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October 7-13, 2026

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again for

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America Keeps Americaning

So I was having a difficult time nailing down a topic to write about this week.

Not because there was a shortage of news. Apparently, the universe has decided that what Americans really need is a fresh outrage every morning before we've even finished our coffee.

Frankly, I know I'm not alone in my anxiousness as we head toward the midterms. I'm increasingly feeling like everything is unpredictable. More unpredictable than I can ever remember. Every day seems to bring another headline that makes me wonder whether we're watching a country unravel in real time or whether we've simply become so numb that we no longer recognize what unraveling looks like.

Then I started hearing more and more about the seven fraternity brothers at Cornell University.

And here we go again. Because apparently, despite decades of evidence, we still have to ask the same questions.

What was she wearing? What was she drinking? Why was she there? Why didn't she leave, fight back, scream or say something sooner?

At what point did we decide that the person who was allegedly harmed should be the one put on trial? I thought the people who were supposed to protect her would actually protect her.

Particularly administrators at a university—a place of higher learning. A prestigious institution. A place that presumably spends a considerable amount of time teaching young people about ethics, responsibility and consequences.

Apparently, there was a typo in the curriculum. Instead of protecting her, they protected the boys. And shame on me for thinking this university might have higher standards. I guess I'm just delusional.

Because despite everything happening around us, some stupid, stubborn part of me continues to believe that we are evolving. That we are progressing. That somewhere underneath all the greed, corruption, tribalism and political bullshit, there is still a desire to become a more enlightened society.

I keep hoping that maybe we'll eventually look at the mistakes we've made and say, "You know what? That was awful. Let's never do that again." Instead, America seems to respond with, "Hold my beer."

America keeps Americaning. This is tradition. And apparently, tradition is sacred.

This isn't a college problem. It isn't a campus problem, Cornell problem or even exclusively a university problem.

It's a patriarchy problem. It's an American problem. And at its root, it is a problem with men. Men don't hold men accountable.

We protect our buddies. We protect our organizations, reputations and institutions. And when someone finally asks why nobody protected the woman who was actually harmed, we act confused.

Michigan State University should never have another scandal after Larry Nassar. Never. That should have been the moment when every institution in America collectively looked in the mirror and said, "Never again." Instead, apparently, "never again" means "until the next time."

And then there's our president. When asked about Cornell, he gave us the familiar song and dance: smear the prosecutor, attack the people pursuing accountability and find a way to make the people accused of wrongdoing the victims.

Because apparently, accountability is now something you can simply yell at until it goes away. It's almost comforting in its predictability. Almost.

And while we're talking about things that have become predictable, let's not forget another mass school shooting. Another school. Another shooter. Another collection of terrified children and grieving parents.

Another political argument about everything except the one thing that should be obvious: We have created a country where children have to practice what to do when someone comes into their school with a gun. And we call that freedom.

Think about that for a moment. We have somehow reached the point where a

child knowing how to hide from an armed person is considered a reasonable part of an American education.

But apparently suggesting that maybe we should do something about the guns is where we draw the line. Because freedom. Of course.

The funny thing about America is that we seem to have developed a very selective definition of freedom. We are incredibly passionate about the freedom to own a gun. Less passionate about the freedom of a woman to walk into a fraternity house without becoming a victim.

Very passionate about protecting the rights of the accused. Less passionate about protecting the person who was harmed.

Very passionate about individual liberty ... until that liberty belongs to someone we don't like.

And extremely passionate about protecting institutions, especially when those institutions are protecting the "wrong" people.

So if I had to come up with a new American slogan, perhaps it would be: America: Get a gun. Rape women. Protect the powerful. Tradition dies hard here.

Maybe that sounds extreme. Maybe it is. But then again, we've become pretty damn good at making the extreme ordinary.

We normalize sexual violence. We normalize victim blaming. We normalize men protecting men, institutions protecting themselves, children being murdered at school.

We normalize politicians attacking prosecutors. We normalize corruption, cruelty and the inexplicable. And then we slap a flag on it and call it freedom.

We may not be free from harm, but apparently, we're still free to harm. And maybe that's the most American thing of all.

I still want to believe we can be better. I still want to believe that somewhere beneath all the noise, there is a country capable of looking at itself honestly and saying, "This isn't who we want to be."

But perhaps that's the delusional part of me talking. Because America keeps Americaning.

And maybe the hardest truth isn't that America has failed to evolve. Maybe it's that we keep calling the failure "a tradition."

And as long as we do that, we can keep congratulating ourselves for being the greatest country on Earth while asking the people we failed to explain why they weren't careful enough. Asking why they drank too much or trusted the wrong person.

Why they went to the wrong place, or didn't fight harder, scream louder or protect themselves. Anything, apparently, except asking the people who did the harm why they did it.

Anything except asking the institutions that protected them why they chose the institution over the victim. Or asking ourselves why, after all these years, we're still having the same damn conversation.

Maybe I'm naive. Maybe I'm delusional. But I still believe an enlightened society is possible. I just wish America would stop making me prove it.

Did Epstein really kill himself?

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com

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CityPULSE

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Michigan's next senator will need to rescue Social Security

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City Pulse was founded as an alternative weekly in 2001.

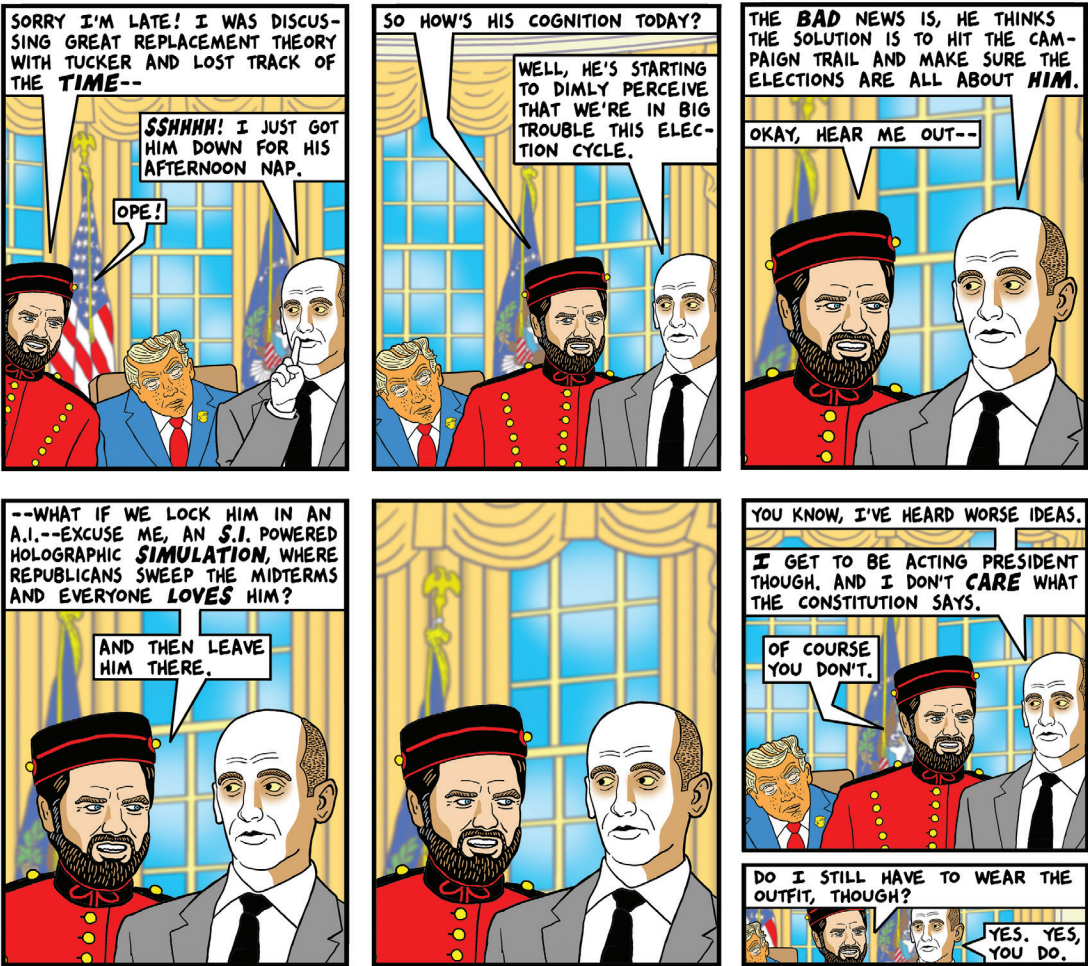


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by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

After five deaths along Lansing River Trail in last year, police can't rule out serial killer

By MIKE ELLIS

Lansing Police Chief Robert Backus said Friday he could not rule out a serial killer after several violent deaths within about a mile on the Lansing River Trail in the past year.

“Do we have a serial killer in Lansing?” he asked at a news conference Friday, echoing questions he’s been hearing from the community. “We are looking at the idea, or possibility, that these may be related cases. We look for information, we look for patterns and we have developed some. For example, we believe that all of our victims are members of our unhoused community. We suspect that in these instances, the injuries occur overnight, in the early morning hours. We believe that our victims in this case were lying down, potentially even sleeping.”

There have been five deaths, with three formally determined to be homicides and two others matching many of the details.

But police are tentatively separating one of the cases, in which someone has been arrested for a fatal stabbing.

The other four have had no arrests and are all linked to some kind of



Mike Ellis/City Pulse



A map showing the approximate locations where four men were found injured in the last year. Addresses from Lansing Police, map created by Mike Ellis/City Pulse.

beating, with severe facial injuries. Those four are white men in their 50s or older.

Police have not identified a weapon or instrument they suspect was used, the chief said.

Most of the victims survived sev-

eral days in a hospital before dying; the earliest of the deaths was in 2025.

Gino Chouinard, 54, died on Oct. 27, about two weeks after he was injured.

Denis Dunnebacke, 70, was found

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Man shot by Lansing Police had ‘fake gun’ and may have called 911 on himself during mental health crisis, chief said

By MIKE ELLIS

Lansing Police Chief Rob Backus said 29-year-old Zachary Dunn, who was shot and killed by police on Sept. 23, had a fake gun and may have called 911 on himself in what police were treating as a mental health crisis.

Police have said the man pointed a gun at officers around 4:30 a.m. at the 600 block of E. Jolly Road, where a major road reconstruction meets an apartment complex.

Backus spoke about the shooting during a news conference Thursday and shared video that shows Dunn standing in a parking lot, with several car lengths separating him and several officers.

In most of the video, Dunn holds an object to his head. Several offi-



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

cers talked to him, referring to it as a gun and at least one officer asked him to lower the gun without aiming it in their direction.

After several minutes, an officer approached from the side and fired a Taser at Dunn. Dunn ran away. Video of the short foot chase appears to show him turning and raising his arm, pointing the object in the direction of the officers who were pursuing him.

Police released a 10-minute video with footage from several body cameras and vehicle cameras and including a 911 call. The video is on YouTube.

The video stops before the moment of gunfire and resumes with

See Man shot, Page 6

Supporters of Barrett, Lawrence clash at dueling protests ahead of debate

By BEN SOLIS/
Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

Members of “Spartans for Will,” who back Democrat Will Lawrence, and supporters of Republican U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte) clashed in a war of words and protest signs in downtown Lansing on Monday evening during a pair of demonstrations calling out Lawrence and Barrett over their respective campaign planks — and in the case of Barrett, his congressional record — with just 31 days left in the 2026 general election cycle.

Lawrence, the Democratic nominee for the 7th Congressional District, and Barrett, the seat’s incumbent, are set to square off Tuesday in a debate hosted by WKAR-TV in Lansing.

Organizers of the pro-Lawrence demonstration, which was held outside of Barrett’s office in Lansing, called attention to the congressman’s record on artificial intelligence, the data centers that power its proliferation, healthcare and other issues that progressives have noted in their calls to elect Lawrence in the fall.

Camden Kimmel, a Michigan State University student and a member of “Spartans for Will,” gave remarks at the protest, highlighting the group’s issues with Barrett. Cynthia Burton, with Bee Accepting, also aired grievances with Barrett’s time in office.

“We must act now. Status quo systems, policies, and politicians are never going



Photo by Ben Solis/Michigan Advance

Members of “Spartans for Will” Lawrence and supporters of U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Charlotte) clashed in a war of words and protest signs in downtown Lansing on Monday, Oct. 5, during a pair of demonstrations calling out Lawrence and Barrett over their respective campaign planks — and in the case of Barrett, his congressional record — with just 31 days left in the 2026 general election cycle.

to fix the damaging mistakes of the past two, 12, 20, 189 and 250 years. The opportunity to unite people towards a better future is here, and we will not let it pass us by,” Kimmel said. “I very much consider Tom Barrett a status quo politician. Taking corporate PAC money, bowing down to Trump and voting for the ‘Big Beautiful Bill,’ supporting the war in Iran, and entrenching our energy grid’s dependence on the fossil fuel industry. He has expressed no desire to

stand up to AI startups and data center builders, instead preferring to pass that responsibility over to the local townships.”

Lawrence spokesperson Mya Legel told Michigan Advance following the event that “Michiganders have paid the price of Tom Barrett’s cost-raising record in Congress.”

“One night on a debate stage is too little, too late to make up for two years of absence, billionaire tax breaks, and rub-

ber-stamping Donald Trump’s agenda,” Legel said.

Barrett’s supporters counter-programmed the protest by holding one of their own, calling out Lawrence’s associations with the democratic socialist movement, his arrest record from days of protesting oil pipelines, and other grievances with Lawrence’s campaign.

Several members of the pro-Barrett demonstration were asked if they would like to be interviewed by the Advance, but declined. Those present and representing Barrett at the counter-demonstration included members of the Michigan Republican Party, from GOP legislative aides to members of regional and county GOP offices.

Barrett spokesperson Jason Roe pushed back on the protest and the Lawrence campaign calling the congressman’s record into question.

“The Lawrence campaign is a campaign of theater kids. Since Tom first was sworn in nearly two years ago, Will and his merry band of mischief makers have been protesting his office, harassing his staff, vandalizing his office, and making unfounded accusations that predated his first votes in Congress,” Roe told the Advance. “Hopefully, the voters are not fooled by the theatrics and look at the record, because Tom’s record stands up against any member of the Michigan delegation in terms of his independence, voting in line with the needs of his district, and it’s why he’s going to get reelected.”

Killer

from page 5

with serious facial injuries on July 9 and he died a week later. Backus said medical officials initially described it as a medical cause rather than criminal but he said police treated it as a suspicious case from the onset.

Robert Smith, 57, was found on July 13, he was pronounced dead on July 17.

The stabbing death of 22-year-old Daniel Lusk, happened on Aug. 20 and a man has been charged with open murder.

The most recent case was a little over a month ago, when Louis Woodruff, 57, was found with severe facial injuries.

The chief said a lack of surveillance cameras along the river has hampered the investigation, with the one case that has an arrest

being linked to surveillance images.

Backus said there are no other deaths along the river. He said he is not aware of any severe assaults along the river and investigators have not handled any cases there recently where a non-fatal assault seems similar to the deaths.

He said homeless advocates and police have been working to warn people living along the river, and the advocates have reported that around half of those living there have moved elsewhere.

Backus said he didn’t know where they had gone.

The chief said the attacks are all believed to have happened in early morning hours, around 3 a.m. or 4 a.m., and the trail is generally safe for people.

“I do not have concerns for safety on the river trail outside of those hours,” Backus said.

Man shot

from page 5

officers treating Dunn. It is not clear how many shots were fired but Backus said six officers are on administrative leave and that those officers are believed to have fired their guns.

Backus said the decision to not share that part of the shooting was made by him, in conjunction with the family. He said family members were shown the video before the public release.

The situation, Backus said, was immediately flagged by officers as a mental health crisis. He said all of Lansing’s officers have had training in de-escalation and half of the officers there had gone through more advanced training.

“In this case, you have almost a full depiction of how this event unfolded from start to finish,” Backus said.

The 911 call was placed by a number associated with Dunn, Backus said, but he could not say whether Dunn had

made the call.

The caller reported someone banging on apartments with a gun.

Dunn lived at the apartment complex, Backus said.

The Michigan State Police are investigating the officer-involved shooting and Backus said his department would do an internal review, which could include best practices and changes going forward, once the State Police finishes its investigation and the case is reviewed by the Attorney General’s office.

Lt. Rene Gonzalez of the State Police said the investigation is continuing.

Six officers were placed on administrative leave and Backus said all had discharged their firearms. They are:

Sgt. Kyle Schlagel, 19 years with LPD
Officer Seth Osentoski, 6 years with LPD

Officer Marc Fox, 3 years with LPD
Officer Tyler Ebright, 2 years with LPD

Officer Keegan Kinne, 1 year with LPD
Officer Kurt Rimelspach, 8 months with LPD

Michigan's next senator will face Social Security insolvency deadline



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Abdul El-Sayed



Courtesy

Mike Rogers

By LIEZA KLEMM

The deadline for Congress to fix Social Security so recipients won't see a benefits reduction is looming.

A division of the program, Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI), serves just over two million Michigan residents, or roughly one in five. According to a June 9 report, the OASI trust fund is in such a state that if nothing changes by 2032, recipients will see benefits cut by almost a quarter. By law, the program's paid-out benefits cannot exceed revenue once its trust fund is drained, causing the projected 22% reduction.

One of the candidates running for Michigan's open U.S. Senate seat, either Abdul El-Sayed or Mike Rogers, will be in office and making decisions regarding the program.

Michigan is one of the ten states that are most vulnerable to the change, according to a report from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

The issue isn't new. For the past 16 years, the cost of Social Security's retirement program has outpaced the amount of cash coming in, triggering the use of trust fund reserves to pay benefits in full.

