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Welcome aboard the SS Regret

It just gets harder and harder to keep everything afloat when the boat keeps taking on water.

Life has never been easy for me, but at least I didn't feel like I was sinking when I didn't also feel like the weight of the American news cycle was constantly dropping bombs from every direction, literally AND figuratively. Every day seems to bring another story, another controversy, another policy, another attack, another thing that makes you wonder just how much more this country can absorb before something finally gives.

Minimum wage is still disproportionately low. The federal minimum wage remains \$7.25 an hour, a rate that has been unchanged since 2009. Meanwhile, the fortunes of some of the wealthiest Americans continue to grow, and now we're being told that every adult citizen could receive a \$5,000 "Trump dividend" if Republicans maintain control of Congress in the midterm elections. The proposal would require congressional approval and could cost well over a trillion dollars. First of all, I call BS, but secondly, since when does Trump wait for approval for anything.

Apparently the answer to economic anxiety is now, "Hang in there. There might be a check after the election."

I think I'd be tired anyway, but I had an at-home sleep study in April that determined I was having an average of 30 events an hour while I was sleeping, and I was diagnosed with sleep apnea.

The next available appointment was September, which I assumed would be when I finally got a machine to help me sleep.

Five months later, after five more months of unrestful sleep, I walked into my appointment only to have the doctor tell me exactly what the other doctor had told me in April: I have sleep apnea.

Thank you. I was there for the sequel.

Now I have to wait another two to three weeks to be fitted for a machine.

I'm not complaining about the doctors. They're doing their jobs. But I can't imagine the administrators who designed a system that requires someone to wait five months to be told what they already know, only to wait another few weeks for treatment, believing this is what efficient healthcare looks like.

But hopefully I'll feel rested soon.

I hope.

I just want something—anything—to feel better about the world.

I want Mitch McConnell to ride off into the sunset, or something. Isn't this elder abuse at this point? He certainly doesn't have the capacity to do his job, and it's been a while since he has.

Maybe retirement really is the sunset we're waiting for.

More than anything, I want people to wake up and acknowledge how deeply divided and dysfunctional our political system has become. I want people to stop treating every new outrage as just another episode in an endless television series and start asking

what all of this is doing to the country—and to the people who are already exhausted from trying to keep their own lives afloat.

I honestly think one of the most effective things our political leadership has become very good at is creating distractions. One controversy arrives just in time to bury the previous controversy. One outrageous statement replaces the last one. And while everyone is arguing about the latest thing, the machinery keeps moving.

Meanwhile, regular people are still trying to pay the bills.

We don't deserve to feel like this.

In Michigan, Abdul El-Sayed is running for the U.S. Senate, and his opponent doesn't even live in the state. His campaign has emphasized economic issues, healthcare and campaign-finance changes. His opponents' attacks are vile, racist and xenophobic.

And regardless of where anyone stands politically, watching campaigns increasingly rely on fear, identity and outrage instead of meaningful discussion about how to make people's lives better is exhausting.

It's truly heartbreaking to see every fiber of this country's promises becoming frayed and tattered until the thing we once recognized begins to look almost completely different. There was even something noble about teaching the worst parts of America that meant we wouldn't go backwards, and yet now, we're just pretending that that is unacceptable, so now they're doing their best to erase it. Typical white nationalism.

From Trump to Bannon, and every current cabinet member is exactly why DRI initiatives were so needed. The ineptitude of every single one of them is remarkable. Project 2025, unimpeded, will be a snowball effect to wealth inequality that is already impacting not only America, but the globe. Earth will eventually shake us off like fleas, but damn, aren't we smarter than this? Will they hoard wealth and power until the bitter end?

I'm tired. Maybe it's the sleep apnea.

Maybe it's the news. Maybe it's the politics. Maybe it's all of it.

But I'm still here, trying to keep the boat afloat.

I just wish someone would stop drilling holes in the damn thing.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

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POLITICS


Kyle Melinn: Michigan's Libertarian Party is for fringe conservatives

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.

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Recent Lansing transplant starts peace-focused choir

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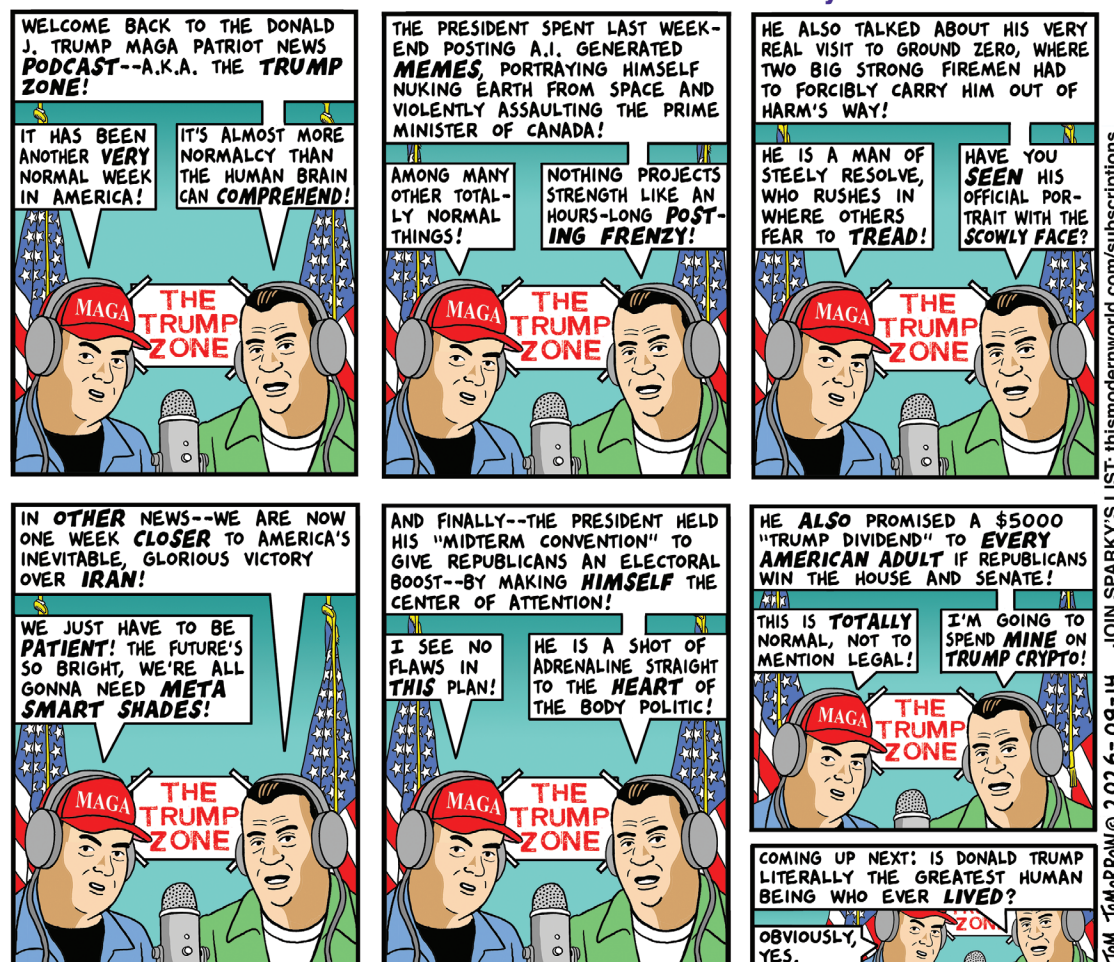

Good Truckin's new spot has elbow room, booze & a coffee shop

Cover illustration by Lora Root



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Abdul El-Sayed slams Mike Rogers in Greater Lansing visits

By LIEZA KLEMM

With less than two months until the midterm elections, Abdul El-Sayed, Michigan's Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, is campaigning hard.

The candidate kicked off his "Shouldn't Be This Hard" town hall tour in Detroit last week and spent Friday in the Greater Lansing area, starting with a visit to the 9/11 memorial ceremony in Lansing on Friday morning before town halls at Michigan State University and Lansing later that day.

Between the two Friday town halls, El-Sayed covered his campaign priorities, including Medicare for All and outlawing outside political spending and he pushed back against criticism from Republicans.

MSU students packed into a room in the MSU Union, filling the seats, with a few dozen people left standing for the better part of an hour to get a chance to ask El-Sayed a question.

The event was a partnership with More Perfect University, a progressive group that aims to organize students "against corporate greed on their campus and locally."

William Lawrence, the Democratic U.S. Congressional candidate for Michigan's 7th district, spoke at the town hall ahead of El-Sayed. He emphasized Michigan's position as a battleground state, calling the election "a check on the president's out-of-control agenda."

El-Sayed opened by asking students, many of whom weren't alive during the 9/11 attacks, to take a moment of silence to observe the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. El-Sayed then criticized his U.S. Senate opponent, Mike Rogers, for attending the unusual Republican midterm convention in Texas. "Why was he in Dallas, Texas," he said, "given that he's running for Senate in Michigan?"

During the convention, Rogers used his platform to attack El-Sayed and his connections with Hasan Piker. Piker, a far-left streamer, previously campaigned with El-Sayed and has made inflammatory comments about the 9/11 attacks. El-Sayed has since distanced himself from the streamer, calling



A capacity audience filled the MSU Union Ballroom to hear Abdul El-Sayed speak on Friday, Sept. 11.



his comments "dumb" in an interview with Politico.

In Lansing on Friday, El-Sayed referred to Piker as "a streamer in California."

While speaking with students, El-Sayed used his public healthcare background as a contrast to Rogers's previous voting record. Rogers, who represented Michigan in the U.S. House from 2001 to 2015, endorsed financial help for 9/11 victims in the immediate aftermath, then appeared to flip when he voted against the 2010 James Zadroga Act. The act, which passed, provided medical treatment and financial support to first responders and survivors

of the attacks.

"Rather than vote to make sure that the brave first responders who ran into the rubble that day to save lives, rather than make sure they had healthcare," El-Sayed said, "he voted not once, but twice against giving them healthcare."

Senator Sarah Anthony (D-Lansing) introduced El-Sayed later in the afternoon at the town hall in Grewal Hall and also brought up Rogers's time as a representative. "We remember when (he) would go to D.C. and vote against our health care and vote against housing and investments and the future of our state," she said.

Rogers held a press conference over the weekend in Detroit to discuss his

plan to improve homeownership rates.

El-Sayed said Rogers is refusing to participate in an organized debate. "So when people in Dallas want to hear him speak, he's happy to do it," he said. "But when people in Detroit want (to ask) questions, 'no, not interested.'"

"He's more interested in being in Dallas than Detroit or Lansing," he said later to reporters.

A debate between the two was scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 15, on Fox 2 Detroit TV. In a statement released earlier in the day from Rogers' campaign, the candidate declined the invitation because of "the moderator's bias and favoritism."

Photos by
Raymond Holt
for City Pulse

El-Sayed, Barrett, Lawrence join Lansing's 9/11 memorial for 25th anniversary

By MIKE ELLIS

The 25th anniversary of 9/11 was marked in Lansing on Friday with the sharp blast of a rifle volley and spoken words about keeping the memories alive.

Mourners have long used Wentworth Park in downtown Lansing, where Michigan's piece of the Twin Towers steel is displayed, as the city's 9/11 memorial grounds.

The site was an obvious choice, since it is where firefighter deaths have been mourned since the 1934 Kerns Hotel fire, which killed 34 people and was one of the nation's deadliest fires.

This year's annual 9/11 memorial ceremony included comments from Lansing Police Chief Robert Backus, Fire Chief Carrie Edwards-Clemons, City Council Vice President Trini Pehlivanoglu, along with U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, a U.S. Army veteran.

Barrett said he was in South Korea, amid a training exercise, when early news of the attacks began to spread among the troops.

Andrea Doherty spoke with Barrett after the ceremony and shared that she attends every year to honor her friend, who died in the attacks. Doherty and her husband lived in New York at the time and moved to Lansing about five years after 9/11, and they have attended nearly all of the Lansing memorials ever since.



Lansing's 9/11 memorial ceremony.



Lansing Fire Chief Carrie Edwards-Clemons spoke about the changes in the fire service in the last quarter-century.

Doherty said she looked today and found the name of her friend on a large poster with thousands of names of those who died.

Barrett's challenger, William Lawrence and U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed attended the ceremony.

Afterward, El-Sayed told City Pulse: "Today we come together in memoriam of the 3,000 people we lost, in memoriam of the first responders and the heroism they showed, in memoriam of the attempt of people to attack the idea of our country and we come together because we want to build the

kind of America we knew we could be. We build an America that is better as a collective than the sum of its parts. So we mourn the people we lost and in their memory we insist upon and dou-



Abdul El-Sayed attended Lansing's 9/11 memorial ceremony.

ble down upon the kind of America that really can bring people together beyond

our differences and build something that is greater."

El-Sayed

from page 5

Addressing AI and Social Security

Unlike Lawrence, who has built a platform warning voters about the dangers of AI, El-Sayed said he isn't as concerned about AI itself, "but it's the incentives driving the technology."

Those incentives, he said, are selling the technology to large corporations to increase the bottom line by cutting entry-level roles.

El-Sayed said he supports "terms of engagement at the federal level," including creating "good union jobs," not increasing utility rates, improving energy reliability with revenue, leaving local water sources alone and negotiating an agreement with residents in good faith - all enforceable by fines.

For now, however, El-Sayed supports a moratorium on data centers at the local and state levels until legislation has the chance to catch up.

While it's not at the top of many

candidates' priority lists, whichever candidate wins will face the Social Security trust fund crisis.

Born out of the Social Security Act of 1935, the system is known mainly for supporting seniors by taxing individuals' wages and employers' payrolls.

The problem is that current payroll taxes aren't enough to sustain paid-out benefits, forcing the administration to dip into the trust's funds. At this point, funds are so low that benefits will have to be cut by roughly a quarter in 2032. Senators elected this year will have to find a solution.

President Donald Trump's tax-and-spending-cut bill, along with an aging population and lower birth rates, has depleted the trust fund earlier than expected, according to a June 9 report from the Social Security Board of Trustees.

As it stands, Congress has a few options to extend the deadline: increase payroll taxes, enact taxes on income not coming from wages, cut benefits



Attendees of Friday's event at MSU were able to ask questions directly to the candidate.

for wealthier Americans, or eliminate Social Security's maximum taxable income, known as the "tax cap."

Income earned beyond the tax cap isn't subject to the Social Security tax. In 2026, the maximum is \$184,500.

El-Sayed's solution is to eliminate the cap. "Lifting the cap will go a long way," he told City Pulse, "and we've got to get serious about solving the



MSU Trustees Kelly Tebay, left, and Brianna Scott posed with El-Sayed following his address to students.

problem."

Rogers's website doesn't list a Social Security reform proposal.

Bipartisan efforts by Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Republican Sen. Bernie Moreno to raise the payroll tax, adding revenue to the trust fund, were knocked down. Congress has yet to offer another solution.

Okemos conservancy group preps for new public trail

By **DEMONTE THOMAS**
Capital News Service

The Okemos-headquartered Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy will make its Ionia Natural Area Trail available to the public in October.

The conservancy is working to create a new public trail within the Ionia Natural Area, a project aimed at increasing access to protected land while preserving sensitive habitats along the Grand River.

The conservancy has owned the 120-acre property for about a decade but has never had a formal trail system there.

“One of our initiatives this year is that we’re going to open the majority of our properties with easier public access,” said Executive Director Jared Hermon.

The trail will connect to parts of a greater regional network of pathways, including to the Fred Meijer and Fred Thwaites trails.

Work on the project among staff and volunteers has included clearing brush, removing fallen trees and creating a walkable path.

“I have a couple more days of work out there to finish rough cutting it in and then removing down logs,” Hermon said. “Then, I have to return for another day with a mower to actually improve the trail condition.”

