."

"You've got to have the music heard by people, so they get used to it," Austin said.

"I wanted a composer in residence from Day 1, but it takes a major financial commitment to make sure it's not cannibalizing something more important," Muffitt said. "Sam and Mary have really taken a leadership role in wanting to explore the possibilities."

Harlin created music that whisked listeners off to faraway places, from the Amazon basin to Earth's orbit. His "Earthrise," inspired by the famous photograph of the Earth rising over the horizon of the moon, got a standing ovation and even won the approval of the astronaut who took the photo, Bill Anders. (Anders saw the LSO performance on YouTube and commented that Harlin would "go far.")

Jared Miller, the LSO's second composer in residence, took his charge dead seriously, producing probing and innovative pieces like "Shattered Night," depicting the rise of fascism in 1930s Germany. Muffitt's final concert May 15 will feature a world premiere by Miller based on the peculiar logic and flow of dreams.

"They're very different composers," Muffitt said, "but they both embraced the role, not just writing music for us, but being involved in the orchestra and the community in a very powerful way."

After more than 20 years with the LSO, violinist Lauren Hansen found herself working with living composers, working out new music in real time.

"It's not something that's been played for hundreds of years, and the composer is right there, so we get to figure out

See Symphony maestro, Page 15

Symphony maestro

from page 14

what's going to work for this hall, for these musicians," Hansen said. "It's exciting. I spent the longest time making seagull noises on one of Jared's pieces: 'Nope, that's not the right seagull. Let's try this seagull.'"

LSO at The Robin, a series of chamber-style concerts highlighting new music, has become a staple among the folk, hip-hop, comedy, puppet shows and other eclectic offerings at the REO Town venue. The series is in its fifth year, and nearly all the concerts have sold out.

Karen Lewis, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, went to an LSO at The Robin concert three years ago and was so impressed that she became a donor to the series.

"It's so intimate. You're right there with the musicians," Lewis said. "Two of the composers were there, and that was so cool. How often do you get to talk with the composers when they hear their music being played?"

"We found a lot of sweet spots with that," Muffitt said. "It's in a really cool venue, it goes about an hour with no intermission, it's informal with a lot of personal interaction. We have these composers who maybe a week ago were

in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, talking to that audience, and the next week they're at our Robin Theatre in Lansing, talking to us."

Muffitt credited the musicians, who often woodshed for weeks to perform difficult music they may not have another chance to play.

"It's a labor of love to do those concerts, and it wouldn't be a success without their commitment," Muffitt said.

"None of the orchestras I play with in the area do stuff like that," violist Madeline Warner said. "Once you're out of music school, it's rare that you get to do something that cool."

In February, a string quartet drawn from the LSO, with Warner on viola, played an outstanding set of new music at The Robin, with a furious arrangement of Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" (made famous by the experimental Kronos Quartet) as a closing flourish.

Closing with Hendrix was Muffitt's idea.

"He really wanted that," Warner said. "He was like, 'You can pick the music, but I want to hear "Purple Haze."'"

'Music has many powers'

After Muffitt's May 15 swan song, he'll resume his yearly summer job as artistic director of the Chautauqua Institution's School for Music in western New York, but he's ready for some down time.

He calls his other creative passion,

photography, "a daily pursuit." His subjects range from colorful portraits of people and places to rural scenes, nature studies, abstract compositions and delicate black-and-white imagery. Many of them can be seen on his website, under the tab "side hustle."

"I can certainly see that expanding with more time on my hands," he said.

So far, he has no plans to be a full-time maestro again. When he says the Lansing gig felt like 20 years, he means it.

"Being a music director is a high-pressure job, if you're doing it right," he said. "I'll just have a little more space to still be a musician, still conduct, but have a little more breathing room. Elise and I have plans to travel and see things we haven't seen, or haven't seen together, and that will be a big part of it."

Some things remain constant. Muffitt asserted without hesitation that the music still moves him as deeply as ever.

"Oh my God, yes," he said. "I'm struck on a regular basis by the impact of even works I know inside out. They come on WKAR or whatever, and the same things inside me resonate."

But music has never been a complacent armchair pleasure for Muffitt. When he unleashed Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony in Lansing more than more than 20 years ago, he described it as "music that looks to a brighter future." And if many things look bleak now,

Muffitt pointed out that Prokofiev bottled his life-affirming message amid the global war, genocide, brutal dictators and furious firestorms of 1944.

"Music has many powers," Muffitt said. "It brings us into a physical space together. It brings us into a spiritual place together. It brings us into a human experience together. And we could use more togetherness now, and more common appreciation."

Next season, Muffitt will stay with the LSO as artistic advisor, guiding the chamber series, LSO at The Robin and other ongoing programs as the orchestra sifts through five candidates to succeed him as music director.

But his impact will reverberate well beyond the coming transitional year.

"His retirement is bittersweet," principal cellist Jinhyun Kim said. "I've grown so much under him as a musician. It's the kind of experience money can't buy. We'll miss him so much, musically and personally."

"When you have the luxury of working with colleagues you respect and admire and love making music with, those moments, they're not just static experiences," principal oboist Stephanie Shapiro said. "They shape how you think and perform and be a musician in the future. So, his impact on me personally, and on the orchestra, will always be felt, and that's a nice thing to be able to hold on to."



Photo by Tim Muffitt

A man in red walks the streets in New Orleans.



Photo by Tim Muffitt

Reflections on a car in New Orleans.



Photo by Tim Muffitt

The state Capitol.



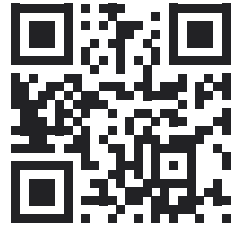
Photo by Tim Muffitt

Urban reflections in Lansing.

Westland's
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up! Scan our code to see how you can help us get their attention!



Live & Local

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Hattie & Blue Medicine – Mother's Day Revue
Sun., May 10, 7 p.m.

Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
School of Rock
Fri., May 8, 7-11 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Mark Weaks
Fri., May 8, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Kickback
Sat., May 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Charlotte Performing Arts Center

378 State St., Charlotte
Great Lakes Male Chorus Association: "This Land: A Celebration of America"
Sat., May 9, 4 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Northside Rhythm Kings
Fri., May 8, 8 p.m.-midnight
Atomic Annie
Sat., May 9, 8 p.m.-midnight

Cleats Bar & Grille

5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Darin Larner Jr.
Thurs., May 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Norman Light
Tues., May 12, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Corey's Lounge

1511 S. Cedar St., Lansing
Chris Corey & Friends (jazz)
Wed., May 6, 7-9 p.m.
Wed., May 13, 7-9 p.m.

Dart Auditorium

500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
LCC Multi-Instrumental Ensemble
Sat., May 9, 3-5 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Capo the Second
Fri., May 8, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Songwriters' night, with Cody Wilson
Wed., May 6, 7-9 p.m.
Jimmy Likes Pie
Wed., May 13, 7-9 p.m.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church

1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Morning Glory Singers and Larry & Carla Sue, bells (Lansing Matinee Musicale)
Wed., May 6, 11 a.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Jake VanRavenswaay
Fri., May 8, 6-9 p.m.
Helena Lost
Sat., May 9, 6-9 p.m.

The Fledge

1300 Eureka St., Lansing
Crying at Work, Tunnel of Love, Armor Class, Coyote
Fri., May 8, 7 p.m.

Graham Vineyards

8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg
Gwen Doerfler
Sat., May 9, 6 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., May 6, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Dead Sugar, Ritual Suns, Grapes
Thurs., May 7, doors 6:30 p.m., show 7:30 p.m.
The Queers, Singing Lungs, Netminder, Leisure
Sun., May 10, doors 6 p.m., show 7 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., May 13, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Drake Milligan, Jack Blocker, Cooper Johnson
Sun., May 10, 7 p.m.

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Royce Vaughn
Wed., May 13, 7-9 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., May 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Mix Pack
Fri., May 8, 8 p.m.
Black Barn Band
Sat., May 9, 8-11 p.m.

