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October 28 – November 3, 2026

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Too Black to Play, Too Good to Ignore

In what kind of world do police show up to trespass a three-year-old soccer prodigy and his family because the kid is dominating a recreational soccer game against children two years older than he is? Let that sink in for a minute. A THREE-YEAR-OLD. Playing soccer against FIVE-YEAR-OLDS. And apparently, the situation became so intolerable that someone decided the appropriate response was to call the police and make sure this little kid understood that he wasn't welcome anymore.

Congratulations, everyone. We've officially reached the point where a toddler's athletic ability is apparently a public safety concern.

His name is Nevada, and from what's been reported, this little guy is naturally gifted at a game he loves to play. He's three years old. He's supposed to be having fun, learning, making friends, and enjoying the simple pleasure of doing something he's good at. Three-year-olds don't typically have elaborate strategies for humiliating their opponents or crushing the dreams of their fellow toddlers. They play because they enjoy playing.

But apparently, when a Black child is exceptionally good at something, even something as innocent as kicking a soccer ball around a field, there are people who simply cannot handle it.

Imagine being an adult so threatened by a child's talent that you decide the next logical step is involving the police. What exactly was the emergency? Was there a dangerous toddler on the loose? Did someone report a suspicious amount of ball control? Should we have dispatched the SWAT team in case this three-foot-tall athletic menace attempted a hat trick?

Let's be honest about something else: If this little boy were white, would we be having the same conversation?

Or would he already be the subject of a feel-good news segment? Would ESPN be running highlights of the pint-sized phenom? Would adults be lining up to tell us how remarkable it is that a three-year-old possesses such extraordinary natural ability?

I can practically hear the inspirational music playing.

Instead, we're talking about a child being made to feel unwelcome, with police brought into the situation. A little boy who should be celebrated for his talent is instead caught up in the insecurities of adults who apparently cannot tolerate the idea that someone so young, and so different from what they expected, might be better at something than their own children.

This country is exhausting.

We're living in a time when racism, bigotry, and xenophobia are increasingly displayed with a brazenness that would have once embarrassed at least some of the people engaging in it. Now, too many seem to wear their prejudices like badges of honor. When the person occupying the highest office in the country repeatedly gives legitimacy to cruelty, division, and the dehumanization of people he considers outsiders, it shouldn't surprise us when others feel empowered to do the same.

Leadership matters. So does the behavior we choose to excuse.

And there is something particularly disturbing about adults weaponizing authority because their feelings have been hurt. The privilege of believing you can use institutions, rules, and the threat of law enforcement to make someone else's life miserable simply because you don't like them should be embarrassing. Yet embarrassment requires a degree of self-awareness, and apparently that's in increasingly short supply.

It's bad enough that people hide behind ideology, invoke rules when convenient, and use whatever advantages they possess to make life harder for people with Black or brown skin. But now we're talking about a three-year-old child who hasn't even had the opportunity to understand the world's prejudices, let alone deserve any of them.

What possible threat could a three-year-old pose to anyone's ego that couldn't be overcome by a little maturity?

Apparently, quite a threat.

Because the message this child may take away from this experience is not simply that he can't play a particular soccer game. It's that he isn't wanted. That being exceptionally good at something can make people turn against him. That a place where he should feel welcome can suddenly become a place where he doesn't belong. And that is a heartbreaking lesson to teach a child who should still be worrying about snacks, cartoons, and whether he gets to kick the ball again.

Nevada deserves better. He deserves encouragement, opportunity, and adults who recognize his potential without feeling threatened by it. He deserves a community that rallies around him, celebrates his talent, and makes sure he knows that there is nothing wrong with being good at something. In fact, there is everything right about encouraging a child to discover what he loves and helping him develop that gift.

The entire community should be lifting this kid up, not finding ways to push him down. What happened to minding your own business and letting people shine? What happened to being happy for someone else, especially a child? What happened to the idea that when a kid is talented, we encourage him rather than punish him for making other people uncomfortable?

Of course, racism and prejudice didn't suddenly appear out of nowhere. They've always been here. Neither did the petty insecurities that cause adults to lash out when they feel threatened. But there is a difference between people harboring ugly beliefs and people feeling increasingly comfortable acting on them because they believe the culture around them will offer permission, protection, or a convenient excuse.

And when those attitudes reach the point where a three-year-old's soccer skills become a problem requiring adult intervention and police involvement, perhaps we should stop pretending that everything is fine.