Steven Haider, a professor of economics and department chair at Michigan State University, said the leading cause is the change in the worker-to-retiree ratio. In 1945, there were 42 workers per retiree. Over seventy years later, it's less than three to one.

Lower birth rates and longer life expectancies threw the ratio out of whack, Haider said. "Life expectancy when we passed the Social Security Act in 1935 was about 62. It's now about 78."

The Board said the program's anticipated insolvency date is coming sooner than previously thought.

While lower birth rates and longer life expectancies have contributed to the discrepancy, a provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law by President Donald Trump in 2025, played a part in the shrinking timeline. According to the report, tax cuts from the law would lead to less income tax paid on Social Security benefits, cutting off even more revenue to the program.

There are a variety of solutions policymakers could make, but Haider said it boils down to increasing taxes or reducing benefits. "All the various policies that have been put forward are a riff on one of those two things," he said. "The sentiment among Americans to fix the program is extremely strong."

One solution is to raise the retirement age by one year, which is a type of benefits reduction. In the same vein, Haider said reducing benefits for higher earners is a possibility.

El-Sayed has called for eliminating Social Security's tax cap - a version of increasing taxes.

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

"(He) understands the urgency of the Social Security solvency crisis and is prepared to act on day one," Campaign spokesperson Cole Wozniak said.

In a statement, Alyssa Brouillet, a spokesperson for Rogers's campaign, offered another solution. "While Abdul's reckless 'Medicare for All' plan quadruples costs and bankrupts Social Security, Mike Rogers is committed to protecting Social Security and Medicare for our seniors. He will take on the healthcare industry and insurance companies to increase transparency while bringing down costs - as he has for his entire career."

A bipartisan proposal from Senators Bernie Moreno (R-OH) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) that recommended raising the taxable maximum was criticized and called "flawed" by the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center (TPC).

TPC's critiques included the rupture of the "contribution-benefit link." Increasing the taxable maximum would increase a retiree's expectations of matched benefits, according to the organization.

"I strongly encourage people not to think about the Social Security system as being the same as a pension," Haider said.

Social Security is a crucial part of the proverbial "three-legged stool" of retirement. While it might not pay out enough for someone to have a winter refuge in Florida, it is a guaranteed income for retirees.

It is designed to provide a minimum standard of living, Haider said, and it's an important part of someone's portfolio.

"Everyone knows they're going to be a part of it, and the fact that it's a well-functioning annuity that pays until you die," he said, "is incredibly valuable."

A benefits cut would affect those who rely solely on Social Security for income the most, or "anybody that doesn't have a well-funded 401K or IRA or other appreciable assets that they're living on," Haider told City Pulse.

Other social safety net programs would also be strained, he said.

A bipartisan group of senators introduced the Protect Retirement Opportunities and Maintaining Income Security for Everyone (PROMISE) Act in July. While the bill does not propose

any specific solutions, it would create a process to start Congressional action on Social Security before the trust fund is depleted.

Under the bill, the Social Security Advisory Board would send Congress a base bill after collecting public input. Any legislative recommendations in the base bill would have to support at least 50 years of solvency for Social Security.

If a Social Security funding shortfall is projected, the PROMISE Act would also establish a solvency review process every 10 years that would initiate floor proceedings outlined in the bill.

Surveys performed by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation in 2026, 2024 and 2022 suggest that Americans across the aisle are willing to make changes to the program.

In the most recent public consultation survey, conducted earlier this year with almost 20,000 Americans, 83% of Democrats and 77% of Republicans surveyed nationally favored increasing the taxable maximum.

Reducing benefits for the top 20% of lifetime earners also received bipartisan support: 69% of Democrats and 62% of Republicans surveyed nationally.

Gradually increasing the payroll tax from the current rate of 6.2% to 6.5% ranked slightly lower, but still had large bipartisan support. Two-thirds of Democrats and just over three-fifths of Republicans favored the option.

Haider said that a combination of certain adjustments, like raising the tax cap and retirement age, would help the program. "These minor changes are well worth making so that it's internally solvent ... for another 90 years."

State of Michigan, 54-A District Court, Ingham County, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-4433: ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATE SERVICE, Case No. 26-03227-GC, Fred and Louisa Flatz v Trevor Dornbos. THE COURT FINDS (1) service of process upon the defendant, Trevor Dornbos, cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard. IT IS ORDERED (2) service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s): A. First-class mail to 415 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing MI 48933. Other: Publication in the Lansing City Pulse for 3 consecutive weeks in accordance with MCR 2.106(D)(1) and certified mail return receipt requested to last known address (415 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933). Plaintiff's name: Fred & Louisa Flatz. Attorney: Aaron D. Cox (P69346), 23820 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI 48180, (734) 287-3664.

CP#26-371

Abandoned Vehicle Sale, Lansing MI
10/13/26

Northside Service, 226 Russell St., Lansing, MI 48906
517-487-5921

All sealed bids will be accepted in the office of Northside Service by 1pm, 10/13/26

Winner of the bid will be contacted by 2pm 10/13/26

Winner must then go to the corresponding police department for titling information for the vehicle before the vehicle can be removed from Northside Service. Vehicle must then be removed by 4pm 10/16/26

1J8HG48K28C135351 – 2008 Jeep Commander Sport
WBAFU9C55BC783258 – 2011 BMW 550xi
1GC1KWE3FF177283 – 2015 Chevrolet Silverado k2500

CP#26-373

An abandoned vehicle public auction will be held at PJs Towing
2200 Olds Ave, Lansing, MI 48915 on October 16th, 2026 @ 11am

2022 Jeep Compass 3C4NJDCB9NT209691
2018 TaoTao Titan L9NTCBAC8J1011320
2022 Chevrolet Malibu 1G1ZD5ST3NF122011

CP#26-374

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
Board Meeting Synopsis – September 30, 2026

The Williamstown Township Board held a regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 30, 2026 with Supervisor Poth, Clerk Cleveland, Treasurer VanErp, Trustee Brinker, Trustee Creagh, and Trustee Steinberg present. The Board approved the following:

- Consent Agenda
- A moratorium on the sale of burial spaces in the green burial section of Summit Cemetery
- Directed the Township Supervisor to meet with the Williamston Locke Corridor Community Alliance (WLCCA) director(s) to explore opportunities for collaboration & cooperation other than membership
- An amended Truck Route Ordinance

The next regular Board meeting will be held October 14, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Community Room of the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Visit williamstownmi.gov for the latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Williamstown Township Clerk

CP#26-375

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

In re: Petition of Ingham County Land
Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited
Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain
Parcels of Real Property

Case No. 26-4461-CH

Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina

Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.
Attorneys for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Estate of Larry Belt, Timothy Hart, Estate of Mark T. Seman, Susan K. Olson,
and all persons having an interest in the subject properties listed in Exhibit A

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property shall be held before the Honorable Rosemarie E. Aquilina, Ingham County Circuit Judge, at the Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

This Notice pertains to the real property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, as set forth in Exhibit A.

Notice of Pending Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure Action (Form 4329) for each of the subject properties was recorded with the Ingham County Register of Deeds on September 4, 2026.

Judgment of the Court after this hearing may result in title to the property vesting in the Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority, 3024 N. Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906 – Telephone (517) 267-5221.

Any persons with information regarding the owner or prior owner of the subject properties are requested to contact the Land Bank.

Any rights of redemption and any ownership interest in the subject properties may be extinguished by the judgment of the Court.

Any person with a property interest in the subject properties may lose his or her interest, if any, as a result of the quiet title and foreclosure hearing.

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE INGHAM COUNTY LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AND IS SUBJECT TO AN EXPEDITED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. PERSONS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRIOR OWNER OF THE PROPERTY ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AT 3024 N. TURNER ST., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906, TELEPHONE (517) 267-5221.

Respectfully submitted,
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.

Date: September 8, 2026

/s/ Timothy M. Perrone
Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
Attorney for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

EXHIBIT A

Individual parcels of property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, legally described as:

1. East ½ of North 94 feet of Lot 7, Block 3, Jerome's Addition, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-01-15-154-171
Commonly known as 922 Vine St., Lansing, MI 48912
2. Lot 17, Devonshire Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 13 of Plats, Page 26, Ingha County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-01-27-128-021
Commonly known as 1915 Devonshire Ave., Lansing, MI 48910
3. Lot 202, Maple Hill Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 8 of Plats, Page 33, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-01-33-284-001
Commonly known as 600 Fenton Ave., Lansing, MI 48910
4. West 75 feet of Lot 1, Marywood Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records.
Parcel ID #33-01-05-08-227-311
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Inside the process of protecting Michigan elections

By **AARON JIMENEZ**
Capital News Service

LANSING – Before a single Michigan vote is counted, election workers will have already tested tabulators, secured ballots and locked down all equipment.

All under a system built to protect elections across the state.

Michigan splits the work: For example, counties program the tabulators, while cities and townships manage the front lines by staffing voting sites.

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope says that division of responsibilities, along with pre-election testing, post-election audits and strict handling of ballots, keeps the counts accurate.

“That separation adds another set of eyes and makes our elections more secure here in Michigan,” said Swope.

The work for election integrity starts when candidates file.

In Midland County, John Keefer, the chief deputy clerk, said his office checks to make sure candidates

are eligible. That includes verifying where they live and making sure they do not owe any overdue campaign finance reports.

Programmers then lay out the ballots and county officials proof them before they are printed.

Before any voting begins, every tabulator is tested in what clerks call a “test deck” to verify that tabulators are counting the votes properly, Swope said.

“We have already – before the election – proven that the tabulators count the ballots right,” Swope said.

Clerks need election workers to help run the polls.

Swope said Lansing employs several hundred election workers. State law requires them to be assigned by party and balanced as closely as possible between Republicans and Democrats.

The city is recruiting more Republicans this year to help balance its workforce, he said.

Finding any election workers is getting harder.

Dan Papineau, the vice president of strategic initiatives at the Michigan



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope.

Chamber of Commerce, said about half the clerks that his organization talks to need more poll workers.

Papineau leads the foundation's Support MI Clerks campaign, which focuses on recruiting across the state to fill the election worker gap.

“We’re seeing double-digit declines in poll workers, election after election,” Papineau said.

Longtime workers are aging out. At the same time, the increased popularity of early voting, which starts at

least nine days before Election Day, means more days to staff.

Staffing also affects how voters see the process: A long wait could leave voters with concerns about the election, Papineau said.

More workers, he said, can ease those concerns and create “a much more trusting environment.”

Swope said new election workers are assigned training sessions, plus hands-on practice with the equipment. Workers may also use an electronic poll book, which provides training on handling different scenarios, including voters going to the wrong voting location.

Absentee ballots are the first form of voting and carry their own safeguards, Swope said.

Lansing has roughly 23,000 voters on its permanent mail ballot list, Swope said. Each is assigned a unique ballot number, which is checked once the ballot is returned to confirm the voter sent back the correct one.

Election workers also compare each ballot signature with the one on

See Elections, Page 10

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Fears of deportation keep many immigrants from reporting crimes

By **MARISSA GONZALEZ**
Capital News Service

The growing presence of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in Michigan is creating fear and tension for many immigrants in the state, regardless of their legal status, experts say.

Local police departments have a slight relationship with immigration enforcement as well, but not as deep as some people may think, according to Ron Wiles, the executive director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

“Local law enforcement is not involved in immigration enforcement – that’s a federal responsibility,” Wiles said. “We have a relationship because at times we rely on our federal partners for assistance.”

Immigrants may be unsure whether police departments share information with immigration authorities that could draw attention to their legal status, which explains their hesitations towards police, he said.

“That fear of deportation, I’m certain, is prevalent with several people when they’ve been victimized or witnessed a crime, just because they are uncertain of what will happen,” Wiles said.

That has been an ongoing fear amongst immigrants for years – well before recent increases in immigration

enforcement activities.

For example, according to a survey by researchers from the University of Illinois Chicago in 2013, 70% of undocumented immigrants said they were less likely to contact law enforcement agencies if they are a victim of a crime. And 28% of U.S.-born Latinos said they were also less likely to contact police officers.

That was more than a decade before the Trump administration’s current immigration enforcement surge.

Wiles said it’s important for law enforcement agencies to build trust within their communities, and officers from many departments attend meetings with organizations that serve immigrants to build a better relationship.

The Holland Police Department is among those.

Matt Messer, the city’s chief of public safety services, said connecting with the community is a crucial part of the department’s approach to policing.

Messer said his department has staff on the boards of organizations like Boys & Girls Club and Latin Americans United for Progress.

This allows officers to become familiar faces in their community and not seen only during emergencies. It builds connection and deeper trust, Messer said.

The department also tries to build relationships with younger residents and their families through schools.

“There’s a lot of things we do on a daily basis. We have an officer at every elementary school to interact with students, staff and parents. It’s huge to build that kind of relationship,” Messer said.

Messer said that it’s essential to make clear to residents that the city’s officers do not ask about immigration status or contact immigration enforcement agencies during emergency situations.

The department does not want anyone to hesitate to reach out when they need assistance, he said.

Christine Sauvé, the manager of policy and communication at the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, said the hesitation from immigrants is reasonable because, currently, any interaction with immigration enforcement typically could lead to detention and, for most people, deportation.

The center has offices in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Detroit, Ypsilanti and Lansing.

According to the American Immigration Council, the number of people in ICE detention expanded by 75% during President Donald Trump’s first year back in office.

Sauvé said there are many cases where immigrants reach out to police for help or to report a crime but end up detained by immigration enforcement.

For example, last year an immigrant in Detroit who spoke only Span-

ish went with a translator to report a crime.

A police officer said the department needed to call Central Border Patrol to come translate for the immigrant instead – which is not required since the city also provides other translation services, according to Sauvé.

The officer also questioned the immigrant’s Detroit ID as a valid form of identification, which should be accepted, according to the city’s policy.

Sauvé said Central Border Patrol then arrested and detained the immigrant who was put into deportation proceedings.

Sauvé said that it is also common for victims of domestic violence to be arrested when they make a report, especially when they call for help during an abusive act.

The cause for arrest is usually the lack of translation services at the scene, so the officer arrests the victim.

According to Sauvé, immigration enforcement officers can see when a crime victim is arrested and booked, and they can follow up with the police department to request a transfer and detention.

She said most abuse victims are mothers and remained in detention for many months – up to a year away from their children – even if they were wrongfully arrested in the first place.

Elections

from page 9

file.

“If it does not match, we reach out to the voter and they have the opportunity to cure their signature,” Swope said. After absentee ballots are opened, workers remove the ballot number before taking the ballot out of its secrecy sleeve, Swope said.

“There’s never anybody who’s alone with an open ballot,” Swope said.

Michigan requires one drop box for every 15,000 registered voters. Swope said that means Lansing, which has 13 drop boxes, exceeds the minimum by six.

The drop boxes are locked and under video surveillance, as the city collects ballots daily.

Absentee ballots go through the same processes as mailed ballots: They are scanned, and signatures are verified, Swope said. Election workers then sort each ballot by precinct and check to make sure they have the right number for each precinct.

Keefer said the Midland County clerk’s office takes on a larger role than most other counties. It supplies every local clerk with identical materials, from the pieces of paper used on Election Day to the absentee ballots being sent out.

“We pack them, we seal all that stuff. And the clerks come to us and pick up all of their supplies so that they can go home and complete the (absentee ballot) process,” Keefer said.

On election night, Midland County’s election management system compiles the results without connecting to the internet.

“It’s never been connected to the Internet, and it never will be,” Keefer said.

To post unofficial results online, Keefer said he moves the management system’s data onto a flash drive that is wiped after every use.

That data produces reports for the county’s Board of Canvassers to analyze and compare with the physical results.

Swope said tabulators also require

human verification, despite being checked prior to use. Physical results must still be printed out to be looked at by election workers.

“The number of voters has to match the number of ballots cast,” Swope said.

If they do not line up, clerks can track down the discrepancy.

In Lansing’s August primary election, a paper jam in a tabulator led to a ballot being counted twice, Swope said. After the election, the Ingham County Board of Canvassers reprocessed the entire precinct to ensure the tabulator’s vote count matched the number of voters.

Results are not finalized on election night, Keefer said, and election officials must wait six days for military ballots to arrive and to clear up any signature errors. If there are errors, clerks are required to send letters to voters so they can come in and sign their absentee ballots properly.

Midland County adds its own checks.

“We perform three hand-counts after every single election,” Keefer

said.

Those counts occasionally differ slightly from the machine totals, he said.

For instance, a person may circle a candidate’s name instead of filling in the oval, which requires a real person to determine the voter’s intent.

After local officials complete their own checks, the process is still not finished.

Swope said that Ingham County audits the city’s records, including whether required notices were published, whether election workers completed training and whether absentee ballot applications are on file.

Counties may also conduct a risk-limiting audit.

Swope said a race is selected for the audit, and a calculation determines how many ballots must be reviewed to verify the count is accurate. Randomly selected precincts then hand-count the votes in that race, and the results are combined statewide to verify the accuracy of the vote.

“This audit re-proves that the tabulators counted right,” Swope said.

Data center tensions simmer across the state

By ALEXANDER BOESCH
Capital News Service

The expansion of hyperscale data centers in Michigan is inflaming tensions between some community residents and their governments.

According to the annual State of the State Survey from Michigan State University’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, 70% of those surveyed opposed the construction of hyperscale data centers in their communities, and over half thought that such data centers are bad for the environment or economy.

Near Mason, a data center proposed by Ohio-based Comino Development would be larger than 400 acres, something residents worry may bring down home values, deplete local aquifers and increase electric rates.

Despite residents’ uproar over the data center, the property awaits approval for annexation into the city of Mason by the State Boundary Commission.

