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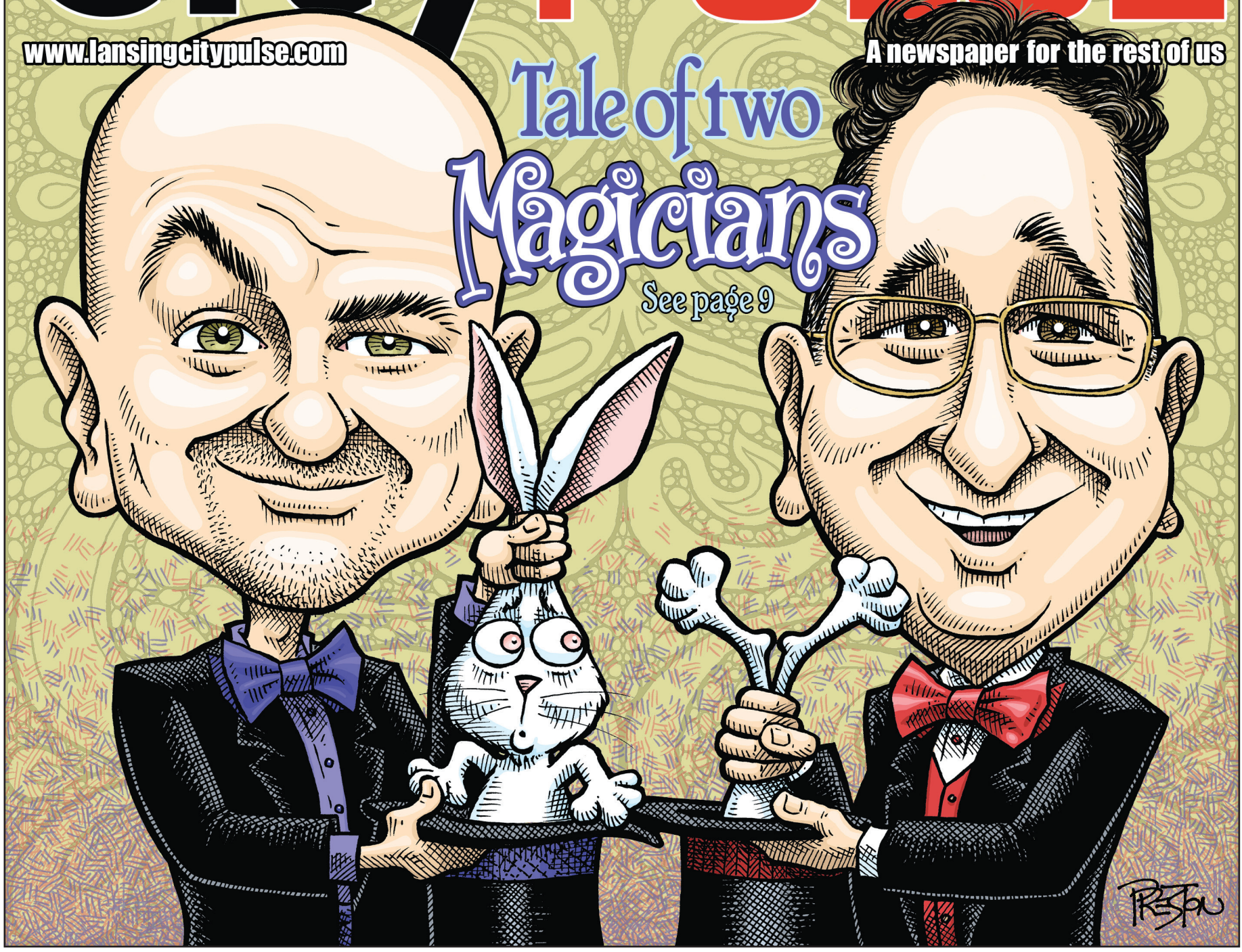
August 5-11, 2026

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A newspaper for the rest of us

Tale of two Magicians

See page 9



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A Nation Hostile to Its Own Intelligence

I'm angry. Not mildly annoyed, disappointed or "concerned." I am fucking angry.

I'm angry that I have to watch an 85-year-old man who has devoted his life to studying infectious diseases sit in front of a room full of so-called public officials and defend himself against people more interested in appeasing a president than defending the truth. Anthony Fauci didn't want to become famous. He became a household name because a pandemic killed more than a million Americans and the country needed someone who understood infectious disease.

And what did we do with that expertise? We politicized it.

Fauci's great sin, apparently, was telling Americans things they didn't want to hear: Social distancing. Masks. Temporary closures of nonessential businesses. Vaccination. None of us enjoyed it or wanted our lives turned upside down. But a pandemic doesn't give a damn about our political preferences, comfort level or feelings.

Fauci didn't create COVID-19 or shut down America. He isn't a policy maker. He gave the best council he knew to mitigate a public-health catastrophe with the information available.

Meanwhile, we had a president saying the virus would simply disappear. We watched unproven treatments become talking points. We watched bleach and other nonsense enter the conversation and scientific expertise be mocked if it conflicted with what people wanted to believe.

Fauci became the villain because he contradicted the president. He made Donald Trump look stupid. And it wasn't particularly difficult. There is a long history of what happens when people publicly challenge leaders with narcissistic tendencies and enormous political followings. We have seen what happens when political movements stop treating disagreement as legitimate and begin treating it as treason.

But apparently we have learned nothing. We have become so intellectually exhausted—or intellectually illiterate—that we elected a man who routinely demonstrates a disregard for evidence, expertise and competence, and then developed an entire political movement dedicated to punishing dissension.

Now we are watching the administration attempt to rewrite the history of COVID itself. RFK Jr. recently made the claim that ICUs were empty during the height of the pandemic. This is revisionism. If you can convince people that yesterday never happened, you can convince them that today is whatever you say it is, and too many people believe it.

We have already watched this administration, and its allies attempt to rewrite enormous portions of American history, from our founding, to slavery, to the Civil War, the civil-rights movement, January 6, the 2020 election and the pandemic. Apparently history is no longer something we study, it is something we edit. And we are called sheep or libtards, or simply dismissed as fools. But who are the sheep really?

We are told January 6 was somehow the work of Democratic operatives pretending to be Trump supporters. Fine. Let's entertain that for a moment. If they were Democratic actors pretending to be MAGA supporters, why did Donald Trump pardon so many of them? Why pardon people who supposedly weren't your supporters? It doesn't make sense.

Then there is the Epstein saga. Why has accountability been so elusive? When government officials insist that there is nothing to hide while simultaneously fighting transparency, they shouldn't be surprised when people become suspicious. Transparency is supposed to be a prerequisite for public trust.

Why is Mitch McConnell still in the Senate when he hasn't been seen in nearly 2 months? If a senator is unable to reliably perform the duties of his office, why isn't there a serious public conversation about succession? Why are we pretending this is normal?

And then there is Senator Bernie Moreno's response to allegations of serious violence involving his former son-in-law, Max Miller, and Moreno's daughter. We're told it's a "private family matter." Not if it were my daughter. You stand beside your daughter, protect her and demand accountability.

And this is the part that makes me absolutely insane. These people claim to be the guardians of law and order. They demand accountability from everyone else. But somehow the rules become negotiable when the person involved is politically useful. That isn't law and order. That's power protecting power.

And while all of this is happening, we're being asked to believe that the SAVE Act is simply about protecting elections. Forgive me if I'm skeptical. When politicians spend years telling us elections are fraudulent, attacking voting systems, sowing distrust in election results and then proposing restrictions on who can participate in those elections, people are entitled to ask what the hell is actually going on. He's setting the stage to rig the election, and I'm tired of pretending that he has even an ounce of integrity, and of anything, elections are the one thing he'll manipulate if he can. He'll do it for a million reasons, least of which is because he values anything fair, but mostly to enrich himself and stay out of jail.

This isn't about one policy. It's about whether Americans can still trust democracy.

I'm tired of watching people who should know better pretend they don't and expertise get treated like a political opinion. I'm tired of watching facts become partisan.

I'm tired of watching politicians lie with complete confidence while the rest of us argue about whether we are allowed to call the lie a lie, of history getting rewritten in real time, or cruelty becoming entertainment.

I'm tired of watching ICE disappear people from the streets, Americans worrying that one illness could bankrupt their family, people working full-time and still being unable to afford a place to live, children going hungry in the richest country on Earth, and of people being houseless while billionaires accumulate fortunes.

I'm tired of an education system being pressured to teach children a sanitized, whitewashed version of American history because the truth might make somebody uncomfortable. The truth is supposed to make us uncomfortable. That's how we learn and become better.

America has never been perfect. Our founders included slaveholders. Our history includes genocide, slavery, segregation, exploitation, political corruption, war and enormous injustice. Acknowledging those things doesn't make America weaker. It makes us honest. And honesty is exactly what seems to be disappearing.

Howard Beale famously screamed in *Network*, "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

Maybe the problem is that we've become so accustomed to the insanity that we aren't angry enough. Our best years shouldn't be stolen from us by politicians who have decided that perpetual outrage is more profitable than governing. We shouldn't spend our days watching people argue about whether our neighbors deserve basic human dignity. People shouldn't be afraid of being kidnapped off the street, die because they can't afford health care, go hungry in America or sleep in cars because they can't afford housing.

Children shouldn't receive an inferior education because someone is afraid that teaching them the truth about their country will make them hate it. And government shouldn't exist primarily to protect the wealth and power of people who already have more than they could spend in ten lifetimes.

America is capable of being so much better. And that's precisely why I'm angry. Because I know what we're capable of. We can build incredible things, eradicate diseases, put people on the moon and invent technologies that transform civilization. We can educate our children, feed and house our people. We can provide health care and protect the vulnerable.

We can even make billionaires if we insist that enormous wealth comes with enormous responsibility. Something fundamentally wrong with a society that allows people to accumulate billions while other human beings are starving, sick and sleeping on sidewalks. So if you're going to become a billionaire, perhaps the question should be how much better did you make humanity?

I'm tired of being told that this is simply how the world works. It isn't. Democracy is supposed to be the messy, frustrating, magnificent process of ordinary people deciding what kind of country they want to live in.

So yes, I'm angry. I'm not interested in pretending that everything is fine simply because pretending makes somebody else more comfortable. Our lives are happening right now.

And I refuse to accept that this circus of lies, corruption, cruelty, historical revisionism and political cowardice is the best America can do. It isn't, and I'm not going to stop being angry until we demand better.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com

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SELF STORAGE LIEN AUCTION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH MI Chapter 570 Lien Act 148):
The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Legacy Self Storage, 918 W. Jefferson, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 to satisfy a lien on Auction. Sale 8/19/2026 at 10:00 AM at storagetreasures.com : Unit 66 Parks, Andrea

CP#26-302

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Bids must be submitted by 8am 8/24/26
at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823
For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

CP#26-310

**CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY
OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1573**

On July 21, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, pursuant to Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the code of the City of East Lansing, to rezone 825 W. Lake Lansing Road and to amend the Zoning Use District Map of Chapter 50 - Zoning - of the code of the City of East Lansing for such purposes.

Effective date: Pursuant to Charter Section 6.3, Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk’s Office, 1st Floor, City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Emily Gordon,
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#26-306

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

August 5, 2026

City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning
316 N. Capitol Ave
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 483-4040

AND

Lansing Housing Commission
419 Cherry Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 487-6550

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Lansing, MI.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about **August 24, 2026**, the City of Lansing, MI authorize the Lansing Housing Commission to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Detroit Field Office for the release of Project Based Vouchers (PBV) funds under Section 8 (o)(13) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)), as amended, to undertake a project known as Oliver Gardens located at 700-720 Southland Avenue, in Lansing, MI.

Proposed project activities include the acquisition and renovation of five (5) 1-story senior apartment buildings with a total of 30 dwelling units and community space. The renovations include the update of existing dwelling units (including the reconfiguration to meet accessibility requirements), common areas, exterior repairs, and site improvements. The project also includes the construction of a new 16-unit (one-bedroom), 2-story building, attached patio, trash enclosure, landscaping, and 20 additional parking spaces on vacant land.

The Lansing Housing Commission will utilize their Faircloth authority under public housing and HUD’s Restore Rebuild Program to provide 16 PBVs for the proposed new 16 residential units.

Project funding sources include:
(x16) Lansing Housing Commission PBVs
\$11,538,681 LIHTC Equity
\$1,773,972 1st Mortgage
\$980,672 Sponsor Loan
\$852,774 Seller Note
\$161,754 Deferred Fee

TO ALL CREDITORS: The Settlor of Trust Agreement Bonnie L. Smith Trust, Bonnie L. Smith, who was born January 31, 1938, is now deceased as of March 13, 2026. There is no personal representative of the settlor’s estate to whom letters of authority have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Bonnie L. Smith Trust, will be forever barred unless presented to Christine Caswell, Successor Trustee, Caswell Law PLLC, 7402 Westshire Dr., #125, Lansing, MI 48917, within four months after the date of publication, August, 5, 2026.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

CP#26-309

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1360**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to repeal Chapter 886 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances, Tax Exemptions for Multifamily Dwelling Projects, as the incentive and project described therein has expired and the Chapter is no longer needed.

Effective date: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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

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

CP#26-304

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Lansing, Michigan has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at www.lansingmi.gov/development or City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to The City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933. The comment period is **August 6, 2026 – August 21, 2026**. All comments received by **August 21, 2026**, will be considered by the City of Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Lansing certifies to HUD that Rawley Van Fossen, in his capacity as the City of Lansing, Economic Development & Planning (EDP) Director consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Lansing Housing Commission to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Lansing’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lansing (b) the City of Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec 58.76) and shall be addressed to Michelle King, PIH Representative, Detroit Field Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 477 Michigan Avenue 16th Floor, Detroit Michigan 48226. Objections can also be submitted via email at Environmental-PublicComments@hud.gov . Potential Objectors should contact Michelle King via telephone at: 313.234.7397 or by email at Michelle.d.king@hud.gov to verify the actual last day of the objection.

Rawley Van Fossen, City of Lansing, Economic Development & Planning Director

CP#26-307

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Don't just expect jazz from JazzFest Michigan

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Lansing author's second novel inspired by Dungeons & Dragons

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A new food hub in the former Frosty Korner lot

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Cover illustration by Dennis Preston

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.



Playing the Jealousy Card

WHENEVER ANYONE SAYS BILLIONAIRES SHOULDN'T EXIST, OR THAT THERE'S TOO MUCH ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, SOME WISEGUY ALWAYS REPLIES THAT THEY'RE JUST "JEALOUS."



BUT I DON'T WANT A 15,000 SQUARE FOOT HOUSE, LET ALONE SIX OF THEM, OR A YACHT, OR A PRIVATE PEDOPHILIA ISLAND.



THESE GROTESQUE NARCISSISTS ARE HOARDING THE NATION'S WEALTH WHILE MAKING IT HARDER FOR THE REST OF US TO SUCCEED—OR AFFORD HEALTHCARE OR HOUSING, OR ENJOY A LIVABLE PLANET!



BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, A BILLIONAIRE AND DATA CENTER-FREE PRIVATE ISLAND WOULD BE PRETTY SWEET.

YYYYEAH...

SEE? JEALOUS.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

Supreme Court Rules 6-3 Constitutional Rights Don't Exist

High council of unelected law wizards undermines democracy yet again

Kavanaugh writes majority opinion: "Boo hoo! Sucks to be you!"