Nothing seems to surprise us anymore. That may be the most frightening part.

We've become so accustomed to outrageous behavior that we spend more time debating whether it's outrageous than asking why it happened in the first place. We dissect the details, argue over motives, and wait for the next outrage to arrive before we've even finished processing the last one.

Meanwhile, a three-year-old just wants to play soccer. Let that be the takeaway here. Not the politics. Not the excuses. Not the fragile egos of adults who apparently need protection from a preschooler's athletic ability.

A little boy wants to play a game he loves. He happens to be exceptionally good at it. And the grown-ups should be grown-up enough to handle that.

If we can't even let a three-year-old shine without making him feel like he doesn't belong, then the problem isn't the kid on the soccer field. Maybe it's the adults standing on the sidelines.

And if a three-year-old is already being taught that his talent can make him a target, what exactly are we teaching the next generation about the kind of country they're growing up in?

Because Nevada isn't the one who should be ashamed here. The adults are.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

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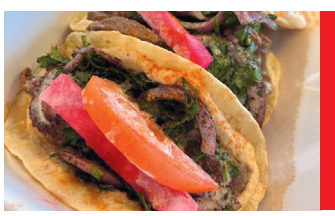
PAGE 15

Lansing proclaims Nov. 2 Root Doctor Day



PAGE 17

Port Huron Trump rally brings crowds, provocateur Jake Lang



PAGE 33

Taco Shawarma combines Middle Eastern and Mexican fare

Cover illustration by Lora Root/Lemonbrows Comics

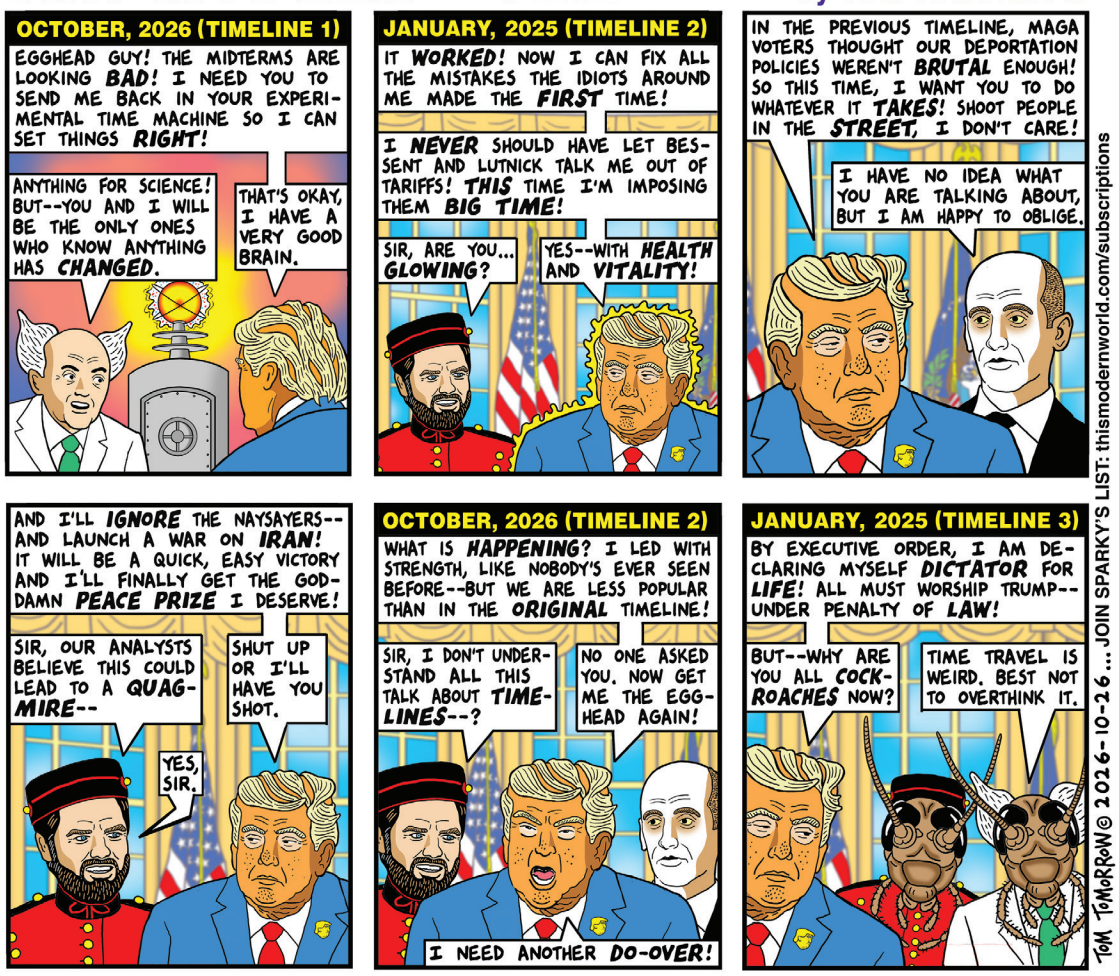
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE NEWS & OPINION

