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July 29 - August 4, 2026

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**Farmers markets are booming;
can they keep up?**

See Page 10



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The People vs. the Purse

We hear a lot about “rigged elections” these days. The phrase has become a rallying cry, usually accompanied by claims about voting machines, mail-in ballots or phantom voters. But I think our elections are rigged in a far more ordinary—and far more dangerous—way.

Money.

Not suitcases of cash slipped under tables, but a political system in which corporate PACs, wealthy donors and special interests decide long before Election Day which candidates have the resources to compete. Television ads, mailers, consultants, polling, digital campaigns—none of it is free. Candidates willing to accept large checks often begin the race with an enormous advantage over those who refuse them.

That doesn’t mean every candidate who accepts PAC money is corrupt. But it does raise an unavoidable question: if powerful interests invest heavily in a campaign, what are they expecting in return?

As these primary elections approach, that question weighs heavily on me.

I’ve been watching William Lawrence’s campaign closely, and what stands out isn’t flashy advertising or polished political theater. It’s the work. He’s in the neighborhoods, at community events, talking with voters, listening more than lecturing. He isn’t trying to convince people he’s one of us. He already is.

The same can be said of Abdul. Every question I’ve seen put to him has been answered. From everything I can tell, there are no hidden controversies waiting to surface and no evasiveness when it comes to explaining where he stands.

Their opponents would likely say the same about themselves. That’s their right, and voters should evaluate every candidate on the facts.

But what gives me pause is the role of big-money fundraising. Public campaign finance records show who contributes to campaigns, and those records allow voters to draw their own conclusions about the interests surrounding a candidate. When candidates rely heavily on large donors and corporate-backed money while being less than forthcoming about questions surrounding their campaigns, it becomes harder for me to believe that ordinary constituents will remain their first priority once they’re in office.

Trust isn’t built with slogans. It’s built through openness, accountability, and a willingness to answer difficult questions even when the answers aren’t politically convenient.

One of the things that discourages me most about modern politics is how quickly campaigns turn to tearing down opponents instead of building up their own ideas.

When candidates spend years volunteering, serving their communities, and earning the trust of their neighbors, it’s disheartening to watch campaign season devolve into personal attacks and accusations. Whether those attacks are fair or unfair, they often generate more attention than honest conversations about policy, character and vision.

I wish politics had a little more sportsmanship.

After the Super Bowl, you never see the winning quarterback stand at the podium and declare that the other quarterback was a terrible player. They congratulate their opponent. They recognize the competition. They understand that respecting the person across the field doesn’t diminish their own victory.

Politics shouldn’t be any different.

Winning shouldn’t require convincing voters that your opponent is unfit for office through caricature or personal attacks. It should require convincing them that your ideas, your experience, and your character make you the better choice.

Every candidate promises to fight for working people. Every candidate claims to represent the community. Those words are easy. The harder question is who they’re accountable to after the votes are counted.

That’s why campaign finance matters. It’s not because every donation buys a vote. It’s because dependence creates access, influence, and expectations that ordinary citizens could never hope to match.

Maybe our elections aren’t “rigged” in the conspiratorial sense that dominates cable news and social media. But they are tilted toward those with the deepest pockets, and that’s a problem regardless of which party benefits.

If there’s one rallying cry that every one of us should be able to get behind, it’s this: our elections should belong to us. Not to corporate interests. Not to billionaires. Not to wealthy donors or political action committees.

To us. To you. To me.

To every voter who takes the time to learn the issues, cast a ballot, and believes their voice should carry the same weight as someone who can write the biggest check.

Democracy isn’t supposed to be an auction where influence goes to the highest bidder. It’s supposed to be a covenant between citizens and those we entrust to represent us.

When elected officials owe their success first to the people instead of the powerful, government becomes more accountable, more responsive, and more worthy of the public’s trust.

Because the moment our elections stop belonging to us is the moment our democracy starts belonging to someone else. And they already have been for as long as I can remember. Before Trump, before Biden, before Obama, before Bush, and before Clinton.

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

City Council rejects housing incentive that would have dropped council hearings

By MIKE ELLIS

Lansing City Council members rejected on Monday a proposal that would have encouraged housing investment in exchange for bypassing the City Council hearings.

The council split 4-4 on the proposal, defeating it in a contentious meeting.

The proposal would have added an automatic, or by-right, approval for housing projects that included affordable housing and meet normal city, state and federal housing regulations.

It was, according to council member Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, one of the best ways to encourage housing investment in a city that sorely needs more housing because of a gap of several thousand units.

Nevarez Martinez is a housing professor at Michigan State University and a nationally recognized expert, and when she was elected last year, other council members said they would turn to her expertise to help solve Lansing's housing crisis.

But throwing the doors open to encourage development at the cost of City Council oversight was too much to ask of Lansing's residents, said council member Adam Hussain, who opposed the plan.

He said the city did not need to give up its leverage over developers and pointed to recent projects in which city council members had exacted higher tax payments, shorter terms or outright rejected bad deals through public hearings.

"Our work over the last five years," he said, "has saved millions for the city over the duration of the PILOTs."

Nevarez Martinez's proposal aimed to give a by-right approval for housing proposals that set aside at least 30% of their units for affordable housing in exchange for a 4% payment-in-lieu-of-taxes deal, or PILOT.

Most developments in Lansing either go all affordable or none - because if a developer only sets aside 30% of the units as affordable, this incentive and others would only apply to 30%



Deyanira Nevarez Martinez



Ryan Kost



Adam Hussain

of the project - so it is likely that most of the proposals will be far above the minimums, said Rawley Van Fossen, the city's director of Economic Development and Planning.

"We're trying to address a billion- or trillion-dollar problem that is affordable housing with nickels and dimes," he said, during a community meeting last week. "This can speed up the process and make Lansing more competitive."

Developers would agree to pay a set amount, far less than the normal tax rate, in exchange for building affordable housing rather than market rate housing and they would, in exchange, get to bypass the city council hearings where the public could weigh in or build pressure on council to reject the project.

Nevarez Martinez said there would still be maintenance and safety and construction regulations that developers would have to follow but those would be objective criteria that developers and banks can plan on ahead of time and avoid worries about public pressure or "politicization," as Nevarez Martinez calls it.

Her proposal called for 18 year terms. The city has an existing 10% PILOT program and many of the current three dozen PILOTs have rates below 10% and for terms longer than 18 years. These deals can be extended after they expire.

For Walter French, one of the area's most touted affordable housing proj-

ects, the funding included 17 sources, including a PILOT, but that project was more complicated than most and mixed both affordable and market-rate housing as well as a child care center.

The tax difference between a normal tax-paying property and a PILOT is wildly different for each project but at a presentation at the former REO School, an official for the Capital Area Housing Partnership said the difference of getting the PILOT for Walter French amounted to a city subsidy of about \$500,000 over the course of the deal, more than 15 years.

Hussain said the city had not calculated any projection of what the proposal would cost the city, nor did the city prepare a report on the gap between the current PILOT proposals and the full amount the city could theoretically have made.

Nevarez Martinez said it is a mistake to see the difference between the city's full tax expectations and the discount of a PILOT because in almost every case, the difference is between a project that doesn't happen and one that does. She said most of the projects that get initial city PILOT approvals across the state get rejected by the state and don't get built.

Council member Ryan Kost said during Monday's meeting that he has been through some of the buildings the city has given PILOTs to, "including one of our newest PILOTs," where conditions have quickly deteriorated, and residents are living in deplorable con-

ditions.

He said it is not just old buildings, but new buildings the city has recently helped to fund that are falling apart and that without city council oversight, future developments could be worse.

"We need to name this; it is not making affordable housing, it's corporate welfare," Kost said. "If we do 4% byright, people can't voice support or not support and they won't have a chance to voice their opinion."

Kost said developers are bluffing when they say affordable housing is only possible with a 4% PILOT agreement. He pointed to Simtob Management as an example of quality affordable housing being possible without city subsidies like PILOTs.

"They fund low-income housing without PILOTs," Kost said.

Simtob settled a lawsuit with the city in 2023 over the condition of dozens of their homes.

Nevarez Martinez said Kost was not being factual and that Simtob does workforce housing, which is not the same as affordable housing and their buildings would not qualify for PILOT funding because they do not attempt to meet the federal standards.

Affordable housing is defined as a percentage of the average income of an area.

In Lansing, about 62% of people qualify for affordable housing, Nevarez Martinez said.

Nevarez Martinez also said the building Kost was referring to was not part of the city's PILOT program and both the current and her proposed PILOT programs require tax benefits to be removed if conditions violate federal rules.

"If you can give me the address of anything that's an active PILOT," Nevarez Martinez said, "that's a violation of the federal program. Come tell me and I personally commit to starting an investigation."

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Kyle Melinn: Don't be surprised if Will Lawrence wins

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Ten Pound Fiddle announces 52nd season

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First-time author sets debut novel in hometown of Ann Arbor

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Cover photo by Raymond Holt

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HEY CREEPY GUY, I CHANGED MY MIND! LINDSEY GRAHAM'S LAST WORDS WERE **ACTUALLY** "AMERICA NEEDS THAT BIG ARCH TRUMP WANTS TO BUILD!"

AND THE TROOPS WHO DIED SAID THE SAME THING, VERY STRONGLY!

WELL, CASE CLOSED, SIR! OBVIOUSLY WE MUST HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROES!

SPEAKING OF IRAN--NONE OF **US** BELIEVE THIS, OF COURSE, BUT THE FAKE NEWS MEDIA KEEPS TELLING PEOPLE THE WAR IS GOING **BADLY!**

THE **EXCURSION**, YOU MEAN.

I STAND CORRECTED!

LOOK, THE IRANIANS KILL **PROTESTERS!** CAN YOU **IMAGINE** A GOVERNMENT THAT SENDS ARMED FORCES OUT TO KILL PEOPLE IN THE **STREET?**

IT COULD **NEVER** HAPPEN **HERE!** EXCEPT WHEN IT FREQUENTLY DOES.

AND THEY WOULD HAVE HAD **NUCLEAR**, IF NOT FOR ME! DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE OBLITERATED THEIR NUCLEAR CAPACITY LAST YEAR! THAT'S JUST HOW **DEVIOUS** THEY ARE!

ALL VERY TRUE, SIR! BUT REPUBLICANS **ARE** CONCERNED THAT THIS, UH, **EXCURSION**, WILL HURT US IN THE **MIDTERMS**.

EH, JUST TELL EVERYONE TO START CALLING DEMOCRATS **COMMUNISTS!** WHAT RED-BLOODED AMERICAN DOESN'T LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR OF THE **COMMUNIST MENACE?**

YES, SIR. MAYBE THE INFLUENCERS WILL EMBRACE IT AS **IRONICALLY RETRO!**

ER, NOTHING.

WHAT?

NEXT SIR, PEOPLE ARE COMPLAINING THAT THE ARCH WILL OBSTRUCT VIEWS OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL!

THEN TEAR THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL **DOWN!** JESUS CHRIST, DO I HAVE TO DO **ALL** THE THINKING AROUND HERE?

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

AND THEN OKAY, WE NEED AN A.I. VIDEO OF THE MEMORIAL BEING DEMOLISHED.

ON IT!

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Every photograph tells a story

By **BILL CASTANIER**

A never-published news photo from nearly 60 years ago offers a new way of seeing history: it shows four Black students from Lansing Sexton High School as they were covering a George Wallace rally on the Capitol Lawn and has sparked new conversations.

The photo speaks to a tumultuous time in Michigan history and was recently rediscovered, offering a window into the too-neglected story of Lansing's first Black newspaper and its founder Ernie Boone.

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is hosting one of the students in the photo, noted journalist Terry Johnson, at 11 a.m. Friday (July 31) at the Rogers Carrier House (528 N. Capitol) for a conversation starting with that George Wallace rally and including Boone's legacy.

Johnson is a 1970 Sexton graduate and a Michigan State University journalism graduate; the conversation will be moderated by Margo Scott, a real estate executive originally from Lansing, who recently relocated to the area.

Their talk will start with the Wallace rally and how the times helped to shape young people like Johnson.

Wallace was drawing huge crowds in cities across Michigan in 1968 when he ran as an Independent and came to the Capitol grounds. In 1972, Wallace would win the Democratic primary in Michigan.

During his time in Lansing, Johnson was among a group of students who was arrested in 1971 for a sit-in at Sexton High School along with Ernie Boone, local Black activist and founder of the Westside News, Lansing's Black newspaper in the seventies.

Boone will be joining Johnson and Scott for the discussion about the Black Power movement in Lansing during the sixties and seventies.

Johnson went on to work for several notable media outlets including United Press International, Jet Magazine, Newsweek Magazine and The Village Voice in addition to two daily newspapers in Philadelphia. Johnson was one of a group of Sexton students and MSU journalism students who worked on the ground-breaking Westside News with Boone.

Johnson also was one of the MSU Black student journalists who worked

on the Grapevine Journal, the first Black student newspaper on MSU campus. The MSU Special Collections office recently received funding to digitize the newspaper's archives.

In his recent book "Forever in the Past" MSU Professor Pero G. Dagbovie wrote extensively about the impact of the newspaper.

The photo that helped to relaunch the conversation was rediscovered by Kenneth Turner, a classmate of Johnson.

Turner was recently viewing a collection of 150 photographs of

demonstrations spanning 150 years on the Capitol Lawn, it's an ongoing exhibit celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Turner saw the photograph of a 1968 George Wallace Rally on the Capitol Lawn.

The photograph shows four young Black men at the rally and one being detained by the

Ingham County Sheriff Department. Turner immediately said, "I know them—they were my classmates."

He immediately texted Johnson and the conversation led to the rediscovery of history and connections.