Elon Musk Says Some More Stupid Shit

"We will land a giraffe on Pluto in the next five years," tech titan promises

World's richest man also endorses global race war, because it's 2026 and we live in hell.



Worst People in the World in Charge of Everything

All three branches of government controlled by malevolent assholes intent on making life worse in every way

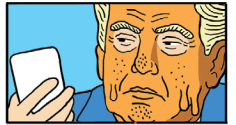
Speaker Johnson: "Look over there! A scary Communist!"



President Out of His Fucking Mind

Dementia-addled narcissist is venal, corrupt, and arguably the stupidest person who ever lived

Did you even see the crap he just posted? Seriously, what the absolute fuck was that?



Data Centers Will Soon Consume All Available Electricity

Public encouraged to embrace hunter-gatherer lifestyle

Zuckerberg: "A small price to pay for progress! If you need me, I'll be in my bunker."



Roving Paramilitary Death Squads Invade Another U.S. City

Residents advised to meekly comply with masked secret police

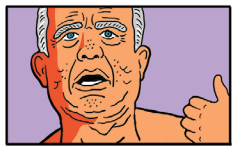
Miller: "I came to chew bubble gum and purify our blood and soil, and I'm all out of bubble gum."



Nothing Safe Left to Eat Anywhere

All available sources of sustenance contaminated with some damn thing or another

RFK Jr. urges calm: "Explosive diarrhea cleanses unnatural toxins from the body!"



Coming Soon: Something Even More Terrible Than Previously Imagined Possible

Worldwide economic collapse? Nuclear war? Horrific flesh-melting virus?

Stay tuned! We will all find out together.



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

New developers building a South Lansing-sized blueprint for success

By MIKE ELLIS

Melissa White is quick to correct people who call her a developer.

“Emerging developer,” she said, as people — Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, Council Member Adam Hussain, construction managers and bankers — came out to celebrate a huge milestone for her development.

But she’s being modest.

Or maybe she’s just waiting for the ribbon cutting to take a bow.

This was, after all, a groundbreaking and not the finish line.

There’s still a lot to go, said White and James Denning, who are partners and are developing a blighted south Lansing strip mall into an event space, a destination restaurant and a laundromat.

They’re turning a former recording studio into office space for their Novi Properties LLC, named for their oldest daughter and not the Metro Detroit city.

That’s the office space where they’ll become developers, as this project gets finished around the start of 2027 and they’re on to the next one.

The development, at 820 W. Miller Road, has been years in the making.

Gloria Denning, James’ mother and a former City Council candidate, said she first heard of the plan shortly after White told her she had bought the property.

“She was like, ‘I got this property.’”

Very quickly, there was a plan.

There’s been a whole mess of setbacks, contractors, challenges and adversities on the way.

Naysayers as well as supporters too.

As the skeleton of a strip mall attests, it’s far from done.

But as groundbreaking started for their project, James Denning and Melissa White took a well-deserved bow as they are on the way to being groundbreaking developers.

A long time coming

Calvin Jones, a member of the Lansing Economic Development Board, said he started mowing lawns with the Lansing Board of Water and Light about 50 years ago, and one of his lawns was at the intersection.

The property has been a lot of things over the years since Jones, now director of government and community rela-



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Melissa White and James Denning at their development in south Lansing.

tions for BWL, was mowing the nearby lawns but he’s seen the intersection transform a number of times, including into a popular nightclub and, more recently, an eyesore.

“It’s long overdue,” Jones said.

Mayor Andy Schor said he was door-knocking around five years ago and got an earful of a plan from someone who just happened to answer the door, White, and he’s been hooked on her ideas for the property ever since.

“These are two folks (White and James Denning) who have jobs and kids and lives and they want to make their community better,” Schor said. “They did everything right and they had no idea what they were doing.”

The mayor might also have been talking about the city’s role in figuring out how to do this, since White and Denning were “guinea pigs” for city trial programs to better educate and foster local developers.

White and Denning were in the first cohort of Lansing Economic Development Corporation’s Supporting Empowered Emerging Developers Academy, a free class on real estate development, and have gotten a fast and furious education in development, including but not limited to finances and planning experience.

White and Denning have defied the normal process of connected, experienced developers driving the successful projects and are becoming poster examples of homegrown developers.

White and Denning built up a stack of financing, including \$1 million from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s Revitalization and Placemak-



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

A crowd gathered last Wednesday (July 29) to mark the groundbreaking of the homegrown Novi Properties project in south Lansing.



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Denning and White, center, join city leaders for a ceremonial dirt shoveling at the groundbreaking.

ing 2.0 program, Brownfield tax increment financing totaling over \$380,000, and \$30,000 from the city of Lansing’s facade improvement program.

It’s the kind of tools they’ve been learning.

Exactly this kind of development

City Council member Adam Hussain, who represents the ward and has become friends with Denning and White through the process, said this is exactly the kind of development City Council should support.

Too often, he said during the July 29 ceremony, it is the “well-established developer that knows how to access these incentives and has access to capital and can put their capital stack together, and frankly, has the relationships in place in the organizations necessary to actually

do development.”

Hussain said emerging developers like White and Denning need support to get that access and those relationships. Hussain and White said Aurelius Christian, from LEDC, was instrumental to the project.

Speaking to the neighbors of south Lansing, Hussain addressed the years of blight and the hopes for this project.

“We asked you a handful of years ago, when these two fascinating, incredible, amazing people came on board we asked you to be patient. We believed in them. You believe in us and our belief in them and because of that belief and support and patience this is happening.”

As for White, as the project gets built over the next few months, she’s going to have to get used to being called a developer.

“There’s definitely more to come,” White said. “So stay tuned.”

Michigan Supreme Court sides with Nessel, overrules cases curtailing consumer protection law

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

In a 4-3 decision Friday, the Michigan Supreme Court rejected a lower court's decision preventing Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel from moving forward with a price-gouging investigation against a major insulin manufacturer.

Nessel, in 2022, filed an investigation into Eli Lilly and Company looking to investigate price disparities between its branded version of insulin injections and the generic version. Nessel also filed a complaint with Ingham County's 30th Judicial Circuit Court, asking the Court to determine that the investigation was not subject to an exemption in the Michigan Consumer Protection Act.

Following a request from Eli Lilly, Nessel's complaint was dismissed, prompting an appeal to the state Court of Appeals, and the Michigan Supreme Court when the lower court's decision was upheld.

However, Chief Justice Megan Cavanagh, and Justices Noah Hood, Elizabeth Welch and Kimberly Thomas, all nominated by Democrats, agreed with Nessel's arguments that two previous court cases — *Smith v. Globe Life Insurance Company* and *Liss v. Lewiston-Richards Inc.* — had improperly interpreted the exemption, preventing the Michigan attorney general from taking action against companies for deceptive business practices and price gouging if that business holds a license or other authorization from a state or federal agency. In an opinion authored by Hood, the court overturned its de-

cision in the two previous cases, and remanded the matter of Nessel's investigation back to the 30th Circuit Court for further proceedings.

"The Michigan Consumer Protection Act was once the envy of consumer protection efforts across the nation, and today we can once again claim that mantle with these two abhorrent decisions off the books," Nessel said in a statement. "Now, our extraordinary Consumer Protection Team can go back to helping residents who have been deceived by licensed businesses."

Justice Kyra Harris Bolden, writing in a dissent joined by Justices Richard Bernstein and Brian Zahra, the lone Republican-nominated judge, argued that the attorney general lacked standing to bring the claim.

State Sen. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), who has introduced legislation

to bolster the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, also cheered the decision, calling on the Republican-led House of Representatives to pass his Senate Bill 134.

In a statement, a Lilly spokesperson said they were "disappointed that a divided Michigan Supreme Court set aside longstanding precedent requiring termination of the Attorney General's investigation."

"We are proud of our strong record of insulin affordability solutions that have made a real impact for Michiganders and all Americans," the statement said. "Lilly was the first company to cap what patients pay at \$35 per month for all our insulins, we cut insulin prices by 70%, and in 2024 the average monthly out-of-pocket cost for Lilly insulin was less than \$15."

Michigan Supreme Court tosses state regulator's approval of Line 5 tunnel project

By **BEN SOLIS/**
Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

The Michigan Public Service Commission must revisit its order approving the Enbridge Energy Line 5 tunnel project because it did not properly examine environmental harms that might arise from extending the pipeline's lifespan, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled Friday.

The controversial pipeline runs from Superior, Wisconsin to Sarnia, Ontario, with a 4.5-mile segment of dual pipelines running through the Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron meet.

The decision written by Justice Elizabeth Welch was nearly unanimous — Justice Brian Zahra, the lone Republican-nominated justice, issued a dissent. Welch was joined by Chief Justice Megan Cavanagh and Justices Richard Bernstein, Kyra Harris Bolden, Kimberly Thomas and Noah Hood, all nominated or appointed by the Democratic Party.

Welch ultimately determined that the commission needed to assess the potential environmental harms in a new review, and compare those impacts with presented alternatives.

"The PSC must consider the extent to which the replacement project may pollute, impair, or destroy public trust resources," Welch wrote.

The commission in December 2023 approved the project's permit application, determining that the tunnel project would be the best available solution to mitigate concerns of an oil spill from the 4.5 mile-segment of dual pipelines running through the Straits of Mackinac.



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

The Michigan Hall of Justice, which includes the Michigan Supreme Court.

The Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, and Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi and several environmental advocacy groups challenged the decision.

They argued the commission failed to consider several alternatives to the Line 5 tunnel project, and that the commission had improperly limited the scope of its review by blocking parties from submitting evidence on the scope of the project's environmental impacts and detailing whether there is a public need for the petroleum products Line 5 transports.

A Court of Appeals panel upheld the permit. The lawsuit rose to the Michigan Supreme Court, where the justices heard oral arguments in March.

Welch wrote that the commission also inconsistently considered greenhouse emissions from the pipeline as a whole in

its harms analysis, and declined to consider other environmental risks — like oil spills — using that same scope.

"The inconsistencies in the PSC's comparisons did not allow for such a 'reasonable choice,'" Welch wrote. "The PSC incorrectly compared the environmental effects of alternatives that would fully replace Line 5 with the effects of the Replacement Project alone."

The commission erred by failing to determine whether the project would pollute, impair, or destroy public trust resources, as well, Welch said.

As for the Court of Appeals' error, Welch said the panel relied on state agency decision making, more specifically the commission's Michigan Environmental Protection Act determination. It should have looked at the case without any deference toward the commission's determination.

Bay Mills Indian Community Presi-

dent Whitney Gravelle said the ruling was "a reminder that when people stand together with courage and conviction, change is possible."

"For years, Tribal Nations, communities, and thousands of people across the country have raised their voices to protect the Great Lakes," Gravelle said in a statement. "This decision gives us another opportunity to honor our treaty rights, protect our waters, and consider the generations who will inherit this place."

Gravelle said the Straits of Mackinac were not simply a route for an oil pipeline "to be abused. They are sacred waters, the heart of creation for Anishinaabe people, and a source of life for millions."

"Some things are simply too sacred to be buried beneath a tunnel," Gravelle added. "Our work continues, and we remain committed to protecting the Great Lakes for generations to come."

Earthjustice and the Native American Rights Fund represented the various Tribes in challenging the permit.

"This ruling is an inspiring victory for Tribes, environmental advocates, and everyday people who've joined hands in the fight to stop the dangerous Line 5 tunnel project," Earthjustice Senior Attorney Adam Ratchenski said in a statement. "The Court's decision upholds the bedrock principles of Michigan environmental law. Enbridge's application to build the tunnel now heads back to the Michigan Public Service Commission, where we will be prepared with robust arguments in defense of Tribal rights and the Great Lakes."

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The Lansing School Board has appointed Jessica Benavides as superintendent. Benavides has served as interim superintendent since earlier this

year. She worked almost her entire career as a LSD employee and was appointed to the new role of first deputy superintendent about a year ago. Then-Superintendent Ben Shuldiner announced last November that he was leaving for the same job in Seattle. He departed earlier this year and Benavides was appointed interim. She was paid around \$179,000 previously and in a statement the district said her new salary will be \$280,900 and the contract runs through June 30, 2029. "Jessica Benavides has earned the confidence of the Board of Education through nearly three decades of dedicated service to the Lansing School District and our community," said Guillermo Lopez, president of the Lansing School District Board of Education, in a statement. "She is a collaborative, student-centered leader who understands our district and our vision for the future." Benavides said in a statement that she is honored by the Board's confidence and eager to continue serving the students, staff, families and community of Lansing. "Lansing is my home, and it has been the privilege of my career to serve this community for nearly three decades."

Michigan's National Guard's annual training exercise, Northern Strike, is bringing 9,000 soldiers and others from three dozen states and five countries to train out of Camp Grayling and other northern Michigan areas.

Residents around Camp Grayling, Alpena and Battle Creek should expect to see more than usual military traffic on roads and in the air. People all over the Lower Peninsula could see more military aircraft than usual. The training exercise lasts through Aug. 14.



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported on Monday that two people have died amid the ongoing Cyclospora outbreak.

The state is reporting more than 11,000 infections attributed to the parasite, which can cause extreme diarrhea but is generally not life-threatening. "Death resulting from cyclosporiasis is uncommon in the United States," according to a statement from the MDHHS. "Two deaths have been identified as part of the cyclosporiasis outbreak affecting Michigan. According to medical records, both individuals had significant underlying health conditions that may have been impacted by cyclosporiasis and dehydration." Some of the highest per-capita rates of Cyclospora have been reported in mid-Michigan, with Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties all significantly above the state average of 1 per thousand residents.



Planned Parenthood of Michigan announced that they have permanently closed the Lansing, Livonia and Warren locations following a loss of federal funding.

The closures will leave Lansing patients with the nearest options being in Flint, more than an hour's drive from Lansing or even further in Grand Rapids or Ann Arbor. Patients can get virtual care for birth control refills and consultations, emergency contraception, gender-affirming hormone therapy, medication abortion, sexually transmitted infection screening and treatment options. Patients will need to arrange in-person visits for procedural abortion care, IUD implant placements and removals, physical exams and Pap tests and in-

jections that are not self-administered. The three locations did not perform procedural abortions. PPMI cited a \$4.2 million decline in reimbursement and funding due to federal policy changes. "It was compounded by closing fiscal year '26 with an unsustainable \$5.6 million in uncompensated and undercompensated care," the organization said in a statement. "To protect our network from ongoing political attacks from Washington, we are consolidating physical resources at regional hubs while expanding our virtual care capabilities to serve patients wherever they are in Michigan."

...

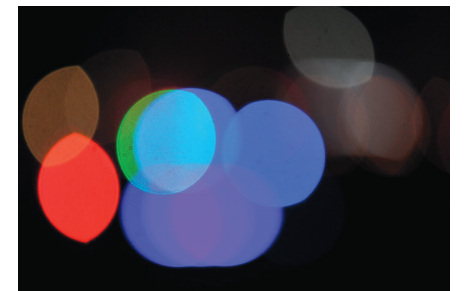
"Across the industry, these escalating costs are making traditional safety-net operating models increasingly difficult to maintain," the statement continued. Active prescriptions with PPMI remain in effect. Chief medical officer, Dr. Kate Starr said, in a statement to City Pulse, "Our highest priority is continuity of care for our patients. Many services provided in Lansing are available through our statewide Virtual Health Center, which already serves more than 10,000 patients each year and offers patients health care of the highest standard. For over six years, our statewide Virtual Health Center has been serving patients with or without insurance, connecting them to care wherever they live in Michigan. When a patient needs in-person care, our team is working with them to identify the appropriate option and help identify continued care based on the services they need. We are not asking patients to figure out that transition on their own. For Michiganders who face transportation and cost barriers, transportation assistance might be available. We encourage anyone with concerns about getting to an appointment to call 800-230-PLAN (7526) to discuss the transportation assistance that we offer that may be available to them."

