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May 27-June 2, 2026

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The Insufferable Accounting of American Intolerance

Do we live in the richest country on the planet?

I suppose that depends on your definition of rich.

We certainly have an abundance of money—on paper, in markets, in quarterly earnings reports and in defense budgets so large they're difficult to comprehend. But much of that wealth sits in the hands of a few, while the rest of the country is told to be patient, responsible and realistic.

When the conversation turns to healthcare—especially universal healthcare—the answer is always the same: *we can't afford it.*

And yet I would argue that many nations with far less money are richer than we are.

Because what is wealth without health? What good is prosperity if millions of people are one diagnosis away from financial collapse? What good is calling ourselves the greatest nation on earth when something as basic as medical care can still be treated as a commodity—approved, delayed, or denied depending on whether the right boxes are checked and whether the numbers look favorable to someone studying a spreadsheet in an office tower?

As I sit here wondering whether I'll have to pay thousands out of pocket just to fix a tooth, I can't help but ask: Does Congressman X spend days weighing pain against a deductible? Does he lose sleep wondering if this procedure is covered, or whether waiting another month might make it worse?

The question is rhetorical.

He makes a call. His assistant adjusts the schedule. A driver takes him into town. He walks into an office, receives the care he needs, and returns to his day with one less burden on his shoulders.

For millions of Americans, that same moment becomes a negotiation with pain.

Negotiation with insurance and negotiation with debt.

And the older I get, the more I fear what happens when the stakes become greater than a toothache.

I fear the day my wife or I need serious care, and our health is placed under review by someone in a suit who doesn't see a person in pain, but a claim number, liability and cost assessment. A line item that needs enough black ink next to it before approval is granted.

We are told this is simply how the system works. That this is practical. That this is freedom.

But freedom for whom?

Because there is nothing free about living with untreated pain while waiting for permission to heal.

There is nothing rational about asking families to gamble with their health because seeing a doctor might jeopardize their mortgage.

And there is nothing surprising about what prolonged suffering does to people.

That doesn't excuse violence. It doesn't justify it.

But it should force an honest conversation about the machinery of suffering we've normalized.

How many people wake up every day trapped between pain and bankruptcy?

How many skip appointments because rent is due?

How many swallow the fear, delay treatment, and hope their body holds together a little longer because the bill could ruin them?

And how many executives or lawmakers ever experience that same calculation firsthand?

At 55, I find it harder and harder to accept the tired explanation that "America just can't afford universal healthcare."

Countries with smaller economies and fewer resources do it.

Countries with less global influence somehow manage to decide that keeping their people alive and healthy is not a radical policy—it's a basic responsibility.

Meanwhile, in the richest country on earth, millions are still asked to prove they deserve care before they receive it.

And maybe that's where America feels most absurd.

Like one of those old hotel commercials: someone offers advice about an illness, another asks, "Are you a doctor?" and the answer comes back, "No—but I stayed at a Holiday Inn Express last night."

It was funny because everyone understood the joke: a good night's sleep doesn't make you an expert.

Then again, anyone who's ever truly rested knows sleep matters more than we often admit.

You can't measure the value of waking up without pain, without dread, without your mind already racing through bills, headlines, and worst-case scenarios before your feet touch the floor.

But how many Americans are actually sleeping well anymore?

How many drift off while the chaos of the day scrolls endlessly across a glowing screen?

How many lie awake wondering what tomorrow might cost—groceries, rent, prescriptions or another emergency we didn't budget for?

And in a country where even the price of a modest hotel room climbs higher and higher, who exactly is checking into comfort these days?

Maybe that's the deeper joke we've written for ourselves: In the wealthiest nation on earth, we are told peace of mind is priceless—right before we are handed the bill.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

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Governor race upended as Mike Duggan withdraws

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East Lansing author's latest kids' book: "Woe is Me ... It's Summer"

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Frantor's Sunrise is Lansing's newest sushi sensation

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Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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FEEDBACK FRENZY
SURVEYS ARE NOW EVERYWHERE.

DING!

How do you like the cupcake, Jolene?
Text "Y" for "Yummy!"

AND THEY'RE OFTEN ELABORATE.

QUESTION 33: ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, HOW MUCH DID THIS CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE FILL YOU WITH JOIE DE VIVRE?

THEY CAN BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ANSWER.

"How likely are you to recommend this toaster to a friend?"

AS IF THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENS

HEY, I JUST BOUGHT A DOPE TOASTER YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT.

AND NOW, PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE!

1. How many comics like this have you consumed in the past two weeks?
2. Which panel did you prefer, if any?
3. Have you recommended your toaster to a friend yet?

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

SIR, SPEAKING AS YOUR PERSONAL LAWYER WHO IS ALSO YOUR ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, I BELIEVE WE HAVE WON A MOMENTOUS VICTORY UNDER THE WELL-ESTABLISHED LEGAL PRECEDENT OF "FUCK YOU, TRY AND STOP ME!"

IT'S NOT CORRUPTION IF THE PRESIDENT DOES IT!

FIRST, WE SUED YOUR OWN TREASURY DEPARTMENT FOR \$10 BILLION! AND THEN WE "SETTLED" FOR A MERE \$1.8 BILLION!

\$1.776 BILLION! IT'S THE PATRIOTISM NUMBER!

YES, SIR! AND AS SOON AS REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS STOP WHINING AND CAME IN, YOU'LL HAVE A SLUSH FUND YOU CAN DOLE OUT TO ALLIES--INCLUDING JANUARY 6TH DEFENDANTS!

AND THEY CAN STAND BACK AND STAND BY--UNTIL I NEED THEM AGAIN!

ALSO, I ADDED A CLAUSE WHICH BARS THE I.R.S. FROM PURSUING ANY PAST TAX CLAIMS AGAINST YOU, YOUR FAMILY, OR YOUR BUSINESSES! IT'S VERY OFFICIAL--I SIGNED IT MYSELF! FUTURE PRESIDENTS WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLY!

HA! HA! "FUTURE PRESIDENTS"!

LISTEN, LAWYER GUY--MY BALLROOM IS GOING TO HAVE DRONES AND MISSILES AND AN IMPENETRABLE BUNKER! I COULD BARRICADE MYSELF IN THERE AND NEVER LEAVE!

ER--ALTERNATELY, YOU COULD SECURE YOUR GLORIOUS LEGACY BY ENDORSING YOUR OBVIOUS HEIR APPARENT!

I SEE YOU STANDING THERE, BUT I DON'T SEE A FRESH DIET COKE ON A SHINY GOLD SERVING TRAY.

A THOUSAND APOLOGIES, SIR! I'LL BE BACK FORTHWITH!

TOM TOMORROW © 2026-05-25... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

State of Michigan's gubernatorial race after Mike Duggan ends independent campaign

By **BEN SOLIS** and
KYLE DAVIDSON/
Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

Former Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, betting on frustrations from both Republicans and Democrats over the two-party duopoly, cast aside his former Democratic Party credentials to embark on an intriguing, albeit quixotic, independent bid for governor in 2026.

Thursday, he abruptly ended that campaign.

Duggan's press team announced that he would drop out of the race with an open letter from the former mayor to Michigan and his supporters.

"I am so disappointed to have to write you this letter," Duggan wrote in a news release issued Thursday. "For the last 18 months I've worked every day to try to change Michigan's toxic party politics. I've been supported by hundreds of volunteers who believe deeply that years of constant Democratic-Republican conflict in Lansing have led to our schools declining, our housing costs rising, and our young people moving out of Michigan in record numbers."

Duggan wrote that he knew taking an independent route to the Romney Building, where the governor's office is housed across the street from the Michigan Capitol, would certainly be a challenge.

"Even against those odds, the excitement for real change carried this campaign upward for more than a year," Duggan wrote. "In every one of the 5-10 town halls a week I was holding across Michigan, we hosted Democrat, Republican, and Independent neighbors all mixed together in lively and positive discussions. It was a remarkable experience."

Still, that effort wasn't enough to break through, especially with the tide turning nationally toward Democratic Party momentum, and away from the Republican Party under President Donald Trump.

"Democrats (and many Independents) were unified in anger as Trump's war in Iran dragged on and gas prices rose above \$5 a gallon," Duggan wrote. "On May 5, the Democratic State Senate candidate in Saginaw won 60% of the vote in a seat Republicans thought



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson campaigned in Lansing on April 30.

would be very competitive. Against the Democratic headwinds, we worked twice as hard."

Duggan wrote that his team continued to "pile up huge numbers of union endorsements, once the unions learned that Michigan election law allowed voters to vote both straight ticket Democrat and also vote Duggan as an Independent."

Again, those factors were not strong enough to justify continuing the race forward, Duggan wrote.

"But for the public in general, our internal polling showed the intense anger over gas prices and Iran was boosting Democrats in every office nationally," the former mayor said. "The Chamber poll last week showing we'd fallen 11 points behind the Democratic candidate reflects that reality. Being down 11 points in May wouldn't discourage me — I've been down worse than that in the past. But this time it's compounded by our inability to build serious national fundraising support."

Duggan noted that his Michigan donors "have been extraordinarily generous in supporting this campaign" and that 94% of his donors come from the Great Lakes state.

The experience running as an independent, however, showed Duggan that gubernatorial campaigns are "today funded overwhelmingly from well-established networks of national party money, which is why I've been all across America meeting with national groups



Courtesy

Michigan Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt.

to try to build a competitive fundraising network for Independents."

That kind of national support did not materialize for his 2026 campaign.

"There is much interest, but we've finally concluded the national fundraising for these groups is too much in its infancy to be of great help to our race in 2026," he said. "As generous as our Michigan donors have been, we will be strongly outspent by the national Republican and Democratic parties this fall."

All of those dynamics pointed toward Duggan hitting a wall and having no path toward victory in November.

"If we were even in the polls and behind in fundraising, we have a path to winning," Duggan wrote. "If we were behind in the polls and even in fundraising, we have a path. But we're behind in both. It's just not right to ask our volunteers, faith leaders, unions, elected officials and donors to continue in a campaign that, in my heart, I no longer feel good about our chances to win."

Michigan Democrats weigh in on Duggan's exit

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, whose gubernatorial campaign may benefit the most from Duggan's departure, was gracious in her statement following his withdrawal from the race.

"I want to thank Mayor Mike Duggan for what he brought to this race and for his years of service to Detroit," Benson said. "At a time when politics can feel divided and cynical, we need more civility,



Courtesy

U.S. Rep. John James of Shelby Township.

more listening, and more people willing to work together to move our state forward. I welcome Mayor Duggan's ideas, his supporters, and everyone who believes Michigan's future is bigger than division — and that it can be a place where anyone can afford to live, work, and thrive. We may not always agree on everything, but we share a commitment to building a stronger Michigan. And that work continues in this campaign."

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Curtis Hertel, who was at odds with Duggan at every turn after he left the party to embark on his independent bid, wished Duggan well and thanked him for his political tenure in Detroit.

"We're grateful to Mayor Mike Duggan for his service to the city of Detroit and our entire state. While we've had disagreements, the Mayor brought crucial ideas to this race and we appreciate his commitment to bringing people together," Hertel said. "As we look ahead, we welcome Mayor Duggan's supporters into our growing coalition as we work to elect a Democratic governor this November who will continue to move Michigan forward."

It's unclear if Duggan will be a part of that journey with his former Democratic brethren. On his way out the door, Duggan continued to rail against what he called the toxic politics of a two-party duopoly. Still, he was more hopeful than spiteful about the future of the message

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Independent campaign

from page 5

he brought to his campaign.