“There is nothing to say ‘no’ to,” said Russell Whipple, the mayor of Mason. “They’ve requested annex-

ation into the city, and the city’s really not a participant in that process.”

According to Catherine Mullhaupt, a staff attorney for the Michigan Townships Association, state law provides townships with little authority to reject data centers in their community merely because of their unpopularity.

“You can’t actually exclude a use or prevent it from being in your community simply because you don’t like it,” Mullhaupt said.

In Washtenaw County’s Saline Township, developers of a new 250-acre data center nicknamed the Barn sued, alleging unfair zoning practices after the township initially denied them a zoning change that would have allowed the project. The township settled out of court, and plans for the data center went forward despite local outcry against the development.

“It’s also my understanding that the settlement agreement through the courts pretty much dictated the development standards,” said Whipple. “That means that Saline [Township] didn’t get to dictate the development standards. That’s a

worst-case scenario.”

In response to proposals for data centers, many communities have proposed moratoriums on data centers in order to understand and zone them properly.

That’s been a major topic of political debate ahead of the midterm elections in November.

The Townships Association’s Mullhaupt said, “The issue with data centers is they’re a brand-new use in most cases, and they’re at such a scale outsized from anything else we’ve had to deal with in recent years that they warrant more time to identify what the pros and cons are.”

Many communities across the state have already enacted moratoriums on data-center development, including sites in Mason and Delta counties.

According to Bill Ballenger, a former state legislator and host of the Ballenger Report, much of the pressure for candidates to distance themselves from data centers comes from being on the campaign trail.

“It all boils down to whether a particular public official or candidate

is running right now for election or re-election,” he said.

As of Oct. 2, U.S. Senate candidates Abdul El-Sayed, a Democrat, and Mike Rogers, a Republican, have both called for local moratoriums on new data centers, as have some candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives.

“You’ll notice that almost everybody who is running for election or re-election at whatever level – not only in Michigan but nationally – has gotten the message from the electorate: data centers are highly unpopular and should be either stopped completely, or at least there should be a pause, a moratorium,” Ballenger said.

Despite the unpopularity of data center projects, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appeared at the groundbreaking site of the Barn with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman in June.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump is championing the production of large-scale data centers in a race with China, as reported by the Associated Press.



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The power of local ownership

By KATIE ABRAHAM

Many people know the Lansing Board of Water & Light (BWL) as the company that keeps the lights on and the water flowing. But what you may not know is that the BWL is Michigan's largest publicly owned electric utility and it belongs to the Greater Lansing community it serves. BWL has always been committed to providing exceptional customer service and being a community partner.

This week is Public Power Week across the State of Michigan – and it's important to celebrate what makes public power different and why local ownership matters. The BWL has been functioning under the public power model since adding electricity to its services in 1892.

As a publicly owned utility, BWL is accountable to the people it serves because it's owned by the City of Lansing. The Lansing region benefits from this local oversight from an unpaid Board of Commissioners made up of people who live in the city and represent the community's priorities. The board holds regular, open meetings where decisions are made, further supporting transparency to its customers.

Like all of Michigan's public power utilities, BWL has no shareholders or private interests, and revenue is directly invested back in the community through upgrading infrastructure, strengthening the electric grid, increasing cybersecurity efforts and more. It means dollars stay local to continue delivering safe and reliable utility services.

By focusing on affordability over profits, public power customers get high-quality service without the high cost. And for residential electric customers in Lansing, that means BWL is nearly 10% cheaper than its closest competitor.

Being independent and local means publicly owned utilities like BWL are more agile in decision-making and can ensure their decisions reflect the values of their community. BWL employees aren't just workers – they're your neighbors. They're

volunteering at your church or coaching your kid's baseball team. And as your neighbors, they're ready to respond quickly and efficiently to get your power back on when disaster strikes.

Public power's dedication to the community goes beyond delivering utilities; it means giving back. For BWL, this means living their tagline "Hometown People, Hometown Power" through employee volunteerism, community sponsorships, local events and more. Whether

it's an annual river clean-up or hosting regular community resource fairs to connect customers who are struggling with resources and financial help, BWL continues to find meaningful ways to support their customers. This is perhaps the greatest value a public power utility provides to its community – building relationships with its customers and the shared interest in keeping the community a great place to live, work and raise a family.

BWL's mission is to "provide a safe, reliable and affordable utility experience through public ownership, climate consciousness and innovative strategies." The BWL has always been a leader in Michigan with cleaner energy sources; today, it is generating power from solar and wind energy in addition to traditional methods. But it's about doing more than just keeping the lights on – it's about a utility that's been deeply rooted in supporting its customers and community for over 140 years. It's an institution that's been built alongside the Lansing region for decades and will continue to stand with the community well into the future.

Public power isn't just about delivering electricity. It's about having a utility that's locally owned and accountable to and invested in their community. That's what BWL has been for the Lansing region, and that's what it means to be public power.

Katie Abraham is the Executive Director of the Michigan Municipal Electric Association (MMEA), representing all publicly owned utilities in Michigan.

Opinion

Barrett, Lawrence would like a word about their past

By KYLE MELINN

One thing about this Tom Barrett-Will Lawrence congressional race is you don't need to parse syntax to find differences between the two.

Here's another: Both would prefer if voters would overlook parts of their political records.

Sadly, it's very possible Tuesday's WILX debate (which aired at the same time as the governor's debate on WLNS, BTW) is the only time these two will stand side by side this entire election.

If it is, here's what we learned.

Will Lawrence is apparently no longer the scraggly-bearded, wild-eyed progressive activist who talked about defunding the police in 2020, erasing borders, and tweeting that former U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin should "hurry up and die" so the next generation can get started with reforms.

The Democratic nominee in MI-7 showed up to the WKAR studio in his blue suit and neatly trimmed beard to present his cornerstone progressive positions – Medicare for all, Israeli "genocide" over the Palestinians – as defensible, almost mainstream.

He argues that a single-payer, Medicare For All health care system would save consumers money, as a whole. His views on the Israeli reaction to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, terrorist attacks are in line with Israeli human rights groups.

As for everything else?

"I'm somebody who thinks out loud," Lawrence said. "I've spent my share of time thinking out loud, like lots of Millennials on the internet. I'm not afraid to change my mind and live and learn."

As Barrett read an old Lawrence statement about envisioning a world where "amnesty is granted to all 12 million illegal immigrants" in the United States, Lawrence burst in with "These were hypothetical statements from 15 years ago."

"You're running for Congress," Barrett shot back. "It's not a hypothetical statement."

Then there's the stuff Barrett didn't even get to in the debate. Lawrence's past support for the "Green New Deal." His support for trying to ban gasoline-powered cars. Lawrence said on a 2024 podcast that the collapse of the Baltimore Bridge was a "climate activist's dream" because it prevented the flow of coal across the waterway for a spell.

It was like a basket of goodies that Barrett didn't get into during the debate. Afterward, he went overtime with reporters so he could throw them all over the table for us to see.



POLITICS

"If I had said things like that, you would be asking me every day, 'Do you defend this? Do you defend that?'" Barrett said. "So, we're supposed to believe somebody who had a 15-year record as an activist, in the final weeks of a campaign, can disavow their entire history? I call that a conversion of convenience."

As for Barrett, the freshman member of Congress is being hooked with voting twice against efforts to rein in the war in Iran. Instead, he voted in favor of money to continue its operations. Months ago, the standard Republican line was about stopping Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

That was then.

Now, he's among the only Republicans to vote three times in support of measures to limit and wind down the military operations in Iran absent congressional sign-off.

In the process, he's walking the proverbial tightrope not to be overly critical of President Donald Trump for starting it.

"For me, this war has gone on long enough," Barrett told reporters after the debate. "We are seeing the financial effects and the fiscal impact on that back home with high gas prices and the effect that has across our economy."

President Donald Trump said at a Nebraska rally Monday that he sees the war as a "small price to pay for keeping the world safe, keeping our country safe. They can take out a city. Let 'em take out Los Angeles. Let 'em take out San Diego. This is a very small price to pay."

Lawrence went after the incumbent with that one, forcing Barrett to directly condemn Trump's comment live on air.

He also went after Barrett for voting to give nearly \$70 billion to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), accusing the agency of shooting civilians "in the face and in the back."

He moved on to cuts to the Affordable Care Act, which Lawrence said drove a Lansing-area mechanic's monthly premiums from \$600 a month to \$2,000. That's just one example.

Lawrence verbally tackled Barrett for not standing up to Trump over his "completely erratic and destabilizing" tariff policy, which changes "based on his mood or Lord knows what else."

"He voted with his President Trump every single time it matters," Lawrence told the press after the debate.

The differences were clearly easy to see.

It's harder to figure out this: Which version of each candidate would voters actually send to Washington if elected?

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

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Former President Barack Obama will be in Michigan this week and President Donald Trump said he plans to visit soon as the state is positioned to be a key to the national Congressional majority in November. Obama plans to campaign in Detroit on Friday with Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, who is running for governor, and Abdul El-Sayed, who is running for U.S. Senate. Trump said Monday that he also plans to visit the state within a “week and a half,” but no further details were available as of Tuesday afternoon. Michigan’s ballot is historically wide open this year; both the U.S. Senate and governor’s seats have no incumbent, something that has never happened before in the state due to calendar reasons, as well as the typical long terms in both offices.



A bowhunter was shot on Saturday evening in Essex Township, according to the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office. The 38-year-old hunter is in critical condition at a hospital, as stated in a Sheriff’s Office Facebook post. Police believe people on a nearby property were target shooting and an errant round struck the bowhunter, who was in a hard-sided ground blind. This is an isolated incident and the investigation remains ongoing by the Sheriff’s Office and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Assisting in this incident were Clinton Area Ambulance Service, Maple Rapids Fire, Dewitt Twp PD, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, and Clinton County Central Dispatch.

The current bow season started on Oct. 1 and runs through Nov. 14, which will be followed by a Dec. 1-Jan. 1 season. Regular firearm season begins on Nov. 15, although there are earlier windows for some youth and adults with qualifying disabilities, among other exceptions.



Embattled Clinton County Board of Commission member Brian Hurtekant resigned in early September and has been replaced. Steve Lonier, owner-operator of Shady Lodge Farm, was appointed to be the District 4 commissioner to replace Hurtekant for a term that expires at the end of 2028. The district includes DeWitt, Watertown, Riley and Olive townships. The county board members had previously voted, 4-3, to censure Hurtekant, after he was accused of posting an unredacted police record with a juvenile’s information on it on his Facebook page. Hurtekant obtained the report through a FOIA request using his title, but he was getting it for personal reasons, according to the censure. The records relate to a gun that was recovered earlier this year from a juvenile; the gun had been assigned to Clinton County Sheriff Sean Dush, who didn’t realize it had gone missing until then, according to a report from WLNS 6.

East Lansing is deploying AI parking police devices, called SafetySticks, which are “thinner than a red fire hydrant,” and placed in no parking zones, according to a report from Lansing State Journal. The city has seven of the solar-powered devices, which had a trial run in April and are expected to go live in about a month, according to the State Journal. “They have the technology to recognize a vehicle and a license plate,” Capt. Adrian Ojerio of the East Lansing Police Department told the newspaper. “When they recognize a vehicle and license plate is stationary in a no parking zone, what will happen is it will start a timer.” That timer will ultimately trigger



a ticket that can be appealed.



A.G. Sulzberger, publisher and chairman of the New York Times, spoke at Wharton Center’s Pasant Theatre on September 29 for an event that helped to mark 175 years of the Gray Old Lady. “President Donald Trump, who has sued us three times, used multiple government agencies to target our business, expelled journalists from the Pentagon and now the White House, and insulted us more times than anyone can count,” Sulzberger said. “I told him a free press is an essential part of our national fabric and that our journalists will not be deterred by his attacks. And they have not been.” He said even the NYT is a small fish in a big pond. “I often tell my colleagues that the main thing we’ve won over the last decade of transformation and growth is the right to compete for the next decade. We must remain oriented to the future, awake to both its opportunities and risks. We must remember that though we may be a success story in our industry, our industry is systematically failing. We are a fraction of the size of tech giants that dominate the flow of information and attention. Google makes more profit every day than the ‘Times’ does in an entire year.” *Raymond Holt contributed*

East Lansing artist and architect Kristin Pennock won the prestigious public vote grand prize and \$100,000 at Grand Rapids’ ArtPrize festival. Her artwork was an accordion-style record, displayed over walls, spanning 216 feet, and hung on little plastic clips to keep the folded feel. Her work is entitled “Sketchdiet: A Year of Drawing Everything I Ate” and covered her intake throughout 2024. The prize was announced on Saturday. In an Instagram post, Pennock said, “Entering ArtPrize was a life event, a first, a dream. Then the DeVos Place hosted my SketchDiet piece, ArtPrize staff supported me, other artists inspired me,



and the community not only came with open minds to engage with my work — but came again with friends and even voted for it. THANK YOU GRAND RAPIDS! I cannot imagine this happening anywhere else. An unbelievable, inspiring experience and I am most grateful to everyone who helped it happen and came into my life from this.”



The Sweetie-licious Bakery Cafe in DeWitt is temporarily closed as the business recovers from damage caused by a fire Sunday morning. Owner Linda Hunt and her daughter Ellie Sutherland vowed in a Facebook post Sunday that they would come back from the fire, which was discovered and reported by an unidentified passing motorist in the pre-dawn hours. There were no injuries as no one was in the business, located at 108 N. Bridge St., at the time. DeWitt Fire Chief John Braska said the damage could have been much worse. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Firefighters from DeWitt Area Fire and Rescue and the DeWitt Township and Bath Township fire departments were all involved in extinguishing the blaze. Hunt and Sutherland also expressed gratitude in a long message for all of the support from the community and to those who responded to fight the fire.



East Lansing Police released an image recently and asked for help solving a Sept. 19 armed robbery. The robbery happened around 10:30 p.m. in the area of Charles and Elizabeth streets. Police are asking anyone with surveillance cameras — and who live in the area between Abbot, Gunson, Albert and Burcham streets — to review footage between 10:15 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. on 9/19/2026. Anyone with footage matching these four people can email Detective Katey Harrison at kharis@cityofeastlansing.com.

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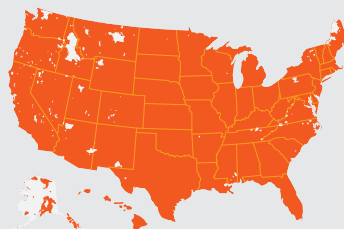
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It’s Top of the Town time

By MIKE ELLIS
Glad to have you along for another year of Greater Lansing’s best contest: Top of the Town.
City Pulse has been bringing you our annual contest now for 19 years and we’re glad that WKAR is again our partner in finding some of the best places, food and other things in Greater Lansing.
Voting went live today at 5:30 a.m. (Oct. 7) and will continue through 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 20.
We’ve trimmed down some of the categories this year to make it easier for you to finish voting. But there’s no need to vote on everything. Dip in and out as you’d like.
We plan to do a separate feature for our people-related categories, including some of the artists and others we love. Look for that early in 2027.
Meanwhile, we wanted to highlight some of our favorites like Best Place to Cry, Best Non-Bar or Restaurant Date Night and Worst Pothole. And, of course, all the restaurants and foods and shops and hangs you love.
We added a little measure of accountability, and fun, this year. Call us out about how our contest messed up

last year with the Biggest Whiff in Last Year’s Contest.
We’ve got a lot of categories and we can handle it if you don’t agree with what our voters said last year. That’s just more drive to push your favorite to number one this year.
Because this is a vote-driven process. It’s about what you think is the best. But we’ve got to have some proof and that’s why we need YOU to vote in the contest.
We’re free, no paywalls, and there’s no obligation or sales pitch at the end.
To get started
Use the QR code here or visit lansingcitypulse.com, then click on the Top of the Town banners at the top of the page to get to the contest site. There, you will find links to register.
To begin voting, select any category and follow the prompts in the pop-up window. All votes are submitted automatically. Don’t worry about a second submission screen.
If you need to stop and come back to your ballot, or your internet browser closed, you can return to the site and continue voting where you left off. Remember that you can always log out of your voting session and, when you are

ready to resume voting, log back in.
You can vote in as many (or as few) categories as you wish, but please remember to finish your ballot before 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 20.
That gives you plenty of time for your toughest decisions!
The Top 5 in each category will advance to the second round, which will be announced Nov. 4. You will then have two more weeks to vote for the Top 3, which will be announced in our Dec. 2 issue.
If you are the first to nominate a business, please be patient. We can use humans to verify it is in the right category, spelled correctly, etc. If you do not see it after 24 hours, please contact our human, Steve Underwood, at (517) 999-6704 or steve@lansingcitypulse.com between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays.
When you vote or nominate, you have an opportunity to comment. Please do so! We may want to use those comments in the next round, when the Top 5 nominees are winnowed down to the Top 3.
If you can’t vote online, you can also send your list of votes via snail mail to Steve Underwood at City Pulse, 1905

E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912.
And make sure you sign up for the City Pulse newsletters!
We are excited to again partner with RevFluent and Friends2Follow, which help to keep the data independent.
The integrity of the contest is vital, so all nominations will come from the community.
Winners past and present often place ads, which could lead to more exposure and more votes.
But ads do not influence the results or nominations and businesses do not need to pay to play, participate or win.
Top of the Town is a people’s choice contest.
Top of the Town is THE best platform in Greater Lansing to vote for the best of the best, and when our Winners’ Issue is published Dec. 2, you’ll have a great community resource all year long!
Thanks so much to Dennis Preston for his outstanding artwork on the cover and within this story!
Nomination round
Oct. 7–Oct. 20 at 11:59 p.m.
Finalist round (Top 5)
Nov. 4–Nov. 17 at 11:59 p.m.
Winner announced (Top 3)
Dec. 2 edition



