

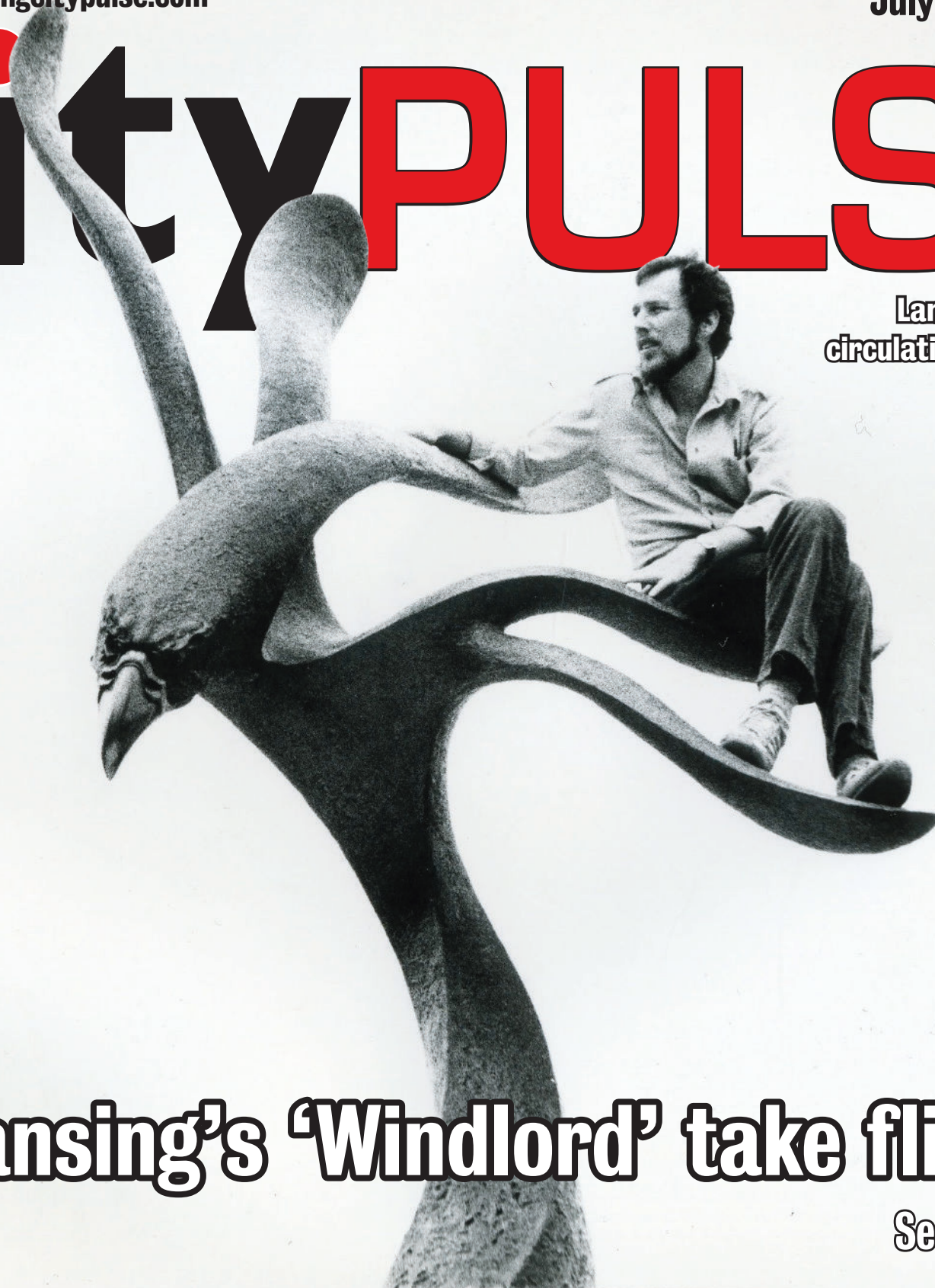
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July 15-21, 2026

CityPULSE

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Will Lansing's 'Windlord' take flight?

See Page 11



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Noise vs. Knowledge

There are two kinds of popularity in this world.

One belongs to those who speak the loudest — those who make outrageous claims with unwavering confidence, rarely credit anyone else and present certainty as a substitute for evidence. Their appeal isn't built on expertise. It's built on performance.

The other belongs to people who spend years — sometimes decades — learning a subject, questioning their own assumptions, changing their minds when new evidence demands it, and understanding that true expertise often begins with admitting what you don't know.

Unfortunately, we're living in an era where the first type of popularity often drowns out the second.

I grew up believing that actions speak louder than words. Somewhere along the way, though, I learned another lesson: a lie repeated often enough eventually becomes accepted as truth by far too many people.

Every day, without fail, Donald Trump declares himself the foremost authority on whatever topic happens to be in front of him. Economics. Foreign policy. Medicine. History. Energy. Crime. The Constitution. It hardly matters what the subject is. The confidence never wavers, even when the facts do.

More remarkably, it often doesn't seem to matter when today's declaration contradicts something he said a week ago, a month ago or a year ago. It's as though the expectation is that no one will remember — even though the videos exist, the interviews are archived and the internet has become humanity's largest filing cabinet.

There was once a time when politicians at least attempted plausible deniability. They'd argue context. They'd insist they were misquoted. They'd claim their remarks had been misunderstood.

Today, many simply deny what millions of people watched with their own eyes or heard with their own ears. Plausibility is no longer part of the equation. Reality itself has become negotiable.

That's a dangerous evolution.

At the same time, literacy and critical thinking appear to be under increasing strain in the age of social media. Information has never been more abundant, yet understanding often feels scarcer than ever. Misinformation travels at the speed of a swipe, while truth is expected to explain itself in a fifteen-second clip.

I sometimes wonder whether intellectual curiosity is still attractive in our culture. Whether humility has become a liability. Whether admitting uncertainty now sounds weak compared to shouting absolute certainty.

Maybe that's just what happens when you get older.

Or maybe we're witnessing something much larger.

This administration has tapped into something undeniably powerful: the ability to communicate emotionally before

anyone has the chance to think analytically. Facts arrive late to a conversation already won by identity, grievance and spectacle.

I worry that those who oppose this style of politics still haven't discovered how to communicate effectively in this environment. Being correct isn't enough if your message never penetrates the noise. Democracy requires persuasion, not simply proof.

My hope is that we eventually learn how to cut through the smoke — not by imitating the deception, but by telling better stories rooted in truth. Stories that remind people we share far more than the politicians who profit from division would have us believe. Stories that appeal to our better instincts instead of our darkest impulses.

Part of that challenge is reclaiming ideas that have been distorted, including masculinity itself.

Some have reduced manhood to dominance, aggression and a cartoonish version of strength: man builds, man hunts, man protects, woman follows. It's an identity built more on insecurity than confidence.

To me, masculinity has never been about intimidation.

It's about being dependable when others need you. Caring without embarrassment. Showing restraint when anger would be easier. Standing up for people who cannot stand up for themselves. Admitting when you're wrong. Listening more than you speak. Remaining composed when chaos invites you to lose yourself.

That kind of strength rarely goes viral.

But it's real.

The louder voices will always command attention. The harder task — the one that has always mattered — is learning to distinguish between confidence and competence, between performance and principle, between noise and knowledge.

As Admiral Ackbar famously warned, "It's a trap."

The real trap isn't just believing the loudest voice in the room.

It's forgetting that wisdom has never needed to shout.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com

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Whitmer never wanted the nine bills she vetoed

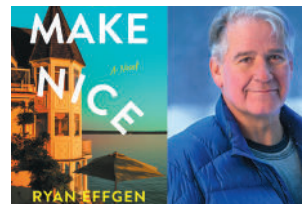
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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.

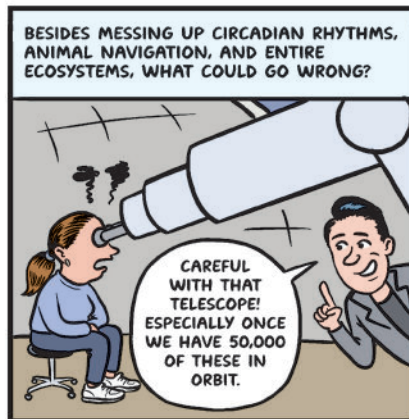
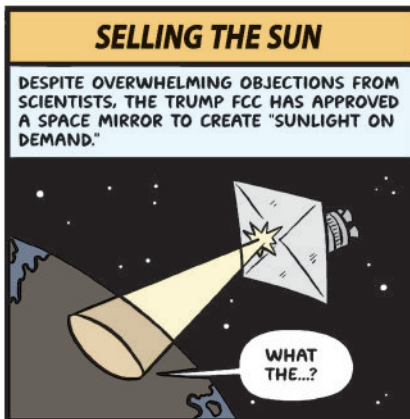


Journalist's new novel based on 1989 Detroit River killing

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Correction: A photo caption in last week's story "'Star Trek' actress beams into Lansing for Capital City Comic Con" mistakenly stated that the subjects were Elizabeth Dennehy and her husband. It was actually Dennehy and her late father, the actor Brian Dennehy.

Cover photo by Joan Steiber



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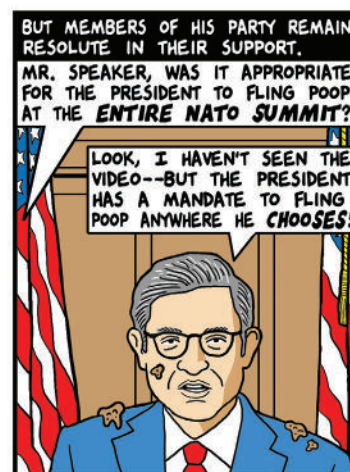
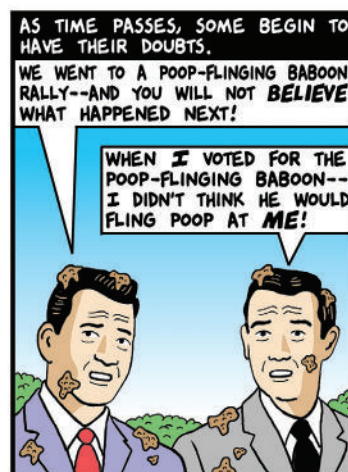
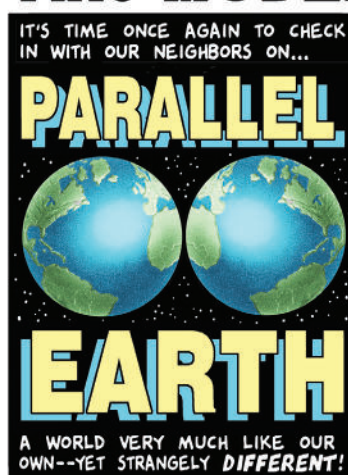
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by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Demolition resumes at former Lansing hospital following asbestos discovery

By HEATHER VANDYKE

State environmental regulators have approved a revised plan to resume asbestos abatement at a stalled hospital demolition site in the south of Lansing, following a months-long shutdown triggered by air quality violations and neighborhood safety complaints.

According to state filings on June 29, contractor Asbestos Abatement Inc. is scheduled to begin a new phase of hazardous material removal at the former McLaren Penn Campus on July 13, with work projected to run through Aug. 28.

The work will target an estimated 20,000 square feet of material using mechanical grinding and water suppression systems.

The site at 2727 S. Pennsylvania Ave. has sat roughly 25% demolished since last year, when operations were halted by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Jeremy Brown, EGLE senior environmental quality analyst and asbestos inspector for the Air Quality Division, said he believes concerns about air quality are being managed.

The July 13 demolition will be closely monitored, he said.

"The residents are not in harm," Brown said. "There will be dust during demolition, but the goal is to keep it knocked down enough so it doesn't leave the property."

"Everything has been cleaned up since I issued the violation. They had that cleaned up in pretty short order and had cleaned up one part of the building where they had stopped demolition. It was in a condition that no one could safely go into that area. The debris got hauled away and then additional testing and sampling was conducted. They had to come up with a new work plan."

City of Lansing officials said it is good to see the project is picking back up.

"The city is tremendously excited to see this site get cleared and made ready for future development. It's really a fantastic location and we look forward to seeing what can become of this property," Scott Bean, a spokesperson for the mayor's office, said.

"We would certainly like to see Mc-



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

The former McLaren Penn hospital.

Laren work with their demolition contractor to ensure the site is properly secured. Neighbors are encouraged to call the Lansing Police non-emergency line if they see people trespassing in the demolition site."

Road to demolition

The state intervention followed a December 2025 investigation by EGLE. Inspectors discovered site operators had left four massive debris piles containing metal beams with asbestos-containing spray-on insulation that were uncovered and exposed to wind, rain and snow.

Regulators said the contaminated material had remained dry and exposed for over three weeks, creating visible emissions and causing soil contamination, Brown said.

On Dec. 18, 2025, EGLE issued a formal violation notice to Michael Suty of Asbestos Abatement Inc. and Dan Rooney of Kramer Management Group, representing property owner McLaren Healthcare, according to state documents.

The state cited the companies for three federal violations under the National Emission Standard for Asbestos, including failure to adequately wet asbestos waste material and failure to dispose of the material in a timely manner.

Under federal law, both the property owner and the operator share liability for the violations.

The state shutdown came after persistent complaints from nearby residents who reported heavy plumes of dust drifting into surrounding residential blocks.

Patrick Cooper, a nurse practitioner living two houses from the property, told City Pulse that dust suppression

was virtually nonexistent during the initial teardown phase.

He recalled one day in particular when the dust was thick and covering his block.

"I just noticed it was a windy day and huge clouds of filth were blowing into our neighborhood," Cooper said. "They had one person out there with a garden hose who wasn't even really very close to where the demo was actually happening ... it wasn't doing anything."

While contractors eventually covered and removed the initial contaminated debris piles, the main structure remained untouched through the winter and spring, turning the uncompleted demolition into a neighborhood security hazard, Cooper said.

He witnessed daily trespassing, noting that scrappers routinely cut openings in the perimeter chain-link fence to strip metals from inside the building.

Cooper said the situation escalated when a vehicle loaded with suspected stolen scrap emerged from the woods and drove directly across Scott Woods Park where his children were playing.

"My partner and kids were down in the park, and a truck actually drove out from this huge hole in the fence that's a little bit hidden by the woods," Cooper said. "It just freaked my kids out."

His children, ages 9 and 11, now refuse to play at the park, he said.

Dave Jones, marketing manager, media relations for McLaren Health Care released this statement for McLaren Greater Lansing:

"McLaren is committed to being a responsible community partner, and we understand and appreciate the concerns raised by our fellow commu-

nity members residing near the hospital's legacy campus. Throughout all abatement activities, McLaren hired an experienced and reputable consultant, Triterra, to conduct air monitoring for the workers and surrounding areas to ensure all activities met regulatory requirements. Notably, all air monitoring results remained within acceptable limits.

"During demolition and throughout the work stoppage, Triterra deployed two to three dust monitors around the site to measure nuisance dust and activated mitigation strategies. All recorded data was within acceptable limits."

The statement goes on to say that air monitoring will "resume when activity continues at the site."

"Upon the identification of asbestos on the structure's steel beams, Triterra returned to the site to establish daily air monitoring along the fence line until the removal of all potentially airborne particulates. All samples remained within acceptable limits. Above all, it is our goal and the goal of our partners to finish this project in the safest manner possible, with the anticipation that demolition will be completed by the end of the year."

For the families living along the perimeter of the complex, the upcoming resumption of work brings a mix of relief and anxiety.

"Obviously I'd rather it be taken care of safely," Cooper said. "I don't want those huge clouds of death coming in and poisoning our neighborhood, our kids and stuff, so I'm hoping it gets taken care of carefully."



