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To Bomb, or Not to Bomb? Is That the Question? A Political Tragedy in Five Acts

Act I – The Fool

To bomb, or not to bomb? Ay, there's the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the councils of empire
To loose destruction 'cross a foreign shore,
Or pause, if but a moment, and behold
The kingdom we ourselves have left untended.
Lo, these ten years and more hath this Republic loosed upon itself a
singular creature; a man so marvelously infamous that his very presence
hath made ordinary those things which once dwelt only in the darkest
chambers of men's thoughts. Where civility once held court, grievance
now weareth the crown. Where shame did bridle the tongue, bold
ignorance proclaimeth itself as wisdom, and falsehood seeketh applause
as though it were virtue itself.
O Obama, where art thou? 'Tis the East, and Michelle is the sun.
There lived a season when the ceaseless clamor of propagandists could
not wholly eclipse the joy that many found in hope renewed. Their voices
were but a vexing fly upon the banquet table—irksome, to be sure, yet
no great calamity.
Yet every unattended ember dreameth of becoming a conflagration.
What should have been quenched was instead indulged. It smoldered
through years of patient dignity until, finding fresh timber, it became a
blaze that consumed reason itself.
Certain merchants of grievance spent those years tilling fertile
ground—not for wisdom, but for folly. They sowed suspicion, watered
resentment and harvested indignation. They sought a champion to
restore an imagined kingdom, yet knew not that the vessel destined to
bear their standard would prove a court fool clad in royal garments.
And yet... what fitter sovereign for subjects who mistook noise for
strength, spectacle for substance, and vengeance for justice?
Enter Trump.
With mighty bellows did he breathe life into dying embers until the fire
leapt beyond all keeping.

Act II – The Flame

Unto the simple, he offered certainty.
Unto the fearful, enemies aplenty.
Unto the malicious, permission.
Thus did resentment masquerade as patriotism, cruelty attire itself in
garments called freedom, and loyalty demand not honesty, but
obedience.
They had never forgiven that a broader, fairer vision of America had once
prevailed over their own. Though the old Confederacy had long since
yielded upon the battlefield, some preserved its ghost within their
hearts, wrapping ancient grievances in newer banners. Quietly at first,
then with growing confidence, they awaited a herald who would bid
them speak aloud what once decency compelled them to whisper.
Who among us foresaw the breadth of this undoing? Save perhaps the
scholars, the historians, the oft-mocked watchers who read the fates of
republics as physicians read the pulse of dying men.
Did not our founders themselves distrust ambitious princes? Therefore,
they forged checks and balances, imagining no single mortal might
bend the Commonwealth wholly unto his will.
Yet parchment cannot save a people who cease believing in parchment.

Act III – The Spectacle

O, the distractions!
Ever the distractions!
Each sunrise beareth a fresh scandal, each twilight another spectacle.
We pursue the next outrage whilst forgetting the last, like revelers
chasing echoes through a great hall long after the musicians have
departed.
We are bid to fear our neighbors.
The laborer. The teacher. The immigrant. The scholar. The stranger.
"The enemy is within," cry the heralds.
Aye... But not these. Follow instead the coin.
Mark well whose purse groweth fat whilst the multitude quarrel over

crumbs. Observe who contradicteth himself so oft that memory itself
refuseth to keep pace with his tongue.
Count not his promises... But his profits. Trust not the banner he
waveth... But the ledger he hideth.
The truth needeth no enchantment. Only remembrance.

Act IV – The Kingdom

Meanwhile, kingdoms abroad descended into horrors beyond naming.
Crimes against humanity unfolded before the world's gaze, and we, too,
found ourselves entangled in violence, spending from the people's purse
to wage distant quarrels upon uncertain seas. We hunted "pirates,"
though some whispered they were but fishermen. We seized tyrants. We
toppled governments. We loosed bombs upon foreign lands.
And every deed came wrapped in banners proclaiming necessity. Then
came the whispered scrolls.
"The files," quoth the people.
"What files?" answered Power. "'Tis but a hoax. There is naught to behold."
Spare not the innocence of victims of the fairer sex, but offer cover for
those geezers who would exploit young maidens for pleasures meant to
be only between grown, consenting elders. Thus, the curtain remained
drawn whilst curiosity itself stood accused.
How curious, that those who demanded every parchment concerning
their rivals should suddenly discover the sacredness of privacy when the
pages bore familiar names. What strange sorcery is selective indignation.
For republics seldom perish in a thunderclap. They die by a thousand
indulgences, a thousand excuses, a thousand moments wherein good
people persuade themselves that tomorrow shall be the day they finally
object.

Act V – The Audience

And so we come again unto the question. To bomb, or not to bomb?
Nay. That was never truly the question.
The question was whether a republic may endure whilst forever seeking
enemies abroad, yet refusing to behold those who profit from discord at
home. Whether liberty may survive when truth becometh negotiable...
Corruption becometh customary... And spectacle becometh
governance.
For kingdoms fall not by cannon alone. They fall when truth is mocked.
When learning is scorned. When virtue is made to answer before vice.
When laws bend low before men rather than men bow before the law.
Thus, the stage grows dark. The torches fade. The actors depart.
One by one, the kings, jesters, merchants, flatterers... All take their leave.
Yet one figure remaineth. Not upon the stage... But before it.
For all this while, good reader... Thou hast believed thyself the audience.
Alas.
Thou wert never the audience. Thou wert always in the cast.
The final act hath not yet been written. The quill lieth not in the hand of
a king. Nor a fool. Nor any prince who proclaimeth himself ordained.
It resteth now in the hands of the people. Take heed what ending thou
dost write. For history remembereth not merely those who wore the
crown... But those who, seeing it slip toward tyranny...
Choose either to applaud... Or to rise before the curtain falls.
Exeunt omnes. The curtain falleth only upon those who mistake the play
for fiction.
Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

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Lansing State Journal moves closer to City Pulse

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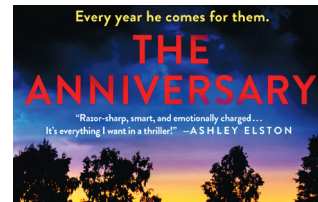
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Ringers and locals are the same at Summer Solstice Jazz Fest

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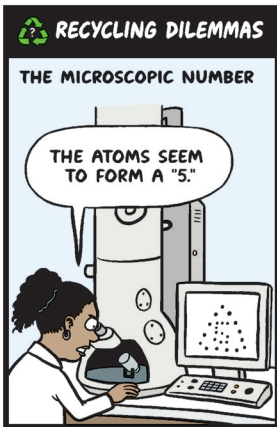
Former MSU prof pens new novel, tapping into the 1990s

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Wayne State University educator advocates for Juneteenth curriculum at state level

**Ben Solis/Michigan Advance
Michigan Advance.com**

For Diane McMillan, a longtime education and social worker associated with Wayne State University, Michigan needs a Juneteenth curriculum that centers the celebration's core tenets: Faith, unity of the heart and the resistance movement for civil rights that eventually spawned from the Union's emancipation of enslaved people.

McMillan made her request before the State Board of Education at its June 9 meeting. She was invited by board member Tiffany Tilley to share the history of Juneteenth, its early foundation in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the push to make Juneteenth a national holiday — which was made official by former President Joe Biden in 2021.

Juneteenth is the celebration of the day in 1865 when one of the last groups of enslaved people of African descent held in Galveston, Texas were made aware that President Abraham Lincoln had emancipated them two-and-a-half years prior. History shows that enslavers in Texas were fully aware that Lincoln had granted American-held enslaved individuals their freedom through the Emancipation Proclamation. Regardless, they had kept them in bondage and continued to abuse them, refusing to acknowledge the proclamation.

McMillan's address to the board emphasized the fact that Union troops who arrived in Galveston on June 19, 1865 were not there so much on an information-sharing mission as they were there to physically enforce the proclamation and to free still-enslaved people.

McMillan also touched on the connection of the early African American community's Christian faith toward its striving for additional modes of emancipation through the mid-20th Century Civil Rights movement.

With that history in mind, she asked the board to consider creating a more robust Juneteenth curriculum, and one that extolled "the faith and freedom that those slaves had to fight for."



Lansing Fire Chief Carrie Edwards-Clemons delivered a keynote speech during the Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony outside of Lansing City Hall on Friday, June 19.

"We need to continue to educate our children, as well as our adults, because I did a survey with other adults my age or older than my age, and they are just finding out about Juneteenth," McMillan said. "One of my friends told me he didn't know about it until he went to Houston. So we need to begin to inform, educate and put it out there about unity, because we're going to talk about the issues of the Civil Rights movement, voting rights that we're having now, the issues of getting people to vote, and we need them to understand why it is important."

Although the board did not commit to doing so, Tilley said that one of the reasons the education system continues to talk about America's involvement in the slave trade was because history was doomed to repeat itself if it wasn't fully understood. It also was a matter of upholding the Black community's dignity following hundreds of years in trans-national chattel slavery, in which humans, and their offspring, were considered as personal property.

"Caucasians have been enslaved,



Jews have been enslaved, Hispanics have been enslaved, Asians have been, Irish have been enslaved. So this is not unique to African Americans," Tilley said. "But what is unique to African Americans is chattel slavery. That was a different level of slavery, and so when people think of the descendants of the slaves and sometimes they don't really understand the long term impacts, the generational impacts of slavery and the system that is still withheld against the descendants of slavery."



Mayor Andy Schor addressed the crowd at Lansing's Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony.

**Photos by
Mike Ellis**



A Capital Area Transportation Authority bus, pictured here at the flag-raising ceremony, drove around town promoting Juneteenth.

'The outlook is pretty bleak': Farmers brace for difficult season

By **JULIA ROEDER**
Capital News Service

When Brian Neff retired from the Air Force, he had his eyes on a farm on the outskirts of Traverse City.

The land was once operated by his wife's grandparents before it was leased out for years after her grandparents stopped tending to it. In 2021, the Neffs bought the property back with plans to transform it in retirement.

"We had it in mind that we were going to turn it into more of a destination farm, akin to the types of things that we saw when we were in the military out in California and other places in the country," Neff said.

Neff says he was anticipating 2026 to be their first profitable year, but because of the financial issues they, and many other farmers face, he no longer thinks so.

"My projection would be that we will not turn a profit this year," Neff said.

Neff's story is not an isolated one.

An April survey from the American Farm Bureau Federation found nearly 70% of U.S. farmers say they cannot afford fertilizer. It also found almost half of Midwestern farmers report they cannot afford all the supplies they need.

The survey drew from 5,400 farmers in each state and Puerto Rico. According to the responses, 94% of respondents reported their financial situation has worsened or remained the same since last year, while only 6% reported improvement.

The survey shows Midwestern farmers reported slightly stronger purchasing plans, but nearly half still said they could not afford all the supplies they needed. While farmers in other parts of the country were less likely to purchase fertilizer ahead of planting season, this could sharpen stress on America's "breadbasket" which a 2026 report from the Future of Food Coalition described as "one of the most intensively farmed agricultural regions globally."

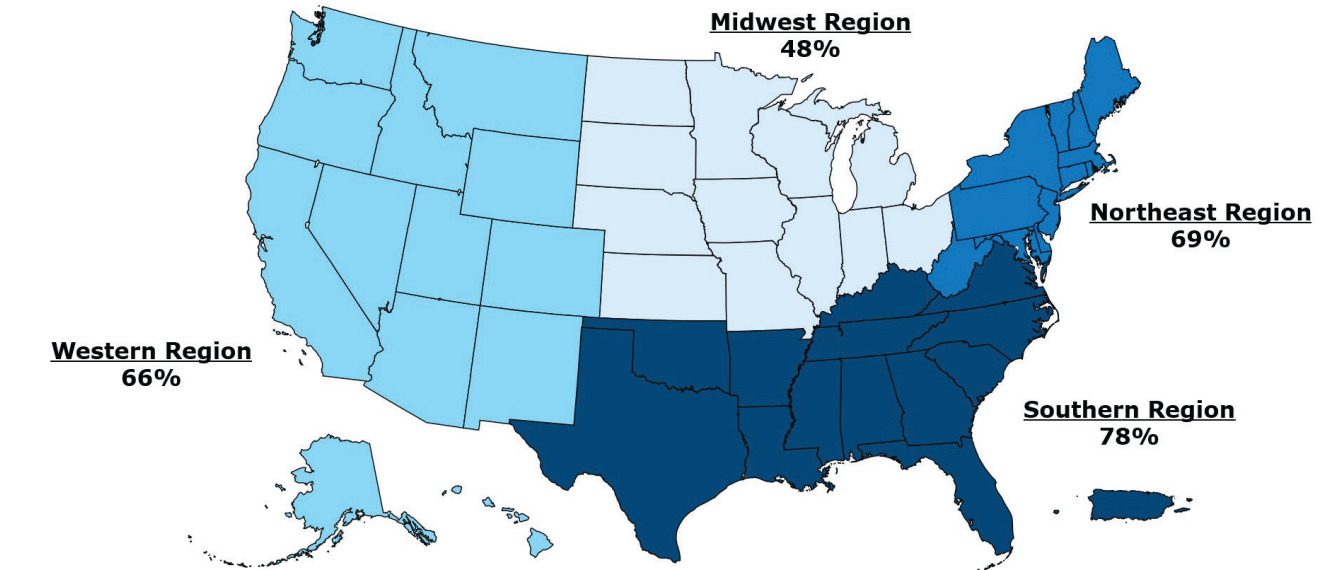
For many farmers across the Great Lakes region, those numbers are not abstract statistics but are shaping what gets planted, harvested and what is profitable.

Neff says the cost of urea, a chemical used as a fertilizer, went up from \$612 to \$892 from April 2025 to April 2026, changing his decisions this year.