Maliki Pendergrass was sentenced last week for his role in the death of a four-year-old girl who found an unsecured firearm and fatally shot herself.

The child died in January. Pendergrass pleaded guilty in June to a firearm violation resulting in a death, possession



of a firearm by a felon, felony firearm and a habitual offender third offense enhancement. He was sentenced last week to an effective 14- to 30-year sentence with no jail credit, according to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. Pendergrass was on parole at the time and if the Department of Corrections issues a prison sentence for that parole violation, that sentence would be served first.



East Lansing Police said they are conducting an internal investigation into an arrest made by officers this weekend.

The city's announcement follows the release, on social media, of a video showing an arrest. "The video that is circulating does not capture the entire incident," the city said in a statement. The video shows officers surrounding a woman who is screaming, face down on the ground in East Lansing. One officer appears to close a fist and strike her in the back more than once. One officer has been placed on paid administrative leave, according to a statement from police. Anyone with additional videos or other information can reach out to the police department and Captain Adrian Ojerio at aojerio@cityofeastlansing.com.

Tyler Cameron Reck of DeWitt, 24, was arraigned last Thursday in 55th District Court on two counts each of reckless driving causing death and moving violation causing death in a May 26 incident on U.S. 127, near West Holt Rd. in Alameda Township.

He was driving a Ford Edge crossover SUV and going more than 86 mph right before he lost control and his vehicle struck construction workers Bruce Wagner, 51, and Steve Spenle, 49, both of Mason, on the northbound side shoulder of the freeway. The felony charges carry a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison upon conviction. Wagner and Spenle were part of a rolling pothole repair crew working along the side of the highway for the Michigan Department of Transportation. Reck was also critically injured in the collision.

Biggest spender no longer guaranteed to win

By KYLE MELINN

Someone, somewhere still watches TV regularly. It's not me. If that person is you, my condolences.

You saw WAY TOO MANY Haley Stevens and Perry Johnson ads. Way too many. And they didn't work ... in the sense neither candidate got the bang out of ads that they had hoped for.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee and other traditional Democratic supporters wanted Stevens to win her U.S. Senate primary. Badly. So badly, they spent a combined \$60 million on TV and streaming advertising alone, according to AdImpact's count.



POLITICS

That's the most outside spending on one Democratic U.S. Senate primary candidate in American history. Sixty million dollars nearly matches the annual gross domestic product of the small Polynesian country of Tuvalu.

All that money, just so we would vote for Haley Stevens.

Her opponent, Abdul El-Sayed, and his friends? They spent \$6.5 million, about a tenth of Stevens & Co.

Then we have Johnson. This guy is so wealthy he wrote a \$32 million personal check on TV and streaming ads. Just so he could win the Republican nomination to be governor. If he won, Johnson planned to take no salary.

That \$32 million is more than all

Republican candidates and their friends spent on TV ads for the entire 2022 gubernatorial campaign — primary and general election. That's almost more than the \$35.5 million Dick DeVos spent in 2006 in both the primary and general to become governor.

Johnson was contested. His opponent, John James, and some friends of his (including DeVos' brother) spent a combined \$8.2 million, or about a quarter of what Johnson spent.

What does this all mean?

According to Elena Greer, a political analyst for Vote for Change, it's proof that the old model of running voluminous TV ads in order to win is breaking down.

Money can buy attention and turn-

out, she says, but it cannot reliably buy trust. It can't buy persuasion. And it can't buy your vote, especially in competitive races.

Now, money isn't bad, of course. You'd rather have more than less. However, Greer says outside money becomes less effective — and may even backfire — when voters recognize and dislike the group paying for it.

For example, EPIC-MRA polling last week showed that of the 49% of people who had heard of AIPAC, 56% of voters don't like them.

El-Sayed and his supporters succeeded in tainting that money.

Before spending wildly on a race, Greer suggests testing multiple messages to see what works.

Overall, small-dollar donations reached record numbers this cycle. That's good for campaigns ... except the campaigns are now fighting for that same Jane Smith from Main Street who gave \$25 to Democratic congressional candidate Curtis Hertel in 2024, for example.

What that means is Smith is being targeted by all Democratic candidates now.

In 2026, Jocelyn Benson may call Smith and get \$15 from her. Stevens may call her and get \$10. By the time Bridget Brink calls, her budget for the congressional race is \$5, as opposed to \$25 two years prior.

As I noted in last week's column, Will Lawrence's congressional campaign is proof that knocking doors works, but it's got to be done right.

Greer's analysis is that paying a bunch of people to knock on as many doors as humanly possible and read a 45-second script to whatever face shows up at the screen door doesn't get the job done.

The key, she says, is getting local people to knock fewer doors. Have longer, personable conversations with voters who haven't made up their minds.

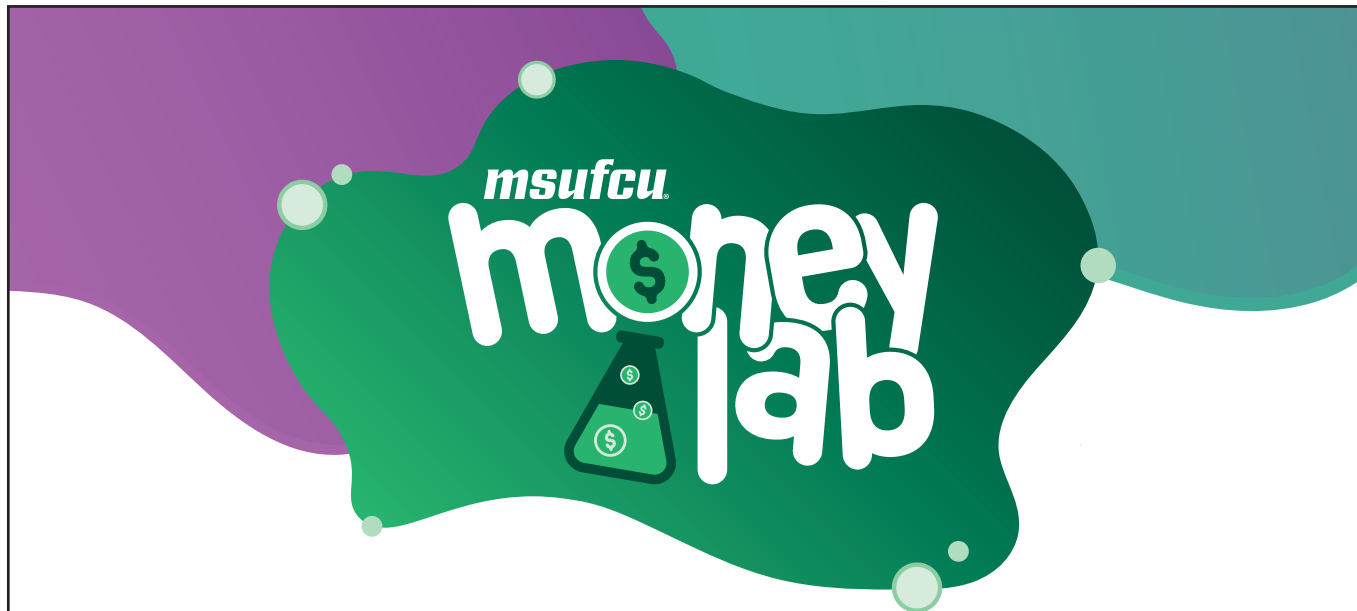
If the canvasser spends 10 or 20 minutes at a door? That's not a bad thing if that conversation could mean a vote with an undecided, Greer argued.

That doesn't mean every doorstep conversation should be 20 minutes. Changing minds is the key. If that only takes 30 seconds in some cases, so be it. But stay focused on the goal.

Campaigns tend to reward the number of doors knocked. That mentality, she said, isn't working.

In this fast-moving world, campaigns may just need to slow down. Think before they spend. And really talk and listen to voters.

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



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How two magicians are keeping the magic alive in Greater Lansing

By LIEZA KLEMM

Many parts of growing up are magical and eventually lose luster.

Mysteries like the strange shadows under the bed, or why frost covers the grass on a crisp fall morning.

As it turns out, the reason is perfectly explainable, and has nothing to do with monsters or Jack Frost.

But in Greater Lansing, the magic never left. The type of magic that's for everyone: kids, teenagers, college students, parents and older adults.

In the face of YouTube tutorials and AI-generated entertainment, Lansing still has a vibrant magic scene. Chad Bannister and Jeffery Olds have taken different paths, one balancing a day job while preparing to go full-time, the other making a living performing around the state.

Both have built careers on face-to-face wonder.

Bit by the magic bug

Olds, widely known as Jeff the Magician, remembers it clear as day. Sitting in his family's living room in Flint, during his younger sister's birthday party, watching the professional magician his parents hired for entertainment. He called it a "signal from God."

"I was hooked," Olds said.

Years later, the same pro magician performed at Olds' junior high school

and pulled out all the stops. Thoroughly impressed and armed with some spending money from his bar mitzvah, Olds bought his first magic supplies at age 13. "That's when I really started performing," he said.

Olds put on shows left and right, so much so that a friend offered to design a business card for him. "He called me Jeff the Magician," he chuckled. "And from that point on, it stuck. I've been Jeff the Magician since ninth grade."

Olds eventually went on to college and settled in Lansing after graduating with a master's degree in marketing from Michigan State University in 1993.

Unable to find a job and with spare time on his hands, Olds went back to his origins: magic.

After booking dozens of shows over a Halloween weekend, he started performing full-time by the end of the year.

"I never looked back," Olds said.

It wasn't always easy, he said. There were times when he had to pick up stable employment, like as an enrollment advisor or car salesman, but the magic remained.

"I was still doing magic," he said. "I used magic to enroll students."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Olds performed shows and taught magic lessons over Zoom, making ends meet despite the shutdown.

For Banister, the itch came from watching *The World's Greatest Magician*. He was mesmerized by the performances of Lance Burton and Jeff McBride. By 16, he decided to take his talents to the stage and, battling his nerves, entered his school's talent show.

"I did a dancing handkerchief effect," Banister said. "At the time, I didn't really have much of a background in performing."

He started getting involved with theater, even studying it in college, and he used that in his performances. "I really wanted to focus on creating moments where people laugh together," Banister said.

Life after college took a different direction.

Stepping away from the spotlight, Banister went on a 15-year hiatus, working in the food service industry



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Chad Banister, left, performing at Independence Village of East Lansing, thanks a crowd member for volunteering for his Rubik's Cube trick.



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Residents at Independence Village of East Lansing applauded Banister after he correctly chose a volunteer's select card.



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Banister sets up his next trick involving a disappearing Coke bottle.



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Banister laughs at a resident's comment. "They find him extremely friendly," said Nila Leonard, Independence Village's activity director.

before eventually transitioning into education. He spent time as a paraprofessional and later became a full-time substitute teacher, taking primarily long-term positions.

Banister took a trip to Las Vegas four years ago and watched the live shows of prominent magicians like Penn & Teller and Mat Franco. The

performances he witnessed reignited his past passion, and once again, he took to the stage.

"I decided that life is short," Banister said, "and I really wanted to do this."

With the help of mentors, Banister started putting on shows for schools

See Magic, Page 10

Magic

from page 9

and local community organizations, all while balancing his jobs as a substitute teacher and building supervisor for the city.

Over the past eight months, the demand for Banister's performances has shot up. He plans on going full-time, and joining Olds in the ranks of Greater Lansing's professional magicians.

Charming Audiences

From programs for libraries and summer camps to weddings and corporate events, Banister and Olds each boast a long list of show options.

Olds is perhaps best known for his tableside performances.

His weekly restaurant tour includes Culver's in Eastwood, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen off of Saginaw Highway, and Gregory's Soul Food on MLK Boulevard, just to name a few.

It started a long time ago, Olds said. Performing at the (now closed) Old Country Buffet on the west side was his first taste of mealtime entertainment.

"I think I charged 25 bucks for two hours," he laughed. "They loved it."

Olds moved on to other restaurants in town, and using his marketing education, sold himself as a customer magnet.

"That's my bread and butter," he said.

While his rotation of establishments changed over the years, his approach remains a constant.

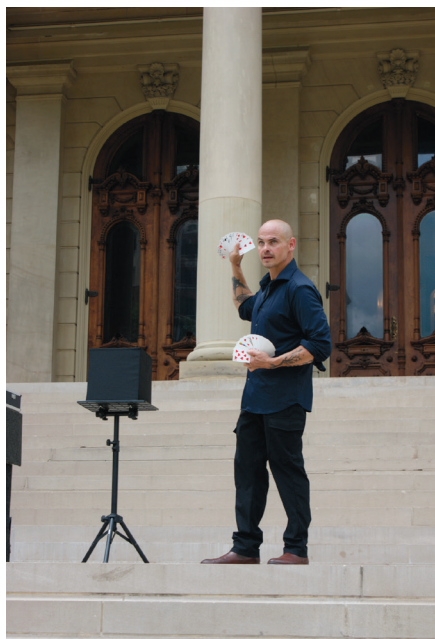
"It's just been very successful," he said.

The partnership is far from one-sided. Aside from adding entertainment during mealtimes, Olds uses his charm to turn a potential one-star review into a repeat visit. "You have a problem with table four," Olds told City Pulse. "You tell me to go to table four, put on the max stuff, (and) pacify them while they're waiting."

Magicians turn a negative situation into a positive experience

For the past three years, Culver's has held Olds' Monday slot. Guests can see flyers advertising the show posted around the restaurant.

"He's really incredible when it comes to (his) ability to engage the guests of all ages," said Jacob Vandeusen, the



Courtesy photo

Performing on the steps of the state Capitol, Banister entertained the crowd as part of the America250MI celebration.

general manager of the location.

Customers return specifically to see Olds perform, Vandeusen said. "It goes far beyond great food, you know," he said. "He's creating those memorable meals for everybody."

Banister carved out his market for performing magic not by chasing a preexisting niche, but by steadily building one through his community work and relationships in Lansing.

Years spent as a building supervisor at city community centers and as a long-term substitute teacher put him in local schools, neighborhoods and city programs. When he began offering shows, there was already a base of people who knew and trusted him.



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Bannister solicits a response from the audience during a performance at Independence Village of East Lansing.



Courtesy photo

Banister encourages audience participation at his shows. "I want them to experience the positive connection between me, the audience, and themselves being up on stage," he said.

"Being a part of all that has helped shape not just my performance, but my character and who I am now," he said.

While Banister does plenty of outreach himself, he said being embedded in the community helped him build a reputation of trust, although some city officials just recently found out.

"There were a few administrators and council people ... and they were like 'We didn't know you did magic ... we had no idea,'" he laughed.

Banister was recently asked back to perform for the residents of Independence Village of East Lansing, a retirement community, after simply introducing himself.

Out for a walk, he stopped into the community on a whim. The impromptu visit turned into an audition.

"[We] tested him on the spot," Nila Leonard, the community activities director, said, "and he passed the test."

Bringing in a magician never occurred to her, Leonard told City Pulse.