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

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NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
AND REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS

DATE: Tuesday, July 28, 2026

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s Office
707 Buhl Avenue
Mason, MI 48854

QUESTIONS: (517) 676-8395
drainoffice@ingham.org

The Day of Review is an opportunity to review the Drainage District boundaries and/or for a review of the apportionment of benefits for the Drains listed below. Maps of the current Drainage District boundaries – and the proposed Drainage District boundary revisions, if necessary – may be found on the Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s website at: drain.ingham.org.

Day of Review of Apportionments (Only)

Drain ID#	Drain Name	Municipalities
A05-00	ALLCHIN DRAIN	Leroy Township
A07-00	ANDERSON DRAIN	White Oak Township
A09-00	ARDMORE DRAIN	Meridian Charter Township
A16-00	AURELIUS AND VEVAY DRAIN	Alaiedon Township Aurelius Township City of Mason Vevay Township
A21-00	ADDISON DRAIN	Meridian Charter Township
A32-00	RANDALL J. ABBOTT DRAIN	Onondaga Township
B07-00	BATTLEY DRAIN	Onondaga Township
B10-00	BERGEON DRAIN	Vevay Township
B12-00	BIRD DRAIN	Wheatfield Township
B15-00	BOTSFORD DRAIN	Locke Township
B19-00	BROWN DRAIN	Village of Dansville Ingham Township
B22-00	BULLETT LAKE DRAIN	Locke Township Williamstown Township
B23-00	BUNKER DRAIN	Leroy Township White Oak Township
B24-00	BURKLEY DRAIN	Williamstown Township Wheatfield Township
B27-00	BUSH DRAIN	City of Mason Vevay Township
B28-04	BUTTON, SPRING LAKES BRANCH DRAIN	Meridian Charter Township
B30-00	BARNARD DRAIN	Leslie Township Vevay Township
C23-00	COLUMBIA STREET DRAIN	City of Mason Vevay Township

C24-00	CONKLIN DRAIN	Onondaga Township
C27-02	HUNTLEY SQUARE DRAIN	Delhi Charter Township
C62-00	CHULA VISTA DRAIN	Leroy Township
D01-00	DANA AND STARKS DRAIN	Leroy Township
D02-02	DANIELS EXTENSION DRAIN	Meridian Charter Township
D03-00	DARLING DRAIN	Onondaga Township
D04-00	DROVERS CROSSING DRAIN	Bunker Hill Township
D05-00	DARROW AND MCROBERTS DRAIN	Vevay Township
D09-00	DENNIS DRAIN	Wheatfield Township
M35-00	MINAR DRAIN	Vevay Township
R01-00	RABY DRAIN	City of East Lansing Meridian Charter Township

A licensed professional engineer has recommended lands be added or removed from the Drainage District listed below, and a general description of the lands by section number proposed to be added or deleted from the Drainage District is as follows:

Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries and Apportionments

Drain ID#	Drain Name	Municipalities	Portions of Sections Added/Removed
C65-00	CORCORAN INTERCOUNTY DRAIN	Meridian Charter Township Williamstown Township	1 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10

The Drain Commissioner, engineers, and/or other staff members will be available to assist individuals throughout the day and make revisions where necessary. There is no need to schedule an appointment for a specific time on the Day of Review. Written statements may be mailed or emailed to the Drain Commissioner at the postal or email address listed above. Comments submitted in advance must be received by the Drain Commissioner before the date of the meeting to ensure consideration.

The computation of costs for the Drains and the tentative apportionments against the parcels and municipalities within the Drainage Districts will be available at the Day of Review. Drain assessments are collected in the same manner as property taxes and will appear on your winter tax bill. If drain assessments are being collected for more than one (1) year, you may pay the assessment in full with any interest to date at any time and avoid further interest charges. Comments on the apportionment of benefits may be submitted in writing before the date of the meeting to review the apportionment or may be submitted in writing or orally at the review.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the Day of Review should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s Office at the phone number listed above (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the Day of Review to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

You may appeal the decision to revise the Drainage District boundaries to the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days after the decision is entered, and you may appeal the determination of apportionments to the Ingham County Probate Court within ten (10) days after the Day of Review.

July 8, 2026

Patrick Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

Haley Stevens gets nod from retiring Sen. Gary Peters

By BEN SOLIS/MichiganAdvance.com

Soon-to-be retiring U.S. Sen. Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township) is all in on U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Birmingham) as she seeks the Democratic nomination in a bid to take his vacant Senate seat.

Peters on Monday announced his endorsement of Stevens.

“Over the last eighteen years, while serving the people of Michigan, I have been surrounded by many extremely talented and dedicated partners who work tirelessly for our state. Haley Stevens has been that partner in Congress,” Peters said. “Haley began her service to Michigan as a critical part of our team as President Obama and I fought to save 200,000 jobs – rescuing and helping the auto industry come roaring back. I’m proud that Haley was recognized as the most effective Michigan Democrat in Congress, just like I’ve been named the most effective member of the Senate year after year.”

Stevens called Peters “a mentor, a friend, and a role model” throughout her career.

“Senator Peters knows what it takes to win in Michigan, and he knows what Michigan needs from our next U.S. Senator: grit, effectiveness, hard work, and Michigan common sense,” Stevens said in a statement. “I am honored to have his support in this campaign.”

The endorsement comes at a key moment for Stevens as her campaign works to hold off Abdul El-Sayed, her lone rival for the Democratic nomination in the Aug. 4 primary after state Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak) dropped out of the race July 5. Polling averages compiled by FiftyPlusOne show El-Sayed with a two percentage point lead over Stevens.

The winner of the primary will take on the lone Republican candidate, former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers (R-White Lake), in the November general election.

Stevens was previously endorsed by Peters’ wife, Oakland University Trustee Colleen Ochoa Peters, in May.



Abdul El-Sayed



U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens



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Read a book that matches the prompts. Get one BINGO to earn a prize; complete the whole board to be entered into a grand prize drawing!

Events

Nature Book Club - Beaver Land

Thursday, July 16, 6-7pm: Look at how "one weird rodent" has shaped America.

How Michigan Election Processes Protect Democracy

Wednesday, July 22, 7-8pm: Learn about elections and democracy with the League of Women Voters and the East Lansing City Clerk!

All events free of cost and open to the public!



More info at elpl.org/America-250



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msufcu.org/moneylab



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CP#26-256

SELF STORAGE LIEN AUCTION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH MI Chapter 570 Lien Act 148): The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Legacy Airport & Grand River Self Storage located at 4495 West Grand River Ave., and 4400 Millwood Rd, Lansing, MI 48906 to satisfy a lien on July 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM at storagetreasures.com: 134 Suzanne Billington.

CP#26-255



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOGIC AND
ACCURACY TEST OF VOTING EQUIPMENT
DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

**Meridian Charter Township
Notice of Public Logic and Accuracy Test of Voting Equipment
Friday, July 17, 2026**

To the qualified electors of Meridian Township, Ingham County, State of Michigan; Notice is hereby given that a Public Logic and Accuracy Test for the electronic equipment that will be used for the August 4, 2026. Primary Election for registered voters in the Charter Township of Meridian, has been scheduled for **Friday, July 17, 2026 at 3:00 pm, in the Municipal Building Town Hall Room, at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864**. The Public Logic and Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer programming used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of Michigan election law.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk
CP#26-275

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SANCTUARY #2 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING
IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 430
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN - LEGAL NOTICE
SANCTUARY #2 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING IMPROVEMENT
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 430
NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, THE FOLLOWING
PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:
Lots 1 through 7 (inclusive), Sanctuary #2.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, acting on a request from property owners of Sanctuary #2 and on its own initiative, pursuant to Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, has determined to make the following described public streetlighting improvement: **Operate, and maintain four (4) 46-watt LED streetlights with Traditional fixtures with cut-off, and standard fiberglass poles along Crane Circle**; and to defray the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties specially benefitted thereby. Plans and estimates have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet **Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, for the for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing objections thereto.

An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter with the Township Clerk before the close of this hearing, and his or her personal appearance is not required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.

"FOR PURPOSES OF THIS HEARING, THE AMOUNT TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY IS ESTIMATED TO BE:

First Year Cost:	\$ 208.25/Lot
Annually Thereafter:	\$ 104.13/Lot

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Angela Demas, Township Clerk

CP#26-269

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SIERRA RIDGE #4 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING
IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 431
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN - LEGAL NOTICE
SIERRA RIDGE #4 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING IMPROVEMENT
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 431
NOTICE OF HEARING**

**TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, THE FOLLOWING
PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:
Lots 70 through 83 (inclusive), Sierra Ridge #4.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, acting on a request from property owners of Sierra Ridge #4 and on its own initiative, pursuant to Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, has determined to make the following described public streetlighting improvement: **Operate, and maintain four (4) 47-watt LED streetlights with Traditional fixtures with cut-off, and standard fiberglass poles along Fresno Lane;** and to defray the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties specially benefitted thereby. Plans and estimates have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet **Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, for the for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing objections thereto.

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"FOR PURPOSES OF THIS HEARING, THE AMOUNT TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY IS ESTIMATED TO BE:

First Year Cost:	\$ 104.13/Lot
Annually Thereafter:	\$ 52.06/Lot

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Angela Demas, Township Clerk

CP#26-270

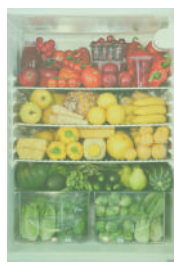
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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Ingham County is reporting 220 cases of cyclosporiasis, according to figures released by Anna Barna, deputy Ingham County Health Officer. Figures reported Tuesday from

the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, show 3,309 cases statewide, most concentrated in the southeast part of the state. Barna said Ingham County's figures appear to be connected to its population, and recent cases are far higher than typical numbers for an entire year. State officials reported Monday that "while the investigation is ongoing, current results point to lettuce or salad greens as a potential source for this outbreak, although other food items cannot be completely ruled out. No specific type of produce, grower or supplier has been identified as the source."

Some Lansing-area restaurants — including PetalPop Cafe and One North Lansing — have announced menu changes and other ways to help curb potential spread. National chains, including Taco Bell, are part of the investigation, and some locations have made menu changes, according to the Washington Post. Officials continue to caution customers and restaurants, encouraging more thorough cleaning of fruits and vegetables along with cooking as an alternative to raw produce.



Lansing and East Lansing are publicizing the availability of their cooling centers as a heat wave is expected to bring some of the year's hottest weather this week, with temperatures in the mid-90s and heat indices in dangerous territory for many people. The heat wave is expected to last through Thursday with temperatures that could approach 100 degrees before the heat index. City halls, community centers and libraries will be open during regular daytime hours, along with buses, malls, community pools and other options. There are few late-night cooling center

options, but several emergency homeless shelters are available. For specific locations and hours, visit LansingCityPulse.com or check with the respective city, county and township offices and websites.



Lansing City Council members have approved a six-month/182-day moratorium on new data centers in the city. The vote was 7-1 with Council Member Jeremy Garza dissenting. Garza is a union official and electrician; local unions have been among the few public advocates for data centers. Garza cited other developments like golf courses and marijuana grow operations, which also require resources like water or electricity. The city is defining data centers as "a facility, or group of facilities, dedicated primarily for storing, managing, and processing digital data through computer systems such as servers, networks, and other information technology structures." The measure was introduced after the Deep Green data center proposal was withdrawn just before a major city council vote in April.



An employee was stabbed or cut with a sharp plastic object at a mental health facility in Lansing on Thursday, according to a statement from the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. The incident happened at the Jolly Road Facility, 812 E. Jolly Road, around 2:30 p.m., and there was a brief lockdown. Lansing Police Department officers have a 28-year-old in custody, according to CMHA-ERI. If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis, please call Adult Crisis Services at 517-346-8460 or Youth Crisis Services at 517-346-8008 for immediate support.

The federal Department of Justice has sent letters saying federal election monitors will be used for pri-

mary elections in Lansing, East Lansing and Detroit. The move has been widely condemned by Michigan Democratic officials, including Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, who described the federal move as

"sowing seed of doubt" with no basis and by Lansing leaders. In a joint statement, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor and Lansing Clerk Chris Swope said: "Lansing, like every municipality in Michigan, holds open, free and fair elections and there is an established legal process to monitor elections here. If the federal government wants to send staff to watch how we do it, we are happy to have them view the process like anyone else. The City will gladly provide documents and information in response to all lawful requests. However, as Lansing voters and the observers of Lansing elections know, claims in the letter to Lansing about difficult or abnormal voting practices are simply false. There were no delays at polling locations, the qualified voter file is the list we use for all elections, and provisional ballots are always available as provided by law. Voting in Lansing is safe and secure, and there has never been a history or any indication of issues in our election process. But let's be clear, Lansing voters will not be harassed or intimidated by election monitors from either the federal government or any other group."



Jon Palumbo was picked last week by MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz as interim athletic director, replacing the departing J Batt until the univer-



sity can hire a permanent AD. Palumbo has been serving as executive deputy athletic director/chief operating officer since he was hired from Georgia Tech last year by Batt, whom he had worked for there for three years. He is also now CEO for the fundraising side of the new Spartan Ventures. Palumbo said in a statement, "I'm honored to serve the university in this interim role, and I am grateful to President Guskiewicz for placing his trust and belief in me." Batt starts in his new role at Kentucky on July 28.



Thanks to the efforts of an Old Town postal worker and an Eaton County commissioner, Vietnam War veteran Robert Haywood of Lansing has a new Purple Heart, stripes and bars to replace the ones that were recently stolen from him. Haywood was presented with the honors in a ceremony at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids Thursday by U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins and U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Charlotte. After the items were stolen in March, Haywood happened to mention the incident to his mail carrier, Adrienne Burns. She, in turn, posted her sentiments about it on social media and her friend, Eaton County Commissioner Nicole Christensen, took steps to figure out how the Purple Heart could be replaced.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham died suddenly over the weekend, according to his office. The South Carolina senator



was one of the most influential of his generation, having sway over global issues and hitching his star to President Donald Trump. His office said in a news release posted around 2 a.m. Sunday that Graham had "passed away from a brief and sudden illness." In a post to his Truth Social platform, Trump called Graham "one of the greatest Senators and people I've ever known." Graham lived in Seneca, South Carolina, near where he spent much of his youth in his family's Central pool hall that also doubled as a bar and liquor store. He spoke often of his rural upbringing in local stops prior to becoming close to Trump. Graham was often criticized in his home district in the rural Upstate, the most consistently conservative area of South Carolina, from both right and left sides, but he easily won his re-election campaigns. Graham was first elected to the Senate in 2002, when the military veteran and lawyer became known as a military supporter. Since clashing with Trump in 2016, Graham had become one of the president's most reliable allies. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster announced that Graham's sister, Darline Graham Nordone, will be appointed to fill the rest of his term, which expires in January.

Clearly the governor never wanted the 9 bills to begin with

By **KYLE MELINN**

Organized labor was outraged on Friday when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer killed nine bills that had been stuck in legal limbo for more than a year and a half.

A couple hours after the Michigan Supreme Court OK'd a lower court ruling that House Speaker Matt Hall must cough up this legislation he's been sitting on since Jan. 8, 2025, Whitmer sent her veto letter.

Her point: It's been too long since they've passed. The state doesn't need more years of legal wrangling to work all of this out.

Among other things, the bills would have given teacher unions more flexibility to collectively bargain their members' health insurance and allowed corrections officers (among others) to join the State Police's pension system.

A Michigan Education Association official expressed "shock and betrayal" in an email Friday night to members given the governor's "longstanding relationship between her administration and organized labor."

Likewise, Democratic lawmakers were ticked off. They felt the Whitmer's reasoning was an excuse.

"Congrats to the Governor and Speaker Hall," said Rep. Kelly Breen (D-Livonia). "Together, they've accomplished a rarely achieved feat: Uniting all legislative democrats."

The rub stems from the lame duck session in 2024 when legislative Democrats — knowing that Republicans and Matt Hall would take charge on Jan. 8, 2025 — hurriedly passed 118 bills, right up until Dec. 19.

At this point, the story becomes strange.

The Secretary of the Senate and House Clerk must run the final edits and checks on every passed bill. Then they're sent to the governor's office.