Obama on attacks against El-Sayed: 'We have seen this movie before. I starred in it'

By BEN SOLIS/
Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

As pundits and commentators question whether Michigan's Democratic Party base is unified ahead of the Nov. 3 general election, the party brought one of its most formidable communicators — former President Barack Obama — ito Detroit on Saturday to energize voters for Abdul El-Sayed, Jocelyn Benson and the party's entire 2026 slate.

El-Sayed, the nominee for the U.S. Senate, is in a tight battle against Republican former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers. Meanwhile, Benson, the current secretary of state, is up against Republican U.S. Rep. John James of Shelby Township, a race in which several polls show Benson ahead.

Photos by Raymond Holt

The Senate race, however, has become contentious and a bellwether contest for Democrats, who must hold the seat this November if the party wants to take back control of the upper chamber of Congress.

The former president called for Michiganders to hold strong and vote for the entire Democratic ticket — including El-Sayed — despite calls from some in the Black and Jewish community to leave the U.S. Senate section blank.

"Abdul and Jocelyn understand that this election is not about them or you, but about we," Obama said. "It's not just about economics. It's not just about inflation. It's not just about policy. It's about values. There's a moral component to the choices that we face right now, and we are not going to fix a system that's broken, we won't unrig our economy, so long as we have a culture that anything goes; where what is true and what's false is poured into social media and money is the measure of our worth. ... That's part of what is going on right now. We have lost touch with those things that really matter in our life."

Obama also offered praise for other Democratic candidates, several members of whom — Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit and 10th Congressional District nominee Christina Hines — also gave remarks. Gilchrist is seeking Benson's current post of secretary of state, while Savit seeks the position of attorney general, currently held by Attorney General Dana Nessel. Hines will face Michael Bouchard Jr. in the 10th District, which is James' current seat.

It would be a significant political and historical signpost if El-Sayed can defeat Rogers in just over a week on Election Day: He would become the first Muslim U.S. senator, but it would also notch a serious victory in the progressive movement led by U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, the independent from Vermont, in a state that twice voted for President Donald Trump.

Obama's presence in Michigan and his interest in the race were telling. El-Sayed has struggled to win decisive support among Black voters in Detroit during his primary race with U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens of Birmingham. Many of them have come back into El-Sayed's coalition for the general election, but Rogers has said his outreach to Detroit and Black voters is paying off and that his campaign is making inroads among traditionally Democratic voters.



Former President Barack Obama speaks to an enthusiastic audience at Cass Technical High School on Saturday, Oct. 24.



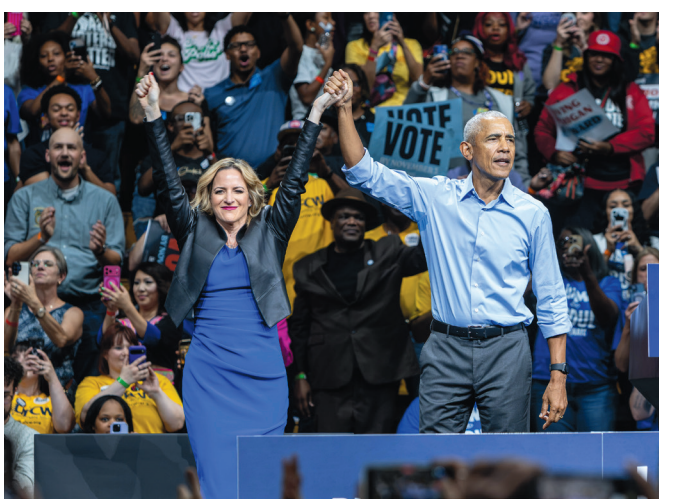
Abdul El-Sayed, Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate.