Lansing Duckpin Bowling

3224 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Matthew Shannon
Sat., May 9, 3-6 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Dave Menzo Band
Sat., May 9, 4-7 p.m.
Los Cuervos de la M, DJ Trippy
Sat., May 9, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
Chris Canas Band
Sun., May 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

108 W. Main St., Dewitt
Gwen Doerfler
Fri., May 8, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Dumugly & T-Rell
Sat., May 9, 7 p.m.
Confessions of a Traitor, Fight from Within, ExitWounds
Sun., May 10, 7 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., May 11, 6-8 p.m.
Killamania "Poundin' the Pavement" Tour
Wed., May 13, 7 p.m.
Unity – In Music
Thurs., May 7, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., May 12, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Dave Menzo Band
Fri., May 8, 8:30 p.m.-midnight

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., May 6, 8-11 p.m.
Atomic Boogaloo
Thurs., May 7, 9 p.m.-midnight
517 Funktet
Fri., May 8, 8 p.m.-midnight
The Rotations
Sat., May 9, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., May 12, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., May 13, 8-11 p.m.

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Gimme Five
Fri., May 8, 8 p.m.-midnight

Nuthouse Sports Grill

420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Dueling Pianos
Sat., May 9, 7-11 p.m.

One North East Lansing

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Greg Smith
Thurs., May 7, 7-10 p.m.
Crystal Hoffman
Fri., May 8, 7-10 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Mike Skory
Thurs., May 7, 6-9 p.m.
Kathy Ford
Fri., May 8, 7-10 p.m.
Keith Minaya
Sat., May 9, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., May 11, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
David Salvador
Fri., May 8, 8-10 p.m.
Charlie R & Friends
Tues., May 12, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., May 10, 6-9 p.m.

Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Sean Cyphers
Wed., May 6, 6-9 p.m.
Showdown
Fri., May 8, 6-9 p.m.
Michael Root
Wed., May 13, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Madcat & Seifert
Wed., May 6, 8-9:30 p.m.
Tune In inclusive music showcase (Ten Pound Fiddle)
Thurs., May 7, 7:30-9 p.m.
Alex Teller & Sammie Herschok
Wed., May 13, 8-9:30 p.m.

Sholty's Bar

1819 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Northside Rhythm Kings
Tues., May 12, 6-9 p.m.

Side Bar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
CJ Lowe
Fri., May 8, 7-10 p.m.
Konstantin
Sat., May 9, 7-10 p.m.

Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood

2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
Kyle Joe and Sarah Schingeck (Good Neighbor Concert Series)
Tues., May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Johnny Aimcrier
Sun., May 10, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Jazz Doggz
Tues., May 12, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
Don Middlebrook
Fri., May 8, 6-9 p.m.
Northside Rhythm Kings
Sat., May 9, 8-11 p.m.
Open mic night
Tues., May 12, 7-10 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center

3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Gimme Five
Wed., May 6, 6-9 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., May 6, 6-9 p.m.
Tom & Hedda
Thurs., May 7, 7 p.m.
Ammy Amorette
Fri., May 8, 6:30 p.m.
Generator
Sat., May 9, 6 p.m.
Pzazz ... an afternoon of poetry & jazz
Sun., May 10, 4 p.m.
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., May 13, 6-9 p.m.

The Watershed Tavern & Grill

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

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Matt & Valerie
Wed., May 6, 7-10 p.m.
Aces High
Sat., May 9, 7-11 p.m.
Jacob Smith
Wed., May 13, 7-10 p.m.

Stoopfest — happening across Lansing's east side Friday evening (May 8) and Saturday (May 9)

Sault Ste. Marie writer's debut novel is a love letter to the U.P.

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

When Sara Maurer was 8, her calf died. She wrote a poem about it.

"That was the first time I turned to writing to express myself, and I have done so ever since," said Maurer, who published her debut novel, "A Good Animal" (St. Martin's Press, \$29), earlier this year.

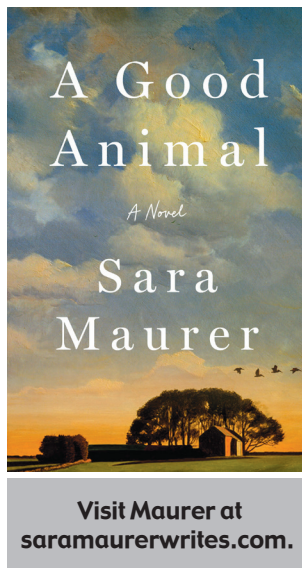
A lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie, where she lives with her husband, Ryan (with whom she has two young adult children), Maurer is an alumna of Sault Area High School. She earned an undergraduate degree in English and French from Albion College, as well as a master's degree in written communications from Eastern Michigan University. In 2022, she completed Stanford University's continuing studies novel writing certificate program. Her short stories and poems have

appeared in various publications.

Set in rural Michigan, "A Good Animal" is a coming-of-age story about Everett Lindt, 17, who loves his family's sheep farm and wants to stay. This puts him at odds with Mary, a new girl who dreams of leaving for art school in California. The novel explores their intense first love, the conflict between staying and leaving, and the difficult choices that shape their futures, blending the realities of farm life

with raw, emotional teenage angst.

"The image of a young couple in a truck at the Sugar Island Ferry dock (in Sault Ste. Marie) came to me in 2019,"



Maurer recalled. "A few months later, another scene came to me. This was of two young men watching a horse show. These characters and scenes rolled around in my head for about a year, making connections and eventually forming the story of 'A Good Animal.'"

She spoke about the process of creating Everett and Mary, the lead characters.

"Everett came to my mind pretty whole," she said. "I felt I knew him immediately and that I was writing his story. I wanted to create a character who loved his family's land and his life and had no desire to leave it."

However, Mary "took a little more teasing out," she said.

"My editor helped me bring her more solidly to the page by asking very specific questions about what she was wearing or doing in each scene, what her voice sounded like, what her facial expressions were. All these attributes came quite naturally to the other female characters in the book, such as



Photo by Libbey Ann Studios

Katie and Kylie, who seemed so inhabited from the start. Mary, however, has never had time to learn who she is, and so because of that, she was more chal-

See Maurer, Page 18

New book dives into history of 'phenomenal' Great Lakes ship architect

By **LILY COLE**
Capital News Service

A prolific Midwestern naval architect, whose steamboats carried passengers who are still alive today, is profiled in the new book, "The Great Lakes Ships of Frank E. Kirby" (Michigan State University Press, \$29.95).

Kirby designed steamboats in the early 20th century, such as SS Milwaukee Clipper, SS Columbia and SS Ste. Claire. Though no longer operational, these three ships are the only Kirby boats still remaining today.

The SS Columbia can be found in Buffalo, while the SS Ste. Claire is at Detroit's Riverside Marina after a 2018 fire that consumed its wooden decks. The ship's current owner hopes to refurbish the vessel. The Milwaukee Clipper is docked on Muskegon Lake and is presently a ship museum.

Another famous Kirby boat, the SS City of Detroit III, was scrapped in 1956, but its English Gothic Room – a part of the ship located on the upper deck and used as a men's smoking room – was preserved and located on Belle Isle in the Dossin Great Lake Museum.

In the book, author Richard Gebhart describes a profile of Kirby as

"long overdue."

That's because no one has gotten around to writing about him, said Gebhart, a former director of the White River Light Station lighthouse museum in Whitehall.

Still, Gebhart, a Great Lakes History lover and writer, took on the challenge and began authorship of a book recounting some of the most famous naval architectural contributions of the 20th century.

Gebhart said the idea for the book came about after he repeatedly noticed Kirby's name scattered throughout maritime documents. He had been combing through those materials while working on novels.

Curious, Gebhart asked friends in the maritime history world if anyone had written about Kirby.

The answer came back from Jay Bascom, the editor of "Scanner," the journal and newsletter of the Toronto Marine Historical Society.

"In our correspondence while I was gathering information about Kirby, I asked him if he was aware of any biography about Kirby, and he said he wasn't. When he was working on something relative to a Kirby boat, he said all he had were notes and crib

sheets [cheat sheets students used when taking written exams] in his ship profile folders."