"I chose to forego putting urea down on our grass hayfields this spring," he said. "Any additional growth I expect-

Percentage of Farmers Unable to Afford All Needed Fertilizer

Share of Respondents by Region Unable to Afford All Needed Fertilizer for 2026



 American Farm Bureau Federation

Source: AFBF Fertilizer Availability Survey; Analysis by American Farm Bureau Federation

Map showing percentage of U.S. farmers who say they can't afford all needed fertilizers. Source: American Farm Bureau Federation

ed to see from the hay would have just been eaten up in cost."

The decision to forego the urea will likely impact the outcome of production, Neff said he will "have a reduced first cutting because of it."

"We're continuing to put our own equity into this farm to establish it and hope that things turn around next year," he said.

Causes

National policy decisions have continued to impact farmers.

Bob Thompson, the president of the Michigan Farmers Union, said the first "hammer" was "the implementation of tariffs" that "has had a real detrimental effect at the local farm level."

As part of a larger implementation of sweeping tariffs, in February 2025, the Trump administration announced a 25% tariff on all imported steel and aluminum products. Economists warned the tariffs could raise costs for farm equipment, replacement parts and transportation.

As these tariffs are still in effect, the Iran conflict has only exacerbated these issues, with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

In the survey, Farm Bureau wrote: "The closure of the Strait of Hormuz is keeping critical fertilizer supplies and crude oil from reaching global markets, putting a squeeze on supplies around the world."

Roughly 25% of the world's oil supply travels through the Strait of Hormuz.

As gas and oil prices continue to rise, the blockade has been felt immediately by farmers.

"I was spending below \$3 for agricultural diesel, and I just called to get my tanks filled, and I was told it was going to be \$5.98 a gallon," Neff said.

And the effects of the Strait of Hormuz being closed will not be felt just by farmer, but "consumers are going to continually feel the pinch because virtually all goods move by truck in this country," Thompson said.

Farmers are stuck playing the waiting game, said Dennis Kellogg, who sits on the Michigan Farmers Union Board of Directors.

"It's very difficult to plan for a future with these unknowns," Kellogg said.

For organizations looking to help farmers, like employees at Michigan State University's Extension program, they are also seeing these effects.

"This is heightening what's already a bad situation for many farms," Jon LaPorte, a farm business management educator at MSU Extension, said.

LaPorte said many farmers are still experiencing loss from the previous years. "Everyone's worried about it because 2024 and 2025 weren't the

most profitable years either," which is forcing farmers to ask the question of "What's the bare minimum that we would have to put out (money) to ensure a crop?"

Through these difficulties, farmers are forced to make short-term decisions that may have long-term consequences.

Thompson warned the long-term consequences could extend beyond one growing season.

"The outlook is pretty bleak right now, right across the board," Thompson said. "The end result is that there will be fewer farmers. There will be bankruptcies."

Though farmers may be resilient, Thompson warned of the mental stress these families are going through, which can include increased drug use and in the worst cases, suicide.

"We need to try to be aware that our friends and neighbors might look good on the outside, but be torn up on the inside, and we need to try to be friends," Thompson said.

Julia Roeder is an environmental reporting intern through a collaboration of Capital News Service, the MSU Knight Center for Environmental Journalism and the Mott News Collaborative. This story was produced for Great Lakes Now/Detroit PBS.

Several Republican-led states rebrand Pride Month

ANNA CLAIRE VOLLERS/Stateside

A half dozen Republican governors are pushing alternative labels for June, widely recognized as Pride Month.

Without explicitly tying their efforts to a replacement of Pride Month — which celebrates the LGBTQ+ community — GOP governors in states including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Nebraska, Tennessee and Utah have labeled June with conservative-friendly monikers that celebrate one type of family unit: a man and woman who are married with children.

The proclamations don't carry the weight of law, but they are public statements about what those state leaders want to promote.

In Tennessee, GOP state lawmakers passed a resolution signed by Republican Gov. Bill Lee designating June as "Nuclear Family Month." The resolution labels a 'nuclear family' as "one husband, one wife, and any biological, adopted or fostered children" and calls it "God's design for familial structure."

Indiana's Republican Gov. Mike Braun also declared June "nuclear family month" in a proclamation with wording similar to Tennessee's. Braun told reporters the proclamation wasn't intended to send a message to other types of families, the Indiana Capital Chronicle reported.

In Alabama, Republican Gov. Kay Ivey declared June as "Strong Families Month." Her official announcement of the designation highlighted the role of fathers as "head of the household."

In Nebraska, Republican Gov. Jim Pillen designated June as "Marriage and Family Month," with a proclamation saying "God's design" for marriage is a family with one husband, one wife and children.

The Republican governors of Arkansas and Utah declared June "Fidelity Month," defining fidelity as dedication to faith, family and country. The proclamations don't explicitly describe the composition of those families.

Arkansas Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders posted about her declaration on X by sharing a link to an article calling such efforts "counter-programming" to Pride Month.

The rebranding of June marks a departure for Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, who declared June as Pride Month during his first three years in office and has previously expressed remorse for his attitude about gay people.

Pride Month celebrates LGBTQ+ history and culture, and serves as a platform to increase visibility for queer communities that continue to fight for civil rights and equality. It's marked by celebratory parades, concerts and festivals in every state.

LGBTQ+ advocates have called the rebranding efforts "disappointing" and a deliberate attempt to erase communities that are already vulnerable.

"Pride month is a celebration that uplifts marginalized folks and gives them resources to survive and spaces where they can thrive," the Utah-based organization Project Rainbow posted in a statement about Cox's choice to designate June as Fidelity Month.

While Republican governors have mostly shied away from directly mentioning Pride Month or tying their month-naming efforts to its erasure, some elected officials have been more explicit.

Tennessee Rep. Andy Ogles, a Republican, posted from his official X account, "Homosexuality has no place in Amer-

ica. Happy Nuclear Family Month" on June 1 but later deleted it.

Indiana Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith, a Republican, shared an illustrated version of the proclamation on social media, titled "Take back the Rainbow!" and depicting a heterosexual white couple with children.

This story was originally produced by Stateline, which is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network which includes Michigan Advance, and is supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity.



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Sasha Scissors performs during an open floor drag show at the June 13 East Lansing Pride Festival.



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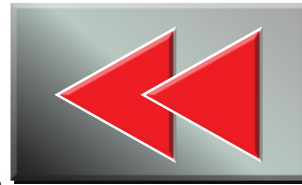
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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



East Lansing City Council voted unanimously to make changes to the city's Human Rights Ordinance during its Tuesday, June 16 meeting.

The changes will reduce the Human Rights Commission's ability to receive, review and investigate complaints and accusations of discrimination within the city. Many such complaints against city officials and employees will instead be directed to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or to the courts. These modifications to the commission's reach are intended, proponents said, to help shield East Lansing city officials, as well as all its departments and employees, from any complaints filed against them by the HRC. The changes followed an HRC investigation that found East Lansing police officers had violated the civil rights of two Black men who were pepper-sprayed by an officer last year. The ELPD identified the two men by name in a press release, which the commission called a violation of city policies. The commission said the city should pay \$50,000 to each of the men to cover reputational harm, along with other issues and psychological expenses. It also concluded that reputational damage and racial discrimination took place. The city's commission has been around for about 60 years.



The Lansing State Journal announced last week that it would be moving from its downtown Knapps Center location to the Marshall Street Armory, less than a half mile from the City Pulse headquarters, and next door to Lansing Eastern High School.

The State Journal previously operated for 65 years out of a building at Lenawee Street and Grand Avenue, which has since not been redeveloped. The Knapps Center is a restored former department store with Art Deco/Art Nouveau features. In the LSJ announcement, Executive Editor Al Wilson said that while the paper has been downtown for decades, it serves the region, and that and the location between the Capitol and MSU was key. He added that the Armory fits

their office space needs. "After 10 years in one of Lansing's historic downtown buildings," Wilson said, "we're excited to be moving into another historical landmark, The Marshall Street Armory." The former National Guard armory was closed about 20 years ago and has been restored. It is now the headquarters for the Gillespie Group and has office space for several nonprofits.

A 19-year-old who was shot in a June 5th incident on the 2700 block of Moores River Drive died last week, Lansing Police said, and she has been identified as Lovaya Rodriguez.

Jovanathan Jamar Mitchell has been charged with open murder, carrying a concealed weapon, reckless use of a firearm and felony firearm possession. He was arraigned in 54A District Court on June 17, with a previous assault with intent to murder charge having been updated to murder after Rodriguez died, according to a statement from police spokesperson Jordan Gulkis.

Charges were filed Monday in a June 19 non-life-threatening shooting of a 40-year-old man on the 3400 block of W. Mt. Hope Avenue, according to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. Thomas Michael Evans Jr., 22, of Woodhull Township in Shiawassee County, has been charged with two counts of assault with intent to murder, one count each of resisting and obstructing police and discharging a firearm at a building, plus other lesser counts and charges. Evans is also charged with an alleged incident at the same location May 18, with one of the same alleged victims.

The East Lansing City Council voted in a special meeting June 16 to approve a separation agreement with the city manager, Robert Belleman, after he had resigned. Belleman was not present during the



closed session, which happened before the regularly scheduled meeting. "We and former City Manager Robert Belleman have mutually agreed to part ways, and we have accepted his voluntary resignation. We wish him well in his future endeavors," said Mayor Erik Altmann during the meeting. Altmann said city employees and taxpayers deserve high-standard government and high-quality services and "that is why we acted quickly to open a new chapter for our community." Belleman, who was hired in 2023, became embroiled in controversy and faced strong criticism after accusations of sexual harassment and abusive conduct in the workplace were made by an East Lansing grants coordinator during a previous City Council meeting. Less than a month ago, the city released an existing independent investigation, conducted when the employee raised the concerns internally last year.



Starting this week, East Lansing is being led on an interim basis by Annette Irwin, the recently retired director of the city's Planning, Construction and Housing department. Interim City Manager Irwin takes over for John Newman, who had been acting city manager since May 27, when Belleman was placed on paid administrative leave. "I think we are all acutely aware of the upheaval that comes with a leadership transition," Altmann said during last week's council meeting. "At the same time, we are equally aware that our priority moving forward is the well-being of city staff, because nothing gets done in this city without them."



Officials broke ground Monday on a new \$60 million UM Health-Sparrow surgical center, at 909 E. Michigan Avenue, just west of the hospital across Pennsylvania Avenue. The new center will include four operating rooms and an MRI unit, according to

the health care system. It is expected to open in 2028 and has capacity to expand in the future. The new hospital is part of an effort to move outpatient procedures out of the 100-year-old UM Health-Sparrow St. Lawrence campus and ease capacity at the Lansing hospital.



Lansing City Council members voted Monday to set a data center moratorium hearing for July 13, according to WLNS News.

The hearing will help council members determine if they want to establish an ordinance to set a six-month moratorium on new data center proposals and follows the withdrawal of the Deep Green data center proposal in April amid deep opposition from the public.

Voting will begin in Michigan's Aug. 4 primary elections this week.

At stake this year are some of the biggest races in the country, with eyes on Lansing, including the gubernatorial race, an open U.S. Senate seat and the race for the 7th Congressional seat currently held by U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, a Charlotte Republican. Absentee ballots are available this week and ballot boxes across Michigan will be open for votes, which are expected to make up a majority of those cast in the primary election. Early voting sites will be open starting Saturday in Lansing at the city's Elections Office at 701 W. Jolly Rd. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at Foster Community Center at 200 N. Foster Ave. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Lansing Elections Office will be open two hours later, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., on July 29. Early voting is open in East Lansing at the Hannah Community Center (819 Abbot Rd.) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., starting Saturday. Check your voting information, polling place and more at Michigan's official site here: mivc.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index



A constitutional convention isn't out of the question

By **KYLE MELINN**

In years past, any talk of voters blowing up state government through a state constitutional convention wasn't serious.

Every 16 years, the question showed up on our ballots, as required, and was met with a deafening yawn.

"That's a lot of hassle." "Everything is fine." "Why bother?"

The results said it all. In 1978, 76% said no. In 1994, it was 72%. In 2010? 66%.

This year . . . those arguments don't carry the same weight.

Whether you're talking to a MAGA Republican, a Bernie Sanders Democrat or politically homeless independents, one theme keeps coming up: The system is rigged for politically connected insiders, while everyone else gets squeezed.

Votes on the far left of the political spectrum aren't dissimilar from the MAGA movement, once you cross the political dark side of the moon. They push back against authority.

Leaders promised change to only become part of the problem. Rich get richer. Everybody else is struggling to get by.

Increasingly, you're hearing the answer: Throw out the bums. Torch the system. Start all over again. Support for Bernie Sanders-backed U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed is growing. The discontent over big business data centers is becoming a bipartisan rallying cry. There's agitation over rising electric rates. The money-out-of-politics ballot proposal gathered a whopping 562,068 signatures.

"Our internal polling shows a surprising number of folks willing to consider a con-con," Justin Mendoza of Progress Michigan told MIRS. "Enough that we don't think it's outside the realm of possibility that it could pass if folks don't understand the impact."

The question will read something like this:

"Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the state Constitution for presentation to the state's voters for their approval or rejection."

For voters who believe the system itself is broken, a constitutional convention isn't a threat. It's the point.

People are already talking about changes to the Constitution they'd



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

like to see:

- Requiring the governor to fill a legislative vacancy within a limited number of days in response to Whitmer holding open the 35th Senate District for nearly a year and a half.

- Allowing the governor to appoint the Boards at the University Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State, just as she does every other college in the state. I'm not convinced this reform would be an improvement, but there's been plenty of talk about it after Guskiewicz said "C-YA!"

- While we're at it, should we have voters decide Republican and Democratic nominees for attorney general and secretary of state?

- Supreme Court justices make less than appellate court judges and will soon make less than trial court judges. That makes no sense and could be readjusted through a con-con.

Opponents to a constitutional convention claim this would trigger some cloistered con-fab. Those people still alive from the 1963 con-con say it was open debate all the time.