But after Banister's first show, Leonard said residents immediately wanted him back. "They were still talking about (his performance) the next day."

Leonard emphasized the biggest reason she invited Banister back wasn't exclusively his talent, but the respect he showed her residents.

"Because they are independent, they felt respected," she said. "His communication, his respect and simply his demeanor with the residents...is why I really wanted to reschedule."

For both Olds and Banister, building a career in magic hasn't been about landing one big break. Instead, the work is in cultivating relationships in places that don't traditionally host magicians and creating performances tailored to each audience, whether that's tableside in a restaurant or in front of a crowd of seniors at a retirement community.

Keeping the Wonder Alive

On the surface, magic shows are a couple of tricks and illusions designed to amaze audiences.

But for Lansing's magicians, every sleight of hand has a purpose.

See Magic, Page 11

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LOOK INSIDE
FOR DETAILS

Magic

from page 10

Banister used his magic in the classroom to connect and bond with students. “It makes it so much easier for them to want to talk to you,” he said. “If they’re having an issue or problem, they’ll want to communicate that.”

Olds channels his atypical career choice to tell younger audiences to believe in themselves. “Nobody told me I was going to be a magician for life, but it was my passion,” he said. “Anything is possible if you set your mind to it.”

The common thread of each show is connection.

“People usually don’t remember the tricks years later,” Banister said. “They remember how they felt.”

While Olds partners with local restaurants for his shows, he enjoys getting families away from screens and into the moment.

“Hearing that I got a kid to put his phone down for a while,” he said, “that’s my payment.”

Even the employees on Olds’ restaurant tour look forward to seeing him every week.

“He has the ability to just be friends with everybody,” said Vandeusen, the general manager.

At his first performance for Independence Village, Banister stayed an



Courtesy photo

Olds talks the audience through a trick at a birthday party.

hour after the show, answering questions and teaching residents card tricks.

“My residents adored him,” said Leonard, the activities director who keeps inviting him back. “They find him extremely friendly.”

In an era of endless streaming options and viral videos, magic offers the thrill of witnessing the impossible happen right in front of you.

It’s the shared laughter after a joke lands, the collective gasp when a card disappears and the conversations that continue long after the show ends.

That sense of wonder keeps both magicians coming back to the stage,



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Olds answers questions from a guest at Culver’s.

whether it’s a packed restaurant on a Monday night, or a retirement community on a Thursday afternoon.

As long as there are audiences willing to suspend disbelief for a few moments, Lansing’s magic scene will remain. Maybe not in grand theaters or TV specials, but in the everyday places where strangers become participants and a simple trick becomes a memory.

For Banister and Olds, keeping the magic alive was never about fooling people. It’s about giving them something to believe in, even if only for a moment.



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Adding to the mealtime experience, Olds asks Culver’s patrons if they’re interested in watching a magic trick while they wait for their food.



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Performing in restaurants means Olds can’t bring all of his gear along, but his card tricks never fail to amaze guests.

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

JazzFest Michigan pitches a capacious five-day musical tent

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A billowing tent of jazz and jazz-adjacent sounds is set to be pitched at JazzFest Michigan this week, beginning with a kickoff concert at Old Town's UrbanBeat venue tonight, stretching through a weekend packed with three stages of music and climaxing in a gospel brunch Sunday with powerhouse vocalist Twyla Birdsong.

While East Lansing's Summer Solstice Jazz Festival in June revolves, with a disciplined and centripetal spin, around the tight nucleus of Michigan State University's jazz studies program, JazzFest whirls with centrifugal abandon around a loose cloud of funk, folk, pop, world music, gospel and other styles, echoing the eclectic roster of the festival's epicenter, UrbanBeat. To scramble the eggs a bit more, each act has been asked to perform an original song or arrangement they've never played before. For a full schedule, visit michiganjazzfest.com.

LCB Big Band: Go big and go home

The majesty, momentum and subtlety (well, sometimes) of big-band jazz make it one of those towering national treasures, like Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon, that cry out to be experienced in person.

The 81-year-old Lansing Concert Band's jazzy younger brother, the LCB Big Band, has kept the whitewater roaring and the geysers erupting since 1993. This weekend, it will bring a mix of familiar and fresh arrangements to the Fish Ladder stage at JazzFest.

The festival stipend goes toward defraying the cost of the band's music library and other expenses, but the musicians themselves play just for the sheer joy of it.

"It's a labor of love," vocalist Dan Templin said.

The band's repertoire begins in the classic 1930s heyday of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Ella Fitzgerald and other greats of the big-band era, cruises into the swaggering mid-20th-century music book of Frank Sinatra, with original arrangements by the likes of Nelson Riddle and Neal Hefti, and stretches into the brassy energy of the 1970s rock group Chicago.

LCB Big Band founder, director and trumpeter Jim Kasprzak declined to blow his own horn, at least figuratively, but Templin called him "a very, very, very accomplished trumpet player who will really shine in several numbers we're going to perform at JazzFest."

Kasprzak, a mainstay of the Lansing Concert Band for many years, got the big band together in response to a call from a friend requesting a performance at a local party.

His father, an Army bugler in World War II and big-band devotee, taught



Courtesy

The LCB Big Band, with Kelly Sandula-Gruner on vocals, at a previous JazzFest.

him to love jazz (and how to find his way around a trumpet). Watching TV as a kid in the 1960s, when musical variety shows regularly featured big bands, he perked up whenever someone like Basie, Ellington or Johnny Carson's trumpet minion Doc Severinsen swung into action.

He hastily recruited musicians from the concert band for the party gig and cobbled together some arrangements with the help of band member Tom Jones, then director of bands at Sexton High School.

The band started as a one-off, but the prospect of mining the vast riches and diverse styles of big-band music, from the 1930s to the present day, proved irresistible to Kasprzak and his comrades in swing. They built up a library of tunes and ramped up their concert schedule, responding the public's undying appetite for big-band swing. The band is playing six gigs this summer, an all-time high.

To keep the pot stirred, Kasprzak constantly renews the repertoire with half-forgotten gems, nice things they've missed and even brand-new music. The JazzFest gig will feature a ballad by MSU composition student Kevin Charoensri, "One More Dance."

In recent years, the band has had a fruitful collaboration with pianist, composer, arranger and former DeWitt High School band director Jeff Kressler. "Jeff is a wonderful writer, and he's done some custom arrangements just for us," Kasprzak said. Kressler recently came up with a "very faithful" arrangement of Chicago's 1969 hit "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?"

No musical snob, Kasprzak will swap his trumpet for the notoriously difficult flugelhorn to play "Feels So Good," the semi-cheesy 1977 megahit by Chuck Mangione.

Kasprzak grew up absorbing many styles of music and loving them all.

"Whether it's big-band music or rock music, music is just a joy, an art form that moves people emotionally and physically," he said.

Kasprzak grew up in Toledo, Ohio, and came to MSU for his graduate degree. He raised his family here and has now retired "twice" — the first time from a long career as an economist doing



Courtesy

The Detroit Jazz Project at Kerrytown Concert House in Ann Arbor.

budget work for the state of Michigan, and the second time from an eight-year stint as director of Catholic charities for the Diocese of Lansing.

Templin, a breezy and energetic singer whose duties include channeling the likes of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Dean Martin, got involved in the LCB Big Band through his involvement in Singers on the Grand, a vocal ensemble originally formed to raise money for the Grand Ledge Opera House. Singers on the Grand is still active on the scene, and Templin often performs with his fellow LCB Big Band vocalist, Kelly Sandula-Gruner, as a vocal duet called Clique Vocals. (The duet will make two appearances at JazzFest, Thursday and Friday on the UrbanBeat Stage.)

Templin was thrilled when Kasprzak invited him to sing with the big band about seven years ago. At first, he was nervous about letting loose in the jazz style, but he quickly found it to be a gas. He'll fulfill his Sinatra duties at JazzFest by singing the classic "Come Fly with Me."

"We use the original arrangements," Templin said. "Sometimes I pinch myself and I feel like I'm in New York or Las Vegas."

Detroit Jazz Project: Astral traveling

The expansive spirit of jazz in Detroit, mindful of history while cherishing the passing moment, will find a new showcase Saturday on JazzFest's Cold Plunge stage.

Founder and saxophonist Mark Hershberger takes the band many places. He compared making music to his childhood dreams of flying.

"There's an astral-traveling component to life," he said. "Out of body is a way of describing it. We have to get outside of ourselves to be truly creative."

On saxophone, Hershberger ranges from melodic swinging à la Dexter Gordon to volcanic burbling in the Ben Webster mode to spiritual probing in the manner of Pharoah Sanders. When called for, he can tap into an out-of-this-world, John Coltrane-inspired energy.

"I do have, shall we say, a propensity to take it out in my playing," he said with a laugh.

But even when he takes it "out," he's careful to take the audience along. "That's always been key for me," he said. "Even in our recent gigs at the Dirty Dog

Jazz Cafe, the Blue LLama and Cliff Bell's, it's been about engaging people in the music. That's why I do a mix of music — Latin tunes, vocals, Motown."

After performing and studying a variety of styles of music for 30 years, Hershberger was ready to front a group of his own. The Detroit Jazz Project began in the early 2000s as the Global Jazz Project, playing gigs at Baker's Keyboard Lounge, Aretha's Jazz Café and other Detroit venues. Hershberger said the name change happened after newspaper columnist and author Mitch Albom told him, "It sounds more like the Detroit Jazz Project to me."

Barely out of his teens, Hershberger backed up the legendary R&B duo Sam & Dave (Sam Moore and Dave Prater) at Jazz West, Club Mozambique and other Detroit clubs and recorded for Motown with vocalist Cecil Womack.

"It was a blast," he said. He experimented with electronic sounds, led a group called The Extraterrestrials and played in many eclectic ensembles during his time as a student at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan.

A key influence and mentor for several years was Detroit jazz-funk saxophonist and educator Sam Sanders.

"He was a phenomenal player, a technical wizard and a total inspiration," Hershberger said.

Hershberger has worked with a panoply of Detroit greats such as Gayelynn McKinney, Vincent Chandler, Marion Hayden and teenage piano sensation Jacob Hart. He's made over 20 adventurous recordings with maverick Detroit drummer Muruga Booker, including the most recent, "Journey to Mars."

The latest iteration of the Detroit Jazz Project, featured this weekend at JazzFest, includes Detroit's Ryan Rose on drums, MSU grad Laura Simone on bass, Lisa Sung on piano, Terry Kimura (a staple of the group over the past decade) on trombone and energetic vocalist Vanessa Carr.

The group's repertoire ranges from red-meat jazz classics like "Oleo" and "St. Thomas" to the deep-groove McCoy Tyner classic "Walk Spirit, Talk Spirit" to vocal classics like "I'm a Woman" and the Etta James showpiece "At Last."

Hershberger is currently working on an album of original tunes and a live album culled from recent Detroit Jazz Project gigs at the Dirty Dog.

He has a bachelor's and a master's degree in addition to his musical life and has raised five kids along the way.

"I have a great appreciation for our world, our people," he said. "I'm inspired by Detroit, the clubs, the music I hear when I go to Cadieux Cafe or Bert's Marketplace, that vibration people emit when they listen to jazz. I look inside to my soul but also look outside to the universe for inspiration. The birds, the bugs."

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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 jazzfestmichigan.com for the full schedule.

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JazzFest

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Wednesday AUG 5

UrbanBeat Stage • Indoors / 1213 Turner

TOM DUFFIELD • 5:30pm

Tom Duffield is a longtime pianist and versatile performer with years of experience playing as a solo artist, in duos, and with various ensembles. Known for his expressive style and deep appreciation for jazz traditions, Tom brings sophistication, creativity, and connection to every performance. For this performance, Tom will be joined by talented drummer Dave Ludington, creating a dynamic duo that highlights the interplay and spontaneity at the heart of jazz.

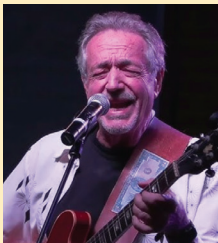


JEFF BALDORI

plays the songs of

MOSE ALLISON • 7:00pm

Jeff Baldori is a versatile jazz pianist, guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter whose music blends the traditions of jazz, blues, soul, and boogie. With decades of performing experience and a passion for improvisation, Jeff brings a unique blend of creativity, musicianship, and storytelling to every performance. His repertoire includes unique interpretations of the standards as well as some fun surprises. This performance will feature the songs of jazz legend, Mose Allison.



Thursday AUG 6

UrbanBeat Stage • Indoors / 1213 Turner

CLIQUE VOCALS

• 5:30pm

Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner perform classic jazz ballads of 1920s-'50s, plus a mix of pop and contemporary music arranged in a unique style with tight harmonies.



PICKLE MAFIA • 7:00pm

The Pickle Mafia is a high-energy piano power trio from Rochester, NY, delivering an electrifying blend of original instrumentals, creative covers, and unforgettable live performances. With 60+ songs, national touring experience, and a growing online following, the band brings both the music and their famous handcrafted pickles to the stage.

Friday AUG 7

UrbanBeat Stage • Indoors / 1213 Turner



CLIQUE VOCALS • 5:30pm

Clique Vocals, featuring Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner, brings timeless jazz classics to life through rich vocal harmonies and a fresh, contemporary approach. Formed in 2016 after meeting through Singers on the Grand, the duo performs beloved jazz standards from the 1920s-'50s alongside unique arrangements of pop and modern favorites. Their performances have been featured at Michigan JazzFest, BluesFest, UrbanBeat, and venues throughout mid-Michigan.

TOM DUFFIELD • 8:00pm

Tom Duffield has been a key part of the Jazz & Blues scene in Michigan for decades. His repertoire includes interpretations of standards with originals and a Boogie style specialty. He is with the "Tomas Esparza Blues Band" and "Kat and the Bluetones," playing regularly around southern Michigan. Tom has 5 CD's found on YouTube.

MAX GAGE TRIO

Afterglow • 10:00pm

The Max Gage trio is an established jazz ensemble based in mid-Michigan that features the music of yesterday through the lens of today. Max has performed all-across the world and has garnered a national reputation as an up and coming jazz pianist. He will be joined alongside Percussionist Alonso Umana and Bassist Dylan Sherman. Followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians. **Limited seating**



Cold Plunge Stage • Outdoors



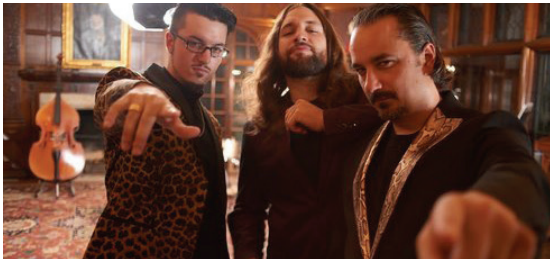
JAMM SCHOLARSHIP BAND • 4:30pm

The JAMM Scholarship Band brings together talented young musicians from the Greater Lansing area who are past and present recipients of the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan music scholarships. Led by local professional guitarist Doug Fritch, this inspiring ensemble showcases the next generation of jazz artists through creativity, collaboration, and a shared passion for the music.



CAT DADDY • 6:30pm

Cat Daddy, led by Grand Rapids-based drummer Randy Marsh, brings a powerful jazz performance filled with groove, improvisation, and musical chemistry. A longtime "first-call" drummer in Michigan, Randy has performed with the legendary band **Organissimo**, and brings decades of experience and artistry to the JazzFest stage.