Gebhart explained that Kirby was a designer who rose during a major shift in shipbuilding history.

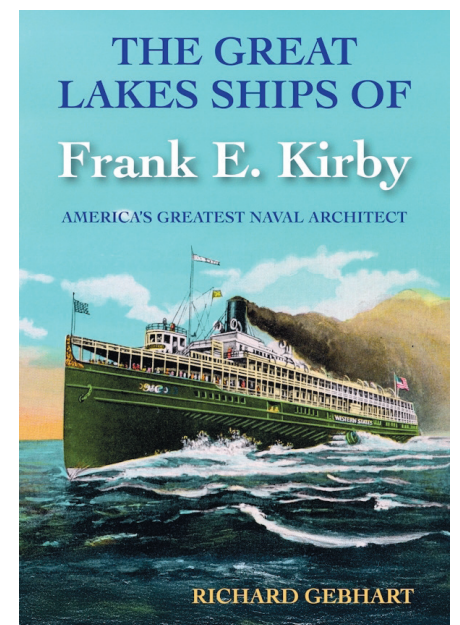
Moving from wooden hulls to iron and steel – all steam-powered – Kirby worked on almost every type of vessel on the Great Lakes and beyond.

"He became an international figure because of his great prowess," Gebhart said.

While researching and writing about Kirby, Gebhart was contacted by Kirby's great-grandson, Nick Kirby, who visited and brought family treasures, troves and interviews that Nick's grandmother conducted with Kirby before he died in 1929.

"I was floored, and it was really emotional when they came too," Gebhart said. "It was like we had blood that we didn't know, and it was just a soul-touching moment for both of us."

"The thing that I'm most amazed about is that it's taken so long for somebody to write about him because the entire light he shot on Great Lakes shipping history over a half-century is just astonishing."



Gebhart said he hopes someone with money stumbles across the book and can use it the right way to restore these boats to their former glory.

"There couldn't be a better place right now than the Detroit Riverfront with all the renovations," Gebhart said, adding, "it's screaming to get those things back there."

Lily Cole writes for Great Lakes Echo.

'The Wonder Bread Years' brings a dose of nostalgia for baby boomers



Photo by Andy Snow

Comedian Pat Hazell — one of the original writers for the long-running sitcom “Seinfeld” — walks the line between stand-up and theater with his one-man show “The Wonder Bread Years.”

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

For more than 25 years, comedian Pat Hazell — one of the original writers for the long-running sitcom “Seinfeld” — has gracefully walked the line between stand-up and theater with his one-man show “The Wonder Bread Years,” coming to the Wharton Center for the first time May 14.

“I’m excited about it,” said Hazell, 64, of Austin, Texas. “Wharton’s a reputable place. People are welcome to come out and get their laugh on with us.”

The show, Hazell’s tribute to Americana, has been called a “comic bullseye” for baby boomers.

“I don’t want to humble brag, but I’ve always

prided myself on making it broadcast television friendly. It’s not a kids’ show, but it’s appropriate for all ages. The older crowd, they’re not used to the aggression you see in comedy clubs,” he said. “It’s presented as theater, but it moves at the pace of stand-up comedy. It’s a little bit of a shapeshifter: People don’t know what they’re coming to, then they start getting involved, and the next thing you know, they’re really getting into the show. For me, that’s the excitement; it means something a little different when you do crowd interaction.”

For Hazell, performing this show only “gets sweeter.”

“It’s a coming-of-age idea,” he said. “The show I’m coming to do is about bringing people together. It doesn’t matter if you’re 65 or 25; there’s a com-

mon denominator where you can look back and go, ‘Yeah, I did that.’

“The humor is quilted together with a lot of humanity and heart,” he continued. “We’re in a day and age now where we have to see each other as human beings and not as people with different opinions on different sides of the coin.”

When he first started the show, Hazell discovered that people were going on eBay to buy back their childhoods, purchasing old toys such as Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Robots and the like.

“There’s something about this idea of hanging on to your past that has value, so I began to do a little bit of a thesis on our sense of wonder — where we lost it and how we get it back,” he said. “Part of it is holding on to things from your youth. Anyone who

collects something is really looking for some comfort in their life that they remember, a specific thing they cling to.”

There’s an opening film featuring vintage commercials, including the famous Life cereal commercial with Little Mikey, a picky young boy portrayed by John Gilchrist who’s seen silently shoveling cereal in his mouth — much to the surprise of his two older brothers, who exclaim, “He likes it!” The popular commercial debuted in 1972 and remained in regular rotation for more than 12 years.

According to Hazell, that gets plenty of cheers.

“I go through my parents’ old slide-show carousels and show audiences what family road trips used to be like pre-internet,” he said. “There’s some-

thing very charming about when you had to use your imagination to fill in blanks of your day as opposed to a video game avatar. That’s the sweet spot for the baby boomer. There’s something about the advancement of play that people want to hang on to. We need stories as much as we need shelter, food and water to survive in this life.”

For Hazell, the most rewarding part of the show is it reminds people that they’re more alike than they are differ-

ent.

“We’re looking for ways to find the differences in each of us as a way to push people away,” he said. “When you create a sense of community and get that shared whatever it is — laughter, tears — people have a greater sense of understanding for each other. That may sound lofty, but it’s so much better than just being a comedy. That’s the chef’s kiss of compliments, when somebody’s life is impacted by a night out.”

May and early June theater productions:

“Bad Books”

Through May 31
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday–Sunday
7:30 p.m. Friday–Saturday
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

“The Shark Is Broken”

May 7–10 and 14–17
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
riverwalktheatre.com

“Eureka Day”

May 8–10 and 14–17
7 p.m. Thursday–Saturday
3 p.m. Sunday; May 16
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
peppermintcreek.org

“The Meta Plays”

7 p.m. Friday, May 8–Saturday, May 9
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

“The Wonder Bread Years”

7:30 p.m. May 14
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

“Hamlet”

7 p.m. May 15
3 p.m. May 16
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing
alofusexpress.org

Dark Nights in Billtown staged reading:

“Dog Mom”

7:30 p.m. May 18
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

“Defiance”

May 29–31 and June 5–7
7 p.m. Friday–Saturday
3 p.m. Sunday
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
facebook.com/IxionEnsemble

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Maurer

from page 17

lenging to render.”

Animals have always been an important part of the author’s life. She was grateful to be able to write about farming life and share it with readers.

“I hope the book encourages readers to visit their county or state fairs and talk to the youngsters who have put so much time and money into their animals and exhibits,” she said.

It took Maurer two years to write the book.

“When I completed the online writing certificate program in spring 2022, my manuscript was just about complete, and I began querying agents. Then, in the fall, I noticed that one of

the agents I had been following was going to be at a writing conference in Michigan, so I drove down to Auburn Hills to pitch her. She was intrigued by the story and the main character’s voice and asked me for 25 pages. A few weeks later, she asked for the full manuscript. I signed with her early in 2023,” the author said.

“A Good Animal” is Maurer’s love letter to the U.P.

“I’ve lived here almost all my life, but even so, I had to learn about the geography, the soil, the plants and trees I see every day. Writing the book forced me to slow down and look around,” she said. “The best part has been my own personal growth. I’ve learned so many things since starting this journey, and I’ve met so many talented people. I’m doing things I never imagined I’d get the chance to do.”

'Bad Books' tells both sides of all-too-common standoff

By **VIC RAUCH**

A mother shows up at the town's public library to berate its librarian for recommending a particular book to her 15-year-old son, Jeremy.

Because she knows what's best for him, the mother tries to convince the librarian to keep such books off the shelves, away from the eyes of children. If the librarian refuses, the mother is prepared to use her considerable social media influence in the community to organize a protest.

The librarian does not concede. Neither does the mother, who summons her supporters via cellphone video. The protest ensues, resulting in violence and damage and injury.

This is the story of "Bad Books," by Sharyn Rothstein, making its Midwest regional premiere at Williamston Theatre.

As a reader and writer, I'm with the librarian. As a former 15-year-old, I know what it's like to be curious about lots of stuff. At that age, I was hand-printing Dewey decimal numbers on the spines of books as a volunteer in my junior high library.