Stop cleaning-out your gutters this season





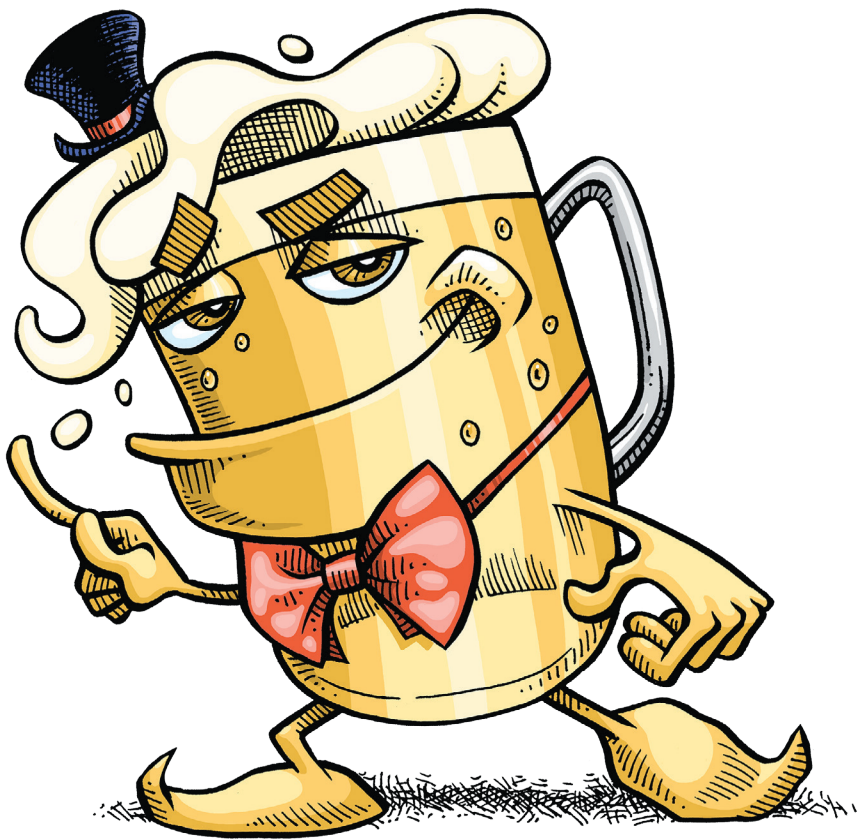
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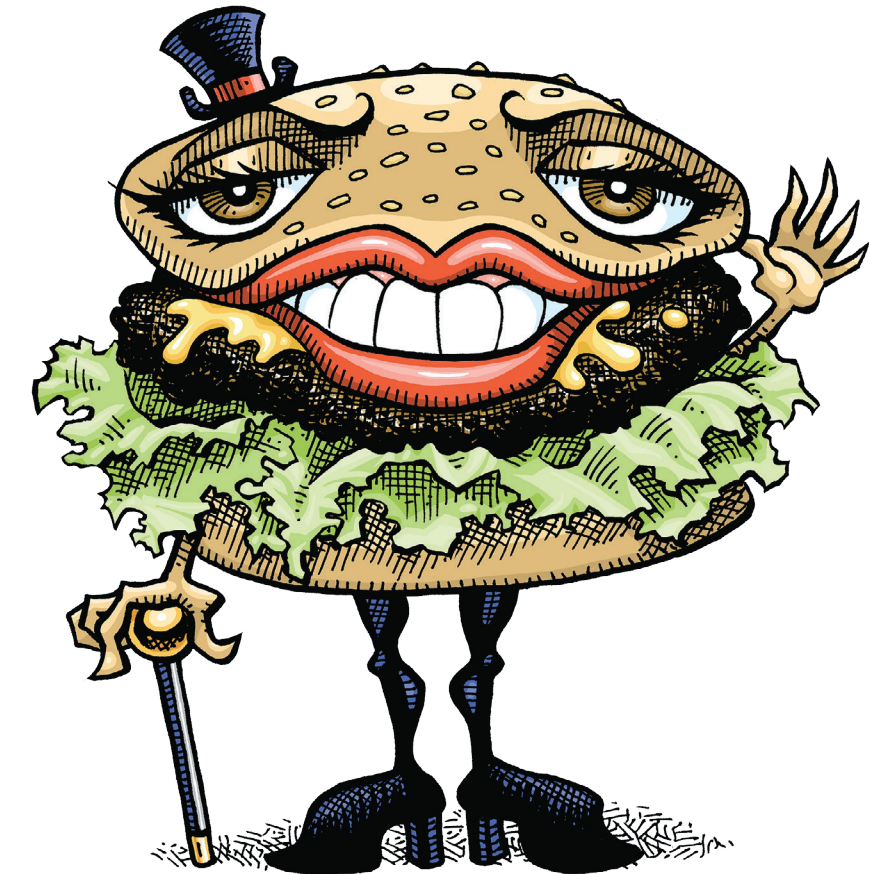


BAR

- Best Bar Food
- Best Cocktails
- Best Dance Bar
- Best Dive Bar
- Best Happy Hour
- Best Jam Night
- Best Karaoke
- Best Lansing-Area Brewery
- Best Lansing-Area Distillery
- Best Margarita
- Best Mocktails
- Best Neighborhood Bar
- Best Pub/Tavern
- Best Spartan Sports Hangout
- Best Sports Bar

CANNABIS

- Best Cannabis Flower - Hybrid
- Best Cannabis Flower - Indica
- Best Cannabis Flower - Sativa
- Best Cannabis Growing Brand
- Best CBD Store/Boutique
- Best Distillate Cartridge
- Best Gummy Edible (Cannabis)
- Best Indoor Grow Shop
- Best Marijuana Provisioning Center
- Best Non-Gummy Edible (Cannabis)
- Best Non-Solvent Concentrate (Cannabis)



- Best Solvent Concentrate (Cannabis)
- Best Topical

DINING

- Best Bagels
- Best Bakery
- Best Baklava
- Best BBQ
- Best BBQ Sauce
- Best Breakfast
- Best Brunch
- Best Bubble Tea
- Best Buffet
- Best Burger
- Best Chicken Strips/Tenders
- Best Chinese Food Restaurant
- Best Cider
- Best Coney Dog
- Best Cupcake
- Best Deli
- Best Dessert
- Best Diner

See Top of the Town, Page 17



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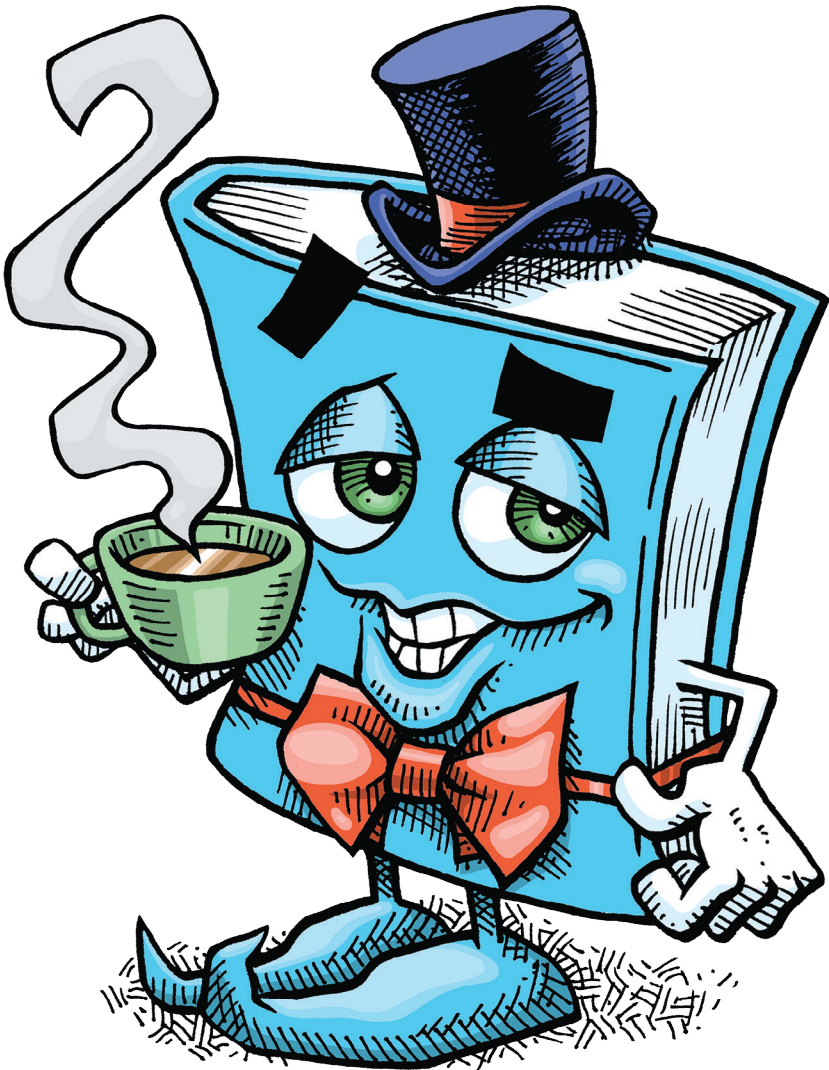
Top of the Town

from page 16

- Best Donuts
- Best Drive-up location
- Best Family Friendly Restaurant
- Best Fast Food
- Best Fish Fry
- Best Food Truck
- Best French Fries
- Best Greek
- Best Hibachi
- Best Ice Cream
- Best Indian Restaurant
- Best Irish
- Best Italian
- Best Lasagna
- Best Late-Night Food
- Best Mediterranean
- Best Mexican Restaurant - Chain
- Best Mexican Restaurant - Non-Chain
- Best Nachos
- Best New Restaurant
- Best Olive Burger
- Best Pancakes
- Best Pho
- Best Pizza
- Best Prime Rib
- Best Ramen
- Best Ranch Dressing
- Best Restaurant Beer List
- Best Restaurant for Seniors
- Best Restaurant Wine List
- Best Reuben
- Best Salad
- Best Sandwich/Wrap
- Best Seafood Restaurant
- Best Signature Dish
- Best Soup
- Best Steak
- Best Sub Sandwich
- Best Sushi
- Best Tacos
- Best Thai Restaurant
- Best Upscale Dining
- Best Vegan/Gluten Free Dessert
- Best Vegetarian/Vegan Dish
- Best Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free Restaurant
- Best Wings

HANGOUTS

- Best Biggby
- Best Bowling Alley
- Best Cafe
- Best Coffee Shop (non-Biggby)
- Best Comedy Night
- Best Corn Maze
- Best Escape Room Venue
- Best Golf Course
- Best Hangout for Seniors
- Best Hangout for Students
- Best Hangout Solo
- Best LGBTQIA+ Friendly Hangout
- Best Library
- Best Local Attraction for Kids
- Best Movie Theatre
- Best Music Venue
- Best Nature Center
- Best Non-Bar or Restaurant Date Night
- Best Patio
- Best Place to Play Pinball or Video Games
- Best Place to Shoot Pool
- Best Public Park
- Best Sober Hangout
- Best Trivia Night



See Top of the Town, Page 18



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Top of the Town

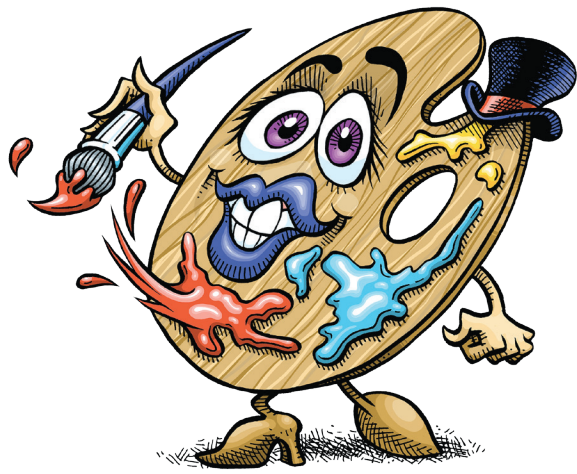
from page 17

LOCAL ARTS

- Best Blues Artist/Band
- Best Choral Group
- Best Country Artist/Band
- Best Cover Band
- Best Folk Artist/Band
- Best Hip-Hop Artist/Group
- Best Jazz Musician/Group
- Best Local Concert Series
- Best Local Theatre Organization
- Best Mural
- Best Pottery Studio
- Best Public Art/Sculpture
- Best Rock Artist/Band
- Best Rock Star Over 75

SERVICES

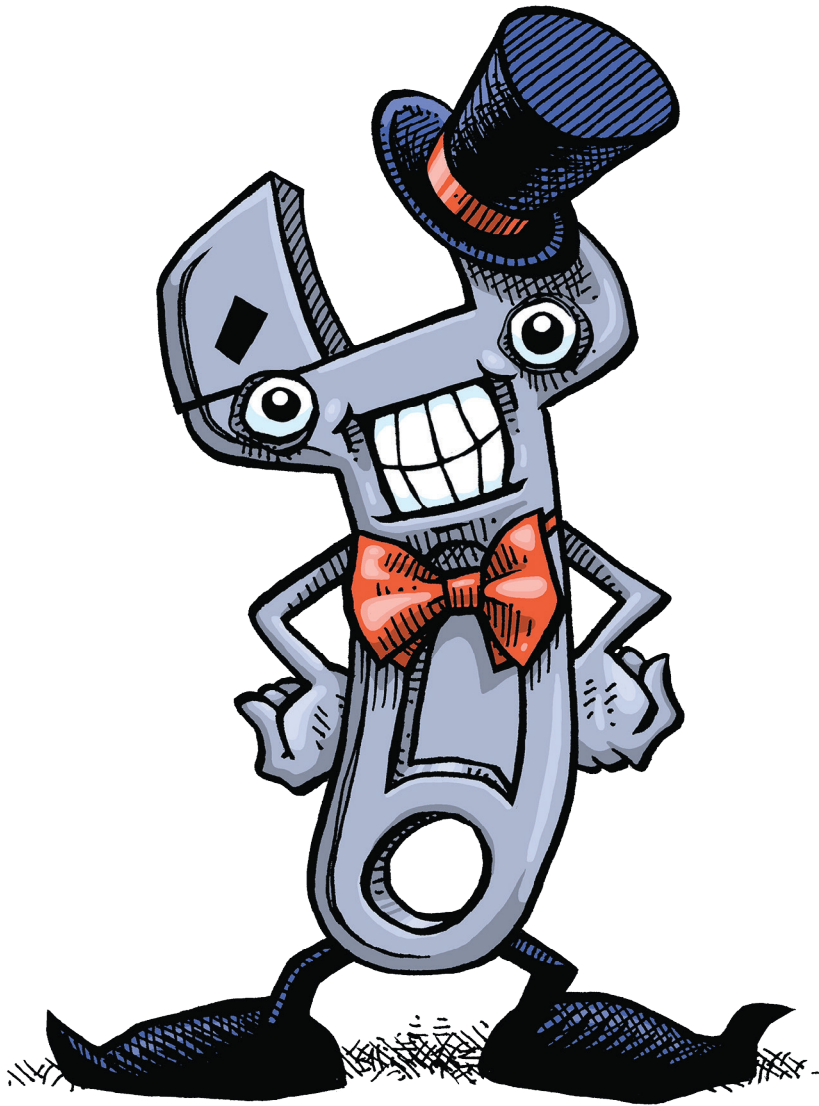
- Best Appliance Repair
- Best Auto Detailing Service
- Best Auto Repair/Body Shop
- Best Bank
- Best Barber Shop
- Best Bicycle Shop
- Best Business IT Support Service
- Best Car Wash
- Best Caterer/Catering service
- Best Cemetery



- Best Chiropractic Office
- Best Cleaning Service
- Best Computer Repair Service
- Best Credit Union
- Best Dance Studio
- Best Day Spa
- Best Dentist Office
- Best Dog Training Business
- Best Estate Sale Company
- Best Facial
- Best Funeral Home
- Best Gym/Fitness Studio
- Best Hair Salon
- Best Heating/Cooling
- Best Holistic Healing
- Best Insurance Agency
- Best Landscape Company
- Best Law Firm
- Best Local YouTube Channel
- Best Massage Studio
- Best Med Spa
- Best Moving Service
- Best Nail Salon

- Best News Source
- Best Non-Profit Organization (local)
- Best Pet Grooming Business
- Best Pet Rescue
- Best Pharmacy (locally owned)
- Best Photography
- Best Plumbing Service
- Best Radio Station
- Best Senior Care/Living Facility
- Best Tattoo Parlor
- Best Therapy/Therapist Service
- Best Towing Company
- Best Veterinarian Service

See Top of the Town, Page 19



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BASEMENT?



