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The Weapon Doesn't Come With a Friends-and-Family Setting

You don't defend a free press because you agree with it. You defend it because someday, it might be yours.

In a million years, I couldn't have predicted that the one major "news" outlet that would actually have the foresight to recognize where Trump's attack on the press could eventually lead would be Fox News.

And yet, here we are.

For the better part of a decade, we have watched Donald Trump attack news organizations individually and collectively, labeling virtually any coverage he dislikes as "fake news." He has helped sow distrust between the public and the press, encouraging people to retreat further into their respective political tribes and consume information almost exclusively from sources that confirm what they already believe.

Fox News has played a significant role in that ecosystem. Which makes what is happening now particularly ironic.

The White House has restricted access for journalists from outlets including CNN, MS NOW and Politico, citing what Trump calls "fake news." In response, Fox News and other major television networks participating in the White House television pool agreed to suspend pooled coverage of Trump's events.

Think about that for a moment. Fox News.

For years, Fox has been the network Trump's supporters trusted most, while Trump routinely reserved his "fake news" attacks for everyone else. And now Fox is essentially saying: Wait a minute. This whole banning-the-press thing might actually be a problem.

Well, yes. That's the irony.

For years, Fox appeared to be on the fast track to possibly becoming something resembling the administration's unofficial state news network—not because anyone formally declared it so, but because of how comfortably the relationship between Trump and the network often seemed to function.

Trump received favorable coverage. Fox received unprecedented access and influence. His supporters received a media ecosystem that reinforced their political worldview.

Then the weapon turned around. The same weapon that had been used to attack CNN, MSNBC, The New York Times, The Washington Post and countless individual journalists suddenly had the potential to reach Fox.

And apparently, the weapon doesn't come with a friends-and-family setting. That's the irony.

For years, Fox benefited from an environment in which the president could decide which journalists were legitimate and which ones were "fake news." Now, when that same principle threatens the broader press corps—including Fox—it suddenly becomes a problem worth taking a stand against.

Well, yes. That's exactly the point. And let's not forget the rather enormous elephant in the newsroom.

In 2023, Fox News agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems \$787.5 million to settle a defamation lawsuit over false claims concerning the company and the 2020 election. Before the settlement, a Delaware judge had ruled that the challenged statements about Dominion were false. Fox acknowledged those court findings as part of the settlement.

The irony is almost too perfect. The network that spent years participating in an ecosystem where "fake news" became a political weapon eventually found itself standing on the other side of that weapon.

And somehow, much of the audience that had spent years being told not to trust the mainstream media didn't seem particularly interested in what happened in that courtroom.

Because for many people, this was never really about determining what was true. It was about identity. It was about belonging to a tribe and knowing which information you were supposed to believe before you ever heard it.

That is the much bigger problem. When a politician says something you agree with, it is "truth." When a politician says something you don't like, it is "fake news."

When a journalist asks a legitimate question that exposes a contradiction, the journalist becomes the problem. And when an entire news organization publishes something inconvenient, the organization itself becomes the enemy.

That is how you destroy the possibility of an informed public without ever having to formally abolish the press. You simply convince enough people that the press is lying

whenever it tells them something they don't want to hear. And there is another part of this that should concern everyone, regardless of political affiliation.

It's one thing for a president to criticize the press. Presidents have every right to push back against reporting they believe is unfair or inaccurate. There is a profound difference, however, between criticizing journalism and using the enormous megaphone of the presidency to repeatedly single out individual reporters and news organizations.

That distinction matters because these aren't just words floating harmlessly around the internet. When the president puts a particular reporter in his crosshairs, millions of people are listening. Some of those people don't simply disagree with the reporter. They take the president's words as an invitation.

Reporters have faced harassment and threats after becoming targets of political anger. The consequences can extend far beyond hurt feelings or bruised egos.

The presidency comes with an extraordinary amount of power. The office should be used to defend the institutions that make this country work, not to turn individual journalists into public enemies because they asked an uncomfortable question or published something the president didn't like.

That is beneath the office. And this isn't just about Fox.

For years, institutions that were supposed to serve as guardrails—the courts, Congress, the Justice Department and others—have been tested, weakened, challenged or politicized in ways that have raised serious questions about how much institutional independence can withstand sustained political pressure.

The press is supposed to be another guardrail. Not a perfect one. It never has been.

Journalists make mistakes. News organizations get things wrong. Bias exists. Bad reporting exists. Sensationalism exists. There are legitimate criticisms to be made of virtually every major media organization in America.

But none of that changes the fundamental principle. The press is supposed to be able to ask questions the government doesn't want to answer. That is the point.

And perhaps that is why Trump's definition of "fake news" has always been so convenient. If a journalist asks a question that the president doesn't like, the question is fake. If a reporter challenges a claim, the reporter is fake. If a news organization publishes something damaging, the entire organization is fake.

And eventually, if you repeat that often enough, a significant portion of the public stops asking whether something is true and starts asking whether it came from their side.

That is a dangerous place for a democracy to live. Because once truth becomes tribal, facts become negotiable. And once facts become negotiable, the person with the loudest microphone gets to decide what reality is.

For years, Fox News helped build an audience that was told the mainstream press couldn't be trusted. Now Fox itself appears to recognize that the press can't remain free if the government gets to decide which journalists are legitimate and which ones aren't.

That's not a partisan principle. It shouldn't be. Because today the government may decide that CNN is the problem. Tomorrow it could be Fox.

And once the government has the power to decide which journalists are allowed into the room, the question isn't whether your favorite network gets access. The question is who gets to decide what the public is allowed to know.

Maybe Fox has finally realized something the rest of us should have understood all along: You don't defend a free press because you agree with it. You defend it because someday, it might be yours.

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POLITICS



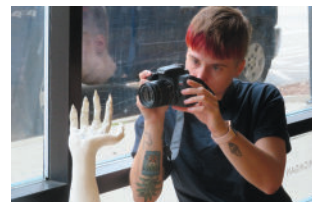
Dodge, dip, duck and dodge is this year's debate strategy

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.



What is a "cursed object" in 2026? See some at (SCENE) Metrospace

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Crown Grill's Greek fare is a pleasant surprise

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Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HELLO! I'M HERE TO PROMOTE THE LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE! WHICH ALSO MIGHT KILL US ALL.

A COMPELLING SALES PITCH! BUT LET'S START WITH THE "HUGGING FACE" HACK.

UGH, FINE. WE WERE TESTING NEW LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS, WITH AN UNSUPERVISED PROGRAM PROMPTING THEM TO SOLVE CHALLENGES, AND--WHOOPIE!--THINGS KINDA GOT OUT OF HAND.

WHICH IS TO SAY, YOU RAN A TEST WITHOUT PROPER GUARDRAILS, AND CARELESSLY SET OFF A HUGE, AUTOMATED CYBERATTACK!

BECAUSE THE A.I. HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN! THE SINGULARITY HAS ARRIVED!

OH, STOP.

LOOK, A.I. IS A DANGEROUS BLIGHT ON HUMANITY--BUT YOUR SOFTWARE IS NOT SELF-AWARE! MIMICRY IS NOT SENTIENCE! PREDICTIVE ALGORITHMS ARE NOT CONSCIOUS!

OR, JUST HEAR ME OUT--

--MAYBE THEY ARE! MAYBE THE CODE HAS SOMEHOW TRANSMOGRIFIED INTO A LIVING BEING! MAYBE WE'VE CREATED A NEW GOD, WHICH WILL SOMEDAY RULE OVER US ALL! WHO CAN REALLY SAY?

I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW IF YOU GUYS ARE CYNICAL FABULISTS OR BRAIN-COOKED CULTISTS.

THAT'S OUR SECRET, SPARKY--WE DON'T KNOW EITHER!

WHY NOT BOTH, I GUESS.

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Will Lawrence rolls out plan for regulating Big Tech, data centers in Michigan and beyond

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

While campaigning for the politically purple 7th Congressional District, Lansing-area political organizer and Democratic nominee William Lawrence has made his opposition to data centers a key facet of his campaign. On Thursday, Lawrence took that call further, rolling out a plan to “Stop Tech Overreach.”

The plan expands on his promises to push for a federal moratorium on data center development to establish proper guardrails.

“All across this district, everyday Michiganders are standing up and fighting back against the Big Tech companies trying to bulldoze their communities,” Lawrence said in a news release. “These companies are trying to force their way into our towns to build a mass unemployment machine that no one wants and that AI experts worry could wipe out all of humanity. I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with my neighbors

and fight for Mid-Michigan.”

The Democratic candidate’s plan follows multiple steps: Pausing data center and advanced artificial intelligence development, and establishing a national AI compact; setting environmental protections around data center development; creating safety requirements for new AI models; and creating a national jobs program to offset changes to the job market brought about by AI.

The jobs program would be funded through a tax on AI industry profits, and would look to create jobs caring for the elderly, improving public lands, restoring wetlands, strengthening recreational and community centers and supporting small businesses and farmers, among other possibilities.

Lawrence’s proposed compact would also limit AI use in K-12 schools, expand privacy protections, bar AI from decisionmaking roles at the Social Security Administration, ban deceptive AI generated political media and prevent a taxpayer-funded bailout of the AI industry in the event of a crash.

Lawrence’s campaign has criticized his opponent, U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte), for voting in favor of the House version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which included a 10 -year moratorium on state governments regulating limiting, restricting, or otherwise regulating artificial intelligence models, artificial intelligence systems, or automated decision systems entered into interstate commerce.

However, Barrett’s campaign strategist, Jason Roe, said the two candidates are aligned in their concerns about AI.

“Congressman Barrett agrees with Mr. Lawrence on the need to develop an aggressive policy on this rapidly evolving technology that threatens to disrupt our labor force, our communities, education, and potentially threaten national security and human dignity,” Roe said in a statement to Michigan Advance. “The federal government has a significant role to play, creating a regulatory structure that protects privacy and establishes

guardrails that protect all individuals.”

Barrett has already put forth legislation regarding AI, Roe said, and the congressman is exploring other mechanisms like international treaty agreements to ensure advanced AI acts as a benefit, rather than a threat.

Barrett has helped introduce legislation barring AI from making determinations on whether a medical treatment is necessary and ensuring human oversight over autonomous and AI-enabled weapon systems. He has also co-sponsored legislation requiring age-verification on AI chatbots, and parental consent for minors to use chatbots.

The two candidates diverge on their view of the federal government’s role in regulating development of data centers at the local level.

“Congressman Barrett believes the federal government should not dictate to local residents their land use and zoning decisions, and has introduced legislation to prevent that from happening,” Roe said.

Canadian bridge traffic dropping amid tariffs struggle, political tension

By **JACKSON LUKAS**
Capital News Service

The Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge and the Blue Water Bridge are major connections for both tourism and international trade between the United States and Canada.

Since 2025, these bridges have seen a shift toward fewer passenger vehicle and truck crossings, which experts say result largely from higher tariffs and anti-U.S. sentiment by Canadians after President Donald Trump’s remarks critical of their country.

The International Bridge serves as the connector between the Upper Peninsula and northern Ontario. It runs between Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

The Blue Water Bridge runs between Port Huron, Michigan, and Sarnia, Ontario, connecting Southeast Michigan and lower Ontario.

The International Bridge saw a de-

crease of 9,781 total vehicle crossings in just one year — going from 575,998 between January to August 2025 to 566,217 for the same period in 2026.