“I got into this race to try to change our politics, not to be a spoiler,” Duggan wrote. “I’m still hopeful our campaign will prove to have a real long-term impact. 23% support in the last poll means more than 1.6 million Michigan voters are today looking for a Governor candidate serious about reducing the toxic partisan politics. If the candidates on the ballot this year take that message to heart and truly reach out to those voters, we will have accomplished something important.”

State Sen. Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia), who has endorsed Benson, told Michigan Advance that she found “it ironic that Mr. Duggan abandoned the Democratic party to run as an independent, in my opinion, because he didn’t think he could beat Jocelyn Benson, and turns out he was right, he can’t beat Jocelyn Benson.”

State Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Bloomfield), also endorsing Benson, said she “is clearly the superior candidate in this race, has a known presence in all 83 counties, has a track record over the last eight years as Secretary of State.”

“I always thought no matter the dynamics, whether it was a two person race or a three person race, she was the best candidate, and she was on the path



Courtesy

Businessman Perry Johnson.

to winning, but Mike Duggan spent the last year and a half trashing only Democrats, and so it’s hard to make the case for Democrats to leave the party when he spent the last year and a half trashing them, trying to compel them to leave the party,” Moss said. “I think it was a challenging mistake that his campaign decided to make, and so I always thought he was going to kind of be capped at probably about 20%. The latest poll had him even below that, so I don’t know how he could have made a turnaround to have a big tent to win this race when he was really running ... in a small lane.”

The dynamic now shifts in the governor race

Benson is the clear frontrunner on the Democratic side of the aisle, but Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson is still in the race and fighting hard. Benson and Swanson have not had to attack

each other directly on the campaign trail, whereas Benson and Duggan were beginning to take each other head-on, as witnessed during a UAW-sponsored forum on Monday.

Without Duggan in the race, Benson and Swanson’s seemingly cordial campaigns could turn on each other.

For their part, the Republicans in the race — U.S. Rep. John James of Shelby Township, former Attorney General Mike Cox, businessman Perry Johnson and state Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt — have mostly been focused on each other and rarely had Duggan in their sights.

Pastor Ralph Rebandt was running for governor, but the Bureau of Elections on Wednesday issued a staff report to the Board of State Canvassers noting its decision to not recommend Rebandt be placed on the August ballot. The Bureau, after conducting a random sample of his nominating petition signatures, said that Rebandt appeared to have only 12,944 valid signatures. The threshold for ballot access is 15,000.

The prevailing wisdom has been that because Duggan was a former Democrat, he may have eventually pulled more from Benson or Swanson’s pool of voters than whichever Republican is victorious in the August primary.

However, recent polling from the Glengariff Group, commissioned by the Detroit Regional Chamber, which endorsed Duggan early on in the race, noted that Benson had all but consolidated Democratic support in the race.

It also noted that Duggan was beginning to potentially hurt the Republican candidates more than the Democrats by eight points.

Duggan had boasted and was proud of the fact that while he was gaining some labor endorsements that typically swing toward Democrats, he also had a fair number of Republican donors whom he said believed in his campaign.

With his path to victory falling apart, and with him now backing out of the race, Michigan will never fully know if an independent Duggan in 2026 would have gone on to exceed expectations or from what party he might have pulled from in a real three-way electoral contest against a Republican and a Democratic candidate.

Moss predicted that it was going to be a good year for the Democrats, and that ultimately, Duggan’s team knew that, too.

“There’s a huge backlash to what Donald Trump is doing. What he’s doing is unpopular, if not dangerous, and so I feel like the winds are at the Democratic Party’s back right now, and so there just really wasn’t a lane to run in when Donald Trump endorses a Republican candidate, whether it’s his primary or after the person becomes the nominee,” Moss said. “I think Democrats are incredibly enthusiastic. Look at the margins of our newest senator and his win. Look at how many people have been out protesting in the streets in these historic No Kings rallies. In terms of attendance, there just wasn’t a lane for an independent.”

Student files civil rights suit against U-M alleging retaliation for support of Palestinian rights

By **KYLE DAVIDSON/**
Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

A University of Michigan student is taking the college’s leadership to court, accusing officials of collaborating with a private security company to engage in a campaign of surveillance and harassment in retaliation for his advocacy in support of the rights of Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank, territories occupied by Israel.

Josiah Walker is one of the five students interviewed by The Guardian, who said they were followed, recorded and eavesdropped on by undercover investigators from City Shield, a Detroit-based security service.

“Public universities ought to be places where people can be critical of foreign governments without facing undue harms to the integrity of their persons, interests, and property,” Walker said in a statement Thursday. “The University of Michigan’s decision to mobilize public and private assets to suppress my view-

points was dangerously irresponsible and constitutes a profound act of institutional betrayal that must be rectified.”

In the complaint filed by the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice, Walker, who is Black and Muslim, accused the university of discriminating against him for his advocacy for Palestinian rights.

“Defendants acted against Plaintiff Walker because of the content of his speech and the viewpoints he expressed, as well as his racial and religious identities,” the suit reads. “As a result, Defendants subjected Mr. Walker to a deliberate and unlawful pattern of harassment and retaliation.”

When asked about the suit, Paul Corliss, the university’s assistant vice president for public affairs and internal communications, said “no comment.”

In response to Walker’s actions protesting Israel’s war on Gaza, which a United Nations independent commis-

sion and the human rights group Amnesty International have labeled a genocide, the university allegedly “carried out a series of punitive conduct designed to intimidate and retaliate against him.”

According to the suit, this conduct includes, among other allegations:

- The commissioning of prolonged, harassing, and intrusive surveillance by a private security contractor.
- Detaining Walker without reasonable suspicion of him having committed a crime.
- The physical assault and use of excessive force against Walker on multiple occasions.
- The seizure of Walker’s personal property and religious items without due process or probable cause.
- The initiation and implementation of retaliatory adverse employment actions without due process.
- The deliberate fabrication and coordination of exaggerated, misleading, and hyperbolic police reports to manufacture a false narrative of criminality,

which was then used to support search warrants targeting Walker’s private electronic communications and stored data.

“Public universities do not get to celebrate free speech when it is convenient and then unleash police, private surveillance contractors, trespass bans, criminal charges, and employment blacklists when students advocate for Palestinian human rights,” Amy V. Doukoure, the lead staff attorney at the Council on American-Islamic Relations Michigan chapter, said in a statement.

“Public universities are bound by the First and Fourteenth Amendments, not by political pressure or viewpoint preference,” Doukoure continued. “When a public university uses state power and private security operatives to surveil, punish, and intimidate a Black Muslim student because of his protected speech, that is not campus safety. That is unconstitutional retaliation.”

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The City of East Lansing released on Friday the results of a law firm investigation into City Manager Robert Belleman's behavior, following public accusations by an employee who said Belleman had engaged in sexually harassing and bullying behavior.

The law firm's report does not find any evidence to support sexual harassment allegations against Belleman, based on interviews with a half dozen employees and a lack of evidence aside from the allegations. But it does point to broader concerns about leadership climate and perceptions of favoritism, and investigators urged leadership training for Belleman. East Lansing Grant Coordinator Erica Dziejdz spoke during a May 19 City Council meeting and said, "In 2025, Robert sexually harassed me and was verbally abusive toward me." City Pulse has reached out to Dziejdz through email. She had previously made the allegations internally to the city, which commissioned an investigation from the law firm Miller Canfield last fall. Following the public allegations, City Council members scheduled a special meeting on May 21 to authorize the release of the report.

While the employees who spoke to investigators said they did not witness any sort of sexual harassment, many of the employees pointed to a strict boss and lawyers for the city recommended changes. "Multiple interviewees reported that Belleman 'has favorites,' 'dresses people down,' and is stern or scolding—particularly toward women," according to the report. "Although not substantiated as gender-based, this pattern could present future risk if it continues. The Investigators recommend the City counsel Belleman on the importance of professional communication and that subjective interpretations of conduct are the reality and can create culture concerns." Dziejdz remains employed by the city and continues to report to Belleman, who has been receiving leadership training, according to the city. Belleman was hired in August 2023 at a time when East Lansing had been roiled with turnover. In the year before Belleman arrived, at least 10 department heads or assistant department heads,

including a longtime city manager, had resigned or retired. Belleman had previously been the controller of Saginaw County; he was fired from that job in June 2023, just before applying for the East Lansing job.



Niowave Inc broke ground on Thursday on a \$65 million investment expected to create 70 new high-wage jobs at a facility near the Capital Region International Airport.

The new facility would be a hub for advanced technology, research and manufacturing. "Today's expansion really is a game changer for Niowave, the Lansing area, and the state of Michigan," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "More cancer patients will be able to count on life-saving medicines and therapies. This cements Lansing's leadership in biotech and life sciences and how we're using Michigan grit and innovation to think, build, and lead our future." Niowave is expected to increase capacity for superconducting components used in medical isotope production, clean energy research and national security applications. The company's continued growth highlights mid-Michigan's unique strengths in engineering, physics, and high-tech manufacturing, driven by a skilled workforce and proximity to MSU and the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams. Construction on the new facility is scheduled to begin later this spring, with the site expected to be operational by fall 2027.

The Fenner Conservancy has opened what it says is Michigan's first licensed and fully outdoor year-round pre-school.

The Fenner Nature Preschool at Maple Grove expands the existing preschool. There is now a full-day program as well as a fully outdoor half-day program. The half-day program has morning and afternoon hours. The preschool,



located on the nature center's 134-acre property, has children ages three through six spending their entire school day outdoors, learning through exploration and play. There are scholarships and subsidies available. Check mynaturecenter.org for the latest enrollment information and steps for getting involved.



Authorities found 36 dogs living with their owner in a van and many of the

young dogs have been taken in by the Capital Area Humane Society.

About 18 dogs - 10 puppies and a half dozen newborn puppies, along with two adult females - were surrendered by their owner, according to the local Humane Society's Facebook page. The society has offered to take the remaining dogs and is working to help improve their living conditions, but as of May 24, the remaining dogs had not been surrendered. The Humane Society said it cannot confiscate animals without legal authority. The Humane Society's medical director examined and treated the dogs that remained with the owner; those dogs received vaccinations, deworming treatments, flea prevention and microchips. The society said its workers are in daily communication with the owner, who is working to get permanent housing. Resources are being provided for the animals and to find a long-term solution, according to the society's Facebook page. "We understand and share the community's concern for the well-being of these animals," the Capital Area Humane Society said in the statement. "This is a complex situation involving both animal welfare and human welfare considerations, and there is still significant work ahead."

The Lansing Police Department is investigating a shooting that



have happened in the 5500 block of Pleasant Grove Road on Saturday evening. The investigation includes two men, 18 and 22, who showed up at a hospital with non-life-threatening gunshot wounds, according to a statement from the police department. No

arrests were made in the shooting as of a Saturday night update by police, who said they were working to determine the sequence of events and determine if charges would be pursued. Those with information about the shooting can contact the LPD at 517-483-4600, send a private message through its Facebook page, or contact Crime Stoppers at 517-483-7867.



A cannabis grow facility in Lansing is being closed, with 95 employees expected to be laid off this summer,

according to mandatory state notices about large closures.