Historically, this isn't a problem. In 2018, for example, the legislative staff churned through nearly 300 bills through the Christmas holiday so Gov. Rick Snyder could address them before he left office Jan. 1, 2019.

For reasons never properly explained, then-House Clerk Rich Brown said his staff couldn't properly prepare all the bills by the time Hall was to be elected speaker on Jan. 8, 2025.

At 11 a.m. Jan. 8, an hour before Hall was to be elected speaker, Brown sent all but the nine bills in question to the

governor. He told me at the time that it was the best his staff could do given the tight time frame.

When Hall took office later that day, his new clerk, Scott Starr, told him about these nine bills. Hall told Starr to hold them until he could run the legal review.

How is it that (with one exception) since the 1963 constitution, the Clerk's office couldn't churn through all of the bills passed by one Legislature before the next one took over?

And why was it that THESE nine bills didn't make it?

The bill numbers — 4665, 4901, 6055, 4117, etc. — don't fall in any numerical order. They weren't the final bills passed by the House or Senate back in December 2025. There's no chronological reason for them, in particular, to be the ones left behind.

It's one of the greater Capitol mysteries that may only be answered in someone's memoir at some point.

The only breadcrumbs we have at this point are the fact Whitmer never publicly advocated for any of them. They were all driven by labor or other influences.

Whitmer never criticized Hall for sitting on the bills for the last 18 months. She never intervened in the lawsuit. The Democratic Senate sued the House. Whitmer never got involved.

The public policy behind the bills could be viewed as problematic.

Opening up teacher employee health care to collective bargaining likely would strain school district budgets. Expanding a pension system arguably creates long-term costs. Other bills would have forced a vote on a property tax increase benefit a pair of local museums. Is that something state government should order?

Two final nuggets. After the House adjourned sine die on Dec. 31, 2024, Democratic House Speaker Joe Tate, under law, was no longer the speaker. House Clerk Rich Brown was without a boss for eight days until Hall took over on Jan. 8.

Who is one of Brown's best friends when they served in the House together? Who presided over Brown's 2023 wedding?

Yup. The person who never said she wanted the bills to begin with.

The current resident of the Governor's Residence.

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



POLITICS

Barrett and Trump's energy crisis is devastating Michigan farmers

By **State Rep. EMILY DIEVENDORF, 77th MI House District**

Michigan farmers are hurting. The costs of diesel and fertilizer are skyrocketing thanks to Trump's war in Iran—and that's after steep tariff hikes and the cancellation of tax credits that funded rural energy projects. Republicans like Rep. Tom Barrett should have to answer for their support of policies that have made it harder for our farmers to make a living.

At an event in East Lansing, mid-Michigan farmer Mark Zacharda put it this way, "Since this war of choice in Iran was started, nitrogen fertilizer costs are up 40 percent. 40 percent. So when we were already looking at a situation where we were just hoping to scrape by, it's looking like another year to be in the red."

I've seen it myself in talking to farmers and families that live in my state house district. That's why I've sponsored and passed legislation into law like the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, to ensure small family farms can be handed down to the next generation. If Michigan is to be known as the state that "makes things and grows things" we must support large and small farmers, and urban and rural farmers, in their efforts to enter the agricultural field and we must give farmers the tools to succeed in putting food on our tables and growing our economy.

We can do all of this with the future in mind. Michigan farmers, as primary stewards of our land and our health, want to protect our state's natural resources and are doing their best. However, state and federal legislators could make this easier.

Recently, the Michigan State Senate Energy Committee convened to hear directly from farmers and businesses impacted by the cancellation of clean energy resources for rural communities. Kyle de Beauss-et, manager of Westcroft Gardens and Farm — the oldest family owned and operated farm in the state of Michigan established on July 6, 1776 — explained why this reversal was so painful to them, "We liked it because it would reduce our operating costs and improve the long-term sustainability of the property and help ensure that a farm that survived for almost 250 years could continue to be viable."

That's what's at stake here. Mich-

igan farms employ 98,000 workers and contribute more than \$74 billion annually to the state's economy. This is a huge segment of our economy that is at risk because Republicans are putting allegiance to Trump and partisan talking points ahead of what's best for his constituents.

Rep. Tom Barrett voted to further restrict domestic energy options by gutting clean energy production through the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" last summer, taking energy off the grid at a time when demand is soaring thanks to extreme heat and data centers. Despite Barrett's claims, clean energy produced right here in Michigan is actually more affordable for everyone, including farmers.

And farmers can't afford to wait until Election Day for prices to drop. The average price of fertilizer nationally has increased by up to 45%. Experts warn that prices could remain higher than their pre-war price into 2028, even if the Strait of Hormuz opens soon and remains open. For farmers operating on tight margins, these spikes aren't just inconvenient; they are make-or-break moments.

The average farmer could pay \$22,000 more this season due to skyrocketing costs. A recent survey found that 48% of Midwest farmers can't afford all the fertilizer they need, while 6 in 10 farmers said their farm's financial outlook was getting worse.

When asked whether Americans' economic pain factors into his decisions about his war in Iran, Trump said, "not even a little bit." But maybe it should: 63% of Michigan voters believe Trump is to blame for higher energy prices and only 37% of American adults approve of Trump's job performance.

These rising costs don't stop at the farm gate. Rep. Barrett was recently in Lansing with Trump officials announcing more loans for DTE, a utility company that has relentlessly raised rates, paid no federal income taxes in 12 years, and donated thousands to Barrett's reelection campaigns. That's not the kind of representation farmers or any of us deserve. We need a champion in Congress who will tell the truth about energy affordability and stand up to the corporations and the Trump administration that are holding farmers back.

Opinion

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Perched on a bluff at Adado Riverfront Park, the “Windlord” sculpture is a deft fusion of realistic and abstract forms.

Lansing’s ‘Windlord’ sculpture waits for its new nest

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Perched on a bluff overlooking the Grand River at Adado Riverfront Park near downtown Lansing is a wine-dark eagle with a rumpled, wise face and feathers that surge into the sky.

Conceived and cast to celebrate the 1976 United States Bicentennial, “Windlord” is a deft fusion of realistic and abstract forms, fabricated over a grueling nine months using labor-intensive methods that go back millennia.

The sculptor, Martin Eichinger, has gone on to have a long and successful career, but “Windlord” was his first major work — a piece of Lansing history cast in near-indestructible bronze that may outlast the city itself.

As its 50th birthday nears, “Windlord” has reason to flex its wings with more urgency than usual. The sculpture is owned by the city and managed by the Parks Department.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann is planning to move the eagle to a new perch in a more visible location as part of the Montgomery Drain storm-water management project on the city’s far east side. An empty pedestal is ready, complete with a fountain, in the

busy Michigan Avenue meridian, where thousands of motorists, bikers, shoppers and nearby residents would see it every day.

Eichinger, now based in Portland, Oregon, endorses the change of location, and so does former Lansing City Councilman Richard Baker, who set the project going in 1976.

But there is uncertainty about the cost of moving the sculpture and fixing its lower section, a 6.5-ton raft of undulating concrete that has begun to crack and crumble.

Eichinger and Baker want the sculpture to be restored with long-term fixes that range in cost from \$168,000 to \$258,000, according to a 2021 engineering study.

Lindemann says he can do the job for \$40,000 and that he’s only \$10,000 shy of that goal, using private donations.

Half a century on, Eichinger called himself a “bystander, but a passionately interested bystander” in the sculpture’s ongoing saga.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Engineers estimate that the bronze eagle will last at least another 150 years, but “Windlord’s” 6.5-ton concrete base is starting to crumble after 50 years of Michigan weather. The signature of sculptor Martin Eichinger can be seen at upper left.

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'Maybe I'll be the artist'

In 1976, Eichinger didn't consider himself a sculptor. When the city was planning its Bicentennial celebrations, he was an exhibit maker and graphic designer working for the city's Parks Department.

One of Eichinger's most durable and well-loved creations is the giant ceramic mouth full of teeth at Lansing's Impression 5 Science Center, built in the early 1970s and still scrubbed daily by hygiene-conscious kids with baseball-bat-sized toothbrushes.

"Impression 5 has done a wonderful job of keeping it maintained with fresh paint every decade or so," Eichinger said. "It's amazing, considering how many kids clamor all over it every day."

Eichinger married the founder and first director of Impression 5, Marilynne Katzen. (He jokingly called it his "last project" at the museum.) They moved to Portland in 1985 when Katzen became president of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Monumental bronze work was an unexpected career choice for Eichinger, but "Windlord" was a classic case study in the adage, "If you want something done, do it yourself."

"I was interested in civics, what Lansing was all about, and I knew that it needed more art," Eichinger said. He proposed that the city put together a selection committee to find an artist.

"I couldn't get any headway with that," he recalled. "So, I started making drawings, and all of a sudden, it was like, 'Maybe I'll be the artist.' It ended up being my career for the rest of my life."

Eichinger retired from heavy-duty bronze work a few years ago, but he's made a big mark in that strenuous medium over the past 50 years, fulfilling commissions around the world. He recently contributed to a monumental 90-sculpture extravaganza depicting the Passion of Christ at a religious retreat in Omaha, Nebraska.

His work is mostly figurative, inspired by mythological stories or stages in the human life cycle. About 1,000 Eichinger bronzes are either housed in corporate and private collections across the country or displayed in public places, like his bust of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

His website features conservative, corporate-friendly bronzes — ballerinas, circus performers and such — but he's also done some wild things, such as a 3,500-square-foot installation at Neva-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A new pedestal for "Windlord" in the median of Michigan Avenue between the Frandor Shopping Center and the Red Cedar development awaits the sculpture's arrival once enough money is raised to move it and restore its crumbling base.

da's Burning Man festival that included a bar, a dance floor, a chandelier that misted the crowd and a representation of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, complete with a talking snake that flirted lasciviously with viewers.

Lansing was lucky to get Eichinger at a youthful peak of brashness, boldness and ambition.

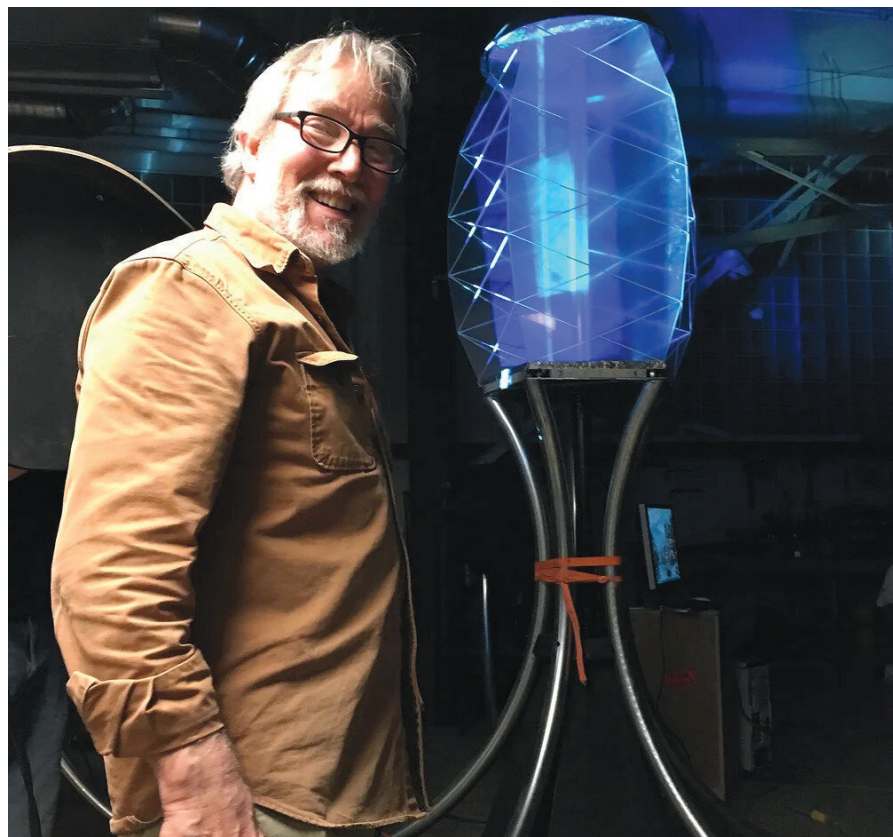
"I was doing things for fun, and fre-

quently it was very abstract," he said.

When it came to the Bicentennial, the choice of subject was obvious.

"Our country's symbol is the eagle," he said. "But I wanted the eagle to be something different than you find on the back of a half dollar. I wanted it to be something a bit more fanciful, so I combined abstract elements and literal elements."

As a "kind of last-moment thing," he



Courtesy photo

Eichinger recently retired from heavy bronze casting but still creates art from epoxy resin, inspired by scientific themes and images from the James Webb Space Telescope.

thought of identifying the eagle with Gwaihir the Windlord, the swiftest of a race of mighty eagles featured in J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" series.

It was 1976, after all, and Tolkien's epic saga was tucked into every student's backpack, dog-eared and loved to death.

"He kind of saved the day, the hero that swooped in and saved everybody," Eichinger said.

In nature, bald eagles are opportunistic, scrappy scavengers, but the benevolent Windlord gave Eichinger the opportunity to endow the bird with an uncanny human expression that still penetrates the soul.

"Now that I'm 70-something rather than 20-something, I see that a lot of more serious, art-focused people might consider that frivolous," he said. "But I don't apologize. It was what I made at the time, and I stand by it."

In early 1976, Eichinger drew up some "admittedly terribly sketched" ideas and sent them to newly elected City Councilman Richard Baker.

Baker was sympathetic. He didn't like "the hokey stuff the city was doing" to mark the Bicentennial.

"They were painting fire hydrants, and they really didn't have anything other than that," Baker said. "I just thought this was a great idea."

Eichinger described Baker as "a bit of a long-haired rabble rouser," on the opposite end of the spectrum from conservative Mayor Jerry Graves.

"Figure out how to do it and give us a real proposal," Baker told Eichinger.

Now Eichinger was really on the spot. To learn the arcane art of bronze casting, he enrolled in the master's degree program at Michigan State University.

"It took me a whole year to get my gumption, I guess, and skill set to the point where I could actually accomplish the thing," Eichinger said.

He refined "Windlord" through a series of small-scale models, or maquettes. (One of them still sits on Baker's desk.) It started out as a realistic bird on a gnarled tree stump, but it evolved into a long-necked idealization everyone dubbed the "ptero-dactyl." In the sleek and graceful final form, the tree stump was gone, and the eagle curled into the air on its own twisting column of energy.

Eichinger said he was inspired chiefly by his two favorite artists. The realistic head and beak evoke the closely observed linework of Leonardo da Vinci, while the body and wings embody the abstracted, rounded forms of monumental British sculptor Henry Moore.

"I was trapped between those two worlds and liked them both," he said. "So,



Photo by Joan Staiber

Eichinger’s assistant, sculptor Jack Bergeron, coats the plaster “Windlord” model with rubber resin to create a detailed mold that will later be filled with wax.



Photo by Joan Staiber

Eichinger (left) and Bergeron give the bird a bath in their rented studio, now part of Impression 5 Science Center.

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the sculpture became a little bit of both.”

At the same time, with the energy of youth, Eichinger intrepidly plunged into another arcane art: advocating for a public art project.

“It was very fun, understanding how politics works and how cities get things done,” Eichinger said. “I was in the Parks Department, with a group of people supervising me who knew nothing about sculpture. It became my job to kind of inform the department what it takes to actually make sculpture.”

He pitched the project to Gregory Deliyanne, publisher of the Lansing State Journal. Deliyanne loved the idea and got a \$3,500 grant from the Gannett Foundation.

Now Eichinger could approach the City Council with a strong hand. With the support of Baker and another sympathetic young councilmember, Bob Hall, he figured the city would be reluctant to say, “No thanks, we don’t want your money.”