As a parent, I can understand the mother's concerns about what her son and daughter are exposed to. My wife and I raised two sons and three daughters.

As I watched "Bad Books," I observed revelations unfold in a library, a business office and a church parlor in unpleasant but sometimes humorous ways.

Welcoming us to the library is The Librarian — no name, just The Librarian — played by Alysia Kolasz of Detroit.

She's behind the desk when The Mother, played by Molly Garner of Saline, shows up to begin her screed.

As the effects of The Mother's mission emerge — threat, violent protest and aftermath — Garner uses dialogue, body language and facial expressions to perfection. The big tote bag she carries is burdened with more than books, scarves and other so-called essentials. Likewise, her mind is burdened by something in her past.

The protest has consequences she never envisioned. These come in the second and third chapters.

Kolaszcz morphs into the role of The Manager in chapter two so effectively that it took a moment for me to recognize her. Her inflections and movements are different as she plays The Mother's boss. Turns out The Manager isn't as upset about The Mother's protest as she is about something it reveals from The Mother's past.

Kolaszcz's mannerisms change again significantly in chapter three as she becomes The Editor, meeting The Mother in a church assembly room.

Hurt, meek and mild, The Editor is the mother of Jeremy's girlfriend, and she's fully aware of how the protest has made Jeremy an object of ridicule among students at his school. She says she's developed an affection for Jeremy, who confided in her about a big secret his mother had tried to hide from him.

The two main characters end up at the library once again in the final chapter. There's a hint of mutual understanding and empathy that isn't there at



Photo by Chris Purchis

Alysia Kolasz (front) and Molly Garner in Williamston Theatre's production of "Bad Books," by Sharyn Rothstein.

the beginning.

I want to avoid giving away too much of the story, because I want you to feel the way I did as it unfolds so skillfully under the direction of Tony Caselli, the theater's artistic director.

Enhancing Garner's and Kolaszcz's

performances is the work of lighting designer Sam Schikora, sound designer Lucas Nunn, projection designer Will Myers, scenic designer Bartley H. Bauer, costume designer Ryan Scott Long and stage manager Jennifer Lowe. Flawless, to this casual observer.



Review

"Bad Books"

Through May 31
 2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday
 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
 Williamston Theatre
 122 S. Putnam St.,
 Williamston
 (517) 655-7469
williamstontheatre.org

Fenner Nature Center's
WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY
 Saturday, May 9
 8 am - 3 pm
 Guided hikes | Live birds of prey | Family Fun

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www.maximaids.net



Big Quality Penny

Construction has stopped most of the munchies for Big Penny in her traditional location. But this unaltered image shows an alleged pair of googly eyes helping to hold up the entryway of the Quality Dairy at 2400 E. Michigan Ave., which was hit by a vehicle on May 5.

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

Jonesin' Crossword

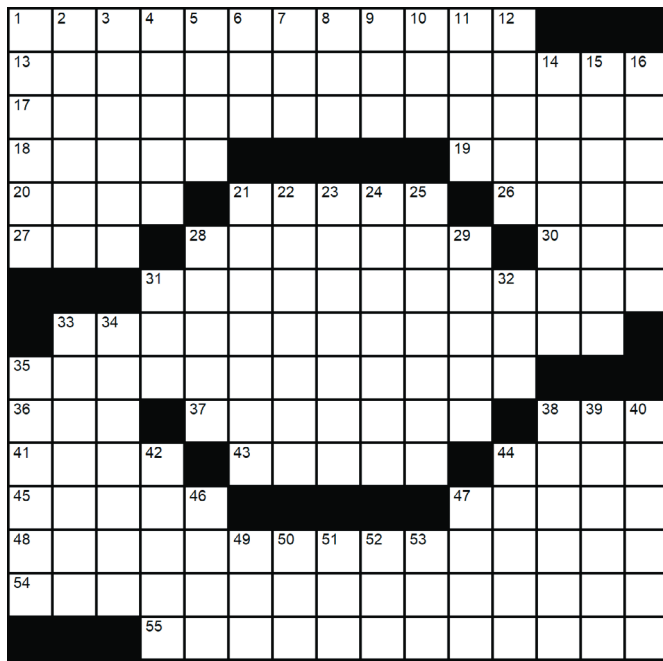
By Matt Jones

“Free Solo” -- it's another themeless puzzle.

by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. 1912 movie title that idiomatically describes someone special
- 13. Peak on a graph (not necessarily the highest)
- 17. Able to donate particular particles, like rubidium and cesium
- 18. Bill of “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”
- 19. Characteristic
- 20. Book after Num.
- 21. 1998 Disney film
- 26. Science magazine that folded in 1998
- 27. Honey qty.
- 28. Fireplace fodder
- 30. Suffix with chlor-
- 31. Philosophical argument for faith in God
- 33. Neil Patrick Harris-hosted Netflix game show of late 2025
- 35. Back-and-forths
- 36. Ohm creation
- 37. Not a good sign
- 38. Orioles great Ripken
- 41. It's usually under 3 and 4
- 43. Curvy figures
- 44. Hard-to-read writing
- 45. Settings in a book?
- 47. Dreams, in Nimes
- 48. Divest, maybe
- 54. Resembled, in



- a way
 - 55. Longtime Pennsylvania senator
- DOWN**
- 1. “The Human Condition” author
 - 2. Georges who created “A Trip to the Moon” (1902)
 - 3. Advantage, metaphorically
 - 4. Dark hours in Dortmund
 - 5. Legal rep.
 - 6. Space station where Shannon Lucid is the only American woman to have stayed
 - 7. Ab ___ (from day one)
 - 8. Kathmandu's country, per the IOC
 - 9. Bioengineered

- food, briefly
- 10. More, at the cantina
- 11. Way off
- 12. American Gladiator with an explosive name
- 14. Friendly words after “hola”
- 15. Scale used in the summer
- 16. Calling
- 21. Trident, e.g.
- 22. Roundish script letters used in old Latin manuscripts
- 23. Crude shelters
- 24. Unsurpassed, as a record
- 25. Partial phrase on a diner sign
- 28. Page of music?
- 29. “Miracle on 34th Street” Oscar winner Edmund
- 31. Kung ___ tofu
- 32. Situps' target
- 33. Unconvincing argument, in slang
- 34. “The Time Machine” author
- 35. Brave group?
- 38. Like some operations
- 39. “___ Fideles” (Christmas song)
- 40. Landlady, e.g.
- 42. Historic 1945 meeting place
- 44. Onetime “Daily Show” correspondent
- 46. Road's end?
- 47. Rangle
- 49. “Good” cholesterol
- 50. Rome-to-Athens dir.
- 51. U.K. “wheelie” item
- 52. Filler syllables
- 53. Drink from a flask