Ascend Wellness Holdings operates a grow facility and a dispensary in Ingham County. The company did not respond to requests for comment for a WILX story about the job loss notifications. State and city officials told WILX that it was a sign of a changing marijuana industry. Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope told WILX there has been a shift in cannabis-related applications, which go through his office, with a decrease and some market retractions. In a statement, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said it is disappointing to see local layoffs, and he urged employees to use state and local resources like the 211 phone line to find other employment.

The Delta Township Board of Trustees voted at their May 18 meeting to postpone a decision whether to rezone nearly 50 acres of farmland



on the west side of the township, on Broadbent Road south of East St. Joseph Highway. The rezoning request was from a developer, Broadbent Farms LLC, which wants to build 71 single-family homes and 30 condos on the land, which is currently marked for low-density residential housing. The postponement on the decision is indefinite, with no date set to revisit the request, and follows concerns voiced at meetings by residents who live near the property, primarily regarding potential drainage and flooding issues. The current property owner, Dave Monk, who also lives nearby, told trustees he has worked with the county's Drain Commissioner's Office and engineers on a plan that would prevent flooding, but the board wants additional details and documentation.



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 26-07
4734 OKEMOS RD.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request #26-07
4734 Okemos Road
Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Okemos Community Church. The applicant is proposing to construct solar panels in the front yard at 4734 Okemos Road. The subject site is zoned PO, Professional Office.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing in the Department of Community Planning and Development office (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, 48864), Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, or on the Township's website at <https://www.meridian.mi.us/businesses/development-projects>. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Angela Demas, Township Clerk

May 27, 2026

CP#26-199

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For more information, call or email Steve Underwood at **(517) 999-6704** or steve@lansingcitypulse.com

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Lansing, Michigan 48917
(517) 323-8500

TOWNSHIP BOARD
Synopsis of Meetings

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman, and Trustee Karen J. Mojica. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Captain Robert Block, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- 1. Eaton County Millage Presentation
- a. Central Dispatch, 911 Millage Renew and Restoration
- b. Trial Courts, Juvenile Millage Renew and Restoration
- c. County Controller's Office, Administrative Update

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$900,350.47
- 3. Minutes – a. Monday, April 20, 2026
- 4. Well Plugging Financial Assistance Program
- 5. Amusement & Entertainment License Approval - Cirque Entertainment II, LLC

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- 6. Board & Commission Appointments
- 7. Rezoning #PRZ2026-0001 (Miller)

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman, and Trustee Karen J. Mojica. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Deputy Assessing Director Brian Thelen, Fire Chief John Kahler, Captain Robert Block, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Utilities Director Rick Kane.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. Public Hearing and Resolution for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Midwest Press & Automation LLC
- 2. Noise Waiver Request Vania Hall – 6704 W. St. Joseph Hwy.
- 3. Noise Waiver Request Thaddeus Townsel – Shadow Glen Subdivision

COMMUNICATIONS

- 4. Willow Force Main and Lift Station Improvements Update

PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

- 5. Data Centers Zoning Amendment Introduction

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$1,921,932.02
- 7. Minutes – a. Monday, May 4, 2026
- 8. Michigan Cat Expansion – Section 28 Acceptance of Public Facilities

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- 9. Rezoning #PRZ2026-0001 (Miller) Final Adoption
- 10. Resolution in Opposition to the Federal SAVE Act and Michigan House Bill 4765

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:14pm

**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, June 16, 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 Ordinance 1559, which would amend Sec. 50-94 of the Zoning Ordinance, which defines a diverse housing requirement in downtown East Lansing. The amendments include but are not limited to creating a fee to be paid in lieu of meeting the requirement, define a formula for that fee, and allow for the transfer of diverse housing credits from areas outside of downtown.

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: May 21, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#26-200

CP#26-201

No Duggan = Gov. Benson in partisan repeat

The celebration you heard last Thursday when former Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan dropped out of the governor's race came from Jocelyn Benson's campaign headquarters.

Michigan's Secretary of State has masterfully positioned herself to be the Democrats' nominee, giving her a glide path to be our next governor unless something seismic happens. I'm not going too far out on a limb in saying that.

Look at the reaction from the players involved.

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Curtis Hertel, who last year said Democrats needed to "punch (Duggan) in the mouth, and say exactly who he is" pushed out a statement literally minutes after MIRS broke the news.

"We're grateful to Mayor Mike Duggan for his service to the city of Detroit and our entire state. While we've had disagreements, the Mayor brought crucial ideas to this race and we appreciate his commitment to bringing people together."

With that, Hertel threw the doors open and welcomed back the once ostracized who supported Duggan's independent run. U of M Regents Mark Bernstein

and Denise Ilitch. MSU Trustee Rebecca Bahar Cook. Former Melvin "Butch" Hollowell.



KYLE MELINN

All of them. Even Wayne State Governor Anil Kumar, whose support for Duggan likely cost him renomination. Come on back. It's all good.

For Duggan, when the going got tough, he got going. Exit stage left. Literally.

Unable to retool a message in response to shifting political winds, Duggan threw up his hands.

"Geez, the political know-it-alls who told me I couldn't win in the first place, told me I couldn't win now. Guess I'm getting out."

The only people more upset than Duggan's own supporters are Republicans. Read Michigan Republican Party Chair Jim Runestad breathe fire.

"Mike Duggan's exit is no surprise – voters saw through a lifelong Democrat masquerading as an independent."

Yeah, life just got a lot harder for them. They know it.

Republican John James, who couldn't be bothered to debate his Republican primary opponents for more than a year, immediately offered to debate Benson on

Mackinac Island this week for the Detroit Regional Chamber conference.

She, of course, said no.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Perry Johnson spelled out his two-step path to victory at a campaign stop last month.

1. Overwhelm primary opponent John James with negative TV ads.

2. Watch Democrats split their votes between Duggan and Benson in November.

Johnson hasn't made a public appearance or statement since Duggan left the race. He knows.

He could play his corny country song "4747 give us room to grow" on a 24/7 loop on every radio station in the state. It doesn't matter. Duggan's exit sends everyone scurrying back to their partisan corners.

Guess we're back to 2024 and 2022 and 2020 and ... basically every election since the exits of Ralph Nader or Ross Perot. The two major parties are defined by their deep, entrenched ideological split. We're all supposed to pick a bunker and start firing away at our brothers and sisters on the other side.

Republicans mostly won in 2024. Barely.

Now Trump has gone too far.

Tariffs are jacking up prices.

Why did we go to war in Iran again?

Who cares. It's \$100 to fill up.

Meanwhile, Trump tore down the East Wing to build some gaudy ballroom.

How much is that costing again?

I'm not taking a position here. Look at the poll numbers. Look at the results of the 35th Senate District special election earlier this month in the Tri-Cities. A seat Trump lost by 1 percentage point in 2024 went for the Democrat by nearly 20 points.

Sure, we've got 150-some days until the general election. Things can change.

Maybe Republicans can prevent an '08-style wave election. Keep Benson's win under 10 points.

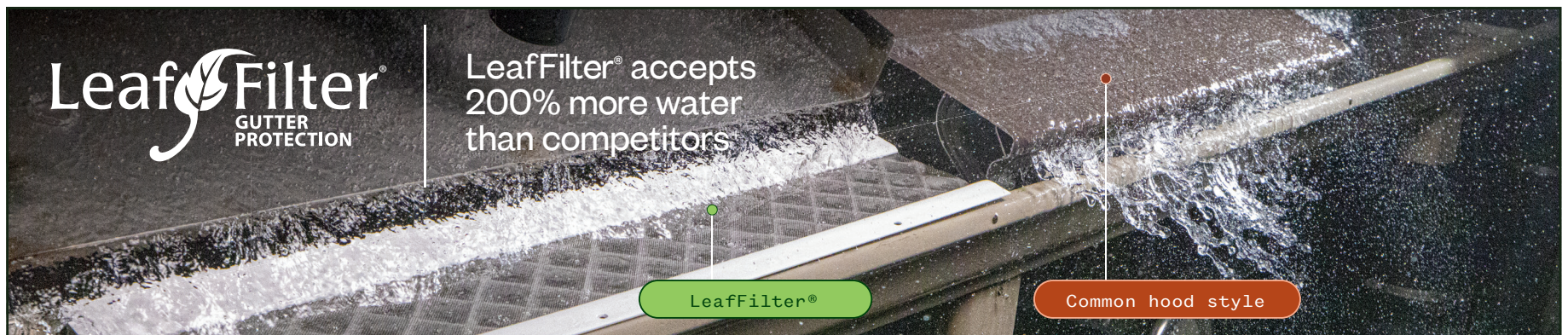
But here's what hasn't changed. Politics in America remains a tiring "A or B," all or nothing, cage match.

You're red or you're blue. Compromise not needed. Just win. Roll over the opponent.

Maybe the public's appetite for change in a third-party or independent alternative candidate isn't there in 2026.

Expect the public's appetite to keep participating in the status quo to not be the same.

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



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Common hood style

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Lansing Roller Derby and Ann Arbor Roller Derby faced off at Court One Training Center in East Lansing on April 25.

The roller derby capital of the world, for one weekend

By **JAMES BRAINS**

For three days this weekend, Lansing is the most important city in roller derby.

The 2026 WFTDA North American Playoffs is rolling into the Lansing Center and bringing a dozen of the best roller derby teams together for a playoff weekend that will draw competitors, officials and fans from across the continent.

Lansing Roller Derby, a skater-run nonprofit that has spent years quietly building one of the most respected league operations in the Midwest, is running the show. And this weekend, they get to show off their hard work on a national stage.

“Hosting a WFTDA playoff event honestly feels like the result of years of behind-the-scenes work finally materializing into something visible,” said Ali Jahr, aka “Jahrmageddon,” who helped organize LRD’s bid for the tournament as the league’s president. “It reflects where the league is now organizationally: not just surviving, but capable of operating at a very high level.”

What is the WFTDA, and why does this event matter?

The Women’s Flat Track Derby Association is the global governing body for competitive roller derby, overseeing hundreds of leagues across dozens of coun-

2026 WFTDA North American Playoffs

May 29–31

Lansing Center

333 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing

Bouts every two hours
from 10 a.m.–8 p.m.,
except last game is at 6
p.m. Sunday, May 31

Tickets at etix.com

Or [wftda.com/
tournament-
central-2026/](http://wftda.com/tournament-central-2026/)

Double-header pre-sale
tickets start at \$18.90

Photos by
Raymond Holt
for City Pulse

tries, including Japan, Finland, Argentina and South Africa. Every two years, the best teams in each region compete in bracket-style playoffs for the right to advance to the WFTDA World Championships, taking place in Sweden this October.

This year, the WFTDA is running four separate regional playoff tournaments in North America, where the majority of leagues are located. Lansing is hosting one of them, a 12-team bracket featuring some of the sport’s most accomplished leagues. The fact that mid-Michigan is one of the locations is no accident.

“Lansing Roller Derby demonstrated exactly what we look for in a postseason host: strong organizational capacity, deep community support, experienced volunteers, and a commitment to athlete-centered events,” said Bri DeWitt, known in the derby community as “Babe Runner,” the President of the WFTDA.

There’s also a timely backstory behind Lansing’s selection. The original Northeast playoff site was slated for Ontario, Canada. However, the WFTDA needed a domestic contingency, with some teams concerned about U.S. border crossings in the current political climate. LRD was a natural fit, having hosted several tournaments at the Lansing Center, including the

2025 Skate Wars tournament.

“Teams were able to indicate whether crossing the U.S. border posed concerns for them, and we used that information during placement discussions,” DeWitt said. “This was about increasing access, not limiting it.”