PICKLA MAFIA • 8:30pm

Hailing from Rochester, NY, The Pickle Mafia brings a unique mix of powerful piano-driven instrumentals, dynamic performances, and a whole lot of personality. Known for their original music, nationwide shows, and signature line of homemade pickles, this trio delivers a one-of-a-kind experience you won't want to miss.

Saturday AUG 8

KidzBeat • Vendor Area

2-3:00pm Elderly Instrument Petting Zoo

Petting Zoo of Instruments

3-4:00pm Dance performances

Some participation with the crowd as well

UrbanBeat Stage • 1213 Turner/Indoors

TOM DUFFIELD • 3:00pm



800G • 5:00pm | 6:30pm

800G is a popular Lansing jazz quartet led by Jeff Boog and featuring Eric Lambert, Jack Bergeron, and Sagar Duvvuri. Known for their engaging performances at venues throughout the region, the band brings creativity, improvisation, and a deep love for jazz to the JazzFest Michigan stage.

CLIQUE VOCALS • 9:00pm

Clique Vocals brings the timeless elegance of jazz through the beautifully blended harmonies of Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner. Their unique arrangements of classic jazz standards and contemporary favorites create a sophisticated, engaging sound that celebrates the art of vocal jazz.



August 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 • In Old Town, Lansing



AMMY AMORETTE with JEFF BALDORI

Afterglow • 10:00pm

Ammy Amorette & Jeff Baldori bring together two distinctive voices in jazz. Jeff’s expressive piano reflect a lifetime of exploring jazz, blues, and American musical traditions, while Ammy’s soulful vocals and original compositions draw from jazz, bossa nova, and Latin American influences. Their performance celebrates the connection, creativity, and storytelling that make live jazz such a powerful experience. Followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians.

Limited seating

Cold Plunge Stage • Outdoors



DETROIT JAZZ PROJECT • 4:00pm

Mark Hershberger is a Detroit-based saxophonist, composer, and bandleader known for his distinctive sound, expressive style, and deep connection to the Detroit jazz tradition. As part of the Detroit Jazz Project, Mark brings decades of experience and a passion for preserving and celebrating the rich legacy of Detroit jazz, joined by Vanessa Carr on vocals, Ryan Rose on drums, Lisa Sung on piano, and Terry Kimura on trombone for a dynamic JazzFest Michigan performance.



MI YOUNG LIONS play JEFF HAAS • 6:00pm

MI Young Lions Plays Jeff Haas brings the next generation of jazz musicians together to celebrate the music of acclaimed Michigan composer and pianist Jeff Haas. This nine-piece ensemble delivers fresh interpretations of Haas’ distinctive compositions, blending jazz, funk, and improvisation while honoring his lasting influence on the region’s music community.

PHILLIP MANUEL

• 8:30pm

Phillip Manuel brings the soulful sounds of New Orleans to JazzFest Michigan, showcasing a voice and style that have captivated audiences around the world. A celebrated vocalist, saxophonist, and songwriter, Phillip has performed with jazz greats including Terence Blanchard and brings decades of experience, powerful storytelling, and the rich musical traditions of New Orleans to the stage.



Fish Ladder stage • Outdoors



SCHOOL OF ROCK › Adult Band • 3:00pm

School of Rock East Lansing is shaping the next generation of musicians through its unique performance-based approach, combining individual instruction with live band rehearsals and performances. Featuring talented young artists on guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, and vocals, these students will bring their energy, creativity, and passion for live music to JazzFest Michigan.



TWYLA BIRDSONG • 5:00pm

Lansing vocalist Twyla Birdsong is known for her soulful blend of jazz, blues, and gospel, captivating audiences with her powerful voice and heartfelt performances. A past representative of Lansing at the International Blues Challenge, Twyla joins JazzFest Michigan with her band to deliver an unforgettable performance rooted in soul, storytelling, and the timeless spirit of jazz.



LANSING CONCERT BAND BIG BAND • 7:00pm

Celebrating decades of music in the Lansing community, the Lansing Concert Band Big Band keeps the spirit of classic jazz alive through dynamic performances of beloved standards from the Great American Songbook. Led by Jim Kasprzak and featuring vocalists Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner, the 18-piece ensemble brings the energy, elegance, and swing of the big band tradition to stages throughout mid-Michigan, including JazzFest Michigan.

Sunday AUG 9

UrbanBeat Stage • Indoors / 1213 Turner

GOSPEL BRUNCH

12:00pm featuring

TWYLA BIRDSONG

Twyla Birdsong is a Michigan-based singer, songwriter and dynamic live performer whose commanding presence is matched by a deep, soulful voice capable of moving audiences from tears to joy.



With more than 20 years of experience, she has performed throughout the Lansing area at festivals, theaters, churches, clubs, schools, parks and community events—bringing emotional honesty, warmth and unmistakable power to every stage.

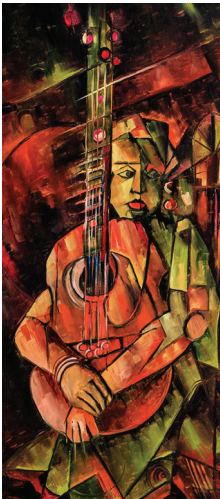
A three-time Capital Area Blues Challenge winner, with honors in both Band and Duo categories, Twyla draws from a rich musical foundation rooted in the church. The influence of gospel can be heard throughout her vocal delivery, whether she is interpreting blues, jazz, soul, R&B or gospel music. Her theatrical experience in local musical productions further shapes a performance style that is expressive, commanding and deeply connected to the audience.



PZAZZ

4:00pm featuring PHILLIP MANUEL

Fresh from New Orleans, acclaimed vocalist and songwriter Phillip Manuel brings his soulful voice and world-class artistry to Pzazz: An Afternoon of Poetry & Jazz at UrbanBeat. Having toured internationally and recorded with legendary artists, Phillip will provide the perfect musical backdrop as jazz and spoken word come together for one of UrbanBeat’s most beloved annual traditions.



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Big L & Code Blu • Tom Duffield
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Nicky T & the Snake Charmers
and more! Program subject to change.

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Smooth, but not flat

Phil Denny's Smooth Jazz Fête bristles with chart toppers



Courtesy

Under saxophonist Phil Denny's aegis, the annual Armory Smooth Jazz Fête has made Lansing an annual destination for fans of the genre.



Courtesy

This year's headliner is California-based guitarist, songwriter and producer Michael "Big Mike" Hart, who is making his first visit to Lansing.

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Have you ever tossed four buckets in a row without looking at the hoop? Phil Denny, saxophonist and impresario of Lansing's Armory Smooth Jazz Fête, made a happy discovery after booking this year's festival.

All the artists on Saturday's slate have had No. 1 hits on the Billboard charts, the first lineup of its kind in the event's eight-year history.

"I didn't plan it. It just worked out that way," he said.

Denny, of course, is one of those chart toppers.

Under Denny's aegis, the Fête has made Lansing an annual destination for fans of the chill vibe of smooth jazz and has drawn some of the genre's biggest names.

This year's headliner is California-based guitarist, songwriter and producer Michael "Big Mike" Hart, who is making his first visit to Lansing and sounds genuinely thrilled. Far from thinking of Michigan as flyover territory, he considers it to be sacred musical ground.

"I think about Michigan as a place of rich musical history, full of talent," Hart said. "It's been a foundation for music for the country, and it's good to headline a festival with all that history around, to set foot on that soil."

Hart grew up in Sacramento, California, amid a musical family. His father was a DJ, and his uncles sang and played guitar in a gospel group.

"I was around music and records all the time," he said.

"I just fell in love with the guitar — the sound, the chords." He loved Prince and Jimi Hendrix, and he fondly re-

calls renting VHS tapes of MTV's "Unplugged" series from Hollywood Video and studying them over and over.

But mastering the guitar was not enough for Hart. He admired the craft of singer-songwriters such as Babyface and James Taylor. Like Babyface, he wanted to produce and shape his own recordings, from idea to finished product. He's now an accomplished songwriter, arranger, producer and owner of Rhythm Section Studios in Los Angeles, a busy hub for area musicians.

In January 2024, Hart's buzzy, mentholated debut single "Cigar Lounge," featuring celebrated R&B saxophonist Boney James, soared to No. 1 on the Billboard smooth jazz chart.

Listeners accustomed to the same-old smooth stuff appreciated the extra mojo in Hart's intricate guitar work and his high production standards.

"I try not to make it so cookie-cutter for radio," he said. "I don't like the words 'smooth jazz.' I'm so much more

as an overall musician and producer. I gravitated to the genre because it was right for where I am in my life. I understood the formula and was able to do it at a high level."

On guitar, Hart dances nimbly between simplicity and complexity.

"You want to write a melodic hook that anybody can sing and hum," he said. "But you also want just enough kick for them to say, 'Oh, man, he's playing.' You let your ad libs show what you can do."

He loves working in the studio, but he welcomes the chance to stretch out of its technical, commercial and time constraints at an outdoor festival.

"Not, like, playing a thousand notes, but having real band moments, playing as a unit like Earth, Wind & Fire or

Spyro Gyra," he said. "When you have the band, man, you can really push the limits."

Denny called Hart "a powerhouse entertainer with a very electric show."

"I like interactions and transitions," Hart said. "Things that create a show, where you're not just going song-talk-song-talk."

Hart and his partner in music production, Buddy Bangs, go by the nickname of Bigs and Bangs. The duo produced Denny's second Billboard No. 1 hit, "Urban Troubador," in 2020. Hart is also the touring guitarist for Boney James, whom Denny called his "No. 1 idol and influence." It so happened that the same week Denny's "Urban Troubador," hit No. 1 on the Billboard smooth jazz chart, James was No. 2. The acolytes had surpassed their master.

"That made me feel a certain kind of way, because he's my idol," Denny said. "It's kind of unreal, like, 'Do I deserve this?'"

Hart said it's only a sign that Denny is "doing the right thing."

"In this business, sometimes your idols become your rivals," Hart said. "Phil should just pat himself on the back for the hard work he's done studying someone like Boney."

The word "fête" expresses the party side of "festival," but the chill vibe doesn't make it less of a musical experience.

Dynamic trumpeter Lin Rountree, also on the slate Sunday, invoked some sacred jazz names, like Roy Hargrove, Dizzy Gillespie and Clifford Brown, to describe his approach to music. (Rountree was scheduled to play the Fête in 2022, but the event was rained out, so he's overdue to hit the Armory stage.)

"I want to play with fire and intensity and soul," Rountree said. "People who come to my show say they didn't know the trumpet could sound like that."

Rountree's musical passions lean more toward R&B, but he absorbed a lot of jazz while studying music at Florida A&M University, the former stomping grounds of saxophonist Julian "Cannonball" Adderley and a frequent stop for trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.

"The improvisation, the technical ability, the ability to speak in a special language on the bandstand is what really intrigues me about jazz," he said. "But I was raised on hip-hop, R&B, gospel. Jazz was in my head, but it wasn't in my soul."

Another top-charting luminary on Sunday's slate is keyboardist-composer-educator Kayla Waters, daughter of saxophonist Kim Waters, whom Denny declared "one of the founders of smooth jazz."

"She brings a lot of light," Denny said.

In past years, the Fête has erupted into impromptu jams, with multiple headliners sharing the stage.

"We've got some surprises," Hart said. "You might see Phil or Lin on stage with me, or both of them. It's all about the camaraderie with an amazing set of artists. I've never played a festival with Kayla, so I'm looking forward to that, too."

The Fête is a one-day fling, but this year, Denny has also arranged day-before and day-after "bookend" events. A Friday night "soul jazz happy hour" at the AC Hotel on Michigan Avenue will feature Detroit saxophonist LaDarrel Johnson (under the sobriquet "Saxapeal"). A smooth jazz brunch Sunday at Toscana, on the first floor of the AC Hotel, will be serenaded by flutist Brandon Marceal. The festival will also feature a community painting project (it's paint by number, so no excuses for not taking the plunge) and an array of food trucks.

Phil Denny's Armory Smooth Jazz Fête

3-9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8
330 Marshall St., Lansing
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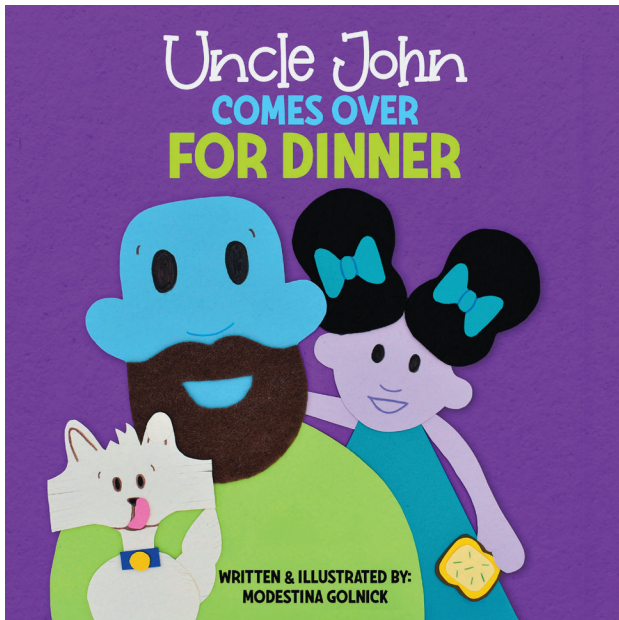
Teacher's first children's book caters to early readers

By **KURT ANTHONY KRUG**

As a teacher for the past 15 years, Modestina “Modie” Golnick knows that young children learn in many different ways, so she wanted to engage multiple learning styles with her first children's book.

The result is “Uncle John Comes Over for Dinner” (Lakeview Press, \$19.99), which she'll read aloud Saturday morning at Schuler Books in the Meridian Mall.

“The goal is for children to actively participate, not just listen. It's interactive, engaging and — most



importantly — fun!” Golnick said.

Born in Macomb Township, Golnick is the second of four children. She lives in Haslett with her husband of six years, David. The couple has two daughters: Modestina (who goes by Minnie), 5, and Gia, 2.

A graduate of Eisenhower High School in Shelby Township, Golnick holds bachelor's degrees in musical theater from Central Michigan University and early childhood education from Rochester Christian University.

“I've always been a singer, ever since I was really little. I grew up in a home filled with the music of Motown and jazz,” she said. “I love little children. I love their innocence, and I also love how they have no inhibitions — they say what they mean. I get so much joy from interacting with them and seeing that lightbulb go off when they make a connection.”

Golnick was teaching in the Metro Detroit area when she got the idea for “Uncle John.” During National Reading Month, her husband would come into her preschool classroom and read to her students dressed up as a pirate.

“One of my students asked him what his pirate name was, and he said, ‘I'm Pirate No Beard,’” she recalled.

The student replied, “Oh, that's really good that you don't have a beard because food can't get in it. My dad has a beard, and food is always getting stuck in his.”

“I thought, ‘Gosh, that would be such a good children's book! If food kept getting stuck in the character's beard, how would we get it out?’” Golnick said.

The book has predictable text, which is important because young children need that repetition, accord-



Courtesy

Modestina “Modie” Golnick

ing to Golnick.

“The inspiration for writing this book was my students. I wanted to create a book they would enjoy reading but was also intentional for early childhood literacy. There are subtle learning objectives throughout the book. I had the busy parent and the busy preschool teacher in mind when I wrote it,” she said. “A lot of times, parents don't have the time

to create a math activity for their child, but they can look at the pages and say, ‘This is a square’ or ‘This is a circle.’