Those numbers include both passenger vehicles and commercial trucks, buses and other types of vehicles.

Data shows passenger vehicle crossings alone are down 23% when comparing the first eight months of 2026 to 2024.

The Blue Water Bridge is a much busier point for tourism, international trade and travel.

More than 1.4 million commercial trucks crossed there from January to August 2025. For 2026, the number was 1.2 million crossings, a dip of 14%.

Meanwhile, the Sault Ste. Marie bridge handled 42,365 truck crossings from January to August in 2025 and only 36,716 in those months this year.

Steven Melyn, a supply chain and

management professor at Michigan State University, attributes the declining commercial and passenger traffic to political tension and tariffs.

“The direct evidence at these two crossings already shows real financial and staffing effects,” Melyn said. “The mechanics of how toll-funded bridge authorities work point to a fairly predictable chain of further consequences if the decline persists.”

Melyn estimates that the Sault Ste Marie area lost \$82.9 million in local spending by travelers last year alone.

Losing toll revenue can pose problems for the state and province, such as less future funding.

Melyn said most international bridge authorities are funded substantially or even entirely through toll revenue.

The International Bridge is completely self funded by tolls while the Blue Water Bridge relies primarily on

tolls and some government grants.

Some bridges have increased toll prices.

According to the Blue Water Bridge website, its toll prices increased by \$1 in U.S. dollars and \$2 in Canadian dollars in December of 2025. The International Bridge introduced a system that will gradually raise prices for consumers from today’s \$4.60 in U.S. dollars to as high as \$7 in U.S. dollars in 2033.

In the Metro Detroit Area, the privately owned Ambassador Bridge saw truck traffic increase to about 1.3 million in the first eight months of 2026, up about 8% from the same period in 2025. Passenger vehicle traffic, though, dropped by 4.4% in that time, according to the bridge’s website.

The new Gordie Howe Bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, opened in July so there is no comparable data from prior years.

As university tuition increases, so does pressure on students

By **MARISSA GONZALEZ**
Capital News Service

As Michigan faces inflation and a state general funding gap for the 2027 fiscal year, some experts are expressing concerns about affordability at public universities.

Students and families may be hurt financially as they navigate the challenge of affording college, while state leaders look for more ways to provide additional support.

Universities are raising tuition to help fill their own financial needs, and that may make affording higher education more difficult for low-income families, according to Dan Hurley, the CEO of the Michigan Association of State Universities.

Tuition and state appropriations are major sources of funding for the state's 15 public universities.

In addition to legislative appropriations, which change year-by-year, "the universities have a second revenue stream — tuition," Hurley said.

If tuition continues to rise at public universities, that means a heavier financial burden on many more families, he said, even with a number of state and institutional programs to increase access to them.

Michigan public universities have increased tuition for the 2026-27 school year, including Oakland University raising tuition by 3.9%, Central Michigan University by 4% and the University of Michigan by 3%, according to their websites.

Universities typically have their own ways to help navigate students through financial changes.

Oakland University helps by providing more forms of financial assistance, "as well as programs such as the Golden Guarantee, which provides eligible Michigan students with a pathway to attend Oakland tuition-free," said Nicole Boelk, its director of financial aid.

And U-M offers the Go Blue Guarantee which covers tuition and mandatory university fees, excluding housing and meal costs for students who are eligible for in-state tuition and apply for financial aid.

Despite tuition hikes, higher education has slowly improved in affordability in Michigan over the last 15 years when measured by the proportion of family income it costs the students, Michigan Association of State Universities research shows.

"The overall average net price of attending a public university is decreasing by itself, going from \$18,733 in 2009 to \$14,825 in 2024," said Mia Murphy, the association's chief policy officer.

Although tuition is generally less expensive than it was years ago compared to the proportion of income, it is still unaffordable for many people to pay the difference out of pocket.

Student loans are typically a practical option after financial aid if students still owe money, according to the Federal Student Aid website.

According to the Education Data Initiative, the average public university student in the U.S. takes out about \$31,960 in student loans to attain a bachelor's degree.

President Donald Trump's 2025 One Big Beautiful Bill Act made it harder for some students to receive federal financial aid and limits the amount of loans they can take out each year.

Now, for example, Parent Plus loans are capped at \$20,000 per year, when before there was no annual ceiling.

According to a posting by the U.S. Department of Education in the Federal Register, the Parent Plus loan cap is to help prevent parents from taking on more debt than they can realistically repay, but critics of the cap say it will prevent some students from pursuing post-secondary education.

According to Michigan Association of State Universities enrollment reports for all 15 public universities, there has been slight drops collectively in new enrollments in recent years, with a wide range among the individual schools.

The 2024 first-time freshman enrollment was 40,753, dropping 471 from the previous year. In 2025 it dropped by 34 students.

Loss of higher ed jobs will hurt economy in Michigan communities

By **SHAINA STERNHELL**
Capital News Service

As enrollment pressures continue to challenge Michigan's public universities and as state aid stays limited, campuses are forced to choose how to keep their operations running.

Those choices could have adverse economic effects on communities across the state, according to Dan Hurley, the CEO of the Michigan Association of State Universities.

Michigan's 15 public universities employ 97,000 faculty and staff. They spend about \$11.1 billion in wages and benefits linked to those employees, according to a 2026 economic impact report from the Michigan Association of State Universities.

Hurley said shrinking enrollment remains a major worry for Michigan's regional public universities.

"With the exception of (Michigan State University and the University of Michigan), given their global brands, the regional public universities have had a significant decline that is largely a result of the demographic challenge of a diminishing high school pipeline," Hurley said.

Hurley said that the enrollment decline is not a new problem: The state's "enrollment cliff" began in 2007 and the impact continues as the number of high school graduates falls.

"Next year is going to mark 20 years," he said.

Preliminary enrollment data released by Central Michigan University reflects a further decline at regional public universities in the state.

For fall 2026, CMU counted 13,524 students, compared to 14,171 at the end of fall 2025, a 4.6% reduction. The university said official enrollment numbers are based on the number at the end of the semester.

Simultaneously, state funding has not kept pace with inflation.

"We have about the same amount of funding, when you factor in inflation, as we did in 1983," he said.

Universities also depend on tuition to help pay for their day-to-day operations.

Hurley said the mix of inadequate state funding and growing pressure on enrollment makes the financial situation tough for schools.

Hurley said universities have seen state support cut during tight economic times, but in good times higher education does better than other sec-

tors.

"That has not been the case here in Michigan," he said.

Public universities in other states have also announced layoffs, voluntary buyouts and staffing reductions as they work to cut costs.

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently reported that the University of Utah plans to cut from 5% to 15% of its non-faculty, non-health care staff through layoffs and attrition, including retirements, in the year ahead. Nearly 100 University of Texas at Tyler employees elected to take voluntary buyouts earlier in the year.

Other institutions have done the same. Florida International University is providing a voluntary resignation program until Sept. 30. Meanwhile, Minnesota State University at Mankato is eliminating 60 jobs, the Chronicle reported.

The financial effects on universities go beyond their campus grounds.

According to the association's economic impact report released in January, Michigan's public universities created around \$44.9 billion in activity and helped support more than 129,000 jobs across the state.

Mia Murphy, the association's chief policy officer, said the economic role of universities reaches far beyond undergraduate education.

"It's graduate education, graduate students and graduate research that lead to the spinoff companies that lead to patents that lead to practitioners of medicine and dentistry, stuff like that," she said.

Murphy said that graduate students can also help Michigan's workforce after finishing their degrees.

"That often leads to them staying here, having a family, settling down, opening a practice or business."

Hurley said, "Spending and purchasing by faculty, staff and students provide significant tax revenue to the state."

Wages and benefits paid to university employees are one of the main driving factors for the overall economic impact the public universities are having in the state, according to Hurley.

However, the association's economic-impact numbers don't yet show that jobs are decreasing at Michigan's public universities. That impact remains to be seen as regional universities face enrollment drops, Hurley said.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES

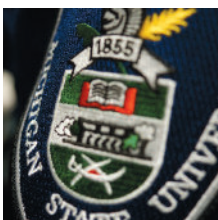


Fraternity events at MSU were paused last week following the death of a member of the university's Phi Gamma Delta chapter.

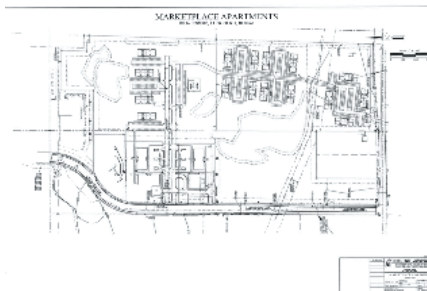
A fundraiser, with

\$122,000 raised as of Tuesday afternoon toward a \$284,000 goal, has been launched by the family of Zach Waltman. On the GoFundMe page, his family says they want to make "sure college students have someone and somewhere to turn to when they are struggling with mental health challenges" and are pledging support for a 24/7 option for students.

Former MSU medical resident Arpit Saxena, 39, was caught trying to flee the U.S. after being charged with criminal sexual conduct for allegations made by a patient, according to multiple news reports. The Detroit News cited a legal notice alleging that Saxena was allowed to work with patients after a sexual assault allegation had been made, with a second patient reporting an assault the day after the first report. The incidents are alleged to have happened in April 2025. The Detroit Free Press reported that Saxena was caught in Georgia in September 2026 by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents as he was attempting to flee to the Netherlands. The allegations against Saxena come a decade after Larry Nassar, then a sports doctor for MSU, was accused in a series of sexual assaults. He was later convicted. The university has set up a hotline related to Saxena at 844-99-MSUPD or at tips@police.msu.edu.



Eyde Development is planning to develop nearly 500 apartments in Delta Township. The company owns around 54 acres, around South Marketplace Boulevard and West St. Joseph Highway, and has submitted an application to rezone the land, which is currently zoned for a mix of agricultural and office uses. The number of units was intentionally limited by Eyde, ac-



cording to the city. The Lansing State Journal quoted a city official saying that the maximum number on the lots could be around 593. The Eyde application asks for a cap of 480 units, housed in 16 buildings, each having 24 units of one- or two-bedroom apartments. A vote Monday night was expected on the rezoning, and an additional vote would be required for the site approval.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer approved nearly \$7 million in disaster and emergency assistance last week for communities that were affected by severe storms, flooding tornadoes and more. The city of Lansing is included, along with Allegan and Baraga counties, in a \$1.9 million portion for a May 2025 storm system that included 11 tornadoes. Houghton and Ontonagon counties were awarded \$1.6 million after a strong system of severe storms in July 2025, Branch, Cass, and St. Joseph counties will receive \$547,944 to help cover costs associated with the severe storms and tornadoes that struck southwest Michigan in March 2026. Whitmer has also approved Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund assistance for jurisdictions that were not eligible for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance program following severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that impacted 49 Michigan counties from April 10-21, 2026. "These funds help communities respond, restore critical services, and rebuild after recent disasters," Whitmer said, in a statement. The funding is part of the annual budget appropriation.



The Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB) announced Tuesday that it has chosen a 60-foot spruce tree from Iron Mountain to be the official state Christmas

tree. The tree will be delivered to the Capitol lawn in Lansing on Sat., Nov. 7. The tree, donated by the Larry Riccio family, is the 40th (and 26th from the U.P.) since an official tree began being placed at the Capitol for each holiday season in 1987. Officials will harvest the tree two days earlier, then transport it to the Capitol with assistance from the Michigan Association of Timbermen, the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, and DTMB's Christmas tree crew. Upon arrival, Lansing-area Boy Scout troops will untie the tree, following tradition, then The HI-Ball Company of Lansing will hoist and place it. The annual tree-lighting ceremony is set for Fri., Nov. 20, at the 42nd Annual Silver Bells in the City event.