Protecting the natural features of the property has been a major consideration throughout the planning process. The site includes wetlands, riparian forest and restored prairie habitat.

“The trail has been built to a point where we are avoiding the majority of the wetlands, or we’re walking the path that goes adjacent to them,” Hermon said. “We really had to balance protecting the land while providing access to the public.”

The conservancy intentionally routed the trail away from prairie areas.

“We didn’t want anybody damaging the wildflowers or grasses that we planted there,” Hermon said.

The cost of establishing the trail has exceeded \$1,000, primarily due to labor, fuel and equipment expenses.

Once completed, the trail will be maintained by conservancy staff and volunteers. Hermon said volunteers will help monitor conditions and report any issues.

“Our intention is that if there’s any issues, our local volunteers and users can reach us, and we address any trail hazards promptly,” Hermon said.

The planned loop will be just under a mile long, though the conservancy is already considering future expansion opportunities.

“We are actually going to be working with the city and possibly expanding it along Prairie Creek,” Hermon said. “We just wanted to get it established on our property first.”

Hermon said he hopes the trail will be completed in the fall.

“I’d like to have it really accessible to the public before October,”

Hermon said. “I want to invite the community out in October to actually come see it and learn about the property.”

For Hermon, the trail represents not just a recreational opportunity, but the chance for the public to enjoy all what the area has to offer.

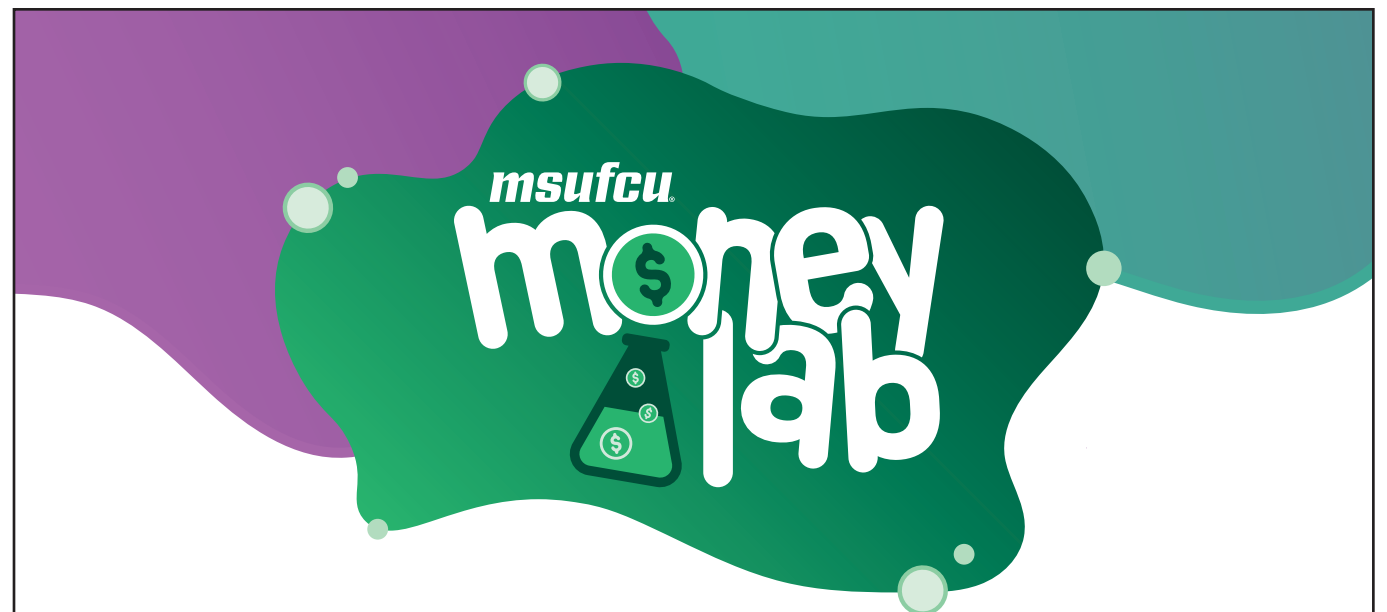
“We believe that everyone deserves access to natural areas,” Hermon said. “That’s the purpose of laying a trail in there.”

Demonte Thomas is an environmental reporting intern at WKAR as part of a partnership between WKAR, Capital News Service and Michigan State University’s Knight Center for Environmental Journalism.



Courtesy photo

Ionia Natural Area in the summertime.



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Michigan Senate passes new versions of nine bills held up in House, vetoed by Whitmer

By BEN SOLIS/Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

Members of the Michigan Senate on Thursday pushed forward with new versions of nine bills that became the subject of controversy when the legislation was prevented from reaching the desk of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer by the Republican-led House of Representatives.

The bills eventually reached Whitmer's desk this year but she ultimately vetoed the legislation just hours after the Michigan Supreme Court ordered them to be presented to the governor. Whitmer indicated in her veto letter that she would sign new versions if they reached her desk before the end of her term.

Undeterred, the Senate passed the new versions on Thursday, but the legislation might meet another logjam in the House as Republican Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township) has tied the bills moving forward to a potential deal on his languishing property tax reforms that died during negotiations on the 2026-27 fiscal year budget.

The bills in question would provide long-term economic relief to first responders, teachers, corrections officers, and others who are struggling to get by, according to Senate Democrats following passage.

"Today's passage of these nine bills signals our unwavering support for the dedicated workers whose hard work and sacrifice sustain our great state," said Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids). "While a lengthy legal battle and veto may have delayed the passage of this quality public policy, it did not diminish its value or our commitment to getting it across the finish line. Let's finally get this done and deliver the much-needed relief our communities have long been calling for."

Among the bills were priorities for unions and workers, including legislation to improve retirement benefits for state corrections officers, measures to lower healthcare costs for local public employees, and protections on assistance and benefit programs from debt collection.

"Michigan Senate Democrats are working their tails off to put Michigan workers first — and anyone running for office should take note, because workers will determine this election," said Ron Bieber, president of the Michigan AFL-CIO. "This legislation will lower healthcare costs for essential public servants, secure pensions and retirement for public safety professionals,



State Sen. Winnie Brinks



State House Speaker
Matt Hall



Michigan AFL-CIO President
Ron Bieber



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer

and protect families from aggressive debt collection tactics. It's about damn time."

The bills include:

Senate Bill 1136, sponsored by state Sen. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores). The bill would lower health insurance costs for public employees;

Senate Bills 1133, 1134 and 1135, sponsored by state Sens. John Cherry (D-Flint), Chedrick Greene (D-Saginaw) and Sue Shink (D-Northfield Township), respectively. The bills would allow for Michigan Department of Corrections officers and other law enforcement personnel to opt into the Michigan State Police pension plan;

Senate Bills 1137 and 1138, sponsored by state Sens. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Mary Cavanagh (D-Redford Township). These bills would exempt public assistance from garnishment and update other exemption values; and

Senate Bills 1139, 1140 and 1141, each sponsored by state Sen. Sylvia Santana (D-Detroit). Santana's bills would allow for millage questions on ballots to support operations of history museums.

A legal battle that brought Dems back to the drawing board

Each of the bills were reintroduced versions from their 2023-24 House counterparts that were passed during the Michigan Democratic Party's trifecta — in which the party held majorities in each chamber of the state Legislature and the governor's office.

In the days just after the 2024 legislative session ended, the clerk of the House and then-House Speaker Joe Tate (D-Detroit) did not transmit those nine bills to Whitmer's office despite other bills being sent to the governor at the end of the lame duck session. The bills were still sitting there, so to speak, when current House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township) took over.

No clear explanation has ever been

offered by the House or the administration as to why the bills weren't sent when Tate still had control of the gavel, other than it just didn't happen. Whitmer never publicly signaled or demanded that the bills be sent to her desk, either.

Hall refused to transmit the bills and questioned whether it was constitutionally or procedurally sound to send old bills from a previous session to the governor, which in turn would be signed in a new legislative session. The lawsuit at the heart of the drama followed when Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids) called on Hall to transmit the bills. He did not, and Brinks sued.

"Stabbed in the back," unions said then of Whitmer's vetoes

Over the course of that legal battle, there had been speculation that Whitmer secretly opposed the bills and had no intention of signing them in the first place. Whitmer's communications team told the Advance, when asked on the record, that any conjecture or assertion that Whitmer had contacted Tate, the clerk of the House or Hall with instructions to hold the bills was false.

The matter eventually rose to the Michigan Supreme Court, and its 6-1 Democratic Party-nominated majority ruled in favor of the Senate, ordering Hall to present the bills to Whitmer.

Within hours, Whitmer vetoed the bills due to their shelf life, saying she could not sign them into law with outdated implementation dates. Several Democratic lawmakers and the attorneys working the Senate's case said that bucked precedent of other bills that were signed into law with older or outdated effective dates.

Bieber told the Advance then that the state's major unions felt like Whitmer had stabbed them in the back by killing the bills after the protracted legal fight.

Hall sets conditions on the package's fate in 2026

Whitmer, for her part, said she would sign the bills if new versions reached her desk, but with a caveat — Whitmer's term ends in December, and a new governor will take her place following the November election.

The focus is now on Hall and his House Republicans, who seem wary to pass the legislation before the current House session ends.

In a statement to the Advance, Hall said that his Democratic Party colleagues had "two years to bring these bills back and negotiate with me after they blew it, but they chose to wait and pull a campaign stunt."

"I'm the best deal maker in Lansing, and they could have come to me anytime," Hall said. "If Democrats actually want these bills to move, they need to be ready to make a real deal on our plans to eliminate state property taxes, lower electric rates and create the health care cost review board."

Each of those items were priorities Hall had pushed during the most recent budget fight but did not see movement on. Democrats are banking on success at the polls this year in the November general election due to President Donald Trump's poor approval ratings and it potentially being a bad year for GOP candidates associated with him. Hall is a loyal devotee of Trump and his policies.

With the potential for losing the House this year, Republicans may try to use every lever they can to get their priorities across the board. Hall has also prided himself on being able to work well with Whitmer on balancing the two figureheads' respective legislative wins, so this may be an opportunity for Hall to give the Democrats a win while also carving out a path for his property tax, utility rate and health care cost review board items.

"Democrats want to play politics with these bills, but I'm more interested in passing major reforms that actually lower people's costs," Hall said.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The Lansing Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) is wrapping up programs implemented with funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The LEDC has just under \$600,000 left to continue operations, with the majority going towards corridor improvement authorities. One of the programs due to sunset is the Lansing Supporting Empowered Emerging Developers (SEED) Academy, which provides comprehensive training on basic development topics for emerging real estate developers. According to the website, the SEED Academy prioritizes ventures in Lansing's key corridors and underserved areas. Two cohorts of developers have graduated from the program already, and applications for the third and final cohort close on September 18. The LEDC is working to find funding to offer future cohorts because of the high demand for training, said LEDC executive director Kris Klein.



Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Be Active • Be Safe • Be Healthy

Residents of the Tyden Lofts apartment building in Hastings were evacuated last week after health officials received information about a potential ricin exposure. Presumptive testing indicated the toxic substance was indeed present. Exposure can come from someone who has ricin on their body or clothes or it can take the form of fine powder in the air. Ricin poisoning does not spread from person to person through casual contact. The Barry-Eaton District Health Department said there is no threat to the public and that all affected areas have been contained. Exposed residents were isolated at Corewell Health's Pennock Hospital ER. Residents residing on the second and third floors of the building were allowed to return home Monday, but testing, cleaning and re-

mediation is still taking place on the first floor.



Lansing Fire Chief Carrie Edwards-Clemons received the 2026 Trailblazer Award from the NAACP Lansing Branch. Edwards-Clemons joined the Lansing Fire Department in 2024 and has had a 26-year fire service career in years serving in the Flint area. She was named chief earlier this year, the first woman to lead the 169-year-old fire department.



An East Lansing Police Department officer was assaulted with bear spray by a passenger in a moving vehicle Sunday while on foot, according to a statement from the police department. The statement says other officers witnessed the attack in the early morning hours of Sept. 13 and that officers had previously been alerted to reports of a similar-looking vehicle being used to spray a chemical substance on others in downtown East Lansing. The vehicle was stopped by police and three people under 18 were taken into custody while parents/guardians were contacted. The youth accused of spraying the officer was transferred to a youth detention center, according to police. Police said they found a stun gun, several canisters of pepper spray and a half-empty bottle of bear/mountain lion spray, believed to be used in the incident against the officer.



Aaron Paul Mousseau, 32, has been bound over for trial in connection with the February 2026 murder of Vincent Beeman. Beeman was found deceased in his apartment on Burnaway Drive, located in the Eaton County portion of the City

of Lansing. At the time of the homicide, Mousseau was residing with Beeman in the same apartment. The bind-over decision followed a preliminary examination during which 56A District Court Judge Adrienne K. VanLangevelde determined that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence to establish probable cause that Mousseau killed Beeman. A probable-cause finding is a lower evidentiary standard than what is required for a conviction.



A 13-year-old has died from injuries from a Sept. 5 collision that killed her 12-year-old brother. The siblings were riding bikes near Williamston when they were struck by a Ford Explorer. The driver, identified as a 64-year-old Williamston woman, was not injured in the crash and remained at the scene. Michigan State Police have said they are looking for a white pickup truck that was behind the driver, to provide witness statements. A GoFundMe effort — launched by the family's church — has received more than \$155,000 in pledges as of Tuesday afternoon (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-shepard-family>).

The demolition of the Student Book Exchange has begun in downtown East Lansing. The building dates back to 1960 and has sold countless student textbooks before ending book sales in the last year or two in favor of clothing and Michigan State University gear.

In place of the SBX will be a 12-story residential tower with almost 300 apartments. The building will be made using mass timber techniques, which have been championed by MSU. Greg Ballein, whose family runs the SBC, told the Lansing State Journal previously that the new building will be named in honor of his late father, Howard Ballein, who first operated the bookstore located at 421 E. Grand River Ave.



MSU and U-M researchers have received a \$1 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to start a 3-year research project, called "Decarbonizing the Hood: Conditions, Perceptions, Principles and Evaluation of Equitable Urban Energy Transitions." The project will look at how cities can reduce carbon emissions through clean energy investments, while ensuring those living in such communities where such projects are created have a say in the process and receive the benefits of them. Researchers, students and community partners will come together in the project to study six urban decarbonization initiatives across Detroit, Chicago and Columbus, Ohio.

Cynoda Jonelle Sparkling of Lansing, 35, has pled guilty to aggravated identity theft and wire fraud involving more than \$400,000 in federal or state relief funds. She stole or tried to steal 124,995 from the Paycheck Protection Program, \$17,000 from the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, and \$262,248 from the unemployment insurance programs from several different states, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan Timothy VerHey. He said Sparkling applied for loans in her own name as well as others using stolen identities. She is expected to be sentenced on Nov. 30 and faces a minimum of two and as many as 20 years in prison. Sparkling's case was part of a joint effort nation-wide during the summer that involved more than 160 cases, 80 newly charged defendants and nearly \$250 million in taxpayer dollars.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the City of East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Elieff Brothers Roofing, located at 626 MAC Avenue. The applicant request is to replace the geometrical T-lock asphalt shingled roof with architectural asphalt shingles and replace a fascia board in kind.
2. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Anna Zacharski, located at 503 Park Lane. The applicant request is for after-the-fact approval for replacement of the three-foot perimeter wood fence and backyard changes including installation of a railroad tie retaining wall with pea gravel in place of grass.
3. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Ron Mills, located at 20 University Drive. The applicant request is to enclose an existing patio on the rear of the house.
4. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Rowland Cornish III, located at 360 Charles Street. The applicant request is to install a generator on a 9ft by 4ft concrete pad as well as a transfer switch on a 2ft 6in by 3ft 6in concrete pad adjacent to the air conditioning unit enclosure on Linden Street.
5. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Ashley Sutton, located at 604 Sunset Lane. The applicant request is to replace aluminum and T1-11 siding with 7.25in Hardie Plank cement fiber board lap siding on the house and garage as well as board and batten accents on the dormer of the house and the section above the garage.
6. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Matthew Higgins, located at 350 Kensington Road. The applicant request is to replace the existing two steel garage doors with a single steel garage door.
7. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Abigail Knauss, located at 548 M.A.C. Avenue. The applicant request is to repair and replace items on the front porch, fascia, moulding, railings, front door and windows.
8. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Matt Davenport, located at 345 University Drive. The applicant request is to replace the 4-row wood door with 4-row, steel door.