Former President Barack Obama and Michigan Democrats gathered in Detroit on Saturday, Oct. 24, to encourage people to get out to vote.



Democrats Abdul El-Sayed, Eli Savit, Barack Obama, Garlin Gilchrist and Jocelyn Benson closed out the rally by holding hands.



Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Democratic nominee for governor, and Barack Obama.

DOJ to send election monitors to Lansing, East Lansing, five other MI communities

By KYLE DAVIDSON/ Michigan Advance MichiganAdvance.com

After sending federal monitors to three Michigan cities for the primary election, the U.S. Department of Justice will once again send monitors to observe elections on Nov. 3, according to state officials.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel on Thursday issued a news release stating that seven Michigan communities had received notices from the Department of Justice and that federal monitors would be sent on election day to polling places in Detroit, East Lansing, Flint, Grand Rapids, Hamtramck, Lansing and Warren.

"The law provides specific parameters that allow monitors, observers and challengers to witness elections at local polling places," Nessel said in a statement. "It's important for residents to know that DOJ monitors are a standard part of our election process, and we anticipate they will comport with state and federal law just as they did in this year's August Primary. But make no mistake, my office stands ready to hold accountable those who attempt to unlawfully interfere with or intimidate Michigan voters or election workers, regardless of who they may be."

Deputy Secretary of State Aghogho Edevbie said Michigan has host-

See Monitors, Page 7

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Date of Publication: October 28, 2026
City of Lansing
316 N Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 483-4040

On or after November 16, 2026, the City of Lansing, MI will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) as amended and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Afford-able Housing Act (42 U.S.C 12701), to undertake the following projects:

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Community Development Block Grant

Purpose: The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding for community revitalization purposes and activities must meet at least one of the three National Objectives: Benefit to persons of low and moderate income, elimination of slum and blight, urgent community need.

Location: The City of Lansing.

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i) and 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1). **An Environmental Re-view Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at : City of Lansing – Department of Economic Development and Planning 316 N. Capitol Ave,, Lansing, MI 48933, www.lansingmi.gov/development and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 4:30 P.M.** *or* **at** https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews
Project/Program Description:
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation

Loans and grants for rehabilitation and Emergency repair of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and rehabilitation in conjunction with afford-able housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies, as well as lead hazard reduction, emergency housing rehabilitation, technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, ADA ramps and hazard remediation.

Proposed funding amount: $2,000,000

Rental Unit Rehabilitation

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city spon-sored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures.

Proposed funding amount: $984,183

Level of Environmental Review Citation:
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i)
Rental Unit Rehabilitation - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i)
Blight Removal - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)

Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review:

Floodplain Management
Historic Preservation

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):

Floodplain Management - There are no proposed projects in the flood plain. However, floodplain information will be evaluated on a site-specific basis. All activities will be mapped on FEMA-FIRMs and each site will be compared to determine if property is in the floodplain. If so, an 8-step process will be completed to evaluate practicable mitigation measures.

Historic Preservation - The City refers properties that are greater than 50 years old to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review in determining its historical significance and follows SHPOs recommendation. Each site-specific project will be evaluated to determine its historical significance.
Estimated Project Cost: The estimated cost of CDBG projects is $3,134,183 as indicated above**.**

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECTS

Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: HOME Investment Partnerships.

Purpose: The HOME program provides funding for down payment assistance, new-construction, and housing rehabilitation.

Location: The City of Lansing.

The activity/activities proposed are environmental assessments under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i)/24 CFR 58.36. **An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at: City of Lansing – Department of Economic Development and Plan-ning 316 N. Capitol Ave,, Lansing, MI 48933, www.lansingmi.gov/development and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 4:30 P.M.** *or* **at** https://cpd.hud. gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews.

Project/Program Description: .

Homeowner Housing Construction and Homebuyer Repairs

Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities.

Proposed funding amount: $566,950.15

CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)

Reserved for housing developed, sponsored or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the city.

Proposed funding amount: $ 97,489.00

Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

Level of Environmental Review Citation:

Homeowner Housing Construction and Homebuyer Repairs - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i)/24 CFR 58.36

See CP#26-399, Page 7

Monitors

from page 6

ed federal election monitors before, and the state's election clerks are well prepared.

"State and local election officials have been in regular contact with DOJ about their plans for this election," Edevbie said. "As always, we will follow the law, and we expect all monitors, observers and challengers to do the same. Voters can cast their ballots with confidence and know that our department remains fully prepared to protect and defend their right to vote."