A Michigan moment ... plus Gotham

Three Michigan organizations are integral to this weekend. Lansing Roller Derby is running the whole show, though not competing. 7th-seeded Ann Arbor Roller Derby and 6th-seeded Detroit Roller Derby are both playing, reflecting how tough Michigan roller derby has become.

“Michigan derby is super strong,” said Melissa McDonald, aka “Donnie”, a co-captain of the Detroit Roller Derby Allstars. “Going into the playoffs, there were four Michigan teams in the top 25 for our region.”

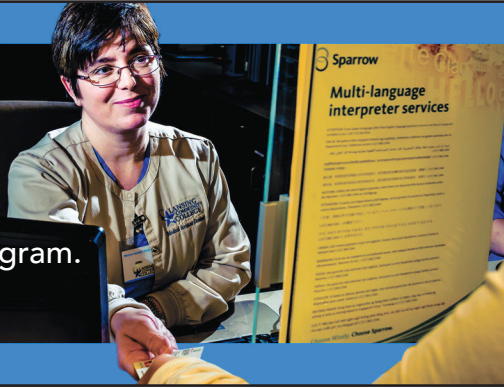
Last year, Team Michigan took first place at the Skate Wars event, a competition among state and collective all-star teams. “Our team represented people from all over the state,” McDonald said, “showcasing just how strong we are when we come together.”

Detroit Roller Derby is one of the founding WFTDA member leagues, with a history dating back to 2005 and an almost unbroken streak of playoff appearances since the event first started. DRD arrives at the Lansing Center with a chip on its shoulder after a tough season of losses that forced a fundamental rethinking of strategy, according to McDonald. “Losing can really

See Roller Derby, Page 11

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JOB TRAINING CENTER



Ann Arbor Roller Derby prepares before a game at Court One Training Center in East Lansing on April 25.



Jammers wear a star on their helmets.



Faerie Fire jams for Lansing Roller Derby's B Team.



Death Valley jams for Ann Arbor Roller Derby's C Team.



Jammer Faerie Fire (center) tries to break through AARD's two-person blocker wall of Bifrost (right) and DARK ayn Stormy (left).

Roller Derby

from page 10

teach you a lot, and we made the most out of those lessons," she said. "We're coming into the playoffs hungry."

Founded in 2010, Ann Arbor Roller Derby regularly holds impressive spots in the WFTDA rankings, reaching the top 25 in the world at its peak and earning a second-place regional ranking. Emily Samuelson, known as "Slamlet", a founding-era skater and board member who will compete in the tournament after recovering from an ankle injury, described the league's identity plainly: "We've always been a brains team. We want to be there with the best strategy and the smartest decisions."

And then there's Gotham.

Second-seed Gotham Roller Derby, out of New York City, are to roller derby what the Yankees are to baseball: defining dominance during the sport's most formative era. "They helped define the competitive standard for the sport," De-

Witt said, "and have had an enormous impact on strategy, athlete development, and the visibility of derby internationally." Having Gotham on the floor at the Lansing Center is the kind of thing that draws in longtime derby people and converts newcomers into lifelong fans.

What to expect when you walk in

The Lansing Center isn't for quiet tea parties. Derby crowds are loud, knowledgeable and welcoming to strangers. DeWitt describes the atmosphere as "unlike most sporting events — passionate, welcoming, and loud in the best way." McDonald's advice for first-timers is simple: "Find a seat next to some friendly faces and just ask questions. Derby people love to talk about derby."

What you'll see on the floor is a sport that has evolved far beyond what casual fans might remember from the early banked-track days. "Roller derby is essentially physical chess being played at high speed on roller skates," said Jahr. "There's constant communication, positioning, defensive strategy, offensive

timing, endurance and split-second decision making happening all at once."

According to McDonald, the moment that converts skeptics into fans is usually a blocker sending a jammer flying across the track or a jammer launching themselves over the track's apex, bypassing the entire pack of blockers at once. "There is an audible gasp at the hit," she said. "But for the apex jump, it's more of an 'oooh-ahhhh' reaction, like they're watching fireworks."

The details

The 2026 WFTDA North American Playoffs take place May 29-31 at the Lansing Center, 333 East Michigan Av-

enue in downtown Lansing. Tickets are available through Etix. Reduced-price tickets are available for the evening feature games on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The full schedule is available on the WFTDA website.

For those who want to know more or get involved in roller derby, Lansing Roller Derby's website is lansingrollerderby.com.

James Brains runs Brains Report, a product review website and YouTube channel. He also played, coached, officiated and wrote about roller derby on and off over the last 17 years. Brains holds the men's record for most points in a jam.

Lansing's own: Get to know Lansing Roller Derby



Skaters from Lansing Roller Derby and Ann Arbor Roller Derby pose for a group photo after an April 25 bout, demonstrating the sport's camaraderie across leagues.

By JAMES BRAINS

Lansing Roller Derby has been part of the community since 2010. If you were unaware of local roller derby, I won't tell anyone as long as you read this article and educate yourself.

LRD traces its roots to East Lansing Roller Derby, which formed in 2010 and grew steadily through the early part of the decade before undergoing a series of name, structure, and leadership changes.

"A few of the core people behind it remained incredibly consistent," said Ali Jahr, president of Lansing Roller Derby and one of the league's longtime organizers. "That continuity matters. We've spent years building institutional knowledge around what it means to have a successful roller derby league."

In 2021, a consolidation brought together the remnants of multiple local derby organizations into a single unified league under the Lansing Roller Derby name. The result is a skater-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit that operates adult roller derby programs, a junior program for youths aged 7 to 17, recreational training opportunities and a full tournament

operation. The league is run almost entirely by volunteers.

The teams and the skaters

On the competitive side, LRD fields travel teams at the A, B and C levels. On the home-team side, four squads compete throughout the season: the Mitten Mavens, the Broadbarians, the Derby Vixens and the Capital Corruption.

The junior program, Lansing Junior Roller Derby, accepts athletes as young as 7 years old. The emphasis is on "athletic development, confidence, teamwork, leadership, and personal growth," Jahr said. Scholarship opportunities and loaner gear are available to reduce financial barriers to participation.

LRD recently hosted Skate Wars 2025, a multi-league all-star competition, at the Lansing Center. This event helped establish the relationships and infrastructure that made hosting the WFTDA playoffs possible this year. The leap from Skate Wars to a national playoff event in roughly a year speaks to how much the organization has progressed.

"Hosting a WFTDA playoff event," Jahr said, "feels like years of behind-the-

scenes work finally materializing into something visible."

The bigger picture

To get involved with roller derby, you never even have to touch a roller skate. LRD's ecosystem includes referees, non-skating officials, photographers, announcers, livestream producers, med-

ics, event volunteers and community sponsors.

"Roller derby really functions as this intersection of athletics, leadership development, event production, and community organizing all rolled into one extremely chaotic but very rewarding

See Lansing's own, Page 13



Ann Arbor's jammer Death Valley tries to chase down Lansing's jammer, Faerie Fire.



LRD jammer Scrappy sneaks along the outside line of the track as AARD blocker Crown Vic prepares for a hit.



After the bout, teams congratulate each other on the hard-fought battle.



Lansing Roller Derby skaters discuss strategy during an April 25 bout.

Lansing's own

from page 12

package,” Jahr said. “There’s truly space for almost anyone to get involved.”

That openness is central to the league’s identity.

“Worst case scenario, you spend a couple hours watching people on roller skates hit each other very professionally,” Jahr said. “Best case scenario, you discover your new favorite sport and accidentally become emotionally invested in teams from cities you’ve never been to.”

Let me interject here for a moment

This is unprofessional of me (editor’s note: it’s totally cool) but for those on the fence about getting involved with roller derby, I must share the experiences my wife and I have had. Thanks to the skills we developed while running a large roller derby tournament in Oregon (The Big O), we founded the wildly successful Olive Burger Festival in Lansing. And, we’re just one example of skaters building careers around the skills they learned in the sport.

Adult friendships are hard to come by and roller derby helps you find people who are open-minded and fun-loving. The sport helped me come out of my shell, a difficult task for someone diagnosed with social anxiety. I also appreciated how adept the community is at sniffing out ne’er-do-wells who may be there for the wrong reasons.

TL;DR: Give roller derby a shot in some capacity.

How to get involved

Anyone interested in skating, officiating, volunteering, or sponsoring can start at lansingrollerderby.com/joinlrd or reach out at



LRD jammer Scruppy skates around the track. The official is pointing because Scruppy is the lead jammer.



Lansing Roller Derby skaters sit together to discuss strategy for the following jams.

join@lansingrollerderby.com. LRD is currently running a beginner training program. No prior skating experience required.

So you’ve never watched roller derby: Here’s what you need to know

By JAMES BRAINS

Roller derby has an 85-page rulebook, but like other sports, you don’t need to know all the intricacies to follow the game. Here’s a primer to give you the basic structure.

The track

All WFTDA bouts are played on a flat, oval track. Both teams skate counterclockwise. No balls, no goals, no nets.

The positions

Each team puts five skaters on the track at a time: four blockers and one jammer. The jammer wears a helmet cover with a big star on each side. The blockers from both teams form the pack and skate together, jostling for position. The jammer is the scorer.

How scoring works

At the start of each “jam” (a unit of gameplay that can last up to two minutes), the two jammers start behind the pack and try to break through. The first jammer to legally pass the opposing blockers gets lead jammer status. On every subsequent pass through the pack, both jammers earn one point for each opposing blocker they pass legally. The lead jammer can call off the jam at any point, a critical strategic tool. An official skates next to the lead jammer and points at them.

What the blockers are doing

Blockers have two jobs: stop the opposing jammer from scoring and help their own jammer get through. Unlike football and basketball, where offensive and defensive play are clearly delineated, modern roller derby features an elaborate simultaneous battle between the two, with teams deploying specific defensive blocking formations and sending offensive blockers ahead to clear the way for their jammer. The best blockers, the ones playing in the WFTDA playoffs, have the awareness to help their jammer through while stopping the other jammer.

The rules

This is a contact sport, but it has limits. You can use your body to block, including your hips, torso, shoulders and butt. You cannot trip, elbow, forearm, clothesline, headbutt or make contact above the shoulders. Impactful illegal hits send you to the penalty box for 30 seconds, which can leave your team at a disadvantage and vulnerable to the opponent scoring.

The best thing to watch?

The jammer. They’re moving fastest, getting hit hardest and scoring the points. Once you find them on the track, the game opens up immediately.

7 Myths about Roller Derby

By JAMES BRAINS

It’s fake, like pro wrestling

While many of today’s skaters use noms de guerre, and the sport has its roots in theatrical mid-20th-century banked-track events, modern flat-track roller derby is fully sanctioned, independently officiated and governed by a detailed rulebook maintained by the WFTDA. There are no predetermined outcomes. The hits are real. The scores are real. These athletes train multiple times a week, year-round and compete for national rankings.

They’re constantly throwing elbows

Actually, elbows are illegal. So are forearm strikes, tripping and contact

above the shoulders. The sport uses an elaborate penalty system: illegal hits earn 30 seconds in the penalty box and flagrant fouls can mean an ejection. The contact in roller derby is real and physical, but it’s controlled and there are rules.