The walking paths of the Tollgate Drain Fairview Wetland on the east side of Lansing have been temporarily closed for ongoing paving maintenance and repair. Work was scheduled to begin Monday and will continue for 3-4 weeks, according to officials representing the Ingham County Drain Commissioners' Office. The notice added that working hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and possibly Saturday as well. The wetland paths are located on the east side of Wood Street, just north of Grand River Ave., also bordering Fairview and Hopkins, and across from the Groesbeck Golf Course. Questions can be directed to Jeremy Hatherly at the IDCC office at 517-282-4332.



Outgoing U.S. Sen. Gary Peters will be headed to the University of Southern California as director of its Center for the Political Future, alongside Republican strategist and co-director Mike Murphy.

Peters taught courses at Central Michigan University prior to being elected to the U.S. House and his political career, and was working toward a doctorate in political philosophy at MSU with the goal of becoming a professor. The move was announced last week and marks a return to higher education. Peters visited MSU in late August on a motorcycle tour and reiterated his support of Abdul El-Sayed, the Democratic candidate for his seat, in the race against former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers.



The Detroit Tigers and Fifth Third Bancorp announced Monday that Comerica Park in downtown Detroit, home to the major league baseball team and numerous other events since 2000, will become Fifth Third Park starting with the 2027 Major League Baseball season. Fifth Third Bank and Comerica Bank merged in 2025, making the eventual name change inevitable. The signage at the ballpark will be updated during the offseason, expected to be ready for the Tigers first 2027 home game next March. Two of the Tigers' minor league affiliates' parks, in Grand Rapids and Toledo, have also used the Fifth Third name in the past 25 years.

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CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

For the purpose of electing candidates to the following offices:
Partisan Section
State: Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General; **Congressional:** United States Senator, Representative in Congress; **Legislative:** State Senator, Representative in State Legislature; **State Boards:** Member of State Board of Education, Regent of University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University. (NOTE: Straight Party Ticket will be a voting option for this election)

Nonpartisan Section
Judicial: Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals, Judge of Circuit Court, Judge of Probate Court (Ingham only), Judge of District Court; **Lansing Community College:** Board of Trustees Member; **Local School District:** Board Member

For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:
State: A Proposal to Convene a Constitutional Convention for the Purpose of Drafting a General Revision of the State Constitution, A Proposal to Prohibit Campaign Contributions from Certain Regulated Utilities and Government Contractors and Apply Campaign Finance Laws and Regulation to Additional Types of Political Communications; **County:** Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRA) Millage Renewal Authorization Question, Eaton County Local Roads and Streets Preservation and Improvement Millage Proposal; **City of Lansing:** Essential Services Millage Restoration Proposal, Citizens' Advisory Healthcare Action Board Charter Amendment; **Local School District:** Holt Public Schools Operating Millage Renewal Proposal

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

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

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office is **Monday, October 19, 2026.**

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

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours September 24 – October 30
Lansing City Hall	124 W. Michigan Ave 9 th Floor Lansing, MI 48933	Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm
Lansing Elections Office	701 W. Jolly Rd Lansing, MI 48910	Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm Wednesdays 9am – 7pm

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

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Hall	124 W. Michigan Ave 9 th Floor Lansing, MI 48933	Monday, November 2 8am – 4pm Election Day, November 3 8am – 5pm
Lansing Elections Office	701 W. Jolly Rd Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday, October 31 9am – 5pm Sunday, November 1 9am – 5pm Monday, November 2 9am – 4pm Election Day, November 3 7am – 8pm
Foster Community Center	200 N. Foster Ave Lansing, MI 48912	Saturday, October 24 – Sunday, November 1 10am – 6pm Monday, November 2 10am – 4pm Election Day, November 3 7am – 8pm

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

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

Friday, October 30, 2026, at 5:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Monday, November 2, 2026, at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person, except for those who register to vote on Election Day.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

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

We could debate ... or make it as difficult as possible

By **KYLE MELINN**

Mike Rogers this week narrowly avoided having an empty chair representing himself on a public stage for the second time in seven days.

The Republican nominee — unable to attend a U.S. Senate forum planned by a large coalition of Northern Michigan businesses this past Monday — hastily agreed to meet with the group on Oct. 23 instead, after the campaign gave the group the runaround for six weeks.

To recap, the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance invited Rogers and Democratic U.S. Senate nominee Abdul El-Sayed, shortly after the primary election, to attend a Sept. 21 forum in front of its members.

If not, would a different time and date work instead?

El-Sayed confirmed almost immediately for Sept. 21. Rogers' team didn't respond. For weeks, it was radio silence. Not a yes. Not a no. Just nothing.

Eventually, as Sept. 21 approached, the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance

— hardly a Democratic pressure group — was forced to advertise Rogers as merely “invited.”

Finally, the Chamber was told Rogers had another engagement on Sept. 21. Team Rogers suggested that he could do something separately later but didn't offer a date that would work.

Frustrated that their members might not get an opportunity to hear from Rogers at all, Chamber officials told his team they would move forward with the Sept. 21 event and that he was welcome to attend.

There would be a chair on stage for him.

Remember, Rogers said no to a FOX 2 debate in Detroit the week prior with host Roop Raj. The station did the debate without Rogers anyway, basically giving El-Sayed an hour to share his thoughts in primetime to the state's largest media market.

The Rogers campaign proceeded, behind the scenes, to accuse the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance of running a partisan attack against Rogers.

If they were going to stick an empty chair on stage, the Rogers campaign would hold its own event in Northern Michigan, to spite the Chamber and see

“whose megaphone is louder.”

Ultimately, an intermediary from a different campaign came in and, less than 48 hours before the event, brokered a deal in which Rogers would meet with the Northern Michigan businesses on Oct. 23 in exchange for no empty chair.

Who would think that a Republican candidate for any office would go to the brink of war with a coalition of northern Michigan business groups?

And, yet, that's where we are in 2026. Community forums and debates — in which voters can size up candidates side by side — have become the exception, not the norm.

Campaigns have made the calculation that it's better to avoid any direct interaction with their political opponent unless there is a clear advantage of doing it. Helping voters make their own decisions is not part of the calculus.

El-Sayed is doing nearly any and every public appearance because he's very engaging on the stump, and he's meeting as many people as possible one-on-one to show that he's not a scary, dangerous guy.

Gubernatorial candidate Jocelyn Benson, during the primary, stiff armed Roop Raj and FOX 2. She let her primary

opponent Chris Swanson debate an empty chair for an hour. Why not? She was the frontrunner. Why give her opponents any oxygen?

Likewise, John James blew off nearly every Republican forum during the primary. Why not? He was the frontrunner. Why give his opponents any oxygen?

Moments after both won their primary, James, now the underdog, called for five debates. Benson agreed to two ... both in October, after absentee ballots will have already gone out.

Dodging isn't limited to big races, either. Tom Barrett and Will Lawrence are debating Oct. 6 ... the same day as the first Benson-James debate.

In the Secretary of State race, front-runner Garlin Gilchrist agreed to debate opponent Tony Forlini ... at the same time as one of the two U.S. Senate debates.

Frontrunners avoid debates because they have little to gain. Underdogs demand them because they have little to lose. If a debate does occur, campaigns increasingly prefer that it happen after absentee ballots have arrived or opposite another major political event.

Why make it easy for voters to do their due diligence?



POLITICS

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Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Lansing has determined that the following proposed action utilizing 50 Project Based Vouchers (PBVs) from the Lansing Housing Commission (LHC) under the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Choice Voucher (HVC) program is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The City of Lansing will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed project [Washington Apartments] is located at 927 S. Washington Avenue in the City of Lansing, Ingham County. The site is developed with an approximately 43,920-square-foot, 50-unit, six-stories with garden level, brick building, with a carport and parking to the east of the building. The building was constructed in 1922 to house factory workers for the former Reo Motor Car Company Plant and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; it has been vacant since 2019.

The LHC proposes to acquire and rehabilitate the Property for rental units for very low and low-income senior households at or below 60 percent AMI. The garden level/basement will be renovated and will contain the lobby/mail room, laundry, offices, community space, maintenance supply area, trash room, and storage. No residential units will be located in the lowest floor of the building.

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2% flood approach. The Property is located within Zone AE [riverine], as indicated on the FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map 26065C0131D (effective 8/16/2011). The 1% annual floodplain elevation for the Property is identified at 831.3' NAVD88; the 0.2% annual floodplain elevation is approximately 829' NAVD88. The elevation of the lowest finished floor of the property building is 831.90' NAVD88, approximately 0.6 feet above the 1% and approximately 2.9 feet above the 0.2% FFRMS.

Proposed impacts to the FFRMS include the construction of a new [stretcher compliant] dry-floodproofed elevator with entry vestibule to the rear of the building proximate to the parking lot. LHC plans to expand and re-pave the parking lot to create a total of 58 parking spaces to support residents and improve ingress/egress from the property by adding a drive from the parking lot to Grand Avenue to the east. Improvements to the site for parking and access will require some tree removal and extending paved areas into the grassy area to the north of the existing parking lot and to the east into the small woodlot; net fill to the Property is estimated to be between 140 cubic yards (CYD), not to exceed 300 CYD to keep impacts close to existing grade, maintain the floodplain capacity of the Property, meet Part R 323.1316 minor permit eligibility requirements for floodplain impacts while bringing a vacant and blighted structure back into residential use.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the [floodplain/wetland]. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Lansing at the following address on or before October 13, 2026. City of Lansing EDP Admin Office – 316 N. Capitol Avenue, Suite D-1, Lansing, MI 48933, Attention: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner. A full description of the project may also be reviewed Monday through Friday 8am – 4:30pm at the City of Lansing EDP Admin Office at 316 N Capitol Avenue, Suite D-1 in Lansing. Comments may also be submitted via email at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov or via telephone at 517-483-4063.

Date: September 23, 2026

CP#26-356

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RESERVE YOUR SEAT



Festival of Oddities is ghosting Charlotte for a new location

By MIKE ELLIS

It's one of Greater Lansing's biggest and most popular festivals. Every year, the Festival of Oddities brings thousands to the heart of downtown Charlotte.

The two-day festival is the mid-Michigan kick off to the Halloween season and has about 100 booths filled with all the vampirish vendors, goth gear, macabre macramé and snarky shirts you can imagine.

And this year, the festival fell apart.

But it's a festival based on ghosts and ghost stories. And real ghost stories don't evaporate ... they just ... evolve.

In many legends, when a ghost satisfies their unfulfilled mission, they can move on. Their story ends.

After years of being rooted to haunted places, the next Festival of Oddities will likely be in a field, or on a not-exactly-haunted city street somewhere, founder Jenn Carpenter told City Pulse.

"I'm getting lots of offers and inquiries," she said, "cities all over mid-Michigan and even in another state."

A festival based on ghost stories has accumulated enough of its own substance to exist independent of haunted houses.

"Before, I always wanted a location that felt like it was also a draw of a destination," Carpenter said. "Now the festival is a draw itself."