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued a statement saying Michigan's elections are secure and that the presence of federal election monitors is an expected part of the process.

"Election officials here work year-round to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot and the same continues to be true ahead of Nov. 3rd," Whitmer said.

Unless allowed further access by the local clerk, federal monitors will observe from 100 feet away from the entrance to a polling place, though clerks often have them come into the polling place.

Election officials told Votebeat Michigan, the monitors overseeing Michigan's primary election were "polite and unobtrusive."

Congressional leadership can also send individuals to monitor locations where U.S. House or Senate candidates are on the ballot. Those individuals are selected by congressional leadership and approved by the president's administration.

Unlike the DOJ's monitors, these individuals are granted full access to observe the areas where ballots are cast, processed, tabulated, audited or certified before and after the election. However they cannot handle ballots or election equipment, interfere with voters and election administrators, or take any action that would reduce ballot security or voter privacy.

CP#26-399, From page 6

CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required) - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i)/ 24 CFR 58.36

Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review:

Historic Preservation
Noise Abatement and Control

Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):

Historic Preservation – Each proposed project will require a Section 106 National Historic Preservation Review

Noise Abatement and Control – Each site-specific new construction activity will be reviewed for noise.

Please note that there is no proposed new construction in the floodplain. However, if a proposed new construction is located in the floodplain, the 8-step process for floodplain properties will be completed to evaluate practical mitigation measures.
Estimated Project Cost: The estimated cost of projects is $664,439.15 as indicated above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, www.lansingmi.gov/development or e-mail to doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov. Attn: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner. All comments received by November 16, 2026 will be considered by the City of Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Lansing certifies to HUD that Andy Schor, Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Lansing to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of fund and the RE's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lansing; (b) the City of Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development–Detroit Field Office, Keith E. Hernandez, Director, Community Planning and Development at 477 Michigan Ave., Suite 1600, Detroit, MI 48226 or DetroitCPD@ hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Andy Schor, Mayor, City of Lansing, MI, Certifying Officer

CP#26-399

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A public hearing to receive comments on a request from Camie Kessler, on behalf of T&D Developers LLC, for approval of a land division at 15200 Chandler Rd. The property is zoned R-1, Low-Density Single-Family Residential District.
2. A public hearing to receive comments on a request from Lisa Cummins, on behalf of Burcham Hills Retirement Community for approval of a Special Use Permit for an expansion of the existing retirement community, including onsite alcohol service at 2700 Burcham Dr. The property is zoned RM-8, Planned Unit Development District.
3. A public hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance 1582, a conditional rezoning request from The Commons Church, Inc. to rezone a ~27-acre, unaddressed, vacant parcel located north of Coleman Road, between West and Coolidge Roads and fronting on both, and with PN#19-20-50-35-100-104, from B4 Restricted Office Business to RM14 Low-Density Multiple Family to facilitate the construction of a religious institution and associated parking. If adopted, the proposed conditional rezoning would not become effective until the date of effect of special use approval for the proposed religious institution.
4. A public hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance 1581, which would amend Chapter 50 of the East Lansing City Code of Ordinances (Zoning) by modifying how auto service centers, including gas stations, are regulated.

The public may attend and participate in all meetings in person. Members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information or contact staff for more information:

Landon Bartley, AICP, Principal Planner
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6930 or lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com
https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/

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

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com. Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on the business day prior to the meeting.

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

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Dated: October 22, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#26-403

Rogers, El-Sayed clash over Iran, heatlhcare and Muslim Brotherhood during second debate

By BEN SOLIS/Michigan Advance
MichiganAdvance.com

SOUTHFIELD — In the wake of a fiery first debate that saw more punches thrown than policy points argued, Michigan's U.S. Senate nominees, Abdul El-Sayed and Mike Rogers, faced off once again on Wednesday evening during a forum hosted by WXYZ-TV in Southfield.

El-Sayed and Rogers are in a toss-up race, according to Cook Political Report, and the growing animosity between them on the campaign trail has dominated the contests' fourth-quarter dynamics.

Rogers has tried to frame El-Sayed as a communist for his more progressive-leaning platforms, including Medicare for All, and has claimed that El-Sayed had donors with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. Meanwhile, El-Sayed has painted Rogers as an out-of-touch millionaire who would be a "sock-puppet" in lock-step with the agenda of President Donald Trump if elected to the Senate. El-Sayed has also hammered Rogers about his support of Trump's tariffs, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the administration's immigration enforcement tactics and the war in Iran.