She explained why the book occurs at dinnertime.

“Every child, hopefully, has a meal with their family or a caregiver, so that was also important because young children cannot think in abstract ways, they retain what they know, so that's why I put in the dinner element,” she said. “I made it an Italian dinner because that's my heritage. Most children like pasta!”

She also wrote a song to accompany the book.

“My family's sick of me saying this: Music is the only thing that activates and stimulates the entire brain,” she said. “You can sing the song that goes with the book, and they're going to learn that and retain it, and that's meaningful.”

Keep up with Golnick at musicwithmodie.com.



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Lansing author kicks off new fantasy series

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

When T. R. Sohn was young, he was a voracious reader, devouring the works of Robert Jordan, George R. R. Martin, Brandon Sanderson, J. K. Rowling, Ursula K. Le Guin and Stephen King.

He always knew writing was something he wanted to pursue.

The Lansing resident recently released his second self-published fantasy novel, “Forged of Will” (\$22.99), the first installment in the “Tales of the Barbarian” series.

“Forged of Will” was partially inspired by the character I’m playing in a Dungeons & Dragons game with my friends and partially inspired by a world that had been building in the back of my mind for quite some time,” he said. “My mind is very active, and between D&D sessions, I’d be thinking about the character and his story and where he came from and why he’s there. I started to put pen to paper; one thing led to the next, and I had written a novel.”

The book follows Nhos, berserker of Jag, barbarian of Arta. Enslaved for most of his life and forced to fight in the colosseum for entertainment, he is finally free. His mission in life: To find the man, known only as the Contractor, who sold him into slavery when he was a boy and kill him slowly and painfully. However, the Contractor wields a magical axe that grants him the powers of a god.

“Nhos is the opposite of me. Literally, the name ‘Nhos’ is my last name spelled backwards,” Sohn said. “I tend to overthink, and I’m patient and polite. I wanted Nhos to be a character who was never really taught proper civility and is therefore brash, rude and immediate to action, with little regard for consequence.

“I think a chaotic good character like Nhos is interesting because you never know exactly what he’s going to do or how he’s going to solve a problem, but his heart is in the right place, and you know it’s going to be entertaining.”

Sohn, an alumnus of Haslett High School and Central Michigan Universi-

ty, noted he envisions Nhos’ adventures going on for eight books.

“When I started writing ‘Forged of Will,’ I knew I wanted to write a story that was short, digestible and told almost like a myth. That was in line with how the original ‘Conan’ stories were told. They were short stories published in the newspaper,” he said. “Nhos’ story is ultimately a lengthy one, and I envision these books being like adventure books, with each new book taking the reader to a different region of his world.”

The most challenging part of writing “Forged of Will” was keeping it terse.

“I kept wanting to explore more about the world or about Nhos, but I had made myself a promise that these books were going to be short and laser focused. Sticking to that was honestly pretty difficult,” he said. “I’m a plotter mostly, but my outlines leave plenty of room for the characters to come to life and drive the story. I often find my outlines being revised on the fly because a character surprises me and does something I wasn’t expecting.”

Sohn’s debut novel was “The Sorceress and the Vigilant,” published last year.

“That was born from my love of all things gothic horror combined with my love of fantasy,” he explained. “I wanted to create a haunted-castle mystery

but do so in the skin of a fantasy story about sorceresses and monsters and monster hunters. In a way, a lot of horror is already fantastical: possession, spirits, hauntings, et cetera. By leaning into the fantasy side of it, I was able to create this very atmospherically gothic story of a haunting with a very fantastical source.”

Sohn is working on a prequel to “The Sorceress and the Vigilant.” Upon completion, he’ll begin writing the second “Tales of the Barbarian” installment.

By his admission, the road to self-publication was more of a mental hurdle than anything.

“I did a lot of research about self-publishing, and I read a ton of testimonials from other indie authors,” he said. “When I was finished with my

research, I knew a few things: One, I wanted to get a good cover, and I absolutely wanted it to be human art, no AI. Two, I wanted to make sure to hire a copy editor to proofread the manuscript and make it as professional as possible. Three, I needed to build all the peripherals that run behind the scenes of an author: website, social media, event coordinator. Once I felt as though I had all these things in place, publishing was honestly a leap of faith in myself. It’s a leap that I’m very happy to have made.”

Sohn encourages people to read more books.

“I love the craft of literature. Whether I’m immersing myself in another author’s work or my own, I am happy,” he said. “In a world oversaturated by short-form video content that wreaks havoc on the brain, give yourself a rest and pick up a book. Stretch that imagination and take it out for a walk.”

Keep up with Sohn at trsohn.com.



T.R. Sohn

Courtesy

The Ingham County Housing Commission announces the availability of 5-Year Mainstream Section 8 Project-Based Vouchers (PBV) for Projects Receiving Low Income Housing Tax Credit Funds (LIHTC)

ICHC expects PBV vouchers to be available in 2026, subject to HUD and ICHC funding. To which the project furthers the ICHC’s ability to expand housing and economic opportunities by servicing the area of Ingham County generally referred to as “Out County” in that the residents of the proposed project would not have a City of Lansing address. PBV contracts may be awarded for up to 20 years, with renewal options. Assistance will help cover rent for eligible households with incomes generally at or below 30% of AMI and no higher than 50% of AMI. Projects already under construction are not eligible. Before an AHAP contract can be executed, required subsidy layering and environmental reviews must be completed and approved by HUD or its designee.;

Request: Up to eight (8) PBV units, or 25% of a project’s total units, whichever is less. Exceptions to the 25% cap (up to eight units) may be approved for units serving disabled families and/or elderly during the PBV contract term.

Unit Requirements: Eligible units must be 1- or 2-bedroom family units for persons with disabilities. Preference will be given to projects located outside Lansing, Michigan within the County of Ingham. Projects serving a specific disability group or clients of a particular provider are not eligible. The ICHC reserves the right to limit voucher awards per project. The ICHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive informalities and minor irregularities, and/or to modify or cancel this solicitation.

Tenants will be referred exclusively from ICHC waiting lists. Sponsors must comply with all applicable Mainstream Section 8 PBV regulations (24 CFR Part 983) and ICHC Administrative Plan requirements.

Selection Criteria: Applicants must demonstrate project need, financial feasibility, readiness to proceed, compliance with County obligations, and eligibility to work with HUD. Preference will be given to projects that create new affordable housing, serve persons with disabilities, maintain affordability beyond 20 years, provide units affordable to lower-income households, support sustainable development, and leverage additional funding sources.

Who Should Apply: Owners and developers proposing new construction or rehabilitation projects that expand long-term affordable housing for very low- and extremely low-income households. Only LIHTC proposals requesting ICHC PBV assistance in response to this notice will be considered.

Submission Information: ICHC will accept request for proposals for PBV beginning August 5, 2026. Proposals are due no later than **4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2026**.

For information or detail of this RFP contact ICHC Consultant, Shanda Johnston at shanda.revitalizellc@gmail.com.

CP#26-308

Kiyah Marcellus is a perfect fit for 'Anne of Green Gables'

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Kiyah Marcellus seems to have been born to play Anne Shirley in Alive Theatre's production of "Anne of Green Gables: The Musical."

"I would say so. My family would also say so. My family would tell me often, 'You are Anne,'" Marcellus said.

She relates easily to the character from the L.M. Montgomery novel that the show is based upon.

"I relate to her largely because of her dedication and passion for life. I can see there is so much purpose in life, and I can see that Anne also sees that. She's not simple, and I love that," Marcellus said. "I would say that I was gifted with the talent to perform her. The Lord blessed me with her. It was a gift — she is a gift to me."

Marcellus first read the novel upon which the show is based about eight years ago for a book club with family and friends.

"I read it through on my own multiple times after that," she said. "The book is my favorite. I compare everything to the book."

The 17-year-old has always been homeschooled.

"I've been part of the Homeschool for Performing Arts primarily for the past five years," she said. "I started training when I was 8. I've been training ever since."

She's had multiple coaches and a neighbor who sometimes helped.

"The directors have also taught me a lot," she said. The Battle Creek native has appeared in productions in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

"Anne of Green Gables" is Alive's first musical. The relatively new theater company's other Lansing productions have included "These Shining Lives" (2024) and "Pride and Prejudice" (2025).

Marcellus saw "These Shining Lives."

"It was phenomenal," she said.

"That's when I knew I wanted to be a part of Alive in some shape or form."

According to her, the founders of Alive are a tight-knit crowd of Christ followers.

"They're all friends, and they've known each other for a long time," she said. "We have a really great cast.



Photo by Roberto Lopez

From left: Sage Chick as Gilbert Blythe, Kiyah Marcellus as Anne Shirley and Vadis Pekrul as Diana Barry in Alive Theatre's production of "Anne of Green Gables: The Musical."

They're not only extremely talented, but they're also a kind and genuine group of people."

To accommodate those who have day jobs, Alive practices only one night a week for three hours.

"It's a little frustrating because I want to do more," Marcellus said. "For me, I could be there all day."

The "Green Gables" cast is made up of more kids than adults.

"It's really fun. I love working with kids," Marcellus said. "I feel being around them helps me relive my childhood a little bit."

Besides many members of the of the Homeschool for Performing Arts community, Marcellus' family (including four siblings), grandparents, uncles and great-uncles plan to see the show. She

er not make eye contact with her older brother.

"I'd prefer not to see him," she confessed. "My younger siblings, I perform for them all the time. Especially my younger brother who is 3, because he loves it so much."

Alive's debut musical features oodles of singing and dancing. Since Marcellus has been "singing all (her) life," that part is easier.

"I've come really far in my dancing abilities. Now I sort of just enjoy doing it," she said. "I don't feel as restricted as I used to. That's a huge blessing."

Anne is her first lead role, and she was a bit nervous going into it.

"I tend to be one who overthinks a lot," she said. "It's not a worry of unpreparedness. I want everything to be perfect."

She considers the show to have elements of a modern ballet — "sort of a 'Newsies' vibe with 'Mary Poppins' mixed in."

The music is pre-recorded.

"We have a professional backing track," Marcellus said. "It sounds phenomenal."

She hopes audience members will be impacted by Anne's redemption arc.

"Anne's a lost orphan girl with a lot of issues," Marcellus said. "She left to impact her town with her love and enthusiasm, and, in turn, they impact her and become closer as a community."

If playing Anne requires an abundance of love and enthusiasm, Marcellus does seem to be the perfect fit.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



August theater productions:

"The 39 Steps"

Through Aug. 16
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

"Anne of Green Gables: The Musical"

Friday., Aug. 7-Saturday, Aug. 8 and Aug. 14-15
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday
Waverly High School
160 Snow Road, Lansing
alivetheatrics.com

"Shrek the Musical Jr."

7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7
3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8-Sunday, Aug. 9
Okemos High School
2800 Jolly Road, Okemos
allofusseexpress.org

Renegade Fringe Festival

Performances at 7 and 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7
Performances at 1, 3, 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday., Aug. 8
REO Town, Lansing
renegadeFRINGE.org

Bare Bones Improv Presents: "Get a Clue!"

7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
Riverwalktheatre.com

"Hags & Hussies & History: A Historical Cabaret"

6 p.m. Aug. 21
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
Riverwalktheatre.com

Live & Local

CityPULSE

Ann Street Plaza

Corner of Albert and M.A.C. avenues, downtown East Lansing
Victoria Irish
Fri., Aug. 7, 6-8 p.m.

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Space Doggs: Dogg Days of Summer
Sat., Aug. 8, 9 p.m.
Scooter & Liam Band
Sun., Aug. 9, 7 p.m.

Beaumont Tower

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

Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
Michael Cooley
Thurs., Aug. 6, 6-9 p.m.
Cal Mouttine
Sun., Aug. 9, 2-5 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
DJ Atomic Sounds
Fri., Aug. 7, 7-11 p.m.
Tad & the Fat Katz
Sat., Aug. 8, 8 p.m.-midnight

Cleats Bar & Grille

5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Darin Larner
Thurs., Aug. 6, 6-9 p.m.

Courthouse Square Museum

100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte
Sandra Faye Band
Thurs., Aug. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dimes Brewhouse

145 Bridge St., Dimondale
Whoa, Nelly!
Fri., Aug. 7, 6-9 p.m.
Shane Gruesbeck
Sat., Aug. 8, 7-9 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Nathan Grant
Fri., Aug. 7, 9 p.m.-midnight
Matthew Shannon
Sat., Aug. 8, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Songwriters' night, with Bart Moore
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m.
Tammy Cook and Brian Petroff
Sun., Aug. 9, 6-8 p.m.
Charlie Richardson and Friends
Wed., Aug. 12, 7-9 p.m.

Eastwood Towne Center

3003 Preyde Blvd., Lansing
The Polaroids
Tues., Aug. 11, 6-8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Russ Holcomb
Fri., Aug. 7, 6-9 p.m.
The Fading Echo, Never Enough, The New Nobs
Sat., Aug. 8, 6-9 p.m.

Elderly Instruments

1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing
Alex Teller & Emilie Clepper
Thurs., Aug. 6, 7 p.m.
Gregory Stovetop
Fri., Aug. 7, 7 p.m.
Mikey Abbasspour
Sat., Aug. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Fish Ladder Music Park

216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
496 West
Sun., Aug. 9, 4-7 p.m.

The Fledge

1300 Eureka St., Lansing
Michigan Music Showcase
Sat., Aug. 8, 8 p.m.

Frances Park

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

Fraternal Order of Eagles

3022 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing
Sassietty, ICY/DICEY
Sat., Aug. 8, 8 p.m.

Graham Vineyards

8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg
David Wee
Sat., Aug. 8, 6-9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., Aug. 5 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Grey Matter, Devon Kay and the Solutions, Nunya, Pancho Villa's Skull, Joe K & the Family Band
Sat., Aug. 8, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., Aug. 12, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Holt Farmers Market

2150 N. Cedar St., Holt
Stringville, Northside Rhythm Kings
Wed., Aug. 12, 4:30-8 p.m.

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Justin Deason
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m.
Deacon Earl
Wed., Aug. 12, 7-9 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Mike Arnold
Wed., Aug. 5, 5-8 p.m.
Serita's Black Rose
Thurs., Aug. 6, 5-8 p.m.
The Rotations
Fri., Aug. 7, 5-8 p.m.
Tomás Esparza Blues Band
Sat., Aug. 8, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Aug. 9, 3-8 p.m.

The Irish Pub

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

Jackson Field

505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Pinter Whitnick
Thurs., Aug. 6, 5:30 p.m.