A con-con means 148 elected people will convene (likely in the Lansing Center) for weeks on end until they come up with a new Constitution. Voters would vote yes or no on the final product.

Those with a vested interest are lining up to protect the status quo.

The pro-choice, voting rights and redistricting reform groups don't want to see the reforms they made through recent constitutional amendments brought back up for debate.

Business groups don't like the uncertainty of breaking open the state's governing document. Other interest groups don't want the expense of having to follow and lobby both a 148-member state Legislature AND a 148-delegate constitutional convention.

They will spare no expense to try to defeat this sucker. They should be successful. There is unlikely to be a well-funded "yes" campaign, and voters generally default to "no" when facing a ballot proposal that they're uncertain about.

But Donald Trump wasn't supposed to win. Bernie Sanders wasn't supposed to win Michigan's Democratic primary in 2016, either.

And both happened during a much less politically volatile time.

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

Capital Area Transportation Authority Public Meeting Notice Proposed Service Changes Effective Aug. 24, 2026

The Capital Area Transportation Authority will host a series of public meetings to present proposed service changes effective Aug. 24, 2026. The following routes and services are included in the proposed service changes:

- **Route 1 – Proposed Downtown Lansing – Meridian Mall:** Weekday service frequency would change from every 9–15 minutes to every 15 minutes. Late-night service, Thursday through Saturday, would be eliminated. Final departures Monday through Saturday from the CATA Transportation Center (CTC) will be at 10:20 p.m. and from Meridian Mall at 11 p.m.
- **Route 9 – South Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd – Miller:** The outbound loop through downtown Lansing along Grand Ave. and Capitol Ave. would be eliminated, with buses traveling directly onto Kalamazoo Street from the CTC. Trips would depart approximately 5 minutes earlier from the South Pennsylvania Meijer traveling inbound.
- **Route 18 – Capital City Crosstown:** Buses would serve Spartan Village on all inbound and outbound trips. Stop-based service times will be adjusted.
- **Route 20 – South Harrison – Jolly-Dunckel:** Weekday service frequency would change from 30 minutes to every 40 minutes between 6:33 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Buses will remain on Harrison Road and will no longer serve Spartan Village on all inbound and outbound trips.
- **Route 46 – Mason, Limited:** Service would be discontinued (see proposed Mason Connector change).
- **Mason Connector:** Monday-Friday service hours would be expanded to incorporate service hours no longer served by Route 46. Saturday service would be eliminated (see proposed CATA Rural Service (CRS) change).
- **Route 48 – Williamston – Webberville, Limited:** Service would be discontinued (see proposed Williamston/Webberville Connector change).
- **Williamston/Webberville Connector:** Monday- Friday service hours would be expanded to incorporate service hours no longer served by Route 48. Saturday service would be eliminated (see proposed CRS change).
- **Mason Redi-Ride:** Service would be discontinued (see proposed CRS change).
- **CATA Rural Service (CRS):** The City of Mason would be added to the service area, incorporating the former Mason Redi-Ride service area into the CRS zone. Saturday service from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. would be added, and same-day trip scheduling would be available. The distance-based fare for trips over 10 miles would be eliminated, and all trips would have a \$2.25 fare across the expanded service area.

Details of service changes will be available online at cata.org. Representatives from CATA will be present at the open-forum public meetings listed below. There is no formal presentation planned, allowing CATA staff to meet and interact with attendees on an individual basis. Public comment is welcome. The same service information will be available at each meeting, allowing area residents to attend any session of their choosing.

Date	Municipality	Facility	Address	Time
Tuesday, July 21, 2026	Meridian Township	Meridian Township Central Fire Station #91	5000 Okemos Rd, Okemos, MI 48864	6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 22, 2026	City of Mason	Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub	145 W Ash St, Mason, MI 48854	6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 23, 2026	City of East Lansing	East Lansing Hannah Community Center	819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823	6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Monday, July 27, 2026	City of Lansing	CATA Transportation Center (CTC)	420 South Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933	6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting locations are accessible by CATA services. Spec-Tran rides must be reserved by 5 p.m. the evening before the session you plan to attend. Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1000. CATA will make every attempt to provide reasonable accommodation for requests submitted by 5 p.m. Monday, July 20, 2026.

For those unable to attend a meeting but would like to provide input, visit cata.org to review details, email comments to marketing@cata.org or submit written comments to:

August 2026 Service Changes Feedback
Capital Area Transportation Authority
Attn: Marketing Department
4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910

Members of the public can also contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1000, Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sat.-Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All comments must be received by 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, 2026. Visit cata.org for the latest information.



Lansing Pride is Saturday, June 27, in Old Town Lansing.

Something for everyone at Pride 2026

By LEO V. KAPLAN

Asking several organizers what Lansing Pride actually is, practically speaking, yielded many responses: a festival celebrating local queer culture, a chance for folks to wear what they want and be who they are, a joyous protest amid an upturn in anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment and a federal crackdown on trans rights.

The organizers interviewed were excited about different things, too: Local drag queen Trifecta, the entertainment director for Lansing Pride, is excited for the diversity in vendors, with more than 300 in attendance this year (roughly 100 more than last).

Board Director Mary Heatherington is excited for the expanded programming in the festival's family area, and that the event has remained free and open to all.

Board Secretary Mariah Sanchez is excited that the festival is expanding to include the newly renovated Fish Ladder Music Park.

"It's not something we have to build ourselves; it's using the architecture that's already here, it's using the history," Sanchez said. "It incorporates our hometown."

Practically speaking, Lansing Pride is a festival

celebrating queer and trans identity and culture in Lansing, held annually in Old Town since 2022. Vendors and sponsors line Turner Street and César E. Chávez Avenue, and musicians and drag performers take to two stages. About 30,000 people — that's last year's attendance, and organizers are expecting an increase — take to the streets in celebration. This year's event will run from 1 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 27, with a "white party" the preceding day and an afterparty at Copper Moon that night.

This year, performances will alternate between the Fish Ladder, sponsored by Lansing Community College, and a main stage sponsored by the Ovation Center on Turner Street at Old Town's northern end.

Programming on the main stage includes performances by DJs Keller Shaw (1 to 2 p.m.) and Asia Aviance (5 to 6 p.m.), East Lansing's Sistrum chorus and the LanSINGout chorus (2 to 3 p.m.) and Queer Heart of Michigan, an all-new chorus performing a set of music from Disney and other animated films. Drag performer and musician Mag N' Cheez, 2025's Mx. Lansing Pride, will take the

Photos by
Mike Ellis
from East
Lansing Pride
on June 13



See Pride 2026, Page 11

Pride 2026

from page 10

stage for an hour starting at 6 p.m., joined by dancers from Holt's Institute of Dancers, followed by a drag show hosted by Detroit drag queen Sabin.

Headlining that drag show will be Trinity the Tuck, best known for competing on "RuPaul's Drag Race" season nine and for winning "RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars" season four.

On the Fish Ladder Stage, DJ Monica Parker will spin tracks from 1 to 3 p.m., a drag show co-hosted by Bentley James and Trifecta will take place from 3 to 5 p.m., and a Latin Pride performance will take place from 5 to 7 p.m.

A family zone will operate from 1 to 5 p.m., featuring entertainment for children such as balloon animals, a bounce house, chalk art and two drag storytimes at 2 and 4 p.m. The zone will be fenced off from the rest of the

festival in the Copper Moon parking lot and will be restricted to families only — no kids allowed without parents, no parents allowed without kids.

Teenagers have also begun trickling into the space in recent years, something Heatherington, who coordinates the space, is excited about. For the first time this year, there will be a dedicated space in the family area with music, more adult-oriented crafts like bracelet making ("not just plastic beads," Heatherington said), giant Jenga and drag artists hanging out.

"We're hoping this gives that age group a place to feel comfortable, feel like they belong, and maybe network with other children that age," Heatherington said. "They're at that tender age where finding other people they can relate to is a really big deal, so I'm super excited about this area."

Later, Copper Moon will host an afterparty. The event begins at 8 p.m.

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Pride 2026

from page 11

(though attendees who enter that early risk missing the end of the second drag show) and will continue until 1 a.m., with a drag show hosted by Jordan Michelle and featuring nine other performers. While the main event is free, the afterparty has a \$10 cover.

Those wanting to party sooner will be excited about the white party bar crawl the preceding day, featuring performances at UrbanBeat, Copper Moon, Sir Pizza, Zoobies and Esquire Bar. For \$10, patrons will receive a wristband allowing them entry into all events. Patrons should wear white in honor of the “white parties” that



began in the '80s to raise money for HIV/AIDS-related clinics. More information about specific programming can be found at lansingpride.org/calendar.

This year, Lansing Pride has its first theme: “Love Out Loud.” Sanchez said that put a focus on visibility and belonging in planning, particularly in providing a space for young queer people or others who have not previously felt seen or accepted elsewhere.

“The youth and individuals who may not feel accepted anywhere else, they can feel accepted at Lansing Pride,” she said. “And that can be the first place where they feel fully seen and celebrated.”



Lansing Pride details

Main Information & Merch Tent, 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the intersection of Turner and Chávez

Ovation Main Stage, 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. at North Turner

Fish Ladder Stage, 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Fish Ladder Music Park

Free to Bee Family Zone, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. at Copper Moon Parking Lot

North Beer Tent for 21+, 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. at North Turner

South Beer Tent for 21+, 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Fish Ladder Music Park

CATA Cooling Bus 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. at East Chávez

Parking and transportation

There are three city lots within a 10-minute walk of Lansing Pride and numerous small lots.

Free parking at the Lansing Community College North Grand Ramp, 600 N. Grand Ave.

Also parking available at North Grand Ramp, 219 N. Grand Ave.

Lansing Center Parking Ramp—Lots 19, 20, 21 and 37, 333 E. Michigan Ave.

Additional parking can be found along the side streets surrounding Old Town

Shuttles will be running (\$1.25) from the LCC Gannon Parking Ramp (corner of Shiawassee Road and Grand Avenue) every half hour. It's about a 10-minute ride.

Shuttles will also be running

(\$1.25) from the Lake Lansing Meijer parking lot every half hour with a 30-minute ride.

Ovation Main Stage

1 p.m. | DJ Keller Shaw

2 p.m. | LanSINGout & Sistrum

3 p.m. | Festival welcome

4 p.m. | Queer Heart of Michigan

5 p.m. | DJ Asia Aviance

6 p.m. | Mag N' Cheez & The Institute of Dance

7 p.m. | Drag show w/ Sabin & Trinity the Tuck

LCC Connect Fish Ladder Stage

1 p.m. | DJ Monica Parker

2 p.m. | DJ Monica Parker

3 p.m. | drag show

4 p.m. | drag show

5 p.m. | Latin Pride

6 p.m. | Latin Pride

Free to Bee Family Zone

1 p.m. | Free to Bee Family Zone opens!

2 p.m. | story time

4 p.m. | story time

5 p.m. | Free to Bee Family Zone closes

Activities include 2026 sticker contest, face painting, balloon animals as well as giant games such as Jenga for teens.

Everybody loves the sunshine

Summer Solstice Jazz Festival features local legends, visiting stars

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Earth will be at maximum tilt, sunlight will reach its maximum angle of incidence, and, best of all, jazz will hit maximum whee-ba-de-doo-bop Friday and Saturday at the East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival.

Most regional jazz festivals feature a couple of high-profile guests and a supporting cast of local regulars. In East Lansing, there's no difference. The biggest stars on the slate, those with international cachet and shelves groaning with prestigious awards, also happen to live and work here.

Incandescent multi-instrumentalist and Michigan State University trombone professor Michael Dease (7:30 p.m. Friday) has won every DownBeat Critics Poll for trombonist of the year since the reign of Cleopatra. Just to keep you on your toes, he might whip out a baritone sax, flugelhorn, sarrusophone or whichever instrument he chooses to master next week.

Rodney Whitaker, director of MSU jazz studies and world-renowned jazz bassist, is bringing two groups: his own stellar quintet (6 p.m. Saturday) and the grand Gathering Orchestra (4:30 p.m. Saturday), a big band that blends student musicians and

Summer Solstice Jazz Festival

Kickoff event
6–9 p.m. Thursday, June 25

Main festival
5:30–10 p.m. Friday, June 26
2:30–10 p.m. Saturday, June 27

Downtown East Lansing
eljazzfest.com



Courtesy SSJF

jazz veterans under the aegis of Detroit's Carr Center.

And watch for another salvo of swing from Randy Gelispie, the living drum legend who is still going strong at age 91 (7 p.m. Saturday).

These familiar faces will be joined by sax master Erena Tera-

kubo, the latest addition to the MSU jazz studies faculty (6 p.m. Friday).

There's a lot more to explore on the festival's two stages, from the R&B-inflected grooves of local soul-jazz favorites 496 West (5:30 p.m. Saturday) to Latin dance machine Orquesta Ritmo (9 p.m. Saturday) and several student combos that will knock your socks — or sandals — off.

Festival artistic director Randy Napoleon, associate professor of guitar at MSU, has sweetened the pot



by inviting some very special guests. Singer Melissa Morgan will team up with another New York City stalwart, trumpeter Bruce Harris, and an all-star band to play a bouquet of classic songs from multiple eras (9 p.m. Friday). Saturday night, virtuoso musicians Warren Wolf and Chuck Redd will hold a rare “vibraphone summit,” a first in the festival's history. Read more about Morgan, Wolf and Redd in the stories below, and get ready to bask in solstice-sized showers of sunshine (hopefully) and jazz (for sure).

Saving her love for the Knicks

Melissa Morgan brings New York buzz to East Lansing

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Jazz singer Melissa Morgan is always in a New York state of mind, but the NBA champion New York Knicks have given her a massive adrenaline boost, just in time for her gig Friday night at the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival.

Morgan spoke with City Pulse the morning after the Knicks nipped the San Antonio Spurs, 107 to 106, in game four of the series, one of the most dramatic comebacks in sports

history.