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

May 6-12, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Astronomers depend on instruments to collect the observations that fuel their work, but they don't spend every night glued to the stars. On overcast nights, they turn to what they have already gathered, digging into past measurements and reworking the data. You're in a comparable phase, Aries. For now, looking farther out into the glittering world won't give you anything essential. The guidance you need is folded into what you've previously seen, felt, and taken in. It's waiting for you to sort through and understand it on a deeper level.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When lightning from a cloud hits sand or soil, the current travels down into the ground. It melts material along its path and forms tubular, branching glass structures that can penetrate deep below the surface. I believe that metaphorically similar phenomena will soon happen in your life, Taurus. Sudden insights or electrifying feelings will leave permanent traces in your psyche, creating new pathways for energy and information to flow. These disruptive inspirations and inspiring disruptions will rewire your internal circuitry, creating channels that will enhance your receptivity to future revelations. You'll be able to absorb clues and hints from life that you weren't tuned into before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I invite you to ruminate on death not as the conclusion of physical life, but as a metaphor for discarding what's stale and outmoded. In that light, what would be the best deaths you could generate during the coming weeks? Use your imagination with verve and vigor as you dream up scenarios in which you purge parts of your life that are not serving your strongest, most vital yearnings. Visualize how much fresh potency that will liberate. (PS: To reiterate: You are NOT in physical danger.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): What part of you is too tame? Maybe your imagination is politely well-behaved, or maybe your voice edits itself before it dares to say what it really thinks. Can you inspire it to be wilder and freer? Not reckless or destructive, but more honest and experimental? Here's a suggestion: Go on regular excursions with your wild side, maybe once every two weeks. Follow it as it chooses what to explore and create. This might ultimately teach your tamed self that it's safe to let primal wisdom help steer you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): According to quantum physics, particles can become “entangled,” which means they share a single connected quantum state. Observing and measuring one particle reveals information about the other, even if they're not in close proximity. Einstein called this “spooky action at a distance.” I predict that different parts of your life will also interweave in unlikely ways during the coming weeks, Leo. Moves you make in one area will seem to produce mysterious effects in other domains. For example, adjusting your morning routine may boost your creative output. Healing an old allergy could unlock a professional opportunity. Everything will be more intermingled than the visible evidence suggests.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your key power word for now is stretch. Speak it aloud multiple times every day and write it on a card that you put in a place where you will keep seeing it. Also, make a point of physically and spiritually living out these three senses of stretch: 1. to lengthen, widen, or expand without snapping or tearing; 2. to unfurl your body to its full reach, boosting circulation and warding off stiffness or cramps; 3. to take on challenging tasks that push you to amplify your abilities and move beyond what you previously believed you could do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Four oracles for you, Libra: 1. You're in possession of keys to doors that haven't been built yet. Tuck those keys away somewhere safe. 2. You're ready to dream up titles for stories your life hasn't lived through yet. Write those titles down. 3. You are being granted sneak previews of your future, even though you can't yet see the bridge that will carry you there. Imprint these

glimpses on your memory. 4. You have everything required to grow a more muscular faith that's grounded in real evidence, not in vague hopes and wishful thinking. Take advantage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): At the ancient Library of Alexandria, editors did far more than copy manuscripts. They compared multiple versions of important works and produced editions that aimed at definitively reliable texts. Their efforts at preservation required active intervention rather than mere reproduction. In the coming weeks, Scorpio, I think it will be fun and transformative for you to make similar adjustments to your own life story. How might your memories of the past need to be corrected and refined? How could you make your personal mythology more accurate and liberating? I invite you to revise and revivify the tales you tell yourself about your magnificent journey from the moment you were born until now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The speed of light is how fast it travels through a vacuum. When moving through water and other media, though, light's swiftness decreases. The fastest possible speed in the universe only applies in emptiness. If you put anything in light's way, it slows down. Let's use this as a metaphor for your life. I suspect you may be frustrated by how incrementally things are moving. But you're not in a vacuum. Your bright intelligence is traveling through the complex situations that life has brought you. So, of course you're not zipping along with maximum haste. My advice: Be grateful for the slowdowns. Learn all you can about how they are educating and transforming your brilliance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Cryptographer Claude Shannon (1916-2001) was the father of information theory. His achievements were comparable to those of Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton, and Charles Darwin. Here's one of his secrets: He kept his office filled with juggling equipment, unicycles, and mechanical toys, which inspired him to solve abstract problems. His playful tinkering helped inspire breakthroughs that ultimately created the digital age. For him, recreation and innovation happened at the same time. I invite you to try a similar approach in the coming weeks, Capricorn. Blend “serious work” with “just messing around.” Be alert for key insights that emerge from improvisation and experimentation. Your diversions won't be distractions from your purpose, but rather pathways toward it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Master calligrapher Yukimi Annand is an Aquarius. She teaches that beautiful letters emerge not just from the hand that holds the brush, but from the entire body and relaxed awareness. Breath, posture, centered weight, and quiet mind all flow through the arm to create each stroke. Trying to control the outcome with arduous effort produces rigid, lifeless art. This is an excellent teaching for you right now, Aquarius. Whatever you're striving to accomplish, I beg you to refrain from forcing results through grueling, overly laborious exertion. Instead, align your whole being so that graceful outcomes flow naturally from your soulful coherence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The placebo effect is getting stronger over time. Placebos in drug trials are becoming increasingly effective, to the point where it's sometimes becoming harder to prove that actual drugs work better than sugar pills. Are we getting better at healing ourselves through belief? That would be a problem for pharmaceutical companies, but interesting for the rest of us. Dear Pisces, I believe your placebo response is exceptionally strong right now. In the coming weeks, use it deliberately. Be daring and exuberant in your efforts to heal yourself.

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, May 6

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

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

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

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

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

Code Club - Kids of all experience levels will learn fun, kid-chosen tech skills each week using easy, colorful block-based programming. Grades 3+. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Communicating Through Conflict: May Workshop - Learn tools and techniques to handle heated situations and interpersonal conflict more effectively. 9-11 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/conflict_smoothies.

Dementia Caregiver Series - Three-session series intended to reduce stress for those caring for a person with dementia by providing useful tools and information. 1-2:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

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

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Grant Chats - Stop by for a casual chat and discuss your grant questions and creative ideas with Arts Council membership and program manager Taylor Haslett. 4-5:30 p.m. Biggby Coffee, 6333 W. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

Life Drawing at REACH Studio Art Center - Build drawing skills through direct observation. We'll start with quick warm-up sketches and move into longer poses with our partially clothed model. 6-8 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Meditation - Meditation in the tradition of Thich Hhân Hanh. Contact Robert at 517-420-5820. 7-9 p.m. Chau Van Hanh, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 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.

Mother's Day Charcuterie Workshop with Amayesing Graze - Led by Danielle Mayes, founder of Amayesing Graze, guests will learn how to build a stunning and well-balanced charcuterie board using premium cheeses, cured meats, fresh fruit, and sweet seasonal touches. 6 p.m. Capital City Market, 600 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/CapitalCityMKT.

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. laps.org.

Sporkle 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.

Swift Night Out - This free, family-friendly event is your chance to witness one of nature's most mesmerizing sky shows: hundreds of Chimney Swifts swirling in a tornado-like formation before swooping into their evening roost. 8-9:30 p.m. Smith Floral & Greenhouse, 1124 E. Mount Hope Ave, Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

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

Weaving the Web: Altars - Join us in person or online for our weekly community night, an open, cross-tradition discussion space where we learn, share and build community together. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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

Thursday, May 7

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

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

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

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

"Bad Books," by Sharyn Rothstein - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Bike Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Kick back with an ice-cold brew, grab a burger, and check out some awesome bikes while enjoying great company and laid-back vibes. 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Capital Area Audubon Association Monthly Meeting - Kristy Taylor will share simple tips for exploring great birding hotspots in the Lansing area and how to find new sites to visit while traveling. 7-8 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. capitalareaaudubon.org.

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.

Clayworks Spring Pottery Sale - Community members can shop handmade pottery and support local artists. 4-7 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. 517-626-1160. clayworkspottery.net.

Crafty Vibes - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself

Stoopfest

**5:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, May 8
Noon-2 a.m. Saturday, May 9**
Lansing's east side
stoopfest.org

Stoopfest is a nonprofit, DIY music, comedy and arts festival that brings rising punk, ska, rock, indie and underground artists from across the country to porches, backyards and venues across Lansing's east side. This is the kind of festival where it's not uncommon to see a band play at one venue and then rub shoulders with them in the crowd at another performance.

The two-day event features more than 90 artists, from big names like JER, Christian Holden of The Hotelier, Dan Bejar of Destroyer, Pinkshift and Mal Blum to local favorites such as Dad Caps, Nunya, Sevag H, Tequila Mockingbird, Glen, Home Grown Homunculus, Danger Cat and many more.

Two-day passes are available for \$55.20 at stoopfest.org. As of Saturday (May 2), tickets were 75% sold out.



in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Family Fun Festival - The Anderson Midways Carnival is taking over the Meridian Mall with exciting rides, classic midway games, mouthwatering fair food, and prizes around every corner — fun for the whole family! 4-9 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridianmall.com/events.

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series — Disease Management in Wheat: Head Scab & Fungicide Timing, with Dr. Martin Chilvers - 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/field_crops.