Owners of structures containing more than four (4) dwelling units or other distinct spatial areas owned or leased by different persons are requested to post this notice at the primary entrance to the structure.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for the public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date.

For more information on the request please contact Alycia Reiten at (517) 319-6941 or areiten@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at:

Department of Planning, Building, and Housing
East Lansing City Hall,
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823

between the hours of **8:00 am and 12 pm, 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm** or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent by 5 pm the day prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhdc@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at ldegarmo@cityofeastlansing.com.

Dated: September 10, 2026

Emily Gordon, City Clerk
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#26-350

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
Board Meeting Synopsis – September 9, 2026**

The Williamstown Township Board held a regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 with Supervisor Poth, Clerk Cleveland, Treasurer VanErp, Trustee Brinker, Trustee Duffy, and Trustee Steinberg present. The Board approved the following:

- Consent Agenda
- MDOT Resolution for Lothamer 5K Charity Run.
- Contracting with C2AE for engineering & design services for the Township Park.
- Amendment of the Neighborhood Road Policy to address recent changes in funding.

The next regular Board meeting will be held September 30, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Community Room of the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Visit williamstownmi.gov for the latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Williamstown Township Clerk

CP#26-352



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE #26-08
HASLETT LAND INVESTMENT – VACANT HASLETT ROAD**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE**

Ordinance #26-08 – Haslett Land Investment – Vacant Haslett Road

The Township Board at its regular meeting on August 18, 2026 approved for final adoption Ordinance #26-08, a request to rezone approximately 65.38 acres of land directly to the east of the Copper Creek Subdivision, on the north side of Haslett Road, from RA, One-Family, Medium Density Residential, to the same designation with a PRD, Planned Residential Development Overlay. The parcel identification number for the parcel to be rezoned is #33-02-02-12-200-015.

Materials related to the rezoning request may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (517.853.4560) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk
September 23, 2026

CP#26-353

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



**CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY
OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1576**

On September 8, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend East Lansing City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 50, Zoning, Article VI, Division 2, General Office Business District, B-1, section 50-552; Division 3, Retail Sales Business District, B-2, section 50-572; Division 4, City Center Commercial District, B-3, section 50-592; Division 5, Restricted Office Business District, B-4, Section 50-612; Division 6, Community Retail Sales Business District, B-5, section 50-632; Article VII, Division 6, section 50-794; and Division 8, section 50-806, of the code of the City of East Lansing, to require special use permit for certain multiple-family dwelling units provided within a building that also contains one or more principal uses permitted subject to a site plan, to correct citations to the Michigan Liquor Control Code of 1998, Act 58 of 1998, and to require LEED certification or pre-certification from an accredited organization relative to the incentive point structure for development.

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#26-355

Michigan’s Libertarian Party becomes The Isle of Misfit Candidates

By KYLE MELINN

The Libertarian Party’s lieutenant governor candidate was arraigned last week on a felony charge stemming from complaints that he bilked couples who were slated to get married at his Shiawassee County barn out of their deposits after the county shut it down.

Shiawassee County told Beau Parmenter last year that he couldn’t rent out his Country Barn Estate for not providing adequate bathroom facilities, among other things.

Instead of refunding deposits, Parmenter allegedly gave brides-to-be the runaround, according to their complaints on Facebook. They’re upset about it, as you can imagine.

The party’s gubernatorial candidate, Anthony Hudson, immediately played the “innocent-until-proven-guilty” card in a written statement.

Hudson compared Parmenter’s case to that of Lindsay Clancy, the Massachusetts woman whose murder trial ended with a hung jury after her attorneys argued that she was legally insane when she killed her three children.

Maybe some would find some irony there.

“This is all a witch hunt,” Hudson said on his video feed. “This is all fake news. This is their attempt to come after me. They’re using Beau, now as their target . . . There’s a lot of Fuck You’s that are going around the state of Michigan today.”

At least two Libertarian Party chapters have already given Hudson their own middle finger. The Macomb County and The Straits Libertarian parties have publicly disavowed the Hudson/Parmenter ticket.

Their issues have little to do with Parmenter’s troubles and more to do with Hudson not being, by definition, a Libertarian.

Traditionally, Libertarians believe in limited government. Limited involvement in business and personal matters. They are economic conservatives, but social liberals.

Hudson’s involvement in the so-called “Christian Crusade” in Dearborn would be seen as repulsive to a traditional Libertarian.

The “0% Liberal” T-shirt Parmenter wore at Hudson’s Michigan State University tailgate isn’t something you’d see Libertarians of yore, like former presidential candidates Harry Browne or Gary Johnson, sporting.

But the Michigan Libertarian Party has changed. It’s no longer a philosophical



POLITICS

pole on an ideological spectrum.

It’s become a landing spot for fringe conservatives rejected by the Republican Party. An Isle of Misfit Candidates.

Like Hudson. Last year at this time, Hudson was running around the state as a Republican gubernatorial candidate, gaining some rural support on his message of eliminating property taxes.

Then there was the other stuff.

The plain-spoken, loose-lipped Hudson posted a video declaring that “it’s time to get the rope,” while holding a large loop of rope around his arm. On Feb. 1, he spoke of a “public hanging” during a Mason City Council meeting due to the body’s leaning toward supporting a proposed data center against the desires of several public speakers.

He quit being invited to Republican events. Hudson took offense. Got into verbal tussles with local party leaders.

He said that’s why he left to run as a Libertarian.

Hudson also needed 15,000 valid signatures to get on the GOP ballot. That can be a high bar for low-budget candidates like Hudson to clear.

It’s easier to bring a bunch of buddies to the convention of a dying third party and score a spot on the November ballot. The Libertarian Party was the perfect target.

Since the Tea Party revolution of 2010, limited-government Libertarians have jumped on the Republican bandwagon. In the last 16 years, the number of candidates the Libs have put up for statewide office has dropped from 72 to 29.

The candidates they’ve recruited are generally fringe politicians like Hudson. Among those now involved in the party are folks like:

- William Null, charged and later found not guilty for his role in the Gov. Whitmer kidnapping plot. Lost his bid for lieutenant governor to Parmenter.
- Kevin Vayko, the 9th Congressional District candidate, pleaded no contest in 2015 to groping two University of Michigan students. Described by prosecutors as a “serial groper.”
- Timothy A. Teagan, 6th Congressional District candidate, a supporter of the Boogaloo movement who was sentenced to a year in federal prison in 2023 for lying about his marijuana use while purchasing a Glock 34 pistol.

Hudson said he believes his involvement in the Libertarians is growing the party ... clearly with castaways like himself.

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



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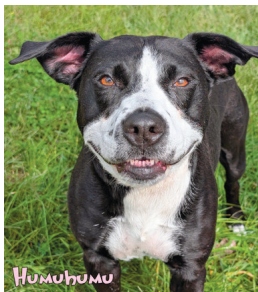


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Humuhumanukunukuapua'a (all you High School Musical fans feel free to sing along!) is a sweet, goofy spaniel/bulldog looking girl who was picked up as a stray. She always has a smile on her face and she's always ready for whatever is going on. She does well with other dogs, adores everyone, and is the goodest girl! She should do well in most homes and some family is going to be very lucky to have her!



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Hoki is a big orange and white tabby who came to the shelter when her owner moved and left her behind. She is a friendly, outgoing girl but she can get overstimulated at times so she'd probably do better with older cat savvy kids. If you're looking to add a social girl to your home, Hoki is ready to meet you!



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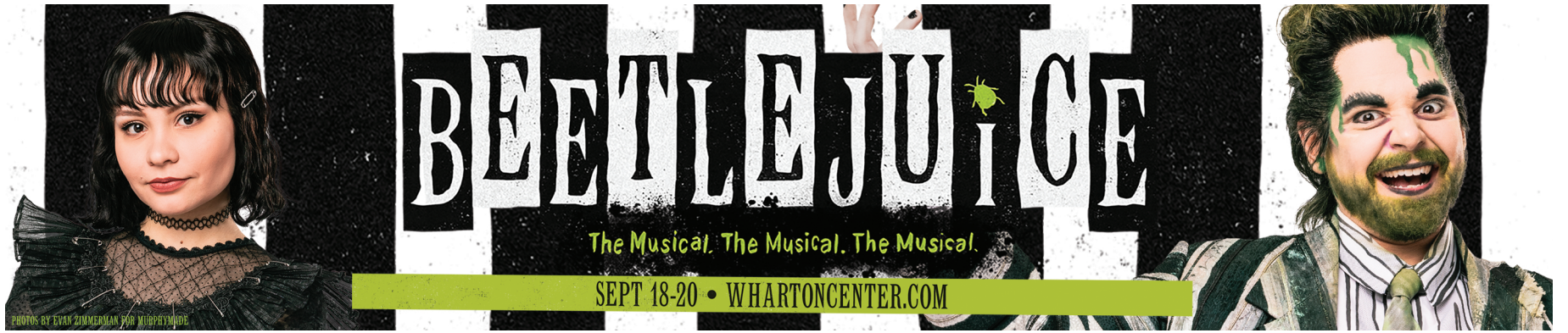
BEFORE



AFTER!



ACCULEVEL
FOUNDATION EXPERTS



Lansing gets a new set of giant pumpkins modeled after its Big Red Balls

By **MIKE ELLIS**

A new set of four 6-foot ornaments stacked in a small pyramid has been temporarily installed inside the roundabout at Michigan and Washington avenues, and right in front of the iconic view of the state capitol.

The Big Spooky Pumpkins were hauled in farm-fresh from Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and planted at a time when most pumpkins are starting to be picked.

The intersection is popular as the Christmas season home of Lansing's four giant red ornaments, known in polite company as the "Orbs of Winter."

But no one calls them that.

The ornaments are instead known by the unofficial and sophomoric aptronym of "Big Red Balls."

In earlier years, they were known as "Virg's red balls" in honor of Virg Bernero, the sometimes-angry mayor who led the

city when the roundabout was built in 2009 and the balls became a tradition.

Christmas, Halloween ... when is it enough?

The installation of the pumpkins, the second set of decorations, has opened Lansing's imagination.

What is the next giant set of balls that would fit in downtown?

Baseballs for the Lansing Lugnuts? Basketballs for a March Madness run?

Olives to celebrate the city's signature burger? The sky is the limit, and even the sky could inspire a set of moons or suns in downtown.

In less than a week, the Spooky Balls have become part of Lansing's Halloween season. They are expected to anchor the downtown's Trick or Treat on the Square event from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. on Oct. 30.

Photos by
Mike Ellis/
City Pulse

How'd Lansing get here?

Lansing installed the red ornaments for the first time in 2009, they're usually taken down in January and brought back to kick off the Christmas shopping season in downtown.

They were popular for years but when the Big Red Balls were nearly lost, they became more of a permanent fixture.

A driver busted the balls in 2018, smashing into them while sliding on icy roads in the last days of the year.

The balls were taken down. Not much happened until social media helped to rally people around the ornaments in fall 2019.

The Big Red Balls were in jeopardy, with an estimated \$7,000 for repairs. A 10-foot metal sun sculpture from that summer's Scrap Fest was con-

See Pumpkins, Page 14

Pumpkins

from page 13

sidered and Mayor Andy Schor floated the idea of buying the artwork personally.

The ornaments were saved, however, by a last-minute donation from developer Paul Gentilozzi. The made-for-TV drama helped to solidify the warm spot Lansing has for the red balls and made them more of a focal point for the city’s Silver Bells in the City celebration.

Silver Bells this year

The festival is considered the biggest annual event in Lansing, bringing about 40,000 people into downtown. For one night, Silver Bells swells the population of the Capitol City from sixth-largest to the third-largest city in Michigan.

“It’s the introduction of the winter season for Mid-Michigan,” said Rachel Beatty, marketing manager for Legends Global Lansing, the company that runs many of the former LEP-FA operations, including the Lansing Center and the Lansing Lugnuts’ home of Jackson Field.

The 42nd annual Silver Bells will be run on Friday, Nov. 20, and for the first time in years it will go on without longtime showrunner Mindy Biladeau.

Beatty will run this year’s event; she has worked with Biladeau during the last several Silver Bells festivals.

A new parade grand marshal and the rest of the year’s lineup will be announced soon, but not yet so it doesn’t compete with the Halloween-time events, Beatty said.

Expect to see all of the usual bells and whistles in downtown this year, she said.

“The Spooky Pumpkins will help to transition the excitement into the



downtown area; we will see trick-or-treating, and the transition to Silver Bells is super fast,” Beatty said.

The Spooky Balls are expected to come down on Nov. 5, a Thursday that comes right after the whole city of Lansing takes its annual post-election day nap. (Don’t forget to vote on Nov. 3.)

The Spooky Balls will be quickly replaced by the Big Red Balls, marking the transition from Jack Skellington to Santa Claus.

Tell me more about the Spooky Balls

The pumpkin ornaments were bought by Downtown Lansing Inc.,

using private fundraising money.

DLI worked with Bronner’s Christmas Wonderland’s commercial division on the custom jack-o’-lantern theme, with anti-graffiti coating, because no one has 6-foot pumpkin ornaments just lying around.

The goal is to help drive foot traffic into downtown and to bring the Big Red Balls attraction into the fall weather.

While it may seem feasible to repaint or apply a car-style vinyl wrap to the existing set, officials said they considered that but it wouldn’t have worked.

Scott Bean, a spokesperson for the mayor’s office, insists there are now

eight ornaments between the two sets, no funny business.

They are hollow, made of fiberglass and weigh only 150 pounds, which is not bad at all for a 6-foot globe intended to be outside and occasionally poked at by the general public.

But a six-foot globe, even a relatively light one, isn’t handholdable.

So the crew of city and Board of Water and Light workers used cranes and power tools to maneuver and secure the Big Red Balls.

One lesson learned in the installation is that putting the four Big Red Balls into place is mostly a matter of making sure they don’t roll away.

But facing each of the four jack-o’-lanterns eastward and just so, for better photo ops, took a bit longer.

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SEPT 16-19 › Concerts inside UrbanBeat

Nine performances inside UrbanBeat beginning with a kick-off concert on Wednesday featuring **Greg Nagy & Ray Goodman**. Great performances during the festival, including **Tom Duffield, Clique Vocals, Dave Mingus** and a special **Afterglow Jam** with **Lady Champagne** on Friday night.

SEPT 18 & 19 › Blues on the street

In addition, on Friday and Saturday the festival rolls onto the streets including the **MICA stage** and **Fish Ladder stage**, featuring **Carl Caballero & The Wreckage, Lady Champagne, Brotha Earth, Big L & Code Blü, Generator Blues Band, DJ McCoy, Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk, Nicki T & the Snake Charmers, Stan Craig Band, Sassiety, and 517 Funktet**. Visit **michiganbluesfest.com** for the full schedule. Roam the **Old Town** social district and enjoy delicious food and beverages from on-site vendors and local eateries, including UrbanBeat and Ozone’s Brewhouse.

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Wednesday SEPT 16



UrbanBeat Stage • 7:00pm / Indoors

Greg Nagy & Ray Goodman

Blues Music Award-nominated artist with multiple #1-charting releases, Nagy has performed at B.B. King's Blues Club, and collaborated with artists including Larry McCray, Bobby Murray, and Ronnie Earl. "An exceptionally soulful and creative blues artist." — All About Jazz. Ray Goodman has also performed with SRC and Bob Seger.