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WKAR

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Top of the Town

from page 18

- Best Wedding Services
- Best Wifi/Internet Service Provider
- Best Yoga Studio

SHOPPING

- Best Antique Shop
- Best Art Gallery
- Best Art Supply Store
- Best Auto Dealership

See Top of the Town, Page 20





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Top of the Town

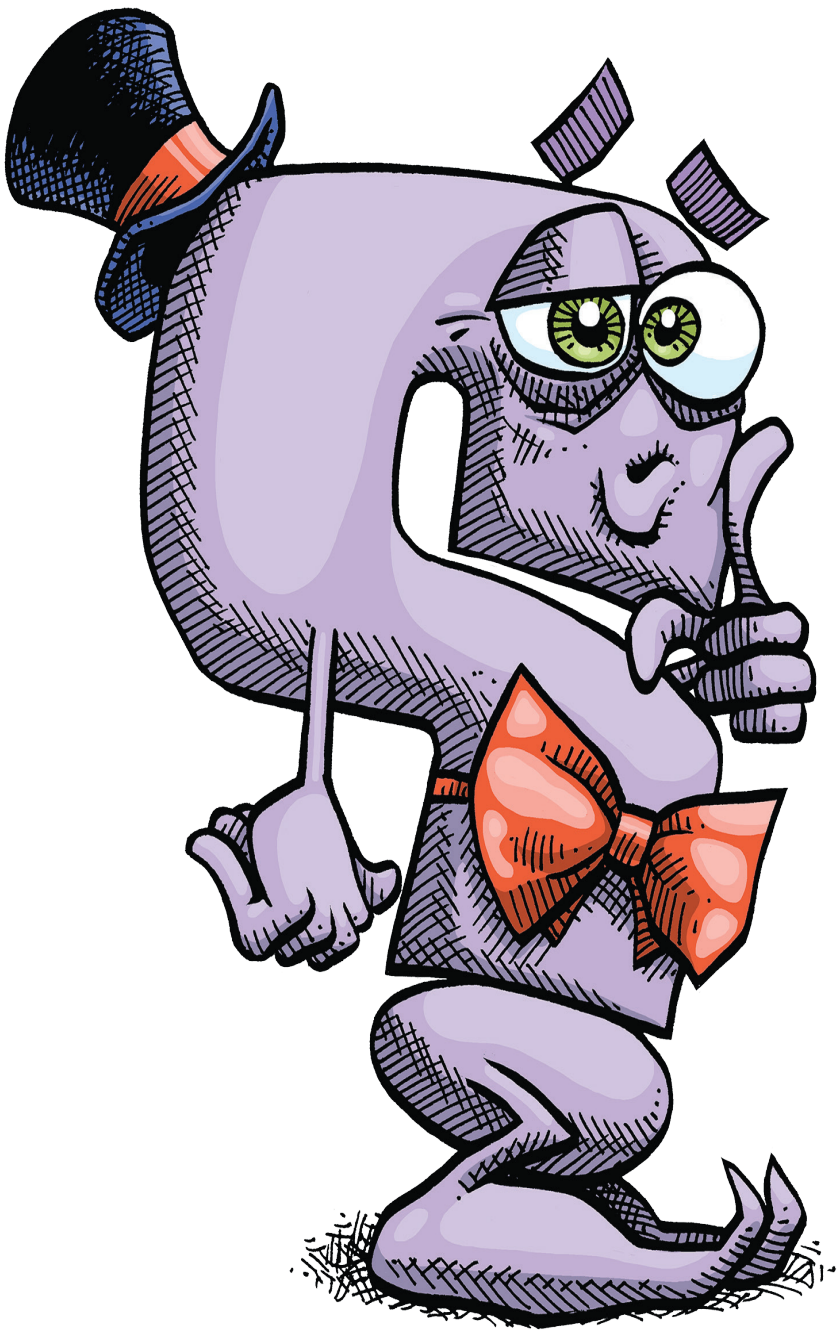
from page 19

- Best Beer Selection in Retail Store
- Best Bookstore (locally owned)
- Best Butcher Shop
- Best Candy Store
- Best Cheese Department
- Best Clothing Store (locally owned)
- Best Farmers Market
- Best Florist
- Best Furniture Store
- Best Game Shop
- Best Gardening Center
- Best Gas Station
- Best Gift Shop
- Best Grocery Store (locally owned)
- Best Hardware Store
- Best Jewelry Store
- Best Lingerie Store
- Best Liquor Store
- Best Metaphysical Store
- Best Musical Instrument Store
- Best Organic/Natural Market
- Best Pet Store
- Best Quality Dairy
- Best Record/CD Store
- Best Sex Shop
- Best Thrift or Consignment Shop
- Best Used Car Dealership

- Best Vape Shop
- Best Wine Shop

WHATEVER

- Best Axe Throwing Venue
- Best Category We Didn't Think of
- Best Eye Candy Building
- Best Facebook Group or Page (local)
- Best High School
- Best Historical Place
- Best Instagram Account (local)
- Best Local Art Festival
- Best Local Event/Festival
- Best New Business
- Best Outdoor Adventure
- Best Place to Cry in Public
- Best Place to Find Quiet
- Best Place to Work
- Best Shop Pet
- Best Staycation Hotel in Lansing
- Biggest Whiff in Last Year's Contest
- Cleanest Public Restroom
- In Memoriam: Businesses Lost
- Most Trustworthy Business
- Worst Eyesore
- Worst Pothole (specific location)



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Live & Local

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The Avenue
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
DAOM Halloween Soiree
Weekend: DJ Maus, Moon Pony, Access to Concrete
Fri., Oct. 9, 8 p.m.
DAOM Halloween Soiree
Weekend: DJ Club Kid, Pet Me, Toad-Eater
Sat., Oct. 10, 8 p.m.
Nunya
Sun., Oct. 11, 7 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.
200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Chris Muethel
Fri., Oct. 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Neon Gray
Sat., Oct. 10, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Charlotte Performing Arts Center
378 State St., Charlotte
Charlotte Community Band
Thurs., Oct. 8, 7 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill
16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Frog & the Beeftones
Fri., Oct. 9, 8 p.m.-midnight
Capital Sundogs
Sat., Oct. 10, 8 p.m.-midnight

Dublin Square
327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
The Reason You Came
Thurs., Oct. 8, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Jimmy Likes Pie
Thurs., Oct. 8, 7-9 p.m.
Songwriters' night, with Bart Moore
Wed., Oct. 14, 7-9 p.m.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Peer Gynt and the Blue Mountain
Sun., Oct. 11, 3-5 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Russ Holcomb
Fri., Oct. 9, 6-9 p.m.
Helena Lost
Sat., Oct. 10, 6-9 p.m.

Elderly Instruments
1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing
Skyrie
Mon., Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.

The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Sorry Ghost, Kevin Walkman
Wed., Oct. 7, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
The Prince of Eden, Nolen Durham, here pig
Fri., Oct. 9, doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.
Wavelength
Fri., Oct. 9, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Bongzilla, Lair of the Minotaur, Cavalcade
Sat., Oct. 10, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Gully Boys, Pollyanna, Rodeo Boys
Sun., Oct. 11, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
The Braymores, Phabies
Wed., Oct. 14, doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., Oct. 14, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Cupcakke
Thurs., Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
Convictions, Taken by the Tides, Stray View, Afterlife, Deadwitxh
Sun., Oct. 11, 6 p.m.

Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge
219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Just Magnetic, Nothin 2 Lose
Sun., Oct. 11, 6:30-10 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market
7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Matt Carlson
Thurs., Oct. 8, 5-8 p.m.
Tomás Esparza Blues Band
Fri., Oct. 9, 5-8 p.m.
Wild Honey Collective
Sat., Oct. 10, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Oct. 11, 2-7 p.m.

The Irish Pub
1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., Oct. 8, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Just Magnetic
Sat., Oct. 10, 8-11 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Jay Fry
Thurs., Oct. 8, 5-8 p.m.
Jerry Sprague
Fri., Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Babytron
Sat., Oct. 10, 10 p.m.
JP Peters
Sun., Oct. 11, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.
115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
Deacon Earl
Fri., Oct. 9, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Bloccrich Monsta, C-Money Baby, Rashaad Lee, Ominous the Monster, Capone Got Bread
Fri., Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
Brugada, High Strangeness, Natural Graffiti, Gods End
Sat., Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Oct. 12, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., Oct. 8, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Oct. 13, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green
1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
Atomic Annie
Wed., Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m.
Stone Street Revival
Wed., Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Mash Bar
212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
Rory Nevins Band
Wed., Oct. 7, 7-10 p.m.
Universe Band
Fri., Oct. 9, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.
402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Open mic night
Mon., Oct. 12, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub
802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Oct. 7, 8-11 p.m.
Blues jam

Thurs., Oct. 8, 9 p.m.-midnight
The Louderthans
Fri., Oct. 9, 8 p.m.-midnight
Velocity Shift
Sat., Oct. 10, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Oct. 13, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Oct. 14, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music
An Evening with Chopin
Wed., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Gwen Dease, percussion
Thurs., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall
Concert Orchestra, "Night at the Opera"
Thurs., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Jazz orchestras with Ed Cherry, jazz guitar
Sun., Oct. 11, 3 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Woodward String Quartet with Suren Bagratuni
Mon., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre
h2 Quartet: 20th Anniversary Homecoming
Tues., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre
Journey to Armenia
Wed., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall

MSU Community Music School
4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing
Fiddle Scouts: Drummunity
Sat., Oct. 10, 10 a.m.

Nico's Pub and Grill
117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Atomic Annie
Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Nuthouse Sports Grill
420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Cloudhoppers
Sat., Oct. 10, 8 p.m.

One North Lansing
5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Kevin Nichols
Sat., Oct. 10, 8 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Oct. 12, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Andy Langlois
Fri., Oct. 9, 8-10 p.m.
Charlie Richardson
Tues., Oct. 13, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Live music
Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., Oct. 11, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Seth Bernard and Jordan Hamilton
Wed., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m.
AdaMa Quartet
Tues., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Sholly's Bar
1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Northside Rhythm Kings
Tues., Oct. 13, 6-9 p.m.

Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
Good Neighbor Concert Series: The Nathan Moore Affair
Tues., Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

Stober's Bar
812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Craig Hendershott
Sun., Oct. 11, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Jazz Doggz
Tues., Oct. 13, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center
3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Live music
Wed., Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m.
Live music
Sun., Oct. 11, 3-6 p.m.

Uncle John's Cider Mill
8614 U.S.-127, St. Johns
Emily Faber
Thurs., Oct. 8, 4-7 p.m.
Matthew Shannon, Carl Pawluk
Fri., Oct. 9, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Gina & Jordan
Sat., Oct. 10, 1-4 p.m.

Melanie Pierce
Sat., Oct. 10, 3-6 p.m.
Be Kind Rewind
Sun., Oct. 11, 1-4 p.m.
The Fridays
Sun., Oct. 11, 3-6 p.m.
Brett Mitchell
Mon., Oct. 12, 2-5 p.m.

Unicorn Bar
327 E César E. Chávez Ave, Lansing
Gimme 5
Sat., Oct. 10, 8 p.m.-midnight

University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
May Erlewine
Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m.
Absolute Music Chamber Series: Berofsky Quartet
Thurs., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Phil Denny's Urban Suite: Jeff Ryan
Fri., Oct. 9, 8 p.m.
Powerlight Band
Sat., Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
Pzazz ... an afternoon of poetry & jazz
Sun., Oct. 11, 4-6 p.m.
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Oct. 14, 6-9 p.m.

The Watershed Tavern & Grill
5965 Marsh Road, Haslett
Darin Lerner Sr.
Thurs., Oct. 8, 7-10 p.m.

Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Endea Owens & The Cookout
Fri., Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse
3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
New Rule
Sat., Oct. 10, 7-11 p.m.
Matt & Valerie
Wed., Oct. 14, 7-10 p.m.

The Wooden Nickel II
1029 Jackson St., Dansville
Homespun
Sat., Oct. 10, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

ARTS & CULTURE

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Stirring the pot

Endea Owens brings excellence, exuberance to Wharton Center

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When people say a band is “cooking,” they aren’t just talking about musical excellence. It means that soulful, savory things are simmering, and you’re about to be nourished.

Bassist Endea Owens is a pot stirrer with one hell of a big spoon. Her aptly named band, The Cookout, can play anything in the world but sticks to a recipe of joyful, jazz-based music she’ll bring to Michigan State University’s Wharton Center on Friday.

You can even block your ears, if you’re feeling perverse, and still catch the vibe from watching Owens lead the band while all but dancing with her upright bass.

“I’ve always thought about music and dance together,” Owens said. “I know there are moments in life when you have to sit down, take a rest and just think, but there are a lot of moments where you have to get up and go. I always want to feel the dance in the music.”

A proud native of Detroit, Owens studied at MSU under Professor Rodney Whitaker, went on to Juilliard and made it big in New York, where she leads her own group and collaborates with a stellar roster of musical legends, from Wynton Marsalis, Diana Ross and Solange Knowles to, most recently, rapper Juicy J, on a powerful, soul-searching 2025 album, “Caught up in This Illusion.”

“I just got off the road with Elvis Costello a few days ago,” Owens said in a phone interview last week. “Just being able to listen to his lyrics, his poetry, on stage — I had a wonderful time with him. I am blessed to work with a lot of people who I respect and admire.”

That blessing multiplied beyond her dreams when she became the bassist in the house band for “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert.”

At the taping of the show’s final episode, aired in May, Costello, Jon Batiste and Paul McCartney were on hand.

McCartney didn’t schmooze much that day, but he made a point of collaring Owens.

“He told me I was an excellent bassist and that I was ‘choppy,’ meaning I have chops,” she said. “To get a compliment from Paul McCartney about my bass playing was really nice.”

Although Owens is from Detroit, the time she spent studying with Whitaker and the jazz studies faculty at MSU makes Friday’s visit a kind of homecoming.

“I owe a lot of what I know to the professors and especially to Rodney,” she said. “They gave me the foundation to succeed in New York.”

She still enjoys strolling the wooded “Sacred Space” at the heart of campus, adjoining the Music Building.

“MSU’s campus is so gorgeous. Everywhere I walk, I have a nice place where I can clear my mind.”

Well-being and positivity are key ingredients in Owens’ musical recipe.

“It’s not about, ‘Let’s play the blues,’ or ‘Oh, let’s play this song in 4/4.’ I can play anything,” she said. “I’ve written odd-meter songs, and I’ve written for orchestra. This is just my take on what I feel about jazz, and how I want to feel.”

When it came to putting a band and a sound together, Owens was inspired largely by the Jazz Messengers, the seminal hard-bop group led by firebrand drummer Art Blakey that carried the torch of straight-ahead jazz from the 1950s until Blakey’s death in 1990, and one of the group’s worthiest successors, trumpeter Roy Hargrove’s high-energy 1990s quintet.

Both groups were rooted deeply in jazz tradition while vigorously pushing the music into fresh territory.

“Art Blakey had the power and the pull,” Owens said. “I always felt pulled to what was happening in the rhythm sec-

See Owens, Page 24

Endea Owens & The Cookout

7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
(517) 432-2000
whartoncenter.com



Photo by Lawrence Sumulong

Detroit-raised, New York-based bassist Endea Owens and her band, The Cookout, perform Friday at the Wharton Center.



Photo by Raymond Holt



Photo by Raymond Holt



Photo by Raymond Holt

Owens and The Cookout play the 2024 Summer Solstice Jazz Festival in East Lansing.

Follow the Piper to ‘Small Town Michigan’

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

Without realizing it, when travel writer Amy Piper was working on her book “Secret Michigan: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure” in 2023, she was also working on her latest book, “Small Town Michigan” (Reedy Press, \$32).

“As I traveled around Michigan researching ‘Secret Michigan,’ I took a lot of pictures of interesting places that didn’t fit into it. So, I’d been photographing long before I started writing. Some of the secrets in my ‘Secret Michigan’ book were in small towns that had a lot more to offer than just a single attraction,” Piper said. “The actual research and writing for ‘Small Town’ took about a year. I started by searching online, decided where I wanted to visit, and then grouped them into trips. It’s important to note that I’ve been to each one of these small towns. I talked to the people and explored.

In some cases, I still plan to go back because so much of my exploring remains unfinished.”

The author explained the impetus behind the book.

“We have our favorite places that we keep going back to, without discovering all the other places out there,” she said. “Residents often forget that Michigan is both geographically large and psychologically local. You can live here your whole life and still not know the

next county over — there’s a peninsula shoreline or a small town with a better park, beach, bakery or sunset than the one you already know.

“This hit home when I took my 5-year-old granddaughter to the library in my hometown of Holt,” Piper continued. “She asked me to go to the pavilion behind the library. She was very familiar with that park from preschool, yet I’d never been. It took her to help me discover it. We sometimes have inertia about getting out and discovering what’s nearby. I know that many Michigan residents living in towns other than Williamston would be surprised to learn all that it has to offer.”

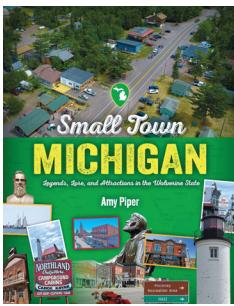
Of the 50 towns she visited for the book, Piper was hard-pressed to name a favorite.

“I think there’s something special about every town, so it would be hard to pick a favorite,” she said. “I keep

going back to Indian River, Petoskey and Charlevoix. I’m loving the small towns in the Keweenaw Peninsula right now. It’s a welcoming environment.”

She pointed out that it’s important for people visiting Michigan to realize that it isn’t a one-and-done destination.

“Planning a Michigan vacation means discovering a state you’ll come back to often because the last trip left a few things unfinished,” she said. “From Great Lakes shorelines and small towns



Courtesy

Amy Piper

to food-forward regions and seasonal traditions, Michigan rewards travelers who slow down and explore a little deeper each time. Michigan has a hidden-gem culture: ferry towns, ghost towns, quirky roadside landmarks, lighthouse beaches and Inland Waterway trips.”

Piper was born in Lansing, the eldest of five and the only daughter. She lives in Holt with Ross Dingman, her husband of 49 years. They have a daughter and two granddaughters.

After graduating from Holt High School, Piper earned a bachelor’s de-

gree in Spanish and linguistics from the University of Michigan. She went on to earn a master’s degree in linguistics and a doctoral degree in instructional design from Michigan State University. Additionally, she was a certified project management professional for many years.

“Instructional design involves a lot of writing and photography. I went the corporate training route and wrote my dissertation on project management as it relates to instructional design. I end-

See Piper, Page 25

Owens

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tion, what was happening melodically. And when I listened to Roy Hargrove’s quintet, I felt like I heard everything I grew up with.”