The photographs of the Wallace rally were taken by Jay Cassidy, a student photographer for the University of Michigan

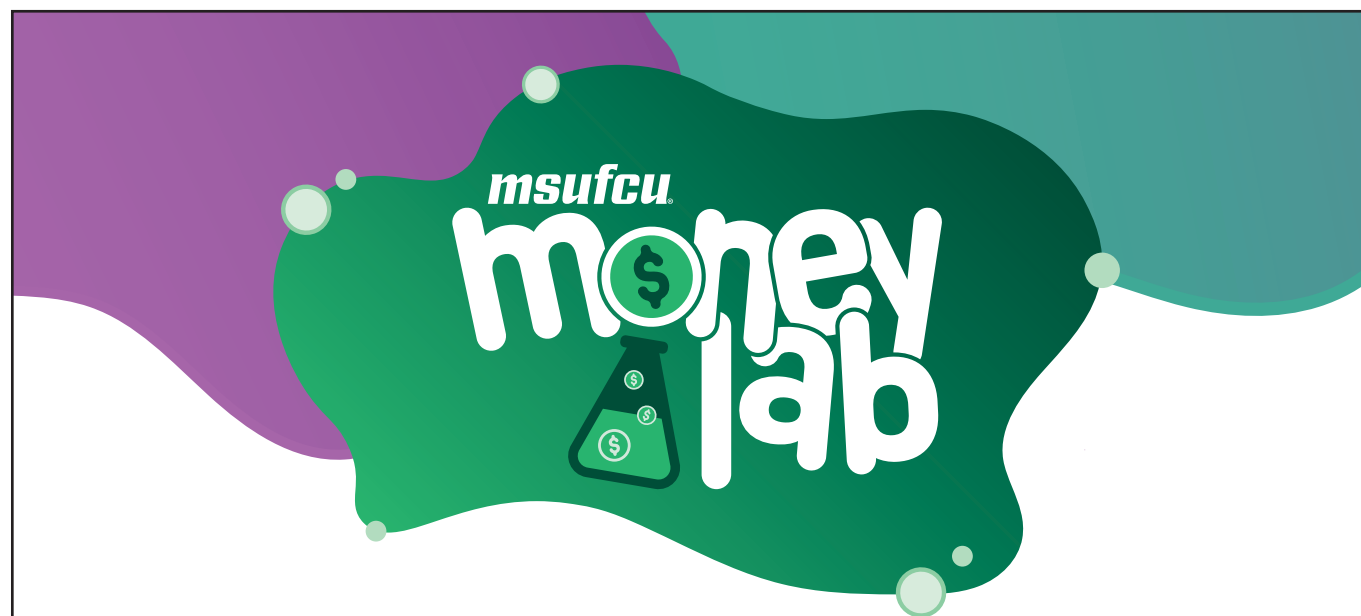


Daily, the campus newspaper.

Research indicates the photos were never published.

Cassidy went on to a very successful career in Hollywood as a major movie film editor. He edited scores of movies including Sean Penn's movies.

The photographic exhibition is sponsored in part by a grant from the MI250 celebration and showcases 150 years of freedom of assembly on the Capitol Lawn.



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AUG 5-9 › CONCERTS INSIDE URBANBEAT

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AUG 7 & 8 › JAZZ ON THE STREET

In addition, on Friday and Saturday the festival rolls onto the streets including the Cold Plunge and Fish Ladder stages, featuring Cat Daddy, The Pickle Mafia, Phillip Manuel, Twyla Birdsong, MI Young Lions, Detroit Jazz Project, Lansing Concert Big Band and JAMM Scholarship Band. Visit michiganjazzfest.com for the full schedule.

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UrbanBeat Stage
5:30 Tom Duffield
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Thur, AUG 6 • KidzBeat Fundraiser

UrbanBeat Stage
5:30 Clique Vocals
7:00 Pickle Mafia

Fri, AUG 7

UrbanBeat Stage
5:30 Clique Vocals
8:00 Tom Duffield
10:00 Max Gage Trio AFTERGLOW

Cold Plunge Stage
4:30 Jamm Scholarship Band
6:30 Cat Daddy
8:30 Pickla Mafia

Sat, AUG 8

2:00 KidzBeat • Vendor Area
Instrument Petting Zoo
Dance performances

UrbanBeat Stage
3:00 Tom Duffield
5:00 800G
6:30 800G
9:00 Clique Vocals
10:00 Ammy Amorette & Jeff Baldori AFTERGLOW

Cold Plunge Stage
4:00 Detroit Jazz Project
6:00 MI Young Lions play Jeff Haas
8:30 Phillip Manuel

Fish Ladder Stage
3:00 School of Rock
5:00 Twyla Birdsong
7:00 Lansing Concert Band Big Band

Sun, AUG 9

UrbanBeat Stage
12:00 Gospel Brunch • featuring Twyla Birdsong
4:00 "Pzazz" • featuring Phillip Manuel

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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Lansing was awarded a \$1.2 million grant for preliminary engineering and planning that could lead to roadwork and improved intersection safety in

south Lansing. The grant covers the IPACE intersection area - including I-96, Pennsylvania Avenue, American Road, Cedar Street and Edgewood Boulevard. The grant could help make the area safer, Mayor Andy Schor said, in a statement. The federal BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grant would allow for only planning and design work; construction funding would need to come from elsewhere. "This funding will allow the city and MDOT to develop and plan for a safe, efficient design for the S. Cedar, Pennsylvania, Edgewood area and I look forward to working with our state and federal partners to further study this busy area and design a modernized intersection," said Andy Kilpatrick, the city's Public Service Department director.

A BUILD grant was also awarded to Meridian Township from the U.S. Department of Transportation grant program to improve the intersection of Okemos and Hamilton roads in downtown Okemos. The work is projected to take place in 2028-29. "Revitalizing our downtown is the Township Board's number one goal, and infrastructure issues have been the greatest roadblock to getting a redevelopment project off the ground," Meridian Township Supervisor Scott Hendrickson said in a statement. "This grant will allow us to improve vehicular access to Village of Okemos properties, enhance walkability throughout the area, and create conditions that support high-quality redevelopment consistent with our community's vision."

Lansing's new Willow School had a ribbon-cutting last week to mark the opening of the new \$40 million school at 1025 Ontario St. It is expected to serve grades K-8, with about 500 students in 18 class-



rooms. The school was part of a \$130 million bond approved back in 2022. Lansing School District also opened earlier this summer the Lewton School, a Spanish immersion school for pre-K-8 students.



DBI, a Lansing-based design and office furniture company, has transitioned to employee ownership.

The company is the second business to finalize an Employee Stock Ownership Plan through the Michigan Employee Ownership Pilot Program. DBI employs 54 people across three Lansing locations. They provide interior design, office furniture, architectural solutions, installation, reconfiguration and on-going project support. Former owners George Snyder and Steve Klaver opted for the state program to keep the ownership local instead of selling to an outside buyer or competitor. "When Steve and I began thinking about what came next for DBI, keeping the company locally owned was one of the most important things to us," Snyder said, in a statement from the state. "Employee ownership strengthens that commitment by giving every employee-owner a personal stake in delivering exceptional experiences and supporting DBI's continued success." The pilot program has provided grants to 10 companies exploring employee ownership. Seven have committed to completing transitions and DBI is the second to finish the process.



East Lansing City Council members approved last week a 12-story project called "The Howard" and denied a different 10-story project. The Howard development plans to have close to 300 units of apartments with

commercial/retail units on the ground floor. It will be on Grand River Avenue, rising above the former MSU Student Bookstore location. The proposal relies on neighboring parking for most of the planned residents, which has been controversial. The council also rejected a plan to build a separate high-rise on the Bailey Street parking lot site.



The City of Lansing is receiving a grant to hire a qualified contractor to complete a

historic resource survey of properties within the Espanore subdivision, one of the original subdivision plats of the Westside Neighborhood. The survey will serve as a baseline for collecting data about historic resources in the area, which will help guide future decision-making and efforts to recognize, promote, and tell the story of the community. "The City of Lansing is excited to accept and utilize the Certified Local Government grant, its first since 2007, to complete a reconnaissance survey of the Espanore plat of the historic Westside neighborhood," said Andy Fedewa, principal planner for the City of Lansing. "The survey will document the neighborhood's architectural and cultural resources, improve understanding of its historic significance, and provide an updated foundation for preservation planning. This effort will help inform future decision-making, educate property owners, and ensure the neighborhood's unique character and history are recognized and preserved for future generations."

Lansing's Child and Family Charities non-profit has launched a series of "Barbershop Talks" at their Dart Foundation Youth Drop-In and Education Center on S. Washington. Drop-in Education Center Coordinator Mandi Woodward told WLNS News that the program was created after listening to what young men, ages 14-21, in the community need most. The makeshift barbershop provides free haircuts with "judgement-free group discussions, to help teens and young



men in areas of mental health, coping with gun violence, suicide prevention and building confidence. The "barbershop" is open Mondays twice a month, with the next two sessions scheduled for Aug. 10 and 24 between 1-3 p.m.



The post office in Charlotte is one step closer to being re-named after Ensign Francis C. Flaherty.

A U.S. House committee voted last week to advance a proposal by U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, a Charlotte Republican, to rename the post office to honor Flaherty, who died during the Pearl Harbor attack while aiding his shipmates to safety. About one in four bills gets advanced to the full House and this one is likely to be approved, according to GovTrack.us, which monitors similar bills. The bipartisan bill is cosponsored by Michigan's other 12 representatives. Flaherty was born in Charlotte and attended the University of Michigan before joining the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1946, and his remains were identified in 2019 as part of a large military identification program and was reinterred at Maple Hill Cemetery in Charlotte. Part of M-50 in Charlotte is named the "Ensign Francis Flaherty Memorial Highway," which was designated in 2021.

Lansing anesthesiologist Dr. Paul St. Claire was awarded more than \$12.2 million last week by an Ingham County jury after



he claimed he had been defamed by Milton Allimadi and Black Star News Inc., a New York-based independent online news source. Allimadi and Black Star were found to be in default and established liability, which left only damages for the jury to determine. St. Claire's attorney, C. Christopher Newburg, said in a social media post that his client was the subject of a "relentless, vindictive, and malicious online smear campaign." Allimadi told the Lansing State Journal that he's attempting to get the damages thrown out and default judgment set aside, saying that he stands by what he wrote.

Trucking noise making life difficult for resident

My name is Scotty Decess. I am a lifetime resident of Lansing. I live on Randall Street on the North Side.

I grew up on the south end of Lansing, south of Jolly Rd.

I am writing to formally request immediate review and action regarding the trucking operation located directly behind my residence.

I respectfully urge the city to reconsider the current industrial zoning of this property and to pursue rezoning consistent with the surrounding residential neighborhood. I further urge the City to employ any available enforcement tools to remedy.

I am writing to express my deep disappointment following the City Council's recent decision to reject the proposed zoning change for the industrial trucking operation located directly behind my home.

Opinion

For those of us who live in this neighborhood, this decision has immediate and lasting consequences. The operation remains fundamentally incompatible with a residential setting, and the conditions we are being asked to endure are not only disruptive, but increasingly harmful.

Since first raising this issue with the Council, the situation has worsened. Truck activity now extends late into the night—often continuing until 1:00 a.m.—leaving residents with little opportunity for rest or peace. Semi-trucks operate just feet from homes, idling for long periods, revving engines, using engine brakes, and sounding air horns at all hours. These are not rare occurrences; they are constant and unpredictable intrusions into daily life.

Of particular concern is the ongoing exposure to diesel exhaust. Trucks frequently idle directly behind residential properties, allowing fumes to drift into homes. There have been repeated instances of visible smoke accumulating across the lot, as well as trucks running for hours at a time—even inside buildings with doors open. This raises serious health concerns not only for my household, but for the entire neighborhood.

In addition to noise and air pollution, residents have experienced physical disturbances such as hammering strong enough to cause ground vibrations. While there was a brief period of improved property maintenance, conditions have since declined again, contributing to a broader pattern of disregard for the surrounding community. This business has brought cockroaches into my home and property as well.

The cumulative effect of these conditions is a constant state of stress and frustration. Like others, I have considered leaving my home simply to escape the noise and pollution—but economic realities make that option difficult, if not impossible. No resident should feel trapped in their own home due to incompatible industrial activity. Property values will drop as well in this area. I would respectfully request a meeting with City officials so that I can provide documentary evidence of the severity of the situation.

The Council's lack of action does not change the reality on the ground. We continue to live in a stressful environment. I urge city leadership to reconsider this issue and take meaningful steps to protect the health, safety, and quality of life of the residents they serve.

I want to add special thanks to Skye with Best Buy's Geek Squad, the Writing Center staff at LCC and Ingrid from Odd Nod for the artwork (visit lansingcitypulse.com to see the illustration)

Scotty Decess

It's a two-person race in MI-7 ... for second place

By KYLE MELINN

Matt Maasdam's congressional campaign boldly issued a State of the Race memo this weekend that the Democratic 7th Congressional primary is down to two: Himself and ...

Bridget Brink, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine who has devoured Maasdam's attention for more than a year?

No. Will Lawrence.

For seemingly the first time in this year-long quest to be the Democrats' nominee against U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, one of the two D.C. put-ups in this race has quit obsessing about the other. Their biggest threat isn't who they thought.

Incredibly, it's the lightly funded local yokel, who — right under their noses — has built the most impressive grassroots operations that a Lansing-based congressional effort has built in the 30 years I can speak to.

Team Maasdam is claiming Brink's support is slipping. It's time for Democrats to unite behind the U.S. Navy SEAL. The not-so-subtle undertone here is Brink needs to drop out a la Mallory McMorrow. Make it a one-on-one battle with Lawrence.

If 7th Congressional Democrats don't, they risk losing their opportunity to snatch the seat from freshman U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett.

Lawrence, apparently, has a pile of negatives Barrett's going to use to beat Lawrence over the head with, according to the memo. Republicans are going to frame Lawrence as a wild, wide-eyed socialist! Some out-of-touch crackpot! Democrats can't have that!

The Maasdam team has woken up. The alarm clock is blaring. It's 7 a.m. The meeting started at 6:45 a.m.

Maybe if their Ann Arbor guy had dropped into Lansing a little more, he'd have seen the true State of the Race.

My read of the race: Lawrence is winning the Aug. 4 primary. And it's not because he's got a resume straight out of central casting. It's not because he's personally wealthy or had financial commitments from the Democratic Party's high rollers. He's not blanketing the airwaves with professional-looking TV spots.

Lawrence isn't appealing to the sensibilities of a populace hard-wired into politics. He's not speaking to the MSU grad student or GM line worker who looks in the mirror in the morning asking, "Who gives Democrats the best chance to defeat Tom Barrett?"

No. This regular ol' bearded East Lan-

sing graduate, who looks like my nephew, has touched the hearts of Lansingites in a way money can't buy and reached places where TV commercials can't penetrate.

This local organizer is using his local connections, incredible work ethic and his own ears to build a movement that wasn't in the D.C. consultants' script.

It's because this simply doesn't happen.

Their strategy has been: Present as a sensible person who cares.

Raise as much money as humanly possible. Snag as many endorsements from local officials, unions and influential people as possible. Tarnish the other person's resume. Show momentum. Charm folks at a few community meetings.

Presto! That's how Elissa Slotkin won. Look at her now.

Voters didn't hold her light connection to the congressional district against her in 2018.

They just knew they didn't want a Donald Trump apologist representing them in Congress. Slotkin presented as the perfect alternative. That worked then.

Smarter-than-us consultants running an off-the-shelf D.C. race didn't work for Curtis Hertel in 2024 either because they didn't have their finger on the pulse of the district. What worked eight years ago in this district isn't what voters are looking for today.

You don't need to see the Lawrence signs peppered around town, the latest Kalshi market prediction or the positive social media postings to feel it.

Lawrence has built a home-spun, underdog race Hollywood makes movies about. He's connecting with regular, scared, cash-strapped people because he is one.

Health care costs are through the roof. Groceries are expensive. Good, affordable housing is scarce.

"Some big-tech corporation wants to build a loud, toxic data center in my community? That'll jack up my electric bill, won't it? That's all I need."