You have to have a certain body type to play

One of roller derby’s defining characteristics is that it genuinely welcomes athletes of all sizes and builds. Skates are a great equalizer. Big blockers use their mass to anchor the pack and slow down a jammer. Small, fast jammers use agility to slip through. As a relatively hefty jammer, I liked to use my mass to power through seams in blockers’ walls. I even had a teammate, Merby Dick, who played

into his late 70s. The sport rewards a wide range of physical attributes and leagues actively recruit people who might never have considered themselves athletes.

Only women can play roller derby

All genders can play roller derby. The Men’s Roller Derby Association primarily features men but also includes skaters of all genders. The WFTDA also has an inclusive gender policy that welcomes skaters from all “marginalized genders.”

They skate on inline skates

Quad skates, featuring four wheels and two axles, are the standard in flat-track roller derby. Not rollerblades.

The athletes get paid

Ha. They don’t. Every skater competing at the Lansing Center this weekend is an amateur volunteer who also helps run their league. “In many ways it’s like competing as a profes-

sional athlete,” said Melissa McDonald of Detroit Roller Derby, “except you also run the league, don’t get paid, and actually have to pay money to play.”

It’s a niche sport that nobody takes seriously

The WFTDA oversees hundreds of leagues worldwide. This weekend’s event draws competitors from across the region. The athletes review game film, work with coaches, and train off-skates for strength and endurance. “This is a real sport,” McDonald said. “Especially at the level you’ll see at playoffs.” I can safely say I’ve lost a job or two because I was too committed to roller derby. If that’s not serious, I don’t know what is.



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Fri., May 29, 9 p.m.
From Big Sur
Sun., May 31, 7 p.m.

Beal Botanical Garden

330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Chamber Music in the Garden
Tues., June 2, 12:30 p.m.

Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
Don Middlebrook
Thurs., May 28, 7-11 p.m.
Justin Holcomb
Sun., May 31, 6-9 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Flipside
Fri., May 29, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Radio Flyer
Sat., May 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Frog & the Beeftones
Fri., May 29, 8 p.m.-midnight
Gina Garner & the All Night Long Band
Sat., May 30, 8 p.m.-midnight

Cleats Bar & Grille

5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Martini & Rossi
Thurs., May 28, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Joel Jacobs
Fri., May 29, 9 p.m.-midnight
Moth Duster
Sat., May 30, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Dangling Particles duo
Wed., May 27, 7-9 p.m.
Bart Moore and the Hot Boyz
Sun., May 31, 6-8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
JP Peters
Fri., May 29, 6-9 p.m.
Chris Muethel
Sat., May 30, 6-9 p.m.

Edgewood United Church

469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing
Audrey Vardanega
Sat., May 30, 3-4 p.m.

Fish Ladder Music Park

216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
Starfarm, DJ Dav
Fri., May 29, 7-10:30 p.m.
Good Vibrations Celebration, with Summer of Sol and Darin Lerner's Diggable Dynamite
Sat., May 30, 7-10:30 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., May 27, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
The Sonder Bombs, LVRS, Trophy Husband
Thurs., May 28, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Gozu, Restless Spirit, Radian, Ironton
Fri., May 29, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Wavelength
Sat., May 30, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Moon Walker, Pretoria, Super Cassette
Sun., May 31, doors 6 p.m., show 7 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., June 3, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Buckcherry, Lex Baumen, Exit 37
Wed., May 27, 7 p.m.
Cody Parks and the Dirty South, Renegade Train
Fri., May 29, 7 p.m.
Vana, Eyes Set to Kill, Deadlands, Redhook
Sat., May 30, 6 p.m.
Citizen Soldier
Tues., June 2, 6 p.m.

High Caliber Karting and Entertainment

1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
Flowers on the Grave
Fri., May 29, 7 p.m.-midnight

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Steven Allen
Wed., May 27, 7-9 p.m.
Justin Deason
Wed., June 3, 7-9 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., May 28, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Medusa
Sat., May 30, 8-11 p.m.

Jackson Field

505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Mother's Little Helpers
Thurs., May 28, 6 p.m.
The Polaroids
Sat., May 30, 6 p.m.

Lake Lansing Park South

1621 Pike St., Haslett
Allentown (Billy Joel tribute)
Fri., May 29, 6-9 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
School of Rock: Four Decades Live Music
Sat., May 30, 1-6 p.m.
A Night at the Soul Lounge
Sat., May 30, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Matthew Shannon
Sun., May 31, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

108 W. Main St., Dewitt
Darin Lerner Jr.
Fri., May 29, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Tribute night, with Brugada, Beggars Banquet, Ensurance Trap, Ann Bell, Bruce & the B&ND1TS
Fri., May 29, 8 p.m.
Kng Ego, Jo Tyler, JOYBVND, Kid Ziggy
Sat., May 30, 6 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., June 1, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., May 28, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., June 2, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green

1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
Sea Cruisers
Wed., June 3, 6:30 p.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Alexandria McMath
Fri., May 29, 8:30 p.m.-midnight

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Open mic night
Mon., June 1, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., May 27, 8-11 p.m.
Dead Honey Collective
Fri., May 29, 8 p.m.-midnight
Northside Rhythm Kings
Sat., May 30, 8 p.m.-midnight
Blues jam, with Freddie Cunningham & the Johnny D Blues Band
Sun., May 31, 4-8 p.m.
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., June 2, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., June 3, 8-11 p.m.

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
404 Delux
Fri., May 29, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Nuthouse Sports Grill

420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Lucid Vibe
Sat., May 30, 8 p.m.-midnight
Twilight Tunes Dueling Pianos
Mon., June 1, 8 p.m.-midnight

One North East Lansing

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Greg Smith
Fri., May 29, 7-10 p.m.
Kevin Nichols
Sat., May 30, 7-10 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Mike Skory
Thurs., May 28, 6-9 p.m.
Crystal Hoffman
Fri., May 29, 7-10 p.m.
Elements of Soul
Sat., May 30, 8-11 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., June 1, 6:30-9 p.m.

Pablo's Mexican Restaurant

2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
The Maxwell Brothers
Thurs., May 28, 5-8 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Marc Finger Family & Friends
Fri., May 29, 8-10 p.m.
Mike McConeghy
Tues., June 2, 6-8 p.m.

Pins & Pints

2120 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Jeremy Kratky
Thurs., May 28, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
B3 Band
Fri., May 29, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., May 31, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Cabaret Boreale
Thurs., May 28, 8 p.m.

Side Bar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Capo the Second
Fri., May 29, 7-10 p.m.
JP Peters
Sat., May 30, 7-10 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
DJ Booter
Sun., May 31, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
Full House
Fri., May 29, 8-11 p.m.
Napoleon
Sat., May 30, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center

3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Sandra Faye
Wed., May 27, 6-9 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., May 27, 6-9 p.m.
Salsa Verde
Thurs., May 28, 7 p.m.
Sarah Elizabeth Wallace: Jewel of the Lion
Sat., May 30, 6 p.m.
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., June 3, 6-9 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Billie Joe Hunt
Wed., May 27, 7-10 p.m.
Rag Tag Squad
Sat., May 30, 7-10 p.m.
Greg Smith
Wed., June 3, 7-10 p.m.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

East Lansing author wraps up her seasonal children's book series

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Not only is Amy Dua the author and illustrator of the children's book series "Woe is Me ... The Seasons" — she's also the publisher.

"When deciding how I wanted to proceed, I did a great deal of research about publishing companies," Dua, of East Lansing, said. "One thing that had been stressed to me by several professionals in the industry was that once a publishing company purchases the rights to your book, you lose creative control over the process. This really disturbed me. So, my husband and I, both being attorneys, opened After Many Years Publishing, and I took it from there, researching, making connections, hiring an editor and so forth to get my book out there."

Dua will read and sign copies of "Woe is Me ... It's Summer," the fourth and final book in the series, on Saturday morning at the East Lansing Public Library. Copies of the book will be available for purchase before its official release on Tuesday (June 2). Musician Wanda Degen will also perform some summery songs.

"Wanda and I first met when my oldest son attended preschool at Abbott Nursery School in East Lansing," Dua recalled. "She was the music teacher who would come every week to sing with the children and put on performances for the parents. She's wonderfully engaging with children and music."

"When I published my first book, 'Woe is Me ... It's Autumn,' I thought of her because she would incorporate fun songs about the seasons at the nursery school," Dua continued. "I contacted the library, and they had worked with Wanda in the past and immediately loved the idea. Since then, we have collaborated for the release of my other seasonal books as well."

The middle of three children, Dua was born and raised just outside of Buffalo, New York. She graduated from the State University of New York Brockport with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She later moved to East Lansing to



attend the Michigan State University College of Law, where she earned her juris doctor degree.

"It was there that I met my husband, who began as my study buddy, became my best friend and then, several years later, became my husband," she said.

The couple has been married for 24 years and has four children, ages 21, 19, 17 and 10. Dua is the founder of Dua & Associates, which specializes in real estate law, appellate practice, child advocacy, guardianship and general civil litigation.

"I was always intrigued by the law," Dua said. "In high school, I was one of the attorneys for a mock trial in my government and law class, and I loved it, so I went into college with criminal justice as my major. From there, I thought about law school, so I decided to work at a law firm while studying for the LSAT to make sure that was what I wanted to do."

Since she was a young girl, Dua has always enjoyed writing, particularly rhyming poems.

"I used to tell people I wanted to be a greeting card writer for Hallmark and would write and draw cards for my family members," she said. "People knew of my writing and started asking me to write speeches for birthdays, and I continued to write them for my family."

One day, Dua just sat down and wrote "Woe is Me ... It's Autumn."

"It was fully inspired by the beautiful autumn foliage and my love of nature," she said. "I really started to look around at all the little creatures that we see every day and thought about how we don't know a lot about them. We know what we see, but what happens to them when the seasons change? It just went from there."

After the COVID-19 pandemic, when people started returning to work, her husband told her that he would handle their law practice so she could publish her book.

"My whole life has revolved around children," Dua said. "I started babysitting when I was young, then taught at Bible school, and I taught gymnastics for years. I took a juvenile law class in law school and absolutely loved it. That following summer, I interned with the Clinton County Probate Court for the Hon. Marvin Robertson. From there, the main focus of my practice became representing children in abuse/neglect, delinquency and guardianship cases. I have always loved children and went on to have four of my own. So, writing a children's book seemed like the perfect progression for the things in my life that I love."

Though they're meant for kids, writing the "Woe is Me ... The Seasons" books wasn't a walk in the park, according to Dua.

"Every book requires a great deal of research to gather facts about each of



Courtesy

Amy Dua was inspired to write the first book in her "Woe is Me ... The Seasons" series, "Woe is Me ... It's Autumn," by colorful foliage and her love of nature. "It just went from there," she said.

the insect and animal characters," she said. "I found that progressively with each book, I wanted to include more and more information, so I had to eliminate several lines so that it would be even with the other books."

"In this book specifically, there's a line that took several months to develop," she continued. "My editor told me I needed to explain 'chemical reaction' because I used that phrase in one of the lines about the firefly. I was perplexed trying to simplify this concept while keeping it in rhyme with the correct meter. I will say that it's my favorite line in the book!"

For Dua, the best part about writing is playing with words and turning information into fun rhymes, so children don't even realize that they're learning.

"It's fun to create things in your own mind and bring them to life," she said. "Writing is a way to do that. I hope children everywhere enjoy reading and learning from my books."