Thursday SEPT 17

UrbanBeat Stage

7:00pm / Indoors

Tom Duffield

Tom Duffield's piano work has been a fixture of the blues scene for decades, bringing a deep repertoire of standards and unexpected selections to festivals and stages across Michigan with a style that is both seasoned and full of surprises.



MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Friday SEPT 18



UrbanBeat Stage • 5:00pm / Indoors

Clique Vocals › Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner will perform a variety of blues songs arranged in a unique style with tight harmonies.



MICA Stage • 6:00pm / Outdoors

Lady Champagne

& The Blues Connection Band › Blues Lady Champagne is a powerful Detroit blues vocalist known for her soulful alto voice, heartfelt performances, and deep connection to the traditions of Blues, R&B, gospel, and soul. Born in Louisiana and raised musically in Detroit, she began performing at an early age and went on to share stages with some of the greatest legendary Blues artists including B.B. King, Bobby Blue Bland, Koko Taylor, Bobby Rush, Johnnie Taylor.

Detroit lady champagne has been inducted in the Detroit Blues Hall of Fame and also The National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame. Lady Champagne has been recognized with a blues awards from Detroit Music Awards held at the Fillmore Theater and Detroit Black Music Awards Association. Through her music and live performances, she continues to carry the spirit of Detroit blues to audiences everywhere.



Fish Ladder Stage • 7:00pm / Outdoors

Brotha Earth › Brotha Earth is a five piece band featuring three former touring members of the legendary Motown band Rare Earth. With the release of their new album "Game Changer" the band is looking forward to bringing their high energy show Michigan's BluesFest.

UrbanBeat Stage

7:00pm / Indoors

Dave Mingus

Lansing well-loved guitarist Dave Mingus is a longtime fixture of the Mid-Michigan music scene, bringing years of experience and a deep feel for blues, soul, and groove to stages throughout the region, playing weekly performances at UrbanBeat,



MICA Stage • 8:30pm / Outdoors

Big L & Code Blü › BIG L & Code Blü, a CABS winner, will be playing blues seasoned with funk and pop and lush vocal harmonies and a rhythm section as tight as the grooves you know and love. This band from South Central Michigan isn't one you want to miss.

UrbanBeat Stage • 9:00pm / Indoors

Tom Duffield



MICA Stage • 10:30pm / Outdoors

Generator Blues Band › This high-energy six-piece blues band features vocalists Regina Bynum and Judy Franklin, with Michael "Bones" Franklin on drums, Eric Hamilton on bass, Dan O'Malley on lead guitar, and Roger Little on keys, delivering hard-driving and classic blues that keeps audiences moving.

MICA Stage

DJ McCoy

plays between sets

Lansing's DJ McCoy brings years of experience behind the decks and drums, known for his work with the Scratch Pilots and a deep connection to the region's funk, soul, rock, and blues scene.





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LIVESTREAM





UrbanBeat Stage • 10:00pm / Indoors
AFTERGLOW JAM
Lady Champagne & The Blues Connection Band › Lady Champagne is a Detroit blues veteran with more than 30 years on stage, an acclaimed vocalist who has shared the spotlight with legends including B.B. King, Bobby “Blue” Bland, Koko Taylor, and Martha Reeves, earned a Detroit Blues Hall of Fame induction, and won the Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Blues Artist. Followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians. **Limited seating**

Saturday SEPT 19

UrbanBeat Stage • 3:00pm / Indoors
Dave Mingus



Fish Ladder Stage • 3:00pm / Outdoors
Sassiety › A dynamic three-piece band featuring lead guitarist Nick Pigeon, seasoned percussionist Renee Rose, and multi-bassist David “Wink” Winkelstern. Wink has performed with a variety of local and touring bands and is known for his flashy outfits and showmanship, while all three members deliver potent lead and harmony vocals.



MICA Stage • 4:00pm / Outdoors
Grady Hall & The Disciples of Funk
Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk fuse deep blues roots with the grooves of funk, R&B, and Latin music, creating a distinctive sound anchored in the blues and backed by their 2018 Capitol Area Blues Brawl Viewer’s Choice Award.

UrbanBeat Stage • 5:00pm / Indoors
Clique Vocals



Fish Ladder Stage • 5:00pm / Outdoors
517 Funktet › 517 Funktet, winners of the Capitol Area Blues Society Battle of the Bands, will represent the Capitol region at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN, this January, bringing their soulful blend of funk, blues, jazz, and groove to the world stage.



MICA Stage • 6:00pm / Outdoors
Stan Craig Band › Led by Mid-Michigan slide guitar legend Stan Budzynski, the band brings more than 25 years of blues tradition to the stage, backed by two CABS Blues Brawl wins and three trips representing Mid-Michigan at the International Blues Challenge. With bassist Ron Bretz, keyboardist Andy Callis, and drummer Jeff Lewis, the group delivers a high-energy blend of Delta, Chicago, and Southern blues.

UrbanBeat Stage • 7:00pm / Indoors
Tom Duffield



Fish Ladder Stage • 7:00pm / Outdoors
Nicky T & The Snake Charmer's
Detroit blues guitarist Nicky T, a longtime member of The Alligators and collaborator with Ronnie Earl, contributed to five of Earl's recordings before founding Nicky T & The Snake Charmer's, blending the traditions of B.B. King and Magic Sam with his own seasoned sound.



MICA Stage • 8:30pm / Outdoors
Carl Caballero & The Wreckage
Carl Caballero & The Wreckage are a Detroit-area blues-rock ensemble led by harmonica sensation Carl Caballero, whose high-energy sound has earned appearances on WDIV and CBS Detroit and openings for blues artists including Albert Cummings, Chris Duarte, and Papa Chubby.

MICA Stage
DJ McCoy • **plays between sets**

THE OTHERBAND

UrbanBeat Stage • 10:00pm / Indoors
AFTERGLOW JAM
A preview of **The Longest Jam** with a nonstop jam session led by The OtherBand. Walk-on musicians welcome. The band includes Jeff Boog, Denny Preston, Terry Terry, Jack Bergeron, Grant Guimond, Sarah Wallace, Carlton Evans, Ammy Amorette, Dave Ludington and others.



MICA GALLERY

September • 1210 Turner St

Timothy Orikri

Detroit based Nigerian artist Timothy Orikri’s work is rooted in themes of hope, harmony, compassion, and human connection.

Ammy Amorette

Ammy is a multidisciplinary Chilean-born artist, singer-composer, and painter.

Kani Icho

Kani Icho’s collection explores transformation, ancestral memory, and the divine feminine through a blend of mysticism and commanding aesthetics.

Coming Oct/Nov Group Show



MICHIGAN BLUESFEST

Wed, SEPT 16

UrbanBeat Stage • Kick Off Concert

7:00pm Greg Nagy & Ray Goodman

Fri, SEPT 18

UrbanBeat Stage

5:00pm Clique Vocals

7:00pm Dave Mingus

9:00pm Tom Duffield

AFTERGLOW JAM

10:00pm Lady Champagne

MICA Stage

6:00pm Lady Champagne

8:30pm Big L & Code Blü

10:30pm Generator Blues Band

DJ McCoy (plays between sets)

Fish Ladder Stage

7:00pm Brotha Earth

Thur, SEPT 17

UrbanBeat Stage • KidzBeat Fundraiser

7:00pm Tom Duffield Band

Sat, SEPT 19

UrbanBeat Stage

3:00pm Dave Mingus

5:00pm Clique Vocals

7:00pm Tom Duffield

AFTERGLOW JAM

10:00pm The OtherBand

MICA Stage

4:00pm Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk

6:00pm Stan Craig Band

8:30pm Carl Caballero & The Wreckage

DJ McCoy (plays between sets)

Fish Ladder Stage

3:00pm Sassiety

5:00pm 517 Funktet

7:00pm Nicki T & the Snake Charmers

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28-30th SEPT

A 60 hour
longest jam
record-breaking
attempt

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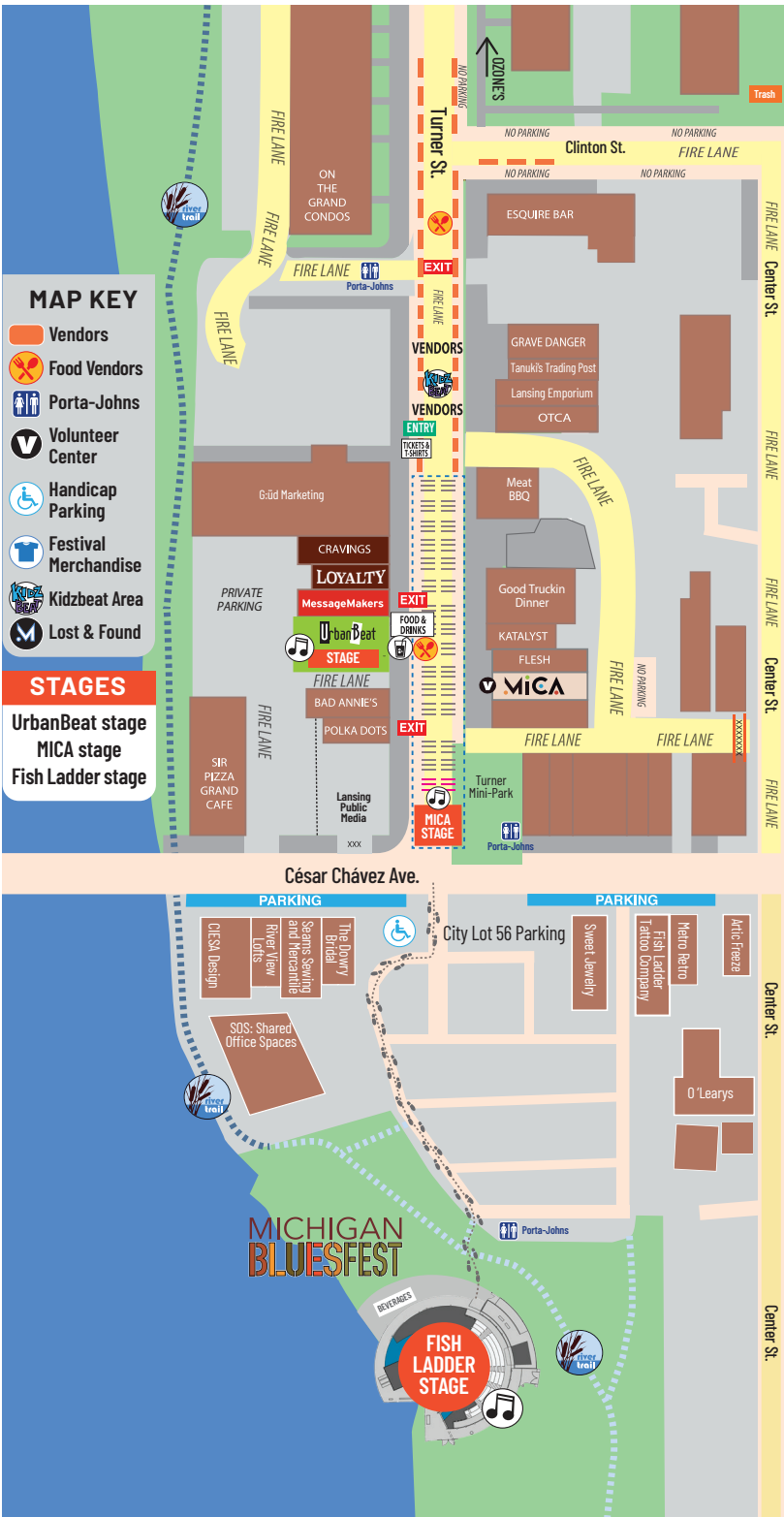
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Cosmic coincidences with comics

MSU alum publishes award-winning graphic novel based on his grandmother

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Before his grandfather Gene Overholt died, English teacher and two-time Michigan State University alumnus Jason Douglas promised him that the graphic novel he was writing based on his late grandmother Betty Jane Johnson would be published.

Douglas, 49, of Northville, kept that promise. His road to publication has been just as remarkable as his grandmother's story, which occurred in Plymouth during World War II.

In 2023, Douglas self-published "Jane American," illustrated by Annie Wright. Today, the book is published by Papercutz, an imprint of Mad Cave Studios, and distributed through Simon & Schuster.

In 2025, "Jane American" won the Ringo Award for best original graphic novel. It is the first fully self-published book to win in this major category. Wright also won the Ringo Award for favorite new talent.

"Jane American" now has a second life as a widely published book," Douglas said. "This whole journey's been wild!"

Bringing comics into the classroom

Inspired by famous comic book creators Jack Kirby, John Byrne, Walter Simonson and Mike Mignola, Douglas described himself as "an 'X-Men' kid growing up." He also read Marvel Comics' "Wolverine" and "Spider-Man," DC Comics' "Batman" and Valiant Comics.

A second-generation teacher for 27 years, Douglas has implemented his love of comics in his classroom to encourage his recalcitrant students to read.

"The answer was in the comic shops I used to visit and the long boxes I left behind in my mom's house. I started to bring comics into the classroom, and it literally changed their lives. Kids know comics are cool," he said. "I was buying beat-up old comics. I'd take them to school, remove the staples, put them on the paper cutter, separate them into individual pages, run them through the laminator, and bind them. Those things are still in my classroom today because they became nearly indestructible!"

The first comic that made a huge difference with his students was Image Comics' fantasy series "Tellos," co-created by the late Mike Wieringo, the namesake of the Ringo Awards.

"This is one of those cosmic coincidences that makes me smile every time I think about it," Douglas said. "That's the award I won! It makes me smile and hurts my brain all at the same time!"

'Blissful ignorance' and 'irrational confidence'

In a roundabout way, bringing comics into his classroom resurrected the latent but lifelong dream Douglas had of creating comics.

"One year, call it a midlife crisis, something was itching in the back of my brain. 'It's time.' While my kids were at swimming lessons, I sat on a picnic bench and wrote the first half of my first book, called 'Parallel,'" he recalled.

"Parallel" tells the story of Landon, who abandoned his passion for music, leading to a life filled with deep regret, depression, self-doubt and a loveless marriage. His reality shatters when he begins experiencing intense visions and hearing voices. He discovers that a parallel version of himself from an alternate reality is reaching out to offer him a complete do-over.

"I did my due diligence. Very few companies, if any, take unsolicited pitches," Douglas explained. "Two key phrases of this journey these last six years are 'blissful ignorance' and 'irrational confidence' because I didn't know better."

Douglas pitched "Parallel" to Source Point Press, which published it. However, it debuted during the COVID-19 pandemic and "flopped badly."

"I was told, 'It was a failure and sold even lower than we expected.' What that means is you're supposed to wash your hands of it and say, 'Hey, I made it further than 99% of people who don't follow their dreams. Nobody can take that away from me. Back to reality,'" Douglas said. "If you're a professional, you move on to the next project. It was implied. So, with no hyperbole, over the course of the next 18 months, I did 70 interviews and booked them all myself. 'Parallel' caught on and eventually sold out. It even got some Ringo nominations. It made a teeny little splash, which was cool."

An overriding promise

Source Point was supposed to publish "Jane American," but the deal fell through. Undaunted, Douglas went on to write it anyway.

The titular Jane is living a life of stability and hope — until she's not. World War II knocks at her door and brings tragedy with it, changing her in unbelievable ways.

"At the end of the war, there's a historical reality: Dad's not coming home. Society's determined that Mom can no longer be a Rosie the Riveter and support her family. That leaves young Jane with a choice: stay safe, stay hidden, or embrace who she truly is now and what she can truly do for the sake of everybody she loves," Douglas said.

The book contains universal, relatable and age-appropriate themes about



Courtesy

Jason Douglas.

identity, self-worth and being yourself in a world that tells you that's not okay.