"Who's that guy who keeps showing up to stuff? The guy who held a food drive outside of Barrett's office in November? Shook my hand at Silver Bells? Had some guy knock on my door the other week?"

Yup. That was Will Lawrence. It's the candidate Democrats should no longer fear. It's the candidate that Tom Barrett and Republicans should fear.

Before it's too late for them, too.

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



POLITICS

Local markets are booming

From farmers markets to food pantries, here's how Lansing's farmers markets, food pantries and shoppers are dealing with cyclospora

By LIEZA KLEMM

Amid the cyclospora outbreak, vendors at Greater Lansing area farmers markets are hoping the headlines — including a visit from British social media duo Josh & Jase to a market on the Capitol lawn on Tuesday (July 28) — will bring more shoppers back to local farm stands.

“I do think it's important for people to know that farmers markets exist and that there are local farmers whose livelihoods are based off of the local community supporting them,” local grower Tyler Sharp said.

Caleb Bancroft's farm, based in DeWitt, saw a boom in sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, but sales dropped off once restrictions were lifted a trend he fears could repeat this time.

“I really wish people would remember,” Bancroft said, “because we're going to be here trying to bring you the best produce we can.”

Food recalls aren't surprising

The United States Food and Drug Administration reported over a thousand food and cosmetic recalls last year. Reasons for recalls included undeclared allergens, like wheat and milk, on ready-to-eat sandwiches and mislabeling items that needed refrigeration.

More alarming reasons include Salmonella contamination, seasonings potentially having small metal fragments and possible seafood exposure to Norovirus.

In many of these cases, the source is easily traceable. Steps are taken to remove the product from grocery stores and limit the public's risk.

But when the cause, source and contaminated product aren't clearly identified, any way of minimizing harm gets muddy.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

“The contamination and the fear around the lettuce from Taylor Farms is what's made me explore the farmers market for the first time. I've got a couple of bunches of lettuce,” said Kristin Rosendal, of Holt, at the East Lansing Farmers Market. “It looks very good. I'm going to be washing it up, and we're going to have salads finally. We're really excited to eat some salad again.”



Photo by Mike Ellis

Social media duo Josh & Jase (Joshua Cauldwell-Clarke and Jason “Jase” Riley) appeared Tuesday (July 28) at the Michigan Farmers Market Association's summer market on the Capitol lawn, where they got to sample local food.

Michigan ranks at the top of states currently seeing a large and developing outbreak of cyclosporiasis, an intestinal illness caused by cyclospora, a microscopic parasite that can contaminate fresh food and water.

The illness is characterized by “frequent, watery diarrhea,” according to public health officials.

Communication from federal health departments about sourcing is murky. The FDA reported in mid-July that a sample of Taylor Farms iceberg lettuce grown in central Mexico showed evidence of cyclospora. The traceback investigation detected shredded lettuce from Taylor Farms de Mexico, which was sold to Taco Bell locations across the Midwest, as a possible source. The company issued a voluntary recall the same day.

Officials walked that statement back a few days later, calling it a “false positive.”

In a press release from around the same time, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services identified lettuce or salad greens as a possible source, but clarified that “other food items cannot be completely ruled out.”

Officials said they are continuing to investigate additional suppliers, restaurants, retailers and distribution channels to trace the source of the outbreak.

Local alternative

Many are turning to local gardens and farmers markets to find produce. Greater Lansing offers multiple farmers markets throughout the week, giving residents alternatives to typical grocery store produce.

Those going to the Allen Farmers Market on Wednesdays can find vendors in the side parking lot, look under the mural on Shepard and Kalamazoo Street, as well as inside the Allen Neighborhood Community Center.

The market's website issued an alert for July 22, assuring customers that local growers at the Allen Farmers Market can “provide safe, healthy, and delicious produce” and emphasizing an absence of cases traced back to local farms.

Coleen Stowell, of Coleen's Greens, has noticed more customers are showing up to the farmers market.

“I've seen a lot of new faces,” she said.

Three Lakes Gardens' Tyler Sharp said customers are asking a lot of questions and showing concerns about buying at grocery stores.

“It's actually opened up a lot of opportunities for us as local farmers to describe our produce, our habits of growing, how we package and store it,” he said.

The farm has seen a boom in sales, starting with the first market after the outbreak was announced. “Actually, we've had our best sales in the last couple weeks,” Sharp said. “I think people are going from the grocery chains to come in and buy local.”

Across in Okemos, the Meridian Farmers Market is open year-round. Caleb Bancroft is part of Pondsides Farms, located in DeWitt. He goes to as many farmers markets as possible, but with the huge uptick in customers, keeping produce on his market tables is a

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Cyclospora outbreak

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juggling act.

“For the past few weeks, it’s been packed for the first hour, hour and a half, and we sometimes run out of produce,” he said.

His crops took a hit with the recent heat wave. Romaine lettuce prefers cooler weather. When romaine lettuce sales soared, he tried to accommodate by planting more, but the hot weather caused it to go bitter.

“We never foresaw this,” he said.
Like Three Lakes Gardens, Bancroft



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Corrion Farm & Greenhouse of Hampton Township makes a point to let customers know its lettuce is grown in Michigan.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Tyler Sharp of Three Lakes Gardens in Williamston said, “A lot of first-time customers ask if our produce is local. And returning customers are showing a little more concern about where their food is sourced. It gives us an opportunity to talk with people and inform them about our practices.”



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Three Lakes Gardens lettuce sold out quickly at the Meridian Township Farmers Market.

said sales have surged, approximately 25%.

Hailey Collins operates Turnip the Beets Farm with her husband.

Usually, lettuce doesn’t sell out for the first two hours, depending on how much there is, she said. But recently, the lettuce is gone within a half hour.

“We have a lot more growing, but it’s just the two of us,” Collins said, gesturing to her husband. “We’ve been thinking about needing more, but who knows for how long?”

Collins and Bancroft are both struggling with the demand for produce and the hands available to harvest it.

“Because we have two full-time employees, we can only do so much, and we bring as much produce as we can,” Bancroft said. “The thing is that we’re just selling out faster.”

Customers at the Meridian Farmers Market shared doubts about buying produce from grocery stores. “I feel more comfortable being here,” one shopper told City Pulse. “I trust the farming practices more.”

A family with small children commented they now only buy produce they plan to cook from the grocery store. “We usually buy from the farmers market anyway,” one parent said, “But we’ve had to adjust our budget because it’s more expensive here.”

Anne Rauscher owns and operates Swallowtail Farms in Mason with her family.

They have a staffed farm stand open twice a week and have had to rearrange parking instructions because of the uptick in customers. “We’ve had a little bit of a lineup right as we open,” she said.

“Lots of people have said ‘this is the only produce I’m eating, or this is all I can trust.’”

Chain reaction

Concern for food safety goes beyond the grocery store shelves.

“What has been so challenging with this outbreak in particular is there hasn’t been a specific product that the issue has been sourced to,” Katlyn Cardoso said. Cardoso is the spokesperson for the Greater Lansing Food Bank (GLFB).

When more information was released connecting the outbreak to bagged lettuce and salad mixes, GLFB stopped distributing it immediately. “We’ve pulled all of that product from our warehouses,” she said. “We’re not accepting donations of any of those kinds of products.”

GLFB estimates that 800 to 1,200 pounds of food a week are being dis-



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

“I am just making sure everything is local, making sure it’s from Michigan, asking if they are actually growing it on their farm instead of being sourced from somewhere else and marketing it here,” said Roxanne Preston of Williamston (left). “We’ve seen an increase in interest in locally grown produce, absolutely. They ask where our farm is, if we are local, are we following good safety practices,” said Bee Queener of Titus Farms in Leslie (right).

carded because of cyclospora concerns.

To curb food waste, the food bank brings unusable products to an anaerobic digester in Holt.

Cardoso said the organization follows food safety guidelines exceeding those of a grocery store or restaurant, and expects partner groups to meet the same

standards, despite the misconceptions around food banks.

“Food safety is at the core of our philosophy with distribution efforts,” she said.

A study published by the National
See Cyclospora outbreak, Page 12



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Cyclospora outbreak

from page 11

Institutes of Health in 2021 connected food insecurity to chronic stress, compromising an individual's ability to stay healthy.

This extends to resiliency against foodborne illnesses, according to Cardoso.

"It's not fun for anyone, but if you are generally in good health, your body is able to cope with [a foodborne illness] and respond to it appropriately," she said. "If you have other limiting factors...then something like a foodborne illness can be a lot more severe."

Food insecurity is often an indicator of economic instability, which comes with more complications when illness is on the rise. Factors like access to health-care and the means to pay for it all play into how someone experiencing food insecurity manages a foodborne illness.

"You now are facing that choice between being unable to pay a hospital bill and just trying to stick it out and hope for the best," Cardoso said.

With a tight budget, buying produce from the farmers market is out of the question, making the idea of tossing valuable fresh food complicated. "Especially if it is fresh produce that is nutritionally dense," she said, "it's a very difficult choice."

Some Michiganders served by the food bank don't have access to running water or refrigeration, which are both critical when it comes to food safety.

GLFB offers alternatives, like frozen and canned produce. Cardoso said those options can sometimes have a higher concentration of nutrients compared to the fresh produce, and have a lower barrier of access. "So if you have people with mobility concerns, or if you have single parents...that don't have time to sit and clean a bunch of carrots," she said, "it gives people a choice."

"We want to make sure that neighbors have the same quality and dignity and respect within their food choice, no matter where they're getting it from."

Whether or not more people visit the food bank during the current outbreak won't be known for a few months down the road. Data about food bank utilization during the federal shutdown last fall wasn't available until the winter months.

Cardoso emphasized anyone can experience food insecurity, and with soaring prices across the board, it can be a single missed paycheck or unplanned expense away. "We kind of have this



A wide selection of produce from Diemer's Farm and Greenhouse at the Meridian Township Farmers Market.



Fresh Romaine lettuce from Green Eagle Farm at the Meridian Township Farmers Market.



Diemer's Farm and Greenhouse staff continually restocked their lettuce at the Meridian Township Farmers Market.

false idea of safety that there's something that we are or aren't doing that protects us from that experience," she said. "Most of the time it's luck."

Bigger picture

Experts in food safety said the cyclospora outbreak is the result of multiple

factors, including warm weather, humidity, and the time it takes for the parasite to mature.

"The conditions have just been right for this to happen," Wade Syers said. Syers is a food safety and security specialist at Michigan State University Extension.

Syers said because symptoms can

take up to 14 days to appear, tracing the source may take longer than usual. "It's just really hard to remember everything you ate two weeks ago," he said.

Public health officials urge those experiencing cyclosporiasis symptoms to contact their health care provider and ask for cyclospora testing.

"[Getting tested] helps public health officials identify outbreaks and track how widely an illness may be spreading," Syers said. The reported number of cases is just one piece of the puzzle, he clarified, because not everyone seeks medical care.

Like Cardoso pointed out, Syers said seeking medical care and getting tested isn't an option for everyone.

While the reported "false positive" means there isn't indisputable evidence of the parasite's presence on Taylor Farms de Mexico lettuce, Syers explained that epidemiological and traceback evidence, including the number of confirmed cases, could give officials a trail to find the source.

Echoing the concerns of Cardoso, Syers cautioned that certain populations, like older adults, very young children, and those who are immunocompromised, are at higher risk for poorer outcomes regarding foodborne illnesses.

Buying produce from farmers markets is not definitively safer than buying from the grocery store. "Those germs that make us sick don't care where they're sold at," Syers said.

The usual food safety practices are a good bet for staying healthy: rinsing produce under cool running water, using a produce brush when appropriate, keeping produce separate from other kinds of foods.

"That will go a long way towards keeping our produce safer," Syers said.

There have been 734 reported cases of cyclosporiasis, including 6 hospitalizations, in Ingham County as of July 24, according to Anne Barna, deputy Ingham County Health Officer.

She said those numbers are unprecedented for the county. Ingham County ranks fourth for the highest number of cyclosporiasis cases; there are seven counties with a larger population than Ingham.

MDHHS reported more than 9,000 cases and 160 hospitalizations statewide on July 24.

When buying lettuce and salad greens, officials recommend purchasing a whole head, discarding the outer layers, washing the inner leaves, and prioritizing cooking to an internal temperature of 158°F (70°C) to avoid ingesting the parasite.



Lettuce growing at Swallowtail Farm in Mason.

ARTS & CULTURE

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The quest to be heard

Composer Chuck Iwanusa assembles a dream project

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The toughest part of a composer's journey is the quest to be heard. Lansing-based jazz composer Chuck Iwanusa has had pretty good luck on that score, but he's had to lead what he calls a "double life" to make it work. He's spent 40 years working in music education, mostly at Mott Community College in Flint, while shuttling to New York City and other musical hot spots to bring life to his evocative, finely crafted compositions.

Now, Iwanusa is putting together a dream project he calls "a culmination of my 53-year musical journey."

In September, he's heading to Sear Sound, the oldest recording studio in New York City, to record with a 17-piece band, anchored by legendary jazz bassist Rufus Reid.

The title of the project, "Together Again for the First Time," isn't as paradoxical as it sounds. Iwanusa has worked with all 17 musicians in his long career, just not all at once.

Assembling an all-star big band, and renting a studio as historic as Sear, doesn't come cheap. Iwanusa has received grants from Pathways to Jazz and other national organizations, along with a New Music USA Creator Fund award, but he's still working to close the gap via crowdfunding. (Anyone interested in checking out Iwanusa's music or contributing to the project can learn more on his Facebook page.)

Growing up in Ohio, Iwanusa enjoyed listening to his mother's collection of big-band music, absorbing everything from "schlocky" Guy Lombardo tunes to the brash experimentation of Stan Kenton.

Anything musically fresh and intriguing caught his ear. He remembers waiting for Beatles tunes to play on his transistor radio, recording them on a reel-to-reel tape and studying every detail of George Martin's inventive arrangements. (Equipment used by The Beatles at Abbey Road is among the vintage goodies available at the Sear Sound studio, where legends like Lou Reed, Steely Dan, Björk and Yoko Ono have all worked.)



Photo by Irene Christensen

Composer Chuck Iwanusa calls "Together Again for the First Time," his forthcoming recording with an all-star big band, "a culmination of my 53-year musical journey."

He recalled a TV special where composer Burt Bacharach conducted a band that featured a double-belled euphonium — a two-headed, tuba-like monster that can play in two different ranges.

"That really blew me away," he said.

As a junior in high school, he studied music theory and music history. He wrote a piece that received an "excellent" rating in the state Music Education Association's Solo & Ensemble Competition.

"That was it," he said. He knew he wanted to write music; now came the quest to be heard.

Studying composition and theory at Ohio State University, he found a sympathetic ear in jazz professor Tom Battemberg, who liked Iwanusa's work and needed new music for the jazz band to tackle.

"He let me sit and listen at every jazz band rehearsal," Iwanusa said. "He said, 'Everything you write, we'll read it.' I was getting performances as an undergrad, when many grad students weren't."