“Hopefully, by the time I get to East Lansing, I can celebrate a Knicks championship,” she said. (They won the next game, clinching the championship.)

The night before, she was riding home on the subway, watching on her phone as the Knicks chipped away at a 29-point halftime deficit. She told the story as giddily

as Judy Garland sang her old classic “The Trolley Song.” The train conductor knocked at the window and asked Morgan, “What’s the score?”

“We’re down by five,” she shouted over the engine roar.

“He was stuck in the booth, so I held the phone up so he could watch in between stops,” Morgan said. “Then we were down by one at 30 sec-

onds, scored a bucket, the whole train erupts, and I’m hitting the plexiglass.”

It’s a great time to be a New Yorker.

“To be home at this time — this is one of the reasons I like New York so much,” she said. “The feeling in the neighborhood, on the train, it was so connected. That’s one of the reasons why I love jazz. It doesn’t matter if I’ve known you for 30 years or I don’t know you, we’re all connected because

See Melissa Morgan, Page 14

Melissa Morgan Quintet

9 p.m. Friday, June 26
Al and Beth Cafagna Founders' Stage

'Vibing time'

Chuck Redd, Warren Wolf meet in rare vibraphone summit

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It's a rare enough treat to catch a jazz vibraphonist live on stage. The spectacle of two vibraphones, manned by two of the most virtuosic vibraphonists alive, promises a night like no other at the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival.

Listeners will be hard pressed to keep up with the four arms and four sticks of Chuck Redd and Warren Wolf as they meld into a blur and send ringing chords and intricate melodies from 74 tintinnabulating metal bars into the night.

Festival artistic director Randy Napoleon has worked with both Wolf and Redd and conceived the idea of a vibraphone summit.

Wolf said such summits are a "rarity," but he has played several of them in recent years, including a four-vibraphone extravaganza at the 2024 Detroit Jazz Festival. Wolf and Redd have met on stage several times.

"We're good friends," Redd said. "It's always col-

legal and always fun. We keep the music first, even though there's an almost vaudevillian quality to it."

"It's always a little competitive, but never to the point where you want to cut somebody's throat," Wolf said.

It won't be hard to tell who's playing what, even when they both play at once.

"You may hear the same timbre of the instrument, but our own personalities stick out," Wolf said. "Chuck is more of a traditional player, and I'm more of a hybrid player — swing to modern and a lot of other things. It will be a nice mix, a grand old vibing time."

Redd half joked that when it comes to music, he takes his motto from the field of medicine: "first, do no harm."

"If I'm playing vibes behind someone else who's playing the melody, I have to think like an arranger and do something that enhances what's going on, even if it means not playing anything," he said.

He summed up his job in the words of one of his most cherished mentors, guitarist Barney Kessel.

"He told me that as a drummer, it's your responsibility to know what's going on and what to do about it," Redd said. "That was worth a hundred drum lessons. That translates to any musical situation on any instrument."

Redd doesn't drop the ubiquitous jazz buzzword "swing" lightly.

"Swinging is a very deep experience, a very deep way to communicate with people on a visceral, emotional level," he said. "People coming out of MSU, with great teachers like Randy (Napoleon) and Rodney Whitaker, they're swinging, they're ready to bring it to people."

Pianist Rick Roe, a former MSU faculty member and frequent visitor to the Lansing area, will join Wolf and Redd on piano, with veteran Ann Arbor

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The Vibe Summit

7:30 p.m. Saturday,
June 27

Al and Beth Cafagna
Founders' Stage

Melissa Morgan

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we love this music so much."

As a singer or a sports fan, Morgan loves to share a good story.

"If there's no story, there's no point in singing," she said. "You're just repeating lyrics. You have nothing to connect to, and neither does the audience. As a jazz singer, storyteller is your first job."

The story doesn't have to be explicit. She takes Duke Ellington's "Mood Indigo" at a daringly slow tempo, letting that blues feeling go "stealing down to your shoes," leaving plenty of space for the audience to imagine the backstory.

Her repertoire ranges from timeless jazz standards to blues-inflected ballads, heavy torch songs and half-forgotten nuggets like "Yes, I Know When I've Had It," recorded by Shirley Horn in 1965 and resurrected by Morgan with saucy gusto on her debut album, "Until I Met You."

With so many eras, styles and subjects to choose from, what does she look for in a song?

"Romance," she said without hesitation. "It's all a love story at the end of the day, and if it isn't striking a chord in your heart, there's no point in doing it."

She pours her love of New York into

an unlikely vessel for a jazz singer, Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind."

"I picked that song up in LA, when I was really homesick," she said. "The songs I pick are like my favorite movies. You can watch whenever they come on TV, and, depending on how you feel in the moment, they pull on different parts of your heart."

Morgan grew up studying classical piano and voice, and she even considered being an opera singer, but her course changed when she discovered legendary jazz singers (and storytellers) Nancy Wilson, Dinah Washington and Etta Jones.

"Throughout my life, if I needed to feel familiar again, if I needed a reset, jazz is where I felt at home," Morgan said.

Living in a city where jazz is practically a public utility helped her absorb the art to the utmost.

"New York is where I grew up," she said. "I went to high school in New Jersey, so everything was a hop, skip and a jump away — Smalls, the Village Vanguard, all the clubs."

But her grandmother, a classical singer, didn't approve of her shift to jazz. That's another story she loves to tell.

"She was one of my soulmates in this life," Morgan said. "I found out, sadly, at her funeral that she asked my aunt to buy her jazz records, and she

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Vibing time

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bassist Paul Keller and drummer Michael Reed.

The two vibists have already mapped out the territory they plan to explore Saturday, including bebop, bossa nova and blues, with a special tribute to recently deceased jazz giant Sonny Rollins. Watch for a coordinated jump-blues assault as Redd and Wolf launch into “Air Mail Special,” a hyper-speed romp made famous by jazz vibraphone pioneer Lionel Hampton.

Wolf and Redd are both total musicians, adept on drums as well as vibes. Wolf is also a pianist, with roots in both classical and jazz music. He was a guest soloist with the Baltimore Symphony for 14 years and did a stint as principal timpanist for Johns Hopkins University’s Peabody String Sinfonia.

But his dad’s record collection, particularly the hit albums of soul-jazz sunshine purveyor Roy Ayers, put a hook into him.

“For some reason — I have no idea why — he decided to buy a vibraphone in 1978, a year before I was born,” Wolf said. “He gave me lessons on vibraphone, drums and piano at the age of 3. He’s the one who got me started.”

Wolf shaped his own intricate, soulful approach to the vibraphone at venues around Boston while keeping up his studies at Berklee College of Music.

With every solo, he builds up mesmerizing sonic architecture, with room for baroque tumbles of notes straight out of Bach or Vivaldi, pools of cool blue from Miles Davis, honeyed licks in the style of Ayers and a myriad of flavors all his own.

“Sometimes I honestly wish I played the trumpet or saxophone, because they’re much easier to deal with,” Wolf said. “But it’s still a great thing because it’s not a common instrument. People don’t see it or hear it every day, and when they do, they’re really amazed at what you can do with it.”

The passion and intricacy of his live performances and albums turned heads in the jazz world. Vibraphone great Bobby Hutcherson called Wolf “one of the premier keepers of the flame.” NPR aired a 60-minute video of Wolf’s November 2011 gig at the 92nd Street Y’s Tribeca venue.

In 2005, Wolf moved back to Baltimore and joined some stellar company, including saxophonist Bobby Watson’s sextet, drummer Karriem Riggins’ Virtuoso Experience and bassist Christian McBride’s Inside



Chuck Redd.



Warren Wolf.

Straight.

Redd and Wolf both consider vibraphonist Milt Jackson among their greatest heroes.

Jackson pushed the instrument to multiple heights, from expressive blues and soul to intricate bebop to the classical elegance of the Modern Jazz Quartet.

On a tour of Japan, Redd played drums with Kessel on a double bill with Jackson’s group.

“I got to hear my hero every single night for two weeks,” Redd said. “It was a dream come true. He transcended the instrument. The emotion, the heat — he could really rock when he wanted to. It was all there.”

Redd had a memorable experience playing in Africa in 1990 with Dizzy Gillespie for the Namibian independence celebration.

“It was just like being around a giant ray of sunshine,” Redd recalled. “He was constantly teaching and always learning, too. Unlike a lot of veteran musicians who are just in their groove, doing their thing, he was very analytical, very intelligent, and would talk very specifically about what he wanted.”

The band met to rehearse only once, in Gillespie’s hotel room.

“He talked through everything, pounded rhythms on his knees for me and showed me what he wanted,” Redd said.

Despite his experience with some of the greatest jazz legends, it’s the younger musicians that really excite Redd.

“They give us hope,” he said.

Redd’s latest album, due out in July, blends longtime collaborators like pianist Mike LeDonne, guitarist Peter Bernstein and bassist Peter Washington with “much younger” players like drummer Aaron Seeber and saxophonist/clarinetist Will Anderson, both graduates of The Juilliard School.

“Aaron and Will are about my son’s age, but they fit right in on a high level,” Redd said. “They’re inspiring me, and we’re inspiring them.”

Meanwhile, Wolf is touring with two of the world’s top jazz ensembles, Inside Straight and the SFJAZZ Collective, while holding down teaching duties at the Peabody Conservatory and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. His own ever-morphing group, the Wolfpack, goes back decades and is still active. The Wolfpack’s latest guise, “Warren Wolf and Smoov,” circles back to the soul-jazz style of Ayers.

Vibing time

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“It’s very much jazz. It’s not a smooth project, but the point of the record is for the listener to not have to dissect it, just relax and enjoy it,” Wolf said.

He’s working on Chick Corea’s “Lyric Suite,” a classical-jazz hybrid that features vibraphone, piano and

string quartet, and he has written new music for the avant-garde percussion duo Escape Ten.

“We’re in 2026,” he said. “We should be writing and playing new music.”

Redd’s musical exploits spilled off the stage and into the news earlier this month, when Washington Superior Court Judge Tanya Jones Bosier dismissed a lawsuit filed by the (then) Trump-Kennedy Center

against him.

After hosting the Kennedy Center’s free Christmas Eve Jazz Jam for several years, Redd dropped out of the concert in 2025 in response to Trump’s name going on the building.

“I’m very pleased with the ruling, and that’s about all I’m encouraged to say right now, when it’s very fresh news,” Redd said. “Later on, I might say more, but I’m just really relieved at the moment.”

However, he changed his mind and took one more chorus.

“One of the beautiful things I have in my life is simply music — being inside this joyous musical space we share with others,” he said. “It gets me through everything. And I will, and always have, played for everybody because it bridges some of these divides that are happening right now.”

Melissa Morgan

from page 14

was listening to Temple Jazz Radio every day to learn more about it and understand why I love jazz.”

Morgan was deeply touched.

“To find that out after the fact ... it’s one of the reasons we’re still connected. She’s not here, of course, but she’s certainly still in the music.”

In 2004, Morgan reached the semi-finals at the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz competition, judged by a formidable panel of jazz legends: Dee Dee Bridgewater, Kurt Elling, Al Jarreau, Quincy Jones, Flora Purim

and Jimmy Scott.

“It was terrifying,” Morgan said. “I was hiding in the bathroom, thinking about not going on.”

But she believes “everything happens for a reason.”

“I don’t think I was supposed to win,” she said. “It’s put me in a place where I’ve always felt like an underdog, and I wouldn’t have it any other way. Look at the Knicks right now.”

Her performance at the Monk competition was spectacular enough to draw the attention of Robert Woods, founder of the Telarc record label. “I was stunned at how grounded, collected and natural she is at delivering the music and the emotion,” Woods

told DownBeat Magazine, declaring her the “real deal.”

“Until I Met You” teamed Morgan up with a dream ensemble, including MSU’s Randy Napoleon on guitar.

Napoleon, artistic director of the Summer Solstice Jazz Festival, assembled what Morgan called a “killer band” to join her this weekend: MSU piano great Xavier Davis (“it doesn’t get better than that,” Morgan said), visiting vibraphonist Chuck Redd (also featured at Saturday night’s vibraphone summit), journeyman New York bassist John Webber and another New York stalwart East Lansing jazz fans will be delighted to discover, Brooklyn-based trumpeter Bruce

Harris.

“Bruce and I have known each other since we were 18 years old,” Morgan said. “I haven’t seen him in years, and I haven’t sung with him since we were kids, so this will be a great reunion.”

There will be plenty of classic material, unfamiliar gems and tunes Morgan has made her own, like Nancy Wilson’s 1961 hit “Save Your Love for Me,” but the setlist isn’t set in stone.

“An outdoor festival is a lot different from an indoor venue, but I’m always known to call an audible, and I go with the mood,” she said. “Depending on the crowd, that’s where we go.”

LANSING'S CONCERTS IN THE PARK 7-9 PM

June

- 6.10 Root Doctor Moores Park
- 6.17 Full House Wainwright Park
- 6.24 Kathy Ford Band Fenner Nature Center

July

- 7.08 North Side Rhythm Kings Bancroft Park
- 7.15 Sea Cruisers Turner-Dodge House
- 7.22 Generator Wilson Park
- 7.29 Global Village Fish Ladder Music Park

August

- 8.05 Lansing Symphony Orchestra Frances Park

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Former MSU law professor finds success as novelist under pen name

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

Attorney and former Michigan State University College of Law professor Anthony Franze has written three legal thrillers under his own name. However, he's published twice as many novels under his pseudonym, Alex Finlay.

An alumnus of the University of Nebraska and the University of Notre Dame Law School, Franze lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and works as an attorney at the law firm Arnold & Porter in Washington. He taught appellate practice and federal jurisdiction classes at MSU from 2004 to 2014.

He said a crossroads in his writing career led to the adoption of the pen name. He published his first novel as Finlay, "Every Last Fear," in 2021.