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

Ladies' Silver Blades - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Biggby Coffee Ice Cube, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

MAC Group Dance Class: Beginning Salsa - An easy to learn and fun Latin dance. 8-8:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8800. themac.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Annual Spring Art Show - On display at the Okemos Library through June 29. All original works are created by members for public viewing and purchase. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

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

Peckham Spring Speaker Series - Cory Richards, National Geographic photographer, author and mental health advocate, shares his powerful story of resilience, recovery and reinvention. 10:30-11:45 a.m. Peckham Inc., 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. 517-316-4000. peckham.org.

Preserving MI Harvest — Preserving Toppings: Jam,

Jelly, Syrup, Sauces - Learn preservation tips and recipes to use your frozen berries for tasty syrups, sauces, jams, and jellies in the winter. 1-2 and 6-7 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/food_preservation.

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

Service to Strategy: Lessons in Growth from Hospitality Leaders - Join us for a powerful panel on hospitality and business leadership, where industry leaders and entrepreneurs share real-world insights. 10-11:30 a.m. Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. 200, Lansing. members.lansingchamber.org.

"The Shark is Broken" - All aboard the Orca! "The Shark is Broken" celebrates movie history in a behind-the-scenes exploration of Hollywood's first summer blockbuster. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

Swift Night Out - 8-9:30 p.m. Smith Floral & Greenhouse, 1124 E. Mount Hope Ave, Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

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.

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.

Urban Air 2026 - Spring is in the Urban Air. Enjoy live music, tours, contests, camaradery, campfires, Airstream experts, prizes, shopping and dining. May 7-10. Downtown Eaton Rapids. Learn more and register to attend this fun and unique event at wakeupdowntown.com.

Events

from page 21

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 secondaturday.com/locations/lansing.

Wine & Cheese Pairing - Wilson's Cheese paired with Burgdorf's wines + guided tasting. 21+, limited spots! 6-7:30 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 Holt Road, Webberville. eventbrite.com/o/120959429193.

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, May 8

"Bad Books," by Sharyn Rothstein - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Clayworks Spring Pottery Sale - 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. 517-626-1160. clayworkspottery.net.

Confident Witch Circle: Perthro - At Beltaine, when the fires are lit and the gates are wide open, this class explores the energy of genuine chance alongside everything you've built deliberately. 8-10 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

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

Double Clutch Free Karaoke - First, second & third Fridays from 7-10:30 p.m. Bring your friends, significant other or coworkers and sing your little hearts out! High Caliber, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. highcaliberkarting.com.

"Eureka Day" - When a mumps outbreak threatens the Eureka community, facts become subjective and every solution divisive, leaving the school's leadership to confront the central question of our time: How do you build consensus when no one can agree on truth? 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Family Fun Festival - 4-10 p.m. 1982 W. Grand

River Ave., Okemos. meridianmall.com/events.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Garlic Mustard - Volunteers needed: Come help us pull this invasive species in one of our riverfront parks. 10 a.m.-noon. Hunters Orchard Park, 7242 Old River Trail, Lansing. facebook.com/deltatowship.

"The Meta Plays," by Andrew Biss - Directed by Emma Baker, "The Meta Plays" are a collection of eight short, comedic plays designed to break the fourth wall, offering a "meta" commentary on the theater industry and the struggles of actors and writers. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Annual Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. midmichiganartguild.org.

Mighty Uke Day 2026 - A weekend of fun and music! Featuring teaching artists Daniel Ho, Viggie, Neal Chin, Amy Kucharik and others TBA, with performances, workshops, open mics, group strums, children's activities and more. May 8-10.

University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. mightyukeday.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.

Night Out in Nature for Kids - No need to book a sitter, send your kids to HNC for a fun night out! We'll explore the trails, enjoy nature activities, and meet live animals. Pizza dinner included. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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.

"The Shark Is Broken" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Swift Night Out - 8-9:30 p.m. Smith Floral & Greenhouse, 1124 E. Mount Hope Ave, Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

See Events, Page 23

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, May 27, 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 Kesava Kunapareddy on behalf of Brightwell Group LLC for approval of a Site Plan for a 37,748 square foot addition to the existing Brightwell Behavioral Facility at 3512 Coolidge Rd. The property is zoned B-1 General Office Business District.
2. A public hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance 1573, an amendment to Chapter 50 of the City Code (Zoning) to rezone 825 W. Lake Lansing Rd. from RM22 (Medium-Density Multiple-Family Residential) to RM14 (Low-Density Multiple-Family Residential) in order to bring an existing single-family residence into conformity with the Zoning Ordinance.

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.

Dated: April 30, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#26-174

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, May 26, 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 Special Use approval to serve alcohol for on-site consumption at 601 E. Grand River Avenue. The property is zoned B3 - City Center Commercial.
2. A public hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance 1568, an amendment to Chapter 50 of the City Code (Zoning) to change the zoning of 1049 Cresenwood Road from R2 (Medium Density Single-Family Residential District) to C (Community Facilities) for a new public park.
3. A public hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance 1567, an amendment to Division 8, Building Height Overlay District, of the Chapter 50 of the City Code (Zoning) to allow Council to approve a building height exceeding 160 feet when doing so is necessitated solely by the use of specific construction materials, including but not limited to mass timber, does not result in additional floors or units, and is subject to the review and approval of City Council under the special use procedures of Section 50-94.

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

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

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

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

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

Dated: April 30, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#26-173

Events

from page 22

Saturday, May 9

Adopt A River 2026 - This event encourages businesses, unions, schools and civic groups to adopt sections of the Grand and Red Cedar rivers, to keep their banks and nearby areas clean and free from litter. 8:30-11 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. impression5.org/special-events.

All-Day Shape Note Annual Singing - As featured recently on NPR. Singers, beginners, curious listeners are all welcome for part or all! We sing a cappella from "The Sacred Harp 2025." Loaners available. Free, donations help cover costs. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., doors open at 9. Lunch at noon. Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos. fasolamichigan.org.

America 250 Festival — MidMEAC & NEA Big Read - Come out to Ranney Park and enjoy music, storytelling, art stations, a native plant sale, watershed science activities and tours of the Montgomery Drain stormwater features, led by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Free admission, free parking. Noon-2 p.m. Ranney Park, 3201 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. midmeac.org.

"Bad Books," by Sharyn Rothstein - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

BWC Spring Cleanup: Volunteer Restoration Workday - We'll meet in the circle drive and head out on the trails to clear brush, pick up trash and remove invasive plants. This is an all-ages event. 9 a.m.-noon. Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. facebook.com/miwildlife.

Clayworks Spring Pottery Sale - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. 517-626-1160. clayworkspottery.net.

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

Downtown Spring Clean-Up - We'll hit the streets to clean up debris, clear out plant material, prepare flower beds for planting and more. We have many volunteer spots available. 10 a.m.-noon. 215 S. Washington Square, Lansing. facebook.com/downtownlansing.

Edible Plants Walk - Join Peter Carrington, former curator of MSU's Beal Botanical Garden, for a spring edible plant walking tour of Harris Nature Center. 1-3 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

"Eureka Day" - 7 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Family Fun Festival - Noon-10 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridianmall.com/events.

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

Lecture Series: History and Future of Michigan Racing - A panel presentation on the history and future of Michigan racing, with a focus on the evolution of driver safety. 3-4 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Meridian Farmers Market - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. facebook.com/MeridianTownshipFarmersMarket.

"The Meta Plays," by Andrew Biss - 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Annual Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. midmichiganartguild.org.

Red Cross Adult & Pediatric CPR w/ AED Training - Learn adult and pediatric CPR, automated external defibrillator (AED), emergency procedures like rescue breathing and the Heimlich maneuver, and first aid. Ages 13+. Registration req. 10 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Red Cross Basic Life Support - Adults, college students and healthcare professionals — get your Red Cross BLS certification! Registration req. 12:30-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

REO Town Annual Cute Lil Market - There will be an artisans and makers market right out on the sidewalk, up and down Washington Avenue! Perfect timing for Mother's Day! Businesses will be having specials and tons of other activities to be announced! 11 a.m.-4 p.m. REO Town, Lansing. facebook.com/reotown.