Jaycee Park

525 E. River St., Grand Ledge
Sea Cruisers
Thurs., Aug. 6, 7 p.m.

Lake Lansing Park South

1621 Pike St., Haslett
Shakedown (Bob Seger tribute), wsg Blake James
Fri., Aug. 7, 6-9 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

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

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Dan Laird
Sat., Aug. 8, 4-7 p.m.
JP Peters
Sun., Aug. 9, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

108 W. Main St., Dewitt
Darin Larner
Fri., Aug. 7, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Tribute Night, with Ritual Suns, A Jam Made of Pearls, Ensurance Trap, Bruce & the Bandits, Joseph Dravenstatt
Fri., Aug. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Aug. 10, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., Aug. 6, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Aug. 11, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green

1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
Garage Sale Band
Wed., Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m.
Generator
Wed., Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Marshall Street Armory

330 Marshall St., Lansing
Phil Denny's Armory Smooth Jazz Fête
Sat., Aug. 8, 3-9 p.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Jeff McNiven
Thurs., Aug. 6, 8-11 p.m.
Mike Root, Billy Gunther & the Midwest Riders
Fri., Aug. 7, 6 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
Carl Pawluk, Mallery Lynn
Sat., Aug. 8, 6 p.m.-midnight

McClintock Park

208 Irene St., Laingsburg
Cooper Johnson, wsg Carl Pawluk
Thurs., Aug. 6, 6-9 p.m.

McCormick Park

300 N. Putnam St., Williamston
Oxymorons
Thurs., Aug. 6, 7-9 p.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Gwendellyn
Fri., Aug. 7, 7-9 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Aug. 10, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Aug. 5, 8-11 p.m.
4x4
Thurs., Aug. 6, 9 p.m.-midnight
Stan Craig Band
Fri., Aug. 7, 8 p.m.-midnight
The Louderthans
Sat., Aug. 8, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Aug. 11, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Aug. 12, 8-11 p.m.

Nelson Gallery

113 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Deacon Earl & the Congregation
Thurs., Aug. 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Universe Band
Fri., Aug. 7, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

One North East Lansing

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Showdown
Fri., Aug. 7, 8-11 p.m.
Jason Peek
Sat., Aug. 8, 8-11 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Mike Skory
Thurs., Aug. 6, 6-9 p.m.
The Tenants
Fri., Aug. 7, 7-10 p.m.
Greg Smith
Sat., Aug. 8, 8-11 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Aug. 10, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Gavin McDonnell
Fri., Aug. 7, 8-10 p.m.
Mike McConeghy
Tues., Aug. 11, 6-8 p.m.

Pins & Pints

2120 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
JP Peters
Thurs., Aug. 6, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

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

Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Keegan Jacko
Wed., Aug. 5, 6-9 p.m.

Riverside Park

315 S. Bridge St., DeWitt
Kathy Ford Band
Thurs., Aug. 6, 7-9 p.m.

Sholty's Bar

1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Northside Rhythm Kings
Tues., Aug. 11, 6-9 p.m.

Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Bill Oeming
Thurs., Aug. 6, 5-8 p.m.

St. Johns City Park

801 W. Park St., St. Johns
On the Lash
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-9 p.m.
Super Trooper (ABBA experience)
Wed., Aug. 12, 7-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Customer Appreciation Party: DJ Patino & Friends, Dead Honey Collective
Sat., Aug. 8, 1-7 p.m.
517 Funktet
Sun., Aug. 9, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Jazz Doggz
Tues., Aug. 11, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
Coolidge and the Gang
Fri., Aug. 7, 8-11 p.m.
Sweet C & the Sunset Riders
Sat., Aug. 8, 6-9 p.m.
Open mic & karaoke
Tues., Aug. 11, 7-10 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center

3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Krosby's Konspiracy
Wed., Aug. 5, 6-9 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Prazz ... an afternoon of poetry & jazz
Sun., Aug. 9, 4-6 p.m.
Lansing's Hidden Talent open mic
Wed., Aug. 12, 6-9 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Billy Joe Hunt
Wed., Aug. 5, 7-10 p.m.
Potts Rd
Sat., Aug. 8, 7-11 p.m.
Steve Shelhart
Wed., Aug. 12, 7-10 p.m.

Additionally, **JazzFest Michigan** will run Wednesday through Sunday in Old Town.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Rated PG-13” -- 13 letters, two initials.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. Dumb or awkward person, from the Yiddish (and Matt Berry's character on "Krapopolis")
6. "Divine Secrets of the _____ Sisterhood" (2002 movie)
10. "Dancing Queen" foursome
14. Legendary host Philbin, to fans
15. Former Fed head Greenspan
16. British pound, slangily
17. Pertaining to the hipbone
18. Subtle eye signal
19. Take back, in a program
20. Feature of airports and hospitals
23. "However," briefly
24. "Welcome to Wrexham" figure ____ Mac
25. Comment section, metaphorically
32. Roofing material
34. Copier of old
35. San Francisco mayor Daniel
36. Ill effect
38. Addis _____, Ethiopia
40. Bridge position
41. Television, newspapers, etc.
43. Endorse digitally
45. Participate at Aspen
46. Inflation instrument
49. Letterman list count
50. "____ to Extremes" (Billy Joel song)
51. Method of holding small objects

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			

- between the thumb and fingers
58. _____ Turismo
59. College campus yard
60. University at which Jimmy Carter taught
62. Cuzco locale
63. Strong craving
64. Spud
65. Ladder part
66. Large ones might clash
67. Goes nuts

- DOWN
1. _____ Lanka
2. Assist
3. "Return of the Jedi" princess
4. Lorre's "Casablanca" role
5. Posh Spice's married surname
6. "This is boring"
7. Sacha Baron Cohen character with

- an upcoming 2026 movie
8. 2020 presidential candidate Andrew currently humiliating himself on Fox's "Nation's Dumbest"
9. Turkish capital
10. Color similar to cyan
11. Beer keg stopper
12. _____ one's time
13. Fuss
21. Region of ancient Turkey
22. Let the dice do their thing
25. June celebration
26. Earthy tone
27. Hint at
28. Aim high
29. Clear the cache, say
30. Board game of world conquest
31. Cooler brand named for a cryptid
32. Fill-in
33. Claim with confidence
37. "Attention!"
39. Once more
42. "Be with you in _____"
44. Side option, sometimes
47. Unlike any other
48. Inaugural poet Amanda
51. U.K.-based sandwich chain _____ a Manger
52. Like some collectible cards
53. O.R. activity
54. "Aladdin" character named after a literary villain
55. Lofty poems
56. Smidgen
57. Get ready
58. Navigational tracker
61. '69 and '96, e.g.

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SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

Aug. 5-11, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): In the early days of aviation, navigation instruments were rudimentary, and the skies were often a blur of clouds, darkness, or featureless horizons. Pilots sometimes relied on a technique called “dead reckoning”: good instinct bolstered by simple instruments like compasses and stopwatches. I suspect you will benefit from practicing a metaphorical version of dead reckoning in the coming weeks. You may not have all the data you would like, and the path ahead might be less than clear. But you already possess enough hints and inklings to make thoughtful approximations. If you're alert and flexible, listening to subtle signals within you and around you, your evolving estimates will guide you uncannily close to the right destination.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Nineteenth-century poet Emily Dickinson rarely left her comfortable home in Amherst, Massachusetts. Her favorite activity was to sit in her bedroom and compose her odd, unique, brilliant poems. Eventually, she wrote 1,800 of them, though few were published during her lifetime. Today, she is renowned as one of America's great literary geniuses. Her story reminds us that magnificent growth may emerge from simple and humble circumstances. I suspect you will thrive if you borrow her strategy during the coming weeks. You don't need a hubbub of flashy events to evoke your beauty. A period of creative stillness could amplify your imagination and inspire your dazzle.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): In Renaissance workshops, apprentice painters learned their craft by assisting masters with small tasks. They mixed pigments, prepared canvases, and cleaned up. There was a valuable tradeoff for this humble work. Being in proximity to mature brilliance often spurred the fledgling artists to harness their own creative powers. I suspect this dynamic is relevant for you, Gemini. Now is a favorable time to be alert for unexpected teachers and lessons. Be ready to apprentice yourself to captivating experiences where you might learn what you didn't even realize you needed to know. Your willingness to be a curious, gracious student is your superpower.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): If you knew you were going to live to 95 in reasonably good health, what additional careers or adventures might you pursue? Visualize your lifespan stretching out before you like a wide winding road, where you will have plenty of time not just to survive, but to experiment, wander, and reinvent yourself. Would you train for a new craft or profession? Would you move to another country for a while and apprentice yourself to a language, landscape, or tradition that has always piqued your curiosity? I invite you to take a concrete step that moves you in the direction of interesting future fun.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Within most galaxies are dense clouds of gas and dust that astronomers call “star factories.” Here and there, the magic of gravity gradually gathers together diffuse material into concentrated clusters until nuclear fusion ignites, creating brilliant new suns. I suspect you will be operating a metaphorical star factory in the coming weeks and months, Leo. Small ideas, fragments of plans, or tentative experiments could coalesce in productive ways. Through your patient attention and care, luminous concentrations of useful beauty will emerge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Virgo biologist Stephen Jay Gould argued that evolution isn't a ladder of progress but a branching bush of experimentation. Most species that ever existed are extinct, but they weren't failures. For a very long time, they were successful experiments in being alive, well adapted to their environment. When conditions changed, they ended. That's how evolution works. Let's apply this lesson to your life, Virgo. If a part of your world is concluding, celebrate and thank it, then bid it a fond farewell. Feel grateful that it succeeded completely at what it was meant to do and gave you all it had to give.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Your sense of purpose is intensifying. Your people need you more than ever, and your gifts are ripening just as they are most valuable to your community. But I must add that the road ahead will not be frictionless. You will have to outmaneuver diversionary tactics and dispel pockets of confusion. To serve as a shimmering catalyst of beauty and truth for your allies — and a shrewd strategist in the presence of deflections — lean into the paradoxical counsel attributed to Jesus: Be gentle and pure like a dove, yet keenly perceptive and discerning like a serpent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Concrete continues to cure beyond the time when it's first poured. After seven days, it has 70% of its ultimate strength, and after 14 days, 90%. It usually keeps getting sturdier for a few months, even years. I propose that we use this as a metaphor for what you're working on, Scorpio. The foundations you established a while back are still solidifying. Projects that are working pretty well are still developing potency. This is a good thing! Everything is slowly improving through processes you're not actively managing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Here's your assignment: Find yourself a pair of enchanted pants that will bring you good luck and stir up fun. How will you know that they're authentically charmed? Because when you put them on, you will instinctively wander toward adventures that expand your understandings about life. They may also lead you to explore places and situations that aren't truly forbidden or taboo, but which you have oddly avoided as if they were. Finally, your enchanted pants are likely to inspire you to dream up a few crazy good ideas that will turn out to be mostly good and not at all crazy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): In classical music, a “fermata” is a symbol on the sheet music that instructs the instrumentalist to hold a note longer than its written duration. How long? It's unpredictable. The musician decides. I think your life would benefit from a metaphorical fermata or two, Capricorn — maybe even more. You won't come to a protracted pause, but you will engage in strategic prolonging, extending certain notes beyond their expected duration. Examples? Lingering longer in a conversation from which you're inclined to exit early; staying with an ambiguous emotion rather than rushing to resolution; allowing a project to develop more leisurely than you might if you were simply pushing for sheer efficiency. Opt for what's soulful instead of what's crisp and neat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Fate is subtly but insistently pressuring you to stop squandering energy on half-hearted, hand-me-down desires. Why? So your real, holy obsessions can move to the center of your attention. The tepid wishes and lukewarm yearnings are being exposed for what they are: distractions that nibble away at your time and passion without fully feeding your soul. As these mediocre drives fade in importance, you'll be exultant to see how much more fire, clarity, and juice you have available for the few burning, churning yearnings that truly belong to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): The Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean is so deep that if Mount Everest were located at the bottom, its peak would be over a mile underwater. The deepest point in the ocean could swallow the highest point on land with room to spare. The world holds more below than above. Please meditate on this fun fact, Pisces. I hope it inspires you to understand that your most interesting power often lies in the depths, not the peaks. While others are summiting, you're descending into the mysterious, fathomless interiors. Your explorations may not photograph well because they happen in darkness. But they are the source of your strength.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezсны'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, 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.

Bookend Gallery Display by Cindy Mielock - Cindy brings a fresh assortment of her textile and painting works to brighten our walls! 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. ruhala-center.com.

Community Tour: Facility for Rare Isotope Beams - An exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of MSU's world-class nuclear science facility. Tours are available to LRCC members and their guests. Registration req. 3:30-5 p.m. 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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.

Lansing Shuffle Big Show - From 7-9 p.m., dive into over a dozen board games, Nintendo Switch, and tabletop shuffle. Then, from 9-11 p.m., take the stage for standard karaoke, hosted by BigMan Genesis. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansing-shuffle.com.

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. lapseg.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.

Senior Discovery Hour - A gathering spot for senior citizens who want to learn about relevant and useful topics. Engaging experts will share their knowledge on various topics, participants will have the opportunity to network, and a light lunch will be served. Free. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. facebook.com/nwlaning.

SporeLive 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. ruhala-center.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.

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.

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



Renegade Fringe Festival

Friday, Aug. 7-Saturday, Aug. 8

REO Town, Lansing

Free

renegadefringe.org

The long-missed Renegade Theatre Festival returns this weekend under a new name: Renegade Fringe Festival. The inclusive festival embraces bold, cross-disciplinary performances and creative experimentation.

Performances will take place at multiple venues in Lansing's REO Town, such as The Robin Theatre, REO Town Clubhouse, ALT Printing and REO Town Marketplace.

There are seven performances slated for Friday evening: serio-comedy "Funk & Wag-nalls"; audio theater production "All Hail to Love"; dramatic plays "Raqs Sharqui," "The Attic Play" and "Outside"; and two community improv showcases, presented by Bare Bones Improv.

Saturday brings a variety of performances throughout the afternoon and evening, including staged readings, open-mic poetry performances and puppet shows.

The full schedule is available online. Admission to most performances is free, though a \$10 donation or pre-registration is requested for some.

company and laid-back vibes. 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

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.

Grant Chats - Stop by for a casual chat and discuss your grant questions and creative ideas with Arts Council membership and program manager Taylor Haslett. 1-2:30 p.m. The Coffee Barrel, 2237 Aurelius Road, Holt. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

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. 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. lapseg.org.

See Events, Page 24

Capital City Paracon

Kickoff party: 8 p.m.-close
Friday, Aug. 7 at Tony M's
Restaurant, 3420 S. Creyts Road,
Lansing
Convention: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 8 at Crowne
Plaza Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road,
Lansing
capitalcityparacon.company.site

The inaugural Capital City Paracon rolls into town this weekend, bringing a variety of paranormal activities, personalities and vendors, including ghost hunters, cryptid hunters, UFO researchers, psychic mediums and urban explorers.

The weekend will kick off Friday night with a party at Tony M's Restaurant, which will include a comedic "Paranormal Late Night Show."

The local paranormal scene has been burgeoning for some time, with several area hot spots, event host Benjamin Strongwolf Rodriguez said. He and many others are often going to shows around the Midwest, and he felt it was time for Lansing to have its own paranormal convention.

And what better time than now, right after City Pulse helped to publicize Lansing's own cryptid, the Hooga Hooga?



Events

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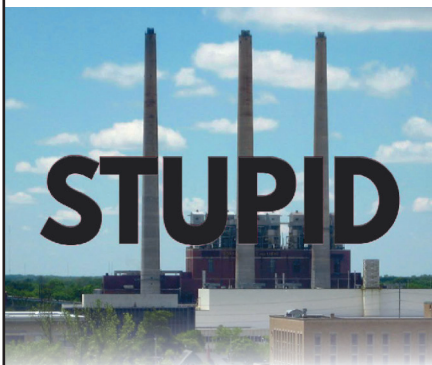
Play in the Park, featuring John Russell Magic

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.



British Bridge Bros

Social media duo Josh & Jase visited the famous truck munching Big Penny bridge in Lansing when they visited last week.



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

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.