"My legal thrillers were well received, but they were more niche," he said. "I told my agent that I wrote another legal thriller. She asked me, 'Don't you want to break out and gain more readers? Have you considered writing something that isn't a legal thriller?' And that planted the seed.

"Coincidentally, I went on vacation shortly thereafter and had an idea for what became my first Alex Finlay book," he continued. "The publisher was really excited about it. One thing led to another, and, basically, the pen name was supposed to separate my legal thrillers from what are my more commercial thrillers. Also, there was a component of a rebrand, so that was part of it as well."

He never did publish his fourth legal thriller.

"When I looked back on it later, I didn't think it was anything different than what I'd already done. By then, the Finlay books had gotten a different reaction from publishers and from readers, for whatever reason, so I've been pretty much all in with Finlay. My last three Finlay books became national bestsellers pretty quickly, either in their first or second week of release," he said. "One of the things I didn't realize when I started using the pen name — which at the time was really a business decision — was that it would be freeing for me. I used to worry about what judges and people in the appellate community would think about what I was writing — 'Oh, this is based on somebody or something real.' It never was, but I always had that in the back of my mind as a worry."

However, when writing as Finlay, he has nothing to worry about.

"It's cliché to say, but it wasn't until I changed my name and wrote something that wasn't something I knew that I found my voice as a writer," he

said.

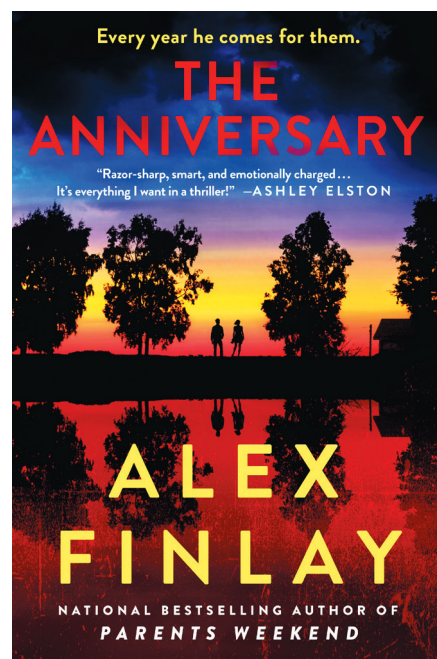
His latest novel, published in May, is "The Anniversary" (Minotaur Books, \$29).

The book takes place over a 10-year year time span. On May 1, 1992, popular high school girl Jules Delaney and outsider Quinn Riley meet each other in study hall. That night, Jules is attacked by the elusive May Day Killer, a serial killer who strikes every year on May 1 and vanishes without a trace. Jules is one of the "lucky ones" who survives the May Day Killer's attack. Meanwhile, Quinn is arrested after breaking up a fight and nearly killing someone in the process.

"The book starts in 1992. As someone who went to college in the early 1990s, it was fun to revisit that period and what events would be nostalgic for people or capture the era without being heavy handed," Franze said.

On May 1, 1993, Jules is haunted by her ordeal and wonders why she was spared. Quinn gets released from juvenile detention and looks into the unsolved murder of his mother, which may or may not have connections to the May Day Killer.

As the years pass, Quinn joins the military, gets wounded in Somalia and eventually becomes a private investigator. Jules becomes a model and later opens a nonprofit organization for victims of violent attacks.



However, the May Day Killer is still out there, waiting in the wings, ready to strike again as he does every year.

The book came in stages for Franze. He wanted to do something different than his previous novel, "Parents



Photo by Kristina Sherk

Alex Finlay, aka Anthony Franze.

Weekend."

"With the Finlay books, I have multiple characters and points of view. 'Parents Weekend' had a bunch, so I wanted to do something with just two main characters," he said. "In 'The Anniversary,' we have Quinn and Jules, the two main leads. I also wanted to have that pacing I like, which keeps readers turning pages. Having multiple points of view lends itself to that. You go from one person, reach a critical point, then jump to another; it keeps the pace going and allows for cliffhangers. That's when I got the idea that the book would be told over the course of 10 years, but we'd only see a snapshot of what happened in the characters' lives one day per year."

Both Jules and Quinn came to Franze in the writing process.

"The fun thing about them is when you have a lot of characters, which I've done in the past, you don't get to dig as deep into each character because you're moving point of view," he said. "However, with having just two characters, I got to explore who these people were over this period and try to think about

where they would go from 11th grade and how they might change over those 10 years."

Fellow novelist and MSU alumna Allison Leotta, also known as the "female John Grisham," has high praise for Franze.

"He's one of my favorite writers," she said. "But I blame him for many lost hours of sleep when I can't put his books down!"

Franze is hard at work on his next novel, "Spin the Bottle," which will be released in 2028. He's keeping details about it close to the vest.

He has no plans to leave the legal profession to write full time.

"I get asked that a lot. I really still love my practice. It's challenging, it's interesting, and it gives me a lot of experiences that feed the fiction side. I cover a lot of interesting topics," he said. "These two careers have complemented each other. I love both of them, honestly. It's been the best of both worlds for me."

Keep up with Finlay at alexfinlaybooks.com.

Cool reads for the summer months

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

Summer's officially here, and the time has come for dancing in the streets — and reading on the beach.

Below is a list of recommended reads:

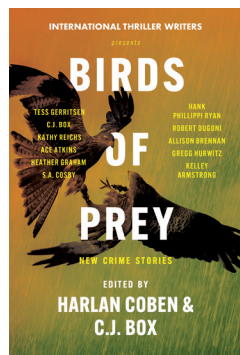
“Three Hitmen and a Baby,” by Rob Hart (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$30): “Three Hitmen and a Baby” (the title of which is a riff on the 1987 Tom Selleck/Ted Danson/Steve Guttenberg comedy



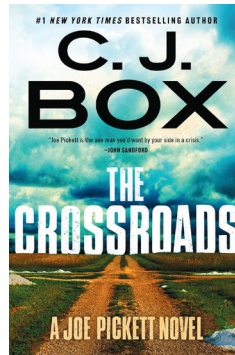
“Three Men and a Baby”) is the third entry in Rob Hart's “Assassins Anonymous” series. Ex-assassins attend an underground support group for reformed killers in New York City. However, they have enemies who want to settle old scores, and they must stop them without killing them. Mark, formerly known as the Pale Horse, has to take care of fellow ex-assassin Lucia's baby. However, a Russian mob boss calls in a

favor, and if Mark doesn't make good on it, she'll kill his son. Hart toes the line between riveting and irreverent in this rip-roaring adventure. Visit robwhart.com.

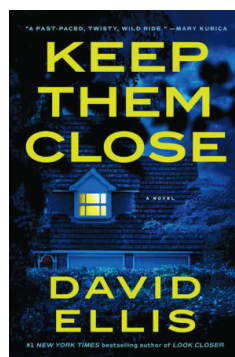
“Birds of Prey,” edited by Harlan Coben and C.J. Box (The Mysterious Press, \$17.95): New York Times best-selling authors Harlan Coben and C.J. Box challenged a group of writers to pick a bird of prey and write a short story about it. The result is this anthology, with contributions by 11 well-known authors, including Gregg Hurwitz, Heather Graham, Kelley Armstrong, Hank Phillippi Ryan, Ace Atkins and Box himself. The majority of the stories are excellently done, filled with some clever twists and turns. You also get to learn a little bit more about each bird in question. Visit mysteriouspress.com.



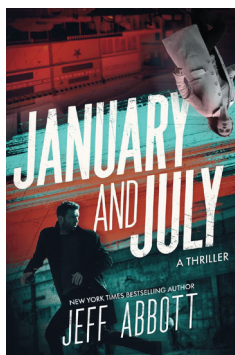
“The Crossroads,” by C.J. Box (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$32): In Box's second entry on this list, Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett is shot and left for dead. However, he's alive, but just barely, fighting for his life while his wife, Marybeth, keeps a worried vigil. Their three daughters — Sheridan, April and Lucy — take it upon themselves to find out who's responsible for hurting their beloved father. Cassie Dewell, Box's other famous character who headlines her own series, makes a cameo. This is Box's 26th Pickett novel, and this series shows no signs of growing long in the tooth. Expect to stay up late. Visit cjbox.net.



“Keep Them Close,” by David Ellis (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$30): Siblings Allison and Luke always had each other's back — until Finley, Allison's husband is murdered. The police investigation may well trace back to their shady past, threatening to expose their deepest, darkest secrets, one of which includes an accident that happened decades ago. With plenty of twists and turns and plenty of skullduggery and gaslighting, Ellis is an excellent craftsman when it comes to complex psychological thrillers. Visit davidellis.com. Available June 30.



“January and July,” by Jeff Abbott (Blackstone Publishing Inc., \$30): Harlan Coben hit it right on the nose when he said, “Jeff Abbott is one of the finest thriller writers working today.” Abbot proves this once again



with “January and July,” his latest standalone thriller. January Holte is a disgraced intel officer. July Whitlock is a rookie bodyguard. Both have something to prove. Both are on the trail of Bill Connors, Whitlock's missing client. After Holte blows an operation, she gets a shot at redemption by finding Connors, who's believed to have committed treason. The titular characters end up tracking him down to Lethey, Texas, where they find themselves tangled in the web of a dangerous conspiracy. Visit jeffabbott.com. Available July 7.

“The Last Room on the Left,” by Leah Konen (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$30): Author Kerry Walsh is a train-wreck — her



personal life is in the toilet, and she's struggling with her latest book. She takes a caretaker position at a remote Catskills motel during the off season, hoping to meet her

looming deadline in the solitude. As she gets settled in, she sees the arm of a dead woman sticking up from a snowbank. She calls the police, who arrive and see no body. Kerry begins doubting her sanity, and then things get really weird. This is the perfect novel for anyone who enjoys psychological thrillers with chilling twists. Some reviewers called it a gender-bent version of Stephen King's “The Shining.” While it certainly gives off those vibes, it's its own story. Visit leahkonen.com.

These books are available for purchase at any of the following local bookstores:

- Schuler Books in the Meridian Mall (1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos). Call (517) 349-8840.
- Curious Book Shop (307 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing). Call (517) 332-0112.
- Barnes & Noble in the Frandor Shopping Center (420 Frandor Ave., Lansing). Call (517) 932-5153.
- Barnes & Noble in the Lansing Mall (5132 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing). Call (517) 327-0437.

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The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
GDC benefit dance party, with DJs YZ and Ruckus
 Fri., June 26, 9 p.m.
Lij — farewell party
 Sun., June 28, 7 p.m.

Beal Botanical Garden

330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Music and the Graden: Go Music Trio
 Sun., June 28, 1 p.m.

Beaumont Tower

375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Summer Carillon Series: Jon Lehrer
 Wed., July 1, 6 p.m.

Beggar's Banquet

218 Abbot Road, East Lansing
SSJF Pre-Festival Fundraiser: The Max Gage Group, featuring Ruben Stump
 Thurs., June 25, 6-9 p.m.

Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Hastett
Don Middlebrook
 Thurs., June 25, 6-9 p.m.

Greg Smith

Sun., June 28, 2-5 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Mike Arnold
 Fri., June 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Exit 86
 Sat., June 27, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Frog & the Beeftones
 Fri., June 26, 8 p.m.-midnight
Garage Sale Band
 Sat., June 27, 8 p.m.-midnight

Cleats Bar & Grille

5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Isaac Harper
 Wed., June 24, 6-9 p.m.

The Dangling Particples (duo)

Thurs., June 25, 6-9 p.m.

Darin Larner

Tues., June 30, 6-9 p.m.

Courthouse Square Museum

100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte
DeWayne Spaw
 Thurs., June 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dimes Brewhouse

145 Bridge St., Dimondale
Jim and Toni
 Fri., June 26, 7-9 p.m.
Whoa, Nelly!
 Sat., June 27, 6-9 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Ben Awrey
 Fri., June 26, 9 p.m.-midnight
Matthew Shannon
 Sat., June 27, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Samantha Heart-Strings
 Wed., June 24, 7-9 p.m.
The Instigators
 Sun., June 28, 6-8 p.m.
Songwriters' night, with Cody Wilson
 Wed., July 1, 7-9 p.m.

Eastwood Towne Center

3003 Preyde Blvd., Lansing
Elements of Soul
 Tues., June 30, 6-8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Chris Muethel
 Fri., June 26, 6-9 p.m.
Jim and Toni
 Sat., June 27, 6-9 p.m.

Penner Nature Center

2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing
Kathy Ford Band
 Wed., June 24, 7-9 p.m.

The Fledge

1300 Eureka St., Lansing
Shakira Chinchilla, Soccer, Dropped at Birth, Deadwitxh
 Fri., June 26, 7 p.m.
Queen Jayne, The Capstone Volunteers, Chapter IV, FinalBossFight!
 Sat., June 27, 8 p.m.

GAR Island Park

399 E. Hamlin St., Eaton Rapids
Sea Cruisers
 Wed., July 1, 6-8 p.m.

Graham Vineyards

8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg
Cal Delo
 Sat., June 27, 7 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
 Wed., June 24, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
The New Models, Long Square, Trophy Husband, Lij
 Fri., June 26, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Jhariah, Torr
 Sat., June 27, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Wavelength
 Wed., July 1, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Satisfaction (Rolling Stones tribute)
 Sun., June 28, 7 p.m.

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Steven Allen
 Wed., June 24, 7-9 p.m.
Justin Deason
 Wed., July 1, 7-9 p.m.

High Caliber Karting & Entertainment

1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
JP & the Energy
 Fri., June 26, 7:30-11 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Wild Honey Ramblers
 Thurs., June 25, 5-8 p.m.

Matt Carlson

Fri., June 26, 5-8 p.m.
Aaron Manbeck & Derek Young
 Sat., June 27, 5-8 p.m.
Brent McKellar
 Sun., June 28, 3-8 p.m.