Sticking with jazz in academia wasn't easy in the early 1970s. One professor told Iwanusa, "You seem to understand this jazz thing, so let's move on and do something serious."

But Iwanusa was determined to make his own way.

At the Famous Arrangers Workshop in Las Vegas, he studied with some of the biggest names in the music industry, including Quincy Jones. His dynamic composition "Escape" won the first annual National Association of Jazz Educators composition contest in 1973.

When Henry Mancini conducted a pops concert at Blossom Music Center, Iwanusa brought an orchestral score to the famous "Pink Panther" composer backstage, not expecting a reply.

"About six weeks later, I got a type-written note," he said. "He pointed out specific spots to think about: 'Measure 73 might sound better reinforced with a piccolo.'"

At a Stan Kenton workshop, Iwanusa got to meet several top composers who wrote for the influential bandleader. Kenton even played one of Iwanusa's tunes in concert.

That workshop is where Iwanusa met one of his collaborators on the upcoming CD project, trumpeter Tim Hagans.

"He was exciting and fiery, a really great player, and we hit it off right away," Iwanusa recalled.

Iwanusa moved to Los Angeles to be the music librarian for Kenton's publishing house. He started a big band, the CI Jazz Machine, that served as another showcase for his music.

While studying for a master's degree in composition at Bowling Green State University, Iwanusa signed up for an internship program that sent teachers out to community colleges in the Midwest. He learned, through a friend, that Mott Community College was interested in starting a jazz program. At Mott, Iwanusa taught jazz history and arranging while zooming off to New York and other jazz hot spots to make music. He retired from teaching at Mott in 2010 and moved to Lansing, where his wife has deep roots, three years ago.

"Together Again" brings Iwanusa together with some of his most treasured, long-term colleagues, including Hagans and blazing tenor saxophonist Rich Perry.

"On my first day at Bowling Green, I hear this amazing tenor player in the practice rooms," Iwanusa recalled.

It was Perry, fresh out of high school. "The three of us, with Tim, go back 50-some years."

Despite their long and intertwined history, Iwanusa, Hagans and Perry finally played together for the first time only four years ago, when Iwanusa's haunting, apocalyptic piece "No Man's Land" was premiered at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola in New York.

Pieces like "No Man's Land" and the intricate "Tone Deaf Little Weasel" push well beyond the familiar jazz formula of an opening "head arrangement," followed a round or two of solos and a return to the head at the end.

"I wrote mountains of that stuff, but somewhere in the '80s, I just got tired of it. It wasn't going anywhere," Iwanusa said.

"No Man's Land" is based on a print made by Iwanusa's wife, Debra Dow-Iwanusa, of figures wandering in the dust and smoke of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

The desolation is framed in glassy,

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Made from what's here

By MASAKI TAKAHASHI

I always think about sampling in hip-hop.

Some of the greatest music came from neighborhoods where music programs had disappeared. People didn't have instruments, but they had turntables, milk crates full of records and enough imagination to make something new out of what was already there.

People like to talk about what Lansing doesn't have. I've always thought that's exactly what Lansing has going for it.

When I was a freshman in college, I got my girlfriend pregnant.

I became a young father, which also meant I was staying in Lansing until my son turned 18. I always wanted to be some kind of writer, and that dream never really left.

First it was freestyle battling, then spoken word.

Both were freeing, and I was at a point in my life when I needed things to be free. I found poetry through the Michigan State Slam Team, and later, during my divorce, that community became everything to me.

Years later, after life had settled, I found my way back to poetry. My friends and I hit every open mic we could find—Wander's Tea House, The Avenue and Midtown Brewery. Back then, poetry wasn't really welcome at open mics, but we kept showing up because we wanted to be together. Looking back, those nights shaped me more than I realized.

In 2017, my friend Dylan Rogers asked if I'd host a monthly poetry open mic at The Robin Theatre. At the time, I had gone back to school for computer science, and I remember thinking, "It will be nice. I'll get to see all my friends once a month."

That completely backfired. The Poetry Room slowly became my life's work.

Before we even started, Tim Lane told me that most open mics don't last

more than two years. Jen Sygit told me everyone celebrates you at the beginning, but the hard part is keeping it going.

I took both to heart. I stayed connected to the MSU Poetry Club, volunteered in schools and tried to make sure there were always new poets finding their way into the room. I felt responsible. We were hosting at my friend's theater, and I wanted it to succeed.

Along the way, people kept opening doors. Taylor Haslett invited us to Arts Night Out, introduced me to the Arts Council and quietly taught me about grants. Dennis Hinrichsen and Native Child became mentors because I kept showing up. Before I knew it, I had become Lansing poet laureate.

The Poetry Room was filling seats. I was on WILX, PBS, TEDx, Button Poetry and Write About Now. None of that happened because I had some grand plan. It happened because people in Lansing kept giving me opportunities before I felt ready for them.

People still tell me what Lansing doesn't have. They're probably right. We don't have the biggest arts scene or arenas bringing in Jay-Z. But maybe we've been measuring the wrong thing.

I think about sampling again. Nobody waited until they had the perfect studio or every instrument they wanted. They looked around, used what they had and made something original.

That's what Lansing has always felt like to me.

I didn't build The Poetry Room by myself. It was sampled together: friends who invited me back, mentors who answered my questions, artists who volunteered their time and audiences who kept showing up. Piece by piece, it became something bigger than any one of us could have made alone.

Maybe that's Lansing's greatest art form: making something worth believing in out of what's already here.

evoke the leaping figures of dancers, multiplied by a hall of mirrors.

"Weasel," winner of the 2021 Charlie Parker Jazz Composition Prize, will be featured on "Together Again," as will "No Man's Land."

Inspiration can strike from any direction. To pay tribute to a friend who was known for using the phrase "six of one, half a dozen of the other," Iwanusa composed a 12-beat meter made up of



Photo by Kevin Nguyen

Masaki Takahashi opening for Neil Hilborn at The Loft in 2019.



Photo by Jasper Baldwin

There's typically a line to sign up for The Poetry Room's open mics.



Photo by Kevin Nguyen

A billboard for The Poetry Room in 2019.

Composer

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ominous chords, with the sound of a lone trumpet wandering through the emptiness.

"Tone Deaf Little Weasel" comes at you in surging, white-capped breakers of counterpoint. The undulating lines

contrasting six-beat sections. As if that weren't enough of a hint, he wrote the theme for baritone sax and trumpet, playing in parallel sixths.

"Ikebana Images" was inspired by a glass sculpture exhibit by Dale Chihuly. "Journey into Autumn," inspired by a friend who was dealing with aging and retirement, has an appealing, energized bounce, like a crisp fall day. Iwanusa thought of bassist Rufus Reid, a leg-

endary musician featured on hundreds of classic jazz recordings, and decided to write his first piece where the bass takes the melody, along with the woodwinds.

"He has this huge sound, even up in that register," Iwanusa said. "It just doesn't get thin. I always imagined hearing him play it someday."

This September, if all the financial pieces fall into place, he will.

Ten Pound Fiddle goes Celtic in its 52nd season

By NICOLE NOECHEL

If Ten Pound Fiddle booking manager Sally Potter had to assign a theme to the Fiddle's upcoming 52nd season, it would be "Celtic invasion."

"The folk music umbrella is really big. Louis Armstrong said 'all music is folk music,' and it sort of is. We have lots of different categories: blues and Celtic and singer-songwriters and Appalachia and old-time and bluegrass ..." Potter said. "In putting together the schedule, I try and get one or two or three of each into that season. But every year, there's always kind of an overflow of something. Last year was what I call the 'Canadian invasion,' partially because the current administration has kicked up the fees for work visas, so any Canadian performer that was already under a work visa was trying to get down here and get as many gigs as they could under their old visa before they had to think about buying a new one."

"This year, it's kind of the 'Celtic invasion,' with the same idea," she continued. "We probably have six or seven either Canadian bands or bands from the British Isles or Ireland coming over to visit because, again, they're under their own work visa and before it runs out, they want to get in as many gigs in the United States as they can."

The "invading" artists include Canadian duo Cassie and Maggie, Irish band Lúnasa (which Potter said she's been trying to book "for years"), Irish duo Carolyn Keane and Tom Delany, and Canadian band Maggie's Wake. Additionally, singer-songwriter Cathie Ryan, guitarist John Doyle and accordionist Mick McAuley will celebrate "An Irish Christmas" at the beginning of December. There will also be two St. Patrick's Day sings this year, led by Abbey Hoffman and Michael McConeghy of the Super Secret Cult Band and Potter herself.

Of course, many other sub-genres of folk music will be represented in the Fiddle's 30-some concerts this season. That includes perennial favorites like Joel Mabus and May Erlewine, who play the Fiddle every year, and first-time performers like singer-songwriters Fairhazel and Mary Gauthier (who used to perform annually at the Pump House in East Lansing), Christian/folk artist and drag queen Flamy



Courtesy photos

Canadian duo Cassie and Maggie, Canadian band Maggie's Wake and Irish band Lúnasa are just three of the Celtic acts performing during the Ten Pound Fiddle's upcoming season.

Grant, acoustic string duo Warren & Flick and indie-folk musician Abigail Oakley.

"We have three or four categories," Potter said. "There are some artists that we bring back every year or every other year. There are some artists that are on a four- or five-year rotation because they don't come through the Midwest very often. You've got to catch these people on tour. And then there are some artists that we've never had before."

Potter stressed that admission to each concert is just \$5 for students.

"I tutor at LCC, and there are some students who stop by tutoring, and I give them a schedule. Then they come to a show, and they're blown away," she said. "It's live music. It's artists at the top of their game. And then they just keep coming, and they bring

their friends for a \$5 bill."

The Fiddle is making use of five local venues for its shows this year: University Lutheran Church, Edgewood United Church, The Robin Theatre, UrbanBeat and the new Old Town Cultural Center (formerly the Old Town General Store).

"This is our initial show with the Old Town Cultural Center, but I'm sure it won't be the last," Potter said.

The Fiddle also hosts 18 to 19 contra dances and five Fiddle Scout gatherings per season, as well as sponsoring eight or nine Tune In open mics at The Robin Theatre.

"So, that's like 70 events in eight-and-a-half months," Potter said. "It's crazy, but it works because the community supports us, and we only do it for eight or nine months, and then we get the summer off."

Aside from all that, the Fiddle is working on putting together a book

called "The First 50 years," which will be out by Christmas. It covers the organization's founding and first five decades through pictures, articles and personal remembrances.

Until the season begins in September, Potter said fans can satiate their hunger for quality live music by attending the plethora of free local concerts around town.

"It's outrageous. I mean, Tuesday through Saturday, there's a free show every night. Take your thermos and

your chair and just go," she said.

There are also plenty of folk festivals around the state. The Fiddle sends out frequent email newsletters with a running list.

"There's a folk festival every weekend," Potter said. "We just had Hiawatha and Blissfest before that, and the Buttermilk festival and the Noreast'r Festival and Spirit of the Woods. So, if you love folk music, there are there are outdoor festivals happening all summer long."

Ten Pound Fiddle's 52nd season

Begins Sept. 10

For more information, see page 28 or visit tenpoundfiddle.org

LANSING'S

CONCERTS

IN THE PARK

7-9 PM

June

6.10 Root Doctor
Moore's Park

6.17 Full House
Wainwright Park

6.24 Kathy Ford Band
Fenner Nature Center

August

8.05 Lansing Symphony Orchestra
Frances Park

July

North Side Rhythm Kings
Bancroft Park 7.08

Sea Cruisers
Turner-Dodge House 7.15

Generator
Wilson Park 7.22

Global Village
Fish Ladder Music Park 7.29

LANSING

Sams Club

HAMMOND FARMS

MCPHEE ELECTRIC & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LAFCU

msufcu

CASE

GRANGER

MUSIC INSTRUMENT SWAP

DENNIS PRESTON ILLUSTRATOR



This image is available in the PRESTON POTPOURRI Vol. 2 coloring book at
www.lulu.com/spotlight/DennisPrestonBooks

Also available on t-shirts, stickers, mugs and more at
www.teepublic.com/user/Preston11

artbydenpreston@aol.com

See more art in the Albums on The Preston (Like my stuff?) Page on Facebook

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

TOWNSHIP BOARD Synopsis of Meetings

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Recognition of the Lansing Mall in response to Juneteenth Unity Fest Event
2. Eagle Scout Recognition – Sean Brock

PUBLIC HEARINGS

COMMUNICATIONS

3. ITC Notice of Public Open House for Oneida-Sabine Lake Project

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$1,898,496.75
5. Minutes – a. Monday, June 15, 2026
6. Delta Crossings Phase 1 – Section 09 Acceptance of Public Facilities
7. Delta Crossings Phase 2 – Section 09 Acceptance of Public Facilities
8. Snow Road Non-Motorized Pathway and Water Main Study Recommendation for Award of Professional Services
9. Riverbend Estates and Riverbend Condos Special Assessment District – Road Maintenance
10. Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW) Donation of a Canoe/Kayak Rack with Secure Lockers
11. Surplus Property
12. 2026 2nd Quarter Budget Amendments
13. Final Approval of the Manager's Annual Review
14. Lot Line Adjustment #PLD2026-0004 (Auto-Owners Insurance Company): transfer of 1.64 acres between two platted parcels on Anacapi Blvd. to create a 2.74-acre development site
15. Recommendation for selection of insurance broker firm for employee benefits
16. Board & Commission Appointment

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

17. Discussion on Updates to Rental Registration and Property Maintenance Code

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:08pm

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, and Trustee Joshua I. Lyman. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Township Engineer Jacob Kleinhenz, Assistant Fire Chief Eric Arnold, Captain Robert Block, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Utilities Director Rick Kane, Deputy Director of Water John Stopczynski.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Recognition of William L. Brewer for Outstanding Leadership, Community Service and Civic Engagement

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Riverbend Estates and Riverbend Condos Special Assessment District – Road Maintenance

COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. \$2,282,856.70
4. Minutes – a. Monday, July 6, 2026
5. Ultium 3 Battery Plant Water and Sanitary Sewer Service Approval of Change Items and Project Reconciliation
6. Willow Ground Storage Tank Painting & Maintenance

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7. Discussion on Updates to Rental Registration and Property Maintenance Code
8. Senior and Activity Center Lease – Waverly Community Schools
9. Waverly Community Schools – School Resource Officer

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:53pm

D.E. Carr's debut novel combines cozy mystery and science fiction

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

It was the death of her younger brother Rick that inspired Ann Arbor resident D.E. Carr to write her first novel.

"My brother died by suicide in 2017. I was in a deep state of grief from 2017 until COVID-19 hit in 2020. I was just starting to come out of it," Carr said. "With COVID, we had a lot of leisure time on our hands. I was managing a rec center, which closed down. It was a good time to catch up on my reading since I hadn't done much since my brother died."

"I found I was still trying to avoid any heavy material," she continued. "I was having trouble finding a book that wouldn't destroy me. I wanted something to light to read. When I couldn't find something, I decided to write the book I wanted to read."