The council approved \$16,500 for the project. George Lokken, Lansing’s federal fund coordinator, agreed that the city needed public art. Lokken helped secure another \$15,000 from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, a federal program signed into law in 1973 by President Richard Nixon to offer job training and employment to disadvantaged and long-term unemployed people.

“When I made it, I was working for a

CETA position that paid me \$7.50 an hour for 40 hours a week,” Eichinger said. “I was actually working 80 hours a week.”

Tales from the bronze age

From the days pharaohs cast bronze idols in ancient Egypt until Eichinger and his assistant, Jack Bergeron, set up shop in their rented warehouse along the Grand River (now part of Impression 5 Science Center), the “lost wax” method of casting bronze sculptures has remained much the same — a long grind of inspiration and tedium, brute strength and painstaking detail work.

To get to the final, enduring monument, artisans have to work their way up the temperature gradient, all the way to molten bronze, by creating a series of “positive” sculptures (the bird itself) and “negative” molds (a shell hugging the bird).

It was clear from the outset that Eichinger couldn’t get the massive job done by himself, so he on called Bergeron, an experienced sculptor and art instructor at Lansing Community College. The two had known each other for many years and even went to Boy Scout camp together.

For the first few months, Eichinger and Bergeron clambered and crawled around a full-sized, Tinkertoy-like array of steel rods and wood spacers, making sure everything was positioned to match the small model.

“Marty built the steel framework,” Bergeron recalled. “Then we put plaster

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Photo by Joan Staiber

Working from a small-scale model (lower right), Bergeron (pictured) and Eichinger built a framework for a full-size metal and plaster sculpture.

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and plasticine on top.” Plasticine is a synthetic, oil-based modeling clay. Bergeron and Eichinger made their own custom blend.

To create the first negative mold, the artists painted the plasticine bird with a black, spongy rubber compound.

The rubber mold is workable and captures a lot of detail, but it can’t handle molten bronze, which is heated to over 2,200 degrees.

However, it can hold liquid wax, which is only about 200 degrees.

That’s where the centuries-old “lost wax” process gets its name. Wax was brushed into the rubber molds, layer by layer, to slowly form another positive sculpture. The two-piece molds were joined together to make a detailed wax duplicate of the bird.

The bird was sleek and smooth — too smooth for Eichinger, who wanted more texture on the surface to hold the viewer’s eye.

Bergeron came up with an ultra-low-tech solution.

“I took a pebble and rolled it around the whole thing,” he said. The pebble channels are clearly visible in the finished bronze sculpture.

Next, the sculptors created a second negative mold, one that could withstand tremendous heat. They slathered the wax bird with a heavy-duty coating of plaster and fire-resistant bricks.

The molds, cut into pieces, were loaded onto a flatbed truck and moved to the Ypsilanti foundry of sculptor John Pappas, an art professor at Eastern Michigan University.

A documentary film on the making of “Windlord” shows all three sculptors hefting the molds into place with the aid of heavy block and tackle and an industrial hoist.

“Windlord” was much too big to cast in one piece, so Eichinger and Bergeron determined where the most logical seams should be. They created 29 separate molds — 12 around the bottom ring and 17 for the bird.

Finally, molten bronze was poured into the molds, letting air and wax escape through “sprues,” straw-like channels that fed the molten metal into different parts of the sculpture.

“It feeds from the bottom up, so as the metal comes in, the air goes out,” Bergeron said. “You keep pouring until bronze comes out the top.”

Once the bronze hardened, it took weeks for Bergeron to cut and grind off dozens of protruding spines of metal, the reverse image of the sprues, where the

bronze replaced the escaping wax.

That number of molds rose from 29 to 30 when the most critical piece of the sculpture ran into trouble.

“The inner core shifted on the most critical piece, the one that holds up the rest of the bird,” Bergeron said. “It was too thick on one spot and too thin on the other.”

Unflappable structural engineer Don Emery, assigned to the project by the city, came up with a solution. An extra piece was cast in bronze and set within the outer shell, balancing and stabilizing the bird for all time.

Despite the elaborate sculpture’s potential to fracture, tip over or otherwise fail unexpectedly, Emery wore his responsibility lightly.

“If it takes off and starts flying, we’re in trouble,” he quips in the film.

The separate pieces required 400 hot and sweaty inches of welding to fit together.

It fell to long-suffering Bergeron to make the weld marks disappear and blend into the overall skin of the sculpture. It took him another grueling month, wrangling a grinder amid showers of sparks, duplicating the texture that was there before the welds.

When work was done, the team discovered that the diameter of the sculpture exceeded that of the warehouse door by 5 inches.

Eichinger chalked it up to “the old build a boat in the basement syndrome.”

They tilted the massive bird, taking care to give it extra support, and it squeaked through the door on the diagonal.

‘It stirs you a little’

On one day each year, the Fourth of July, “Windlord” gets a bit of attention as people gather in Adado Riverfront Park to watch the downtown fireworks. Agile kids clamber up the central pillar and perch on the sculpture’s stylized wing feathers for a better view.

Otherwise, the bird has led a “sleepy life,” in Eichinger’s words.

A close look at the undulating concrete base reveals four artfully inscribed directional markers. The letters “N,” “W,” “E” and “S” were keyed to the original location planned for the sculpture, a highly visible traffic circle one block east of the state Capitol.

Eichinger envisioned the sculpture poised not only at a literal intersection, but a figurative one between state and city government.

But when the sculpture was ready, work on the traffic circle hadn’t even started, and the lease on the warehouse was running out, according to Eichinger.

The sculpture ended up in Adado Park,

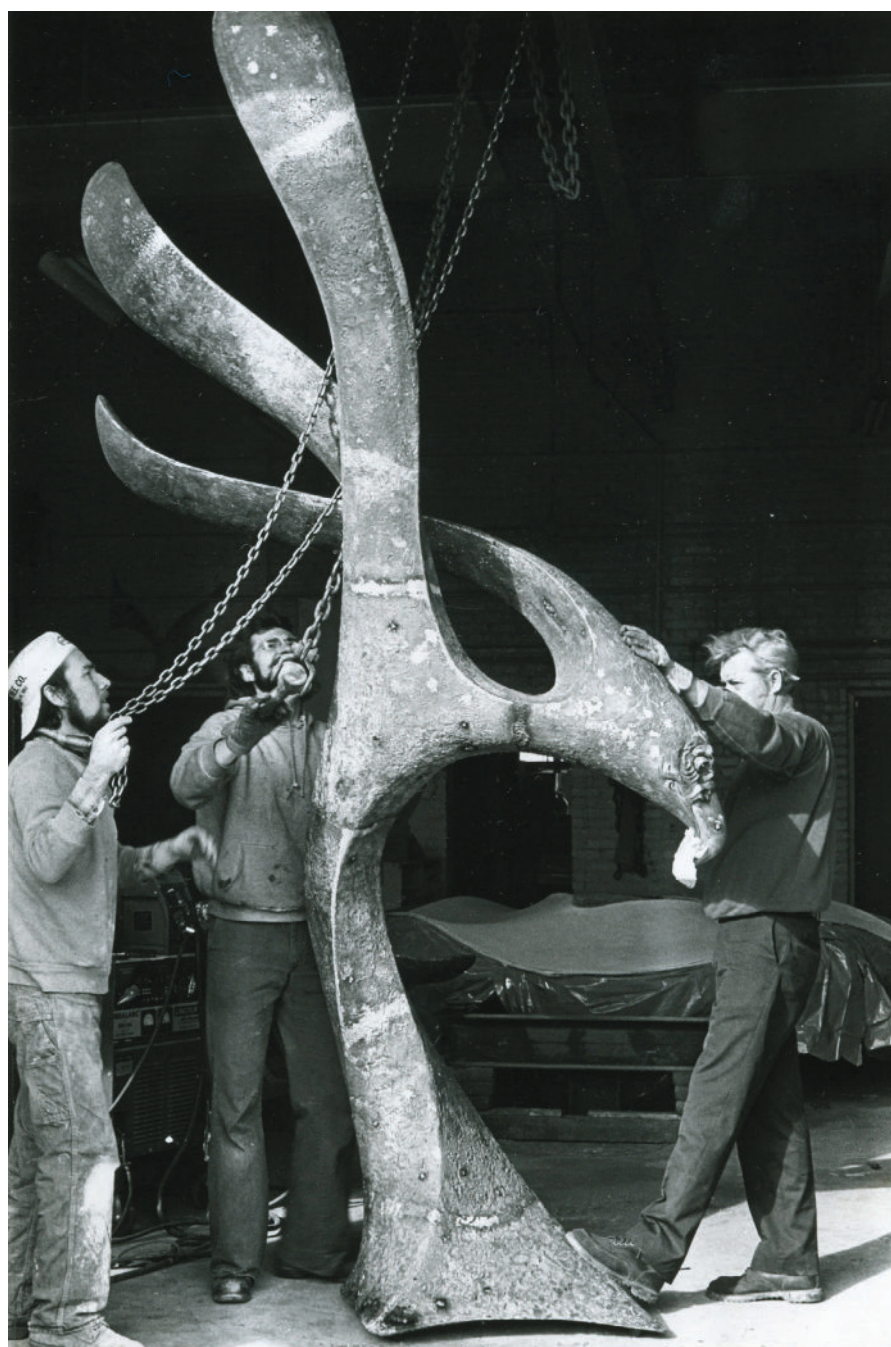


Photo by Joan Steiber

Eichinger (left), Bergeron (center) and a helper look for the right balance point before hoisting the bird onto the concrete base.

in a secluded spot suitable for a real eagle’s nest, but not for a grand public statement. It can hardly be seen from the nearest street (Grand Avenue), and few park visitors even notice it.

“I was never comfortable with where it was placed, on the front edge of the river in Adado Park,” Eichinger said. “I thought it disappeared there.”

“It’s kind of obscure,” Baker said. “It’s difficult to see it unless you’re looking for it.”

Eichinger likes the idea of moving the bronze bird to a high-traffic spot where Lansing, East Lansing and MSU converge. He also agrees with County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann that placing the sculpture in the middle of a state-of-the-art stormwater management project, amid oxygenating cascades, fountains

and natural filters, will make a dramatic public statement on the link between clean water and a healthy environment for living things. Eagles are rarely seen far from water.

“I’m glad to still be around to see its new resting place,” Eichinger said. “Rather than representing the intersection between city and state governments, it will represent the intersection between humans and nature.”

Baker and Eichinger hoped the sculpture would settle in its new perch by July 4 of this year, in keeping with its Bicentennial origins.

The bird itself is good to go, having shrugged off nearly 50 Michigan winters and summers. Bronze, an alloy of copper

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Sculpture

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and tin, doesn't rust. On the contrary, instead of corroding, it has formed its own protective layer, or patina, over time. With a good cleaning and a fresh coat of protective wax, it will be ready to roost for another 150 years, at least.

But the decaying concrete base of the sculpture shows clear signs of wear, having endured half a century of northern freeze-and-thaw cycles. The wavy, artfully textured, 6.5-ton "potato chip," as Bergeron lovingly called it, needs some love, and the money for the job isn't there yet.

In August 2021, the city of Lansing hired the C2AE engineering firm to assess the state of the sculpture and suggest a plan for stabilizing and moving it to the new Michigan Avenue perch.

The engineer came up with two options. The cheaper option, pegged at \$168,000, involved chipping off the compromised concrete in the base, applying a new epoxy-filled concrete surface coating and resurfacing the sculpture with a

bronze-filled epoxy surface.

The more expensive option, pegged at \$258,000, was to remove the bad concrete at the base and replace it with a cast bronze coating, bringing the work full circle to the sculptor's first vision.

"That was the original plan, but the city didn't have the money for it 50 years ago," Eichinger said. "That got replaced with concrete instead."

Doing it the expensive way would be cost effective over the life of the sculpture, according to civil engineer Bill Kimble, government market leader at C2AE, because a concrete base will need repair every 50 years, but a bronze base will last 200 years.

Good luck finding a municipality or county willing to budget on a 200-year timescale.

Lindemann said he has contractors lined up who will move and fix the sculpture for far less than the 2021 estimates, using cold-applied coatings of liquid bronze instead of expensive cast bronze.

"It's about \$45,000 to \$50,000 to have the artist work on the base, and the city of Lansing is offering \$25,000

of that," Lindemann said. "We're going to put liquid bronze on it. It's going to be thick enough, and it should hold it for another 50 to 100 years, at least." Eichinger said he would be satisfied with either of the two methods proposed in the 2021 study, but he called Lindemann's \$40,000 an "impossible number."

"My concern is that this sculpture that's lasted miraculously for 50 years is going to be patched in a way that's not sustainable, that in another 10 years it's going to have more cracks and get ugly again," Eichinger said.

With the city of Lansing only willing to contribute \$25,000 to the project, Baker would like to see Ingham County take it on.

"The idea of the county Parks Department running it is not far-fetched," Baker said. "It sits right on the Lansing-East Lansing line."

It so happens that last week, Ingham County Commissioner Robert Peña was in the midst of the Fourth of July river-front crowd, admiring "Windlord" along with the fireworks.

"It stirs you a little," he said. "The spirit soars. Art like this is appreciated by people beyond the life of the artist."

But a soaring spirit is about all he could promise.

"These are truly trying times," Peña said, citing recent cuts in a range of federal programs. "I can't commit to the responsibility of stewardship of the sculpture in perpetuity. We just don't have the money."

Undaunted, Baker said he's ready "to go into fundraising mode." Now in his 70s, he considers "Windlord" to be a crucial part of his legacy as a councilmember. He thinks potential donors are out there to raise enough money to restore the sculpture in cast bronze, as was originally intended.

"I'm ready to write letters, talk to people, do fundraisers and things like that," he said.

Lindemann counseled patience.

"I love the sculpture, but he wants to

put a bronze base on there that will last forever, and I can't afford that," Lindemann said. "I have a place to put it. I just need another \$10,000." After that, he said, it would take "three or four months" to complete restoration work and hoist the eagle onto its new perch.

"Windlord" was dedicated on the chilly morning of Jan. 28, 1979. After months of being covered in plaster dust, metal shards and sweat, Eichinger switched to a formal suit and top hat.

"Here you go, it's yours," he said to City Councilman Louis Adado.

"It was Marty's first metal project, and I to this day, I can't believe they pulled it off," Baker mused.

For the second time in 50 years, "Windlord" has become a test of a city's willingness to invest in public art, whether it's done through public, private or mixed means.

"If people like the sculpture, I hope they'll be proud of the fact that it happened here in Lansing, not brought in from Nevada or California," Eichinger said in 1979. "You import artwork and you don't really have culture, but when a city can make a decision or engender an atmosphere where it allows artwork to happen, that's really culture."



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The four points of the compass are inscribed at the base of the sculpture, reflecting the original plan to place it in a traffic circle downtown.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Bergeron came up with an ultra-low-tech solution when Eichinger wanted more texture on the surface of the bird: "I took a pebble and rolled it around the whole thing," he said.



SATURDAY, JULY 25 4:00 PM - 11:00 PM

☀ Live Music ☀ Children's Activities ☀ Beer Garden
 ☀ Nokomis Center ☀ Food Trucks/Vendors ☀ Drone Show
 ☀ Meridian Historical Village & MORE!

Head out to Marketplace on the Green (1995 Central Park Drive) and Central Park (5151 Marsh Road) to celebrate with friends and family at our biggest event of the year!

Live & Local

CityPULSE

All Saints Episcopal Church
800 Abbot Road, East Lansing
The Coffeehouse at All Saints
Fri., July 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Ann Street Plaza
Corner of M.A.C. and Albert avenues,
downtown East Lansing
Starfarm
Fri., July 17, 7:30 p.m.

The Avenue
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Lindsey Taylor, Brooks Strause
Sun., July 19, 7 p.m.

Beal Botanical Garden
330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Music and the Garden: Jazz combo
Sun., July 19, 1 p.m.

Beaumont Tower
375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Summer Carillon Series: John Widmann
Wed., July 15, 6 p.m.
Summer Carillon Series: Ellen Dickinson
Wed., July 22, 6 p.m.