The six-piece Cookout will perform some of Owens’ favorite compositions from her first album, including the spiritual, danceable “Feel Good” and “Where the Nubians Grow,” in addition to new songs and standards.

For Owens, “The Late Show” was a dream gig in many ways, but the show’s demise left her free to take her music in multiple directions. Besides touring with the likes of Elvis

Costello and her own Cookout combo, she is writing tunes for a new album she plans to release next summer. “Ida’s Crusade,” a composition paying tribute to civil rights leader, women’s rights advocate and journalist Ida B. Wells, has been performed by the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Carnegie Hall’s national youth ensemble NYO Jazz, with more performances in the works.

As if all that weren’t enough, Owens has her eye on a fresh frontier. So far, her only experience in film has been playing bass in the score to Shaka King’s “Judas and the Black Messiah,” but that’s about to change.

“Next time, hopefully, I’ll be behind the score,” she said. “I love, love, love film scoring. It’s been a dream of mine. I like to say I’m John

Williams looking for my Steven Spielberg.”

Her all-time favorite is Williams’ score for Spielberg’s “E.T.”

“What he did with French horns — if you really listen to that soundtrack, it’s amazing.”

Always searching for ways to take her music to a higher level, Owens recently studied with the most accomplished bassist in jazz history, Ron Carter.

“I wanted to get over a certain hurdle in my playing, and I wanted to go to the best,” she said. “It’s incredible how much history is in one person: born in the 1930s, playing with Miles Davis, being sampled on so many hip-hop records, playing on more than 3,000 records. It definitely put me more into shape as a

bassist.”

They shared insights, not only on playing bass, but also on leading a band.

“He told me to be comfortable with change,” Owens said.

“You have to adapt, and Ron Carter is amazing at that.” Carter drove home the point that if you are the bassist, you are the key player, whether you are the nominal leader of the date or not.

“The bassist really drives the band and changes its whole structure,” Owens said. “Playing one note on the bass versus another can create two different feelings, and changing the rhythm can pull the band back or push it forward. He always talks about the bass being in the driver’s seat.”

Someone in your corner



Courtesy

Dennis Hinrichsen performs at The Poetry Room at The Robin Theatre.



Courtesy of Lauren Cleary

Hinrichsen, far left, and Masaki Takahashi, far right, at a Poetry Room event.

By MASAKI TAKAHASHI

Before Mike Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history, he was a kid in juvenile detention. Trainer Cus D'Amato saw a tremendous raw power that needed discipline and technique. He sharpened Tyson's skills and helped him develop the peek-a-boo style that became his signature.

I came to poetry through freestyle battles. I knew how to land a punchline and get a crowd going. In 2016, I performed a poem about loving myself at Poets Resist, an event Santino DallaVecchia and Lisa Folkmire hosted at Strange Matter. My poems were punchy, but I had plenty to learn. Dennis Hinrichsen was in the room and saw something he could help me develop.

There was fear behind my desire, too. I fear being a nobody, that my story will never be heard.

Poetry gives that fear somewhere to go. Hinrichsen helps me give it shape.

Around the time I started The Poetry Room at The Robin Theatre, Hinrichsen became Lansing's inaugural poet laureate. He invited me to perform at his events and offered to workshop my poems. I accepted gradually. I was back in college and poetry had to compete with homework. I graduated for the second time in 2019. Then lockdown gave me the time to take poetry seriously and stop freestyling half my poems onstage.

Hinrichsen and I meet over food and he will redline anything and everything. But then he reaches a line he thinks is genius, and he smiles. Both reactions keep me coming back.

He taught me to think of poems like computer programs: Execution matters, and so does conciseness. Find a poem's function and cut what doesn't serve it. He pushed me to read, and now I read at least one poetry book a week. We work from the strengths I already

have: humor, a story to tell and riffing.

He is relentless with me because he knows I'll work. He knows my feelings can take a red pen. He suggested I could become a future poet laureate. First, we needed to get some poems published.

Mine took six weeks to get a yes (because I am dope). Hinrichsen opened a door, and I walked through it. In 2022, I became Lansing poet laureate, a role I held until 2024. The title didn't make the fear disappear. Fear and I still meet. Dennis and I still meet. But I only allow Dennis to mark up my poems. I'm still learning to write for the page, still chasing bigger stages, still working toward a book.

Last year, I spoke and performed at the University of Pennsylvania. Standing in that room, I understood years of conversations with Hinrichsen had taught me the language of the craft: compression, function, the line that has to earn its place. It was a wax on, wax off moment.

What I admire about Hinrichsen is that he wants people to take poetry as

far as they choose. After a career spent teaching, he still wants to teach. He has an MFA, but understands a degree isn't accessible to everyone. Poetry should be. Lansing has people willing to share what they know. We can build something here but we have to participate. Leave the house. Send the email. Ask for help. Bring the poem you're unsure about. Then keep showing up. I still carry the fear of being unheard, but now I have more craft and someone in my corner.

Learn with Hinrichsen

The Next Step Poetry Workshop meets Oct. 17 and Nov. 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at The Robin Theatre. Registration is required, and space is limited to 15 participants. The suggested fee is \$15, but nobody is turned away for lack of funds; use code NEXT STEP for free admission. Register at therobintheatre.com.

Ask Everybody Reads or Robin Books for Hinrichsen's latest collection, "dementia lyrics," a tribute to two dying friends.

Piper

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ed up designing, developing and writing a lot of project management training worldwide," Piper explained. "In my corporate career, I traveled all over the world. I spent six months in South Korea, six months in Argentina, a month in India and three months in Madrid. You get the idea. I wanted to keep doing that after I retired, so I started preparing about seven years before I retired."

She has been a travel writer since 2016.

"Basically, I like to tell stories about

places that I've been to, and photography captures those memories and stories really well. It allows me to provide a complete picture of the travel story," she said.

Piper has a blog, and she's penned numerous articles for travel websites and magazines. In addition to "Small Town Michigan" and "Secret Michigan," she also wrote "100 Things to Do in Lansing Before You Die," the Michigan chapter of "Midwest Road Trip Adventures" and the Ann Arbor and southern Michigan chapter of Fodor's Michigan guidebook. She's working on a book called "Michigan Food Stories," which will be out in fall 2027.

She spoke about her writing routine.

She's up before 6 a.m. to start working.

"I do my best work when I'm fresh. I capture ideas that I may have written in my mind overnight," she said. "I tend to save the non-creative tasks for later in the day. When I'm tired, I most likely process my images, work on social media or do research. I need to be fresh to write well."

"I also like having blocks of time to write because once I get going and I'm in the zone, the ideas flow better," she continued. "I write every day, except for when I'm traveling. I have yet to figure out how to write very much when I'm on the road. I like to make the most of the time I have in a place to get out and explore. I use voice to text to capture as

much of a place's essence as possible."

For Piper, the most challenging part of being a travel writer is deciding what to include and what to cut. The best part is traveling the world.

"I enjoy getting out, traveling the world and helping others discover places that match their interests and needs," she said. "I love talking to people and getting their stories, suggestions on where to go and places to eat, et cetera. The more of the state I discover, the more I find those hidden gems that only the locals know. You can only find out that insider information by getting out from behind the desk and getting out there."

Visit FollowThePiper.com.

Clangor and languor

Guest maestro Scott Seaton mounts the scaffold at LSO opener

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

As a firestorm of applause roared through the Wharton Center at the end of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's season opener Friday evening (Oct. 2), guest conductor Scott Seaton singled out every section of the orchestra, one by one, for special recognition, leaving nary a bassoon tooter or triangle dinger out.

Cynics say that if everybody's special, nobody's special.

As Noël Coward would say, "Balls." If Friday's stupendous sounds proved anything, it's that sometimes everybody can be special, period.

Under Seaton's nimble, confident leadership, every section was firing on all thrusters. There wasn't a hint of throat clearing or warming up.

As the first of five finalists for the post of music director to appear this season, Seaton was under a slight handicap. When a competition extends over several months, memories of the earliest concerts can fade. It's tempting to wonder whether Seaton compensated by making this concert triple-dip memorable. It was a bravura performance, roof-rattling when needed and gorgeous everywhere in between.

The evening's satisfying musical arc lends itself to the Oreo method of analysis, starting with the crunch of the outer cookies and saving the cream center for last.

In spite of its five-minute length, the evening's opener, Anna Clyne's "Masquerade," was more than a box-checking nod to contemporary music. (Each of the five competing guest conductors are required to include a contemporary work.) "Masquerade" waddled up 35 minutes of music and compressed them into an ultra-dense black hole with an irresistible gravitational pull. Every minute was packed with sudden, did-I-hear-that-or-not quantum events (apologies to MSU physicists for the loose musical usage) and blurry smears of micro-notes the musicians leaned into with scary relish.

There were snippets of melody and lush lyrical moments, but these were perceived only through a kaleidoscope of abstraction and displacement. It felt like riding on the back of a dragonfly as it darted back and forth over a circus, now buzzing the carousel, now racing the horses, now taking a half-second



Photo by Yotham Eshak

Violinist Keila Wakao joined guest conductor Scott Seaton and the Lansing Symphony for a ravishing performance of Mendelssohn's violin concerto at Friday's season opener.

rest on a clown's nose. It was a wild ride, but it never felt out of control.

The cookie at the bottom end of the Oreo was cut from similar stuff, only on a much bigger scale. In the last two movements of Hector Berlioz's over-the-top "Symphonie Fantastique," Seaton again demonstrated his mastery at conjuring split-second, precision madness. The big difference is that nobody

ever accused Berlioz of being brief.

The nightmarish, opium-induced scenario of a march to the scaffold and descent into Satanic realms serves up one horrific climax after another. Every time things go crashing down, fresh tendrils of madness and obsession curl out of the rubble.

Seaton never grandstanded and made sure it was all about the music, but his inexhaustible bag of cues as he conjured these lurid ceremonies into being made him fascinating to watch. He poked, prodded and twisted every dark detail into the light, folding and unfolding his lithe frame to catch the moment like a mousetrap, with the

occasional leap off the podium by way of recoil. A couple of times, he leaned far forward, held his arms about 3 feet off the ground and pulled them back toward his body, as if he were pulling a rug with all 80 musicians sitting on it.

Despite all the percussion (at one point, three timpanists thundered away at once), low brass (including two tubas) and other bells and whistles, Seaton and the orchestra managed to paint plenty of subtle strokes. They etched every voice of the final movement's fugue with satisfying clarity, then switched to a ghostlike, scratchy tone for the fugue's second, more unnerving appearance.

That leaves the cream center of the concert. Guest violinist Keila Wakao took the audience into the palm of her hand and revealed the depths of her heart when she joined Seaton and the orchestra for a ravishing performance of Mendelssohn's violin concerto.

Wakao's sweet, out-of-this-world tone, especially in the high register, unspooled like a golden thread against

a dark and craggy orchestral landscape. There were a few pinfeathers out of place in the virtuosic finale as the orchestra hustled to keep up with Wakao's quicksilver figures, but the sincerity and energy of the performance never flagged.

Seaton took his time and let the slow movement breathe, the clearest indication that he can handle languor as well as clangor.

The guest maestro demonstrated one more skill Friday. When the 7:30 kickoff time struck, several musicians were delayed in traffic and absent from the stage. Seaton killed the waiting time by informally chatting to the audience about his Michigan roots and the music on the evening's program. As the latecomers drifted in, one by one, he showed his comfort, and even delight, in connecting with the audience, but as soon as the last straggler took a seat, he wrapped it up and got to work.

Review

Children's Community Theatre of Perry preps for a trip to Arendelle

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

Children's Community Theatre's upcoming production of "Frozen Jr." may not be as elaborate or high-budget as the Broadway show, but with over 100 hardworking and talented kids in the cast, there will be plenty of Disney magic to go around.

"We have been rehearsing since Aug. 24, and it's coming along really well," said Katie Howard, co-director and co-owner of the troupe. "We have some beautiful special effects with lights and things like that. The kids are working on some light dances, and it's just really magical. They're doing a fantastic job."

While ticket sales help fund the company, Howard praised the show's designers for working wonders under their small budgets.

"Our costume ladies are phenomenal. They do a lot of thrifting and things like that to be creative and put little outfits together," Howard said. "They are a highly gifted team, and so is our set designer, Alexis Schneider. She has a giant machine that can do all these advanced cuts to make all these beautiful things out of cardboard. It looks like a lot has gone into it, but really, it's just a lot of creative artwork."

Howard and fellow director Bobbi Pangborn founded Children's Community Theatre 10 years ago to provide opportunities for children in their community to participate in the arts. While the company may not be as well known as others in the area, it has plenty of help with funding from sponsors like Nobelia Homes, Legacy Heating and Air, LAFCU, Michigan Farm Bureau and Stifel Wealth Management Group.

"We started when our kids were young, and we said we'd take it one year at a time," Howard said. "We've grown to love it so much. We look forward to the plays, we think about it all year round. It's just a really neat thing to get to be a part of, and we really love it."

Their children are now old enough to serve in the crew. Pangborn's daughters Brynn Pangborn and Jordyn Sawyer are the choreographer and vocal director for

"Frozen Jr.," respectively. Sawyer, a music major at the University of Michigan, also assists with the Rising Stars program, which gives the younger actors in the group opportunities for leading roles.

CCT puts on three shows per season. Past productions have included "Beauty and the Beast," "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "Seussical," "Newsies" and "Anne of Green Gables." Although most of the shows have been adapted for younger audiences, Howard said the productions are enjoyable for all ages.

"We look for great music, great choreography, something that's going to be going to be a lot of fun for the audiences," she explained. "And we like a good, powerful message that's going to be inspiring for the kids."

The cast and crew isn't limited to Perry residents, Howard noted.

Children and adults from Lansing, Grand Ledge and other locations in the area also participate. Rehearsals are held Monday and Thursday evenings at a former church turned studio space in Perry.

Work will soon begin on CCT's next show, the kids' theatrical version of DreamWorks' "Madagascar." Directed by Jordyn Sawyer and Alexis Schneider, the show is part of the Rising Stars program, with a more limited cast of students between third and eighth grades. Auditions will be held Nov. 16.

Howard hopes to continue to spread the word about CCT to help attract more participants and audience members.

"We have such a great community. The kids have formed their own little family. It's a beautiful thing," Howard said. "Every year, we ask them what their favorite part of being in the show is, and it's amazing how many of them say things like, 'The friends I made here,' 'The way I'm encouraged here' or 'The way I feel like people are rooting for me.' We look at theater as a tool for kids to learn teamwork, leadership skills and so much more. So, when we hear things like that, it's truly the best gift to us. That's why we keep doing it."

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Courtesy



Courtesy

Children's Community Theatre's production of "Frozen Jr." runs from Oct. 22 through 24 at Perry High School.

October and early November theater productions:

"The One Good Thing or 'Are Ya Patrick Swayze?'"

Through Oct. 25
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

228 Museum Drive, Lansing
riverwalktheatre.com

"Annie"

Oct. 16-18 and 23-25
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Delta Presbyterian Church
6100 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
evolvethatrics.com

"Frozen Jr."

Oct. 22-24
6:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday
1 and 5 p.m. Saturday
Perry High School
2555 W. Britton Road, Perry
childrenscommunitytheatre.com

"The Butler Did It"

Oct. 24-25 and 30-Nov. 1
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Waverly East Intermediate School
3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
starlightdinnertheatre.com

"The Notebook"

Oct. 27-Nov. 1
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday
1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

"Emily Brontë: Teenage Necromancer"

Oct. 30-Nov. 1 and Nov. 6-8
7 p.m. Friday
1 p.m. Oct. 31
3 p.m. Sunday; Nov. 7
Eastern High School
626 Marshall St, Lansing
allofuxexpress.org

"Layers, or 'The Casserole Play'"

Oct. 9-11 and 16-17
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

"Mauritius"

7 p.m. Oct. 9-10
Stage One
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
facebook.com/lxionEnsemble

"Midnite"

Oct. 9-18
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; Oct. 11
2 p.m. Sunday
Arena Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

Dark Nights in Billtown staged reading: "1984"

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

"Come from Away"

Oct. 15-18 and 22-25
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre

This is why we mustn't cut funding for the arts

By KAREN RICH

I had the pleasure of attending the opening night of "The One Good Thing or 'Are Ya Patrick Swayze?'" at Williamston Theatre, and I'm here to say it is absolutely worth spending your time and money to see this show.

This was my first time attending a performance at this theater, but it definitely won't be my last. It is very small, so there are no bad seats, and if you are in the first row, you can literally reach out and touch the actors. (Please don't do this. Don't be that guy.)

The theater's intimate setting is perfect for a well-written play in the hands of two skilled actors. There's nowhere for the performers to hide, no elaborate spectacle to distract you, and no chorus of people singing and dancing to give you a convenient place to look when things get emotionally uncomfortable. It's just the two actors, a story and an audience sitting closely enough to feel every shift in mood.

That's right: I said two actors.

Despite there being several characters in the play, there are only two performers in the show. The entire story is told through dialogue between brothers Jamie and Tommy, who are living in a cottage on the coast of Ireland, and somehow it works beautifully. More than that, it feels completely natural.

Playwright Joe Bravaco does a brilliant job of exploring heavy themes like grief, love, guilt, forgiveness, regret and hope without being heavy handed or maudlin. This is a story about people carrying

around the things they have done, the things they haven't done, the things they wish they could change and the people they love despite everything. What is potentially a recipe for two hours of emotional misery is instead really funny. And occasionally, it punches you directly in the feelings.