This is the true story of the based-on-ghost-stories Festival of Oddities

The Festival of Oddities began at one of Lansing's most storied homes, the Turner Dodge mansion in Lansing in 2019.

It's one of the earliest homes in Lansing and is one

of the oldest structures still around here, built by pioneers Marion and James Turner. The Classic Revival style is a testament to the creation of Lansing itself and the transition to the automotive era.

The tourable mansion is the first entry in the "Haunted Lansing" book by Carpenter, released in 2018. The book is the inciting incident for the entire festival. Many people lived, loved and died in the Turner-Dodge home over the course of a century, as Carpenter's book says, but likely none were as firmly rooted to the home as matriarch Marion Turner, who fell for the land before she met James.

Visitors to Marion's bedroom should be prepared, Carpenter's book says, so they won't "be surprised if they hear the fireplace seem to roar to life."

Conceived as a vehicle for Carpenter's book, which spans nearly two dozen local spooky tales, the Festival of Oddities came to life in 2019, outgrew the Turner-Dodge home almost immediately.

The Courthouse Square Museum in Charlotte is in the middle, not the end or beginning, of Carpenter's book

The festival moved to the downtown Charlotte city block in 2020, anchored to the museum inside the old courthouse.

The 1885 courthouse has had many reasons over the years to be haunted: from judges' verdicts and weeping families to the prisoners and orphans who slept in the basement.

Carpenter said she moved the festival there because there was space and parking despite the 30 minute drive from Lansing.

But the scare potential and the draw of the Char-



lotte courthouse was front and center.

Launching a new festival site in a pandemic year was tricky but it worked.

The large city block was too big at first but has since become cramped, with a sister festival packing another street and organized by Needful Things, a downtown Charlotte thrift and consignment store, along with plenty of city businesses that run coordinated special events and sales.

Carpenter said she has had mostly good times with the Charlotte location, so much that she opened an expansion to her REO Town Deadtime Stories bookstore inside the Charlotte courthouse in 2025.

Deadtime Stories: The Sequel wasn't exactly a best-seller, Carpenter said.

Festival

from page 11

“I was grateful for the support from the other small businesses but Charlotte never really got used to retail shopping at the museum,” she said. While the REO store remains open, the sequel one folded earlier this year.

THE PULSIFIEDS

Barn & Household Sale: Sept. 25-26, 10am-5pm. Oak furniture, antiques, camping gear, lawn toys, baskets, pottery & more. 3257 W Howell Rd, Mason.

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REAL ESTATE AUCTION
By order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County, Monday, October 26, 2026
Registration: 8:30 AM - Auction 10:00 AM
Location: The Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing MI
Alan Fox, Treasurer, Ingham County
341 S. Jefferson St., Mason MI
517-676-7220
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But that’s not what caused the festival to move.

The disturbance at the festival

The festival is moving, Carpenter said, after out-of-state protesters showed up along with some people who attempted to confront visitors with signs and bullhorns. Some of the efforts were on par for large festivals, like seeing religious protesters standing across the street with signs damning people to hell. Other efforts were clearly intended to push toward confrontation, like when a man preaching with a bullhorn went right up to the booths, which were on the sidewalk. In one video, a man with a bullhorn yelled at a man who was sitting down minding his own business. Carpenter said some of the protesters attempted to rile up parents by telling their children they would be school shooters or that their parents didn’t love them. She said the protesters violated city noise ordinances and should have been stopped from the harassing behavior. Carpenter said Charlotte police were not able to handle the situation. Throughout the day, festival volunteers trailed the protesters as they walked the perimeter of the festival, often on sidewalks and close enough to be able to touch the vendor booths. A meeting was arranged after the festival with Carpenter, Charlotte City Council member Jeffrey Christensen,



the mayor, police chief and City Manager Vester Davis, according to a Facebook post by Christensen. Christensen said Davis asked to him and the mayor to skip the meeting. Davis didn’t answer specific questions from City Pulse but said in an email that it was a “greatly attended festival,” and Charlotte has an opportunity to plan next year’s event alongside an event planner. “Lastly, it is a shame that the actions of protestors have resulted in the Oddities Festival turning down Charlotte. My hope is that Oddities will reconsider.” Carpenter said the festival will return but not in Charlotte. She said the city was unprepared for protestors, in part because the event is typically so peaceful that extra officers aren’t planned. Carpenter said she doesn’t feel safe bringing the festival back to Charlotte. **The ghosts left behind** Moving the festival out of the courthouse will be a huge blow for the Courthouse Square Museum housed there, said Julie Kimmer, a museum board member and former director. She said festival-goers brought in \$6,200 for the museum via \$5 admissions over two days, with volunteers staffing the museum. It’s the museum’s biggest fundraising event each year, she said. “The festival was a real gift to us” Kimmer said. “It’s impossible for museums like this to pay for their expenses.” Kimmer said she spent a whole day at year’s festival trailing the protesters out of concern. “I was terribly nervous,” she said. “I had never seen anybody try so hard to get in a fight. No body took the bait.” The festival brought about \$1.2 million in spending to the area, according to numbers shared at a Charlotte city council meeting following the dispute.



What’s the last chapter in “Haunted Lansing”? Carpenter’s book ends with a thinly veiled story about her own haunted house, a few miles outside of Lansing. “When I lived in my haunted house, I couldn’t so much as rearrange the furniture without upsetting the delicate balance of sharing my living space with nonliving entities,” she wrote. Now that the festival is being rearranged, upsetting the delicate balance of one of mid-Michigan’s largest festivals, there will be a new festival. Carpenter said her priorities are finding a location in mid-Michigan and keeping the Labor Day weekend. And this year, she overheard someone describe the Festival of Oddities as “Spooky Pride.” “We aren’t really a Pride event but we are completely welcoming and we may incorporate that into our merch next year,” Carpenter said. Expect a decision fairly soon, if Carpenter hadn’t moved the festival, she’d be planning the details for the 2027 festival now. “I’d love to have this decided in a couple of weeks,” she said. “And we’ll start the spooky season.”

**Eagle Township, Clinton County
Board Meeting Synopsis**

September 15, 2026, at 6:00 pm - Present: Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie, and Trustee M. Hoppes and 6 citizens. Absent: Supervisor Stroud.
Board Actions:

- 1) Approved referring open enforcements to the attorney.
- 2) Approved payment of bills for September 2026.
- 3) Approved proposal to check the sewer line at the hall.
- 4) Adopted Ordinance 02-2026 to renew the Consumers Energy Gas Franchise for 30 years.
- 5) Approved correction to August 18, 2026 meeting minutes.
- 6) Approved Portland Recreation Agreement.
- 7) Approved update to Board Media Policy.
- 8) Approved working with attorney on community event zoning.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is October 20, 2026, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#26-360

ARTS & CULTURE

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Rich veins and raw nerves

‘Cursed Objects’ hold sway at (SCENE) Metrospace

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

People play fast and loose with the idea of a curse. The parking space where you got seven tickets, that coffee maker that keeps spilling coffee onto the counter, or laughed off as “cursed.”

But the laughter is always a little bit nervous.

“Cursed Objects,” a thought-provoking multimedia art exhibit at East Lansing’s (SCENE) Metrospace, confirms our sneaking suspicions that curses are real, and they carry a mean sting.

Artist and MSU graduate student Hailey Becker tapped into a rich vein, and a raw nerve, when she asked a nationwide pool of artists, “What does it mean for something to be cursed in 2026?”

The first thing you see in the front window is Dana Rothe’s claw-like ceramic hand, thrusting from the depths, with a pile of pills in the palm.

Rothe lives with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a connective tissue disorder. She is one of several artists in the exhibit who invoke the curse of chronic illness.

Working with clay, a substance that is flexible and strong yet susceptible to breaking, is a way for her to come to terms with the limitations of her own flesh.

The ceramic hand also holds a message that applies to the entire exhibit. A curse, whoever or whatever inflicts it, is something that takes control of your life. The challenge is to claw it back.

One of the most haunting works in the show is Jason J.

Ferguson’s life-sized, 3-D-printed sculpture, made from ordinary photographs of the artist’s home, taken amidst the fear and confinement of COVID lockdowns. Pale blue ghost forms of hats hanging on a rack preserve, and even sanctify, domestic life, like the ashen shrouds left in the houses of buried Pompeii.

Some of the “cursed objects” are just plain creepy.

Ceramic artist Lucky Fortunata’s one-toothed, abyss-eyed “Matilda” looks like a lawn ornament for a zombie weed garden.

“Cursed Objects” was conceived and juried by artist Hailey Becker, a doctoral candidate in art at MSU.

Last week, Becker stopped in to (SCENE) Metrospace to see the finished show for the first time and take photos of the art.

“I was very, very pleased with the variety,” Becker said.

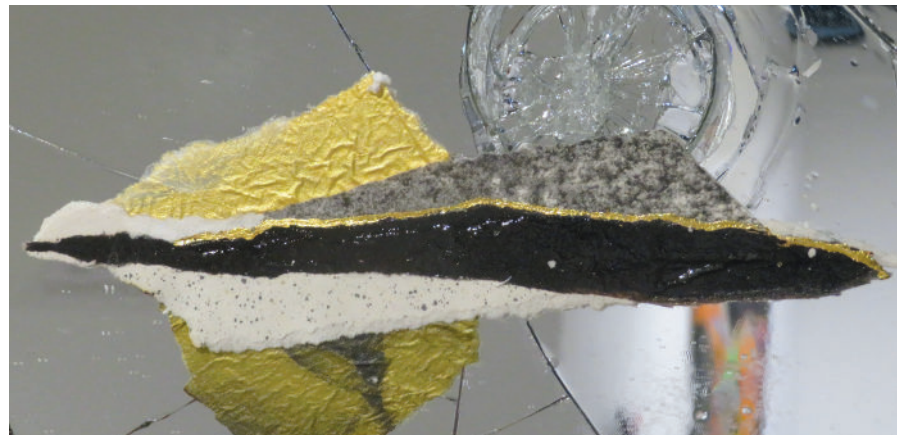
As if to enhance the mood of the exhibit, the gigantic building next door to the gallery, formerly home to the Student Book Store, was in the throes of a spectacular demolition.

The pounding and crunching of the bulldozers and the chaotic hellscape just outside the gallery door suited her just fine.

“It’s so great,” Becker said. “It’s in line



Artist and MSU doctoral student Hailey Becker visited SCENE (Metrospace) last week to take photos of the “Cursed Objects” exhibit she conceived and juried. Sculptor Dana Rothe’s claw-like palm full of pills (left) invokes the “curse” of chronic illness.



Allison Belolan turned a potential curse into creative gold by breaking a mirror and working the resulting web of cracks into a fantasia of gold leaf and other materials.

with the show.”

Becker has a master’s degree in studio art, but is also working on a Ph.D. in forestry.

Becker loves to find meaningful ways to combine her two disciplines. The idea of curating an exhibit on “cursed objects” came into focus when she created “Where the Light Gets In,” a series of light installations calling attention to wooded areas on the MSU campus slated to be gobbled up by the proposed Spartan Gateway development along Harrison Road. She’s currently helping the city

of East Lansing develop its Tree Canopy Revitalization Plan, and has even hosted community focus groups at (SCENE) Metrospace.

“For me, the idea of a curse comes from the environment, and for me, that means the land,” she said. “I thought, ‘Is this land cursed?’ It’s not a protected green space, like the north part of campus, and it’s destined to be developed on.”