"As I mentioned, it's a deeply personal story for me because not only is it named after and inspired by my late grandmother, who went through all those things 80 years ago, but it's very much dedicated to every kid who's walked through my classroom in the last 27 years still struggling with those things," Douglas said. "It's also dedicated to my late grandfather because he was 99 when he realized he wouldn't see 100 and made me promise the book he helped me research — he was key in the early research stages — would see print."

According to Douglas, his grandparents married when they were 19, before his grandfather went off to fight in World War II.

"Even though half the dream of this book has always been getting it into the hands of as many people as possible — schools, libraries, book fairs, stores — I knew the promise to my grandparents was the overriding promise," he said. "That's why I self-published it, knowing that I probably closed the door on the larger publishing options. Because of what the book did — even on its own and self-published — that opportunity to spread it far and wide is also available, which is so cool."

Beating the odds at the Ringo Awards

Since "Jane American" was such a personal story for Douglas, he felt he needed to put it out into the world. Still, he was aware he was shooting himself in the foot by self-publishing it.

"Once you self-publish, (traditional) book publishers won't touch you with a 10,000-foot pole and won't even talk to you if you don't have a literary agent," he explained.

He organized Kickstarter and crowdfunding campaigns. He published a "Jane American" one-shot, which was

the first chapter of the graphic novel told in a different order.

"There is a big difference between Annie's art at 21 and Annie's art at 22. It's as much growth as I've seen in a young person in or out of the classroom in my entire life. It's amazing," he said. "We did this one-shot as proof of concept. I was gonna put out hardcover and softcover editions, but such a campaign would cost \$20,000 to \$30,000. I don't have enough favors, friends and family in the world to make that happen."

Still, the one-shot did very well. Douglas launched a grassroots PR campaign, doing interviews and taking "Jane American" to comic-cons (including Capital City Comic Con in Lansing and Motor City Comic Con in Novi), comic shops and book fairs. Eventually, it caught the eye of the Ringo Awards committee and got nominated.

"It won and beat a bunch of much bigger books," he said.

At the awards ceremony in 2025, Douglas and his editor politely applauded without realizing they'd won.

"It didn't sink in!" Douglas recalled. "On the video, it looks pretty normal. Here's the announcement, here's the applause, here's us going up on stage, but we sat there, applauding the winner, not realizing it was our book. So, I went up there and did what I do every single day, five days a week, seven hours a day: speak on my feet."

"When your job is to convince 180 teenagers that grammar isn't boring, you have to have the ability to talk on your feet and make it sound pretty good or else they will eat you alive. I said what I was gonna say. It wasn't a prepared speech because I didn't want to jinx it, but it sounded good enough that people thought it was a well-prepared speech."

In the aftermath, Douglas received calls from publishers wanting to pick up "Jane American." He got an offer from Mad Cave he couldn't refuse.

"Since this book beat the odds and won, the calls came to me," he said. "Because the book already existed, I signed in January, and it hit stores this month. That's an awfully quick turnaround. The book actually being done became a selling point for it, which is very atypical."

His next graphic novel, "No Man's Land," a werewolf tale set during World War I, will be in stores next year.

"No matter what you do or don't do, tomorrow always comes, and life always goes on. There's always something to do," he said. "One of the most amazing things about this journey these last six years is everything that's happened is happening to me for the very first time. The comics fan in me is doing backflips every time something new and amazing happens in this beautiful dream I'm pursuing."

Visit [instagram.com/jdouglaswrites](https://www.instagram.com/jdouglaswrites).





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Nocturne: Terminally Online
Sat., Sept. 19, 9 p.m.
Hattie & Blue Medicine
Sun., Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
School of Rock
Fri., Sept. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Flipside
Fri., Sept. 18, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Shelby Ann Marie
Sat., Sept. 19, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Charlotte Brewing Co.

214 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte
Sean & Tom
Fri., Sept. 18, 7-10 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Velocity Shift
Fri., Sept. 18, 8 p.m.-midnight

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5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Sharrow and Hughey
Wed., Sept. 16, 6-9 p.m.
Mercadez Kelley
Thurs., Sept. 17, 6-9 p.m.
Frog & Skory
Tues., Sept. 22, 6-9 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Nathan Grant
Wed., Sept. 16, 9 p.m.-midnight
Coaster
Thurs., Sept. 17, 9 p.m.-midnight
Eric Ripper
Wed., Sept. 23, 6-9 p.m.

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Chad and Ed of Flat Water Band
Wed., Sept. 16, 7-9 p.m.
Tammy Cook and Mary Borrum
Sun., Sept. 20, 7-9 p.m.
Samantha Shessia
Wed., Sept. 23, 7-9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Travis Faber
Fri., Sept. 18, 6-9 p.m.
Chris Muethel
Sat., Sept. 19, 6-9 p.m.

Fiesta Charra

5900 Park Lake Road, East Lansing
Tap Monkeys
Thurs., Sept. 17, 6-9 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing
LSO Musician Series: Clarinet Trio
Sun., Sept. 20, 3 p.m.

Fish Ladder Music Park

216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
Yamini Kalluri - modern Indian dance alongside Baroque music
Thurs., Sept. 17, 7:45-8:45 p.m.

The Fledge

1300 Eureka St., Lansing
FIDGET, Secret Satan, More Ghosts, Blindfield Drift
Fri., Sept. 18, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

Graham Vineyards

8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg
Bill Oeming
Fri., Sept. 18, 6-9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., Sept. 16, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Nicholas Jamerson, Justin Clyde Williams
Fri., Sept. 18, doors 6:30 p.m., show 7:30 p.m.
Bayleaf Band
Sat., Sept. 19, doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.
¡Viva Cuba! fundraiser + Kneecap dance party
Sun., Sept. 20, doors 6:30 p.m., show 7 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., Sept. 23, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Kingdom Collapse, Heartsick, Approaching Autumn, Deadwitxh
Thurs., Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m.
Pup, Nobro, Pony
Sun., Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

Holt Farmers Market

2150 Cedar St., Holt
Mark Grinnell, Kathy Ford Band
Wed., Sept. 16, 4:30-8 p.m.

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Royce Vaughn
Wed., Sept. 16, 7-9 p.m.
Performer TBD
Wed., Sept. 23, 7-9 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Atomic Annie duo
Thurs., Sept. 17, 5-8 p.m.
DJ Moon Hop
Fri., Sept. 18, 5-8 p.m.
The Aimcriers
Sat., Sept. 19, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Sept. 20, 2-7 p.m.

Ingham County Courthouse lawn

315 S. Jefferson St., Mason
Mason High School Marching Band
Thurs., Sept. 17, 6:30-8 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., Sept. 17, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Mix Pack
Fri., Sept. 18, 8-11 p.m.
Roadside Attraction
Sat., Sept. 19, 8-11 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Dan Dan Laird
Thurs., Sept. 17, 5-8 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Nathan Grant
Sat., Sept. 19, 4-7 p.m.
Eric Ripper
Sun., Sept. 20, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
Ben Awrey
Fri., Sept. 18, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Willy Blaze and the Bad News Crew
Wed., Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
A Rueful Noise, Hemlock for Socrates, Toad-Eater
Sat., Sept. 19, 9 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Sept. 21, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., Sept. 17, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Sept. 22, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green

1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
LaurieTini & Glossi Rossi
Wed., Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m.
Rear View Mirror
Wed., Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
JP & the Energy
Fri., Sept. 18, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.
The Townsmen
Wed., Sept. 23, 7-10 p.m.

MICA Gallery

1212 Turner St., Lansing
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Sept. 23, 6-9 p.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.

402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Open mic night
Mon., Sept. 21, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Sept. 16, 8-11 p.m.
Deer & Elk
Thurs., Sept. 17, 9 p.m.-midnight
Dead Honey Collective
Fri., Sept. 18, 8 p.m.-midnight
Brian Byrnes
Sat., Sept. 19, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Sept. 22, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Sept. 23, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music

Piano Homecomings: Four Hands
Fri., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Keyboard Conversations
Sun., Sept. 20, 3 p.m.
Alumni Memorial Chapel, 636 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Musique 21: Atmospheres
Mon., Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Symphony Band
Tues., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Ensemble Dal Niente
Wed., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Mike Arnold
Wed., Sept. 16, 6-8 p.m.
Frog & the Beeftones
Fri., Sept. 18, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
Full House
Sat., Sept. 19, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Sept. 21, 6:30-9 p.m.

Pablo's Mexican Restaurant

2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Tap Monkeys
Fri., Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 23, 6-8 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Darin Larner
Fri., Sept. 18, 8-10 p.m.
Mike McConeghy
Tues., Sept. 22, 6-8 p.m.

The Quarry

3659 E. Clinton Trail, Charlotte
Shakedown (Bob Seger tribute)
Fri., Sept. 18, 7 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Live music
Fri., Sept. 18, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., Sept. 20, 6-9 p.m.

Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Tap Monkeys
Wed., Sept. 16, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Indha Room w/ Rohith Jayaraman
Fri., Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
Idora B. Sage w/ The Player and Friends
Wed., Sept. 23, 7 p.m.

Sholly's Bar

1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Darin Larner Band
Tues., Sept. 22, 6-9 p.m.

Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing
Carl Pawluk
Fri., Sept. 18, 7-10 p.m.
Cal Delo
Sat., Sept. 19, 7-10 p.m.

St. Katherine's Episcopal Church

4650 Meridian Road, Williamston
Pretty Shaky String Band
Sun., Sept. 20, 2-3:30 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
DJ Chicago Muzik
Fri., Sept. 18, 6-9 p.m.
Your Dad
Sat., Sept. 19, 6-9 p.m.
Patino & Friends
Sun., Sept. 20, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
517 Funktet
Tues., Sept. 22, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

The Studio at 414

410 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Tim Cunningham
Sat., Sept. 19, 6 p.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
Roadside Attraction
Fri., Sept. 18, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
Full House
Sat., Sept. 19, 8-11 p.m.
Open mic & karaoke
Tues., Sept. 22, 7-10 p.m.

Tong M's Restaurant & Banquet Center

3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Gimme Five
Wed., Sept. 16, 6-9 p.m.
Live music
Sun., Sept. 20, 3-6 p.m.

Uncle John's Cider Mill

8614 U.S.-127, St. Johns
Emily Faber
Fri., Sept. 18, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Almost Famous
Sat., Sept. 19, 1-4 p.m.
Be Kind Rewind
Sat., Sept. 19, 3-6 p.m.
Mark Warner
Sun., Sept. 20, 1-4 p.m.
Jen Sygit
Sun., Sept. 20, 3-6 p.m.

Unicorn Bar

327 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
Northside Rhythm Kings
Fri., Sept. 18, 7-11 p.m.

University Lutheran Church

1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Aurora and Antheia, Voices of the Revolution
Fri., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Michigan BluesFest: Greg Nagy & Ray Goodman
Wed., Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
Michigan BluesFest: Tom Duffield
Thurs., Sept. 17, 7 p.m.
Unfortunately Cakeless
Sun., Sept. 20, 4 p.m.
World's Longest Jam
Wed., Sept. 23, 9 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Billy Joe Hunt
Wed., Sept. 16, 7-10 p.m.
The Renegades
Sat., Sept. 19, 7-11 p.m.

Wooden Nickel II

1029 Jackson St., Dansville
Tyler Roy
Wed., Sept. 23, 6-9 p.m.

Additionally, **Michigan BluesFest** will run from 5 p.m. to midnight Friday and 3 p.m. to midnight Saturday in Old Town, Lansing.

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Riverwalk's 'Reefer Madness' takes the 1936 film a few steps further

By MARY CUSACK

Riverwalk Theatre continues its run of campy and cutting-edge productions with the musical "Reefer Madness." Featuring a talented cast and outstanding production values, this satire on propaganda and hysteria is the mellow we all need to counter these politically charged times.

The play opens with the Lecturer (Betsy Karinen) addressing the audience as parents in a 1936 school auditorium. The Lecturer prepares the audience to watch a play based on events that happened in the community as a warning that marijuana is an assassin of the youth.

The play within a play tells the story of how promising young Jimmy (Jason Durr) is led astray by Jack (Connor Kelly).

Enticed into hanging out with the cool kids at the local drug den run by Mae (Ny'Kieria Blocker) and Sally (Elizabeth Desmet), Jimmy trades his chaste relationship with Mary (Sylvia Bunn) for debauchery and debasement, eventually leading to mayhem and murder.

To call "Reefer Madness" high-larious is an awful pun, but one that would send the characters into a fit of hysterical laughter. The script is sharp, clever and crowd pleasing. It also closely follows the source material while en-

hancing it with scenes that the original filmmakers implied but didn't — or couldn't — show. Chief among these is Jimmy's hallucinatory experience in the aptly named number "The Orgy," during which the cast shamelessly takes part in a cannabis-fueled bacchanal.

The cast is all-around fantastic, but there are some stand-out performances. Kelly is menacing as Jack but truly energizes the stage as the hipper-than-thou Jesus. In Act 1, Jesus tries to save Jimmy, bringing the full force of his angelic choir to bear as he implores Jimmy to choose the path of redemption over the path of destruction. Even better is the reprise of the song in Act 2, although to say more would spoil the scene.

Evan David is perfectly maniacal as Ralph, looking very much the part of a frat boy gone bad. Beyond his physicality, his unhinged laughter is both infectious and a bit unsettling. It's clear that he's one toké away from going over the line, and the moment when he does completely unravel is the moment that the script transcends the original film's themes and embraces the premise that the Devil's lettuce transforms people into zombies.

Bunn is gosh-darn keen as Mary, with her sweet innocence and Shirley Temple curls. Still waters run deep, though, and



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

Evan David (left) and Sylvia Bunn in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Reefer Madness."

when Mary dances with Mary Jane, a very different personality emerges. As Sally, Desmet gets to play the bad girl throughout, and her wily glances are almost as powerful a drug as the reefer she pushes upon the youth.

Riverwalk took on quite a challenge in executing a full musical in its black box, having to give up precious space for the pit musicians while still retaining room for full-cast dance sequences, yet the theater pulled it off. Carmen Zavala, a skilled choreographer, led the troupe well. The entire ensemble is spot-on with their moves, and the space never

feels limiting.

The production values exceed those of a typical black box production, including the vast number of costumes, courtesy of Amanda Macomber, and the versatile set, designed by director Quinn Kelly and Jeff Miller. Elisha Smith's propaganda posters that plaster the backdrop are a hoot, and for anyone who gets the munchies, the concession stand offers five-leaf sugar cookies. With the addition of ensemble member Caleb Liggett's haze-inspired lobby artwork, Riverwalk has crafted a comprehensive chronic experience.

New community choir invites all to assist in spreading peace

By NICOLE NOECHEL

There are many ways people promote peace in their communities: nonviolent rallies, discussions and debates, informational campaigns, works of art ... the list goes on.

Angelyn Hirai, a longtime elementary school music teacher and choral director who recently moved to the area after 23 years in Florida, is hoping to spread peace in Greater Lansing through her new chorus, Just Peace.

"It started back in March. The No Kings rally and the Minneapolis stuff were going on, and I just needed something positive to do with all the yuck energy," she said. "The year before there was a performance, but there wasn't group singing, and I really wanted to see that happen."

"I asked around, and I couldn't really find where that was happening, although since then I've learned that there's resistance singing happening

in a couple of spots," she continued. "I started asking people if they would want to do this, and they did, so we started learning chants and songs that were approachable and easy."

Back in charge of a group of singers, Hirai realized something had been missing from her life.

"Everybody was like, 'Hey, are we gonna keep doing this?'" she said. "I'm a choral director and really needed a choir. I had a choir for 20 years. So, I was like, 'Yeah, let's keep doing this.' We named it Just Peace Chorus just recently."

No auditions are required to participate in the chorus, and all are welcome, regardless of age or experience level.