Bengel Wildlife Center
6380 Drumheller Road, Bath
Quality Jerry
Fri., July 17, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Blue Gill Grill
1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
Cal Mouttine
Thurs., July 16, 6-9 p.m.
Darin Larner Sr.
Sun., July 19, 2-5 p.m.

Blue House Concerts
Email bluehouseconcerts@yahoo.com
for address
Anna P.S.
Sat., July 18, 7 p.m.

Brookshire Inn and Golf Club
205 W. Church St., Williamston
Medusa
Fri., July 17, 6-10 p.m.

Chengdu Teahouse
100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
800G, Chris Milbourne, Brandon McCoy, Dave Scenga, AllyCats
Sun., July 19, 1 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill
16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
DJ Atomic Sounds
Fri., July 17, 7-11 p.m.
Sudden Impact
Sat., July 18, 8 p.m.-midnight

Cleats Bar & Grille
5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Atomic Annie duo
Thurs., July 16, 6-9 p.m.

Cook Recital Hall
333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Celebrating the Spectrum Welcome Concert
Mon., July 20, 6 p.m.

Courthouse Square Museum
100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte
Northside Rhythm Kings
Thurs., July 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dimes Brewhouse
145 Bridge St., Dimondale
Open mic night
Thurs., July 16, 7-10 p.m.
Russ Holcomb
Fri., July 17, 7-9 p.m.
Filomena and Roger
Sat., July 18, 7-9 p.m.

Dublin Square
327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Kenny Flowers
Fri., July 17, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Chad and Ed of Flat River Band
Wed., July 15, 7-9 p.m.
The Instigators
Sun., July 19, 6-8 p.m.
Feral at 5
Wed., July 22, 7-9 p.m.

Eastwood Towne Center
3003 Preyde Blvd., Lansing
Don Middlebrook & the Pearl Divers
Tues., July 21, 6-8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
The Shellouts
Fri., July 17, 6-9 p.m.
Russ Holcomb
Sat., July 18, 6-9 p.m.

Fish Ladder Music Park
216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
One Love Reggae Band, Ifficial Reggae Movement, DJ Travis
Thurs., July 16, 7-10:30 p.m.
Dam Jam: Headband Henny, I.Am. James., Brie Stoner, The Villainess
Fri., July 17, 5-10 p.m.
Dam Jam: Lord Kwaj, Shayla Hamady, Wilson Ave, Supo, Bodyguards, School of Rock East Lansing
Sat., July 18, 5-10 p.m.

The Fledge
1300 Eureka St., Lansing
Mex Money album release party
Fri., July 17, 8 p.m.-midnight

Graham Vineyards
8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg
Alexandria McMath
Sat., July 18, 6-9 p.m.

The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., July 15, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Something Missing, Last Place Finish, Netminder, Soccer
Fri., July 17, doors 5 p.m., show 5:30 p.m.
Dead Witxh, Final Confession, Self Absorbed
Fri., July 17, doors 9 p.m.
Reccorruptor, Krocophile, Ichabod Crane, Malition
Sat., July 18, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., July 22, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Holt Farmers Market
2150 N. Cedar St., Holt
Dan Dan Laird, The Collective
Wed., July 15, 4:30-8 p.m.

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge
219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Royce Vaughn
Wed., July 15, 7-9 p.m.
Steven Allen
Wed., July 22, 7-9 p.m.

The Irish Pub
1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., July 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Gimme Five
Sat., July 18, 8-11 p.m.

Jackson Field
505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
JP & the Energy
Sat., July 18, 5:30 p.m.

Jaycee Park
525 E. River St., Grand Ledge
Global Village, wsg 11 Across
Thurs., July 16, 7 p.m.

Joe's on Jolly
2360 Jolly Road, Okemos
We're Mike and Steve
Fri., July 17, 6-9 p.m.

Lake Lansing Park South
1621 Pike St., Haslett
Roadside Attraction, wsg 12-Bar Blues Band
Fri., July 17, 6-9 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Jerry Sprague
Fri., July 17, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Gavin McDonnell
Sat., July 18, 4-7 p.m.
Henry Herig
Sun., July 19, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.
108 W. Main St., Dewitt
Ben Awrey
Fri., July 17, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Avocado Aliens, Sole Vibe, Tad & the Fat Katz
Fri., July 17, 8 p.m.
MC Chris, Swell Rell
Sun., July 19, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., July 20, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., July 16, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., July 21, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green
1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
School of Rock
Wed., July 15, 6:30 p.m.
Slick Jimmy
Wed., July 22, 6:30 p.m.

Mash Bar
212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Mike Root
Thurs., July 16, 8-11 p.m.
Deer & Elk, BrokeDown Truck
Fri., July 17, 5-11:30 p.m.
Jeremy Kratky
Sat., July 19, 5-11:30 p.m.

McClintock Park
208 Irene St., Laingsburg
Sandra Faye Band, wsg Dan Laird
Thurs., July 16, 6-9 p.m.

McCormick Park
300 N. Putnam St., Williamston
Last One Out
Thurs., July 16, 7-9 p.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.
402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Jen Sygit
Fri., July 17, 7-9 p.m.
John Nulf
Sat., July 18, 7-9 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., July 20, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub
802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., July 15, 8-11 p.m.
From Big Sur
Thurs., July 16, 8-11 p.m.
Spoonful
Fri., July 17, 8 p.m.-midnight
Stice
Sat., July 18, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., July 21, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., July 22, 8-11 p.m.

MSUFCU Headquarters
3777 West Road, East Lansing
LSO Outdoor Summer Chamber Series: String Quartet
Tues., July 21, 6:30 p.m.

Nelson Gallery
113 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Full House
Thurs., July 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Nico's Pub and Grill
117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Skory & Frog
Wed., July 15, 6-8 p.m.
Gimme Five
Fri., July 17, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Nuthouse Sports Grill
420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Smokey Bear
Fri., July 17, 8 p.m.-midnight
Starfarm
Sat., July 18, 8 p.m.-midnight

One North East Lansing
1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Don Middlebrook
Wed., July 15, 6-9 p.m.
Greg Smith
Fri., July 17, 8-11 p.m.
El Capitan
Sat., July 18, 7-11 p.m.

One North Lansing
5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Rush Clement
Thurs., July 16, 6-9 p.m.
El Capitan
Fri., July 17, 8-11 p.m.
Steve Shelhart
Sat., July 18, 7-11 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., July 20, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Konstantin
Fri., July 17, 8-10 p.m.
La Media Hora
Tues., July 21, 6-8 p.m.

Pins & Pints
2120 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Rory Nevins
Thurs., July 16, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Tiffany Gridiron, Neil Gordon, Sam Corey
Fri., July 17, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., July 19, 6-9 p.m.

Reno's North
16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Michael Root
Wed., July 15, 6-9 p.m.
Keith Minaya
Fri., July 17, 6-9 p.m.
Rush Clement
Sat., July 18, 6-9 p.m.
Carl Pawluk
Wed., July 22, 6-9 p.m.

Riverside Park
315 S. Bridge St., DeWitt
Sea Cruisers
Thurs., July 16, 7-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Mia Chinni Trio + session
Sat., July 18, 1-3 p.m.

Sharp Park
1399 Elmwood Road, Lansing
School of Rock
Tues., July 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

Sholty's Bar
1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Keith Minaya
Tues., July 21, 6-9 p.m.

St. Johns City Park
801 W. Park St., St. Johns
Ron St. Germain
Wed., July 15, 7-9 p.m.
Toppermost (Beatles tribute)
Wed., July 22, 7-9 p.m.

Stoher's Bar
812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
DJ Chicago Muzik
Fri., July 17, 6-9 p.m.
Patino & Friends
Sun., July 19, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Alan B. Sloan
Tues., July 21, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.
1957 Cedar St., Holt
Velocity Shift
Fri., July 17, 8-11 p.m.
Greg Smith
Sat., July 18, 4-7 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center
3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Universe
Wed., July 15, 6-9 p.m.
Performer TBA
Sun., July 19, 3-6 p.m.

Turner Dodge House
100 E. North St., Lansing
Sea Cruisers
Wed., July 15, 7-9 p.m.

UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., July 15, 6-9 p.m.
Sarah Elizabeth Wallace: Fuego del León
Fri., July 17, 7:30 p.m.
Tap Monkeys
Sat., July 18, 6-9 p.m.
Rock the Vote Show: Mark Lavengood Band, Wild Honey Collective, Bleau Otis McCray and Kevin Rousse, Mighty Medicine
Sun., July 19, 4:30 p.m.
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., July 22, 6-9 p.m.
Walter Blanding with his Jazz Ambassadors playing Herbie Hancock
Wed., July 22, 9 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Gardens
2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt
Motor City Soul
Thurs., July 16, 7-9 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse
3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Valerie & Mark
Wed., July 15, 7-10 p.m.

BOOGIEZ is bringing craft cannabis to Michigan — and it's the real deal

By CHRIS SILVA

If you've spent any time in Michigan's cannabis scene, you know the difference between flower that was grown with care and flower that was grown for volume. The difference is apparent in the smell the moment you open the jar, in the way the buds feel between your fingers and in the slow, deliberate burn of something hand-trimmed by someone who gives a damn.

BOOGIEZ, out of Jackson, is the good stuff

Founded by "Boogie Bob" Baldori — a musician, cannabis attorney and one of the most quietly consequential figures in Michigan marijuana advocacy — BOOGIEZ is producing small-batch, hand-trimmed, craft flower that's testing at the top of the state. We're talking Cap Junky at 27.7% THC and Bolo Runtz at 3.43% total terpenes.

These are not marketing numbers. These are numbers from a licensed Michigan lab, and they reflect what happens when someone who has spent 30 years studying this plant is finally allowed to grow it legally under their own name.

The grow

What separates BOOGIEZ from all that mid-shelf Michigan flower on dis-



Courtesy BOOGIEZ

pensary menus right now is the fundamentals. The flower is grown in a premium organic medium, the kind of intentional, living soil approach that big commercial operators abandoned years

ago in favor of speed and yield. The buds are hand-trimmed, which matters more than most people realize. Machine trimming is faster and cheaper. It's also rougher on trichomes, the tiny resin



glands that carry terpenes and cannabinoids. Hand trimming preserves them. You'll taste the difference.

The current lineup, Harvest No. 2, includes five strains: Cap Junky, Permanent Marker, Bolo Runtz, Pressure Pie and Sherb Cream Pie. Each is a premium cultivar, the kind of genetics that serious cannabis consumers recognize immediately.

The BOOGIEZ man

Baldori is not a new face in Michigan cannabis. He's been on the scene for three decades — as a cultivator, as an advocate and as a licensed attorney defending the people who were prosecuted for doing what he is now doing legally in the light of day.

Baldori spent years defending Michigan cannabis patients and caregivers caught in the gap between state and federal law — including Ryan Basore of Redemption Cannabis, one of the most respected names in the Michigan cannabis

See BOOGIEZ, Page 18

MSU alumna Kelly DiPucchio publishes 39th children's book

BY KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Though Michigan State University alumna and New York Times best-selling author Kelly DiPucchio's latest children's book is the 39th she's published, it's her first modern fable.

"How to Be a Proper Ogre" (Feiwel & Friends, \$18.99), illustrated by Janie Bynum, explores themes of belonging, personal empowerment and defying expectations. It follows Mary Beth, an unconventional, non-slimy, tan-skinned ogre (who looks more like a human than an ogre) who struggles to fit in with her revolting family, particularly her two brothers named Crusty Boogers and Hairy Knuckles. While her brothers terrorize the townspeople, Mary Beth is considered too gentle and is sent to sell goose eggs. When a greedy prince threatens her family, Mary Beth proves true bravery and kindness come in many forms.

"I think the humor and the surprise ending makes this book stand out from other children's books on the shelves to-

day," said DiPucchio, of Macomb. "The inspiration for the ogres came about one day when I was considering various animals and characters not commonly featured in picture books. Of course, 'Shrek!' by William Steig came to mind when I thought about ogres, but beyond that popular title, there aren't many other ogre books."

Fellow children's book author Lisa Rose, formerly of West Bloomfield, praised DiPucchio's work.

"Kelly's books start with one genius idea that I envy and go, 'Why I didn't think of that first?'" Rose said. "However, it's her heartfelt humor that makes her books successful across generations."

According to DiPucchio, the ending of "How to Be a Proper Ogre" was reimagined and rewritten numerous times before she finally landed on the perfect plot twist.

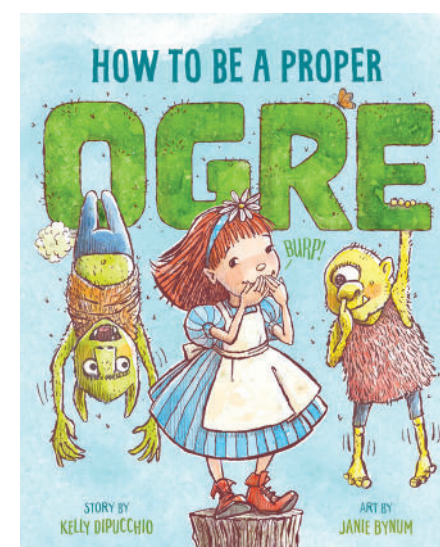
One of her favorite things about writing the book was coming up with fun ogre names.

"Kids can generate their own unique ogre name by downloading the activity kit Janie and I created for the book, which can be found on the publisher's website," she said.

Even though DiPucchio has known Bynum, formerly of Kalamazoo, for over 20 years, "Ogre" marks their first professional collaboration.

"It was a joy to finally create a picture book with her," DiPucchio said. "I had always admired Janie's art. One day, about four years ago, she posted a fun sketch of an ogre-like creature on Facebook. I already had a very early draft of the ogre manuscript languishing in my computer files, and seeing her sketch prompted me to share the story with her. From there, Janie and I started brainstorming the project, and, ultimately, our agents sold the book as a package deal, which was very exciting."

DiPucchio was born in Warren and raised in Rochester. She's an alumna of Rochester High School and MSU, where she earned a bachelor's degree



in child psychology and development. She has been married to her husband, John, for 35 years. The couple has three children and four grandchildren, with a fifth on the way.

While she was attending MSU, Di-

See Children's book, Page 18

Children's book

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Pucchio's professors encouraged her to submit her writing for publication. However, she refused.

"At the time, writing was a personal thing to me. It didn't occur to me to get published. I wasn't ready to pursue it," she said.

When her children were young, she'd read them picture books, which inspired her to try her hand at writing one. In 2001, after six years and 200 rejection letters, she sold the manuscript for "What's The Magic Word?" which was published in 2004.

In 2008, DiPucchio published her best-known book, "Grace for President," illustrated by LeUyen Pham. The book has received positive reviews from many media outlets, including The Washington Post. It made The New York Times' best-sellers list. Time Magazine even interviewed DiPucchio, which she said is rare for children's book authors.

According to DiPucchio, "Grace for President" was inspired by her former editor Donna Bray's daughter Grace. When Grace was in preschool, her teacher had displayed a poster of the presidents of the United States. Grace innocently asked her teacher, "Where are the girls?"

"Grace's teacher relayed the story to Donna, who felt the anecdote would make a great foundation for a picture book," DiPucchio recalled. "Donna called me and asked me if I could build a story around Grace's thought-provoking question."

The book follows Grace Campbell, an ambitious grade school student, as she begins her political career as a presidential candidate in her school's mock election. She is inspired to run when her teacher, Mrs. Barrington, hangs up a poster of all the presidents of the United States in her classroom.

Grace is stunned when she sees there hasn't been a single female president and announces her candidacy against

fellow student Thomas Cobb. Initially, nobody thinks she stands a chance against him. However, Thomas rests on his laurels, while Grace tirelessly and relentlessly campaigns. In the end, she beats Thomas by two electoral votes. The victorious Grace declares that she'll run for POTUS when she grows up, leading to a picture on the last page of her being sworn in.

That image still makes DiPucchio misty eyed to this day.