I can't say enough about actors Connor Allston and Cody Robison. From the moment the play starts, both men have the audience's full attention. When the lights come up for intermission, one could be forgiven for thinking only a few minutes had passed rather than the entire first half of the show. The two are completely engaged with each other and with the story, and their performances never feel like they are



Photo by Chris Purchis

Connor Allston (left) and Cody Robison in Williamston Theatre's production of "The One Good Thing or 'Are Ya Patrick Swayze?'"

simply waiting to deliver their next line.

Unless you are the rare person that has never experienced heartache or loss or regret, this play will hit hard, in a way that makes you feel welcome and seen. It's not like tearing open an old wound; it's like getting a hug from someone who truly understands while you laugh and cry at the same time. And, honestly, isn't that one of the greatest things theater can do?

The performing arts have been using stories to help human beings make sense of being human for literally hundreds of years. We need this. We need places where people can sit together in a room, listen to a story about somebody else's life and recognize pieces of their own. We need actors who are willing to stand under bright lights and make themselves vulnerable in front of a room full of strangers. We need playwrights who can take complicated, messy

human experiences and turn them into something that makes us laugh, cry, think and, ideally, leave the theater looking at the people around us just a little differently.

There is also something particularly satisfying about watching two actors carry an entire production. It takes an enormous amount of skill and trust. They have to establish relationships, personalities, history and conflict entirely through their performances, and Allston and Robison handle that challenge beautifully.

Go see this play. Sit close. Laugh at the funny parts. Get emotionally sucker punched by the serious ones. Don't touch the actors. This show will stay with you long after the lights come up.

"The One Good Thing or 'Are Ya Patrick Swayze?'"

Through Oct. 25
2 p.m. Thursday,
Saturday-Sunday
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St.,
Williamston
(517) 655-7469
willamstontheatre.org



Review

Ixion lets its talent shine in monologue-heavy 'Mauritius'

By MARK GMAZEL

Ixion Ensemble Theatre has a distinct ability to find and produce challenging material that offers its company of actors meaty roles. And it is often the first company to get new actors on stage or help actors transition to directors. It is and has been a fertile breeding ground for talent.

The productions overall can fairly be described as Spartan, with tech support being involved as little as possible and little consideration being paid to creating any sense of entrance into a performance environment or space. It feels like going to see one's friends in an ad hoc facility, but that fits the tenor and storefront style of the current show, as well as the company in general.

"Mauritius," by Theresa Rebeck, is a play about betrayal, familial duty, rip-offs, double crosses and the possible redemption of people as well as stamps. It is a well-structured and well-written show that adheres to the three classical unities of time, place and action. That's the problem. The more familiar you are with dramatic structure and theory, stock types and character arcs, the faster you will see what is coming dramatically and thematically.

Even so, the one thing this play promises and delivers on is dynamically interesting scenes populated by recognizable and strongly performed characters who advance the plot through extended monologues. Scene to scene, the tone can shift abruptly, and drama and comedy exist comfortably together.

To me, the greatest gift of this playwright is the way that important off-stage events are alluded to and yet not discussed, implied but not elaborated upon. That gives the show its most believable and honest moments, even if there are occasional flaws in plot.

Every character has extended, well-written monologues, and local actors would do well to see this play and read the script, for there is some interesting audition material.

Especially outstanding is lead actress Rose Porter as Jackie, an idealist. Jackie is the voice of reason, walk-



Courtesy

From left: Rose Porter, Samuel Johnson and Vahlarée Aidan Kakela in Ixion Ensemble Theatre's production of "Mauritius."

ing in and out of scenes that evolve from domestic dramedy to seedy underworld drama to heist caper to romance. Porter grounds her performance with obvious wit, and she manages to stay moment to moment in an occasionally ludicrous plot.

It would be easy to allow Jackie's complicated, sassy, sentimental sister, Mary, to fold into a two-dimensional sitcom caricature, but Vahlarée Aidan Kakela brings appropriately varied levels of happiness and pain, tenderness and fierceness to the show. This performer

is always a force on stage.

Samuel Johnson has a nice, breezy quality about his performance as Dennis and retains a certain needed charm, as his character changes the most. This is the star-maker role in this play, and Johnson handles it well.

As the expert stamp appraiser, Dennis, Logan Natvig is the fulcrum upon which the play is balanced. A broad comedic performance from this character, and the whole show is a situational comedy. A subtle performance with perhaps a lightly threatening undercurrent, and the show is a gritty tale of the streets. Natvig does both very well and is forced to confront the play's contradictions in his efforts. His strongest moments come from his ability to play being deceptive.

One cannot help but notice the influence of David Mamet in this material. In fact, the more you are willing and able to mentally transpose this play into a shorthand version of "American Buffalo," the more you will enjoy it. There are even a few gritty F-bombs, so please protect the tender ears.



Review

"Mauritius"

7 p.m. Friday, Oct.
9-Saturday, Oct. 10
Stage One
2200 Lake Lansing Road,
Lansing
(517) 775-4246
facebook.com/
IxionEnsemble

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“I Was Not Invited” -- but I appear anyway.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. Plays quizmaster
5. Big name in photography since 1888
10. Barn attachment
14. Karaoke option
15. Naproxen brand
16. Huge celebrity
17. Suspicious of
18. Actress Shire of “Rocky” and “The Godfather”
19. Banquet hall platform
20. Inheritor of the secret to flying in V formation?
23. Badly lit
24. “Hamilton” Tony nominee Phillipa
25. Abbr. on a bounced check
28. Seacrest took over for him
32. Waste paper
36. Melville captain
38. ____-tiller
39. Author Ferrante
40. Bouncy coils on an underground cart track?
43. Lauder of makeup fame
44. Rapper ____ Dogg
45. Irksome sort
46. 1971 film with an Oscar-winning theme
47. Goes after flies
49. Airport info
50. Irish folk dance
52. Diamond official
54. Royal leader of cashing out change?
61. “Hamilton” character, sir
62. “Rice-____, the San Francisco treat”
63. Spencer of “Good Morning America”

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
	20			21						22				
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25	26	27		28		29	30	31		32		33	34	35
36			37		38					39				
40				41					42					
43						44				45				
46						47				48		49		
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	54	55				56	57	58				59	60	
61					62					63				64
65					66					67				
68					69					70				

65. Australian Netflix comedy about a probate lawyer
66. Character resurrected by AI in a 2026 Netflix reality show
67. Almost rainless
68. Greeting for 65-Across
69. Goes back and forth
70. Customer service center workers
- DOWN
1. Commotion
2. “Song ____ Blue” (Hugh Jackman movie)
3. High-fat, low-carb diet
4. Remained in effect
5. One of the real-life sisters playing twins in Werner Herzog’s 2026 film “Bucking Fastard”
6. St. ____ College in Northfield, Minn.
7. “Remove,” in proofreading
8. Athletic shoe company
9. “Ode to a Nightingale” poet
10. Part of a movie trailer
11. Berry in a bowl
12. “Dark” film genre
13. Naan ingredients?
21. Bro’s opposite
22. “Strange Brew” insult
25. Directory listings
26. ____ kebab
27. Fruit-flavored Coca-Cola brand
29. Gets into
30. Attorney ____
31. Tennis player-turned-“Daily Show” correspondent
33. Hugh’s “Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy” co-star
34. Feeling of unease
35. Noodles
37. Strips at a convenience store?
41. Fix, as a shoelace
42. Funnel-shaped flowers
48. Texting format, briefly
51. Goes after a chew toy
53. ____ opposites
54. British pound, informally
55. Bear up there
56. Rook’s cousin
57. “Avatar: Fire and Ash” actress Chaplin
58. Black like the night
59. Very infrequent
60. Sojourn
61. Voice role for Mark Rylance in a 2016 Dahl adaptation
64. Spots

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SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

Oct. 7-13, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): “Dear Oracle: My secret terror is being ordinary. I need to be special, and lately I’m worried I’m just average and unremarkable. That thought is repugnant to me! Can you offer any advice?” — Afraid of Average.” Dear Afraid: The pressure to be extraordinary is exhausting because it’s the wrong goal. Your birthright and your life assignment aren’t about being special in the sense of better than. You’re simply meant to be vividly, generously, amazingly yourself. In the coming weeks, I invite you to trade the anxious hunt for superiority for the warm, throbbing joy of full self-expression. Shine because it feels fantastic, not to outrank anyone.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Ravens sometimes hide food while pretending to conceal it elsewhere, especially if another raven is observing. They’re strategic and imaginative and aware of how they’re perceived. With their social intelligence as inspiration, I will encourage you to think more consciously about the stories you’re broadcasting. Which precious projects will flourish better if protected from premature scrutiny? Do you have any in-progress blooms that really should continue to incubate before being revealed? Discernment isn’t deception. PS: Conversely, there may be a part of you that deserves greater visibility.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): The Taurus philosopher Søren Kierkegaard wrote that life must be lived forward but can only be understood backward. You Geminis are naturally inclined to resist that advice. Many of you analyze experiences while they’re still unfolding. Can I coax you to try a different approach in the coming weeks? As usual, you may be tempted to figure everything out immediately. But the most useful clarity won’t arrive until later, as you survey what has occurred and recognize patterns you couldn’t see in real time. So, try to stay curious rather than overly diagnostic. Keep gathering impressions, stories, and clues. Allow events to transpire like chapters in a book whose ending you haven’t reached yet.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): The Germans have a word, “sehnsucht,” for a feeling that my English language can’t quite convey: a deep, sweet, aching longing for something you can’t name. It may be a faraway home you’ve never visited or a wholeness you seem to remember without ever having had it. Most people treat this yearning as a problem to be fixed or numbed. But I think it’s sacred information, Cancerian, and you’re especially fluent in it right now. Don’t rush to resolve the ache or explain it away. Instead, follow it like a scent. What is your sehnsucht pointing toward? Let it lead you toward the beauty and meaning your soul is homesick for.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Botanists know that climbing vines have a simple approach. They keep extending their sensitive tendrils until they discover something sturdy enough to support upward growth. Their progress depends on continual experimentation. I love it when you imitate this style of intelligence, Leo, which I think will be especially useful and successful during the coming weeks. So, instead of demanding guarantees before beginning a new endeavor, offer exploratory feelers. Ask friendly questions. Test prototypes. The right support system probably already exists, but it may not reveal itself until you reach toward it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): One of my favorite Virgos works in a museum cleaning centuries-old paintings with exquisite patience. She uses tiny swabs and gentle solvents to lift away layers of darkened varnish and grime. She’s an expert at making the original colors emerge so vividly that the painting looks newly made. But her work demands artful restraint. If she presses too hard or applies the wrong solvent, she could destroy the very thing she means to reveal. This approach can be your specialty in the coming weeks, Virgo. I hope you will attend to valuables that have been obscured by accumulated grime, like old habits, stale assumptions, and other people’s projections. Your task is to gently lift it all away and let the true colors shine.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Periodically, you have the cosmic right to receive precisely what you need. Life is duty-bound to deliver a close approximation of full satisfaction. I believe now is one of those times. So, please be bold and articulate about naming the specific blessings you require. Write them down, speak them aloud, and pray for them — not as a demand, but as a hearty invitation. Then, for a while, live as if all of creation is indeed honor-bound to respond accordingly, adjusting its behavior so it’s in harmony with the gifts you’ve asked for.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Every Thursday night, I haul my trash bin out to the street so the collectors can empty it the following morning. Most weeks it’s three-quarters full. But now and then, I produce an unusually large haul of debris. On those occasions, I have to turn into a one-person compaction crew: I grab a low-hanging branch of the persimmon tree, hoist myself up, drop down feet-first into the can, and bounce around to squash everything enough to squeeze in the overflow. Consider this my audition to be your role model, Scorpio. According to my reading of the celestial weather, it’s time for you to consolidate and discard at least half a year’s accumulation of obsolete clutter — both the invisible emotional kind and the tangible stuff filling your space.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Ancient navigators sometimes crossed vast stretches of sea by studying the swells beneath their boats. Their bodies were instruments of perception that enabled them to feel the subtle wave patterns generated by winds and distant islands. Your intuition has a similar sensitivity these days, Sagittarius. I hope you will trust it: what your whole being senses before your rational mind assembles the evidence. I call this fully embodied intelligence. It deserves a key role in your decision making.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): I’ve never been a fan of Capricorn poet Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931). The ideas he expressed seem commonplace and sentimental to me. But his book “The Prophet” is an all-time best-seller translated into over 100 languages. Millions of readers have adored and benefited from his words, and he’s acclaimed as a literary hero in his native Lebanon. So, who cares what I think! I’ll just shut up and appreciate the fact that he worked hard and published a lot. His disciplined, painstaking efforts have been widely inspirational. Let’s make him your role model for the coming months. I think you’re primed to create enduring offerings that nourish people’s souls.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Think of an aspect of your life that you have always wished you could change but have assumed or feared you could never change. What if, sometime soon, you try to change it, but this time you do it with playful lightheartedness? You resolve to feel zero stress and have as much fun as possible as you try to shift how this problem works. You decide you will use your imagination to dream up unprecedented and even outrageous ways to break your trance and invite sweet liberation to swoop in.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Geologists tell us that over time, rocks really do get transformed under sustained pressure. Their material gets reorganized into denser, more stable stuff. This is an apt metaphor for you, dear Pisces. You’re under pressure right now, and it may feel intense. But what if it’s actually reconfiguring you? Maybe the constraints are what you need to make you more focused, more essential, and more real. Not all pressure is bad, and this is proof. Ask yourself: What is this pressure making possible that freedom couldn’t create? Let yourself be reorganized.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Oct. 7

517 Witch's Workshop: An Evening of Autumn Magic & Handmade Crafts - Join us for a cozy hands-on workshop where you'll create five projects inspired by autumn, herbal traditions, and the art of intention. 6-8 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/58009442393.

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 Nancy Aitcheson - Nancy is an established painter in and around the Lansing area and an active participant in the En Plein Air Mid-Michigan group. She has developed her own style reflecting the influence of Impressionist works. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

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

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

Feel Good Fall Event - Join us for a feel-good wellness experience designed to help you relax, recharge, and discover simple ways to support your well-being. 5-6:30 p.m. Creative Wellness, 2045 Asher Court, East Lansing. creativewellness.net.

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

Free Community Meal - October's menu is lasagna casserole, delicious sides, and dessert by Flour Child. 5:30-6:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 411 Harrison St., Grand Ledge. grandledgefirstumc.org.

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.

Grant Chats - Stop by for a casual chat and discuss your grant questions and creative ideas with Arts Council membership and program manager Taylor Haslett. 3-4 p.m. Blue Owl Coffee, 1149 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

Healing the Community - Join Willie Bryan and Prince Solace of the Justice League of Greater Lansing for a community discussion. They'll dive into

the history of racial injustice, its direct link to the lack of generational wealth in the Black community, and how local efforts are moving the needle. 7 p.m. Edgewood United UCC, 469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

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

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

Let's Talk About Voting! - Drop by the museum for weekly office hours with MSUvote and take some time to make your voting plan over coffee and donuts. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

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. lamsangha.wordpress.com.

Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol - Education and awareness event to elevate knowledge of Michigan 4-H and to share the impact of its programming across Michigan. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Heritage Hall, 323 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. canr.msu.edu/4h.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

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

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.

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

Seth Bernard and Jordan Hamilton - Members of the Earthwork Collective, Seth Bernard and Jordan Hamilton are great friends who often come together and share stages all over Michigan and beyond. 7:30-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Silly STEAM Storytime - In honor of author Andrea Beaty's birthday, join us for a silly STEAM-themed storytime! After stories, we'll have a couple of simple art and science activities to do. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

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

DAOM's Halloween Soiree Weekend

8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, and Saturday, Oct. 10

The Avenue Cafe

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
\$10

facebook.com/DarkArtMichigan

Spooky season is here, and the Dark Art of Michigan is celebrating with its annual Halloween Soiree Weekend. The festivities kick off Friday with a performance art showcase hosted by Secretia Noxious, AKA Tiesha King, owner of Thrift Witch and co-founder of the Dark Art of Michigan. Performers include Belle Endowed, Thon, Seraphim Sin, Mag N. Cheez, Misty Smoke and many other local entertainers. DJ Maus, "back-porch rock" band Moon Pony and Detroit band Access to Concrete will provide music into the following morning.

Saturday evening brings performances by Leena Allure, Asio Aviance, Prince Marsallis, Lishes LaMoan, Happy Birthday and more, as well as music by DJ Club Kid, queercore/power-pop band Pet Me and rock band Toad-Eater.

Triple Goddess Bookstore and Ruckus Ramen will be open for business both evenings. There will also be costume contests, with categories including "most creative," "most scary," "most sexy" and "best cosplay." Entry is \$10.



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.

Virtual Connections Series: Smartphone Coaching - This hands-on series will cover smartphone basics, safety and security, video chat, email and messaging, internet browsing, AI and health, and telehealth resources. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Nov. 18. DeWitt District Library, 13105 Schavey Road, DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org.

Thursday, Oct. 8

2026 MSUBA Homecoming - Join Spartans from across the country for an unforgettable weekend of fellowship, culture, entertainment, networking, and tradition as we celebrate Spartan Black Excellence. Quality Suites Lansing West, 901 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/25307739719.

2026 PACE Awards and Professional Development Day - This year, CMPRSA's PACE Awards will again join forces with Professional Development Day. 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/404309493.

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.