Ingham County Courthouse lawn

315 S. Jefferson St., Mason
Sea Cruisers
 Thurs., June 25, 6:30-8 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
 Thurs., June 25, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Black Barn Band

Sat., June 27, 8-11 p.m.

Jackson Field

505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Mr. Tini & the Hummers
 Thurs., June 25, 5 p.m.

Jaycee Park

525 E. River St., Grand Ledge
Madison Olivia
 Thurs., June 25, 7 p.m.

Joe's on Jolly

2360 Jolly Road, Okemos
Dan & Kristin MacLachlan
 Fri., June 26, 6-9 p.m.

Lake Lansing Park South

1621 Pike St., Haslett
The Frog King (Neil Diamond tribute), wsg Gwen Doerfler
 Fri., June 26, 6-9 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Jerry Sprague
 Fri., June 26, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
CJ Lowe
 Sat., June 27, 4-7 p.m.
Aaron Manbeck
 Sun., June 28, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

108 W. Main St., Dewitt
Bill Oeming
 Fri., June 26, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Jonestown Crows, Tragic Johnsons, Wizard Bane
 Fri., June 26, 8 p.m.
Open mic night
 Mon., June 29, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
 Thurs., June 25, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
 Tues., June 30, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green

1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
BIG L & Code Blü
 Wed., June 24, 6:30 p.m.
Serita's Black Rose
 Wed., July 1, 6:30 p.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Something with James
 Fri., June 26, 8:30 p.m.-midnight

McClintock Park

208 Irene St., Laingsburg
Northside Rhythm Kings, wsg Parker Malaski
 Thurs., June 25, 6-9 p.m.

McCormick Park

300 N. Putnam St., Williamston
Motown Eagles (Eagles tribute)
 Thurs., June 25, 7-9 p.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Gwendellyn
 Sat., June 27, 7-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
 Wed., June 24, 8-11 p.m.
Blues jam
 Thurs., June 25, 9 p.m.-midnight
Velocity Shift
 Fri., June 26, 8 p.m.-midnight
The Louderthans
 Sat., June 27, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
 Tues., June 30, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
 Wed., July 1, 8-11 p.m.

Nelson Gallery

113 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Summer of Sol
 Thurs., June 25, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Medusa
 Fri., June 26, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Nuthouse Sports Grill

420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Universe Band
 Sat., June 27, 8 p.m.-midnight

One North East Lansing

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Kevin Nichols
 Fri., June 26, 8-11 p.m.
Crystal Hoffman
 Sat., June 27, 8-11 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
3 Track Mind
 Thurs., June 25, 7-10 p.m.
Jason Peek
 Fri., June 26, 8-11 p.m.
Greg Smith
 Sat., June 27, 7-11 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
 Mon., June 29, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Joel Jacobs
 Fri., June 26, 8-10 p.m.
Groove Doctors & Friends
 Tues., June 30, 6-8 p.m.

Pins & Pints

2120 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Capo the Second
 Thurs., June 25, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Randy Napoleon Trio
 Sun., June 28, 6-9 p.m.

Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Tyler Payne
 Wed., June 24, 6-9 p.m.
Rush Clement
 Fri., June 26, 6-9 p.m.
Full House
 Sat., June 27, 6-9 p.m.
Carl Pawluk
 Wed., July 1, 6-9 p.m.

Sholty's Bar

1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Tad and the Fat Katz
 Tues., June 30, 6-9 p.m.

Side Bar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Jeremy Kratky
 Thurs., June 25, 5-8 p.m.
Darin Larner
 Fri., June 26, 7-10 p.m.

Small Things Event Space

105 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg
Rachel Rodriguez: "Juntos" single release concert & book signing
 Fri., June 26, 6-8 p.m.

St. Johns City Park

801 W. Park St., St. Johns
Lansing Concert Band Big Band
 Wed., June 24, 7-9 p.m.
Meridian Community Band
 Wed., July 1, 7-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Patino & Friends
 Fri., June 26, 6-9 p.m.
DJ Chicago Muzik
 Sat., June 27, 6-9 p.m.
Johnny Aimcrier
 Sun., June 28, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Your Dad
 Tues., June 30, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
Tad and the Fat Katz
 Fri., June 26, 8-11 p.m.
Napoleon
 Sat., June 27, 8-11 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center

3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Universe Band
 Wed., June 24, 6-9 p.m.
Nothin 2 Lose
 Sun., June 28, 3-6 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
 Wed., June 24, 6-9 p.m.
Walter Blanding with his Jazz Ambassadors
 Wed., June 24, 9 p.m.
Lava Rock
 Thurs., June 25, 6 p.m.
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
 Wed., July 1, 6-9 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Deacon Earl
 Wed., June 24, 7-10 p.m.
Eclectic Noise
 Sat., June 27, 7-11 p.m.

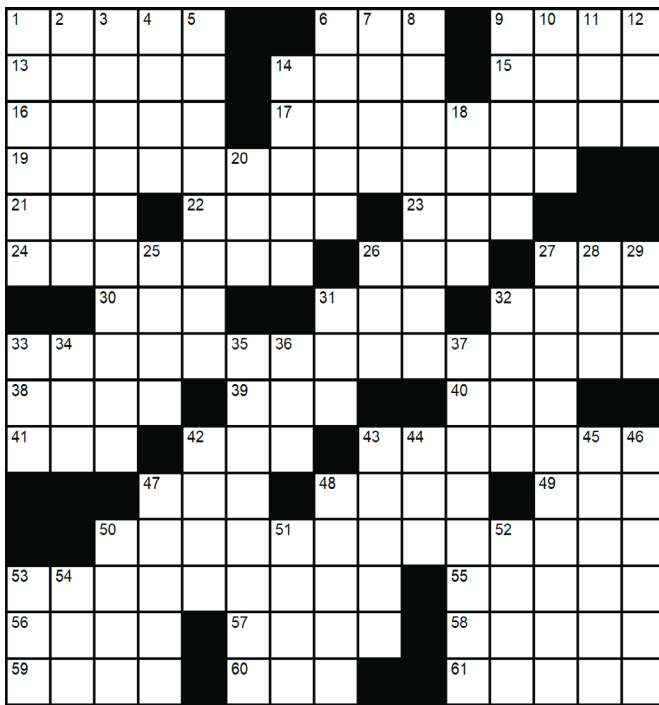
Additionally, the **Summer Solstice Jazz Festival** will run from Friday through Saturday in downtown East Lansing, and the **Charlotte Bluegrass Festival** will run from Thursday through Saturday at the Eaton County Fairgrounds.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Paste Test" -- twice the sticking power.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
- One on the floor?
 - Woolly mom
 - Overpriced
 - "In ____" (Nirvana album)
 - Situated over
 - Mughal Empire's capital, once
 - Wand-waving result
 - Prawn breath freshener?
 - Clone of a corn salsa bit?
 - Rapper ____ Yachty
 - Lee who cameoed in Marvel movies
 - Claire of "The Crown"
 - Went over, as a time limit
 - Take in
 - Limit
 - The whole thing
 - Flowery keepsake
 - Pick up and go
 - Beefsteak photo as a desktop backdrop?
 - Tied
 - Grab hold of
 - Part of REM
 - "Law & Order" pros
 - Roll layer
 - Fatigued
 - TV chef Fieri
 - Satisfy
 - "Ben- ____" (Best Picture at the 1960 Oscars)
 - Where Grover and The Count can check out books?
 - Southern Hemisphere species



- DOWN
- Microblogging site
 - Firenze's locale
 - Titles on state records
 - "All By Myself" singer Carmen
 - Winter ice melter
 - Hawke of "The
 - Lowdown"
 - Tattered
 - Blunder of all blunders
 - Grumpy companion
 - Rapper Azalea
 - "Minions: The Rise of ____"
 - Smithfield product
 - Words after "have" or "take"
 - Beside the point
 - Army group?
 - Prepare for action
 - Wriggling critter
 - Capital served by one end of the Öresund Bridge
 - Mass ____ (MIT's addr.)
 - As directed by
 - Experiment site
 - Cutting-in question
 - Poet Hughes
 - Eggs, in science
 - Not many
 - Passage
 - Irish fuel sources
 - Door word
 - "Slumdog Millionaire" setting
 - Outdoor gear retailer
 - "I've found it!"
 - Least rainy
 - California art museum, with "the"
 - Flat-topped hills
 - Homeland
 - ____ en place (professional kitchen setup)
 - 1950s South Korean president
 - Syngman
 - President pro ____
 - Palindromic brand of kitchenware

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

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

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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!

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

June 24-30, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The interesting struggles you'll wage in the coming weeks will require your vulnerability — showing up exactly as you are when you might rather fight or escape. Your warrior nature probably prefers a clear enemy or a definable problem you can confront, but the truer conquest will come from laying down your weaponry. I suggest you meet aggression with curiosity and engage chaos with receptive stillness. At least for now, your greatest strength will be to remain undominated by your own reactive impulses. Think of it as an advanced martial art.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to be inspired by this wisdom from artist Pablo Picasso: "I am always doing that which I cannot do in order that I may learn how to do it." He's proposing that we treat a lack of expertise not as an embarrassment, but as a doorway. Instead of waiting until we feel ready, trained, and confident, he suggests we head into territory where we fumble, guess, and feel awkward. Our discomfort may lead to gratifying growth. So, I dare you to ask yourself whether there's a capacity or skill you'd love to add to your repertoire but are too shy or timid to try. Then take small, imperfect steps toward it, trusting that each move will teach you how to do what once felt impossible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Hummingbirds keep track of every flower they visit and know how long it will take each one to replenish its nectar. They maintain mental maps of many feeding sites and visit them on precise schedules. To ensure their survival, they can't waste energy on flowers that aren't ready yet. Your mind could work like this if you want it to, Gemini. Which people, places, and projects need time to refill before you visit them again? Who have you been approaching too frequently, seeking their nectar before it has had time to regenerate? In the coming weeks, practice strategic patience with your resources. In your secret conversations with yourself, call yourself "Hummingbird."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Now is an auspicious time to declare a sweeping amnesty and observe a personal season of pardon. To the best of your ability, release your clenched feelings about people who have caused you pain. Banish blame! Purge any lingering resentment and regret that has curdled into self-reproach. Celebrate atonement and absolution! Most vital of all, exonerate yourself. Shed the guilt you've carried for missteps and missed chances. And please offer yourself a sweet gift: a ritual of renewal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you happen to be swallowed whole by a dragon or whale sometime soon, don't freak out. It's far preferable to being chopped into bits first, which absolutely won't happen. You may indeed spend a brief spell inside the creature's dark belly, but I confidently predict you will ultimately be deposited on the outside in one intact piece, after which you will only need to find your meandering way back home. The whole episode may be confounding or humbling, but I bet it will also scrub you free of a load of old karma.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Bees perform what scientists call a "waggle dance" to communicate the location of flowers to their hive-mates. But the directions are sometimes imprecise, and the apparent sloppiness actually helps the hive. It forces other bees to explore more broadly, discovering new food sources that the original bee missed. Perfect information would make them too efficient to be adaptable. Your precision is one of your gifts, Virgo, but right now I think you need strategic vagueness and fuzzy logic. Leave some directions unclear. Mistakes and misunderstandings might lead to discoveries that your perfect plans would have eliminated.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In ancient Greek thought, "Kairos" referred to an opportune moment. It meant the right timing, when circumstances aligned for action to be most effective. The term "chronos," on the other hand, was about sequential

time, which blindly marched forward without any regard for special moments or auspiciousness. Most of us are more or less hypnotized by chronos-consciousness. We measure our lives by calendar dates and external schedules. But in the coming weeks, Libra, I recommend you stay on high alert for kairos-rich pivots. For now, suspend inquiries like "am I on schedule?" and ask, "Are the circumstances ripe?"

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ravens are strongly motivated to engage in elaborate play: aerial acrobatics, complex games, sliding down snowbanks, and sharing food with non-relatives. These behaviors lack an immediate payoff, yet they support learning, motor skill development, and social relationships. They seem to be both emotionally rewarding and indirectly advantageous for survival and success over the long term. Let's apply this to you, Scorpio. Let's conclude that delight isn't wastefully frivolous and that pleasure doesn't need to justify itself through productivity. In the coming weeks, you may face pressure to explain or defend your joy, as if to prove it's worth it in some utilitarian way. Refuse. Like the ravens, engage in purposeless beauty and fun simply because it feels so good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Glaciologists studying ice cores can read Earth's climate history going back 800,000 years. Each layer contains trapped air bubbles. These are time capsules that preserve the atmospheric composition of each moment. The ice remembers everything. You accumulate similar records, Sagittarius. Each of your experiences leaves its trace. And in the coming weeks, you will have extra access to these archived layers of your own history. Memories and patterns you thought were lost will surface with intriguing clarity. I hope you study these revelations to glean insight about your long-term patterns and cycles. It's time to see the Big Picture.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Many people forget, but you know: Structure is the foundation of freedom, not a suppression of it. While others fantasize about escaping responsibility, you know that mastery is key to every emancipation. When properly practiced, your flair for discipline adds vigor as well as rigor. More than any other sign of the zodiac, you are adept at using limits to give unlimited possibilities their specific shape. I trust you will express all these Capricornian powers to the max in the coming weeks. People in your life need them even more than usual.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Horticulturists practice "deadheading." They remove spent flowers from plants to encourage new vitality. Faded flowers drain energy that could go toward fresh growth. Plants that have been deadheaded produce more abundant blooms than those left to manage their own decay. I recommend a metaphorical version of this practice to you, Aquarius. You'll be wise to deadhead your emotional garden. Certain attachments, once vibrant and nourishing, have expired. They're not evil or wrong; they're simply finished. It's best not to keep directing precious energy toward maintaining their faded forms. With gratitude for the old beauty, clear the way for new beauty.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): For maximum safety, be as uninteresting as possible. Shun risks that might shake up your beliefs and avoid adventures that could expose you to people who aren't similar to you. If you really want to be certain about preserving your security and stability, as I'm recommending, the surest method is to retreat to your power spot and do nothing at all. WAIT! STOP! Dear Pisces, everything I just said was pure misdirection! I was joking! In fact, the opposite is true. The way to nurture genuine safety and security is to pursue what sparks your curiosity and lights up your zeal. And the coming days are likely to provide you with plenty of chances to do exactly that.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, June 24

"& Juliet" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

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

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

Broadway Summer Performance Class for Teens and Adults - Develop skills and techniques for singing and acting on stage. Ten-week class. Meets twice per week. 6-7:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Catholic Charities IEC Golf Fore Giving - Proceeds will provide basic needs such as food, clothing, and personal care items to local families. Lunch and dinner provided! 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wheatfield Valley Golf Course, 1600 Linn Road, Williamston. catholic-charitiesiec.org.