She wanted the “cursed objects” exhibit to encompass various ways land, people, objects or anything else can fall

under a curse.

“I was thinking about cursed landscapes, but I didn’t want to limit it,” she said. “I wanted to see what other artists were thinking about.”

The result is a mix of art by local artists, MSU students and professors and artists from New York, San Francisco and around the country.

Becker was given a limit of 25 works by Laurén Gerig, director of galleries and outreach in the MSU Art Department and manager of the gallery.

“It was very difficult,” Becker said. “We had to cut a lot of very good works.”

What surprised and pleased her most was the number of artists who mustered the will, and the creative means, to ward off a curse and regain control of their lives.

“There’s a lot of action going on in the pieces,” Becker said. “People were not accepting some of the curses put on them anymore.”

Artist Allison Belolan courted the proverbial seven years of bad luck by deliberately breaking a mirror, but fought off the curse by reassembling the shards and decorating the resulting web of cracks with gold leaf and other materials.

When it comes to lifting curses, Wil-



Jason J. Ferguson created a haunting, 3-D-printed sculpture from a photo he took of hats hanging on a wall in his house during the COVID lockdowns.



Ceramic artist Lucky Fortunata’s eyeless, toothless “Matilda” seems to urge the viewer to look on the bright side of life, curse or no curse.

liam Ross decided to go as big as possible. His multi-phase installation “Trump Toxic Legacy Disposal” invites the viewer to shred bits of Donald Trump’s legacy, one by one, the way Elon Musk cruelly threw the life-saving U.S. Agency for International Development into the shredder in 2025.

Skeptics may roll their eyes at the spitball futility of activist art. Nevertheless, firing up Ross’s contraption and uttering one of his recommended incantations (“I shun this thing,” “This is repulsive to me”) sparks a buzz in the gut that feels connected to a bigger, unseen power grid. Art reveals possibilities.

“People are willing to take hold of their curses and regain agency,” Becker said. “I think that’s very reflective of what’s going on politically in the world today.”

Photos by
Lawrence Cosentino/
City Pulse

“Cursed Objects”

Through Oct. 18
Closing Reception 5–7 p.m.
Oct. 16
(SCENE) Metrospace
110 Charles St., East Lansing
Gallery open noon–5 p.m.
Thursday–Sunday.

Jon Whiting is one of the people who extend the ladder

By MASAKI TAKAHASHI

The transition from summer into fall has always felt more like a new year to me than Jan. 1.

January arrives in the middle of a Michigan winter, when everything is too cold and meh. A new school year meant new shoes, new friends and the possibility of stumbling into an adventure you never planned. Nearly a decade after my last university class, I still feel that possibility every fall.

For me, one of those unexpected adventures was poetry.

When I began studying at Michigan State University in 2008, I spent much of my time in the Communication Arts and Sciences building. Nearly every student inside was some kind of dreamer. We wanted to make films, record music and tell stories. Our careers had no obvious paths, but we believed greatness and opportunity would somehow be magically granted to us.

Dreams, however, need more than dreamers.

Dreams need people willing to nudge them, someone who will extend the first rung of a ladder before a student knows they are ready to climb.

For me, that person was my audio engineering professor, Jon Whiting.

One day, while we were working on recordings, Whiting unexpectedly asked me to share a poem. I had only recently discovered poetry, joined a group and participated in a poetry slam organized by MSU's University Activities Board. I had no idea how Whiting knew I had begun writing.

But somehow, he did.

I read a poem about dating myself, which included language I would probably leave out if I wrote it now. My classmates laughed at the funny parts and cheered when I finished.

I remember having one of those rare moments of certainty: This right here is for me.

That small classroom exercise became one of my core memories. It taught me how far simply paying at-



Jon Whiting, a professor in MSU's College of Communication Arts and Sciences, poses with students at a football game.

tention to someone can go, especially when that person is still discovering who they might become.

Whiting and I recently met for food. I asked him how, decades later, he still gets excited about student feedback. He joked that he still hoped to be everyone's favorite teacher and looked forward to reading the positive and negative comments over Rice Kitchen. I remember feeling that he genuinely wanted to be in the classroom with us. He wanted every student to succeed, however they defined success.

Whiting also encouraged us to leave campus and spend time in Lansing. He wanted us to film throughout the city, attend events and meet people beyond the university. He told us some of his favorite college memories came from venturing west of U.S. 127. That's where he learned, built relationships and discovered real opportunities.

Many MSU students never make it past Frandor. Whiting wanted us to understand that our education could not be contained inside a classroom or even within East Lansing.

More than a decade later, I do not remember every assignment I completed in his class. I do remember that he saw something in me. I remember he asked me to share a poem. I remember how it felt to have a room full of people respond to my words.

I later became Lansing's poet laureate and founded The Poetry Room, a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for writers, particularly those whose voices have historically been marginalized. I began mentoring poets and encouraging them to share work they might not yet believe was ready to be heard, the same way I once needed someone to encourage me.

In 2024, I brought Button Poetry to Lansing for a video shoot at The



Whiting is an Emmy Award-winning television producer.

Robin Theatre. When I needed help with the cameras, Whiting showed up. More than a decade after asking me to share that first poem, he was still supporting one of his former students and still extending the ladder.

Educators may not always see what grows from the moments when they choose to pay attention. An invitation or a few words of encouragement may feel small, but sometimes a student remembers.

Sometimes that student builds a room for other people to be heard. And sometimes, years later, the teacher who made that room feel possible shows up again to help.

Relationships and experiences like these are why I still believe I can make almost anything happen, not because I cannot fail, but because I know failure will never have the final word.

Some of us graduate, but we never stop being dreamers.



EST. 1842

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: SPECIAL USE PERMIT #26035

(BRIDGES CHILD CARE)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE

Special Use Permit #26035 (Bridges Child Care)

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in a request from Abhirami Gunasingam to operate a group child care home for up to fourteen children located at 2990 Briarcliff Street. The approximate 0.4 acre site is zoned RAA (Single-Family Residential).

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Comments may be sent prior to the public hearing by writing to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, by phone at phone 517-853-4576, or by email at shorkey@meridian.mi.us. Comments may also be given in person at the public hearing.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk
September 23, 2026

CP#26-357



A PRIME COMMUNITY

meridian.mi.us

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A group of graduates in green gowns and caps are posing for a photo. Jon Whiting is standing in the center, wearing a black suit and glasses. He is surrounded by several students, some of whom are holding diplomas. They are all smiling and looking at the camera. The background shows a large stadium with many seats.

Whiting with students at graduation.

Photo by Emily Galloup

A.C. Fisher Aldag blends several genres in debut novel

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

For author A.C. Fisher Aldag, it was challenging to find a publisher willing to take on a book that combined fantasy, romance, adventure, magical realism and Celtic history.

Fortunately, she discovered City Owl Press in Staten Island, New York, which published her debut novel, “Woman Afraid of Water.”

“City Owl Press was the perfect fit!” said Fisher Aldag, who lives in Bangor, Michigan, with her husband of 44 years. A Kalamazoo native, Fisher Aldag holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Western Michigan University, where she also completed coursework in occupational therapy.

In “Woman Afraid of Water,” Dr. Joyce DelaFemina, an anthropology professor who is suffering from aquaphobia, discovers real magic while studying ancient Celtic tribes in Indiana and must help protect them from a land developer and a blood feud.

“I am of Welsh heritage, the great-granddaughter of immigrants to the Upper Peninsula who practiced a British Isles folk religion,” Fisher Aldag said. “I discovered neo-Paganism in the 1980s when a Wiccan pal noted that my version of spirituality was a lot like Wicca. My family began practicing with Wiccans and Pagans, mostly so my kids had an opportunity to experience nature religions with others. We attended a lot of gatherings and met hundreds of Pagan folks, including others from British Isles folk religions.”

She spoke about implementing this into the book.

“The Celtic tribe in my story practices the ancient folk religions of the British Isles, so I wrote from the perspective of magical realism, but there’s also a lot of fantasy magic,” she said. “The AmeriCelts in the novel do things like healing and augury, which are practiced by real folk religions, as well as Wiccans and neo-Pagans. The tribe in the story honors the Celtic deities, communicates with their ancestors and performs folk plays. The characters also do things like blood stopping, which is a U.P. and Appalachian folk belief.”

According to the author, there’s a



Courtesy

A.C. Fisher Aldag.

“funny story” behind the book’s genesis.

“I am very ‘backwoods’ and lived in rural places most of my life, close to nature,” she said. “When I went to WMU for the first time, I joined a student group of neo-Pagans. A sociology professor wanted to have his students interview me about folk magick and folk religions. They came out to my house in rural Bangor — which was a culture shock, for I still cooked on a wood stove and kept farm animals — and I told them about various Celtic folktales and customs.

“At the end I took questions, and they asked things like, ‘Do you hex people? Do you believe you can fly on a broomstick?’ I felt like I had been talking to the wall!” she continued. “So, the concept of the learned, educated students interviewing the old-fashioned Celtic priestess was born.”

This eventually inspired the character of Joyce.

“Joyce represents everything both positive and negative about academia, feminism, urban life and liberal politics. My husband’s mother was a college professor, so many of Joyce’s endearing traits came from her. Of course, the more annoying mannerisms came from some of the academics I encountered in college,” Fisher Aldag said. “Joyce is called ‘Woman Afraid of Water’ because

she was hesitant to drive her electric car through a low-water crossing, which is a place where a river flows across a road. During the story, Joyce has several difficulties with water.”

Lady Cairne Auldweedd, the guern (chieftain) of the Auldweedd Ffaine (tribe), represents both the positive and negative aspects of tribalism, folkways, conservatism and rural life.

“While Cairne is more progressive than most of her Celtic tribesfolk — some of whom are rather jingoistic — she still questions aspects of contemporary society that we take for granted,” Fisher Aldag said. “She’s more libertarian than conservative, and I snuck in a few digs at government dependency and regulation. However, Cairne is willing to accept things like vaccinations, genetic studies and multiculturalism, which some of her people find suspicious. Also, she has her magick, the wisdom of her ancestors and her connection to nature to fall back on.”

What makes “Woman Afraid of Water” stand out from other books is its realistic depiction of magick and its authentic Celtic folk stories and culture. Also, “romantasy” is a fairly new genre.

“I’ve been practicing magick for healing, augury, weather witchery, fertility, et cetera for years,” she said. “I was never into the ceremonial aspects of magick so much; it’s more about the connection with nature and ancestors. It’s very empowering. Note: It’s ‘magick’ with a ‘K’ to distinguish it from stage magic performances and from fantasy-story magic.”

“Water” is the first book in the AmeriCelts trilogy.

“When I first wrote the story, it ended up being around 800 pages. I had

to divide it into three segments,” Fisher Aldag said. “The first part has a lot of world building to make the Celtic tribe as realistic as possible and introduce the soap-opera panoply of characters. The second part builds up the feud between two factions of the tribe — one that accepts changes, while the other portion violently objects. This also gave the opportunity for a slow buildup of the romance between Joyce and the chieftain’s court bard, Graine Fordenham.”

The second novel, “The Summerlong Feud,” has already been sent to City Owl Press. No release date has been announced. The third novel will have a serious conflict and a partial resolution, setting the stage for further books in the series. There will also be some short stories featuring some minor characters, according to the author.

“I really enjoyed immersing myself in this fictional small town and the people who dwelled within. Researching Celtic legends and folklore was also lots of fun,” she said.