Quaker Marching Band Ice Cream Float Sale - The Quaker Marching Band is selling ice cream floats on Aug. 6, 13 and 20 at the Eastern High School marquee sign to raise money for its Disney trip. 2-5 p.m. 626 Marshall St., Lansing. For more information, text 517-614-3592.

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.

Six in the City: Skin Boss Med Spa's 6-Year Anniversary Celebration - Inspired by the glamor, confidence, and iconic style of "Sex & the City," this event is our way of thanking the incredible patients who have supported us throughout the years. 6-8:30 p.m. 16945 Marsh Road, Ste. B, Bath. eventbrite.com/o/45407703413.

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

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

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

Thursday Night Open Forge - Try your hand at blacksmithing and create your own metal masterpieces! 6-9 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Churchill Road, Leslie. artfiremichigan.com.

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.

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

Friday, Aug. 7

\$1000 Golf Scramble - Event includes 18 holes of golf with cart, breakfast, lunch, and beer. 50/50 Raffle available. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Centennial Acres Golf Course, 12485 Dow Road, Sunfield. grandledgechamber.com/1000_golf_scramble.php.

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

"Artistic Spectrum: Diverse Expressions" Opening Reception - This exhibit, by ART/5, celebrates the many ways artists observe, interpret, and respond to the world around them. 5:30-7 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. facebook.com/NelsonGalleryLansing.

Beginner Quilting: Disappearing Nine-Patch Table Runner - Learn machine piecing and machine or big-stitch hand-quilting techniques to create an easy and pretty table runner! 6:30-8:30 p.m. Lansing Makers Network 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/5307332073.

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

Craft Club Jr. - Make Perler bead dinosaurs! Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15-5:15 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.

Dear Diary: An Emo & Pop Punk Night - Dance to emo classics by My Chemical Romance, Fall Out Boy, Pierce the Veil, AFI, Panic! At the Disco and many more! 8:30 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.com.

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

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

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

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

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. gladl.libcal.com.

Moonlight Movies: "KPop Demon Hunters" - 9-11 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

Open Old-Time Jam | First Friday of Every Month - Join the legendary Mike Ross for an old-time-centric jam. Even if you don't play, feel free to listen along! 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com/collections/events.

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. lapseg.org.

Parkour for Littles at ALIVE - A basic introduction to parkour as imagined through stories. Kids ages 2-6 will build strength, balance, focus, confidence, and problem-solving skills after listening to related stories. 10-10:30 a.m. 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

St. Johns Mint Festival - Now in Downtown St. Johns, celebrate our mint farming heritage with a weekend of fun for the whole family! 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m. mintfest.org.

Wake Up Old Town - Join us at Pop-ity Popcorn for a chance to connect with fellow business owners, community members, and local leaders. 8:30 a.m. 924 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/OldTownLansing.

Saturday, Aug. 8

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

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

The Capitol Flea - Love vintage clothing and accessories? Dig supporting your local artisans? Need more trinkets? Want to get your clothing stamped and customized? Come on down! 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Arcanna Lot, 600 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. instagram.com/arcanna.lansing.

Clothing Swap - Clothing will be sorted by general category (kid, teen, adult) and available for participants to browse. Any leftover clothing will be donated to local charities. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.bibliocommons.com.

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

E-Sports Tournament: Mario Kart - Compete against your buddies on a massive 20-foot screen! Grades 5-8. Registration req. 9 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov/402/Community-Events.

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Events

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Kids’ Day at Valhalla - Families are invited to enjoy an afternoon packed with games, activities, inflatables, and plenty of fun for kids of all ages. Free. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Valhalla Park, 2287 Pine Tree Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov/402/Community-Events.

LAFCU Letter Paint at Smooth Jazz Fete - Join the fun by painting part of one of LAFCU’s iconic 6-foot-tall letters at Phil Denny’s Smooth Jazz Fete. Local artists will paint the remaining letters. LAFCU will also be offering giveaways and its popular Money Machine cash-grab experience. 3-9 p.m. Lansing Armory, 330 Marshall St., Lansing. smoothjazzfete.com.

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

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.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/recreation-leisure/farmers-market.

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.

St. Johns Mint Festival - Now in Downtown St. Johns, celebrate our mint farming heritage with a weekend of fun for the whole family! 8 a.m.-11 p.m. mintfest.org.

Sunday, Aug. 9

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

Deep Rooted Garden Workshop: Oak Gall Ink - Learn about the history of oak gall ink and see how it’s made. Then, make your own feather quills to practice your penmanship with your creations! 1-2 p.m. Beal Botanical Garden, 330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Environmental Stewardship Workday - Volunteer to help with gardening at Harrison Meadows Park! 10 a.m.-noon. 1700 Roxburgh Ave., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

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

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

Masterclass with Ann Bell - Join Ann Bell for a hands-on piano and vocal masterclass packed with tips and tricks! 5:30-7 p.m. Chengdu Teahouse, 100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/120939800749.

Open Psychic Development Circle - Every month, Eli leads a small group through a hands-on skill practice session. Topics shift month to month. Drop in once or make it a regular practice. 1-3 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Pzazz, an Afternoon of Poetry & Jazz - Pzazz is where spoken word and live jazz meet in the most beautiful way. Smooth grooves, soulful poetry, and an atmosphere filled with creativity make this one of UrbanBeat’s most unique experiences. 4-6:30 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing.

urbanbeatevents.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.

St. Johns Mint Festival - Now in Downtown St. Johns, celebrate our mint farming heritage with a weekend of fun for the whole family! 8 a.m.-2 p.m. mintfest.org.

Summer Stretch - Enjoy a free outdoor fitness class presented by the Downtown Management Board and instructed by Yoga State of Mind, Body & Soul. 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.

Monday, Aug. 10

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

Bookend Gallery Display by Cindy Mielock - 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. ruhala-center.com.

Dinosaur Perler Beads - Explore and create with colorful Perler beads! Use string or magnets to turn your creations into decorations. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

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

Puppetry Camp - Our puppetry camps will advance progressively in skill from sock puppet to mascot, and everything in between. Ages 5-18. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhala-center.com.

Tuesday, Aug. 11

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. ruhala-center.com.

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

Nitro Circus

7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11
Jackson Field
505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
nitrocircus.com

Nitro Circus, making its way to town Tuesday, offers an opportunity to witness electrifying stunts performed by world-class athletes and daredevils. The show features some of the world’s top stuntmen in freestyle motocross, BMX, skate, scooter and beyond.

Adam Jones, the most decorated freestyle motocross athlete of all time, will attempt a 75-foot backflip through a 35-foot wall of fire. Turning back time to the earlier days of circus entertainment, Ryan Bean will attempt a high-dive off a 40-foot ramp and into a 3.5-foot body of water.

This year’s show features the return of the snowmobile, with Cody Matechuk at the wheel, navigating stunts off one of the newest ramps in FMX. Tickets range from \$32 to \$156 and can be purchased online.



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.

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. ruhala-center.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



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.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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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.

Minecraft Mania - An evening of fun and friendly competition. We’ll have our Minecraft server set up and laptops ready to go. All levels of players/builders welcome. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.libcal.com.

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design
Signs • Banners • T-Shirts • Logos

nevin@nevingraphics.com

517-703-4655

ArtByNevin Art_By_Nevin

SUDOKU SOLUTION

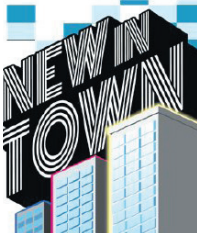
From Pg. 22

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Former Lansing landmark gets new life



By LIEZA KLEMM

After Lansing's beloved Frosty Korner ice cream shop caught fire last year, it wasn't rebuilt.

This was upsetting news for residents, many of whom shared nostalgic memories of visiting the shop.

"Thank you for the years of sweetness, Frosty Korner,"

Food Vendor Korner

Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m.
1701 S. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., Lansing
(972) 834-5936

Brandyn Armstrong said in a Facebook post. "You'll be missed more than words and our tastebuds can say."

A "for sale" sign stood on the property for months. Then, entrepreneur Carlton McConnell came along.

The Lansing native remembers the old ice cream shop with fondness. "My mom took me over there all the time ... I can remember like it was yesterday," he said.

He bought the property, hoping to help locals make new memories in step with the spirit of Frosty Korner.

Dubbed "Food Vendor Korner," McConnell is repurposing the lot as a spot for up-and-coming culinary vendors to sell their dishes.



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Food Vendor Korner owner Carlton McConnell said he doesn't plan on removing the old Frosty Korner sign, which "has been so beloved over many, many, many generations."

There are a lot of vendors who don't have a place where they can really reach people, he said. "They're doing it out of their homes, out of their garages ... not really having a place that they can say, 'Hey, I'm going to be here on such and such day.'"

The Korner opened July 10 and has been popular so far, with vendors regularly selling out of food.

Sweet Inspirations is one of the vendors consistently on the Korner.

"We were sold out maybe within three hours," owner Asia Bowser said.

Bowser is also the founder of Mission Inspire, an organization connecting



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Sweet Inspirations, owned by Asia Bowser, also the founder of the youth-focused organization Mission Inspire, is one of the vendors consistently on the Korner.

youth with educational support and opportunities. Selling homemade ice cream and baked goods, Sweet Inspirations provides an opportunity for community members to support the organization in exchange for a sweet treat.

The Korner has boosted Mission Inspire's visibility, Bowser said. "I've met so many people in the community who've gotten a chance to learn about my organization and what we're offering."

McConnell's hopes the spot will serve as a hub for various food and beverage vendors to gather every day, no matter the season. In the summer, customers



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

In the summer, patrons of the Korner can choose from a variety of cold treats and barbecue options.

can choose from a variety of cold treats and barbecue options. During the colder months, McConnell is planning on inviting vendors selling soups and stews.

But for right now, the goal is to get a solid set of consistent vendors. "We're taking baby steps," McConnell said.

He said he doesn't plan on removing the old Frosty Korner sign, which "has been so beloved over many, many, many generations."

So, the sign remains, like a neighborhood beacon, carrying on the tradition of good food bringing people together.

Rice is at home in salads, too

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Rice is enjoyed in just about every corner of the globe. It can be a healthy component of a person's diet and is especially beneficial for people who cannot enjoy other grains due to dietary intolerances.

While many people might think of rice as a side dish to meat or fish, rice is the star of the show in this recipe from Line+Angles.

Southwestern rice salad with black beans

Makes four servings

For the salad:

1 cup white long-grain rice, rinsed
3/4 cup canned sweet corn, drained
1 3/4 cups canned black beans, drained
2 cups grape tomatoes, rinsed and halved

Four green onions, rinsed, trimmed

and sliced
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper

For the dressing:

One lime, juiced
4 tablespoons olive oil
One red chili pepper, trimmed, seeded and finely diced
One small handful fresh cilantro, chopped

To serve:

One lime, sliced into wedges

1. For the salad: In a medium saucepan, bring 2 cups of lightly salted water to a boil; add the rice.

2. Reduce the heat to low, cover with a lid and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the water is absorbed and the rice is tender to the bite. Remove from the heat and let cool, still covered.

3. Once the rice has cooled, rinse the



sweet corn and black beans in cold water; drain thoroughly.

4. Fluff the rice with a fork before combining with the sweet corn, black beans, tomatoes and chopped green onions in a large serving bowl.

5. For the dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together lime juice, 1/2 teaspoon of

salt and 1/4 teaspoon of pepper until the salt has dissolved.

6. Whisk in olive oil in a slow, steady stream until incorporated. Stir in the diced chili pepper and chopped cilantro.

7. To serve: Drizzle dressing over the salad and gently toss. Serve with lime wedges on the side.

TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 RESTAURANT WINE LISTS

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

1. Bowdie's Chophouse

Upscale eatery serving steaks, small plates, and drinks
320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 580-4792
bowdieschophouse.com
5-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
5-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

2. Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant

Elegant restaurant offering steaks, pasta and seafood, with an on-site winery
2101 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
(517) 536-1555
chwinery.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

3. Dusty's Cellar

Dual-restaurant space with an upscale

wine bar and a laid-back taproom
1839 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
(517) 349-5150
For wine bar and taproom hours, see dustyscellar.com

4. EnVie

Modern French bistro with rotating food, cocktail and wine menus
210 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 318-6135
envie517.com
5-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

5. One North Kitchen & Bar East Lansing

Laid-back sports bar with diverse food and drink menus
1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
(517) 900-4678
onenorthdining.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

6. The State Room

High-end hotel eatery offering seasonal American cuisine and an extensive wine list
219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
(517) 432-5049
kelloggcenter.com/state-room
7:30-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday
7:30-10 a.m., 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 4-10 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
4-10 p.m. Saturday
(2025's Top of the Town contest had six contenders in this Top 5 category.)

Roast veggies make a healthy, filling summertime option

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

When the weather warms up outside, the desire for healthy, lighter fare rises alongside the mercury. This leads many people to turn to vegetables, which can satisfy hunger pangs but don't typically create feelings of sluggishness. Vegetables can be cooked in a multitude of ways, and some can even be eaten raw. If raw vegetables don't sound all that appealing, then roasting them is a great way to eat healthy without sacrificing flavor. This recipe for roasted vegetables with pignoli nuts from Lines+Angles is sure to please.

Roasted vegetables with pignoli nuts

Makes four servings

Two red bell peppers, seeds removed and sliced lengthwise

Two green peppers, seeds removed

and sliced horizontally

Two large stalks celery, quartered lengthwise, then horizontally

Eight cloves garlic, peeled, whole

Two shallots, peeled, whole

Two portobello mushroom caps, cut into quarters

7 tablespoons olive oil

Kosher salt, to taste

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1/4 cup pignoli nuts

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Combine ingredients in a large mixing bowl and toss until well coated. Transfer to a sheet tray and spread into a single layer. Bake for about 30 minutes, or until vegetables are tender. Transfer roasted vegetables to a serving dish, sprinkle pignoli nuts over the top and serve.

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State of Michigan, County of Eaton. Estate of Gary D. Doubler, Decedent, and Doubler Family Trust. Date of Birth: 01/06/1942. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Gary D. Doubler, died on July 29, 2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust will be forever barred unless presented to named Successor Trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 08/05/2026. Attorney: Richard T. Graham, P45449, 32437 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154, (313)387-5280. Successor Trustee: Stephen Doubler and Deanna Doubler-McLeod, 10933 W. Jolly Rd., Lansing MI 48911, (586)202-4119.

CP#26-311

CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1564

On July 21, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, pursuant to Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the code of the City of East Lansing, to rezone properties with Dewitt Township Zoning and to amend the Zoning Use District Map of Chapter 50 - Zoning - of the code of the City of East Lansing for such purposes.

Effective date: Pursuant to Charter Section 6.3, Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 1st Floor, City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East

Lansing, Michigan.
Emily Gordon,
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#26-305

DENNIS PRESTON ILLUSTRATOR



This image is available in the PRESTON POTPOURRI Vol.5 coloring book at www.lulu.com/spotlight/DennisPrestonBooks

Odd Nodd Art Supply in Old Town, Lansing
sells some of the PRESTON COLORING BOOKS too!

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

LANSING'S CONCERTS IN THE PARK 7-9 PM

June

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

July

- 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

August

- 8.05 Lansing Symphony Orchestra Frances Park

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

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AUGUST 8TH (11AM-4PM)
600 S CAPITOL AVE, LANSING

VENDING IS FREE! EMAIL MMCCARTHY@MACHINEGP.COM