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.

Drum Circle with Michele - This interactive, beginner-friendly drum circle invites adults and teens to come together and experience the joy of rhythm, music, and connection in a warm and welcoming space. 6-7 p.m. Riverside Park Pavilion, 405 S. Bridge St., DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org.

EnhanceFitness - Join us for free, fun, core-strengthening exercise. We meet at All Saints Lutheran Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9-10 a.m. 720 W. South St., Mason. allsaintsmason.org.

Finding Your People in Motherhood - Join us for a fun evening of food, drinks and networking with new mom friends to build your community. 6-8 p.m. Mitten Raised, 1331 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/40263574823.

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 Future of UN Peacekeeping - Ronald Quejas-Risdon and Arthur Sessink will draw on their experience with United Nations operations around the world to discuss the practical challenges facing peacekeeping missions today. 6:30-8 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. gluna.org.

Intro to Fly Fishing - Learn more about fly fishing at this hands-on workshop, presented by Red Cedar Fly Fishers. Ages 12+. Registration req. 6-8 p.m. Gloria Miller Park, 13323 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Kids Day 2.0 - Get ready for the ultimate day of family fun! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sharp Park, 1399 Elmwood Road, Lansing. facebook.com/deltatowship.

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

Meditation - Meditation in the tradition of Thich Hhah Hanh. 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.

Spurple 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.

Summer Strings Rehearsal at MSU Community Music School - Summer Strings is the CMS Adult Ensembles - Orchestra for the summer session. It's open to all adults wanting to play in an orchestra. 7-8 p.m. 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. cmsaemusic.weebly.com.

Summertime Night Hike - Join MWC director of wild-life programs Drew Monks for a short presentation on Michigan's nocturnal creatures, followed by a hike on the BWC trails lit by stars and fireflies. 9 p.m. Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. facebook.com/miwildlife.

"The Tail" of Peter Rabbit": A Musical - Young audiences will love this charming, interactive musical, with its comical characters and five original songs. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Weaving the Web: Elementals - 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.

Thursday, June 25

"& Juliet" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

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

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 Nanette Mathe - Noon-8 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.



'One Another' screening
11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 27
Sun Theatre
316 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Tickets at
oneanotherfilm.com/events/lansing-premiere

The feature-length documentary "One Another" was filmed heavily in Lansing by an Everett High School graduate, Amber Love. After making its world premiere at the South by Southwest film festival in March, it will have its local premiere this weekend in Grand Ledge.

Love, as well as some of the subjects of the film, will be on hand for a Q&A, moderated by Ingham County Commissioner Rachel Willis.

The film is an exploration of "the life-saving nature of close friendships," like Love experienced growing up. It follows three different friendships over three years through uncertainty, heartaches and attempts to reconnect. A cross-country move, a mental health crisis and a shift into empty nesting have forced the subjects to reevaluate the

support they need.

Love's mother, Lorri, is the latest in a long line of single mothers living in a trailer park alongside her friend Lisa Parsons, who helped raise Love. Navigating the passage of time and changes in their relationship, Lorri and Lisa work toward repairing their decades-long connection. There's also Joe Joseph, who moves to the San Francisco Bay Area to be closer to its queer community but leaves behind an identity-defining friendship. And then there's Giorgia Harvey, who returns to her hometown to heal bruised friendships that need to be confronted head-on.

"By growing up with friends playing roles usually reserved for romantic partners or family, I inherited a sense of freedom and possibility rooted in those relationships," Love said.

Critics have called the film, Love's feature directorial debut, "a quietly moving exploration of friendship, intimacy, and the ways our closest relationships evolve over time" (Screen Zealots) and "the definition of human connection" (Reel News Daily).

Chamber 360 - A free event designed for prospective, new and long-time Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce members to network, learn about the Chamber, participate in a roundtable discussion and share tools and resources. 8:30-10 a.m. 500 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. 200, Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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: Corn and Soybean Disease Management, with Dr. Martin Chilvers - 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/outreach.

"I've Got a Text" Thursdays | "Love Island" Watch Nights at MP Social - Join us every Thursday night as we stream the latest episode of "Love Island" on the big screens. 4-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

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. ladiesilverblades.org.

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

Meet Michigan Turtles - Happy Snapper Rescue organizer and educator Sarah Matuszak will bring LIVE turtles for us to see, enjoy, and learn about! 2-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

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.

Playwriting Class for Teens and Adults - We start with writing monologues, then scenes, then one-act plays. Ten-week class. 6:30-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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MSU Music and the Garden: Go Music Trio

1 p.m. Sunday, June 28
Beal Botanical Garden
330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
music.msu.edu

The Go Music Trio, comprising sopranos Zimo Chen and Shuhan Zhang and pianist Dailin Zeng, all of whom are pursuing doctorates at Michigan State University, will perform an intimate concert at the school's Beal Botanical Garden Sunday afternoon.

The trio picked music inspired by water, flowers, nature and poetic imagery, with works by Ravel, Debussy, Schubert, Fauré, Schumann, Rachmaninoff and Chopin.

Even the most frequently heard numbers, typically performed indoors, will feel fresh in the outdoor garden setting.

Zhang received her bachelor's degree in opera performance from Hunan Normal University in China and her master's degree in voice performance from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a recipient of the Golden Prize at the China International Vocal Competition and the Vocal Arts Quality, Excellence and Enhancement Endowment at MSU. Her recent operatic performances include Suor Angelica in Puccini's "Suor Angelica" at MSU and Bridesmaid in "Le Nozze di Figaro" at the Butler Opera Center.

Born in China, Chen received two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. She has a full scholarship and teaching assistantship at MSU and has performed as Fanny in "La Cambiale di Matrimonio" at MSU's Fairchild Theatre, as well as serving as the soprano soloist for Handel's "Messiah" at MSU's Wharton Center.

Zeng holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music in New York. She has performed across the U.S., Europe and Asia, both solo and with other musicians. She has earned prizes at several piano competitions, including grand prize at the Ronald Sachs International Music Competition and first prize at the Music International Grand Prix. She serves as the organist and chancel pianist at Holt United Methodist Church and teaches piano at the Flint Institute of Music.

Wacousta branch location for an outdoor family storytime filled with different themed activities, like music, bubbles and water play, plus time for play with your friends, too! 11 a.m.-noon. 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. glad.libcal.com.

Walk with Ease - Walking exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. Group will meet Thursdays at the East Lansing High School track through July 16. 9-10 a.m. 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histeddc@tcoa.org.

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

Zoo Clues 21+ Event - Once the gates close, the zoo transforms into an immersive, escape-room-style experience. Each challenge unlocks fascinating animal facts and conservation stories! 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Friday, June 26

"& Juliet" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

White Party: "Heated Rivalry" - Pride weekend starts here. Presented by Emmy Award nominee Glenn Douglas Packard, get ready for a night of high energy, hot looks and fierce competition at our "Heated Rivalry" white party. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

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.

EnhanceFitness - Join us for free, fun, core-strengthening exercise. We meet at All Saints Lutheran Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9-10 a.m. 720 W. South St., Mason. allsaintsmason.org.

Escape Room: Unearth the Story of Grand Ledge - Explore the mysteries of Grand Ledge's past! Work through clues, puzzles, and hidden artifacts to uncover pieces of the town's history before time is up. Registration req. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

Family Art Studio - A free, drop-in art experience where families create and collaborate side by side in a relaxed, playful studio environment. 1-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Featured Artist of the Month: Sarah Wood - Meet Sarah, view her pieces on display at the gallery, participate in a Q&A session about her art, and discuss some of the stories behind her work. Refreshments will be served. Art & Soul Gallery, 5-7 p.m. 215 N. Clinton Ave., St. Johns. facebook.com/ClintonCntyArts.

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.

Friday Guided Tours - Each Friday at 1 p.m., a guided tour of the museum is conducted by one of our volunteer docents or staff members. Tours run an average of 45 minutes. Participation is covered by general admission to the museum. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

The Hard Right Thing: A Confident Witch Circle - This session of Confident Witch Circle works with Tiwaz, the rune of honor, justice, and the true weight of an oath. 8-10 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Great Lakes Loons - 7:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. mlb.com/lansing.

Let's "Unearth a Story": The Amazing Geology of the Ledges - Learn more about the amazing geology of Grand Ledge with this presentation by the Michigan Geological Survey and Dr. Peter Voice (professor of geology at Western Michigan University). 6-8 p.m. Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

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

Self-Honoring Circle Chapter 4: There Is Not Enough ... - What beliefs do we carry about scarcity, lack, and limitation? And what begins to shift when we create space to notice support? Four-week course. 1-4 p.m. Virtual — register at deepsoulscreativeart.my.canva.site.

"The Tail" of Peter Rabbit": A Musical - 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Tea in the Garden - Noon-3:30 p.m. MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens.

Saturday, June 27

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

30th Pastoral Anniversary Dinner Honoring Bishop Victor A. Trevino - Join us for a heartfelt dinner honoring Trevino's amazing journey! 5-9 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121252487340.

ASPPiRE Sip and Paint Fundraiser - We'll be painting a Northern Lights-themed Michigan silhouette on canvas. This is a fundraiser for ASPPiRE, and 50% of the proceeds go to the organization. 6-9 p.m. Hooked Bookstore, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. asppire.org.

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

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

The Dinner Detective - North America's largest interactive true-crime murder mystery dinner show invites you into a night of laughter, mystery, and audience-driven intrigue. 6-9 p.m. DoubleTree by Hilton, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. thedinnerdetective.com.

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

Escape Room: Unearth the Story of Grand Ledge - Registration req. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

"Heated Rivalry" Dance Party - Welcome to the high-energy, emotionally charged dance party inspired by the tension, obsession, and enemies-to-lovers chaos of "Heated Rivalry." 7 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Great Lakes Loons - 7:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. mlb.com/lansing.

Lansing Pride - A FREE day of live entertainment, family-friendly activities, local vendors, food and beverage options, and a vibrant showcase of community partners. 1-9 p.m. Old Town, Lansing. lansingpride.org.

Lansing Pride Afterparty: Clubbeat - We're turning up the energy with incredible entertainment, nonstop dancing, and the hottest crowd in town. This is your chance to celebrate, connect, and keep the Pride spirit going all night long. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Lansing Tech Studio Field Day - The day after our robotics summer camp ends, Lansing Tech Studio is hosting a family-filled field day to celebrate our students with the community and spread awareness for our on-stem learning programs in robotics, coding, and tech. 2-4 p.m. Delta Mills Park, 7001 Old River Trail, Lansing. zeffy.com/en-US/organizations/lansing-tech-studio.

Market on the Grand - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/market_on_the_grand.php.

"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.

Saturday Guided Tours - Each Saturday at 1 p.m., a guided tour of the museum is conducted by one of our volunteer docents or staff members. Tours run an average of 45 minutes. Participation is covered by general admission to the museum. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

"The Tail" of Peter Rabbit": A Musical - 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Tincture Craft at Urbandale Farm - Learn the foundations of herbal tincture making using plants traditionally used for wellness, balance, and everyday support. 1-3 p.m. 705 S. Hayford Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/58009442393.

Twilight Adventures - From 6 to 9 p.m., explore the zoo with a themed scavenger hunt, make friendship bracelets, paint rocks for pollinators, play yard

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South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. 5016 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. facebook.com/SouthLansingFarmersMarket.

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.

Stage Management & Technical Theatre Class for Teens and Adults - A brief introduction to all aspects of technical theatre. Ten-week class. 6:30-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

"The Tail" of Peter Rabbit": A Musical - 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Tea in the Garden - 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens.

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.

Very Hungry Caterpillar Storytime - Celebrate author/illustrator Eric Carle on his birthday with a storytime featuring the Very Hungry Caterpillar and more of his beloved book characters. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

Wacousta Picnic Playdate - Meet at our new

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games, and enjoy s'mores by the fire. Along the way, discover simple ways to help animals and the planet. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Yoga by the River: RnB Flow w/ Dymon - Join OS x BLK Yoga Co. for our monthly morning wellness reset. Yoga, soul, R&B, and community — right by the river. Powered by LAFCU. 10-11 a.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/66375245943.

Sunday, June 28

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

Cardinal Market Psychic Fair and Ecstatic Dance - The Cardinal Market is a holistic wellness and psychic fair. Following the market is Ecstatic Dance. This is a welcoming space to move your body, clear your mind, and reconnect with yourself. 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. facebook.com/meaghan.rosalia.

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

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket.

Escape Room: Unearth the Story of Grand Ledge - Registration req. 1-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

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

Lansing Drag Brunch - Gather your chosen family and come spill all the tea from the biggest Pride celebration of the year while enjoying an unforgettable afternoon of drag, brunch, and mimosas. Noon-2 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Great Lakes Loons - 1:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. mlb.com/lansing.

Mystery Mail Take Over at The Eaton Pub - The ultimate mystery box party! Team challenges, trades, prizes, laughs, and surprises around every corner! Noon. 214 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. eventbrite.com/o/121456943585.

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.

Sound Bath & Yin Yoga - Your body requires rest just as much as it does motion. Join us as we slow down, reconnect, and tap into yin energy. 5-6 p.m. Lovelight Collective, 107 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/55607827953.