"I'm confident in my ability to teach people to sing, and there are always enough people who come that have experience. A beauty of choir is that everybody seems to find their space," Hirai said. "And then if somebody has less skill



in terms of reading music, there will be all kinds of resources, like listening tracks and extra rehearsals if I need to. Whatever people need to be successful, I'm willing to find that source for them to make it so that they can participate."

Rehearsals began last Sunday (Sept. 13) and are held weekly from 4 to 6 p.m. at Edgewood United Church in East Lansing. Every second Sunday of the month is an open sing-along for all community members, regardless of their affiliation with the choir.

"The choir is a little different in that it's kind of a two-part choir," Hirai said. "We are still learning resistance songs and chants and songs that we can sing out in public spaces, but it's also a concert choir that sings art songs that are polished for concerts."

Even at concerts, however, Hirai still plans to take the opportunity to fundraise for or bring awareness to pressing issues.

"I would really like to see people just having awareness of what needs there are. Obviously, politically, people are really motivated right now because of some of the stuff that's going on nationally, but there are also a lot of local things happening that we could help with," she said. "Being an educator, I see firsthand how much families are struggling to meet all of their needs, so we're finding those spaces where we can fill the gap."

The performance of a lifetime: Rose Cooper's advice for the stage and marriage



Courtesy

Rose and Michael Cooper

By **MASAKI TAKAHASHI**

Just stay.

If you've ever performed onstage and forgotten your lines, one of the first things you're taught is to just stay. Be present. The audience isn't looking for perfection. They're looking for you to be there.

I met Rose Cooper when I was in college, at MSU Slam Team meetings.

I was young and going through a divorce; a bit erratic, hurt and loud in all the places where I should have been quiet, and quiet in all the places where I should have been loud.

When I asked Rose how she had stayed in her marriage, she gave me advice: you just stay. Stay present, even if you can't remember the next line.

You may know Rose from singing on a motorcycle around town or from her work onstage. You may have seen her in Fatherland or read previous articles about her in City Pulse. But behind the curtains, you may not know that Rose is also caring for her husband, Michael, whose dementia has been progressing for years.

As a performance poet myself, I had to ask her how she manages all of it. Being a caregiver while remaining present in her artistic life. Rose told me she leans on her village.

Rose told me what she meant at an archery event. She loves bringing Michael to her events, and Michael loves going with her. He is still part of the life she has built: the theater, the poetry, the archery, the people she has gathered around her.

One time, suddenly, Michael wasn't feeling well. And people came.

People they had never met before opened their loving arms to the couple. They stayed with Michael, made sure he had food. They gave Rose enough space to compete in her first archery competition.

Sometimes you don't know who will step into the scene until the moment arrives.

In Rose's performance of life, she stays with Michael.

Rose and Michael met when she was 18, on her first day of college.

Michael was the kind of person who would stop and teach a stranger how to drive a manual car if he saw them struggling. The kind of person you keep in your life.

So Rose did, and they've been married for forty-five years.

They both call it love at first sight.

This is where it gets gross and mushy, so I completely understand if you stop reading here.

On their first day of college, Michael accidentally knocked over the cute 18-year-old he'd noticed coming out of her Lincoln Continental at Oakland University earlier that day.

Rose calls the accident fate. A cosmic collision that introduced her to her soulmate.

Michael became her North Star, bringing out the best in her. That's what a good love does: it gives you the freedom to become more fully yourself. Rose tells me that nothing feels completely real until she can tell Michael about it. They've been through hard times. And when I asked her about their marriage, one thing she told me stayed with me:

He has never been mean to her. Not once.

Forty-five years together, and that is what she remembers. Not that everything was perfect. Not that they never struggled. But that, through it all, he was kind.

I think about that now when I think about what Rose told me all those years ago.

What happens when the person you love is still there, but parts of the person you've known begin to disappear?

When conversations repeat? When memories fade? When things once needing no explanation now require extraordinary patience?

The applause ends.

The audience leaves.

The makeup comes off.

And there is no performance left to give.

That's when you find out what the relationship actually is.

Sometimes staying means laughing together. Sometimes it means sitting

in silence. Sometimes it means leaning on your village so you can keep showing up. And sometimes it means bringing the person you love with you, not because they can always participate the way they once did, but because they are still part of your life.

Michael still goes to Rose's events. Rose still wants him there. And when he needs help, people step into the scene. That's love, too. Not a perfect performance. Not a grand gesture. Just people staying.



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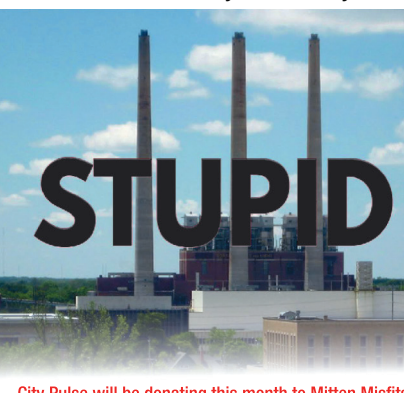
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Google eyed pumpkins get oogled

The giant pumpkins in downtown Lansing have been google-eyed, as witnessed by the STUPID - LANSING crew.

Check it out with your own eyes.



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



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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“It’s the Pits” -- double the disappointment.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
- Lowest of SATB
 - One of Stephen Baldwin’s brothers
 - “Aladdin ____” (David Bowie album)
 - Become troublesome
 - Cowboy’s tie
 - Racetrack shape
 - Sport that involves throwing very small rocks?
 - “Much to learn, you still have” speaker
 - Representative’s counterpart
 - Garage container
 - Letter after pi
 - A bit hard to believe
 - Old photograph tone
 - Rowing machine target
 - It may come between partners?
 - World Cup shout
 - Introspective query
 - “The Wind in the Willows” character
 - ____ grecque (cooked with olive oil and lemon)
 - Pockets on a plate
 - Made a meal of
 - Alliance agreement
 - ____ of interest
 - Actor Perlman
 - Short trip
 - Allow
 - Belly
 - Fish-eating raptors
 - Bank counter item, once

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14		15					16			
17					18						19			
20								21	22					
			23				24	25						
26	27	28				29			30					
31				32	33				34		35		36	37
38				39					40		41			
42			43		44						45			
		46		47		48			49	50				
	51					52			53					
54								55				56	57	58
59					60	61	62							
63					64				65					
66					67						68			

- Knuckleheads
- Earl Grey purveyor
- State where “MomTok” was popularized
- Stuff to help you slide past slam dancers?
- Faith No More lead vocalist Patton
- Great Lake not changing its name currently
- Chips go-with
- Enchilada option, at many Mexican restaurants
- Provocative
- Accepted
- DOWN
- Birken offerings
- Piece of property?
- Actor Sebastian
- “American Beauty” actress Mena
- Shortened version, but shorter?
- Mauna ____
- Bent pipe shape
- Spectrum band
- “ ____ Green” (1973 sci-fi thriller)
- Condition caused by lifting alligator pears with one hand?
- Rival of Federer and Djokovic
- Stylish elegance
- Target for some vacuum attachments
- Stop along the Underground, maybe
- Lyricist Gershwin
- Biting works
- Extreme limit
- Laundry need
- “Choosin’ Texas” singer Langley
- Serpent hanging around Georgia orchards?
- Full of vigor
- Maple tree output
- “Can’t Get It Out of My Head” rockers
- Particle in a smasher
- Say it ain’t so
- Visibly happy or sad
- Show currently hosted by Kristen Kish
- “Before,” when before
- Depose
- Bellybutton type
- Namesakes of a Salinger girl
- Wooden pin
- Word in a Jim Carrey film title
- The “T” of TMBG
- Master Chief’s franchise
- ____ buco
- High point
- Minecraft material
- Touchdown points

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Answers on page 28

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Sept. 16-22, 2026

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Realities you’ve been oblivious to will soon pop into view. Hints and signals you’ve been unconsciously pushing away will start flocking toward you. A lingering emotional numbness will thaw, and surges of feelings will pour into your awareness. Warning! At first, it may feel like an overload: too much sopping wet data arriving too quickly for you to organize or interpret. If you’re willing to be patient and focus on slowly metabolizing the influx, though, the apparent chaos will ultimately weave itself into a luminous web of new understanding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In Peru’s Andean mountains, Indigenous and smallholder farmers cultivate a rich diversity of potato varieties, continuing a farming tradition rooted in the crop’s domestication thousands of years ago. Each variety thrives in slightly different soil, altitude, and climate. By planting many types at once, the farmers ensure that at least some crops will flourish no matter what conditions arise. I suggest you apply this way of thinking to your own life in the coming weeks, Taurus. Diversify your efforts instead of depending on a single plan or expectation. Plan for multiple small initiatives that will evolve with unique growth patterns.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In biology, many organisms survive harsh or unpredictable conditions by entering dormancy. This is a reversible state of greatly reduced metabolism and development. Seeds, spores, and the dormant stages of some small animals can remain viable for years until cues such as water, temperature, light, or nutrients signal that conditions are favorable again. Then they can resume growth, development, or activity, often rapidly. I suspect you may experience a comparable upsurge in the coming weeks, Gemini. A project or aspiration that seemed inert may reawaken and reignite.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Novelist Kurt Vonnegut advised us to try some task that scares us every day of our lives. That may be a viable experiment for a Scorpio like him, but is it a wise prescription for us Cancerians, who like to feel secure and protected? Normally, I would say no. I’d recommend that you and I dare ourselves to wrestle with one of our fears no more than once per month. But the coming weeks may warrant a departure from our typical rhythms. I suspect we can fortify our long-term safety and peace through more frequent encounters with unpredictable episodes that rouse our hidden reserves of courage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The ancient Greeks believed that the goddess Harmonia presided over the blending of opposites into balanced beauty. Her dad was the god of war and her mom the goddess of love, so she had a lot of practice. In her line of work, tension between different forces could produce elegant unity rather than conflict. In alignment with astrological omens, I’ve appointed Harmonia to be your guardian angel in the coming weeks, Leo. I urge you to call on her dynamically and frequently. Rifts and splits and divisions that have never before been possible to heal are now swayable by the collaborative efforts of you and the goddess.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If I were writing this horoscope for the Gun Lovers’ Gambling Porn website, I might counsel my Virgo readers to maintain strict control over their wickedness, debauchery, and decadence. Why? Because now is a time when vices and sins are even more likely than usual to sow chaos and spawn big messes. However, since you are reading my oracle in a more genteel publication and are almost certainly a refined person of high integrity, I’m confident there will be minimal uproar if I dare you to tap into your raw animal energy and unruly instinctual nature. I believe it’s time to at least experiment with wilder aspects of your deep self.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The Real You and the Semi-Real You have been embroiled in a showdown with the False You. This is as tough and heroic a

struggle as you’ve had to deal with in quite some time, though it has often been subtle and partially cloaked. I am of course rooting for the Real You and the Semi-Real You to emerge victorious from the conflict, though I also hope you don’t feel the need to humiliate and crush the False You. That part of you has sometimes served a valuable purpose and doesn’t deserve to be trashed. And what will become of the Semi-Real You after this drama is finished? I suggest you give it a modest place in your repertoire. Like the False You, it sometimes proves to be useful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Hummingbirds can fly backward. They’re the only birds capable of sustained reverse flight. This requires extraordinary wing flexibility and energy expenditure, but it gives them access to nectar that forward-only fliers have more difficulty sampling. Let’s treat this as a useful metaphor for you in the coming weeks, Scorpio. It may be that your progress and success won’t always come from advancing. Some rich resources may require the equivalent of reverse flight. Consider returning to conversations you thought were finished, revisiting places you’d mentally filed away as “done,” and extracting value from sources you’ve already passed by.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In chemistry, catalysts are substances that accelerate reactions without being consumed in the process. A tiny amount of catalyst can dramatically transform how quickly elements combine. An example is the enzyme catalase in our cells, which breaks down hydrogen peroxide (a byproduct of our metabolism) into water and oxygen millions of times faster than it would decompose on its own. I believe you are now in a phase when your catalytic powers are at a peak, Sagittarius. Be careful where you point that potency of yours! Make sure you really want to change what you’re capable of changing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Every species adapts to its surroundings. Even harmful microbes evolve over time in order to survive. Syphilis, for instance, was once ferociously swift and deadly, but that intensity limited how far it could spread. So, a gentler strain gradually evolved that allowed its hosts to live longer and pass it on more widely. Let this serve as a metaphor for how you handle your dark moods, odd compulsions, and brief bouts of craziness. Befriend the mild, manageable versions of these states and give them space to be felt and understood. Over time, the harsher, more destructive versions will lose ground and fade from power.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Paleontologists know that some dinosaurs traveled in herds with a specific formation: the most vulnerable members gathered in the center, protected by stronger individuals on the perimeter. It was a savvy way to run things, ensuring the group would thrive. I hope you’re willing to borrow some dinosaur wisdom, Aquarius. The coming weeks will be a good time to apply it to your own life. Who or what needs protection? What vulnerable projects or relationships deserve to be surrounded and shielded? Are you willing and able to use your strength to guard what’s tender and growing? Be a shepherd, a steward, a defender.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In ancient times, Hawaii’s Coconut Island was renowned for its healing powers — but on one condition. Those who sought its medicinal help couldn’t just expect the local spirits to do all the work; they had to take part in awakening the magic. Legend tells us that a seeker could be cured by swimming three times around the island. This participatory approach to healing mirrors your current situation, Pisces. You are close to a source of renewal, but if you hope to unlock its full strength, you must coax it out with your ingenuity.

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, Sept. 16

A Course of Love - A Course in Love ongoing book study. All levels of knowledge or curiosity of the book are welcome at any time. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Meeting ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting/Improv for Kids - Students will have a blast while gaining confidence, poise and good public speaking skills in this acting course. 5:15-6 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.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 - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Classical Theatre Class for Teens and Adults - A deep dive into the history, performance technique, and audition technique of performing the works of Shakespeare, his influencers, and his contemporaries. 8:15-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Creative Dance for Kids - A wonderful opportunity for kids to dance without the pressures of technique and performance competition. 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Eastside Compost Open House, Fifth Annual Great Michigan Compost Tour - Participate in the fifth annual Great Michigan Compost Tour with a stop at our new, expanded site. You can drop in between 10 a.m. and noon to get a tour of our new facility, ask questions, and meet fellow waste diversion enthusiasts. 713 S. Foster Ave., Lansing. eastsidecompost.com.

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

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.

An Evening at the Moores House - We are very excited to host our first annual fundraiser event at the home of Donna and Nick Mosely, which was the original cottage of Lansing entrepreneur and developer J.H. Moores and his spouse Frances. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 2126 Moores River Drive, Lansing. lansinghistory.org.

Executive Welcome - The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce welcomes new Lansing region executives leading our community forward. 4-6 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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.

Gardening with Native Plants Class - Join Vern Stephens, owner of Design by Nature, to learn how you can make gardening easier and attract birds and

butterflies to your yard with native plants. 7-9 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Glee Singing Classes for Kids - A 45-minute class that introduces young performers to singing. 4:30-5:15 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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. lansingshuffle.com.

Lansing Women Artists Collective - 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library Brick Wall Gallery, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. friendsofelpi.org.

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

Mid-Michigan Healthy Aging & Wellness Event - Women will have the opportunity to make new connections, learn about resources they may not have known existed, and leave with a greater understanding of the support available throughout the community. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Avita Health & Wellness, 3887 Okemos Road, Okemos. avitahw.com.

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/bealgarden.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. lpsg.org.

Puppetry Class - This class will advance progressively in skill from sock puppet to mascot and everything in between. All ages welcome. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Songwriting Class - Our songwriting class is designed to help young songwriters develop their craft by giving them assignments that will teach them the foundations of good songwriting. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Sporec 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.