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

"The Shark Is Broken" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Spring Fling Craft Show and Touch-a-Truck - Over 50 craft vendors, food trucks, and touch-a-truck with over a dozen first-responder vehicles, lift trucks, semitrucks and more. Free family fun! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Downtown St. Johns. facebook.com/Stjohnsareachamber.

Spring Fling Statewide Lesbian Dance - Celebrate warmer weather and find the spring in your step — with lesbians, music, food, drink, and fun times in community. For lesbians and our friends. 7-11 p.m. Sir Pizza's Old Town Pub, 201 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/events/1333438198629931.

Strikeout Baseball Opening Day - Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of baseball, community and celebration, with a special appearance by former MLB Hall of Famer John Smoltz! Noon-4 p.m. Ferris Park, 500 W. Shiawassee St., Lansing. facebook.com/strikeoutbaseballusa.

Swift Night Out - 8-9:30 p.m. Smith Floral & Greenhouse, 1124 E. Mount Hope Ave, Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

Uke 'n' Rhythm with Lacy and Ken - Make some joyful noise with hand percussion instruments and ukuleles! For folk enthusiasts ages 3-13. A co-production with Mighty Uke Day. 11 a.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter Native Plant Sale - We'll have a variety of native wildflowers, sedges and grasses for sale. The plants are grown by Bendy Stem Farm in Dimondale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Township Farmers Market, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. wildoneslansing.weebly.com.

World Migratory Bird Day at Fenner Nature Center - Explore Fenner's trails alongside local birders, naturalists, and Fenner staff as you search for migratory and resident birds. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

YART Sale & Open House (A Yard Sale for Art Lovers) - Dig through our collection of abandoned and donated artwork and score original pieces at yard-sale prices. Our teaching artists will also have booths with unique artwork for sale. 1-4 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Sunday, May 10

"Bad Books," by Sharyn Rothstein - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

DJ Trivia at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Free to play. Prizes for the top three teams. Bring your friends and test your knowledge! 4-5:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.



America 250 Festival – MidMEAC & NEA Big Read

Noon-2 p.m. Saturday, May 9

Ranney Park

3201 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

midmeac.org/the-big-read

With some recent flooding amid heavy rains in Greater Lansing, residents can take a moment this weekend to learn firsthand about drains and stormwater in the area at a festival that also features music, art, native plants and storytelling.

The America 250 Festival, part of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council and Endowment for the Arts' Big Read program, includes a focus on reading and storytelling, with a big part of the story being the ground around Lansing and what happens when it gets wet. Like really, really wet.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick Lindemann will lead tours of the Montgomery Drain, an expensive, multi-year project aimed at better controlling the area's stormwater.

The tours begin at the Davis Amphitheater, south of Michigan Avenue.

The festival will also offer a native plant sale, with plants supplied by Bendy Stem Farm in Dimondale, as well as watershed science activities and art stations, including nature journaling.

The event is free and open to attendees of all ages.

"Eureka Day" - 3 p.m. Stage One, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

Family Fun Festival - Noon-5 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridianmall.com/events.

Green Man Day - We'll be indoors at Weavers of the Web, cleaning up Beltaine and prepping the trailer and things for Welcome Summer Festival, as well as working on maintenance, library, and storage. Noon-5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

The Healing Feast: Resting in the Divine Feminine

- A special Mother's Day celebration to honor and uplift. ALL genders are welcome to come and commune with the Divine Feminine and the feminine energy within! This month's event features a potluck lunch, music, movement, and a guided rest experience. 12:30-3 p.m. The Luna Center, 6110 Clark Road, Bath. eventbrite.com/o/93689375763.

See Events, Page 24

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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Beerfest at the Ballpark

3-8 p.m. Saturday, May 9

Jackson Field

505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

beerfestattheballpark.com

Adults of legal drinking age can head to Jackson Field, home of the Lansing Lugnuts, on Saturday for one of the hottest day parties of the year: Beerfest at the Ballpark.

The annual event offers the opportunity to sample more than 300 different beers, ciders, hard seltzers, meads, spirits and wines, as well as live music on three stages, shopping and food from the Lugnuts concession stands.

Sampling tickets are \$2 each. Entry is \$25. General admission (\$45) adds 10 sampling tickets, and a VIP pass (\$60) adds 20 sampling tickets and early admission. Ultimate VIP passholders (\$130) get a T-shirt, free parking, appetizers and access to exclusive beverages available only at that tier.

Events

from page 23

Introduction to Human Design - The Human Design system helps us navigate our lives and discover deep truths about ourselves. This is powerful knowledge that takes years to master, but this course gives you all the tools you need to determine if it resonates with you and get your personal study started. 3-4:30 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Introduction to the I Ching - In this workshop, you'll learn some of the history of the I-Ching and learn how to use it as a powerful divination tool in your own magical practice. 1-2:30 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. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Annual Spring Art Show - Noon-6 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. midmichiganartguild.org.

Mother's Day Three-Course Cajun Dinner at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Celebrate Mom with a night full of bold Cajun flavor, Southern comfort, and zero dishes to wash. Noon-9 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Mother's Day Brunch - Celebrate mom in style at The Comfort Zone Cigar Lounge & Bistro. 2-6 p.m. 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. theczlounge.com.

Museum Tour: Deep-Rooted with Beal Botanical Garden - Join us for an immersive tour unearthing the historical, social, and political narratives growing within works of art from the MSU Broad Art Museum's collection. 1-2 p.m. 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

"The Shark Is Broken" - All aboard the Orca! "The Shark is Broken" celebrates movie history in a behind-the-scenes exploration of Hollywood's first summer blockbuster. 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Storytime at the Michigan History Museum - Join Ms. Cassie from Capital Area District Libraries for story time! Each month, we'll explore a new corner of Michigan's past through stories, songs and hands-on fun. 1:30 p.m. 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/MichiganHistoryCenter.

Weekly Drum Circle at Lake Lansing Park North - Join us every Sunday (weather permitting) for a fun and energetic afternoon of rhythm and drumming with the Greater Lansing Area Drummers! 2-4 p.m. 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. lansingdrummers.wixsite.com.

Monday, May 11

AA Women's Meeting - 6-7 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-377-1444. AALansingMI.org.

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.

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 Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, 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.

Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series: Greg Dooley - Professor Dooley is a college football historian at the University of Michigan, where he teaches three popular courses on athletics history, sports leadership, and NIL (Name, Image & Likeness). 11 a.m. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. lansingsymphony.org.

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

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Annual Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. midmichiganartguild.org.

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. lapseg.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 — Allergy 102: Living with a Food Allergy - We'll break it down: label reading, emergency care plans, and advocacy. Noon-12:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/safe_food_water.

Tuesday, May 12

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.

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

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

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

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

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Quad Cities River Bandits - 6:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. mlb.com/lansing.

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

Little Ones & Kindred Playgroup - A standing Tuesday gathering for families in the Weavers community, a lowkey, no-agenda space where the kids can play and the grown-ups can play along or talk to other adults. 4-7 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project: Records to Riches - Learn how to keep track of what you spend and earn so you can make smart choices for your Market Livestock Project. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/youth_business_guide_to_success.

Matter of Balance - Eight-session workshop designed to improve balance, flexibility and strength, helping older adults reduce fall risks and become more active. 10 a.m.-noon. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@coa.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild's Annual Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

Nerf Battle Returns! - Players will run, dodge, and dive as they try to out-wit and out-blast the competition during NERF Mobile Games! Registration req. 6-7 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Open Swim Improv Comedy - Anyone in the community can come to participate in improv comedy games, or just sit in the audience, suggest prompts, and watch the silliness unfold! The event is free for your first visit and \$20 annually after that. 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com/barebones.html.

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. lapseg.org.

PEARS Deeper Dive: Success Stories - This Deeper Dive should be attended after the PEARs Crash Course. Learn how to enter a Success Story. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od.