"The final illustration of Grace as an adult getting sworn in on Inauguration Day is such a powerful image! I never get tired of sharing it with kids," she said. "There are no words on the last page because words aren't necessary. It's a very powerful image, one that I hope inspires all children, regardless of their gender or race, to dream big."

In 2019, DiPucchio wrote a sequel called "Grace Goes to Washington," also illustrated by Pham.

"Sales for the two 'Grace' books are steady, but I always see the biggest uptick in sales during a presidential election year," DiPucchio said. "In 2028, 'Grace for President' will celebrate its 20th anniversary, which is hard to believe."

DiPucchio's 40th book, "The Secret Life of Dog Toys," illustrated by Jenn Harney, will debut this September.

"I write five to six picture book manuscripts per year. I get published one to two times per year, on average," DiPucchio said. "I don't have a set schedule. I don't work that way. I have to write when I'm inspired to write. When I'm not writing, I'm doing a lot of reading. It's pretty great to have that flexibility to work from home — it's awesome."

DiPucchio is also a member of the writing team for PBS' "Carl the Collector," the network's first series centered around a main character who's autistic. It debuted in late 2024, targeting children ages 4 to 8. It emphasizes social-emotional learning, self-identity, community and the power of inclusion by featuring a mix of neurodiverse and neurotypical characters.



Courtesy photo

Michigan State University alumna and best-selling children's book author Kelly DiPucchio proudly shows off the 2026 Emmy Award for Outstanding Public Service Initiative that she and the other writers of the PBS animated series "Carl the Collector" won.

Zachariah O'Hora, who illustrated DiPucchio's 2018 picture book "Poe Won't Go," is the creator of "Carl the Collector."

"When Zach was looking for writers for the show, he reached out to me. I had no television writing experience, but Zach was familiar with my picture books, and he had faith that I could learn," DiPucchio said.

Earlier this year, every member of the "Carl the Collector" writing team re-

ceived an Emmy Award for Outstanding Public Service Initiative.

"This was a huge honor and a career highlight for me," DiPucchio said. "Picture books are my first love and where I feel the most confident, but being a part of a ground-breaking animated children's show has been immensely rewarding."

Keep up with DiPucchio at kellydipucchio.com.

BOOGIEZ

from page 17

industry. Basore was one of several Michigan operators caught up in a federal crackdown on state-legal grows in the early 2010s. Baldori was in his corner. Basore eventually served time in federal prison despite operating within Michigan law. He came out and built Redemption Cannabis — a brand whose name tells you the story.

Advocacy that matters in Lansing

I can speak to Baldori's advocacy firsthand. He rep-

resented me and the Let Lansing Vote campaign when we took on the city of Lansing over its unfair marijuana ordinance. We believed the city's approach was wrong, that it denied Lansing residents a fair say in how cannabis would operate in their community. Baldori took that fight seriously. We went up against the city and ultimately settled out of court. It was not a small fight, and Baldori didn't treat it like one.

That is who is growing your cannabis when you buy BOOGIEZ. Not a private equity firm. Not a multistate operator optimizing for margin. A guy who has been fighting for this plant and the people who use it for longer than Michigan has had legal cannabis.

Where to find it

BOOGIEZ flower is available at the BOOGIEZ dispensary in Jackson and is expanding across the state. If you're a dispensary buyer in the Lansing area or anywhere in Michigan and are looking for craft, hand-trimmed, top-shelf, Michigan-grown flower with verifiable lab results, this is a conversation you want to have.

For more information, visit boogiez420.com or follow @boogiez420 on Instagram.

Chris Silva writes the *Landsterdam* column for Lansing City Pulse. Got a tip? Email him at silvachr@gmail.com.

Bryan Gruley's latest 'Bitterfrost' novel is based on a 1989 Detroit murder case

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Journalist and author Bryan Gruley began his "Bitterfrost" series out of necessity.

"I had to seek a new publisher, and no new publisher was likely to be interested in a series originally published elsewhere. I was lucky to find Severn House," said Gruley, who lives in Traverse City with his wife, Pam. The couple has three children and five grandchildren.

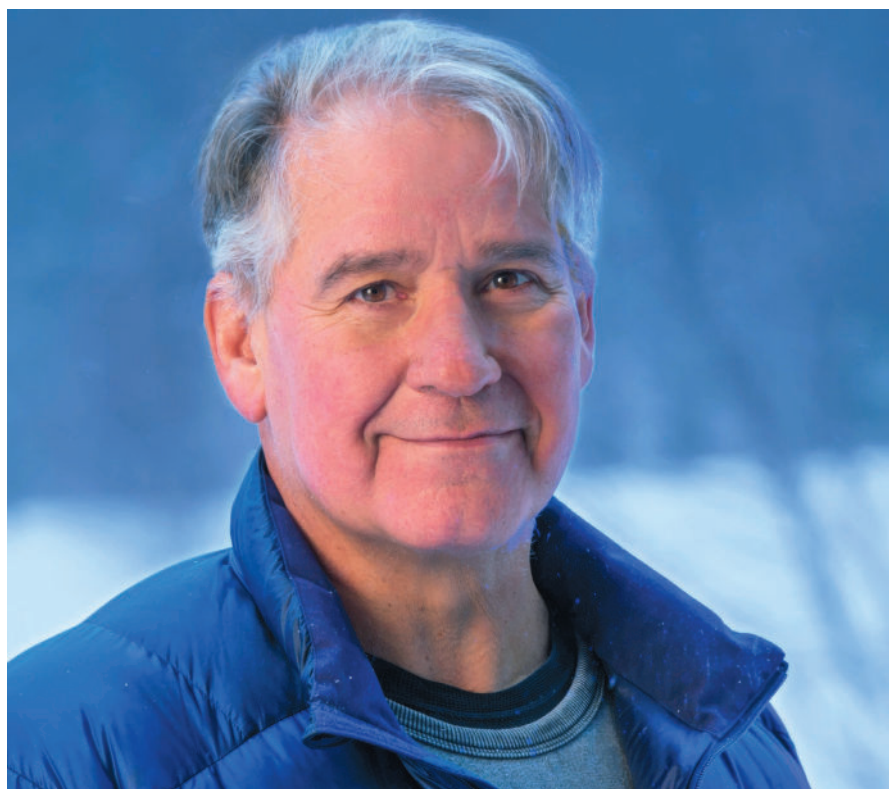
An alumnus of Detroit Catholic Central High School and the University of Notre Dame, Gruley was a journalist for more than 40 years, sharing the Pulitzer Prize awarded to The Wall Street Journal for its coverage of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He worked at The Journal for more than 15 years, seven of which he spent as the Chicago bureau chief.

His latest novel, "River Deep" (Severn House, \$30), is a sequel to "Bitterfrost," which is set in Michigan and stars hard-driving attorney Devyn Payne. This month, Gruley is traveling all over Michigan and even making a stop in Chicago to sign copies of the book.

"I created Devyn in a novel I wrote that will never be published. She was a child custody arbitrator who dealt with parents in nasty divorces. So, I had a feel for her when I started 'Bitterfrost,' in which she's a criminal defense lawyer, a hockey player and a member of one of Bitterfrost's most prominent families. She's tough, blunt, occasionally funny, occasionally clever and, as an editor pal likes to say, 'frustratingly ambivalent about some things.' I love her," Gruley said.

In "River Deep," the bodies of twin infant boys are pulled from the icy depths of the Jako River. The twins' distraught parents survived the car crash, but their mother, Catriona Dulaney, was driving. Now, she's charged with killing her babies, and her admission of guilt has leaked online. It should be the most straightforward case Devyn prosecutes all year. And yet, to her, it doesn't add up.

"Making Catriona Dulaney the least bit relatable was difficult," Gruley said. "I was lucky to have as my editor Laurie Johnson, who is a mother of twins. After reading Laurie's comments on an early draft, I went through and re-did many scenes and rewrote the entire ending. I think I got it right, but readers will ultimately decide."



Courtesy

Bryan Gruley

The book is based on the infamous murder case of Lawrence DeLisle, which received widespread media attention.

On Aug. 3, 1989, DeLisle killed his four children — Brian, 8; Melissa, 4; Kathryn, 2; and Emily, 9 months — after driving the family station wagon into the Detroit River in Wyandotte. He and his wife, Suzanne, survived. He told police that while driving along Eureka Road he had suffered a severe cramp in his leg and jammed his foot on the accelerator, which became stuck. As a result, he lost control of the car, and it ended up in the Detroit River.

However, police doubted his story. They suspected that DeLisle had crashed the car intentionally in an apparent murder-suicide. On Aug. 10, 1989, DeLisle was arrested. The following day, he was charged with four counts of first-degree murder and a fifth count of attempting to murder his wife. At the time, Suzanne stated he was innocent. On Aug. 1, 1990, he was sentenced to five mandatory life terms without the possibility of parole.

Suzanne eventually divorced DeLisle and remarried. At a parole hearing in March 2024, she changed her stance. She read a statement saying she believed DeLisle killed their children and

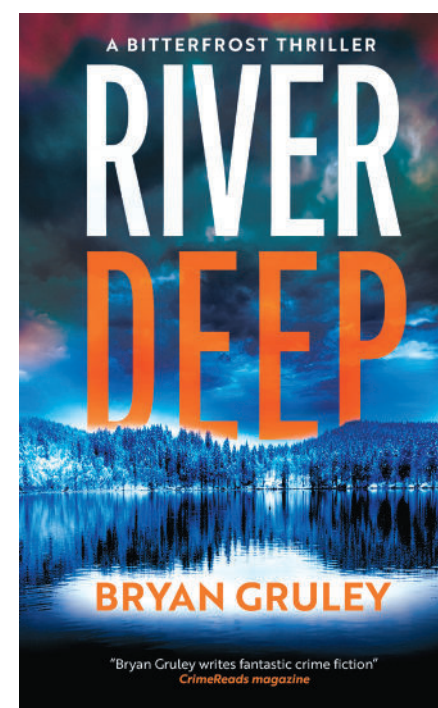
tried to kill her. She accused him of gaslighting her into believing he was innocent. To this day, DeLisle maintains his innocence and remains incarcerated at the Lakeland Correctional Facility in Coldwater.

At the time of the murders, Gruley worked at The Detroit News' Washington bureau.

"I didn't cover the story, but I read it with interest," he recalled. "Years later, I saw it recounted in a Michigan murder anthology. I stuck it in a file of possible novel ideas. I came across it again while digging through the file, then spent a good amount of time reading DeLisle's numerous court appeals. It dawned on me that maybe he wasn't the only bad guy in this story."

Lansing native Stephen Mack Jones, author of the critically acclaimed "August Snow" mystery series, called Gruley a "brilliantly engaging" author.

"His writing is filled with palpable intrigue, suspense and mystery. He's a storyteller who plumbs the depths of what it means to be human, including the terrifying darkness of misbegotten souls clawing desperately at the corners of small towns," Jones said. "As a former journalist for The Wall Street Journal who shared in a Pulitzer Prize for his



coverage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Bryan has seen the devils up close and personal. He also has a deep and abiding appreciation for our better angels. His stories — including 'River Deep' — reflect the ongoing turmoil between the two."

Jones will moderate a conversation with Gruley tonight at 2 Dandelions Bookshop in Brighton.

When we spoke, Gruley was looking forward to the "River Deep" tour.

"I hope people give 'River Deep' a chance. I'd love to hear from readers who like it or don't," he said. "I think 'River Deep' might be my best book. The characters drive the story, and the story moves. I started going to shorter chapters with 'Bitterfrost.' And I think the very last sentences might tug at some readers' hearts."

Keep up with Gruley at bryangruley.com.

Bryan Gruley's "River Deep" book tour (remaining dates)

Gruley will speak about and sign copies of his latest novel, "River Deep," at the following locations. Both events are free.

2 Dandelions Bookshop

428 W. Main St., Brighton
6 p.m. Wednesday, July 16
(810) 522-5310
2dandelionsbookshop.com

Schuler Books

7260 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield
6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16
(248) 956-1515
schulerbooks.com

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Worry Free” -- a freestyle puzzle is in order.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. Jail-adjacent phrase?
13. Coleridge's seafaring subject
16. Consideration without cons?
17. Hard out, e.g.
18. Bit by bit
20. “The Joy of Cooking” author Rombauer
21. Three-mo. period
22. Twill suit fabric
23. Acute
24. Spa offerings
27. Buck
28. TV composer Kalehoff (known for “The Price is Right” and “Double Dare”)
29. Was in charge of irons, perhaps
31. It may precede Caps or Cat
32. “Black Mirror” creator Charlie
33. “You, Me & Tuscany” actress Vardalos
36. Optimal, to an old-school rapper
37. Like nine
40. “It’s ____ ever wanted”
42. Sixth note in an F minor scale
43. San Francisco feature
44. Owen of “Sin City”
46. “El Pibe de ____” (“The Golden Boy”), Diego Maradona’s nickname
47. Dakota’s younger sister
48. Personal enforcer in “The Godfather”
51. Throws (off)
52. Ticklish spots, perhaps
54. Gets set, in a way

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13												14	15	
16														
17							18							19
20					21					22				
23					24			25	26		27			
28				29						30		31		
				32										
33	34	35		36								37	38	39
40			41		42						43			
44				45			46				47			
48					49	50				51				
	52								53					
	54													
				55										

55. Victorian-era waterproof leggings (so-called from Greek because they protect against wet mud)
- DOWN
1. Adjective for some carnivorous plants that snap shut
2. Not on the payroll yet
3. Did some smishing, perhaps
4. “Ecce Homo” painter (1543)
5. Suit part
6. Wayside building
7. Stayed over briefly
8. Post-slump comment
9. Wealthy “Soap” family surname
10. 1980s Camaro
11. TV’s younger Dr. Crane
12. Garden guardians
14. Turns inside-out

15. Subject of the video for Genesis’s “Land of Confusion”
19. Brand with a Carlsbad, Calif. theme park
21. Showed leniency
25. Line repeated in a 2016 Bishop Briggs song
26. Follows through on
29. Hemp ingredient infused into some beers
30. “____ & the Women” (2000 Altman film)
33. Salt, but more specific
34. Abbr. near an artist’s name, in print
35. Former MLB infielder and coach Luis (it’s a woman’s name if you drop the last letter)
37. Engine leak-preventing device
38. West Coast Mexican chain with a sun in its logo
39. Shifts, e.g.
41. “How Do You Solve a Problem Like ____?” (2017 Politico article about the First Daughter)
43. ____ Vision (eye care chain)
45. Buddy who played TV’s Barnaby Jones
49. Robbie who played TV’s Cousin Oliver
50. “Bonne fête ____” (Canadian birthday song)
51. Cartoonist Al
53. “____ Beso (That Kiss!)” (1962 Paul Anka hit)