Yoga Storytime - We'll read a story, try out traditional and nontraditional yoga poses, breathe deep, and groove to a song. Feel bring to bring your own yoga mat or beach towel to sit on. Ages 3-6. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Thursday, Sept. 17

Acting 101 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. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road,



517 Hispanic Heritage Weekend

5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17

6-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18

3-10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19

6-8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20

Downtown Lansing

Free

517hispanicheritage.com

The Ourspace Foundation is kicking off Hispanic Heritage Month with a weekend of eclectic events celebrating Hispanic culture in the 517.

The weekend begins with a business seminar and mixer Thursday at Lansing City Hall. Discussions will focus on the connection between personal wellness and business success. Guest speakers include MMA fighter and small business owner Mando Gutierrez, local business owner Justin Hidalgo and MSUFCU Vice President of Community Impact Arianna Ridderbusch.

Loreno Lopez and Yesenia Murillo will hold free merengue and salsa lessons Friday on the Lansing Shuffle Patio, followed by a Latin mixer and dance party.

Saturday brings the headline event, the Hispanic Heritage Festival, offering over 70 vendors and food trucks as well as live music, cultural performances, live lucha libre wrestling and a kids' zone.

The weekend wraps up Sunday with a Latin jazz night, featuring music by Orquesta Ritmo and DJ E-Nyce.

More information about each event is available on the Ourspace Foundation's website.

East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Actors will learn more than just craft; they'll learn successful strategies for a career in acting, what it takes, and how to move into the business when it's time. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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 company and laid-back vibes. 7-10 p.m. 1957 Cedar

St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

Brad Wenzel & Friends - The Robin is happy to produce this show with our favorite Michigan comedian! Watching Wenzel feels like hanging out with your funniest, weirdest friend; it's relaxing and utterly enjoyable. WSG Blain Hill. Host Emma Stevenson. 7:30 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com

Chair Yoga - This class focuses on gentle, accessible movement designed to support balance, flexibility, and circulation – all from the comfort of a chair. 2:30-3:15 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

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

See Events, Page 27

Events

from page 26

Delegate & Elevate - Outsourcing as a strategic tool. Learn from experts. Gain clarity. Grow your business. 3-5 p.m. 2900 West Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121610888710.

Field Crops Virtual Breakfast Series: Late Season Weed Control, with Dr. Christy Sprague - 7-8 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/field_crops.

Grand River Country Club: Fall Edition - The Grand River Country Club, where we’ve paired golf and baseball together, is back for a special September session! Our creation is a unique nine-hole, 27-shot experience that spans the entire 360-degree course. 8-10:30 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing/ballpark/golf.

Lansing Women Artists Collective - 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library Brick Wall Gallery, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. friendsofelpl.org.

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

Redcoats & Minutemen: Fighting the Revolutionary War - Join Jerry Berg of the Swordsmanship Museum & Military History Academy for this step back into history. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

“Reefer Madness” at Riverwalk Theatre - A high camp spin on the 1936 propaganda film of the same name, “Reefer Madness” turns moral panic into musical mayhem. 7 p.m. 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble — Performing Group for All Ages - A wonderfully intense twice-a-week training program for students interested in taking their training to the next level. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

September Downtown Business Huddle - Grab a cup of coffee, meet fellow downtown business owners and professionals, and get the latest scoop on what’s happening in Downtown Lansing. 8 a.m. Starbucks, 637 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/downtownlansing.

Shora Family Support Group - A weekly therapeutic community for families who homeschool or who are struggling to get their needs met within traditional school settings. 1-3 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centurion Drive, Ste. 120, Lansing. shora-house.com.

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

Speculative Futures | Latinx Futures in Comics - In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, join acclaimed comic artist and writer Terry Blas for a conversation and hands-on comics-making workshop. 6-7:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

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.

Walk with Ease - Walking exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. Group will meet Thursdays at Delta Township District Library through Oct. 22. 11 a.m.-noon. 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Weekly TOPS Meeting - Join us if you want to Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Your first meeting is free. 6 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. Call (517) 927-4307 for more info.

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, Sept. 18

Aurora and Antheia, and Voices of the Revolution - This program will feature stunning compositions by the musical trio Aurora and Antheia, who will also provide a musical backdrop for spoken word performances by four members of Voices of the Revolution. 7:30-10 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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

Celebrating the Eastside: A Neighborhood Block Party - At this event, you can expect a presentation at 5 p.m., balloon animals, face painting, yard games, a cash bar, and free food made by our amazing makers in the Incubator Kitchens program. 4-7 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenNeighborhoodCenter.

Church of the Resurrection 91st Annual Ox Roast Festival - Lansing’s original ox roast festival with food, music, and family fun! 4-11 p.m. 127 Rumsey Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/resurrectionoxroast.

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

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

EL-Vision - Community members are invited to attend EL-Vision, the songwriting contest finale where eight contestants will perform their original songs. A live audience will decide the winner, who will receive a professional production of the song by MackAttack Studios and \$1,000 in prize money. 6-9 p.m. Ann Street Plaza, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Fall Opening Party - Check out our newest exhibitions while enjoying live performances, art-making activities — like screenprinting your own tote bag — lawn games, and more. 6-10 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broad-museum.msu.edu.

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

Grand River Country Club: Fall Edition - 8-11 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing/ballpark/golf.

King for a Day (4-hour Daggerheart One-Shot) - Have you wanted to dive into Daggerheart but not known where to start? Look no further! 6-10 p.m. Dungeons & Flagons, 215 S. Washington Square, Lansing. dnf.games.

Lansing Women Artists Collective - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. East Lansing Public Library Brick Wall Gallery, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. friendsofelpl.org.

Mural Art Therapy Group - This unique art therapy group invites participants to work together to design and paint a mural for our movement and play space. The group is facilitated by a registered art therapist and a clinical social worker. 4:30-6 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centurion Drive, Ste. 120, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

A stylized graphic for the Lansing LIT festival. It features a hand holding a calendar for Sept. 18-20, 2026. Various literary and artistic icons float around, including a book, a quill, a leaf, and a small house. A banner lists activities: BOOK CRAWL, AUTHOR TALKS, POETRY READINGS, WORKSHOPS, MERCHANT MARKET, and MORE!. Below the banner are two large book spines, one labeled 'EXPLORE LANSING'S EXCEPTIONAL LITERARY SCENE' and the other 'LANSING LIT'. The website 'lansinglit.com' is also visible.

Lansing LIT

Friday Sept. 18-Sunday, Sept. 20

Multiple venues

lansinglit.com

Lansing LIT is a weekend-long festival celebrating Lansing’s thriving literary community with a host of related activities, including author events, readings, performances, book fairs and more.

The fan-favorite bookstore crawl begins Friday and runs through Saturday. Participating bookstores include Deadtime Stories, The Robin Books, A Novel Concept and EVERYbody Reads.

Other major events include a boozy book fair at Hooked; readings of Lansing Community College’s literary journal, Washington Square Review, at Dart Auditorium; Batman Day, an all-day event at Summit Comics and Games; a Michigan author book market at EVERYbody Reads and The Avenue Cafe; an exhibition of collage poetry by Lansing Collage Club founder Chelsea Lake Roberts at The Robin Theatre; and visits by authors such as Renee Ozburn, A. Rae Dunlap and Tracie Webb.

Visit the Lansing LIT website for the full schedule.

Night Out in Nature for Kids - No need to book a sitter, send your kids to HNC for a fun night out! We’ll explore the trails, enjoy nature activities, and meet live animals. Pizza dinner included. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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

Red Cross Blood Drive - Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit our Red Cross donation page (link in our event calendar, sponsor code GLADL) for more info or to schedule an appointment. 10 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

“Reefer Madness” at Riverwalk Theatre - A high camp spin on the 1936 propaganda film of the same name, “Reefer Madness” turns moral panic into musical mayhem. 8 p.m. 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Self-Honoring Circle — Chapter 5: I’ll Go if You Go - This chapter is an invitation to gently explore your relationship with courage, self-trust, and inner guidance. 1-4 p.m. Virtual — register at deepsoul-creativeart.my.canva.site/self-honoring-circle-landing-page.

Swift Night Out - Enjoy a Swift Night Out with Michigan Audubon and celebrate urban wildlife by watching chimney swifts come in to roost. 7:30-9 p.m. Smith Floral & Greenhouses, 1124 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/michiganaudubon.

What the Dance Presents Club Slayyy: Slayyyter + Hyperpop Night - DJ rinbossanova will be spinning the hottest from Slayyyter, Charli XCX, Kim Petras, Sophie, Ashnikko, Cobrah, Keshia, FKA Twigs and more! 10 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.com.

Saturday, Sept. 19

10th Anniversary Charity Golf Tournament - Get ready for a day where every swing makes a differ-

ence! Join the Ishi Odamtten Foundation as we golf to raise funds for the needy. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Prairie Creek Golf Course, 800 E. Webb Drive, DeWitt. eventbrite.com/o/29475265611.

Artist Reception: Collage Poetry by Chelsea Lake Roberts - As part of the weekend-long literary festival Lansing Lit, join local artist and organizer of the Lansing Collage Club, Chelsea Lake Roberts, for an exhibition of collage poetry at The Robin Theatre. 3-5 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lansinglit.com.

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

Brush Drop-off - 8 a.m.-noon. Recycle Center, 1418 Grovenburg Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

Called to Care Pet Rescue Presentation - Saved by Zade and Happy Feet Pet Rescue are two amazing volunteer-based organizations. You’ll learn how to join their network and get involved. 1-2 p.m. St. Katherine’s Episcopal Church, 4650 Meridian Road, Williamston. facebook.com/stkatherinesepiscopal-church.

Church of the Resurrection 91st Annual Ox Roast Festival - 2-11 p.m. 127 Rumsey Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/resurrectionoxroast.

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

Contra and Square Dance - All dances taught — no partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Caller: River Abel. Band: Pimento Mori. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Corunna High School Class of 1981 45th Reunion Bash - Admission is \$10 per person at the door. Spouses and significant others welcome. Anyone who is available to bring hers d’ oeuvres is greatly appreciated. Cash bar available. 6 p.m. Shiawassee Conservation Association, 4247 M-52, Owosso.

Events

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Cracked Pot Studio Tour - The Cracked Pot Studio Tour is a celebration of clay art and clay artists. Sixty artists are presenting a diverse show of pottery and ceramic arts for you to admire and optionally purchase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Multiple locations — visit crackedpotstudiotour.com for addresses and a map.

Down Home Days - Bring the whole family down to the courthouse lawn to explore an incredible lineup of over 80 local vendors. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse Square, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Grand River Country Club: Fall Edition - 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing/baseball/golf.

Lansing Women Artists Collective - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. East Lansing Public Library Brick Wall Gallery, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. friendsofelpl.org.

Leaves in Watercolor - I'm inviting you on a forest bathing hike day, followed by art created with some of the nature that surrounds us. As we paint, the talented musician Mika will play soothing, nature-inspired music. 2-5 p.m. Fitzgerald Park, 100 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. paintyourpoison.com.

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.

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

Oktoberfest Dinner and Dance - Dinner is served from 5-6:30 p.m. and consists of bratwurst, potato salad, red cabbage, spatzle and other German dishes as well as dessert and one drink. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 10 and younger. Music starts at 6. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingLiederkrantzClub.

“Reefer Madness” at Riverwalk Theatre - A high camp spin on the 1936 propaganda film of the same name, “Reefer Madness” turns moral panic into musical mayhem. 8 p.m. 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

Taste of Blacksmithing: Wall Hook - Try your hand

at blacksmithing, no experience necessary! 9 a.m.-noon. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/5307332073.

Ultrasonic Adventure: A Bat Encounter - Following a brief presentation on bats, adults and older youth will embark on a guided night hike with Ben Savoie, Eaton County Parks naturalist, utilizing acoustic monitors to observe and identify bat species. 6:30-8 p.m. Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

When I Grow Up! Career Exploration Series: Health Careers - Kids and families will meet real professionals, explore hands-on activities, and take home an activity to see how their interests can turn into future careers. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. facebook.com/impression5.

Sunday, Sept. 20

G.L.A.D. 7th Anniversary Celebration & Drum Circle - This September marks seven years since the Greater Lansing Area Drummers began. We'll have our special anniversary drum circle at Lake Lansing Park North, followed by a potluck in the picnic area near the playground. 2-4 p.m. 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Capital City River Run Half-Marathon and 5K - Both races will start on Michigan Avenue in front of the Lansing Center and showcase some of Lansing's best scenery, including the MSU campus and the beautiful Lansing River Trail. Runners will finish in downtown Lansing near Adado Park, where the celebration continues! 8 a.m. 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. runsignup.com/ccrr.

Cracked Pot Studio Tour - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Multiple locations — visit crackedpotstudiotour.com for addresses and a map.

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

Grand River Country Club: Fall Edition - Noon-4:40 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing/baseball/golf.

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

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

MSU Women's Soccer vs. Michigan Wolverines - 1 p.m. DeMartin Soccer Complex, 261 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-soccer.

One Grand Read: Kids' Movie Day - Help us celebrate basketball's central part of our One Grand Read events with a fun family movie day with crafts! 2-4 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.bibliocommons.com.

Path Keepers Warrior Arts - In this class, we train

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

Pizza and a Movie: The Shack - Presentation of the film “The Shack” with discussion and pizza afterwards. No charge but love offerings accepted. Noon-3 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

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. redcedar-friends.org.

Red Panda Day Celebration - Discover fascinating facts about these charismatic, tree-dwelling mammals, enjoy engaging educational activities, and learn how you can help protect red pandas in the wild. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

“Reefer Madness” at Riverwalk Theatre - A high camp spin on the 1936 propaganda film of the same name, “Reefer Madness” turns moral panic into musical mayhem. 2 p.m. 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Sunday Brunch at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Whether you're in the mood for something sweet, savory, hearty, spicy, or somewhere in between, we've got a brunch option with your name on it. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Unity Spiritual Center Invite a Friend to Church Day - Go to unitylansing.org to find out what we're all about. Come join our service, then share in fellowship after. Be sure to bring a friend, too. We can't wait to meet you! 10:30 a.m.-noon. 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

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

Monday, Sept. 21

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

Acting/Improv for Teens & Adults - Perform your characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! 6-7 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.

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.

Lansing Women Artists Collective - 10 a.m.-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library Brick Wall Gallery, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. friendsofelpl.org.

Music Theory for Singers Class - This is a great opportunity for young and older singers to move their singing performances forward! 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhala-center.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.

People's Law School 2026 - Learn how the law affects your everyday life, directly from Michigan's top legal minds. 6:30-8:30 p.m. The James B. Henry Center for Executive Development, 3535 Forest Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/11072727601.

Recovery Recognition Night and Hygiene Drive - Join us for an uplifting evening dedicated to recognizing the incredible peer workers and organizations who make recovery possible in the Lansing area. 5-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/113507099511.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble — Performing Group for All Ages - A wonderfully intense twice-a-week training program for students interested in taking their training to the next level. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhala-center.com.

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

Singing for Joy Class - A class designed for people who want to sing just for fun. Whether you're a beginner or an accomplished singer, this class will bring you joy. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhala-center.com.

Swift Night Out - Enjoy a Swift Night Out with Michigan Audubon and celebrate urban wildlife by watching chimney swifts come in to roost. 7:30-9 p.m. Smith Floral & Greenhouses, 1124 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/michiganaudubon.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

A Course in Miracles Study Group - A group study of A Course in Miracles from the Foundation for Inner Peace. All levels of knowledge including beginners are welcome. 7-8 p.m. Virtual — find Zoom link at unitylansing.org.

Acting 101 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. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhala-center.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Actors will learn more than just craft; they'll learn successful strategies for a career in acting, what it takes, and how to move into the business when it's time. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhala-center.com.

Acting/Improv for Kids - Students will have a blast while gaining confidence, poise and good public speaking skills in this acting course. 5:15-6 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.