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

Weathered Nest Vintage Market Crafting Connection - Free open crafting in our studio. Bring your own crafts to work on or purchase craft supplies here. No cost to participate. Noon-3 p.m. Weathered Nest Vintage Market 200 S Bridge St., Grand Ledge. 517-918-0529.

Wednesday, May 13

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

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

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

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

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

Code Club - Kids of all experience levels will learn fun, kid-chosen tech skills each week using easy, colorful block-based programming. Grades 3+. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Celebrating Cinco De Mayo with an Acapulco burrito

By **COURTNEY BOWERMAN**

I used to love the Cancun Mexican Grill on West Saginaw Highway. That location was much more convenient than the one in Grand Ledge. So, imagine my surprise when, in 2022, Cancun moved out and was replaced by Acapulco Mexican Grill.

Acapulco is a Michigan-based restaurant chain with a total of five locations, three of them in the Lansing area. When I first stopped by the re-vamped restaurant, I was struck by how similar its menu was to Cancun's. This was no coincidence. As it turns out, Acapulco and Cancun are managed by the same family, and the former is actually a spin-off of the latter.

Those who appreciate Cancun's bright atmosphere and colorful tables might be surprised by Acapulco's more muted and rustic ambience. The tables are plainly designed, and the cushions on the booths are shades of dark brown and red. Still,

it's fashioned like a Mexican cantina, complete with fancy sombreros and Day of the Dead-esque paintings on the walls.

I honestly didn't intend to dine there the Sunday before Cinco De Mayo, but it worked out well for this review. My friend and I were seated right before the lunch hour, so it wasn't too busy. Our waiter immediately brought us a basket of homemade tortilla chips and mild salsa, and we didn't have long to wait for our food.

As stated previously, the menu is pretty much the same as Cancun's: burritos, tacos, quesadillas, enchiladas, chimichangas and other traditional Mexican-restaurant fare. My friend tried the mushroom quesadilla, and though it sounded like an interesting choice, I went with what I knew: the restaurant's trademark Burrito Acapulco with chicken.

The Burrito Acapulco is similar to a wet burrito, filled with shredded chicken and topped with burrito sauce, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and sour cream. It's served with



Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

a side of Mexican rice and refried beans. The chicken, rice and beans are always perfectly cooked, and the lettuce is crisp and fresh, while the burrito sauce, sour cream and cheese blend perfectly together. It's difficult to say whether Acapulco's

food is better than Cancun's. If you live in west Lansing, however, Acapulco is definitely a more convenient choice. Even though it doesn't have the colorful ambience of Cancun, Acapulco still offers delicious Mexican food at reasonable prices.



Burrito Acapulco

\$16.75

Acapulco Mexican Grill
8741 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday
(517) 622-0343
acapulcomexgrill.com

CITY OF GRAND LEDGE ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE

At its regular meeting on Monday, 27 April 2026, the City Council adopted Ordinance #618, amending the City Code, Chapter 14 – Emergencies, Article I – In General. The full text of the ordinance is available on the City's website at www.cityofgrandledge.com and at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

CP#26-172

State of Michigan Probate Court, County of Eaton, Publication of Notice. In the matter of John C. Herbstreit, Deceased and Ethelen A. Herbstreit, Deceased: To all interested persons and creditors (known and unknown) whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: Take Notice: The Settlor, John C. Herbstreit (DOB 3/15/1931) who lived at 733 Fieldview Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837 died on 2/8/2025. The Settlor, Ethelen A. Herbstreit (DOB 10/12/1936) who lived at 733 Fieldview Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837 died on 3/30/2026. There is no personal representative of the settlors estates to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedents are notified that all claims against John C. Herbstreit and Ethelen A. Herbstreit will forever be barred unless presented to Michael R. Herbstreit, Trustee of The Herbstreit Family Trust dated November 15, 1999, at 2341 Sail Street, Traverse City, MI 49686 within four months after the date of publication, 5/6/26. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Attorney: Benjamin L. Cwayna, P70266, 11973 Sweetwater Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Petitioner: Michael R. Herbstreit, 2341 Sail Street, Traverse City, MI 49686.

CP#26-175

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN
GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY
CITY PULSE AND WKAR VOTERS

TOP 5 MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANTS

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

1. Aladdin's Restaurant

Middle Eastern restaurant with a robust menu of sandwiches, stews, combo plates and more
300 N. Clippert St., Lansing
(517) 333-8710
lansingaladdins.com

10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

2. ChouPli Wood-Fired Kabob

Casual eatery serving wood-fired kebabs made with chicken, beef, lamb, veggies or halloumi cheese

4411 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
(517) 708-0404

choupli-kabob.com

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

3. Jerusalem Bakery

Family-owned bakery and market offering made-to-order food to eat in or take away

1456 E Michigan Ave, Lansing
(517) 485-9975

facebook.com/jerusalemptaandmore

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

4. Sultan's Restaurant — west Lansing

Roomy eatery offering classic Middle Eastern dishes, with lots of vegetarian options

940 Elmwood Road, Lansing
(517) 333-9970

facebook.com/SultansWest

11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

5. Woody's Oasis

Quick-service restaurant offering classic Mediterranean eats, plus burgers and raw juices

1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing
(517) 351-2280

woodysoasis.com

11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily

A Mother's Day cone-ucopia

By ARI LEVAUX

When Zeus was a newborn, his father wanted to eat him, so the future king of gods was taken to a secret chamber beneath Mount Ida on the Greek island of Crete.

There, baby Zeus began drinking the milk of a goat named Amalthea. He became so strong that he accidentally broke off one of Amalthea's horns while they played. She filled the broken horn with herbs and fruit and gave it to Zeus. The food in Amalthea's horn never ran out.

This myth is widely believed to be the

origin of the word "cornucopia." The word is derived from the Late Latin terms "cornu," for horn, and "copiae," for copious, which together mean "horn of plenty."



Throughout the ages, the cornucopia has often been portrayed as a horn or horn-shaped basket, sack or other vessel overflowing with fruits, grains, flowers and other foods. Depictions of this abundance adorn the state flags of Wisconsin and Idaho and the national flag of Peru. Animal horns have appeared elsewhere throughout history as drinking vessels for children, including

Bronze Age drinking horns found in the graves of infants excavated in Bonyhád, Hungary.

More recently, the cornucopia has become associated with the fall harvest and the Thanksgiving holiday. But given its history, I think it's a meaningful way to celebrate Mother's Day. The cornucopia also honors the fertility and abundance of our Mother Earth, which awakens in spring.

My Mother's Day cornucopia employs a chocolate-covered ice cream cone as a horn. Since ice cream cones are small, I make them in bunches, a veritable cornucopia of cornucopias overflowing with strawberry-ricotta filling.

Chocolate, strawberries and cream seemed like a fitting combination of flavors for Mother's Day, and when I fed samples to a room of guests at a Mother's Day pre-party, they were a hit.



Photo by Ari LeVaux

The filling is based on the filling of a Sicilian cannoli, and the symbolism is just as rich. Using a horn full of milk as a baby bottle isn't too different from giving a kid an ice cream cone. A fitting treat for your mother or anyone else you want to pamper.

Ice cream cone cornucopias

Pro tip: you don't have to wait around for Mother's Day to serve this creamy, conical indulgence.

Makes 10 copious cones

- 2 cups ricotta cheese
- 1/2 tablespoon butter
- One 4-ounce chocolate bar
- 3 tablespoons chocolate-hazelnut spread, like Nutella
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar (optional)
- 10 strawberries, washed and diced
- 10 ice cream cones
- Mint for garnish
- Pocky sticks or other long, thin cookies for garnish
- Set aside the ricotta to drain in a mesh strainer.

In a saucepan on low heat, melt and stir the butter, chocolate and chocolate-hazelnut spread. When they're completely melted and mixed, dip the cones one by one, covering the rims with chocolate on all sides. Find a way to support the cones upright, perhaps in small cups, and place them in the fridge to harden.

In a bowl, mix the strained ricotta, vanilla extract, sugar and half the strawberries. Pack this mixture into the chocolate-dipped cones and top with more strawberries, a sprig of mint and whatever other fun, beautiful things you can find.

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