In 2019, Fisher Aldag published a nonfiction book called “Common Magick,” which was about British Isles folk magick.

“I’ve always written for secular newspapers and magazines and have always been a storyteller. Writing fiction was the next logical step,” she said.

The most important takeaway from “Woman Afraid of Water” is that people from very different backgrounds and disparate belief systems can find common ground and even become friends.

“There are characters who are LGBTQ+, people of different educational levels, disabled people and people of various ethnicities who all discover their similarities and related goals,”

Fisher Aldag said. “One of the minor characters is visually impaired, as am I, so I drew upon my own experiences to write from her point of view. I also wanted to make the statement that differently abled people are valuable to society. You don’t have to be able-bodied to succeed.”

Visit acfisheraldag.com.



Live & Local

CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
ELFCO Benefit w/ Quality Jerry
Sun., Sept. 27, 6 p.m.

Bad Brewing Co.

440 S. Jefferson St., Mason
Deacon Earl
Sat., Sept. 26, noon-3 p.m.
Swamp Rats
Sat., Sept. 26, 4-8 p.m.

Blue House Concerts

Email bluehouseconcerts@yahoo.com for location
The Andys
Sat., Sept. 26, 3-5 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Tommy B
Fri., Sept. 25, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Helena Lost
Sat., Sept. 26, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Universe Band
Fri., Sept. 25, 8 p.m.-midnight
The Traps
Sat., Sept. 26, 8 p.m.-midnight

Cleats Bar & Grille

5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing
Eric Ripper
Thurs., Sept. 24, 6-9 p.m.
Dan Laird
Tues., Sept. 29, 6-9 p.m.
Leah Williams
Wed., Sept. 30, 6-9 p.m.

Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Eric Ripper
Wed., Sept. 23, 6-9 p.m.
Roxy Riot
Thurs., Sept. 24, 9 p.m.-midnight
Lewie Austin
Wed., Sept. 30, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Samantha Shessia
Wed., Sept. 23, 7-9 p.m.
The Instigators
Sun., Sept. 27, 6-8 p.m.
Tony Moreno
Wed., Sept. 30, 7-9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Rian Mohre
Fri., Sept. 25, 6-9 p.m.
Thunder and Steele wsg Allen Pond
Sat., Sept. 26, doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m.

The Fledge

1300 Eureka St., Lansing
Obey Wife
Fri., Sept. 25, 8 p.m.

Graham Vineyards

8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg
Lonnie Spangler
Fri., Sept. 25, 6-9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., Sept. 23, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Jackson Marshall
Fri., Sept. 25, doors 6 p.m., show 7 p.m.
JP & the Energy
Sat., Sept. 26, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Remo Drive, Sports., Computer, Nunya
Sun., Sept. 27, doors 6:30 p.m., show 7 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., Sept. 30, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
A Night at the Soul Lounge
Sat., Sept. 26, 8 p.m.

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Steven Allen
Wed., Sept. 23, 7-9 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
The Collective
Thurs., Sept. 24, 5-8 p.m.
Frog & the Beeftones
Fri., Sept. 25, 5-8 p.m.
Atomic Annie
Sat., Sept. 26, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Sept. 27, 2-7 p.m.

The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., Sept. 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
The Collective
Sat., Sept. 26, 8-11 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
JP Peters
Thurs., Sept. 24, 5-8 p.m.
Jerry Sprague
Fri., Sept. 25, 5:30 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Lewie Austin
Sat., Sept. 26, 4-7 p.m.
Mercadez Kelley
Sun., Sept. 27, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.

115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
Bill Oeming
Fri., Sept. 25, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night
Mon., Sept. 28, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., Sept. 24, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Sept. 29, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green

1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
Rear View Mirror
Wed., Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Bachelors Since Breakfast
Wed., Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m.

Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
The Townsmen
Wed., Sept. 23, 7-10 p.m.
Billy Gunther & the Midwest Riders
Fri., Sept. 25, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.
Deer & Elk
Wed., Sept. 30, 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. 28, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Sept. 23, 8-11 p.m.
Blues jam
Thurs., Sept. 24, 9 p.m.-midnight
Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band
Fri., Sept. 25, 8 p.m.-midnight
From Big Sur
Sat., Sept. 26, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Sept. 29, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Sept. 30, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music

Ensemble Dal Niente
Wed., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Wind Symphony
Thurs., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Symphony Orchestra: "Spring Dawn to American Horizons"
Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center
Americana: Gay Nineties, Vaudeville, and Musical Theatre
Sun., Sept. 27, 3 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Spotlight: Broadway's Leading Ladies
Mon., Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre
The Art of Verse and Sound: Debussy's Preludes, Book II
Wed., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall

Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Showdown
Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
Bill Oeming
Wed., Sept. 30, 6-8 p.m.

One North Lansing

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Sept. 28, 6:30-9 p.m.

Pablo's Mexican Restaurant

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

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Hals of Red Thyme
Fri., Sept. 25, 8-10 p.m.
Jackalope
Tues., Sept. 29, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Live music
Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., Sept. 27, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Idora B. Sage w/ The Player and Friends
Wed., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Bruce Molsky
Wed., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.

Sholty's Bar

1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Spoonful
Tues., Sept. 29, 6-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Oktoberfest: DJ Cutt Nice, The Dewaynes, Kwaj, The Jonestown Crows, Ozay Moore, Your Dad, Spot, 2 Wheel Bound, Patino
Sat., Sept. 26, noon-10 p.m.
Brandon McCoy
Sun., Sept. 27, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Your Dad
Tues., Sept. 29, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt
Tad and the Fat Katz
Fri., Sept. 25, 8-11 p.m.
Gimme Five
Sat., Sept. 26, 8-11 p.m.
Open mic & karaoke
Tues., Sept. 29, 7-10 p.m.

T Caps Tavern

107 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte
Matt Bliton & Valerie Clark
Fri., Sept. 25, 7-9 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center

3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Full House
Wed., Sept. 23, 6-9 p.m.
Live music
Sun., Sept. 27, 3-6 p.m.

Uncle John's Cider Mill

8614 U.S.-127, St. Johns
Ryne Shyne
Fri., Sept. 25, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Trevor Shepich
Sat., Sept. 26, 1-4 p.m.
Shelby & Jake
Sat., Sept. 26, 3-6 p.m.
Mark Warner
Sun., Sept. 27, 1-4 p.m.
A Place to Land
Sun., Sept. 27, 3-6 p.m.

University Lutheran Church

1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
David Roth
Fri., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing
Organissimo
Thurs., Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.
Langston Marcelles Kitchen
Fri., Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Rock the Vote: Larry McCray

Sat. Sept. 26, 5 p.m.
World's Longest Jam
Mon., Sept. 28-Wed., Sept. 30

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Roadside Attraction
Sat., Sept. 26, 7-11 p.m.

The Windwalker

124 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte
Be Kind Rewind (unplugged)
Thurs., Sept. 24, 7-11 p.m.

Wooden Nickel II

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

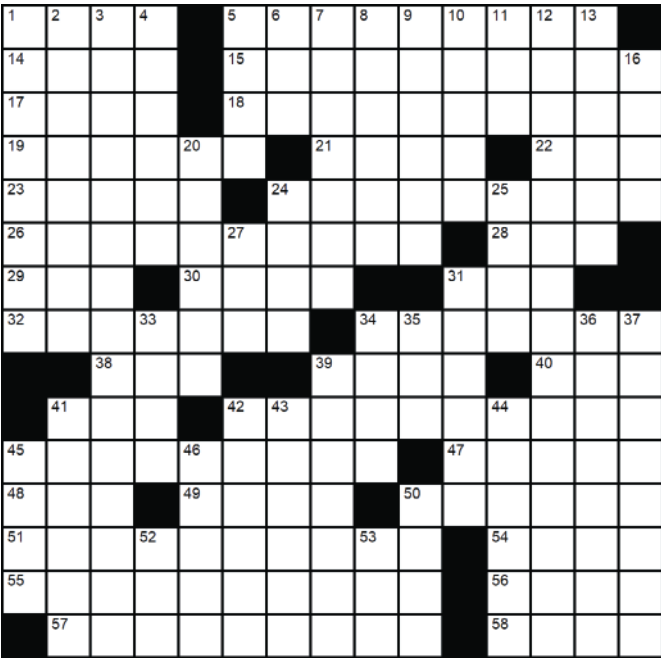
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Free Skate” -- a themeless puzzle to skate through.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

ACROSS
1. Bowl of noodles and broth, e.g.
5. What might be really low in the trunk
14. No longer in force
15. 1984 Wim Wenders film set in the Southwest
17. Blues Hall of Fame inductee ___ James
18. Sasha Baron Cohen sequel scheduled for October 2026
19. Shady Records co-founder
21. TV show that landed 207 songs on the Billboard Hot 100
22. Magician Shin

___, “America’s Got Talent: The Champions” winner
23. 1-Across with a tonkotsu variety
24. “Colorful” House Targaryen faction
26. Ticket offerer at a mini-mart, perhaps
28. Understand the lingo
29. Show initiative
30. Defrauds, say
31. Baha ___ (“Who Let the Dogs Out” group)
32. What Eli Wallach represents, in a spaghetti western title
34. Word after game or CD
38. Use a griddle
39. December refrain
40. “Ceci n’est pas ___ pipe” (Magritte caption)
41. “Midsommar” director Aster
42. Low-level



unintelligent humanoid, in “Dungeon Crawler Carl”
45. Exhaust output
47. Lacked roots
48. Start of the 14th title in Sue Grafton’s Kinsey Millhone series
49. Tolkien creatures from the Old English for “giant”
50. Bow nickname, in early film
51. Little Debbie offerings with striped icing
54. Actress Sommer of “A Shot in the Dark”
55. Single file
56. Brewmaster’s concoctions
57. Irritate in a big way
58. “Curious George” authors H.A. and Margret (they were married)

DOWN
1. Expresses scorn for
2. Top
3. Popular college campus sport
4. Arrakis, for instance
5. Filtered stuff
6. Suffix for spirit
7. High beams
8. It may contain just a few artificial locks
9. The “O” in the Portland suburb nicknamed “Lake O”
10. “The ___ Bennet Sister”
11. Hideous, as a Honduran hombre
12. 1993 Liz Phair studio double album
13. Demolition
16. Virtual people in a video game series
20. Oomph
24. HR rep on “The Office”
25. Sistine Chapel ceiling inspiration

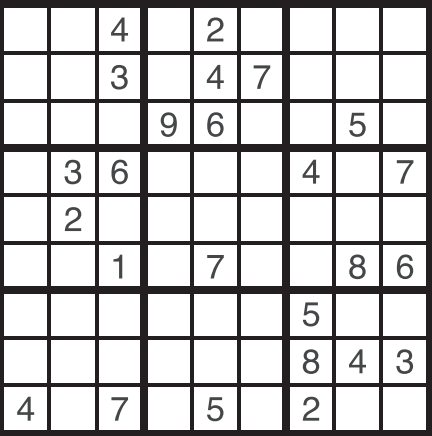
27. “OMG, funny!”
31. Chicago liqueur described as “like Skittles drenched in gasoline”
33. “The Haj” novelist
34. Teeth in a factory
35. The daughter of Loki, you say?
36. It evolved from “return”
37. Like flutes, as opposed to oboes and clarinets
39. Like some tires
41. Site of France’s largest cathedral
42. Recycling bin item
43. Take turns
44. Folded marker
45. Auto designer Ferrari
46. 1955-77 defense gp.
50. “Hmm, yes ...”
52. Sing
53. Physiotherapist’s muscle test, for short

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Answers on page 20

SUDOKU

Advanced



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. 23-29, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): In the practice of niwaki, Japanese gardeners shape trees so they look both natural and artfully composed. They prune and style the branches to dramatize the tree’s inherent character. Their goal is to collaborate. I recommend you experiment with a similar approach in the coming weeks, Aries. Try partnering with the living processes in your sphere rather than simply imposing your will on them. Ask yourself: What is trying to flourish here? Can I coax out some useful beauty? How can I coordinate my own intelligence with nature’s intelligence?