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Answers on page 24

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

July 15-21, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In honor of the intensive homecoming phase of your astrological cycle, I have homework for you. 1. Make a prediction about how old you will be when you know precisely who you are. 2. Forecast the day when you will look in the mirror and recognize your face as an intricate portrait of every experience you have ever loved. 3. Imagine the dawn when the boundary between your own longing and life's longing will dissolve, revealing they've always been the same current. 4. Predict when your heart will be as wild and free and brave as you have always wanted it to be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ornithologists studying migration know that some birds don't fly directly to their destination. They follow "leading lines." These are geographical features like coastlines and mountain ranges that provide orientation. Even when this means taking a longer route, the certainty of having a guiding landmark outweighs the efficiency of a straight line across nondescript terrain. I recommend the birds' approach to you in the coming weeks, Taurus. Follow your own leading lines: practices and intuitions that provide lucid orientation even when they don't offer shortcuts. The indirect path offers the surety you need.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): What's an important truth you keep forgetting about? Maybe it's a promise you once made to yourself, or an understanding that your younger self knew, or a wisdom your body keeps trying to communicate while your mind ignores it. What truth returns again and again in different guises: through synchronicities, seemingly random comments from friends, recurring dreams, or the same lesson repeating in new situations? What crucial insights about life do you remember during crisis or ecstasy, only to abandon them once normalcy returns? Now is a favorable time to fully recover this lesson and install it firmly at the heart of your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make a list of your five greatest pleasures. These are experiences that stir your senses, steady your pulse, and remind you why love being alive. Write them down as if they were sacred prayers. Sing a spontaneous song of praise of them. Then set out on a quest to discover pleasure number six. This is a delight you have never tasted, touched, or imagined before. Maybe it will come from saying yes to a possibility you usually decline. Treat this experiment as a form of worship and a way to boost your devotion to your healing life force.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): According to neuroscientists, the "default mode network" is the area of your brain that lights up when you're daydreaming, drifting through thoughts and feelings, and letting your imagination roam around. This is when your deep self does crucial work: weaving memories into stories, making creative connections, rehearsing possible futures, and forging your sense of identity. I mention this, Leo, because the coming days will be prime time for you to indulge lavishly in this healing and restorative activity. Don't let a task-obsessed world shame you out of your reveries. Your genius will bloom from their slowly swirling flow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Here are three gentle nudges: 1. One of your trusty tools or assets still seems to be working fine, but I suggest you look into the possibility that it will soon need repair. 2. Unless you act proactively to ease the strain on your system, a mini breakdown could be on the horizon. 3. The monster hiding in your closet is hibernating, which makes this the perfect time to summon an exorcist before it rouses. Here's the very good news, dear Virgo: Because you are reading this oracle, you are now armed with all you need to stave off turmoil and head in the direction of an exciting renaissance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Researchers who study improvisational jazz have found that master musicians often anticipate each other's ideas milliseconds before anyone actually plays the notes. Their brains become exquisitely synchronized through deep listening rather than

rigid planning. Maybe more than any other sign, you Libras possess a similar aptitude in managing your intimate alliances and social connections. In the coming weeks, this superpower will be even more necessary and available than usual. I'll provide a reminder: Pay less attention to what people claim to mean and more attention to the rhythms beneath their words. Let your intuition guide you. The subtly shared timing will generate elegant cooperation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "It's bad luck to be superstitious!" is a delightful paradox that I enjoy playing with. It makes fun of our tendency to believe that invisible forces are constantly keeping score of our behavior. On one level, the phrase pokes at the way superstition multiplies anxiety instead of easing it. If you really believed it's bad luck to be superstitious, then your belief about bad luck would itself be a superstition. So, you'd have to avoid the very thinking pattern you're using to feel safer. It exposes how easily the mind can tie itself in knots trying to control the uncontrollable. On another level, "it's bad luck to be superstitious" is an invitation to examine which of your little rituals are entertaining and nourishing and which are cages. Keeping a lucky stone in your pocket is fine if it amuses you, but believing you're doomed if you don't carry the stone isn't so fine. My advice: Notice when your charm or taboo is no longer a quirky companion but starts being a tyrant that shrinks your freedom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Are you the type of Sagittarius who pushes open doors with "pull" signs on them? Do you get a secret kick out of opening boxes from the end that says, "Open other side"? Maybe you even yack on your phone in designated quiet zones. If so, I'd like to suggest channeling your rebellious spark into grander acts. In the weeks ahead, you will be carrying some potent renegade energy. Used wisely, your radiant defiance could topple a stagnant situation that's overdue for change.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Many healers favor the slow-and-steady path. They often meet with people once a week, trusting that even stubborn issues must be unwoven with patience and gentleness. But there are also bold experimenters who work differently. I know an acupuncturist who invites clients to live at her clinic for six days straight, offering a new treatment every two hours during the waking hours. She creates a healing immersion chamber. That's the spirit I recommend for you in the coming weeks, Capricorn. You're at the threshold of resolving a long-standing imbalance. What will serve you best isn't dabbling at it but offering it focused, sustained, wholehearted attention until the shift activates.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can refresh and boost your ambition if you give it a firm, precise adjustment sometime soon. Your raw vitality will surge back if you refrain from indulging in a careless habit that has been draining it. Your willpower and determination have been weakened by the fallout from an old misstep, but you now have the clarity needed to repair that error. Your libidinous energy is not as clear and potent as it could be, but it will become so once you get more honest about what truly excites you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You're like an arrow that has been shot from a bow and is three-quarters of the way to the target. You're a delicious meal still simmering on the stove, or a pregnancy at seven months, or the last two weeks before a major election. When I tuned my inner vision to you, I glimpsed a honeybee wriggling a dance to show its coworkers where a stand of blooming lilac awaits. Have you ever been on the verge of speaking a new language with ease? That's where you are now, Pisces: just before true fluency clicks.

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, July 15

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 Lezlee Worthington - 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.

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.

DJ Trivia at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Free to play. Prizes for the top three teams. Bring your friends and test your knowledge! 7 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

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.

Holt Food Frenzy - Join us for music, food trucks and fun. 4-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. holtfoodfrenzy.com.

Michigan Blooms Floral Preservation Workshop - Create framed pressed flower art with Michigan Blooms! Includes flowers, frame, apron & instruction. No experience needed. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Westers Family Winery, 10473 Churchill Road, Rives Junction. eventbrite.com/o/121446836326.

Move in the Garden - This free outdoor program combines stretching, strengthening, flow, and relaxation movements to support overall mobility. Sessions meet most Wednesdays through Sept. 30. 12:10-1 p.m. Beal Botanical Garden, 330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. facebook.com/bealgar-den.msu.

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. lapseg.org.

Petals and Pollinators - Petals and Pollinators is the third event in our Garden Hangout series. Bring your friends for a day filled with botanical crafts and creations, from painting with flowers to pressed-flower bookmarks and macro photography. 10 a.m.-noon. MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens.

Public Accuracy Test - The Public Accuracy test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to tabulate the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of law. 8:30 a.m. City Hall, 259 Kent St., Portland. portland-michi-gan.org.

gan.org.

Rummage & Bake Sale - Large variety of items for sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Liederkranz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingLiederkranzClub.

Speed Lego Building Competition - Grab some friends and test your speed at building a Lego set! The first team to finish will win a small prize. Ages 7-10. Registration req. 2-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Sporecle 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.

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

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

Thursday, July 16

"The 39 Steps" - This beloved mystery is a hilarious comedy full of dazzling stagecraft and virtuoso performances that will have you rolling in the aisles until the death-defying, climactic finale. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. bathtownship.us/departments/farmers-market.php.

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 Lezlee Worthington - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Charlotte Community Library Board Meeting - The board meets the third Thursday of every month in the library's Spartan Room. 6-8 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Dino-Fun with Alex Thomas & Friends Puppets - Through fun storytelling, audience participation, and plenty of dino-mite moments, this puppet show explores different dinosaur species, ancient ecosystems, and the exciting world of paleontology. 1-2 p.m. GLADL Wacousta, 9325 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Moonlight Market 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 6 Curwood Castle Park 400 W. Main St., Owosso downtownowossofarmer market.com/moonlight-market



Community members can enjoy food, family activities, live music, local vendors and other fun every Thursday through Aug. 6 at the Moonlight Market, organized by the Owosso Farmers Market.

The market's vendors offer a variety of goods, including artwork, pottery, baked goods and pet products. Attendees can also expect special events each night, such as petting zoos, bubbles, balloon animals and live blacksmithing and ironwork demonstrations.

Additionally, several community and cultural partners are participating in the series, including Shiawassee County Friends of the Fair and Friends of the Shiawassee River. The Shiawassee Arts Center is open until 7:30 p.m. each week so attendees can view its "Year of the NonProfit" exhibit, and the historic Curwood Castle and Comstock Cabin are available to tour as well.

Free concerts begin at 7 p.m. each week at the Mitchell Amphitheater, across the river from the park. Performers include Beth Stalker, the Sandra Faye Band, Midday Sun and Simply in Time.

The July 30 market, perhaps the most exciting of the season, will run at the same time as the Back to the Bricks Tune-Up Party in downtown Owosso, offering classic cars, music and other activities.

"Moonlight Market is one of those things that just feels like Owosso when it works right," Stephen Schlaack, manager of the Owosso Farmers Market, said. "You have people walking along the river, kids seeing animals, families grabbing dinner, folks shopping from local makers, and then music starting across the river at the amphitheater. It's not complicated. It's just a really good summer night downtown."

Downtown After 5: Connect. Vibe. Discover - Join us on the third Thursday of each month from June through August for an evening of shopping, dining, live music, and downtown fun! 5-7 p.m. Washington Square, downtown Lansing. facebook.com/downtownlansing.

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series: Insect Management, with Dr. Christina DiFonzo - 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/field_crops.

"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.

Mediterranean Bowls - Recipes include the perfect shawarma sheet-pan chicken, falafel patties, veggies, dressed grains, and a tzatziki that will no doubt be added to your weeknight rotation. 6-8 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.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. lapseg.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.

Rummage & Bake Sale - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Liederkranz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.

facebook.com/LansingLiederkranzClub.

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. spiritofmichigan-chorus.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.

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.

Trails and Parks Millage Informational Meeting - The Ingham County Trails & Parks Millage is up for a six-year renewal on Aug. 4. 6-7 p.m. Playmakers, 2299 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/FriendsLansingRegionalTrails.

Wacousta Picnic Playdate - Meet at our new 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. gladl.libcal.com.

See Events, Page 22

Car Capital Auto Show

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, July 18

R.E. Olds Transportation Museum

240 Museum Drive, Lansing

reoldsmuseum.org/events/auto-show

Returning for its 33rd year, R.E. Olds Transportation Museum's annual Car Capital Auto Show brings together car enthusiasts for a day of auto-centric fun. Over 200 cars are anticipated at this year's event. There will be a dedicated "Lansing's Auto Revolution" section highlighting vehicles built before 1940 by Durant, Oldsmobile and REO Motor Car Co. Roadside Attraction, a Haslett-based cover band, will provide live music. Food will be available from Get Loaded Food Truck and The Smoke N' Pig BBQ. Awards are expected to be presented an hour before the show ends. The museum will remain open until 5 p.m. with free admission for show entrants and a guest.



Events

from page 21

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.

State of Michigan Probate Court, County of Ingham, Notice of Hearing, File No. 26-899-GM. In the matter of Cyleigh Christopher. Take Notice: A hearing will be held on 7/30/2026 at 2:30 p.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, before Judge Shauna Dunnings for the following purpose: Uncontested petition for guardianship. You may attend remotely via Zoom (Meeting ID: 9571863173). If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements at 517-483-6300. 7/15/2026. Petitioner: Phillip & Paula Wiser, 615 S Onondaga Rd, Mason, MI 48854, 517-719-9361.

CP#26-273

State of Michigan Probate Court, County of Ingham, Notice of Hearing, File No. 26-901-GM. In the matter of Carter Christopher. Take Notice: A hearing will be held on 7/30/2026 at 2:30 p.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, before Judge Shauna Dunnings for the following purpose: Uncontested petition for guardianship. You may attend remotely via Zoom (Meeting ID: 9571863173). If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements at 517-483-6300. 7/15/2026. Petitioner: Phillip & Paula Wiser, 615 S Onondaga Rd, Mason, MI 48854, 517-719-9361.

CP#26-272



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: TEXT AMENDMENT #2026-05

BACKYARD CHICKEN AND RABBIT REGULATIONS UPDATE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE

Zoning Amendment #2026-05 (Backyard Chicken and Rabbits Update)

The Township Board at its regular meeting on July 7, 2026 reconsidered the previously approved ordinance and approved for introduction and subsequent adoption Ordinance 2026-05, an Ordinance to update the standards for the keeping of backyard chickens and rabbits, updating the previously approved ordinance to include the RN, Village of Nemoka Mixed Residential District to the districts permitted to have backyard chickens or rabbits.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Community Planning and Development office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517-853-4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Angela Demas, Township Clerk
July 15, 2026

CP#26-274

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

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

Car Cruise In at Choice Farm Market - Bring your wheels or just come to stroll and admire. No RSVP needed — just show up and enjoy! 5-8 p.m. 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. burgdorfwinery.com.

Cruise to Holt - All types and years of cars welcome. Food truck on first and third Fridays. 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/CruisetoHolt.

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.

Extended Public Investigation - Join us for an extended six-hour investigation and pizza party! Explore for yourself the Harriett Chapman Hospital's history. Limited to 10 guests. 6 p.m. 101 W. Plain St., Eaton Rapids. eventbrite.com/o/31111181419.

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.

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. meridian-50plus.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.

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

Latte Art Class - Learn how to steam and pour great latte art with the guidance and training of a Foster barista. 5-6:30 p.m. Foster Coffee Co., 196 Albert Ave., East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/10530102328.

Messy Play Fun Days - Kids can play with chalk, bubbles, goop, squirt bottles, big trucks, mud, and more. Great for manipulative play and sensory engagement. Different activities each week. 11 a.m.-noon. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladlibcal.com.

Moonlight Movies: "Lilo and Stitch" Live Action - 9-11 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

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. lapsrg.org.

Petals and Pollinators - Petals and Pollinators is the third event in our Garden Hangout series. Bring your friends for a day filled with botanical crafts and creations, from painting with flowers to pressed-flower bookmarks and macro photography. Noon-2 p.m.. MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens.

Rummage & Bake Sale - Friday is \$3 bag day! 9 a.m.-noon. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingLiederkrantzClub.

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

Saturday, July 18

"The 39 Steps" - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

AfroBeats Party - Bringing nonstop global grooves to the dance floor, this party blends the sounds of Afrobeat, amapiano, dancehall, Afro Congo, reggae and bongo beats into one unforgettable night of music. 10:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

All About Fireflies Campfire Program - Join the naturalists for a fireside chat, s'mores and a guided walk while learning all about these glowing insects! 7-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

An Evening in White | Soul Train Elegance Edition - Get ready to groove all night in white at the ultimate Soul Train elegance party — dance, style, and good vibes! 7 p.m.-midnight. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/66291574313.

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

Chalk of the Town - Watch incredible chalk masterpieces come to life on Turner Street and César E. Chávez Avenue, explore our unique boutiques and restaurants, and cheer on your favorites as guest judges award prizes to the best creations! Noon-4 p.m. Old Town, Lansing. facebook.com/OldTownLansing.

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.

Friends of the Okemos Library Used Book Sale - Used book sale with paperbacks and hardcovers. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Old Farmers Market Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/okemos.

Game Night - Our monthly low-pressure hangout for board games, card games and general nerdy joy, hosted in our witch-friendly community space. 5-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

The Healing Feast - This month's theme is Flowing with the Divine Non-Binary, featuring Sari Brown (priestess of song, dance, and kitchen magic), J Townley (musician & spiritual caregiver), Sarah Jamesen (poet, wayfinder, and creative soul), and Virginia Caldwell (naturopathic doctor and music therapist). 4:30-7:30 p.m. 9452 Peacock Road, Laingsburg. eventbrite.com/o/93689375763.

Kids Night Out: Myth & Motion - A structured drop-off evening built around a kid-friendly version of Path Keepers Warrior Arts (movement games, coordination, confidence, and boundaries), plus crafts, mythic storytelling, and dinner. 6-10 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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

Lavender Festival Yoga at Ocimeae Lavender Farm - Join us for yoga among the lavender blooms! 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. 3123 Gramer Road, Webberville. eventbrite.com/o/112062467381.

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.

MSU Bug House: 6 Legged Saturdays - A free opportunity for families to visit the MSU Bug House. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 288 Farm Lane, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/ent.

Events

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Next Stop Comedy at Buddies Pub and Grill - Next Stop Comedy brings top stand-up comedians to your favorite local venues! 8 p.m. 3048 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. nextstopcomedy.com.

Path Keepers Warrior Arts - In this class, we train from the foundations with stance and breath, footwork, strikes, blocks, and simple combinations, all the building blocks of self-protection and self-mastery. The deeper work is the same: clarity, restraint, boundaries, and presence. 1-2:30 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

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 Social Introvert: Moo Moos & Margaritas - Grab your girls and join The Social Introvert for a summer game night designed to help women connect, laugh, and make new friendships in a fun and welcoming atmosphere. 6-9 p.m. Paint with Monet, 909 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/120795105926.