The result is "When Squirrels Fly" (She Writes Press, \$17.99). Carr will celebrate its release Aug. 6 in Ann Arbor.

The book is a blend of cozy mystery and science fiction, according to the author. Neuroscientist Allie Caldwell gets a rambling call from Mel, her eccentric aunt, in the middle of the night. Afterward, Mel disappears, prompting Allie to drop everything and head to Ann Arbor to find her.

"It's a cozy mystery where you have an amateur sleuth who doesn't have a law enforcement background, but she

uses her experience and intelligence and problem-solving skills," Carr said. "It was easy for me to make her a neuroscientist because I have a background in neuropsychology from my previous career work. I wanted her to be smart, but she also has some trust issues with other people in her background. The inspiration was a strong, intelligent female who can figure things out."

In the days following her arrival in Ann Arbor, Allie ignores her gut instincts — and some weird dream-based warnings from angry flying squirrels — and accepts help from her aunt's handsome yet enigmatic neighbor George. In order to discern how virtual reality goggles, innovative migraine research, hidden treasure, attack drones and a neighborhood trellis are all connected to Mel's disappearance, they'll need to endure bungled bids of help from Allie's well-meaning

brother, constant interruptions from Mel's itinerant Chihuahua and his exuberant pit bull pal, and even some attempts on their lives.

"Rick inspired the character Nick," Carr said. "My brother was one of those people with a really big personality — very sharp witted, kind of like Robin Williams. He had the ability to make me laugh."

Aunt Mel is based on "a combination of people" Carr has met during her time in Ann Arbor.

"The rest of the characters are as well — they have some combination of personality traits," she said. "One thing I love about college towns is the diversity of the population that you get to in-



Photo by Janice Milhem

D.E. Carr

teract with — people from all different backgrounds and ethnicities and experiences. You encounter people who are quirky, which is celebrated in college towns, and I love that about them."

Carr spoke about the book's title.

"Allie has stress dreams. Mine were tornadoes. I wanted it to be something you'd interact with in everyday life, so tornadoes wouldn't work," she said. "I have a love-hate relationship with the squirrels in my backyard. I've done everything I could to keep these squirrels out of the birdfeeders, but they always seem to find a way into them. I remember looking outside and seeing the damn squirrels sitting in the hanging basket, and I could not figure out how they got in there! It points to the whimsy of the book. In her dreams, the flying squirrels are giving her warnings about things."

Born in Indianapolis, Carr is the fourth of seven children and the only one of her siblings to move out of Indianapolis. She has lived in Ann Arbor for 30 years with her husband, Brian Jones, director of Ph.D. and research administration at the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. They have one daughter, Lydia, 27.

A two-time alumna of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, Carr earned

a bachelor of professional arts degree in history, as well as a master's degree in clinical psychology. She later earned a graduate certificate in public health from U-M. She worked in neuropsychology, community health and recreation management before becoming an author.

"After I got my master's degree, I moved to Lubbock, Texas, with my husband," she said. "While I was there, I got a job working at a physical medicine and rehabilitation clinic with stroke patients. From my clinical psychology background, I learned how to do all the psychometrics — all the assessments you do on people with traumatic brain injuries. I administered all the neuropsychological assignments to determine whether they could live on their own or what kind of assistance they'd need after they left rehab. I managed an inpatient department."

She did that for seven years. When she and her husband moved to Ann Arbor, she had to decide whether she wanted to stay in psychology or change professions. She chose the latter.

"I got interested in wellness education and personal training," she said. "For 21 years, I worked at the Ann Arbor YMCA. One of the things we were doing was addressing childhood obesity and chronic disease prevention. That's when I decided to learn a little bit more about public health, so I got my grad certificate in public health."

Carr always knew she would write a book.

"Writing's always been something I enjoyed doing. In high school, I wrote a lot of bad poetry. I thought I would become a journalist. That was my main passion when I went to Ball State. Man, has that field changed!" she said. "When

See D.E. Carr, Page 18

Lansing author Owen Kerr to appear at EVERYbody Reads

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Owen Kerr likened his inspiration for becoming an author to a "hydra with many heads."

"I read voraciously throughout my entire childhood and got to the point where I had read everything that held my interest in both school and public libraries. My mother was the reading specialist at her school and used every bit of her knowledge to point me to more and better

things to read, as well as encouraging my love for etymology," Kerr said. "I got into role-playing games and comic books in high school, both of which are all about an ongoing narrative. My degree in theater and my years with Shakespeare companies reinforced my love for storytelling. I won my first award for storytelling

in 1995 at the Estrella War, an annual event held by the Society for Creative Anachronism until 2024."

Kerr will read from his novels "Confessions of an Unrepentant Lockpick" and "Ha'Penny Goddess" and his short story "The Duellists" Saturday evening at EVERYbody Reads in Lansing. Admission is restricted to guests 18 and older.

Born in Niagara Falls, New York, Kerr is the younger of two sons. He is an alumnus of Arizona State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in theater performance. He has had many careers, including teaching English and drama for 12 years, writing articles and short stories for various media outlets and working as a voiceover actor.

"I was inspired to become a teacher almost in spite of myself," he said. "My mother, father, aunt and grandmother were all teachers in my tiny hometown."

He currently works as a therapeutic game master through Geek Therapeutics.

According to Kerr, a therapeutic game master runs role-playing games for patients undergoing therapy. They receive instructions from the therapist about skills the patient needs to practice or tools they have been working on and shape the narrative of the next game to

See Owen Kerr, Page 18



"When Squirrels Fly" book launch party

6-7:30 p.m. Aug. 6
211 W. Washington St.,
Ann Arbor
carrwrites.com

An evening with Owen Kerr

5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1
EVERYbody Reads
2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Free, 18+
(517) 346-9900
everybodyreadsbooks.com

Owen Kerr

from page 17

give the patient those opportunities. “It provides a safe arena in which to practice anger management, maintaining boundaries, self-advocacy and many other tools in their toolkit,” Kerr said. Geek Therapeutics offers classes based on the work of Anthony M. Bean, a licensed clinical depth psychologist, video game researcher, author and professor. Bean is the executive director of The Telos Project, a nonprofit mental health clinic in Fort Worth, Texas, that focuses on video gamers and their families. He specializes in the therapeutic implications of video games and gaming, as well as the use of

video game character identification as a therapeutic technique. “Dr. Bean realized, since many people now are part of various fandoms, that there was an entire shared vocabulary between fandoms that could be accessed for therapeutic purposes. If a therapist is familiar with ‘Star Trek,’ ‘Avatar: The Last Airbender’ or the Marvel Cinematic Universe, they have examples of people acting out trauma, and healthier responses, that require no explanation,” Kerr said. “From there, in reference to RPGs, Dr. Bean saw that the games could provide both a shared vocabulary and a means to practice skills with emotional regulation, crisis management and effective interpersonal communication. It pairs up a therapist with a game master who can shape narratives for the clients and who can

report back on the situations offered to the players and how they responded.” Kerr is looking forward to appearing at EVERYbody Reads. “It’s an informal event with me as the prime entertainment,” he said. “I’ll be reading from three of my stories, published and unpublished, followed by a Q&A. “It’s 18 and up because one of the stories is erotica. I have not heard of many ‘meet the author’ events that feature erotica,” he continued. “As to the rest, how many chances do people get to pick the brain of a writer/teacher/indie game designer/actual-play streamer/award-winning voice actor/storyteller? I might even talk about my time as a ro-deo cook or a professional mime!”



Owen Kerr

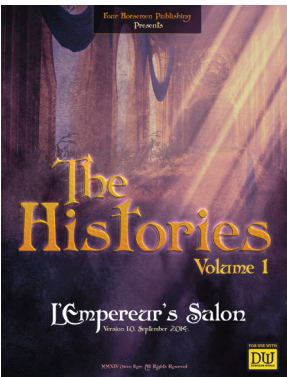
Courtesy

D.E. Carr

from page 17

I started all the career paths that I took, I did all kinds of writing. Even in neuropsychology, I did all the test assessment write-ups and recommendations. When I got to the Ann Arbor YMCA, I was doing application grant writing because a lot of our programs depended

on grants.” As she penned “When Squirrels Fly,” she learned a lot about the writing process. She hired a local editor to help her get her manuscript into shape. “I think the best part about writing this book was making my brother into a character and developing a relationship between him and the protagonist,” she said. “I started writing it at a time when I was still processing my grief, and that helped me in the process.”



Kerr has self-published playbooks and playsets for several tabletop role-playing games.

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Certificate (the “Certificate”), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 2231 West Willow Street located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

2231 West Willow (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-08-301-004):

BEG AT W 1/4 COR OF SEC 8; TH S89DEG59'25"E 338.96 FT ALONG E & W 1/4 LINE; TH S00DEG05'11"W 317 FT; TH N89DEG59'25"W 339.45 FT PAR WITH E & W 1/4 LINE; TH N00DEG10'29"E 317 FT ALONG SAID W LINE TO BEG; T4N R2W, CITY OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY SPLIT/COMBINED ON 08/29/2018 FROM 33-01-01-08-301-012, 33-01-01-08-301-002; SPLIT/COMBINED ON 02/07/2023 FROM 33-01-01-08-301-003;

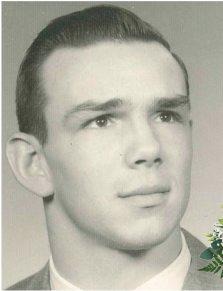
Approval of this Certificate will provide the owner or potentially the developer of property an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to the property noted above. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Shay Manawar, Lansing Economic Development Corporation, 401 S. Washington Sq, Suite. 101, Lansing, MI 48933, 517-897-7208.

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

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

CP#26-300

In Memoriam Michael Joseph Salisbury



Michael J. (Mike) Salisbury, a Williamston native and MSU alum, passed away on April 22, 2026, in London, Kentucky with his wife Irene by his side. Michael was born to very young parents, Delpha Lorraine (Haker) Salisbury and Joseph Earl Salisbury (both deceased), on April 26, 1943, during the throes of WWII. Delpha raised Michael by herself for three years while Joseph was fighting for our country in Normandy, France. Joseph received the Purple Heart and oak cluster, then spent 1-1/2 years recovering from his extensive wounds in a military hospital. Finally, the little family reunited to start their lives together in Williamston, where both parents had graduated as honor students right before U.S. entry into the war. Michael spent the first 25 years of his life in Williamston, joined by sister Joan E. and brother Rex A., born in 1947 and 1949, respectively. He enjoyed a happy, successful life, active in his church (St. Mary's), in high school sports (especially football and wrestling), and in academics and class government. Williamston Public Schools gave him a wonderful education, making possible the 'A'

student's transition to a successful college degree at MSU, where he studied business administration. Having a warm, friendly personality, a good work ethic, along with his academic honors, Michael had opportunities to work at several part-time jobs. He was able to pay his own tuition, fees, books, etc., and purchase a Chevy convertible (in which he took his happy young siblings for rides around town). Mike used his business administration degree in several states during his life, primarily in Michigan, Ohio, Arizona and Kentucky, and he had five wonderful children: Kevin (Holly), Elizabeth (Abe), Brian, Brad and Kim. He leaves to mourn him, his wife, Irene (Smitz); his children; his sister, Joan Salisbury (Begeman); his sister-in-law, Wendy (Gunning); several nieces and nephews; and grandchildren, cousins and friends. Mike was predeceased by his parents, brother Rex, and brother-in-law, Rod B. Begeman. A private family gathering will be held later this summer to honor his memory. Those who wish to do so can make a donation in his name to the charity of their choice.

Michigan's cannabis market is booming, so why is everyone going broke?

BY CHRIS SILVA

Michigan is selling more weed than ever, but somehow small operators are going out of business at a rate that should alarm anyone who cares about what this industry was supposed to become.

Michigan had over \$3 billion in cannabis sales last year.

The dispensary on your corner is probably busier than it's ever been. Prices have dropped to historic lows, which consumers love while operators quietly spiral down. Somewhere in the middle of all of it, the little guy — the craft grower, the independent retailer, the legacy caregiver who transitioned into the legal market with everything they had — is getting squeezed out of the industry they helped build.

Let's start with the wholesale tax, because it is one of the most punishing structural problems facing small cannabis operators in Michigan right now and it does not get nearly enough attention outside of industry circles.

Michigan levies a 10% excise tax on cannabis at the point of sale, on top of the standard 6% sales tax. But last year the Michigan Legislature made it significantly worse.

In the fall of 2025, the Michigan Legislature passed HB 4951 — the Comprehensive Road Funding Tax Act — which imposed a new 24% wholesale excise tax on cannabis. The stated purpose was to generate approximately \$420 million annually for road and bridge repair.

The tax is applied when cultivators sell flower to dispensaries. In theory, it does not hit the consumer directly. In practice, most dispensaries pass that cost to the customer. Customers are paying it without knowing it is there.

The Michigan Cannabis Industry Association filed a lawsuit almost immediately and a bipartisan group of lawmakers has since introduced SB 810 to repeal it but neither effort has resolved the situation. In the meantime, the tax is having the effects the industry warned it would have: layoffs, closures and a more-squeezed market.

The new tax this year came on top of the existing 16% consumer tax and the federal 280E tax code, which remains in place because cannabis is still a Schedule I controlled substance at the federal level. Under 280E, cannabis businesses cannot deduct ordinary business expenses the way any other business can. Rent, payroll, marketing or utilities — none of it is deductible for a cannabis business.

It is a tax structure designed to punish an industry that the overwhelming majority of Michiganders voted to legalize.



Photo by Raymond Holt for City Pulse

For large multistate operators with sophisticated tax planning and access to capital, all of this is painful but manageable. But for small independent cultivators or retailers, it is existential. A single-location craft grower may have nowhere to absorb a 24% tax.

The race to the bottom

Oversaturation has driven wholesale flower prices in Michigan to levels that were unimaginable three years ago. Pound prices, once at \$1,500 to \$2,000, have crashed to \$400 or less. Large commercial grows can pump out hundreds of pounds per week. The consumer wins on price but the small grower loses on everything.

The operators closing right now are not failing because they grew bad cannabis or ran their businesses poorly. Many of them are closing because they cannot compete on price with vertically integrated giants with enough capital to absorb losses for long-term market share.

Who is still standing and why

The operators surviving, and in some cases thriving, right now tend to be differentiated and have a reason to exist beyond being a place to buy cheap weed. They have loyal customers who come back not because of price but because of experience, relationship and trust.

Craft cultivators who can demonstrate quality through verified lab results are finding buyers who will pay a fair price for a superior product. Independent retailers who have invested in their loyalty programs, their budtender training, their in-store experience, and their community relationships are holding on. The ones who tried to compete with Lume and JARS on price alone largely did not make it.

This is not a coincidence. It is a mar-

ket telling you something important: if you do not have a reason to exist beyond being cheap, you will eventually be out-cheaped.

How to support the small guy

If you are a Michigan cannabis consumer and you care about having a diverse, independent, locally-rooted industry five years from now, your purchasing decisions matter more than you probably realize.