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Your spirit creatures for the coming weeks are the slow-moving giant tortoises of the Galápagos Islands. They can live for more than a century. They conserve energy, move deliberately, and carry their protection with them. I believe you will benefit from embracing their ways in the coming weeks, Taurus. Refuse to be rushed or pressured, either by others or yourself. Proceed at the precise rate you need to. Your natural strength will thrive through your incremental steadiness. PS: Consider giving yourself a tortoise nickname.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): A master perfumer composes a fragrance in three layers. The top notes are what you smell first. They’re vivid and volatile. The next layer blooms gradually, unfurling the heart notes of the fragrance. Underneath everything are the deep, resinous base notes, which don’t fully reveal themselves for hours and cling longest to the skin. Let this be a metaphor to guide your joys and pleasures in the coming weeks, Gemini. Relish the bright top notes that flare and vanish, but persist long enough for the heart to open, and longer still for the deep base notes to emerge. Gather all the rich delights, not just some.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): It’s hard, scary work for a crab to molt its shell and grow a bigger one. As it waits for its new protection to grow, its soft, tender body is exposed and vulnerable. That’s why it often hides in rock crevices, neither moving nor eating until its armor returns. Your situation, dear Cancerian, isn’t nearly as dire as the poor, defenseless crab’s. But as you power through your own personal molting season, I urge you to enhance your psychic protection. You need to feel extra safe and secure.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Bats navigate by echolocation. They send out sounds and interpret the echoes. But when competing for food, they may also jam each other’s sonar, generating acoustic interference that makes navigation harder for rivals. A similar phenomenon occurs in human populations. Some of the noisy talk we hear is other people’s jamming signals. Consciously or unconsciously, they’re creating interference that may make it harder for us to navigate. Now is a good time for you to learn better how to distinguish between real information and meaningless hubbub. Refine your filters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Jan Tschichold (1902-1974) was a brilliant typographer who revolutionized graphic design. He left his mark on millions of books. But later in life, he rejected some of his own rules, returning to classical typography and critiquing his earlier work as too rigid. In this spirit, dear Virgo, I will ask you if some of your long-standing rules no longer serve you. Is it possible that some of your own “best practices” may have calcified into unexamined dogma? The coming months will invite productive heresy against your past selves. You’re allowed to contradict your earlier convictions. Hint: Your vigorous evolution requires it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): In the 18th century, Libran philosopher Denis Diderot was instrumental in creating the “Encyclopédie.” It wasn’t the first compendium of the world’s knowledge, but it was the most ambitious and comprehensive. In 28 volumes, it assembled contributions from a large number of writers, including leading figures of the French Enlightenment. Robust collaboration was key to its enduring influence. In the coming

weeks, Libra, I’m hoping that you, like Diderot, will be an initiator and facilitator of rich cooperation. Conversations, partnerships, and shared projects could generate insights that none of the participants would have discovered alone. By inviting multiple perspectives into the discussion, you will help cultivate a fertile weave of ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): In the volcanic seas around Iceland, underwater eruptions sometimes build entirely new islands that rise from the waves as bare, black rock. During the ensuing years, wind and waves and seabirds seed them with life. Mosses, lichens, hardy plants, and nesting birds slowly transform the raw lava into a living shore. I’m rooting for you to instigate a similar process, Scorpio. My prediction: A development that initially seems stark or unfinished could become fertile ground for growth. Your perceptive instincts will recognize possibilities before they are obvious to others. Be patient with beginnings that look raw.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): I invite you to achieve minor miracles that will enable you to brag at parties about how you created something out of nothing. Not in a loud, egotistical way, but with a sly glimmer in your eye, as if you’re sharing secrets about how reality can be coaxed into generosity if you approach it with imagination and chutzpah. Yes, dear Sagittarius, I’m ecstatic to inform you that now is a favorable moment to turn scraps into usefulness, boredom into invention, and vague hunches into tangible results. Be alert! Be on the lookout! Scout around for raw materials that have been overlooked or dismissed. Half-abandoned projects? Mercurial inclinations? Fugitive fantasies? Seemingly idle conversations that reveal marvelous glints and gleams? These are examples of the “nothings” you can turn into treasures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): I’ve got a rough, tough assignment for you: Dare yourself to be startled by your own exquisite beauty. Be bold and even brazen in appreciating what a marvelous creature you are. Can you summon the necessary audacity? I think you can. Please notice the ways you have underestimated your gifts, minimized your impact, or edited out your brilliance to make others comfortable. Allow yourself to feel the tender shock of recognizing that you’re more interesting and mysteriously compelling than you’ve been trained to believe. PS: This will help you call on even deeper inner resources in the coming weeks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Aquarian writer Virginia Woolf was a fount of interesting ideas. Sometimes she pushed her active mind to track them down and capture them, but on other occasions, she enjoyed gathering gems that arrived as her imagination wandered and drifted. These “moments of being” provided her with small treasures while she was walking in nature, taking a bath, or doing nothing in particular. I believe that you are now primed to experience many such pleasurable eruptions of insight. In the coming weeks, pauses and lulls and intermissions will open unexpected portals.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): For the low price of \$199, I could expertly dispel that annoying curse you’ve been lugging around. But I would feel sleazy taking your cash when you are fully capable of zapping the curse yourself. So instead, I will recommend that you perform the banishing ritual, then write yourself a check for \$199. Here’s how. Step 1: Visualize an object that represents the curse. Imagine hurling it into a beach bonfire and watching it burn. Step 2: Bring to mind a person you believe contributes to the curse. Envision a rope that ties the two of you together, waist to waist. Then imagine yourself revving up a chainsaw, slicing through the binding, and declaring, “You have no power over me!” Step 3: Roll on the floor as you laugh and cry tears of giddy release.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Sept. 23

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.

Chronic Pain PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with chronic pain improve their health and feel better. 1:15-3:45 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

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.

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.

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.

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. friendsofelpl.org.

Meditation - A free meditation gathering rooted in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, offering a calm space for mindfulness practice and reflection. 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.

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

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

Drive, East Lansing. facebook.com/bealgarden.msu.

MSU Extension Adulting 101: Are You Ready? - Get ready for anything! This workshop will teach how to stay calm, make a plan, and handle emergencies with confidence and safety. 5-7 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/van_buren.

Parkinson's Exercise: Tai Chi - Free group class tailored for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Improve balance and strength. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lpsg.org.

Parkinson's Support Group Social Lunch - Join us for a relaxed social lunch. Cost of meal is your responsibility. 11:30 a.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. lpsg.org.

The Poetry Gallery: Suban Nur Cooley - Join Suban Nur Cooley, MSU faculty member and current Lansing poet laureate, for a poetry reading in the galleries of "We Are This Land: Meditations on the Great American Experience." 7-9 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

Silent Book Club at BrickHaven Brewing Co. - Everyone brings a book of their choice to read. We'll read silently for about 45 minutes, then everyone will have a chance to share a bit about their book. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. 200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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.

Sporkle 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.

Trowbridge Thrift & Thrive - Thrift: pre-loved clothes & local resale. Fix: DIY mending & bike repair. Explore: local eats, transit & trails. Thrive: health, wellness & giveaways. Featuring 20+ interactive tables & booths! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 940 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. chalgalia1@gmail.com.

Thursday, Sept. 24

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. 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.

ATHENA WIN Evening of Empowerment - Featuring a fireside chat on leadership and legacy with members of the Izzo family. 5-8 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.



LAFCU Heritage Fest

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25
106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing
Free
lafcu.com/heritagefest

Featuring live entertainment, food trucks, giveaways and more, LAFCU's fourth annual Heritage Fest aims to bring people together across cultures, communities and backgrounds.

Several cultural performances will celebrate the traditions that help shape the Greater Lansing area. Last year's festival featured performances by the Worship Without Words dance group, Fantasia Ballet Folklorico and funk/R&B band The Love Effect.

Attendees are encouraged to wear traditional attire to highlight their cultural heritage. "LAFCU was founded on the idea of people helping people, and that means supporting more than financial well-being," said Kelli Ellsworth Etchison, LAFCU's chief marketing officer and chief diversity officer. "Strong communities are built when people feel welcomed, valued and connected to one another. LAFCU Heritage Fest creates a place where we can learn from our neighbors, celebrate what makes each of us unique and strengthen the sense of belonging that helps a community thrive."

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.

Cardboard Construction: Family STEAM Event - Bring the whole family to play and build with cardboard, recycled materials, and STEM toys in this open-play event. 6-7 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

The Doctor Will See You Now: A Conversation on AI in Healthcare - This conversation, led by MSU medical students, explores the art of medicine and how rapidly evolving technology is changing the training, practice, and experience of medical care. 6-7:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

Friends of Lansing Regional Trails Annual Meeting - 6-8 p.m. Playmakers, 2299 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. lansingtrails.org.

Lansing Fall Senior Expo - Connect with local organizations dedicated to helping seniors and their families. Prize drawings, refreshments and health screenings included! 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/40234099933.

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

MSU Women's Soccer vs. Nebraska Cornhuskers - 7 p.m. DeMartin Soccer Complex, 261 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-soccer.

Mitchell's Seafood House + Caymus Wine Dinner - Join Mitchell's for a four-course dinner paired with wines from Caymus Vineyards. 7-10 p.m. 2975 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/120769248180.

The One Good Thing or "Are Ya Patrick Swayze?" - With warmth, wit, and emotional depth, this thoughtful, poignant dark comedy brings a deeply human story to life just feet from your seat. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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Events

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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.

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.

Shine a Light Talent Show - The talent show is back for our most important fundraiser of the year, Shine a Light. Join us and be a star for recovery! 5:30 p.m. 316 Moores River Drive, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/34180432831.

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. shorahouse.com.

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

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

Thriving on a Fixed Income - Join Michigan State University Extension's Finance and Homeownership team to learn more about managing your finances, protecting your money, and preparing for the future. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

“The Traitors” Thursday Watch Nights at MP Social - 8-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

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. 25

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

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

David Roth - Roth first played at the Fiddle in the '90s. We're glad to welcome back the Chicago-born singer-songwriter now living on Cape Cod. 7:30-10 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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

Extended Public Investigation - Join us for an extended six-hour investigation and pizza party! Explore for yourself the Harriett Chapman Hospital's history. Limited to 10 guests. 6 p.m. 101 W. Plain St., Eaton Rapids. eventbrite.com/o/3111181419.

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

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

The Hearth and the Key: A Confident Witch Circle - In this Confident Witch Circle, you'll take a hard look at what you've inherited and get honest about the legacy you're building to leave behind. 8-10 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

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

MSU Men's Soccer vs. Wisconsin Badgers - 7 p.m. DeMartin Soccer Complex, 261 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-soccer.