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 Nancy Aitcheson - Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Code Club - Explore the basics of coding with Scratch and enjoy fun, hands-on coding activities, games, and creative challenges. Perfect for beginners and young coders who want to learn, create, and have fun together. 4-5 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Floods, Funding, and the Future: Michigan's Water Infrastructure Challenge - Join Stacy Hissong and Steve Roznowski for a discussion on the legal, engineering, and economic challenges facing Michigan's water infrastructure. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

Events

from page 30

Halloween Psychic Fun Night -Talented psychic Mr. Robert Taylor will present various techniques of divination. Audience participants will choose one of the techniques for an individualized reading! Adult program. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Join Mid-Michigan Spartans Behind the Scenes at MSU IQ - Go behind the scenes of MSU's Institute for Quantitative Health Science & Engineering with founding director Dr. Christopher Contag. 4-6 p.m. 775 Woodlot Drive, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/35416662283.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

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

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. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Paper Plate Autumn Leaf Wreath Craft - Children can come into the library throughout the day and create a colorful paper-leaf wreath. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

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

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 Centuri-on 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 inclu-sive community of women who sing a cappella in the barbershop style. We welcome all levels of musical experience. 6:45 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

"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.

"What the Constitution Means to Me" with William-ston Theatre - Join us for a staged reading and civic conversation that invites us to imagine how the Con-stitution will shape the next generation of Americans. 7-9 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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, Oct. 9

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

Canines for Change Puppy Yoga - 6-7 p.m. 5573 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/113524238651.

"The Casserole Play" - A docupageant by Scott. C. Sickles. This fast-paced comedy is filled with quick-witted dialogue and a town full of characters played by three actors. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box The-atre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Delta Pi 70th Anniversary Milestone Events - Join the Kappas and the Deltas as we celebrate 70 and 65 years, respectively, during homecoming weekend with MSUBA. eventbrite.com/o/121554716236

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

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

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

Fundraiser Fish Fry - The first fish fry of the new season. Served takeout style with seating available. Coffee is self-serve and bottled water is available. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wacousta-DeWitt Masonic Lodge, 9030 Herbison Road, Grand Ledge. wacousta.net.

Green and White Sip and Smoke - Kick back, enjoy some smooth vibes, and connect with friends old and new. Whether you're here for the sips or the smokes, it's all about good times and great company. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. The Comfort Zone Cigar Lounge & Bistro, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/90038910133.

LLEAD Mi Voz/Mi Pueblo Summit - Be part of a state-wide gathering that empowers Latino leaders and community members to turn their voices into action. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Clarion Hotel, 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/52214650823.

May Erlewine - Erlewine continues to be one of Michigan's finest writers and performers of acoustic music. Her words have held solace for weary hearts. They offer a light in the darkness and leave space for both the pain and joy of being alive. 7:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

MBBA 2026 Conference - Join the MBBA for a day of networking, expert insights, and dynamic featured speakers. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/69745040533.

MSU Hockey vs. Northern Michigan Wildcats - 7:30 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

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

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.

Ride Forth to the Dawn: A Confident Witch Circle - We'll work through old stories and practical witch-craft about the meeting of light and dark, and what keeps a witch moving when the season is grinding to a halt. 8-10 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Rummage Sale to Benefit Tiny Food Pantry - Large, many-household sale to benefit the Tiny Food Pantry. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. 517-371-1047.

See Events, Page 32



Boo at the Zoo

Noon-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 25
Potter Park Zoo

1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
potterparkzoo.org/event/boo-at-the-zoo-10/

Boo at the Zoo is back for the next three weekends, inviting Potter Park Zoo visitors to experience spooky season in a unique way. With an array of free attractions, including treat stations, a maze, conservation stations and "dress-a-skeleton" displays, attendees of all ages will find something to enjoy. Guests can also purchase activity tickets or a wristband to gain access to a blacklight room, a hayride, an inflatable slide, inflatable axe throwing and other premium activities. Warm mini donuts and Quality Dairy apple cider will be available for purchase. Standard zoo admission fees apply.



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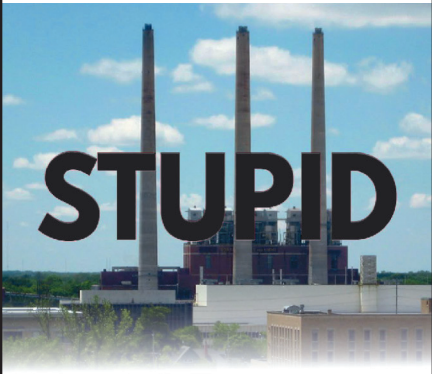
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Googley-eyed trees

Happy Spooky Season
Keep Lansing weird.



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



MSU jazz orchestras with Ed Cherry, guitar
3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
music.msu.edu

This week, Michigan State University jazz studies welcomes a quiet yet mighty master of the deep groove, guitarist Ed Cherry, as the first MSU Federal Credit Union jazz artist in residence of the 2026-'27 academic year. Cherry launched his career playing in several groups led by trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie from 1978 until 1992. His funky spirit, melodic sensibility and casually virtuosic chops have made him indispensable in widely varied groups led by the likes of Latin great Paquito D'Rivera, avant-garde seeker Henry Threadgill, straight-ahead trumpeter Roy Hargrove and soulful organist "Big John" Patton. He's bringing his many skills and generous spirit to MSU for a week of classes, touring, rehearsals and a climactic concert with the MSU jazz orchestras Sunday at Fairchild Theatre.

Events

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Toughest Day Golf Scramble - Is your team tough enough? Come play the course at its most challenging setup. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Sun Golf Club, 1018 Haslett Road, Haslett. meridiansungc.com.



As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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 ArtByNevin  Art_By_Nevin

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 29

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Saturday, Oct. 10

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

Canines for Change Puppy Yoga - 9-10 a.m. 5573 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. eventbrite.com/o/113524238651.

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

"The Casserole Play" - 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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

Dark Sky Night in Wacousta - Watch the sunset over Heritage Park and allow your eyes to adjust for prime night viewing and participate in activities from the library and MSU's Abrams Planetarium! 7-8:30 p.m. 12803 S. Wacousta Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Discover Cameroon (2nd Edition) - Discover Cameroon celebrates Cameroon's beauty, diversity, and heritage while fostering cultural exchange and community in Greater Lansing. 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Clarion Hotel, 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121626491168.

SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 29

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Drag Me 2 Bingo with the Kuntz Kittens - Are you ready for an evening of glamor, comedy, and fun? 7-9 p.m. Sir Pizza's Old Town Pub, 201 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/118241520081.

Fiber Arts Gardening with Morgan Daugherty (Tender Hearts Garden) - Learn about plants used for fiber, both cultivated and native, and practice turning natural materials into cordage. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 500 Clifford St, Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Free HIV/Hep C Screenings - Free, confidential HIV and Hepatitis C rapid screening — with results while you wait. Also on site: free food, clean needles, Narcan, condoms. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Connected Health, 4277 Okemos Road, Okemos. myconnectedhealth.com.

Lansing Hot Cider Hustle - This is an annual half-marathon, 10K and 5K run/walk. Each participant will receive a shirt, commemorative hot cider hustle mug, and caramel apple at the finish line! 8:20 a.m. Hawk Island Park, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. michiganruns.com.

Lori Fithian: Drummunity! - Join percussionist Lori Fithian for Drummunity! She'll bring the drums, you get to play them. The whole family gets to drum, sing and dance together — come join the jam! 10-11 a.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

MSU Football vs. Illinois Fighting Illini - 3:30 p.m. Spartan Stadium, 325 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/football.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

The One Good Thing or "Are Ya Patrick Swayze?" - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Picnic with Princesses - The Princesses invite you to join them for a fairytale celebration on the lawn! 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Bridge + Main Market, 119 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. eventbrite.com/o/17059501405.

Red Cross Babysitting Workshop - Learn emergency procedures, discipline techniques, age-appropriate activities and basic first aid skills needed while babysitting. Ages 12+. Registration req. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Rummage Sale to Benefit Tiny Food Pantry - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. 517-371-1047.

SamRose Comedy: Eyes Up Here - Get ready for sharp wit, outrageous stories, fearless honesty, and a powerhouse lineup featuring some of Michigan's funniest performers. 5-7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.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.

Sáletttr: The Basics of Heathen Souls - No background in Heathenry is required. This workshop provides a map and a vocabulary for a new way of working with your own inner self; it is not shadow work and is not a replacement for therapy. 6-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Tales & Tunes Storytime - Join us for a monthly music-themed storytime and playtime. Ages 0-6. 10:30-11:30 a.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Timber Trails 5K - This run/walk will take you on a slightly challenging course with ranging elevation over grass, gravel roads, and wooded trails. A perfect way to enjoy a brisk fall morning in one of the most beautiful parks in Eaton County. 9-11:30 a.m. Fitzgerald Park, 133 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. runsignup.com/Race/MI/GrandLedge/TimberTrailsRunWalk.

Village Crafters Craft Supply Decluttering - Crafters, artists, makers, bakers and DIY'ers ... it's that time again! We're decluttering those craft rooms and passing some great deals on to you! 10 a.m.-4

p.m. Masonic Lodge, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. facebook.com/villagecraftersgroup.

Sunday, Oct. 11

"The Casserole Play" - 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

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

Lansing Bowling Hall of Fame Celebration - Help us honor the 2026 Lansing Bowling Hall of Fame inductees: Al Valenzio, Jon Ellerhorst and Scott Mather! Enjoy dinner, drinks and a night of honoring Lansing's past and present bowling achievements while inspiring the future of our sport. 4 p.m. Royal Scot Golf & Bowl, 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. royalscot.net.

MSU Hockey vs. Northern Michigan Wildcats - 1 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

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.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

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

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

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

Six Voices in Autumn: A Mixed Media Reading of Prose & Poetry - Writing at the Ledges presents six of our writers of short fiction, poetry, and memoir. 2-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

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

Weekly Drum Circle at Lake Lansing Park North - Join us every Sunday (weather permitting) for a fun and energetic afternoon of rhythm and drumming with the Greater Lansing Area Drummers! 2-4 p.m. 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. lansingdrummers.wixsite.com.

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

Monday, Oct. 12

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. ruhalaacenter.com.

Blessing of the Animals - Trinity Episcopal Church will host you and your pets of all shapes and sizes at our "Blessing of the Animals" service. 10-11:15 a.m. 201 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. trinitypeople.org.

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

Events

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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.

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/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

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.

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.

October Creature Features: The Host (2006) - 7 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.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, Oct. 13

517 Story Project - A live storytelling experience held the second Tuesday of every month at The Green Door. No scripts. No performances. Just real people sharing real stories from their lives. 6:30-9 p.m. 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517storyproject.com.

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.

MIDNITE

By Reina Hardy and Rory Leahy
Directed by Rob Roznowski



October 9 – 18, 2026
Arena Theatre, MSU Auditorium

They came to make a horror movie. They got the real thing.

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whartoncenter.com



Department of Theatre
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Come Together for Justice
4-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11
Edgewood United Church
469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing
Free
facebook.com/people/Just-Peace-Chorus

Just Peace Chorus and PeaceQuest Greater Lansing invite community members to come together for a justice sing-along and rally for peace Sunday afternoon. Speakers from PeaceQuest, the Meta Peace Team, the Peace Education Center and Peace Community Media will share information on local needs and how to help. Mike Lawrence, a local musician and constitutional law professor at Michigan State University, will be the special guest artist for the sing-along portion. Following the program, attendees are invited to network over refreshments. Donations of non-perishable food items for the Greater Lansing Food Bank or gently used warm clothes are encouraged.



WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
Notice of Public Accuracy Test of Voting Equipment

To qualified electors in Williamstown Township: The **Public Accuracy Test** for the November 3, 2026 General Election is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the computer programming being used to tabulate the votes cast at the election and counts the votes in the manner prescribed by Michigan election law. The public is welcome to attend; enter through the Community Room entrance.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Clerk, Williamstown Township
elections@williamstowntownship.com or 655-3193

CP#26-376

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, October 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance to add Chapter 873, and Sections 873.01-873.11 to the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lansing, to provide for licensing procedures and regulations for Virtual Currency Machines, to include requirements for Operators and Providers to give disclosures and warnings to Customers, to regulate Transactions with New Customers, and to set penalties for Operators and Providers who violate this ordinance.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TDD (517) 483-4479) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

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

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

CP#26-372

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

There's always something new to try at Ozone's

By LIZY FERGUSON

They can wrap as many corn stalks around lamp-posts as they want downtown; nowhere in Lansing is cuter than Old Town in the fall. On a particularly gorgeous evening, I visited Ozone's Brewhouse to try out its limited-time Oktoberfest menu.

Speaking of vibes, Ozone's partially enclosed (fully in the winter) patio is a major one. You can take in the beautiful weather and fresh air without getting blasted in the eyes by the late-afternoon sun. On these spectacular fall days we've been having, it's a perfect place to eat and drink



Spätzle & cheese

\$12

Potato pancakes

\$10

Pretzel sticks

\$10

Ozone's Brewhouse

305 Beaver St., Lansing

5-10 p.m. Monday

3-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday

3-11 p.m. Friday

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

(517) 999-2739

ozonesbrewhouse.com

with friends.

Ozone's is constantly posting seriously delicious-looking pictures of the specials its chefs come up with week after week, so it was difficult to stick to the mission of trying the Oktoberfest items, never mind the enticing options on the regular, year-round menu. I was with a non-meat eater, so that narrowed down our options to the spätzle, the potato pancakes and the pretzel sticks. We got an order of each and added a salad to balance out all the carbs.

Spätzle is basically a cross between

pasta and dumplings. The name translates to "little sparrows," stemming from the traditional shape of the egg noodles. While these noodles didn't look so much like tiny birds, they were wonderfully toothsome, coated in a rich cheese sauce and drizzled with German mustard. Even though the pretzel sticks were served with mustard and beer cheese, I found myself dipping them in the spaetzle sauce instead — such were its charms.

Then came the potato pancakes, a menu item I'm almost incapable of resisting due to its rarity. These could have been crispier but were still delicious when combined with the accompanying sour cream and applesauce. The salad, with its bright, lemony dressing, became necessary at this point to give our palates a break between bites of cheesy pasta, bread dipped in cheese and potato dipped in sour cream.

If I had followed Oktoberfest tradition and gotten a beer, I probably would have had to be rolled out in a



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

wheelbarrow. I don't know how the Germans do it. While the Oktoberfest menu is no longer available, Ozone's always has something new up its sleeve, and prime patio conditions should continue for at least a few more weeks.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 TACOS

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

1. Barrio East Lansing

National chain offering signature and build-your-own tacos, plus cocktails
202 Albert Ave., East Lansing
(517) 679-0063
barrio-tacos.com
3-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

2. El Oasis — all locations

Food trucks serving hefty portions of Mexican street food staples like tacos

and sopes

See eloasisfood.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

3. Fiesta Charra — all locations

Colorful Mexican restaurants serving traditional dishes and margaritas
Visit fiestacharraonline.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

4. Pablo's Old Town (now Catalina's)

Informal Mexican restaurant offering classic taqueria fare and outdoor seating options
311 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
(517) 372-0887
facebook.com/CatalinasOldTown
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

5. Taqueria El Chaparrito

Authentic Mexican restaurant serving a variety of a-la-carte options and larger plates
4832 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
(517) 574-3020
taqueriaelchapparito.com
10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

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- 2 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloin Filets (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
- 4 Classic Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)

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Pizza made perfect right at home

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Pizza is among the most popular foods in many areas across the globe. Indeed, few people have likely had a slice of pizza and not wanted to have another in the near or distant future. Versatility of ingredients has undoubtedly contributed to the popularity of pizza. Homemade pizza has also become a staple in many households, and this Lines+Angles recipe features an array of tasty toppings.

Pizza with peppers, tomatoes, onions and prosciutto
Makes four servings

For the crust:
1/2 teaspoon instant or active dry yeast
3/4 cups warm water
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
5 tablespoons good-quality olive oil, plus extra for the bowl

For the pizza toppings:
2 tablespoons good-quality olive oil
Two red bell peppers, rinsed, seeded and cut into thin strips
2 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, rinsed and halved
One red onion, peeled and sliced into wedges
Parmesan cheese, grated
1 1/3 cups fresh mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced or crumbled
12 slices prosciutto, thinly sliced
Fresh basil, rinsed and chopped
Three sprigs fresh oregano, rinsed and leaves chopped
Salt, to taste
Freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

For the crust:
1. Sprinkle yeast over warm water. Let stand for five minutes.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine flour and salt. With the mixer running on low speed (with paddle attachment), drizzle in olive oil until incorporated with flour. Pour in yeast mixture and mix until dough comes together in a sticky ball.
3. Coat a separate mixing bowl lightly with olive oil. Form the dough into a smooth ball, place it in the bowl and toss to coat in olive oil. Cover the bowl tightly with plastic wrap and set aside to rise for at least one to two hours.
4. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Lightly oil a pizza pan.

5. Knead the dough for several minutes and reshape into a ball. Roll out the dough with a rolling pin or stretch it out until very thin. Carefully transfer the dough to the prepared pizza pan. Drizzle a little olive oil over the dough and spread it to the edges. Season the crust lightly with salt.

For the pizza toppings:
1. Prepare the vegetables. Sprinkle the prepared dough with Parmesan cheese. Arrange half of the mozzarella evenly over the top of the crust. Arrange the peppers, cherry tomatoes, onions and prosciutto over the top

of the mozzarella. Sprinkle with the remaining mozzarella, basil and oregano. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
2. Bake for 15 to 17 minutes in the lower half of the oven, until the crust is golden brown and toppings are bubbly. Remove from oven, cut into slices and serve immediately.



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Refresher*

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Green Machine*

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Miracle Cure*

Organic apple, organic red beet, organic carrot, organic kale, organic lemon, ground turmeric

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Starting October 20 through 8 p.m. on Election Day: Register to vote at your city or township clerk's office or satellite office with proof of residency.



Request your absentee ballot online now at mi.gov/vote, or call or visit your city or township clerk.

If you're voting from home in Michigan, request your ballot by October 13 to give yourself enough time to receive, complete, and return the ballot to your local clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

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