Buy local when you can. Find out who grew the flower you are buying

Lansterdam
in Review:
More sales but more
places closing?

and where. Ask your budtender if the store carries any Michigan-grown, independently-produced product and buy it when the answer is yes. Seek out craft cultivators and pay the extra five dollars. That five dollars is the difference between a small grower making it to the next harvest and not.

Support independent dispensaries. The multistate chains will survive this consolidation wave regardless of what you do. The independent retailer in your neighborhood might not.

Leave Google reviews. Tell your friends. Show up. Small steps are exactly what can save small businesses.

Michigan's cannabis industry is at an inflection point. The boom is real. The pain is also real. What comes out the other side depends in no small part on whether consumers, policymakers, and the industry itself decide that craft, independence, and community are worth fighting for.

They are. But that fight starts now.

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #91- 6420 S. Cedar Street Redevelopment pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for properties commonly referred to as 6420 S. Cedar Street located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

6420 S. Cedar Street (Tax Parcel No. 33-01-05-10-151-002):

THAT PART SECS 9 & 10 COM CL US-127 N 27DEG 58MIN W 761.26 FT FROM INTN CL US-127 & E&W 1/4 LINE SEC 10, TH N 27DEG 58MIN W 443 FT, S 62DEG 02MIN W 276 FT, N 27DEG 58MIN W 250 FT, S 62DEG 02MIN W 220 FT, S 27DEG 58MIN E 693 FT, N 62DEG 02MIN E 496 FT TO BEG; SEC 10 T3N R2W

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Kris Klein, President & CEO, Lansing Economic Development Corporation, 401 S. Washington Sq, Suite. 101, Lansing, MI 48933, 517-599-1136.

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

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

Live & Local

CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Swamp Rats
Sun., Aug. 2, 7 p.m.

Beaumont Tower

375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Summer Carillon Series: Margaret Pan
Wed., July 29, 6 p.m.
Summer Carillon Series: David Hunsberger
Wed., Aug. 5, 6 p.m.

Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
David Salvador
Thurs., July 30, 6-9 p.m.
Kevin Nichols
Sun., Aug. 2, 2-5 p.m.

Blue House Concerts

Email bluehouseconcerts@yahoo.com for address
Ruth & Max Bloomquist
Sun., Aug. 2, 3 p.m.

Brickhaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Flipside
Fri., July 31, 6-9 p.m.
Helena Lost
Sat., Aug. 1, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
DJ Atomic Sounds
Fri., July 31, 7-11 p.m.

Cleats Bar & Grille

5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Cooper Johnson
Thurs., July 30, 6-9 p.m.
Taylor Taylor
Fri., July 31, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Courthouse Square Museum

100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte
Frendz
Thurs., July 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dimes Brewhouse

145 Bridge St., Dimondale
Two Fifths
Fri., July 31, 7-9 p.m.
Chris Muethel
Sat., Aug. 1, 7-9 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Brian Byrnes
Fri., July 31, 9 p.m.-midnight
Moth Duster
Sat., Aug. 1, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Samantha Shessia
Wed., July 29, 7-9 p.m.
Feral at 5
Sun., Aug. 2, 6-8 p.m.
Songwriters' night, with Cody Wilson
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m.

Eastwood Towne Center

3003 Preyde Blvd., Lansing
Sea Cruisers
Tues., Aug. 4, 6-8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Dane DeFord
Fri., July 31, 6-9 p.m.

Fish Ladder Music Park

216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
Global Village
Wed., July 29, 7-9 p.m.
Bow & Tonic
Thurs., July 30, 8:30-9:30 p.m.
Desmond Jones, Super Secret Cult Band
Fri., July 31, 7-10:30 p.m.
Country on the River Music Festival
Sat., Aug. 1, 6-11 p.m.

Frances Park

2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing
Lansing Symphony Orchestra
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., July 29, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Slow Joy, Bike Routes, GLOM
Sun., Aug. 2, doors 6:30 p.m., show 7:30 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., Aug. 5 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Royal Coda, Dwellings, Strawberry Milk Cult, Amarionette
Sat., Aug. 1, 6 p.m.

Henry's Place

4926 Marsh Road, Okemos
Taylor Taylor
Sat., Aug. 1, 8-10 p.m.

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Justin Deason
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Jen Sygit
Thurs., July 30, 5-8 p.m.
Citizen Jones
Fri., July 31, 5-8 p.m.
The Groove Doctors
Sat., Aug. 1, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Aug. 2, 3-8 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., July 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Velocity Shift
Sat., Aug. 1, 7-10 p.m.

Jaycee Park

525 E. River St., Grand Ledge
Suspicious Minds (Elvis tribute)
Thurs., July 30, 7 p.m.

Lake Lansing Park South

1621 Pike St., Haslett
The Pocket, wsg School of Rock
Fri., July 31, 6-9 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Jerry Sprague
Fri., July 31, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Alexandria Kay wsg Madison Olivia
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-11 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Deer & Elk
Sat., Aug. 1, 4-7 p.m.
Taylor Taylor
Sun., Aug. 2, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

108 W. Main St., Dewitt
Bill Oeming
Fri., July 31, 6-9 p.m.
Gwendeltyln
Sat., Aug. 1, 5-8 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Rock for Resources: Sorry Monkey, Leisure, Death in Venice
Fri., July 31, 7 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Aug. 3, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., July 30, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Aug. 4, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green

1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
Geech
Wed., July 29, 6:30 p.m.
Garage Sale Band
Wed., Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Dave Moore
Thurs., July 30, 8-11 p.m.
Rollin Brummette, Billy Gunther & the Midwest Riders
Fri., July 31, 6 p.m.-midnight
Kari Holmes, GlenBrooke & the Wild Weeds
Sat., Aug. 1, 6 p.m.-midnight

McClintock Park

208 Irene St., Laingsburg
Oxymorons, wsg Aaron Manbeck
Thurs., July 30, 6-9 p.m.

McCormick Park

300 N. Putnam St., Williamston
Lansing Concert Band Big Band
Thurs., July 30, 7-9 p.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Open mic night
Mon., Aug. 3, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., July 29, 8-11 p.m.
Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band
Thurs., July 30, 8 p.m.-midnight
517 Funktet
Fri., July 31, 8 p.m.-midnight
Sassiety
Sat., Aug. 1, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Aug. 4, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Aug. 5, 8-11 p.m.

Nelson Gallery

113 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Bart Moore & the Hot Boys of Jenison
Thurs., July 30, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Poppa Clutch
Fri., July 31, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

One North East Lansing

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Don Middlebrook
Wed., July 29, 6-9 p.m.
Crystal Hoffman
Fri., July 31, 8-11 p.m.
Keith Minaya
Sat., Aug. 1, 7-11 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Mike Skory
Thurs., July 30, 6-9 p.m.
Greg Smith
Fri., July 31, 8-11 p.m.
Kevin Nichols
Sat., Aug. 1, 7-11 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Aug. 3, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Gwendeltyln
Fri., July 31, 8-10 p.m.
Quality Jerry
Tues., Aug. 4, 6-8 p.m.

Pins & Pints

2120 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Gwendeltyln
Thurs., July 30, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Live music
Fri., July 31, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., Aug. 2, 6-9 p.m.

Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Andrew Corbin
Wed., July 29, 6-9 p.m.
Don Middlebrook
Thurs., July 30, 6-9 p.m.
Northside Rhythm Kings
Fri., July 31, 6-9 p.m.
David Salvador
Sat., Aug. 1, 6-9 p.m.
Keegan Jacko
Wed., Aug. 5, 6-9 p.m.

Riverside Park

315 S. Bridge St., DeWitt
Ricky Nalett & Nikki Zeeb Fowler
Thurs., July 30, 7-9 p.m.

Sholty's Bar

1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Frog & Koop
Tues., Aug. 4, 6-9 p.m.

Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Brian Byrnes
Thurs., July 30, 5-8 p.m.
Jeremy Kratky
Fri., July 31, 7-10 p.m.

Sir Pizza Grand Café

201 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
Rock 'n' roll fest
Fri., July 31, 8 p.m.
Justin Judge, Isaac Harper
Sat., Aug. 1, 9 p.m.

St. Johns City Park

801 W. Park St., St. Johns
Wilson Thicket
Wed., July 29, 7-9 p.m.
On the Lash
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
DJ Chicago Muzik
Fri., July 31, 6-9 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 1, 6-9 p.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
Nothing to Lose
Fri., July 31, 8-11 p.m.
El Capitan
Sat., Aug. 1, 6-9 p.m.
Open mic & karaoke
Tues., Aug. 4, 7-10 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., July 29, 6-9 p.m.
Sam Warren & Friends
Thurs., July 30, 6:30 p.m.
Big L & Code Blü
Fri., July 31, 7 p.m.
JazzFest Michigan
Wed., Aug. 5, 5-10 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Gardens

2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt
Starfarm
Thurs., July 30, 7-9 p.m.

Waverly High School

160 Snow Road, Lansing
An evening of smooth jazz, with Adam Hawley, Rafael Leafar, Daryl Beebe, 496 West
Fri., July 31, 7:30 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Kevin Wolff
Wed., July 29, 7-10 p.m.
The Shellouts
Sat., Aug. 1, 7-11 p.m.
Billy Joe Hunt
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-10 p.m.

Additionally, the **Rock Lansing Music Festival** will run from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday at Jackson Field in Lansing.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“When They Go Lo...”
-- you know what to do.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. “Quiet!”
6. Chilled
10. “Say again?”
14. Kitchen appliance manufacturer
15. Drift around
16. Bug
17. Head snake?
19. School attended by Ian Fleming
20. Greater or Lesser islands
21. Large numbers
23. Rep.’s rival
24. Milk sugar
25. Incinerator debris
28. “Don’t do drugs” ad, e.g.
30. Employee of Santa
31. Zhou En-____
32. Objects
35. “Benevolent” lodge members
38. Keystone structure
40. Openly disobey
41. 2021 Timothée Chalamet movie
42. “Just Do It” company
43. Genetically doubled
45. Middling grade
46. Host Shapiro or Melber
48. Greek wedding shout
49. “Star Trek: TNG” first officer
51. “Game of Thrones” character who’s told that he knows nothing
54. Director Craven
55. Commonplace
56. “The Phantom Menace” designation
61. Velodrome vehicle
62. Vacation spot full of bees?

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						56	57				58	59	60	
61					62	63								
64					65					66				
67					68					69				

64. Judith of “Designing Women”
65. Reduce a sentence?
66. “SNL” alum Murphy
67. “Say Hey” Hall of Famer
68. Part
69. Scans in

- DOWN
1. Pritzker Architecture Prize winner Hadid
2. Hacker’s exclamation of success (or so movies tell me)
3. It’s behind you
4. Behind closed doors
5. World’s ____ Thermometer (attraction in Baker, Calif.)
6. “Dies ____” (Latin hymn)

7. New England fishes
8. Genesis figure
9. Skin layer
10. Went to the mat
11. #1 songs that bring good fortune?
12. Lotion additives
13. All wound up
18. Shade tree
22. Royal flush card
24. ____ Beach (Orange County city)
25. “Beauty and the Beast” composer Menken
26. Madras wrap
27. Requirement to decode the jargon of a guy from the sticks?
28. Feather-filled item
29. Meddlesome sort
33. Compound used in air conditioning to replace the more potent “chloro-” version
34. Sault ____ Marie, Ontario

36. On bended ____
37. Prognosticator
39. Letters on a bar?
44. Bedroom furniture piece
47. TV chef Garten
50. Tristan’s operatic lover
51. “The Girl From Ipanema” composer
52. ‘60s- ‘70s Twins star Tony
53. Last questionnaire option, often
54. Console whose last games were released in 2020
56. Wicked
57. Comedian Holmes
58. Nihilistic art genre
59. Author Blyton
60. Monthly midpoint
63. Vow phrase

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

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 29-Aug. 4, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Aries artist Vincent van Gogh lived in Arles, France, for 15 months in 1888 and 1889. It was the most prolific time of his career. His buoyant genius overflowed, pouring out over 200 paintings, including the lavish “Sunflowers” series. I suspect you will enjoy your own surge of splashy productivity in the coming months. It may not be as manically generative as van Gogh, though. I think your creativity will be rather relaxed and deeply healing. Start planning now for how you want to channel all this imaginative exuberance.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): I invite you to clear out every fixed idea your mind carries about where you are “supposed” to be. Once you have made that inner space wide and uncluttered, begin a fresh inquiry into the nature of your real home. Use questions like these to navigate: 1. What’s the first place you think of when you come across the word “sanctuary”? 2. Which environments reliably bring out your brightest, truest qualities? 3. Do you have what you would call power spots? If so, how do they make you feel in your body and psyche? 4. Which locations on Earth fascinate you, even if you have never visited them? 5. Could there be a future dwelling that offers a more peak-level experience of home than the familiar place where tradition now soothes you?