Uncle John's Donut Dash 5K - Have a sweet tooth that only a donut can satisfy? Like running or walking? Well, do we have a race for you! 10 a.m. Uncle John's Cider Mill, 8614 N. US-127, St. Johns. facebook.com/UJCiderMill.

Whimsical Garden Party Venue Open House - Come explore the gardens, meet our fabulous vendors, and say hello! 10 a.m.-1 p.m. MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. facebook.com/MSUHorticultureGardens.

Sunday, July 19

"The 39 Steps" - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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

Friends of the Okemos Library Used Book Sale - Used book sale with paperbacks and hardcovers; Sunday \$5 bag sale. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Old Farmers Market Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/okemos.

Conversations with the Runes - Join HG Wyndell for an ongoing monthly workshop series that explores the runes through story, animism, and hands-on practice. 3-5 p.m. Keys to Manifesta-

tion, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

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

July Worship Services at Regal - If you're looking for a unique, inclusive, welcoming, creative place to gather for worship, come join Sycamore Creek's three campuses at Regal Cinemas in the Lansing Mall every Sunday in July! 10:30 a.m.-noon. 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/sycamorecreekchurcheastwood.

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

Mega Mall Marketplace & Flea Market Extravaganza - Free admission! Discover your next treasure at Mega Mall, where every visit is an adventure! 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 15487 Old U.S. 27, Lansing. 517-487-3275.

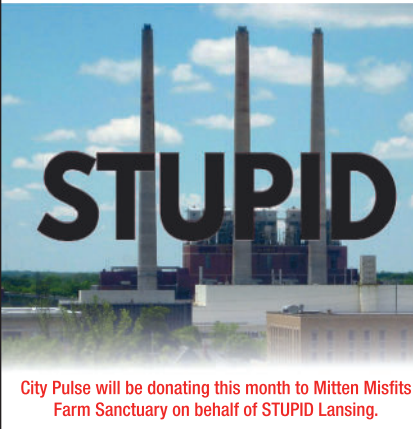
Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association's 5th Annual Golf Fundraiser - Proceeds support advocacy efforts and the association. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wheatfield Valley Golf Course, 1600 Linn Road, Williamston. eventbrite.com/o/60544695803.

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

The Return to the Unbroken One: Healing Childhood Trauma - A compassionate, spiritual approach to healing trauma with a special author talk by Sherri Hitchens, author of "Behind the House." 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Luna Center, 6110 Clark Road, Bath. eventbrite.com/o/27357462037.



Big Penny has broken her long fast. After many months, Big Penny is back. Seen here munching on one of her favorites, the North American Box Truck, the bridge has eaten for the first time since construction closed down Pennsylvania Avenue. Photo by Jon Kahn, who like any good Lansing citizen, is looking out for Big Penny.



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



EVERYbody Reads 20th Anniversary

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, July 18
2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Free
everybodyreadsbooks.com

All are invited to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of EVERYbody Reads bookstore on Saturday. Attendees can explore the store's expansive collection of new and used books, showcasing local authors as well as underserved and underrepresented voices. Vegan cake will be served, and a poetry open mic will run from 3 to 6 p.m.

The celebration also aims to raise funds to support local nonprofits. A can and bottle drive between noon and 3 p.m. will benefit Saved by Zade, a Greater Lansing cat rescue, and proceeds from plant-based food sales will benefit the Immigrant and Refugee Resource Collaborative. Donations to the IRRC will also be accepted.

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.

See Events, Page 24



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THE 39 STEPS

ADAPTED BY PATRICK BARLOW

FROM THE NOVEL BY JOHN BUCHAN | FROM THE MOVIE BY ALFRED HITCHCOCK | BY ARRANGEMENT WITH FIERY ANGEL LIMITED | LICENSED BY ITV GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED AND AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY SIMON CORBLE AND NOBBY DIMOND

JULY 9 - AUG 16, 2026

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

There's been a recent social-media-fueled push to let your kids have a '90s summer. My interpretation of this is allowing them minimal screen time (other than family movie night), giving them frequent reminders that being bored builds character, forcing them to go outside and find someone to play with and letting them roam the neighborhood (within reason, of course) without constantly monitoring their whereabouts.

My '90s summers included riding my bike to get ice cream at Frosty Korner, scampering across the street when the Bookmobile pulled up and late-night games of capture the flag with a gaggle of other kids. Who knew that we were living in halcyon days.

The She Ate family recently returned home from vacation, and the next day, our son told us that he wanted to go to the family cottage Up North to join his cousins in the lead-up to the Fourth of July. Away he went. Our daughter, long obsessed with my lifesaver of a mother-in-law who lives around the corner, peeled off for a sleepover at Gramster's.

These '90s summer activities left me and Mr. She Ate enjoying the most fleeting of sweet summer moments: a child-free 36 hours. We headed out to dinner immediately after spending a glorious hour at Williams-Sonoma selecting one single new chef's knife.

Niko's Taverna is a far cry from what it was when I first visited years ago. It's much more casual than fine dining, a choice I believe is well suited to the style of food. We started with the tirokrokets (\$13.99), which could be described as a Greek version of mozzarella sticks. I added a hefty dash of salt, but otherwise, this was a tasty and unique appetizer.

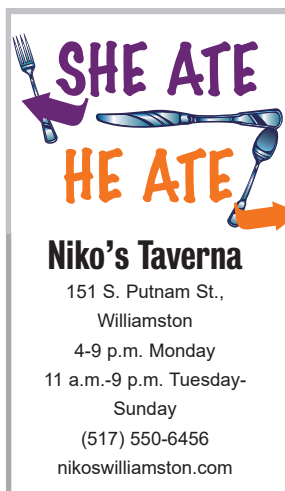
I moved on to the Greek chicken pita (\$13.99), which was large and filling. It was rolled up tightly in foil, which I appreciated for ease of eating, but it also meant that the tzatziki stayed dolloped in the center, leading to several very dry bites before I made my way further into the wrap.

For my side, I chose the intriguing noodles with brown butter and Parmesan, which turned out to be the best part of the entire meal. I've found that many restaurants boast brown butter in a dish, but it's rare that the nutty, caramelly flavor is given the opportunity to shine. The brown butter came first in this dish, with the noodles along for the ride.

Mr. She Ate had the gyro (\$13.99), which was flavorful but a bit dry. He chose the Greek potatoes as his accompaniment, and we noted that the menu includes many items that seem to be rebranded as Greek simply due to the addition of feta and oregano.

See She Ate, Page 26

A taste of Greece in downtown Williamston



By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

Situated along the town's charming main street, Niko's Taverna fits perfectly into the character of Williamston.



Beverly

Whether you choose a table inside or opt for the inviting patio on a beautiful evening or sunny afternoon, the restaurant's atmosphere encourages you to slow down, enjoy your company and savor the experience.

As I looked over the menu, I couldn't help but think about the stories my mother shared after visiting Greece eight years ago. More recently, my daughter returned from a school trip to Greece in April with many of the same observations — the fresh ingredients, the simple yet bold flavors, the way meals become an opportunity to connect with others. Sitting at Niko's, I finally understood what they had been describing. While no restaurant can replace the experience of dining in Greece itself, the flavors, aromas and hospitality certainly capture the spirit.

The most impressive aspect wasn't the food, but the service. During my visit, a single server was also tending the bar, yet you would have never guessed it. Every table received attentive, friendly service. Managing both responsibilities with such professionalism and warmth is no small feat, and it elevated the entire dining experience.

My Friday afternoon visit also offered a reminder that restaurants are about more than what's on the plate. At the table next to mine, a woman was celebrating her birthday. As the staff acknowledged the occasion, smiles spread across the dining room, and strangers became part of someone else's special memory. It was a simple gesture that reflected the welcoming community atmosphere Niko's has cultivated.

Between its picturesque Grand River-adjacent location, inviting patio, authentic Greek-inspired cuisine, attentive service and genuine hospitality, Niko's offers the kind of experience that keeps people coming back, serving as a reminder that the best dining experiences are built around food, family and community.

What's good

Opa! is the traditional salutation that accompanies the lighting of the pan-fried kasseri cheese called saganaki (\$12.99). Served sizzling in a small cast-iron pan and doused with fresh lemon to quench the flames, this is a staple dish at many Greek restaurants and a personal favorite of mine. Niko's version is accompanied by warm pita bread for dipping.

The lamb meatball appetizer (\$12.99) is decent, if not a bit gamier than expected. The flavors are still on point, with the fresh feta providing a layer of creaminess. The Greek tomato sauce dip includes notes of cinnamon, clove and allspice.



Bryan Beverly for City Pulse

Niko's Taverna's Cherry Bomb shrimp earned Bryan Beverly's "best bite" nod this month.

See He Ate, Page 26

Simple carrot cookery

By **ARI LEVAUX**

If given the choice, most omnivores would choose meat over carrots. We humans have been evolutionarily programmed to seek out the captivatingly savory flavor of flesh, as well as the protein content it offers. The carrot, meanwhile, though sweet and mildly fragrant, delivers a less seductive dose of fiber and tastes vaguely of dirt.

Given this reality, I've been surprised to notice a proliferation of carrot dishes on the menus of some decidedly meat-focused restaurants. These dishes usually come in the form of simple sides that, despite the competition, can sometimes steal the show.

My first encounter with this phenomenon happened at a steakhouse in Missoula, Montana, called 1889. The dish, called The Carrots, consisted of poached new carrots, about five inches in length and plated in parallel fashion alongside a well-marbled chunk of

wagyu. The Carrots were tender, simply seasoned and so rich that the steak got a little cold as my kids and I devoured them, all of us eating defensively to ensure we each got our fair share of this scarce resource.

Soon after, I found myself at a similarly meaty establishment, Jesse Pepper's Smokehouse in White Sulphur Springs, where a similar dish went by the name "Mom's Carrots." It was a

rainbow assortment, rather than a plate of straight orange spears, but the motif was similar: a plate of new carrots, cooked simply. And, once again, the carrots outshone the meat — brisket, in this case.

I never inquired as to how either dish was created. But I did some research and repaired to my lab, where I set about trying to reverse engineer these carrot-based dishes.

For my first attempt, I slow-poached baby carrots from the farmers market in a blend of butter, olive oil and wagyu tallow. I added some neon cloves of fresh garlic, slices of onion, fresh rose-



Photo by Ari Levaux

Slow-poached baby carrots with garlic, onion, rosemary and thyme.

mary and thyme, slices of lemon peel, salt and pepper.

My son, who is as close to the polar opposite of an herbivore as humanly possible, declared my carrots the most delicious thing he'd ever consumed. Hyperbole? Sure, but the sentiment hit the mark nonetheless. And that meal

was just the beginning. It seems I had stumbled upon more than just a carrot recipe, but a way of life. Because while the carrots themselves only existed undigested for a brief moment, the poaching liquid went on to lead a glamorous

See Flash, Page 27

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

Sponsors: Sams Club, HAMMOND FARMS, MCPHEE ELECTRIC & TELECOMMUNICATIONS, LAFCU, msufcu, CASE CREDIT UNION, GRANGER, MUSIC INSTRUMENT SWAP.

She Ate

from page 25

We moved on to dessert, because we had all the time in the world. He had a root beer float (\$5.99), which was unremarkable but also inoffensive, and I had the flourless chocolate cake (\$5.99). I was expecting a warm, circular chocolate bomb with a molten center. Instead, it was a flourless brownie, served cold. Don't get me wrong, we still ate it, but the menu description was misleading for my part.

To be forthright, my last experience at Niko's several years ago left such a bitter taste in my mouth that I had refused to return until now. I'm happy I did. The food is satisfying, flavorful and reasonably priced. The vibe is casual and welcoming. There's a sizeable and varied kids' menu, as well as an adorable movie theater across the street. Sounds like we're adding an evening in Williamston to this '90s summer.

He Ate

from page 25

What's really good

The souvlaki sliders (\$14.99) are incredible. Tender cuts of marinated, grilled pork rest on a baguette topped with spicy feta spread and red onion. The zesty tzatziki sauce brings all the flavors together. The sandwich is cut into small portions meant to be shared, but it could definitely make someone happy as a standalone.

The chicken (\$22.99) entrée is stellar. Marinated to perfection and then dry rubbed with herbs, the meat is tender and juicy, and the side of Greek potatoes is also wonderful. Topped with a generous portion of feta cheese and Greek seasonings, prepare for another punch of flavor.

Best bite

I will get three orders of the Cherry Bomb shrimp (\$12.99) next time I go to Niko's Taverna: one for the table and two to take home. First, the shrimp are large and plentiful, a rarity in such a dish. Second, the lobster bisque-esque broth, enriched with sherry and Cajun seasonings, could be served solo as a soup. You'll run out of baguette to dip long before you grow tired of the flavors. Simply outstanding.

TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 RANCH DRESSING

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

- 1. Cottage Inn Pizza Downtown Lansing**
Midwestern chain serving deep-dish and thin-crust pizzas, plus subs, salads and more
206 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 267-9000
cottageinn.com
10 a.m.-1 a.m. Sunday-Thursday
10 a.m.-3 a.m. Friday-Saturday
- 2. Horrocks Pizzeria**
Casual pizza restaurant, salad bar, hot bar and dessert shop
7420 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing'
(517) 220-4369
shophorrocks.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily
- 3. Jet's Pizza — all locations**
Counter-service chain offering Detroit-style pizzas with flavored crusts, plus wings and subs
See jetspizza.com for locations, hours and phone numbers
- 4. One North Kitchen & Bar — both locations**
Roomy eateries offering beer and pub grub, plus a Sunday brunch buffet
See onenorthdining.com for locations, hours and phone numbers
- 5. Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center**
Eatery and event space serving familiar Italian fare, from pizza to lasagna
3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
(517) 322-2069
tonyms.com
7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday
Noon-9 p.m. Saturday
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday

Flash

from page 26

afterlife.

The next day, I used some of the leftover poaching oil to pan fry some steamed potatoes, stirring in a dash of whole cumin seeds. The potatoes developed a glorious crisp and a deeply satisfying richness. I served them alongside a salmon filet that I'd sauced with a mix of white miso, lemon juice and more of the carrot poaching fat. I made the sauce by first sautéing some fresh garlic in leftover carrot-poaching fat, of course. When the garlic hit max fragrance, I added the miso mixture and turned off the heat. I rubbed this sauce on the salmon and cooked it slowly.

I was fully committed to this fat-poached carrot lifestyle when my other son suggested, blasphemously, that the carrots were too rich for his taste. So, I came up with a lighter version of the recipe. I added about an inch of water to a pan, along with the carrots, herbs, lemon peel, salt, pepper and only two tablespoons of olive oil. I cooked the carrots on medium heat with a tight lid, and when they were tender, I took off the lid and allowed the water to evaporate, leaving only the oil and seasonings in the pan. I let the carrots cook a wee bit longer, so they could get a little crispy in the oil, and served them to the leaner son. He was pleased.

About a week later, I ran into my farmer friend Luci and told her about my breakthroughs. As a carrot grower, I

figured she would be interested in my research. She took a step back and looked at me like I was crazy. It turns out Luci is such the practical sort that harvesting baby carrots makes no sense to her. She lets them grow bigger so there will be more carrot to sell, or to enjoy — grated into salad, dipped in hummus or cooked into her famous carrot pasta sauce.

But something didn't add up. "Don't you thin your carrot rows?" I asked. Indeed, she does, she said. I thought I had her cornered. Going in for the kill, I asked, "What do you do with the little carrots you pull when you thin the rows?"

"We stuff them into jars of leftover pickle juice."

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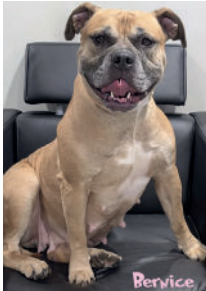
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