Storytime with author Amy Dua and musician Wanda Degen

10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 30
East Lansing Public Library
950 Abbott Road, East Lansing
Free
(517) 351-2420
elpl.org

New picture book brings West Michigan lighthouse to life

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

Growing up, Stephanie Owen would spend summers at her family's cottage on Upper Silver Lake in Mears.

"My grandparents purchased land in Mears in 1970 to build a summer cottage. But during the building process, my grandfather passed away. My dad, who was 16 at the time, chose to finish the construction. Every summer since then, my family has vacationed at our summer cottage and, of course, visited Little Sable Point Lighthouse," Owen said.

Fast forward to 2020, when children's book author Karen M. Greenwald hosted the writing contest #SunWriteFun. The contest required participants to write a nonfiction story that featured summer in some way.

"I chose to write 'The Lonely Lighthouse,'" Owen said. "I ended up being one of the contest winners, and that's when I realized I had a story that could become a book someday. Mears is so special to me, and Little Sable Point's history is so fascinating. I loved writing its story."

Owen will read and sign copies of

"The Lonely Lighthouse: The Story of Little Sable Point Lighthouse" (Sleeping Bear Press, \$19), illustrated by Michigan native Sona Avedikian, Saturday morning at Schuler Books in the Meridian Mall.

"I'll do a storytime reading at 11 a.m., and then I'll be available afterward to sign copies, answer questions and chat," she said.

"The Lonely Lighthouse" is told from the perspective of a new lighthouse in Mears that stands 115 feet tall. The lighthouse is eager to share its light with the ships sailing on Lake Michigan. However, it needs a keeper to light its oil lamp. Soon, one comes along.

The lighthouse and its keeper settle into a daily routine. Every night, the keeper climbs to the top of the lighthouse to light the oil lamp, sharing its light with the ships sailing on the lake.

When the keeper can't continue his duties, a new keeper arrives. And then another and another as the years go by. But one day, workers come to take away the oil lamp and install an electric light. There is no need for a keeper anymore. The lighthouse is left alone and



Courtesy

Stephanie Owen teaches English and speech at Widefield High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "The Lonely Lighthouse" is her first traditionally published picture book.

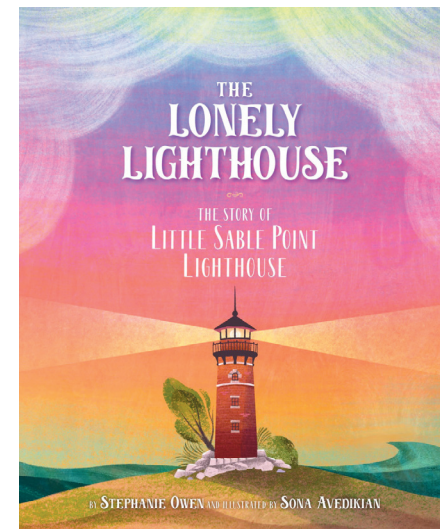
lonely. Will anyone ever share its spark again?

"The best part about this book was getting to write about a place that's so special to multiple generations and members of my family," Owen said. "The most challenging part was trying to cross-reference my research to make sure I was as historically accurate as possible, but that was also very rewarding. One of the highlights of my research was being able to email with David A. Dietrich, the great-great-nephew of James Davenport, the first keeper of Little Sable Point. David was the person who spearheaded the efforts to reopen Little Sable Point Lighthouse to the public in 2006."

Born in Wheaton, Illinois, Owen is the younger of two children. She lives with her husband of 20 years and 9-year-old daughter in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She graduated from Huntington University in Huntington, Indiana, with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and went on to earn a master's degree in creative writing and literature from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

When she was in second grade, Owen realized she wanted to be both a teacher and an author.

"I had an amazing teacher in second grade. Her name was Mrs. Johnson. She made learning fun, and I knew I wanted to do the same thing for other students. In fact, during high school, I was able to take an early childhood education class, and Mrs. Johnson is the teacher I ended up completing my internship with," Owen recalled. "In second grade, we had an author come and visit our class. I don't remember who it was, but



I remember she told us about writing books, and I thought that sounded like so much fun. I started writing stories and creating illustrations and put them together in little books that I shared with my family."

Owen teaches English and speech at Widefield High School in Colorado Springs. In 2015, she self-published "Living in the True Spirit of Christmas: An Advent Devotional." However, "The Lonely Lighthouse" is her first traditionally published picture book. It took her six years to complete, from first draft to final product.

"I had written a few manuscripts after getting my master's in creative writing and literature, but I started writing more seriously in 2020," she said. "I used the manuscript for 'The Lonely Lighthouse' to apply to the Rocky Mountain chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' Michelle Begley Mentorship Program and was paired with (children's book author) Heather Preusser. She really helped me polish the story. Then, in 2022, I signed with my literary agent, Andrea Comparato. In 2023, I signed my contract with Sleeping Bear Press to publish 'The Lonely Lighthouse.'"

Owen has designed lesson plans for fellow teachers that complement "The Lonely Lighthouse." They're available to download on her website, stephanieowenbooks.com. There are lessons for every grade from kindergarten through high school.

"As a teacher, I know the power that books can have at any age," Owen said.

Her next book is called "Hammerhead Needs Help."

"It's about a hammerhead shark that likes to build things, but when he takes on a project that's more than his two fins can handle, he's hesitant to ask for help," she said. "It comes out in February 2027."

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Lansing's 'hardest-working band' is back with new LP

By NICOLE NOECHEL

Lansing punk trio Jenn's Apartment has released its first album in six years, "Eat Rich," a simultaneously lighthearted and sincere sermon on the current moment in American politics and culture.

But that's not to say the group has been radio silent since 2020's "The Bird The Bridge The Wire" LP. It didn't get the title "the hardest-working band in Lansing" for nothing.

Jenn's Apartment has put out six EPs (2021's "Fatboy Forever," 2023's "Vampire EP," 2024's "Townies" and "Conspiracies Are for Lovers" and 2025's "Power Trio" and "Vibe to the End of the World") and a handful of singles, all recorded DIY-style in drummer Justin Pine's basement and released via the group's own MiScene Records.

The band's members — Pine, vocalist/guitarist Roy Kirby and bassist Chris Davis — began writing "Eat Rich" in January and set a deadline of April 20. It was released on that date, on Bandcamp at least, but it still hasn't hit streaming services due to a copyright dispute.

"They're saying it's because they're detecting that there are samples in our music. We're a three-piece punk/power-pop band; there are no samples in the music. We have, like, some thunder noises, but I think they tried to say in the first email that we sampled an Isley Brothers song," Kirby said. "So, you can listen to it on Bandcamp, you can come hear us play the songs live, but unfortunately, it's not on streaming yet. We like to say it's a conspiracy theory, that they're trying to silence us."

The cover of the album does depict

Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and President Donald Trump as hot dogs, running away from an angry mob. And the songs only delve deeper into the group's takes on billionaires, neo-Nazis, ICE, school shootings and other hot-button issues. Maybe the deep state could be in on it.

"We definitely poked on some controversial topics — not anything really crazy, I'd call it more armchair politics," Kirby said. "It's not like a dissertation or anything on 'Das Kapital,' but I think

just good everyday, every-guy politics."

The album was influenced by the punk music of the George W. Bush era.

"I was very inspired by early 2000s punk-rock records. It was the Hot Topic era of punk rock, so it was all pretty catchy and polished — nothing was super overly aggressive — but it was definitely still high energy, with lots of tongue-in-cheek satire. NOFX's record "The War on Errorism" was definitely a big inspiration.

The copyright dispute wasn't the only hurdle the band encountered while making this record.

"The recording process itself was a little bit of a challenge, because we record very DIY style in my basement, but living in Michigan, it rains, and my basement's flooded a couple of times," Pine said. So, since then, after recording everything, I've been trying to update the basement, because that's where we rehearse and record."

Now that the record's out, Jenn's Apartment is focusing on playing as many shows as possible. The group was recently in Saline and Jackson, and it's playing its first hometown show "in a

Jenn's Apartment

With Paper Lanterns, A Rueful Noise, No Problemo!

June 5

Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
greendoorlive.com



Photo by Donte Smith

Lansing punk trio Jenn's Apartment. From left: drummer Justin Pine, vocalist/guitarist Roy Kirby and bassist Chris Davis.

while" June 5 at The Green Door.

"Once we run into wintertime, we'll probably record a few more songs — maybe not a whole album this time, just a couple, just to keep the music coming out," Kirby said. "It's usually a good cycle for us to write and record in the wintertime, when the highways are icy, and then when it starts to warm up, and the drives to Detroit and Grand Rapids are safer, we'll start making our way around for shows."

It's a busy schedule, but they wouldn't have it any other way.

"The biggest thing is that it's still fun as long as it's fun to do. Obviously, there are parts that are harder, but for the most part, it's fun," Kirby said. "I've been doing music since I was 14, and I still like it, and that's a big thing. We still like each other most of the time, I think, and it's a great excuse to get together with your friends."



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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"The Potato Eaters"
-- a tasty work of art.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Positive votes
- 5. Barcelona appetizers
- 10. Haggis vendor, usually
- 14. Hurting
- 15. Without ___ in the world
- 16. Base for poi
- 17. Mennen aftershave brand
- 19. Strummed instruments
- 20. Like U.S. phone numbers (including area codes)
- 21. YouTube offerings
- 23. Royal flush need
- 24. Fish nets
- 26. Some fast food freebies
- 30. #42
- 33. Numerical suffix
- 34. It contains the id
- 36. Brand of tea once owned by Starbucks
- 37. Adidas rival
- 39. Sign of summer
- 40. Rachel Maddow's network, as of late 2025
- 41. Car sold at auction, maybe
- 42. Brief outline
- 44. Stranded material
- 45. Ozzy's band, for short
- 47. Patrick who played McDreamy
- 49. Become fixated
- 51. "Aladdin" monkey
- 52. 2026 Winter Olympics country, locally
- 54. Ingrid Bergman's "Casablanca" character
- 59. Golden Tempo's mother, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
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26	27	28			29	30				31	32	
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45				46			47			48		
49						50	51					
52	53					54	55			56	57	58
59				60	61							
62				63						64		
65				66						67		

- 60. Divisive political topic
 - 62. Env. data
 - 63. Owe ___ of gratitude
 - 64. "The Incredibles" fashion designer Mode
 - 65. "California Dreamin'" singer Elliot
 - 66. "Say ___ the Dress" (TLC reality series)
 - 67. Grains at the shore
- DOWN**
- 1. Helper, for short
 - 2. Ox connector
 - 3. Brockovich portrayed by Julia Roberts
 - 4. "Where the Wild Things Are" author
 - 5. Goals
 - 6. Three-syllable berry
 - 7. Agreements
 - 8. "Where ___ you going with that thing?"
 - 9. Submissive
 - 10. Class members
 - 11. Flat trays for weddings
 - 12. Vegan and kosher cookie
 - 13. Chuck
 - 18. Arm muscle
 - 22. Ending for some pasta varieties
 - 25. It's major when there's a G#
 - 26. Some custard fruits
 - 27. Offshore
 - 28. Recycled paper products used for backing
 - 29. Air dwellers of folklore
 - 31. O3
 - 32. "That's impossible!"
 - 35. Intro to chemistry?
 - 38. Fruit desserts
 - 40. Bollywood's home
 - 42. Eroded
 - 43. Words before "exist" or "be"
 - 46. "___ was about to say ..."
 - 48. Heartbeats
 - 50. Entree go-withs
 - 52. Colorful tech product of the late 1990s
 - 53. Sound of a big reveal?
 - 55. Pride letters
 - 56. Prate package letters
 - 57. Actor Bill or director Trevor
 - 58. Completely out of power
 - 61. Stamp ending?