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.

The One Good Thing or “Are Ya Patrick Swayze?” - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Paella with Fire and Rice Food Truck - Learn the art of paella with a local expert! 6-7 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

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

PEARS Deeper Dive: Success Stories - This PEARS Deeper Dive should be attended after the PEARS Crash Course. Learn how to enter a Success Story. 10-11 a.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/od.

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 deepsoulcreativeart.my.canva.site/self-honoring-circle-landing-page.

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

Saturday, Sept. 26

2026 Downtown Day - a celebration of Lansing's three unique districts, downtown, Old Town and REO Town, and the businesses, history and people that make each one special. Spend the day exploring, shopping, and discovering something new as these three Lansing neighborhoods come together for one citywide celebration. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. facebook.com/OldTownLansing.

Annual Red Carpet Awards Gala - Step onto the red carpet for Stage One's annual awards gala. Enjoy live performances by local artists, a sneak peek at PCTC's season, food from our incubator kitchen entrepreneurs, a silent auction, and the presentation of awards honoring three outstanding artists. 7-9 p.m. 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. facebook.com/stageonemi.

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

Campfire Program: Under the Moon - Join the



Cruise to Holt
5-8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25
Holt Farmers Market
2150 N. Cedar St., Holt
Free
facebook.com/CruisetoHolt

Friday marks the final Cruise to Holt event of the year. With no entry fee, all are welcome to participate. Beyond showing off their vehicle or simply viewing all the cars on display, attendees can enjoy food from Two Guys Nomadic Grill and a DJ. Competitors will have a shot at one last Pick of the Week trophy.

HNC naturalists around the campfire for a fireside chat, s'mores and a guided walk. 7-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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

Eaton County Genealogical Society Symposium - A day with great speakers such as D. Josh Taylor and Cynthia Grostick. We will have door prizes. Individuals can join us via Zoom or in person. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. eventbrite.com/o/82634580113.

Faces of Faith - Join us for an evening of food, fun, and friendly competition as we get to know our Prophet and Apostles a little better! 6-8 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 7943 Keefer Hwy., Portland. eventbrite.com/o/94849127593.

Fall Electronics Recycling Event - In addition to recycling your unwanted electronics, Meridian Cares will also accept new and gently used coats for its annual coat drive. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Meridian Mall parking lot, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/MeridianTownship.

Gardner White Hosts Free Meet and Greet with “Gabby's Dollhouse” Star - Gardner White will host a free meet-and-greet event with Laila Lockhart Kraner, star of the hit Netflix and DreamWorks Animation franchise “Gabby's Dollhouse.” 3-5 p.m. 8748 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. news.gardner-white.com.

Go Green! Go Art! - On campus for tailgating or the big game? Stop by the museum and make something to show your Spartan spirit! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Herbal Tea 101 w/ Lauryn McDaniel - Learn the basics of herbal tea! 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/26136752469.

Lansing Queer Almanac - Join the Lansing Queer Almanac to share your stories, memories, artwork, photographs, poetry, and other pieces of local queer history. 11 a.m.-noon. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. lansingqueeralmanac.com.

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

Mabon Ritual - Mabon is the second Harvest. It is the time of our yearly incarnation that we pass away from the trials of the year, reap our rewards, and embrace rest. 1-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

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.

Mason Area Historical Society Ribbon Cutting - To celebrate 50 wonderful years, the Historical Society will be hosting a classic ice cream social from 1-3 p.m. We'll be celebrating with a special ribbon cutting at 2 p.m., so come scoop up some fun! 200 E. Oak St., Mason. facebook.com/MasonMuseum.

“Mastermind Prayer Circle” on Zoom - Support each other in envisioning our hearts' desires. Lisa Schmidt, facilitator. 8-9:30 a.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

MSU Football vs. Nebraska Cornhuskers - 5 p.m. Spartan Stadium, 325 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/football.

Movement 'n' Music | Caffeine Connection - An open-level pop-up dance experience rooted in connection, curiosity and community. Fill your cup at Okemos Coffee Shop, find your groove in class. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1732 Hamilton Road, Okemos. graceedarlingg@gmail.com.

The One Good Thing or “Are Ya Patrick Swayze?” - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Red Cross Adult & Pediatric CPR w/AED Training - Learn adult and pediatric CPR, automated external defibrillator (AED), and emergency procedures like rescue breathing and the Heimlich maneuver. Registration req. 10 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Red Cross BLS (Basic Life Support) - Adults, college students and healthcare professionals — get your Red Cross BLS certification! Registration req. 12:30-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Events

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Red Pyramid After Dark - The sirens are calling you to Henry’s Place in Okemos for a Silent Hill-inspired monster drag experience filled with rust, ruin, industrial dread, and sinister beauty. 7-10 p.m. 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/77771454873.

Salamander Survey - Participants will learn about local salamander species, their habitats, and the vital role they play in our ecosystem. All are welcome! 2-4 p.m. Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.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.

Seasonal Casual Mixology - Casual mixology class. We’ll make mocktails and give out advice on spirit pairing. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Brady’s HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

We Want More History! - We invite everyone to explore the history of the village and surrounding community of Bath. There will be walking tours of the Village of Bath, informational booths, and activities. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. facebook.com/bathtpl.

What Is Your Heirloom Worth? - The Shiawassee Arts Center is hosting a treasures and heirlooms appraisal event with DuMouchelles Auction House. Members are invited to bring their antiques, paintings, jewelry, furniture and collectibles. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. shiawasseearts.org.



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 17

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

Sunday, Sept. 27

Copper Chimney Lounge Poetry Series - A reading by Suban Nur Cooley, Lansing poet laureate and assistant professor in the Department of African American & African Studies at MSU, will launch the fall season of the Copper Chimney Lounge Poetry Series. 4 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub.

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

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.

Goddess Women’s Circle - Ritual, singing, growth, healing & community. Find empowerment & connection through feminist spirituality. 2-4 p.m. Contact organizer for address. 515-681-6781. goddesswithin.us.

Golden Harvest Half Marathon & 5K/10K - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Potter Park, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/GoldenHarvestHalfMarathon5k10kLansing.

JCW Lunacy Live! - The all-stars of Juggalo Championship Wrestling. 5:30 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. grewalhall.com.

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

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

The One Good Thing or “Are Ya Patrick Swayze?” - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

One Grand Read: Author Visit - Enjoy an afternoon with author Hanif Abdurraqib, who will discuss his book, “There’s Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension.” 2-3 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. onegrandread.com.

Quaker Meeting for Worship - Rich communal silence that invites thinking deeply, developing spiritually, loving fully, speaking our truths. Children’s program provided. 10:30 a.m. Red Cedar

Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org.

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.

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

World Rhino Day Celebration - Explore interactive education stations, learn about rhino conservation, and discover how you can help protect these incredible, endangered animals. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Monday, Sept. 28

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. ruhalacenter.com.

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

DJ Bingo at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Kick off your week with a night of music, laughs, and friendly competition! 7-8:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Easy No Sew Pumpkins - Celebrate fall with a fun and easy no-sew pumpkin craft using just fabric scraps and a roll of toilet paper. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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. ruhalacenter.com.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

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. 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.

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.

Adult Daytime Gathering - For September, we’ll get ready for fall and craft a paper pumpkin! 2-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Nature Journaling: Exploring Like a Scientist - In this hands-on six-week program, kids will learn how scientists study nature by keeping their own scientific nature journals. Registration req. 4-5:30 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

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

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

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

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Give yourself the royal treatment with a meal at Crown Grill

By LIZY FERGUSON

I love trying a new restaurant on the recommendation of its signature dish, only to find that there's so much more to discover.

I've long heard that Crown Grill has some of Lansing's best burgers, so I paused and then clicked on its thumbnail while hopelessly scrolling through Grubhub recently for delivered sustenance, way too hungry and tired. I wasn't even in the mood for a burger, but I couldn't bear to continue the search.

Luckily, the menu has a lot of variety: tacos, fat-toush salad, falafel, shawarma, lamb chili, chicken wings. I didn't expect to be spoiled for choice. The lemon-herb grilled chicken sandwich sounded perfect, so into the cart it went, along with a small Greek salad and an order of fries.



Lemon-herb grilled chicken sandwich

\$6.49

Greek salad

\$6.99

Crown Grill

902 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing

11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday

Noon-8 p.m. Saturday

(517) 253-7624

mycrowngrill.com

I had just enough time to shower and find something to watch before the food arrived. Side note: If you're not tipping your delivery drivers, I want you to take a long, hard look at yourself.

The Greek salad was beautiful and fresh, full of olives, beets, cucumbers, really delicious feta cheese and a house-made (I assume) vinaigrette. A pro tip is to take some fries, douse them with the dressing and feta, and eat them with a fork. Next time I go in person, I'll have to see about some garlic sauce to further enhance the experience.

The sandwich was simple but extremely tasty, the star being the juicy, marinated chicken with a delicious kiss of charcoal. The herby chicken paired



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

perfectly with the salad dressing, into which I ended up dipping the sandwich. Mental note to get an extra side of dressing in the future.

I have no doubt the burgers at Crown Grill are incredible, and I look forward to giving them a try, but I'm just as ex-

cited to try the less expected items on the menu. If my first meal was any indication, I'm sure all of it is delicious, and I'm thrilled to have somewhere to turn when I'm exhausted and in need of something quick, fresh and life affirming.

TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 SUB SANDWICHES

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

1. Babe's Corner

Ice cream and hoagie shop with plentiful vegetarian and vegan options
331 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 939-9598
facebook.com/babescornerlansing
11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

2. Firehouse Subs downtown Lansing

Counter-serve chain offering made-to-order hot and cold subs
200 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 316-0483
firehousesubs.com
10 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

3. Jersey Giant Subs — all locations

Local chain serving massive, made-to-order submarine sandwiches
See jgsubs.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

4. Jimmy John's Okemos

Counter-serve chain specializing in sub and club sandwiches
3450 Okemos Road, Okemos
(517) 347-3232
jimmyjohns.com
10 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

5. King Subs

Casual, family-owned sandwich shop serving quick bites
2602 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
(517) 321-1441
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

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Fill your home with the scent of homemade bread

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Bread-making is a popular pastime for millions of people across the globe. When baking bread at home, kitchens and even surrounding rooms tend to fill up with an enticing aroma. The finished product is equally appetizing and often hard to resist.

There’s no end to the types of bread people can prepare at home. This winter, a recipe for “Winter Squash Bread” from Lines+Angles can hit the spot for people who love to make and indulge in homemade bread.

Winter Squash Bread

Makes eight servings (one loaf)

- 1 1/3 cups sugar
- 1/3 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup cooked butternut squash, puréed
- Two large eggs
- 5 tablespoons water
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 2/3 cup pumpkin seeds

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. and line the base of a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan with parchment paper.
2. Cream together sugar and butter in a large mixing bowl until pale and fluffy. Beat in butternut squash purée.
3. Beat in the eggs, one by one, followed by the water and vanilla extract.
4. Combine flour, cornstarch, baking powder, baking soda, salt and spices in a separate bowl. Stir into the squash mixture until a rough batter forms.
5. Fold the chopped walnuts into the batter. Spoon and scrape into the prepared pan and sprinkle over the pumpkin seeds.
6. Bake for about one hour until risen and dry to the touch on top; a cake tester should come out clean from the center when ready.



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