Family Movement Group - This is a parent-child therapeutic movement group designed to support healthy regulation and strengthen family connection through shared movement experiences. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centurion Drive, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

Finding the Friction: Identifying and Solving Process Issues - Maner Costerian consulting experts Sarah Jennings and Bethany Verble explore how structured process improvement approaches can help nonprofits and small businesses. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at manercpa.com.

Glee Singing Classes for Kids - A 45-minute class that introduces young performers to singing. 4:30-5:15 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhala-center.com.

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.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

I have always admired entrepreneurs — the hustle, the vision, the ability to brush yourself off after something unexpected happens and keep forging ahead. These are characteristics I envy and will try

to instill in my children.

Good Truckin', one of my favorite locally owned eateries, has morphed from a food truck to a small diner in REO Town to a much-expanded full-service spot in Old Town. And that's an evolution I can get behind.

The food at Good Truckin' isn't boring, and neither are the names. I don't know who the creative genius is behind dishes such as Mutha Clucka Jones (an omelet with chicken), Emily's Stoopid Sandwich (a fully loaded sandwich with chorizo, eggs, red pepper aioli and more) and Clockwork Orange (avocado toast with orange-infused agave), but please accept a serious hat tip from both myself and my children, who were extremely entertained while trying to guess what would be in each dish.

Speaking of the junior Lawrences, they inhaled their chocolate chip pancakes (\$12.50) so quickly that we ordered another plateful. The pancakes had crispy edges — a must for their young, discerning palates — and the syrup was plentiful. My daughter tore herself away from building skyscrapers with the tiny containers of half-and-half and jelly, a feat in and of itself.

I ordered the Bourbon Street French toast (\$14) to share, knowing that if I attempted to eat the entire thing, the decadence would overwhelm me. My children balked at the idea of bananas on French toast but immediately changed their tune when the dish came to the table. This was dessert of the highest order, disguised as a normal meal.

I have always loved French toast — the pillowy, comforting, carby perfection of it — and I have tried to educate my kids on how the dish is supposed to be served, as opposed to the French toast sticks they've been given at school and camps. Good Truckin's French toast moved that goal forward for me, and after the kids' initial hesitation, they hammered the dish to the point that I was lucky to sneak in three bites.

I rounded out my breakfast with the Kevin Bacon L.T. (\$7), thick avocado toast topped with an egg (I had mine "basted"), crumbled bacon and sliced baby tomatoes. The dish is supposed to include arugula, but the restaurant was out, which was a shame. The richness of the dish

Good Truckin' continues to impress in Old Town digs

REO Town.

In 2025, the diner moved to Turner Street in Old Town. This

wasn't just a change of address — it's more like Good Truckin' traded in its compact car for an SUV. The new space is noticeably larger, giving the restaurant room to spread out and breathe.

The familiar Good Truckin' Diner is still at the heart of the operation, but now there's "The Other Side," a coffee shop that gives you another reason to stop by. This addition makes the space feel less like someplace you visit for a meal and more like a neighborhood gathering spot where you can grab coffee, meet someone, work or simply sit around long enough to convince yourself that ordering another thing is a good idea.

Then there are the adult beverages. This is important, because sometimes a place that serves breakfast all day deserves the opportunity to pour you something stronger than coffee. The addition of alcohol gives Good Truckin' a whole new personality. You can now go from pancakes and coffee to burgers and drinks without having to change addresses. It expands the possibilities for happy hours, early dinners and celebrations.

Of course, the reason Good Truckin' earned a following in the first place was the food. My visits to the REO Town location produced some memorable bites, including the gloriously excessive Big Kahuna hoagie, containing steak, bacon, grilled pineapple and jalapeño cream cheese.

In other words, restraint was clearly not a consideration.

That's what has always made Good Truckin' fun. It doesn't seem particularly interested in being ordinary. From food truck beginnings to REO Town diner to a much larger Old Town destination, Good Truckin' continues to evolve without losing the quirky, creative spirit that made people fall in love with it in the first place.

What's good

The Bypass burrito (\$13) is aptly named for the fixings inside the stuffed tortilla: bacon, ham, eggs, cheese, shredded potatoes, peppers and onions. If that isn't enough to make the health-conscious wary, this beast is smothered with sausage gravy, which needs another layer of flavor for my taste. Overall, this is a satisfying dish that benefits from the side of seasoned home fries, which offer a crispy textural contrast.

What's really good

The Bourbon Street French toast (\$14) is a sweet tooth's dream. Thick-cut Texas toast is dressed with



Beverly

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

If you read my October 2021 review, you know I was a fan of Good Truckin' Diner back when it was holding court in

Good Truckin' Diner

1218 Turner St., Lansing
7 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday
7 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
(517) 253-7961
facebook.com/goodtruckin



Bryan Beverly for City Pulse

See *She Ate*, Page 30

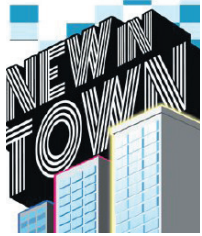
Good Truckin' Diner's Kevin Bacon L.T. is large and in charge.

See *He Ate*, Page 30

Family-owned orchard opens long-awaited winery

By LIEZA KLEMM

It began as a simple roadside stand selling apples; now, Cottage Creek Orchard is branching out with Casali Winery.



Casali Winery

1073 Okemos Road,
Mason
11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Thursday-Sunday
(Typically closes for
the season in early
January)
(517) 599-9362
facebook.com/
cottagecreekorchard

The orchard is a family business, run by husband and wife Anthony and Tracy Casali.

For 13 years, Cottage Creek has offered a variety of Michigan-made products, specialty goods and home decor. And, of course, apples, including Honeycrisp, Gala, Ruby Mac, Jonaprince and Granny Smith. The orchard produced about 20,000 pounds of apples last year, Tracy Casali said.

Adding a winery was always part of the plan.

"It's taken a few years to get the business up and going," Casali said.

She said the barn, designed and built by the family to house retail operations, was constructed with intention.

"Many people have said it reminds them of being Up North or a Traverse City field," she said. "That's not what you would expect from what it looks like on the outside."

She handled the barn's interior design.

"We wanted it to be somewhere that people go to feel comfortable," she said.

Casali recently retired after 30 years of teaching art at local schools. She's still serving Mason — it just looks a little different. Instead of paintbrushes and watercolors, she's doling out wine flights and cider growlers.

"We want to provide moments for people in the community to make memories and have good times," she said.

The winery offers a dozen wines



Courtesy

After a soft opening in January, Casali Winery officially opened to the public last Thursday (Sept. 10).

and four hard ciders on tap, with plans to serve non-alcoholic options as well.

The food menu includes light options such as charcuterie and chips with house-made salsa. The owners opted for a small menu this season to keep things simple.

"We've always prided ourselves on doing things at the top level," Casali said.

While there was a soft opening



Courtesy

Cottage Creek Orchard produced about 20,000 pounds of apples last year, co-owner Tracy Casali said.

for the winery before the orchard closed for the season in January, it officially opened last Thursday (Sept. 10). Customers can enjoy their drinks on a patio and covered porch in addition to the tasting room itself.

Kids are welcome at the winery, but Casali noted that it's geared toward adults.

"It's a little bit more of an elevated experience," she said.

She Ate

from page 29

would have paired well with the bite from the arugula I'm sure.

On a return visit for lunch, I chose the Baja street tacos (\$11). I love pickled red onions, and the combination of shrimp, queso fresco, pico and lime crema made for a light and refreshing option (inasmuch as a taco can be light

and refreshing, of course). My vegetarian companion chose the Cali tacos (\$11) and loved the incredibly flavorful combination of refried beans, sliced avocado, queso fresco, pickled red onions, lime crema and cilantro. I would choose these next time, as they looked outrageously fresh and delicious.

He Ate

from page 29

cinnamon and sugar, topped with slices of caramelized banana, bathed in a rich rum sauce and drizzled with sweet cream cheese. If you're thinking about a trip to the dentist just reading this, imagine taking a bite. Gratefully, three strips of thick bacon help to cut the sweetness.

The Kevin Bacon L.T. (\$7) avocado toast is large and in charge. Smashed avocado, chopped bacon, blistered baby tomatoes and arugula are served atop a thick slice of Texas toast. The light yet zesty olive oil dressing provides a nice tang.

Best bite

I'll be honest, I don't remember the name of the rotating breakfast special (\$16) I had last month while brunching with some high school classmates. But the flavors will stick with me for a long while. Two light and fluffy corn muffins are topped with fried eggs, beans, chorizo, salsa, green onions and crema. This symphony of savoredness is what's possible when you're open to stepping outside the box. I'd order this again and again, but I'll have to ask for the name of it first.



TOP 5 STEAK

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

1. Airport Tavern

Steakhouse and bar offering a variety of menu options in a casual, friendly environment
5000 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
(517) 321-3852
facebook.com/
AirportTavernandSteakhouse
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday
4-9 p.m. Saturday

2. Bowdie's Chophouse

Intimate steakhouse serving upscale dishes alongside a full wine selection and signature craft cocktails

320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 580-4792
bowdieschophouse.com
5-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
5-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

3. Capital Prime

Swanky steakhouse and seafood restaurant featuring local ingredients
2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing
(517) 377-7463
capitalprimelansing.com
4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
4-11 p.m. Friday
2-11 p.m. Saturday
2-9 p.m. Sunday

4. Texas Roadhouse — both locations

Steakhouse chain serving American fare with a Southwestern spin
For locations, hours and phone numbers, visit texasroadhouse.com

5. The Tipsy Nickel

Modern gastropub offering creative dishes and thoughtfully crafted cocktails
117 S. Cedar St., Mason
(517) 676-6943
tipsysociety.net
Temporarily closed except for select pop-up dates

The best pumpkins for pie (and other desserts)

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Beginning in early fall, pumpkins begin to arrive at farmers markets, supermarkets, nurseries and fall harvest festivals. Pumpkins make colorful fall home decorations and can be used in all sorts of recipes.

While some people think that the larger the pumpkin, the better it is for baking, that’s not the case. According to the gardening resource Gardener’s Path, the big pumpkins carved into jack-o’-lanterns for Halloween tend to be pretty bland, watery and stringy. They’ve been hybridized to produce a Halloween-friendly shape, not for flavor.

The best pumpkins to puree for recipes were specially cultivated for cooking. When shopping for pumpkins for your next recipe (if you’re opting for fresh, rather than canned puree), select one of the following:

- Cinderella
- Baby Bear
- Early Sweet Sugar Pie
- Dickinson
- Jarrahdale
- Galeux d’Elsines
- Orange Smoothie
- Small Sugar, among others

Once you’ve selected your perfect cooking pumpkins, it’s time to whip

up a pumpkin pie. Enjoy this recipe, courtesy of McCormick, perfect from Halloween through Christmas.

Classic Pumpkin Pie

Serves eight

Pastry for 9-inch pie crust
Two eggs, well beaten
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 teaspoons McCormick® pumpkin pie spice
1 tablespoon flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin (or equivalent in fresh puree)
1 teaspoon McCormick pure vanilla extract
1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line 9-inch pie plate with pie crust.

Mix eggs, brown sugar, pumpkin pie spice, flour and salt in a medium bowl until smooth. Stir in pumpkin and vanilla. Gradually add evaporated milk, mixing well. Pour into pie crust.

Bake 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees. Bake 40 minutes longer or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

Serve warm or cold. Garnish with whipped cream and sprinkle with additional pumpkin pie spice, if desired. Store covered in refrigerator.



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 11559 N. Hartel Rd. Grand Ledge MI 48837 to satisfy a lien on Auction Sale 9/23/2026 at 10:00 AM at storagetreasures.com : Unit 331 Little, Meghann

CP#26-346

SELF STORAGE LIEN AUCTION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH MI Chapter 570 Lien Act 148):

The following self-storage units containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by Legacy Airport & Grand River Self Storage located at 4495 West Grand River Ave., and 4400 Millwood Rd, Lansing, MI 48906 to satisfy a lien on September 23, 2026, at 10:00 AM at storagetreasures.com: 169 Scott Dunham, 202 Shermisha McClayton.

CP#26-348

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedents Estate. File No. 26-575-DE-P33. Estate of Abel Becerill-Leyva. Date of birth: June 08, 1963. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Abel Becerill-Leyva, died Jan. 02, 2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Laura Becerril, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 09/16/2026. Personal Representative: Laura Becerril, 2697 Grovenburg Rd, Lansing, MI 48911, (517) 505-5999.

CP#26-351

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Bids for two separate projects. **RFP# BOILER 09-2026 Removal and Replacement of a residential boiler heating system, RFP# ROOF 09-2026 Removal and Replacement of PVC roof system** The Request for Proposal Packet is available September 16, 2026 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by noon on October 2, 2026 and will be opened at noon on October 2, 2026. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. **RFP#: BOILER 09-2026, RFP#: ROOF 09-2026**

CP#26-349

CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1559

On September 8, 2026, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 50, Zoning, Article II, Division 3, titled “Special Use Permit”, of the code of the City of East Lansing, to amend section 50-94 by amending the regulations for diverse housing

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#26-354

ONE BITE AND YOU’LL KNOW

Omaha Steaks are hand-selected for unmatched quality, naturally aged for maximum tenderness, and flash-frozen to lock in that unforgettable flavor. Just one bite and you’ll know this is the best steak you’ll ever taste. We guarantee it.

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4 Boneless Pork Chops (6 oz.)
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Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Free shipping will be applied to select package (SKU 82395). Minimum purchase of \$99 per shipping address to qualify for free gift. 1 free gift per shipping address. The free gift does not apply to the purchase of Gift Cards, Certificates, Wine, Wine & Food Packs, Gift Baskets, Gourmet Salame, Caviar, and Custom Cuts. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer and is not valid on pending or prior purchases. Other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 09/30/26. Omaha Steaks, LLC 26M10301



EVENT SCHEDULE

START
BOOK
CRAWL

Friday

11:00	Book Crawl begins!	Shopping	Multiple locations
3:30	Writing Midwest Home	Author Event / Reading	MSU Main Library
5:00	Boozy Book Fair	Book Fair	Hooked
7:00	Washington Square Review - Live!	Author Event / Reading	LCC, Dart Auditorium
7:30	Indha Room w/ Rohith Jayaraman (ticketed event)	Live Music / Songwriting	The Robin Books



Saturday

All Day	Batman Day	Kids / Activities	Summit Comics & Games
11:00	Michigan Author Book Market	Author Event / Book Fair	Everybody Reads / The Avenue Cafe
11:00	Next Step Poetry Workshop: "Crash Ethos: Poetry & Play"	Poetry Workshop	The Robin Books
12:30	Read with Buddy's PALS! (hang out w/ animal friends)	Young readers	Schuler Books Okemos
2:00	Board Gaming (until close)	Activities	Summit Comics & Games
2:00	Renee Ozburn - Unwanted Significance	Author Event / Reading	Hooked
2:00	One Grand Read Book Discussion	Discussion	CADL Downtown
3:00	My Story From Yours: Collage Poetry by Chelsea Lake Roberts	Art show/ Reception	The Robin Theatre
5:00	The Dreadfuls: Getting Gothic w/ A. Rae Dunlap's New Historical Thriller	Author Event / Reading	A Novel Concept
5:00	Book Bedazzling	Activity	Hooked
7:00	Author & Reader Soirée	Soirée	Hooked



Sunday

12:00	Merchant Market (lots of bookish vendors)	Pop-up market	REO Town Marketplace
12:00	Motor City Love Song	Author Event	Hooked
2:00	Tracie Webb: 30 Days Closer to You	Author Event	Hooked
2:00	Kids Movie + Craft Day: GOAT	One Grand Read	E.L. Public Library
6:30	Charleen Hurtubise	Author Event	Schuler Books Okemos

Sept.

18.

20.

2026

THIS
WEEK-
END



IN PARTNERSHIP W/



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FRI + SAT, 11-5 PM
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A LANSING LIT BOOK TOTE!

DETAILS/
UPDATES : LANSING LIT . COM