The first debate between the two, hosted by WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids, was an exercise in political bloodletting, with few opportunities to discuss the most pressing issues in the race. Instead, El-Sayed and Rogers aired their grievances against each other on the west Michigan broadcast.

Wednesday's debate was no less contentious but allowed for space so the nominees could dig deeper into policy issues — likely a choice made by both candidates given the nature of the previous forum. That didn't stop El-Sayed and Rogers from trading jabs.

For weeks, Rogers has said El-Sayed had ties to extreme Islamic movements abroad and that his donors supported those movements. Rogers has used El-Sayed's sister's past remarks on the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as his mother's activism with the group, as reasons why voters shouldn't trust him.

El-Sayed has denied that he has any ties to the movement, and questioned why he, as the potential first Muslim to serve in the U.S. Senate was fielding so many questions about dual loyalties.

In response to a question about police funding, Rogers again brought up the Muslim Brotherhood, prompting El-Sayed to say it was "shameful" that Rogers kept resorting to Islamophobic rhetoric in the race.

"To bring into question my commitment to the Constitution is really just beneath you," El-Sayed said. "I'm proud to be an American. I'm proud of our Constitution that guarantees all of us the right to pray as we choose to pray, and the question that you would ask that, I think, is actually really quite shameful. As somebody who's actually served under that Constitution, it is shameful."

Rogers said his criticism wasn't about El-Sayed's religion — it was about the ideology that comes along with Islamic extremism.

"I wore the uniform of the United States proudly, as my son did, my wife served, my brother served, my father served, so you could pray any way you want," Rogers said. "And I know you want to make this about you being a victim. This is about an ideology; an ideology that's banned in five Muslim countries; an ideology that's banned in another six different countries; an ideology that is very concerning to law enforcement in the United States because they use it for funding overseas operations. That's the difference."

Iran's threat to America a key question in the race

The candidates were asked if Iran still posed a threat to the United States and how the conflict was affecting prices on gasoline and goods, especially after Trump claimed earlier this year that U.S. attacks have greatly curtailed Iran's offensive and defensive capabilities, including its nuclear program.

El-Sayed said Iran remains a threat and that it was Trump's fault for that nation's new confidence in fighting a war with the U.S.

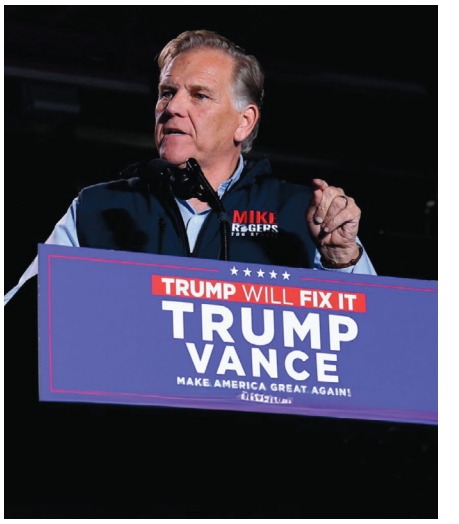
"That threat had been contained back during the Obama administration when he used diplomacy and not war to contain the threat. It was called the JCPOA, and Donald Trump, when he came in his first term, decided to rip that agreement up," El-Sayed said. "And then, in his second term, he decided to make war. Now, mind you, Mike Rogers has been promoting this war since before he was in Congress. He's got a war for everything, and he won't back off the war now. He supports this war."

El-Sayed said the consequences of the war are that Americans are now paying nearly $5 in gas, and more in groceries because of the high price of diesel. He cautioned voters from buying into Rogers' campaign rhetoric on ending the war and distancing itself from Trump on Iran.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Abdul El-Sayed



Courtesy

Mike Rogers

"If you don't believe me, I want you to pay attention on Sunday when Donald Trump comes here at the invitation of Mike Rogers to remind you that in fact Donald Trump is on the ballot through Mike Rogers," El-Sayed said.

Rogers said that Iran remains a threat because it will still endeavor to seek a nuclear weapon — which is different from Trump's position that Iran's nuclear capabilities had been "completely obliterated" in the first salvo of the new war.