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

May 27-June 2, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In the weeks ahead, simply being right won't necessarily lead to success. Having strength, intelligence, wealth, or connections might help, though not as much as usual. But a different approach will work well as you strive to overcome challenges: a blend of cleverness and integrity. I invite you to be cunning while remaining honorable. Practice subtle strategy in service of higher aims. And here's one more secret to ensure victory: Let go of any need to receive full recognition for your efforts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Dear Horoscope Guy: Two astrologers have assured me that as a Taurus, I'm a natural-born money magnet. So, why am I broke? I keep begging the Divine for cash miracles, and I buy lottery tickets twice a week. Still nothing! Please tell me when I'll finally hit the jackpot. Better yet, give me the winning numbers." -Taurus Desperate for Dollars." Dear Desperate: The "luck" you crave will arrive as you diligently pour yourself into building your sweetest dreams, spurning shortcuts and enjoying yourself as much as possible. The Divine prefers to fund eager co-creators, not wishful thinkers. I predict that a slow-motion jackpot will ultimately arrive through your devoted attention to doing what excites you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Among the Dogon of Mali, Sigi So is a secret language. It's used in a sacred ritual when people gather to retell their beginnings and patch up strains in tribal harmony. I'm borrowing Sigi So here as a symbol for a way of talking I hope you will specialize in during the coming weeks: language that eases tensions, soothes friction, and fosters unity. Start like this: Unleash your trademark wit, but spike it with sly blessings and tactful probes. Wield your fluency to burn away confusion and uncover unspoken feelings. If you're in an extra-bold mood, give everyone tacit permission to be their idiosyncratic selves instead of their polished personas.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): What's the holiest, most healing trouble you could rustle up right now? I mean trouble that freshens what's stale but doesn't scorch the earth. Maybe it's a buoyant disruption, like telling wild truths you usually tend to soften. Or maybe it's asking for what your future self pines for instead of what your past self regards as polite and reasonable. As a Cancerian soul myself, I dare both you and me to give ourselves permission to rumble. Let's be brazen as we instigate creative upheavals in service to our cheerful vigor. Let's instigate at least one concrete action that will rattle the stagnant pattern just enough to make life more interesting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Sea otters are a keystone species. Their presence is essential to the health of their entire ecosystem. As they eat sea urchins, the kelp forests flourish. Without otters, the urchins overgraze, and kelp forests may collapse, which in turn affects hundreds of other species. One creature's appetite helps regulate an entire undersea neighborhood. I suspect you're serving a similar function, Leo. You're having more impact and wielding more influence than you realize. No pressure! But please act accordingly, with maximum integrity and robust responsibility.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A Dutch woman who died left her grand-nephew an inheritance of 220,000 euros. The only problem is that he's homeless and constantly on the move, so the executors haven't been able to find him. This echoes a recurring pattern in your life. Even now, sources of blessings are searching for ways to reach you, but you are slow to notice their approach or to magnetize yourself to their arrival. My prayer: May you figure out what needs to be done to make yourself fully available for these gifts — and then ingrain that capacity in your habit mind.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Visualize your fears. Consider how few of them rest on a genuine likelihood that the scary events could ever take place. Then ask yourself how much of your uneasiness springs from vivid fantasies or from a

practiced tendency to fret. You might also ruminate on how you absorb the background worry that's amplified by mass culture. After reflecting on all that, I invite you to take one concrete action to lower the level of tension you have come to treat as normal. Take another action to weaken the grip of your deepest dread. The current planetary patterns suggest you now have the bold, creative power necessary to shrink your baseline anxiety.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Even more than usual, you have a sacred duty to celebrate your poignant sweetness and dark intelligence. For the sake of your emotional health, you should pay wild reverence to your deepest, most mysterious yearnings. To be the person we all need you to be, you must tenderly nurture the parts of your inner world that resemble the aurora borealis. I want to support you in these sublime sacraments, which is why I suggest you memorize the following prayer by Rainer Maria Rilke: "Be attentive to what is arising within you, and place that above everything you perceive around you. What is happening in your innermost self is worthy of your entire love."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Linguists use the term "false friends." These are words in different languages that seem similar but don't have the same meaning. For example, the Spanish word embarazada resembles "embarrassed" to English speakers but actually means "pregnant." I suspect you're dealing with another type of false friend, Sagittarius: people or situations that turned out to be at variance with what you initially imagined. But rather than feeling unsettled by these revelations, I suggest you treat them as a prod to see with fresh eyes. Your disorientation could be the beginning of more interesting understandings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An ISBN (International Standard Book Number) is a code assigned to a book for commercial and cataloging purposes. It contains key information and includes a built-in error-detection notation. If you transpose two numbers when entering an ISBN, the last digit will tell you something's wrong. In this spirit, Capricorn, I heartily recommend that you build more mistake detection into your life. Invest in extra safeguards. Add verification steps. Build in double-checks. The goal is to create systems robust enough to survive oversights and gaffes. I very much want you to give yourself the gift of safety nets that will empower you to take smart risks and intriguing gambles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may not yet grasp how richly creative you are right now, nor how much more abundant your generative powers could become. So, it's auspicious that you are reading this horoscope now. Consider this your advance notice: Your capacity to originate ideas, projects, and connections is surging, and it's crucial to choose with care which possibilities you nurture and which you decline. If you are selective and intentional about what you sow, then about six months from now, you will be far more likely to gather lush, beautiful harvests instead of wrestling with overgrown, unruly tangles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Ethnobotanist Wade Davis documented how different cultures perceive entirely different realities despite inhabiting the same physical world. It means that two people can stand in the same forest and see different forests through their cultural lens and personal mythology. This is simultaneously the problem and the opportunity you face, Pisces. You and others in your orbit are inhabiting divergent realities that superficially seem the same. If you hope to reconcile the differences, you must first acknowledge them as real. You're dealing with fundamentally different ways of constructing meaning, not just small misunderstandings.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky'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 27

Adult Skills: Protect Yourself from Financial Scams - Gather in the daytime with other adults for coffee, conversation, and to learn how to avoid financial scams. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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

Bookend Gallery Display by Jenna Ruff - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

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.

IRWA General Meeting - Join IRWA Chapter 7 for a full-day general membership meeting featuring expert-led sessions and networking opportunities. This meeting will also have our election and installation of officers. 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/114720907101.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. West Michigan Whitecaps - 11:05 a.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

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. reach-studioart.org.

LRCC Clinton County Business Roundtable - LRCC Business Roundtables bring together business leaders, entrepreneurs, nonprofits and public officials to discuss the issues shaping our region. 9-10 a.m. Clinton County Road Commission, 3536 Old U.S. 27, St. Johns. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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

Parkinson's Exercise: Tai Chi - Free group class tailored for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Improve balance and strength. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lpsg.org.

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

Scavenger Hunt Week - For Scavenger Hunt Day and Ranger Month, we're debuting our first quest: Lore of the Golden Spud! Businesses will offer specials for questers looking for a hidden QR code that leads to the next location. If a business

is closed, there will be a puzzle in the window to solve instead! May 24-29. Downtown Lansing. dnf.games/quest.

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

Sporcle 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.

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

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

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

Thursday, May 28

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

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

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

Bath Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 13753 Main St., Bath. shopbfm.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.

Bookend Gallery Display by Jenna Ruff - Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series: Michigan Dry Bean Update, with Scott Bales - 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/field_crops.

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

Lansing Lugnuts vs. West Michigan Whitecaps - 7:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

MAC Group Dance Class: Beginning Salsa - An easy to



Fish Ladder Music Park grand opening weekend

7-10:30 p.m. Friday, May 29-Saturday, May 30
216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing

Free
lansingriverfront.org

The new Fish Ladder Music Park will kick off a packed season of events on Lansing's riverfront with a grand opening celebration this weekend.

Friday's opening night party will feature performances by '80s cover band Starfarm and DJ Dav, plus food trucks and a beverage tent, sponsored by Lansing 5:01.

Saturday's Good Vibrations Celebration will take guests a decade further back in time, featuring funky and groovy tunes by Summer of Sol and Darin Lamer's Diggable Dynamite. Attendees are encouraged to dress in their best '70s-inspired look for an opportunity to participate in the costume contest.

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.

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. lpsg.org.

Platinum Dance Academy Spring Recital - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/4541029241.

Preserving MI Harvest — Strawberries: More Than Just Jam - It's strawberry season. Explore how to can, freeze and make jam with this popular fruit. 1-2 and 6-7 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/food_preservation.

Sheet-Pan Dinner Master Class - Learn three fresh takes on some sheet-pan meal staples! 6-8 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.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.

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.

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 29

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

Bookend Gallery Display by Jenna Ruff - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Cirque Italia Atlantis - Join our intrepid cast of acrobats, jugglers, aerialists, dancers and clowns — a daring team of explorers who sail between worlds, diving deep beneath the waves and soaring high into the clouds. 7:30 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. cirqueitalia.com.

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.

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.

The Kuntz Kittens Invade Lansing - Drag Me to Bingo! Are you ready for an evening of glamour, comedy and fun? 7-9 p.m. Sir Pizza, 201 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/118241520081.

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Lansing Lugnuts vs. West Michigan Whitecaps - 7:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

Mid-Michigan Veterans Committee Annual Charity Golf Outing - Four-person scramble. Mulligans \$5 a piece, skins \$30 a team, 50/50 raffle, hole-in-one contest. Mail checks to Mid-Michigan Veterans Committee, PO Box 80996, Lansing, MI 48908. 9 a.m. Wheatfield Valley Golf Course, 1600 Linn Road, Williamston. For more information, call 616-780-3846.

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. lapsq.org.

Platinum Dance Academy Spring Recital - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/4541029241.

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

Thrown Together - Everyone will get a shot at the wheel, you'll glaze a little piece to keep, and you'll leave with photos! BYOB from Sleepwalker Spirits. 7-9 p.m. Wheel House Studio, 1103 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/WheelHouseStudio.

Saturday, May 30

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

Beaded Plant Workshop - Join us for a creative workshop where you'll learn how to make the trendy beaded plant that's taking social media by storm! 1-4 p.m. B's Artistic Studio, 111 W. Lovett St., Charlotte. eventbrite.com/o/105998333521.

Bookend Gallery Display by Jenna Ruff - Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Car Show - Hosted by the LCC Foundation and Capitol City Old Car Club, a fundraiser for LCC automotive technology student scholarships.

Enjoy vintage vehicles, delicious food trucks, awesome music and great prizes. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. lcc.edu.

Cirque Italia Atlantis - 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. cirqueitalia.com.

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

Contra and Square Dance - The celebration of Irene Savoyat's Birthday also includes afternoon waltzing and a potluck before the evening contra dance. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Caller: Lo Ziv. Band: The Resurrection Marys. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Entrepreneurship Mixer Series: Marketing Matters - A quarterly networking and education event designed to support entrepreneurs and business-minded individuals at every stage of their journey. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. LAFcu, 106 North Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. lafcu.com.