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): The brain doesn’t literally multitask. It rapidly shifts attention between tasks, creating the illusion of simultaneity. For many people, each interchange costs mental energy and reduces efficiency. But some brains can switch faster with a lower energy cost, making them better at sustained task switching. I’m sure you can guess the identity of the zodiac’s number one task switcher: you, of course! And the good news is that in the coming weeks, you will be even more adept than usual at wielding your superpower. One implication is that you will know when not to overdo it and when not to use it trivially. You will be a master of seamless, effective, and meaningful transitions.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Astronomers know that many stars don’t travel alone. Binary stars orbit each other for eons, their mutual gravity shaping each partner’s destiny. I propose we make this your featured metaphor in the coming months. It will be a favorable time to de-emphasize the notion that strength and creative power require complete autonomy. I suspect that flexible, spirited interdependence will generate far better results than lonely self-sufficiency. Which alliances and relationships will expand your orbit rather than shrink it? Invest in them.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Neurologists say that when you vividly imagine performing an action like shooting a basketball or playing piano, your brain activates many of the same networks it uses in real practice. In other words, mental rehearsal can measurably improve your actual performance. Many athletes use this trick. But here’s an interesting twist: Such visualizations work for emotional and social skills, too. We can enhance our resilience and better regulate our moods if we practice doing so in the privacy of our imaginations. I bring this to your attention, Leo, because you’re in a period when your fantasy life has extra-robust practical power. I invite you to rehearse being who you want to be in the theater of your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Your assignment: Compose a vigorous prayer in which you ask life for something you fear you don’t deserve or are not supposed to want. What is the blessing, healing, or freedom that feels “too much,” “too selfish,” “too late,” or “too impossible” for you to yearn for? Name this prize and how you imagine it might allow you to give more, love more, or live more honestly. You could begin your appeal with the words, “Dear Great Mystery, I’m nervous about asking for this, but I will ask anyway,” and then let your heart speak without editing. Do this at least once every day for 10 days.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): In 1848, a Libra-born carpenter named James Marshall discovered a

few glittering flakes of gold floating on the American River in California. His find ignited the gold rush, drawing hundreds of thousands of people westward. Alas, Marshall himself never became rich from the discovery, though many other people did. I’m hoping and predicting a different outcome when you locate treasure in the coming weeks, Libra. In this instance, you will share in the spoils.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): The lyrebird can imitate almost any sound, including chainsaws, car alarms, camera shutters, and other birds’ songs. But they don’t just mimic sounds randomly. They compose elaborate performances, weaving a variety of imitations into complex acoustic tapestries. In a sense, they are remix artists. During the coming weeks, Scorpio, I hope you give yourself permission to resemble a lyrebird. Sample freely from everything you’ve absorbed. Weave your influences into new configurations. Express your imaginative concoctions of repurposed ideas and enchantments. The voice isn’t less yours because it borrows from other voices. Originality is partly about arrangement, not just source material.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Astronauts who have orbited Earth describe the “overview effect.” Viewing the entire globe from high above triggers rich epiphanies and cognitive shifts, providing a visceral sense of the planet’s fragility and unity. Borders dissolve. Conflicts seem absurd. I surmise you are ripe for a similar blessing, Sagittarius. You’ll be able to see your current dramas from expansive vantage points that make their true scale and significance obvious. Armed with these perspectives, you will naturally clarify your priorities and allow petty concerns to fade away.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): You are the result of an ancestral crowd: two parents, four grandparents, and eight great-grandparents. Without these 14 lives weaving together in the precise ways they did, your unique destiny would never have taken shape. Their choices and challenges helped sculpt your gifts and your rough edges, your cravings and your turn-offs. The coming weeks will be a ripe astrological moment to get more intimate with this lineage. As you delve into your family’s stories, you may uncover vital clues for refreshing your views on dilemmas that have dragged on for a while. Are you daring enough to let your sense of “where I come from” evolve — and, with it, your sense of what kind of future you want to create?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): According to my investigations, there’s a place you need to go, but fear or timidity is holding you back. Where is it? Is it a physical location, a creative risk, a complicated conversation, or a spiritual threshold? Visualize it. Who would you be if you appeared there in your full glory? What do you worry might happen if you do? What interesting future might never bloom if you don’t? I hope you formulate a feisty plan. To begin, write these words: “If I decide to go there anyway, acknowledging my fear but not being controlled by it, what first step will I take, and what help will I seek?”

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Professional athletes sometimes talk about “winning ugly.” That’s when they achieve a victory even though they haven’t played their very best. I foresee you using that phrase for yourself soon, after you notch a less-than-pretty but undeniably real success. There’s another expression you might also exemplify, too: “ugly ripe.” Officially, it’s the name of luscious heirloom tomatoes whose lumpy, offbeat forms contrast with the smooth, bland specimens stacked in most supermarket bins. In the coming weeks, it will describe the nonstandard yet succulent flavor of your life.

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 29

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.

Cretaceous Cinema Series at the Library - Stop in to enjoy a PG-13 dinosaur-themed movie in the Spartan Room. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. 5:30-7 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.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.

En Plein Air 2026 Exhibition - For the entirety of this month, amazing artwork by the local en plein air group will be on display! 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Frammer's Edge & Gallery, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

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.

Full Moon Ritual: Sacrifice - 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.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/recreation-leisure/farmers-market.

Mid-Michigan Spartans: MSU's Childhood Development Lab Tour - Explore the CDL's facilities in East Lansing's old Central School, observe active classrooms, and learn about the MSU Children's Curriculum. 9:30-10:30 a.m. 325 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/35416662283.

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/bealgardens.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. lapsg.org.

Sporcle Live Trivia - Join us at HopCat East Lansing every Wednesday for trivia! Two rounds, two chances to score prizes. First game: 7 p.m.

Second game: 8 p.m. 300 Grove St., East Lansing. facebook.com/HopCatEastLansing.

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.

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

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

Thursday, July 30

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

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

Baby and Me - A lap-sit story time for babies and toddlers with their adult caregivers. Rhymes, songs, cuddles, and play are all included. Older siblings are welcome to attend. 10-10:45 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Back to the Bricks Tune-Up Party - This free event will bring hundreds of vehicles downtown alongside the Moonlight Market, Summer Concert Series and "Year of the Nonprofit" exhibit. 4-8 p.m. NCG Cinema parking lot, 314 E. Comstock St., Owosso. backtothebricks.org/tuneup2026.

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.

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

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series: Late Summer and Fall Cover Crops, with Dr. Brook Wilke - 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/outreach.

Indoor Open Playtime - All ages are welcome for drop-in free play. We will follow children's lead through movement, art, and imagination. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 1-3 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centurion Drive, Ste. 120, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

Moonlight Market - Moonlight Market is returning to Curwood Castle Park for five Thursday evenings of local vendors, food, family activities, live music, historic sites, nonprofit exhibits and community fun along the Shiawassee



Happendance 50th anniversary gala concerts

7 p.m. Friday, July 31, and Saturday, Aug. 1
MSU Floodplain (near the Auditorium Building)
Free
happendance.org

Happendance, Michigan's longest-running professional contemporary dance company, is wrapping up its milestone 50th season this weekend with two free gala concerts at the Michigan State University Floodplain, the location of the company's first performance in 1976.

The concerts will feature revivals of past Happendance works and the premiere of a new work commissioned specifically for the celebration. The piece, selected through a nationwide proposal process and public vote, reflects themes of legacy, intergenerational connection and artistic continuity.

"This performance is both a celebration of our history and a reflection of the generations of artists, students, educators and audience members who have shaped Happendance over the past 50 years," CEO Rachel Miller said. "Returning to the banks of the Red Cedar, where it all began, feels especially meaningful as we look toward the future of the organization."

In addition to current Happendance members, the company's founding "Wise Women" will perform. When City Pulse spoke with Miller in November, she was creating a piece specifically for them.

"They're all in their 70s and 80s," Miller told City Pulse. "I love that experience. Some of them have canes. Some of them are using canes in the dance."

Attendees of the performances are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets.

River. 5:30-8:30 p.m. 400 W. Main St., Owosso. downtownowossofarmersmarket.com/moonlight-market.

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. lapsg.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.

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

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

spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

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

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.

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. gladlibcal.com.

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

See Events, Page 23

Events

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Zoo Clues Family Night - Once the gates close, the zoo transforms into an immersive, escape-room-style experience. Each challenge unlocks fascinating animal facts and conservation stories! 5:30-8:30 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Friday, July 31

“The 39 Steps” - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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

Botanical Art Bar - Bring your friends for a morning filled with botanical crafts and creations. 1-3 p.m. MSU Horticulture Garden, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens.

Craft Club - Create a paper bag dinosaur nest! Grades 4-12. Registration req. 4-5 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Cruise to Holt - All types and years of cars welcome. 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.

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

Free Summer Family Movies at Eaton Theatre: “Gabby’s Dollhouse” - Concession items available for purchase at the theatre. Noon-2 p.m. 235 Cochran Ave., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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.

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. gladi.libcal.com.

Moonlight Movies: “The NeverEnding Story” - 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. lapsg.org.

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

Saturday, Aug. 1

“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.

Botanical Art Bar - Bring your friends for an afternoon filled with botanical crafts and creations. 1-3 p.m. MSU Horticulture Garden, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens.

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

Country Mill Spiked Apple 5K - Whether you’re looking to run, walk or just enjoy the cider and camaraderie, this race will be a great time. 9 a.m. Country Mill Orchard & Cider Mill, 4648 Otto Road, Charlotte. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Charlotte/CountryMillSpikedApple5k.

Daft Disko - A French house and disco party, inspired by the music of Daft Punk, Stardust, Breakbot, Justice, Cassius, Uffie and many more. 8 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.com.

En Plein Air 2026 Exhibition Opening Reception - Pop into our gallery to marvel at some beautiful paintings, meet the artists, and enjoy guided refreshments. 1-3 p.m. Framers’ Edge & Gallery, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Lammas Ritual & Celebration - Lammas is the first harvest, and at Weavers of the Web, we mark it as our festival of sacrifice and gratitude. We bring nonperishable food for the Pagans in Need pantry, we make corn dollies to carry the harvest’s blessing, and we share a community feast. 1-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Locally Legit Downtown DeWitt Community Golf Scramble - Registration includes an 18-hole golf scramble with cart, lunch at the turn, prizes and challenges throughout the course, and a post-event awards ceremony with live music. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Prairie Creek Golf Course, 800 E. Webb Drive. DeWitt. eventbrite.com/o/33758942911.

Rock Lansing Music Festival

11 a.m. -11 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 1
Jackson Field
505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
rocklansing.com

The third annual Rock Lansing Music Festival, being held for the first time at Jackson Field, will feature a variety of national, regional and local bands on two stages, as well as food and drink vendors.

The lineup includes Florida heavy metal band Nonpoint, Metro Detroit hard rock band Icarus Fell, Chicago alternative metal band Soil and Lansing nu-metal/metalcore band Heartsick, among many other groups.

This festival kicks off with Missouri hard rock/metal band Etched in Embers at 11:30 a.m. on the main stage and Southwest Michigan alternative rock band Autumn Academy on the second stage shortly after.

Tickets range from \$30 to \$100 and are available for purchase online or at the gates if space is available.



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.

Path Keepers Warrior Arts - In this 90-minute 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. 1 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

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

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.

Twilight Adventures - From 6 to 9 p.m., explore the zoo with a themed scavenger hunt, make friendship bracelets, paint rocks for pollinators, play yard games, and enjoy s’mores by the fire. Along the way, discover simple ways to help animals and the planet. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

See Events, Page 24



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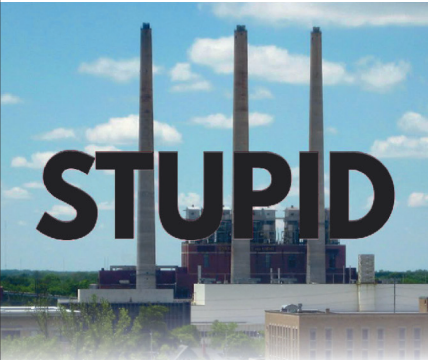
maximaids1@gmail.com
www.maximaids.net



British Bridge Bros

Social media duo Josh & Jase have
been spotted in Lansing!

From Big Benny to Big Penny!



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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

Z	I	P	I	T		I	C	E	D		W	H	A	T
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

Events

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Youth Learn to Fish Day - We'll cover casting, tackle crafting, and fishing regulations and ethics with a DNR conservation officer. Each participant gets a brand-new rod and reel combo and a fully loaded tackle box to keep! Ages 5-17. 9 a.m.-noon. 14965 Abbey Lane, Bath. facebook.com/miwildlife.

Sunday, Aug. 2

“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.

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

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

Summer Stretch - Enjoy a free outdoor fitness class presented by the Downtown Management Board and instructed by Recharged Pilates. 10 a.m. Marriott Plaza, corner of Albert Avenue and Charles Street, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

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.

Woman Afraid of Water - Join us at Keys to Manifestation to celebrate the launch of A.C. Fisher Aldag's debut novel. Get your copy signed, meet the author, and spend a Sunday afternoon among people who take the old ways seriously. 3-5 p.m. 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Monday, Aug. 3

3rd Annual Inclusive Impact Conference - A professional development initiative aimed at bringing together MSU campus partners with local, statewide, national and global community members to expand education opportunities and advance inclusion. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Kellogg Hotel, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/84935544903.

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

Art Ability Crafts for Adults - This program, held on the first Monday of the month, welcomes adults who may be on the spectrum, seniors, and anyone who is differently abled. 1-2 p.m. Bath Township Public Library, 14051 Webster Road, Bath. bath-townshippubliclibrary.org.

Broadway Musical Theatre Camp: NEWSIES | FROZEN | MOANA - Students will learn basic vocal technique and Broadway songs. Choreography and staging will then be added to create a musical theatre medley. Ages 5-18. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thurs-day. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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.

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

Euchre - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/Eaton-RapidsSeniorCenter.

Fiber Circle at Charlotte Community Library - A social gathering for knitters, crocheters, and stitchers of all ages and skill levels. 5:30-7 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Parkinson's Exercise: Yoga - Free exercise class for

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

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

Tuesday, Aug. 4

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

Back to School Health Fair - Get immunizations, vision and hearing screenings, lead testing, dental screenings, car seat safety checks and more. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. hd.ingham.org.

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

Dine & Discovery: Eastside Eats, with Chef Gary Snow - Join Gary Snow of the Eastside Lansing Food Co-Op for this seasonal cooking workshop featuring ingredients sourced from the neighborhood! 6-8 p.m. Allen Marketplace, 1629 E. Kalama-zoo St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/26136752469.

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

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

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

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

Karaoke - Grab the mic from 8 to 10 p.m. and enjoy \$7 signature cocktails, \$7 craft beer pints, a \$7 Southern peach mocktail, a \$12 chicken-bacon flatbread and a \$6 cheese quesadilla. One North Kitchen & Bar, 1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing. onenorthdining.com.

LAGE Game Night North - A Meetup group that facilitates free board/card gaming experiences for diverse people and cultivates a safe, inclusive, fun gaming community. 6:30-11 p.m. Reno's Sports Bar, 16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing. meetup.com/lansing.

LAGE Game Night West - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing.

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

Mahjong Afternoons - Mahjong is a game of Chinese origin that involves skill, strategy, and luck. This is a drop-in adult program for players of all skill levels. 1-3 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Open Mic & Karaoke at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

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

Songwriting Class for Teens and Adults - This 10-week workshop is designed to help songwriters develop their craft. 6:30-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

See Events, Page 25



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 26-09

6227 W. REYNOLDS RD.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE

Variance Request #26-09

6227 W. Reynolds Road

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Karen Stilson. The applicant is proposing to create a lot that does not to meet the minimum lot area and minimum lot width requirements at 6227 W. Reynolds Road. The subject site is zoned RB, Single Family, & Lake Lansing Overlay.

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

Angela Demas

Township Clerk

July 29, 2026

CP#26-295

A PRIME COMMUNITY

meridian.mi.us

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 26-10

2736 GRAND RIVER AVENUE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE

Variance Request #26-10

2736 Grand River Avenue

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from CESO, Inc. The applicant is proposing to construct a gas station that does not meet the required residential setback and does not meet the required building landscape requirement at 2736 Grand River Avenue. The subject site is zoned C-2, Commercial.

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

Angela Demas

Township Clerk

July 29, 2026

CP#26-297

A PRIME COMMUNITY

meridian.mi.us

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

Events

from page 24

Wednesday, Aug. 5

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

Beyond Health Insurance: Your Total Benefits Strategy - HR professionals, business owners, and organizational leaders are invited to join this free webinar for an insightful discussion on maximizing the value of your employee benefits package. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at manercpa.com.

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

Broadway 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. ruhala-center.com.

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.

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

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.

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

Magic: The Gathering Club - Adult players of all skill levels welcome. Cards not provided. 5:30-7 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/recreation-leisure/farmers-market.