"My opponent can't even condemn the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, which is the terrorist enforcement arm of Iran, and doesn't believe Iran is any more dangerous than Israel," Rogers said of El-Sayed. "This is an absolute non-starter if you're going to send somebody back to the United States Senate. I left Congress in 2014. At that time, they had all three components of a nuclear program. The big debate was how do you put those things together, and how long would it take them to do that? Obviously, something triggered that where they needed to stop them from developing and putting those three pieces together to get a nuclear weapon."

On the price impact of the current war, Rogers said that he "absolutely" believed that "if you want to pay $8 a gallon of gas, let Iran get a nuclear weapon."

"You lose control of that whole region," Rogers added.

ACA's fate may be up for grabs depending on control of the Senate

On the topic of the Affordable Care Act, the nominees were asked if they would support expanding the law or further rolling back its provisions, which have occurred in Congress since the act was passed during President Barack Obama's first term.

El-Sayed said he would support its expansion, and that his Medicare for All plan was the expansion that the program needed most.

Rogers said that the act needed reform, but pivoted to attack El-Sayed's healthcare plan as just another big government program meddling in people's healthcare decisions.

"Medicare for All ... takes away your private health insurance. Five million Michiganders will lose their health care, and it will destroy Medicare for seniors," Rogers claimed. "That's what he's talking about, and that's why UAW for Rogers, they're coming to our campaign. People understand just how ridiculous this is. There are other Democrats that will not support this plan because it's outrageously expensive. It would be about $7 trillion a year in new expenses, about $20,000 per family in new taxes."

Rogers has not been endorsed by the UAW; El-Sayed has. What Rogers was referring to was a group of autoworkers who supported Trump during his 2024 contest, led by conservative Ford retiree Brian Pannebecker.

El-Sayed capitalized on the moment to note that Rogers did not have auto workers' support, and by saying that, "nobody knows better about denying people health insurance than Mike Rogers."

"He voted against expanding health insurance for kids. For kids! Voted against it. Why? Because he's in bed with big insurance," El-Sayed said. "He took a million dollars from big insurance. He's about to deny it, of course, but this is his record."

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) announced plans Tuesday to engage Delhi Township residents in a process for a potential data center. LEAP is partnering with Lighthouse Sustainability, a data center development group focused on "environmental stewardship, energy affordability and community benefit," to gather resident input on how to develop Holt Economic Opportunity Park, the identified site. There is currently a moratorium on data center review in Delhi Township. It expires in April 2027, giving LEAP plenty of time to hear residents' concerns and considerations, LEAP President and CEO Bob Trezise said.

...

The proposed data center approval process promises no increases in utility bill costs for residents and no added emissions, along with a clean power supply and on-site batteries, to limit reliance on the power grid. At a news conference on Tuesday, Trezise emphasized that a project is not yet planned and the current proposal is only the process. The 423-acre site is surrounded by RSDC of Michigan, Pratt & Whitney and a couple of housing complexes, and is not yet zoned for industrial use. A rezoning application would be submitted if Delhi Township residents want to move forward with the plan. LEAP has not named a potential end user, but Trezise said companies are interested.



Everett High School Principal Amy Boyles has been named Michigan's 2027 High School Principal of the Year, recognizing her leadership and commitment to student success. "Amy Boyles is an incredible leader who puts her heart into everything she does," Superintendent Jessica Benavides said. "Her passion for student success and genuine care for students, staff and families shine through in her leadership every day. She has brought meaningful change to Everett High School, making it a stronger and better place for everyone." Since becoming principal in 2021, Boyles has strengthened school culture, supported educators and expanded student opportunities. According to her nomination, annual office discipline referrals declined from more than 2,000 to fewer than 400, while Everett's reported graduation rate reached 95 percent. Her work has expanded access to Advanced Placement and Pre-AP coursework, college visits and cultural experiences. Selection committees evaluated instructional leadership, innovation, school culture and community engagement. An educator with 25 years of experience, Boyles will represent Michigan in the national High School Principal of the Year competition, bringing recognition to Everett and the Lansing community.