Healing Gardens Spring Plant Sale - We'll have a selection of annuals and perennials ready to transplant into your home gardens and pots. Proceeds support the care of the gardens! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Radiology Healing Gardens, 846 Service Road, East Lansing. radiology.msu.edu/about/radiology-healing-gardens.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. West Michigan Whitecaps - 7:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

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

The Positive Equine Connection: Building Healthy Coping Skills - This hands-on experience brings together emotional wellness activities and the calming presence of horses to help kids build confidence, understand their feelings, and practice healthy coping skills. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Equine Center for Learning, 2901 Wabash Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121281267400.

Salus Center Prom: Carnival Extravaganza - Join us for a night of high-flying revelry, daring community, and extravagant dance. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. saluscenter.org.

Splash of Recovery Art Fair - This free event

showcases the incredible talents of local artists in recovery and those who support them. Discover unique works of art, support creative expression and connect with the inspiring stories behind each piece. Noon-4 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/LifeboatARC.

When I Grow Up! Career Exploration Series: Space Careers - Kids will meet real professionals, explore hands-on activities, and take home an activity to see how their interests can turn into future careers. No registration required. Regular admission applies. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. facebook.com/impression5.

Sunday, May 31

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

Cirque Italia Atlantis - 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. cirqueitalia.com.

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/summerlands-brewing.

Healing Gardens Spring Plant Sale - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Radiology Healing Gardens, 846 Service Road, East Lansing. radiology.msu.edu/about/radiology-healing-gardens.

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

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

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

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

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.

Wheels, Words & Wellness: The Big Feelings Tour - Hosted in partnership with Capital Area Transportation Authority and R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, this event is centered around literacy, emotional wellness, and community connection for children and families. 2-4 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. strodecreations.com.

Monday, June 1

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.

Cirque Italia Atlantis - 7:30 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. cirqueitalia.com.

City Campus Life Senior Event - This event is dedicated to our seniors who we have been doing life with for the past 1-4 years. We want to show our appreciation and thanks! 6-9 p.m. The Windsor Room, 139 Bridge Street, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/111003828421.

DJ Bingo at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Kick off your week with a night of music, laughs, and friendly competition! 7-8:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. 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.

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Allentown — Lake Lansing Bandshell summer concert series opening night

7 p.m. Friday, May 29
Lake Lansing Park South
1621 Pike St., Haslett
Free admission; bring lawn chairs and blankets
facebook.com/Lakelansingbandshell

The Lake Lansing Bandshell will open its 2026 summer concert series with a performance by the Detroit-based Billy Joel tribute band Allentown, which was founded by drummer and bandleader Todd Stoney, a Lansing native, and comprises veteran musicians from both sides of the Gordie Howe Bridge.

The show will have a white-out theme, with the band members dressing in all-white apparel and lead vocalist/pianist Mark Calcott debuting a brand new — and hopefully still unscuffed — white piano shell.

All six of the group members also perform with vocalist Dave Trojan as the Bob Seger tribute band Lookin' Back. Trojan is expected to take a quick turn at the mic with Allentown to give audiences a taste of the Seger group, which has performed alongside original Silver Bullet Band members Alto Reed and Charlie Martin on four separate occasions.



Audrey Vardanega

3 p.m. Saturday, May 30
Edgewood United Church
469 N. Hagadorn Road,
East Lansing
Free
audreyvardanegapianist.com

Saturday offers a rare opportunity to see a globe-trotting musician in an intimate East Lansing venue.

Pianist and entrepreneur Audrey Vardanega will perform an exclusive concert for friends Julie and Bob Stokstad, inviting the community to listen along. Her repertoire will include classics by Bach and Brahms.

Vardanega was praised as "musically eloquent" by the San Francisco Classical Voice and as having "the kind of freedom, authority and strength one expects from the world's finest pianists" by The Piedmont Post. She has appeared at venues such as the Kaufman Music Center in New York City, Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, Tippet Rise Art Center in Montana, Hangzhou Grand Theatre in China, Teatro del Libertador San Martín in Argentina and many more.

Passionate about providing opportunities for emerging artists to shape their own careers, Vardanega is the founder of Musicals of the Bay, a nonprofit that aims to connect musicians, composers and visual artists in the San Francisco Bay Area. She's also the director of operations at The Autumn Salon, a New York City-based magazine, film production house and concert series.



Events

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The Great Delta Treasure Quest - Starting June 1, the Parks & Recreation Department will release coordinates for 10 hidden treasure boxes ready for explorers of all ages to track down in this free, adventure-filled event. deltami.gov/TreasureQuest.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Annual 12-by-12 Show - This monthlong exhibition celebrates the creativity of mid-Michigan artists through a vibrant collection of original 12-by-12 works. June 1-30. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

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

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

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

Testimony Meeting Service - All are welcome to come and worship together through Jesus Christ at our Testimony meeting. 10-11 a.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7943 Keefer Hwy., Portland. eventbrite.com/e/testimony-meeting-service-tickets-1535050851419.

Tuesday, June 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Green Door Comedy Showcase - The Green Door features some of the state and beyond's best stand-up talent every week! Doors 7 p.m.,

show 8 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-482-6376. greendoorlive.com.

Grow Series: The Power of Belonging — Inclusive Culture as a Business Advantage - This session will explore how inclusive culture strengthens organizational performance and offer practical strategies for improving decision making, team alignment and long-term effectiveness. 10-11:30 a.m. LRCC, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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

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

Wednesday, June 3

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

"Assembled in Lansing," America250MI Exhibit Opening - This exhibit reflects America250MI's Five Guiding Themes by examining the labor rights movement in Lansing and the surrounding areas and highlighting the continuous struggle for fair conditions and basic human rights. 3-5 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.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.

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.

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

Independent Painting, with Philip Ruehle - Receive one-on-one instruction while exploring the painting genre of your choice. Pre-registration & payment are required. June 3-July 8. Noon-3 p.m. Shiawassee Arts Center, 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. 989-723-8354. shiawasseearts.org

Little Mania Mini Wrestling - Get ready for the biggest little wrestling event of the year! The Mini Wrestling All Stars are coming to town, and these pint-sized powerhouses pack a punch! 8-10 p.m. The Studio at 414, 410 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/90067055783

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. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton Road, East Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

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



As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Sunrise Chinese Food & Sushi replaces Apple Jade in Frandor

By LEO V. KAPLAN

Before opening Sunrise Chinese Food & Sushi in Frandor, Feng Yang operated a similar restaurant in New Jersey.

Arana Yang, translating for Feng, said he was interested in bringing his signature blend of Japanese, Chinese and Thai favorites to an area with a younger clientele, which Michigan State University provides.

Sunrise Chinese Food & Sushi

300 N. Clippert St., Lansing
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Noon-9 p.m. Sunday
(517) 332-1111
sunriseasianrestaurantlansing.com



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Owner Feng Yang at Sunrise Chinese Food & Sushi in Frandor.

cakes, mapo tofu and General Tso's chicken, as well as boba tea.

Sushi options include rolls ranging from more authentic to more

Americanized styles, as well as nigiri and sashimi.

In a little more than two months of operation, Yang said the Gener-



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Fresh fish waits to be made into sushi rolls, nigiri and sashimi.

al Tso's chicken has been a runaway favorite for customers. The MSU crowd that Feng was excited to serve has largely opted for the sushi.

See Food & Sushi, Page 23

Getting saucy at One North

By LIZY FERGUSON

My go-to takeout order when I've had a hard week is wings and fries — simple, satisfying and dippable. As I was going to place a recent order at my usual wing spot, I remembered a rumor I'd heard that One North Kitchen & Bar had potato skins, a beloved childhood appetizer I hadn't seen on a menu in years.

Sadly, like many rumors, this one was unfounded. However, I'd already started my online order, so I was committed.

What to fill the place of the potato skins, though? I had already added buffalo wings and fries to my cart, but I was ordering for two people, so that wasn't



Chicken spinach dip pizza

\$12.75 (small)

One North Kitchen & Bar
1310 Abbott Road, East Lansing

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday

11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday

10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday
(517) 900-4678

onenorthdining.com

quite going to cut it. As soon as my eyes landed on the chicken spinach dip pizza, though, my problem was solved. I also added a salad to balance out all the rich bar food.

The fries were honestly overdone, and the Mediterranean salad was nothing special, but the buffalo wings were cooked just right: meaty, juicy and just a little crispy. The dipping sauces (blue cheese and ranch) and the creamy Mediterranean sal-

ad dressing were similarly on point, making everything taste pretty delicious.

The pizza was New York style, with house-made dough that was crispy and light. It was topped with a tasty spinach dip, mozzarella, grilled chicken, red onion, banana peppers and spinach. My friend had suggested we add an order of garlic-parmesan butter to drizzle on the pizza, and that's why I'm friends with her: She has great ideas. It tasted like the bread you get at an Italian restaurant, the kind you dip in seasoned olive oil, but with the delectable addition of spinach dip.

One North has a huge menu with tons of options that go beyond typical sports bar fare, and I also hear it has an excellent Sunday brunch buffet, complete with a mimosa and bloody mary bar. While it sadly does not serve potato skins, it does have an array of sauce options and many other items to dip into those sauces, including some pretty decent pizza.



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Food & Sushi

from page 22

“The young people like sushi,” Yang said.

The new restaurant is an exciting opportunity for Feng to share his authentic cuisine with a fresh crowd, according to Yang.

“He wanted China here,” she said, “different from New Jersey.”



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Sunrise opened just over two months ago in Frandor.

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Summer Reading Challenge June 8 - August 8

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Summer Reading Kick-Off Party
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elpl.beanstack.com!

East Lansing Public Library

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 NACHOS

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

1. Art's Pub

Mellow gameday hangout offering a wide menu of pub grub and pizza
809 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 977-1033
artspublansing.com
7 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

2. Buddies Pub & Grill — all locations

Low-key eateries serving comfort food and small plates
See buddiespubandgrill.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

3. El Azteco East Lansing

Relaxed eatery with a rooftop

patio serving Mexican standards, some made with local ingredients
225 Ann St., East Lansing
(517) 351-9111

elazteco.net

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Wednesday

11 a.m.-midnight Thursday

11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

4. El Azteco Lansing

South-of-the-border restaurant boasting fresh ingredients, scratch cooking and patio seating
1016 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
(517) 485-4589

elaztecowest.com

11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Noon-8:30 p.m. Sunday

5. Meat BBQ

Casual restaurant serving slow-smoked barbecue standards and inventive, handmade sides
1224 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 580-4400

meatbbq.com

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

Noon-5 p.m. Sunday

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

A	Y	E	S	T	A	P	A	S	S	C	O	T
S	O	R	E	A	C	A	R	E	T	A	R	O
S	K	I	N	B	R	A	C	E	R	U	K	E
T	E	N	D	I	G	I	T	V	I	D	E	O
				A	C	E	S	E	I	N	E	S
P	A	C	K	E	T	S	C	L	I	N	T	O
E	T	H	P	S	Y	C	H	E	T	A	Z	O
A	S	I	C	S	L	E	O	M	S	N	O	
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				O	B	S	E	S	S	A	B	U
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A	D	D	R	A	D	E	B	T	E	D	N	A
C	A	S	S	Y	E	S	T	O	S	A	N	D

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1357

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, Re-Adopting the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lansing.

Effective date: Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
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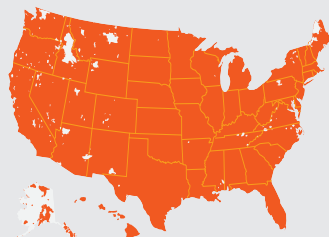
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