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. lapsg.org.

Ross Education New Student Orientation - We'll cover everything you need to know for a great start. We'll also give you a tour of the campus and classrooms, and we'll help you set up your new laptop. 3-4 p.m. Ross Medical Education Center, 4106 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. rosseducation.edu.

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

SRP Dino-Finale Carnival - Enjoy a night of dinosaur and foam fun, carnival games, prizes, treats and hot dogs! Each reading log you complete earns you more carnival tickets to spend! 5-6:30 p.m. Fitzgerald Park, 100 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

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.

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

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, Aug. 6

2nd Annual Jim Potchen Memorial Golf Scramble - Net proceeds will be invested as a direct donation to the E. James Potchen Radiology Healing Gardens endowment fund to support the future needs of the gardens. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Timber Ridge Golf Club, 16339 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/17719520422.

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

Capital Area Modelers Society Meeting - Learn about building scale models, display what you're working on and get to know others interested in the hobby. 6:30-8 p.m. Judson Baptist Church, 531 Glendale Ave., Lansing. capitalareamodelerssociety.wordpress.com.

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

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series: Hot Topics, featuring all MSU Extension Educators and Specialists - 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/field_crops.

Indoor Open Playtime - All ages are welcome for drop-in free play. We will follow children's lead through movement, art, and imagination. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 1-3 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centurion Drive, Ste. 120, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

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

Moonlight Film Festival: "Labyrinth" - Free. 9 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/445/Moonlight-Film-Festival.

Moonlight Market - Moonlight Market is returning to Curwood Castle Park for five Thursday evenings of local vendors, food, family activities, live music, historic sites, nonprofit exhibits and community fun along the Shiawassee River. 5:30-8:30 p.m. 400 W. Main St., Owosso. downtownowossofarmers-market.com/moonlight-market.

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. lapsg.org.

Play in the Park, featuring John Russell Magic - Children and their families can bring a blanket and/or lawn chairs and enjoy family-friendly entertainment in a beautiful park setting. 7 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Ingham County Fair

Monday, Aug. 3-Aug. 8
700 E. Ash St., Mason
fair.ingham.org



Attendees of all ages are bound to find something to enjoy at the Ingham County Fair, from animal exhibits and livestock sales to carnival rides, classic fair food and cherished grandstand events.

Saturday is the annual multicultural day, celebrating the diversity of the county with a variety of musical and dance performances by groups like the Habibi Dancers, Salsa Capital, Orquesta Ritmo and Children's Ballet Theatre.

Grandstand events include a demolition derby on Tuesday, rodeos on Wednesday and Thursday, an ATV show on Friday and motocross on Saturday.

Admission is just \$1 on Monday, with gates opening at 4 p.m. The rest of the week, admission is free for infants, \$8 for kids ages 3 to 12 and seniors (62+) and \$10 for everyone else, with gates opening at noon. Wristbands for rides will be available for purchase at the fair.

Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

RAW by Nature: No Cooking Needed - We'll be making vegan and GF recipes with Michigan's seasonal bounty! 6-8 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

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.

THE PULSIFIEDS

Haiti Baby Box & Soaring Unlimited Benefit Rummage & Bake Sale, Holt United Methodist Church, 2321 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. Aug. 14, 9am-6pm; Aug. 15, 9am-1pm.

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

July 21, 2026, at 6:10 pm - Present: Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie and 5 citizens. Absent: Supervisor Stroud, Trustee M. Hoppes

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved the attorney send a letter regarding building removal.
- 2) Approved payment of bills for July 2026.
- 3) Approved replacing the kitchen sinks and faucets and recycling old sinks.
- 4) Approved exterminator inspection.
- 5) Denied request for media interview.
- 6) Approved reappointment of Charles Byam Jr to the Niles Cemetery Board for 3 years.
- 7) Approved budget amendment for FY 26-27.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is August 18, 2026, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#26-299

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.

Touch A Truck - Join us for National Night Out at the East Lansing Public Library! Kids and their families can explore a variety of vehicles up close, including firetrucks, construction vehicles, police cars and more! 6-8 p.m. 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.bibliocommons.com.



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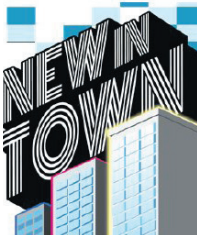
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 ArtByNevin  Art_By_Nevin

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Michigan Avenue welcomes bubble tea and ice cream spot



Bubble Joy

2310 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday,
Sunday
(734) 546-7967
bubble-joy.us

By MIKE ELLIS

There's just something about ice cream that makes it hard to eat with a frown.

Jeff McCarroll said he worked a lot of different jobs before helping open Bubble Joy in mid-July, and serving ice cream leads to more smiles than any of them.

There may be some grumps some-

day who might come in and get a scoop of butter pecan or lemon sorbet, but so far, everyone has been smiling, McCarroll said.

"In here, people say 'I'm about to have ice cream,'" he said. "And that's pretty cool."

The building on East Michigan Avenue, across from Enterprise Rent-A-Car, was formerly a doctor's office. It was under construction for years — long enough that city inspectors started to talk about how long it had been, said McCarroll, who worked on the building for two years with his business partner.

The building was torn out to the outer walls and rebuilt as a bubble tea shop and ice cream parlor with purple and blue walls and a bonus upstairs dining area.

The bubble tea will be added to the menu as soon as a few weeks from now. The shop will serve real tea, McCarroll said, pulling out a packet of sealed tea

leaves from Taiwan.

As for the ice cream, the shop offers 12 flavors from Guernsey Farms, a family dairy farm in Northville.

Guernsey Farms expects the biggest sellers to be chocolate and vanilla, which are steady classics for a reason.

"And we've been scooping a lot of the turtle swirl, the Mackinac Island fudge and the cotton candy," McCarroll said. "The rate at which these things are being scooped down is the rate that people are buying it."

McCarroll said he and his business partner have been in the waiting phase for so long that he's just excited to see people stop in, grab their favorite flavor and walk off with a smile.



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Bubble Joy offers 12 flavors of ice cream from Guernsey Farms, a family dairy farm in Northville.

Fresh ingredients are perfect for summertime

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

This summer, fresh ingredients like avocado and tomatoes can be just what people need when looking for a delicious meal that won't adversely affect their energy levels. The following bruschetta recipe from Lines+Angles employs both foods and can make a great addition to any summertime dinner table.

Bruschetta topped with avocado and tomatoes

Makes four to six servings

Two large Hass avocados,
pitted, peeled and cubed
Four vine tomatoes, cored, seeded and diced

One shallot, finely chopped
8 ounces fresh mozzarella,
drained and diced
2 to 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
2 to 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra for brushing
One large baguette, cut into 1-inch-thick slices
One small bunch basil, leaves only, finely sliced
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper

1. In a mixing bowl, combine the cubed avocado with the tomato, shallot, mozzarella, balsamic vinegar, extra-virgin olive oil and plenty of seasoning.

2. Stir and toss to combine, adding more vinegar and olive oil as needed. Set aside until needed.

3. Preheat the broiler to hot. Lightly brush the baguette slices with olive oil before toasting under the broiler for one to two minutes, until golden brown.

4. Remove bread slices and leave to cool briefly. Carefully spoon the avocado bruschetta mix on top and serve with a garnish of sliced basil.



TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 RESTAURANT BEER LISTS

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

1. Crunchy's

Watering hole in old-school digs known for its burgers and buckets of beer
254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
(517) 351-2506
crunchyseastlansing.com
11 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday
11 a.m.-1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday

2. Front 43 Neighborhood Pub

Chef-driven pub, eatery and bar doling out elevated eats and cocktails
3415 E. Saginaw St., Lansing
(517) 580-3720
caskandcompany.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday

3. HopCat

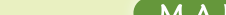
Brewpub with a massive beer list serving creative pub fare and brunch items
300 Grove St., East Lansing
(517) 816-4300
hopcat.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday
10 a.m.-midnight Saturday
10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday

4. Ozone's Brewhouse

Family-owned brewery and taproom with an onsite food truck
305 Beaver St., Lansing
(517) 999-2739
ozonesbrewhouse.com
5-10 p.m. Monday
3-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
3-11 p.m. Friday
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

5. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern

Creative wood-fired pizzas join craft beer and cocktails at this easygoing haunt
1200 N. Larch St., Lansing
(517) 897-3563
zoobiesoldtowntavern.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Wednesday
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday
Noon-midnight Saturday
Noon-9 p.m. Sunday



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AND ENTER TO
WIN PRIZES**

**ENTIRE
STORE ON
SALE!**

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WOWELIFE
FISHING ROD
BAGS**

**WIN 1 OF 4
STEAZ PREMIUM
COOLER BAGS**

GIFT BASKETS

**WIN 1 OF 3 WAVYTALK
RED LIGHT THERAPY
MASKS FOR FACE**

**WIN 1 OF 2 NINJA
BLAST MAX,
PORTABLE BLENDERS
+TWIST & GO**

**WIN A BOSE
SOUNDLINK
MICRO PORTABLE
SPEAKER**

**IN STORE
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& MORE**

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GIFT CARDS**

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student tickets!



THU., SEP. 10 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
MEAN MARY
Virtuosic Banjo, Bold Songs



SUN., SEP. 13 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
MARY GAUTHIER
wsg Jaimee Harris



FRI., SEP. 18 @ ULC
**AURORA & ANTHEIA AND
VOICES OF THE REVOLUTION**
Two Revolutionary Ensembles



FRI., SEP. 25 @ ULC
DAVID ROTH
Compelling Stories, Well-Crafted Songs



WED., SEP. 30 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
BRUCE MOLSKY
Old-Time Music Royalty



THU., OCT. 01 @ URBANBEAT
FLAMY GRANT
A Fearless Trailblazer



FRI., OCT. 02 @ ULC
JOEL MABUS
An Old Friend Returns to the Fiddle



WED., OCT. 07 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
**SETH BERNARD &
JORDAN HAMILTON**
Great Friends; Michigan Favorites



FRI., OCT. 09 @ ULC
MAY ERLEWINE
May's Annual Solo Fiddle Gig



THU., OCT. 15 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
WARREN AND FLICK
Talented, Energetic Michigan Duo



TUE., OCT. 20 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
**RACHEL SUMNER
& TRAVELING LIGHT**
From Boston, The Next Generation



FRI., OCT. 23 @ ULC
LARRY AND JOE
Venezuela Meets Old-Time Americana



THU., OCT. 29 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
**FUTURETIME STRING BAND
SUPER SECRET CULT BAND**
Twin Bill: An Evening of Eclectic Folk



SUN., NOV. 01, 3PM @ ULC
**SALLY ROGERS &
CLAUDIA SCHMIDT**
An Afternoon of Friendship and Community



WED., NOV. 04 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
**ABIGAYLE OAKLEY
FAIRHAZEL**
Twin Bill: Fresh Voices, Timeless Folk



SUN., NOV. 08, 3PM @ ULC
CASSIE AND MAGGIE
High Energy Canadian Celtic



THU., NOV. 12 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
YOUNGMAN AND OLDMEN
Frank Youngman, Tom T. Ball, Mark Schrock

THE 41ST EAST LANSING WOMEN IN THE ARTS FESTIVAL EDGEWOOD UNITED CHURCH



FRI., NOV. 13
JANIS IAN
Presents "Breaking Silence" Film and Q&A
SAT., NOV. 14: TBA www.witafestival.com



**THU., NOV. 19 @
OLD TOWN CULTURAL CENTER**
THE SPRINGTAILS, GERALD ROSS
Twin Bill: Joyful Strings; Great Fun



FRI., DEC. 04 @ ULC
"AN IRISH CHRISTMAS"
*Cathie Ryan, John Doyle, Mick McAuley:
Celtic Masters Celebrate Christmas*



FRI., DEC. 11 @ ULC
23RD HOLIDAY SING
*w/ Sally Potter, Doug Austin, Doug Berch,
Ruelaine Stokes. Lyric sheets provided.*



FRI., JAN. 15 @ ULC
THE DEBUTANTS
Indiana Newgrass



WED-THURS JAN. 20 & 21 @ THE ROBIN
SPENCER LAJOYE (TWO NIGHTS!)
Singing Truth to Power



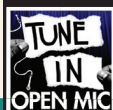
SUN., JAN. 24, 3PM @ ULC
YELLOW ROOM GANG *Annie Capps,
Jim Bizer, Jan Krist, David Tamulevich,
Kitty Donohoe, David Barrett, Matt Watroba*

23RD MID-WINTER SINGING & FOLK FESTIVAL FRIDAY & SATURDAY FEB. 5-6, 2027 @ ULC • SINGINGFESTIVAL.COM



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FEB. 4 • MAR. 4 • APR. 1 • MAY. 6



THU., FEB. 11 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
TIM GRIMM
Authentic Songs; An American Treasure



FRI., FEB. 19 @ ULC
WINDBORNE
Dynamic Quartet: Songs of Our Times



FRI., FEB. 26 @ ULC
LÚNASA
*"The Hottest Irish Acoustic Band on the Planet"
- The Irish Voice*



WED., MAR. 03 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
CAROLYN KEANE & TOM DELANY
Irish Prodigies on Concertina and Uilleann Pipes



FRI., MAR. 12 @ ULC
MAGGIE'S WAKE
Twin Fiddles and Vocals Deliver Canadian Celtic

Before the show: Ten Pound Fiddle Membership Meeting, 7-7:15PM. All Welcome.



WED., MAR. 17, 6 AND 8PM @ THE ROBIN
ST. PATRICK'S DAY SING: TWO SHOWS
*Abbey Hoffman, Michael McConeghy,
Sally Potter, song leaders. Lyric sheets provided*
FRI., MAR. 19 @ ULC



THE SAMUAL NALANGRIA BAND
THE NATHAN MOORE AFFAIR *Twin Bill*
Soulful Gestalt Meets World Rhythms



FRI., MAR. 26 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
**MICHIGAN TRADITIONAL ARTS
PROGRAM MUSICAL SHOWCASE**



SUN., APR. 04, 3PM @ ULC
MATT WATROBA AND ANNE HILLS
Old Friends; Wonderful Songs



FRI., APR. 16 @ ULC
**NIC GAREISS, LISSA SCHNECKENBURGER,
CAMERON GARRETT** *A dancer, fiddler, and
vibraphonist walk onto a stage...*



THU., APR. 22 @ THE ROBIN THEATRE
SAM ROBBINS
Rising Star Singer Songwriter



FRI., APR. 23 @ ULC
THE STILLHOUSE JUNKIES
Free-Range Folk from SW Colorado



FRI.-SUN., APR. 30-MAY 2 @ UUMC 1120 S. HARRISON, EL
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1020 S. Harrison, East Lansing. Easy, free parking.
The Robin Theatre 1105 S. Washington, Lansing
Edgewood United Church 469 N. Hagadorn, E. Lansing
Old Town Cultural Center 408 E. César E. Chávez, Lansing
UrbanBeat 1213 Turner St., Lansing



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