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.

"The Tail" of Peter Rabbit": A Musical - 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. loc.edu/showinfo.

Tom Huggler Author Visit - Huggler will appear at Woldumar Nature Center to read passages from "The Woman She Left Behind," his Civil War story of a widowed pioneer woman's 600-mile journey through a war zone in search of her dying soldier son. The free event is held in conjunction with Woldumar's Log Cabin Day. 1 p.m. 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/Woldumar.

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.

Williamston Farm & Artisan Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. williamstonfarmmarket.org.

Monday, June 29

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

Acting Camp for Kids & Teens - Playing theater games that teach us communication, observation, and teamwork! Ages 5-18. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursdays. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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

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

Broadway Summer Performance Class for Teens and Adults - Develop skills and techniques for singing and acting on stage. Ten-week class. Meets twice per week. 6-7:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop - Join Dr. Yan Zhinong to learn the ancient art of Chinese calligraphy.

Kids Day 2.0

11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday,
June 24
Sharp Park
1401 Elmwood Road, Delta
Township
deltami.gov/deltarocks



Delta Township's Kids Day 2.0 promises to be bigger, better and more fun than ever before, offering virtually everything kids could want in a family fun day, and a few things for parents, too.

There will be a rubber duck hunt, yard games, train rides, crafts, an obstacle course, a sports challenge course, bingo, a bubble area, balloon animals, an inflatable slide and bounce house, temporary tattoos, chalk art, juggling, a foam party... the list goes on. Getting to everything in a single afternoon would be a pretty tall task for any kid. The event is free, except for concessions, which are cash only.

3:30-5 p.m. Chengdu Teahouse, Lansing. 100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/110833262761.

Dinosaur Cousins? See Alligators & Friends Live! - Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary will offer an educational, up-close experience for all ages, featuring rescued reptiles, including alligators. 2-3 p.m. Willow Ridge Elementary School, 12840 Nixon Road, Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

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.

Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 6 p.m. City Hall, 259 Kent St., Portland. 517-647-5027. portland-michigan.org.

Escape Room: Unearth the Story of Grand Ledge - Registration req. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

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.

Game Night: Fish Ladder Music Park - Game night brings together DJ trivia, carnival games, music, food trucks, vendors, and riverfront fun every Monday from 6-9 p.m. 216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. lansingriverfront.org.

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

Tuesday, June 30

Acting Scene Study Class for Teens and Adults - Students will learn the fundamentals of acting: diction, projection, stage presence, stage directions, working off their partner, basic script work and improvisation. Ten-week class. 6:30-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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

Be a Rockhound: Dig for Crystals and Bones - Teens and Adults will dig for REAL crystals and animal bones/skulls using excavation hand tools! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

Bookend Gallery Display by Nanette Mathe - Noon-4

p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

Construction Type Selection & Multi-Family Housing + MSU Tour - Join us for a unique two-part event featuring an educational seminar on mass timber design, followed by a firsthand look at Michigan State University's STEM Teaching and Learning Facility. 1-4 p.m. 642 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/1319046139.

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

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

Improv Acting Class for Teens and Adults - Perform your characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! Ten-week class 6:30-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Junior Geologist - Dig for REAL fossils, minerals, and maybe even animal bones using excavation hand tools and then identify them at the end of your dig! Ages 6-12. 2-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

My First Geology Dig - While older kids are digging into hardened clay slabs, younger kids will be able to enjoy digging in soft sand for plastic dinosaur skeletons, sparkly rocks and more. Ages 3-5. 2-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

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.

Songwriting Class for Teens and Adults - This ten-week workshop is designed to help songwriters develop their craft. 6:30-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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

CityPULSE

Wednesday



Our free weekly paper in your inbox

Friday

Weekend events, Live & Local music and more

Saturday

New and recommended food, spots and drinks

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

For the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative in Congress, Governor, State Senator, State Representative, Delegates to County Convention

For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:

Ingham County: Potter Park Zoo and Potter Park Millage, Countywide System of Trails and Parks Millage, Public Transportation System for Elderly and Disabled Millage, Tourism, Entertainment Facilities, and Arts Proposal
Eaton County (Precinct 22 Only): Juvenile Millage, 9-1-1 and Central Dispatch Millage

City: City of Lansing Ballot Question

District Library: Capital Area District Library District Wide Tax Proposal

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the www.LansingVotes.gov, Lansing Elections Office, 701 W. Jolly Rd., Lansing, Michigan 48910, telephone: (517) 483-4131.

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their local clerk, the office of their county clerk, a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at www.Michigan.gov/vote and mailed to or dropped off at the office of the local clerk. Any qualified elector that has a Michigan Driver's License or Personal ID can also register to vote at www.Michigan.gov/vote. Voters who are already registered may update their voter registration at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

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

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

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours June 25 – July 31
Lansing City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm
Lansing Elections Office	701 W. Jolly Rd. Lansing, MI 48910	Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm Wednesdays 9am – 7pm

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

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Monday August 3 8am – 4pm Election Day August 4 8am – 5pm
Lansing Elections Office	701 W. Jolly Rd. Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday August 1 9am – 5pm Sunday August 2 9am – 5pm Monday August 3 9am – 4pm Election Day August 4 7am – 8pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

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

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

Friday, July 31, 2026, at 5:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Monday, August 3, 2026, at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person, except for those who register to vote on Election Day.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, August 4, 2026, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

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

FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Beggar's Banquet's avocado toast has everything but the kitchen sink

By LIZY FERGUSON

Downtown East Lansing no longer bears much resemblance to my high school stomping grounds, but some things have remained the same. I ventured there the other week to try something new by revisiting something old: breakfast at Beggar's Banquet, which has been there since 1973 and was a regular spot for huevos rancheros with my dad growing up.

It's still cavernous, with a labyrinthine floor plan and a large bar. Naturally, it



Rye Up Your Alley

\$15

Beggar's Banquet
218 Abbott Road, East Lansing
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday
9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday
(517) 351-4540
beggarsbanquet.com

has all the brunch cocktails you could ask for. I decided to abstain this day, but I can't say the bloody mary with honey-sriracha pork belly, fried chicken and a cornmeal waffle as garnishes wasn't tempting.

The brunch menu includes staples like breakfast burritos and variations on eggs benedict, as well as less standard offerings like shrimp and grits and the huevos rancheros I recall so fondly. I noticed

the bread comes from the excellent local bakery Breadsmith, so when I also noticed that its rye toast (my favorite) is the foundation of the Rye Up Your Alley, I was sold.

This whimsically named menu item is basically avocado toast, but on steroids. A large piece of crispy rye toast is topped with roasted garlic, mashed avocado, thick-sliced bacon, fresh tomato, goat cheese, one egg (over medium in this case), hollandaise and sriracha.

I know, it's a lot, but it's so many things I love in one towering pile.

I would have taken my bacon a little less well done and gone a little lighter on the goat cheese, but altogether, it was extremely tasty, if perhaps a little difficult to eat. I especially loved the light, lemony hollandaise mixed with the spicy sriracha and cool, creamy avocado.

The comfy booth in the dark bar area where I was sat would be perfect for someone nursing a hangover with an aforementioned bloody mary, but it was equally cozy on a rainy Sunday morning before running errands. East Lansing may be much less quaint these days, but you can get a feel for simpler times with the institutions that have stuck around.

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedents Estate. File No. 25-662-DE-P33. Estate of Joan Kathryn Martin. Date of birth: 3/16/1929. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Joan Kathryn Martin, died 1/12/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to David Meyen, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 06/24/2026. Personal Representative: David Meyen, 1805 Sunshine Path, Holt, MI 48842, 815-545-0907.

CP#26-244

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 PHO

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

1. Asia's Finest

Unpretentious eatery offering a large menu of pan-Asian specialties
6443 S. Cedar St., Lansing
(517) 393-1688
asiasfinestlansing.com
11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Noon-8:30 p.m. Saturday
4-8:30 p.m. Sunday

2. Capital City BBQ

Homey eatery serving traditional American barbecue dishes alongside Vietnamese classics
1026 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
(517) 721-1500
facebook.com/capitalcitybbq

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

3. Cask & Co. Kitchen & Bar

Restaurant and bar with an eclectic menu of elevated American and Asian dishes
3415 E. Saginaw St., Lansing
(517) 580-3720
caskandcompany.com

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

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

4. King Pho

Casual spot offering Vietnamese comfort food such as pho and banh mi sandwiches
4749 Central Park Drivw, Okemos
(517) 977-1520
kingphookemos.com
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday-Saturday
Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

5. Pho 777

Vietnamese restaurant serving homemade pho and other traditional dishes
4758 Marsh Road, Okemos
(517) 897-7182
pho777okemosmi.com
11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Sunday

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
of the
Summer Solstice
Jazz
Festival

June 26 & 27, 2026

Downtown East Lansing eljazzfest.com

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Vanessa Rubin Quartet • Mike Dease • The Gathering Orchestra
Rodney Whitaker Quintet • The Vibe Summit Ft. Chuck Redd & Warren Wolf
Orquesta Ritmo • Jeff Pedraz and Students • Curtis Taylor Quintet
JAMM Scholarship Band • Melissa Morgan Quintet • Detroit Tenors
496 West • Randy "Uncle G" Gillespie

REO Town Clubhouse and Bell's Greek Pizza want to feed you

By ERICK DIAZ VELIZ

On June 17, the REO Town Clubhouse team posted a plea for public support on social media. People shared messages of support, sadness and uncertainty for the business.

“Over the past several months, we’ve watched several local Lansing restaurants close their doors,” the post said. “These aren’t just businesses. They’re dreams, jobs, gathering places, and part of what makes our community special.”

The post said independent restaurants are facing challenges like high food, labor and operational costs and changing consumer habits, which have made it hard for them to survive.

The Italian restaurant and bar, which

opened in January 2025 in the former Ellison Brewery and Event Space, has tried several solutions, the post said — “some work, others don’t.”

“Live music is no longer an option for us due to the ASCAP, SESCAC, and BMI fees,” the post said, referencing the licensing organizations that make live music possible. “These fees are based on the total size of the venue, not just the performance area. We simply cannot afford them.”

The team also said restaurants operate on lower margins than other industries and have experienced some of the highest cost increases with food, labor and taxes. “All of this together paints a picture of the challenges the entire industry



Bryan Beverly for City Pulse

REO Town Clubhouse’s fried shrimp (\$16) with Calabrian pepper sauce was one of the favorites from an August She Ate/He Ate review for City Pulse.

has faced, especially here in Lansing,” the post said.

On the other side of the city, in East Lansing, a restaurant reported difficulties due to construction on Grand River Avenue.

In Late May, Bell’s Greek Pizza posted a message of alert and gratitude on social media. The message reminded customers that the restaurant remains open despite the construction and thanked those who continue to patronize the establishment.

“The roads may be under construction, but our doors are wide open,” the post said. “Thank you for continuing to support local businesses during the work happening on Grand River Avenue.”

For the rest of the summer, the section of Grand River Avenue between Bogue Street and Brookfield Square will remain completely closed in both directions while work is done to modernize and separate the stormwater and sanitary sewer systems.

Like Bell’s Greek Pizza, The REO Town Clubhouse team thanked all those who still support the business despite the adversities and asked them to continue doing so.

“When you support a local restaurant, you’re supporting local jobs, local families, local vendors, and the community itself. You’re helping keep unique, locally owned businesses alive in Lansing,” the team wrote. “We believe REO Town Clubhouse is worth fighting for, and we’re committed to doing everything we can to continue serving this community for years to come.”

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- JUNE 21 -



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- 4 Kielbasa Sausages (3 oz.)
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Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 81957. Limit 2 on select items at these exclusive prices. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 06/30/26. Omaha Steaks, LLC 26M10124

A staple summer side dish with a fresh and tasty twist

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Homemade side dishes can up the ante at backyard barbecues, particularly when such gatherings are potluck affairs. While store-bought sides can suffice, preparing foods at home allows cooks to experiment with ingredients. Potato salad is a backyard barbecue staple, and this recipe for potato salad with new potatoes, zucchini, olives and almond pesto from Lines+Angles offers a fresh and tasty twist to this popular side dish.

Potato salad with new potatoes, zucchini, olives and almond pesto
Makes four servings

For the pesto:

- 3 cups basil, leaves only
- 1/2 cup whole blanched almonds
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, finely grated
- Two garlic cloves, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

For the salad:

- 1 3/4 pounds new potatoes
- Two zucchinis, halved and sliced
- 1 1/4 cups black olives, pitted
- One small handful basil, leaves only
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

1. For the pesto: Combine the basil leaves, almonds, Parmesan, garlic and salt in a food processor.

2. Blend on high until broken down and finely chopped. Scrape down the sides of the processor if needed.

3. Continue to blend on a low setting, drizzling in the olive oil through the feeder spout until the pesto comes together. Adjust seasoning to taste and chill until needed.



ART BY NEVIN

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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nevin@nevingraphics.com

517-703-4655

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at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823
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CP#26-230

SUA SPONTE ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE, State of Michigan, 30th District Judicial Circuit Court, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6500, Ingham County, Case No. 11-1901-DS, Judge Lisa McCormick. **Plaintiff: Katelin Collins. Defendant: Jonathan Davis. The Court Finds:** Service of process upon the Plaintiff, Katelin Collins, cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.015 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard. **It is Ordered:** Service of the Ex Parte Order and Motion, regarding Custody and Parenting Time regarding Jaylen, Jeweleana, Jonathan and Jacquelyn Davis, dated March 4, 2026 and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s). Other: Publishing a copy of the Order once each week, for three consecutive weeks, June 17, 24 and July 1, 2026, in a newspaper in the county Plaintiff resides. If it is unknown where Plaintiff resides, then in Ingham County. Judge Lisa McCormick, P53858, 4/1/26.

CP#26-239

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