WOODBRIDGE®

Woodbridge Group, a Lansing auto supplier, filed notices last week that it intends to lay off 100 people after losing a contract. The layoffs are described as temporary with a date of Dec. 18, according to WARN notices filed with the state. The company is located on Pierson Highway near the GM Lansing Delta Township Assembly Plant

An Ingham County man has been hospitalized in Athens, Greece, after falling ill while on a cruise, according to a GoFundMe fundraiser. The fundraiser for Michael Veresh is being promoted by GoFundMe in addition to being hosted on the site. According to GoFundMe, Veresh became acutely ill on the island of Mykonos and was airlifted to a hospital in Athens. The fundraiser says the hospital required an upfront payment before performing emergency surgery, and his appendix ruptured during the delay. It states the surgery then became far more complex because of a severe internal infection. In an update posted Oct. 25, Michael says his inflammation levels are dropping quickly and that he has a hospital discharge date of Oct. 27. He also says he is being treated for a blood clot from a previous IV site, which extended his stay. Thanks to donor support, he says he has secured the rest of his stay and his flight back to the U.S. He plans to fly home on Nov. 2 if all goes well. The effort aims to raise $30,000 and had raised around $13,000 as of Monday evening.

msufcu®
MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

A major Internet outage on Wednesday, Oct. 21, led to MSUFCU, and many others, shutting off its website and other digital services. The credit union restored activities by the next day. The outage was largely driven by companies and Internet providers opting to cut their services while a longstanding, but recently revealed, vulnerability was patched. The peak of the outage happened around 10 a.m. Wednesday and around 18% of major websites went offline, according to a monitoring service Oh Dear. "It's our job to alert when sites go down, but we haven't seen this many go down at the same time," Oh Dear said on their blog.

Mike Polisky has been named Michigan State Deputy Athletics Director and Spartan Ventures CEO. "This is a critical time for our department, and Mike's leadership will be vital to our championship aspirations,"



MSU Vice President and Director of Athletics Dan Bartholomae said in a statement. Polisky will be in charge of strategic priorities, revenue opportunities and optimizing operations. In his role as Deputy AD, he will serve as the primary sport administrator for the football and men's golf programs and will provide strategic leadership across various units in the department. "College athletics is entering one of the most transformative periods in its history, and I believe Michigan State is uniquely positioned to lead in this new era," Polisky said, in a statement. Polisky and new MSU football coach Pat Fitzgerald worked together at Northwestern for Polisky's 11 years at Northwestern. According to State News, "(i)n May 2021, just a few days after (Polisky) was promoted to athletic director, he stepped down amid allegations involving Northwestern's cheerleading team. A federal lawsuit filed by a former Northwestern cheerleader alleged that Polisky and other officials ignored her reports of groping and sexual misconduct involving cheerleaders. The lawsuit was dismissed in August 2024 without a settlement payment." Spartan Ventures is MSU's name-image-license vehicle and was launched this summer with $100 million seed round by Greg and Dawn Williams.



Eaton County officials reported Wednesday evening that a 42-year-old Clarksville man was found unresponsive in his Eaton County Jail cell on Tuesday in an apparent suicide. Officials attempted resuscitation; the man was declared dead at a hospital. "All information related to the incident will be provided to the Medical Examiner to assist with the investigation and determination of the official cause of death," according to a statement from the county. "The Sheriff's Office also recognizes the impact this tragedy may have on the staff members who work each day to care for and supervise those in our custody. Our thoughts are with everyone affected by this loss and resources will be made available to them. If you or someone you know is struggling with or has thoughts of suicide, help is available 24/7, regardless of your circumstances. Call or text 988 for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, or chat at chat.988lifeline.org.

Lansing is suing an out-of-state landlord, claiming dozens of homes are in violation of city codes, according to the Lansing State Journal. A hearing last week for Indus Realty was set to determine whether the company had done work on the homes, according to the report. The company had racked up thousands of dollars in fines. The State Journal said court officials did not allow a reporter to view court records but the newspaper used public records requests and found out at least 18 properties had received fines for violations.

Vote no on Proposal 1



Five years ago we saw the writing on the wall. Roe v. Wade was likely to fall, and for the first time in generations, our children would have fewer reproductive rights than we had. We couldn't let that happen.

That's why we, along with our partners and thousands of volunteers across the state, went to work to put reproductive freedom on the ballot, and in 2022 voters approved Proposal 3, amending the state constitution to include Michiganders' right to reproductive freedom, including abortion.

Now, that hard-fought freedom is at risk. This November, a question will appear on the ballot as Proposal 1 (aka Prop 1), asking voters if they would like to hold a constitutional convention. This question is required to appear on the ballot every 16 years. Since this was first required in 1960, it has appeared on the ballot four times, most recently in 2010, and voters have never approved it, for good reason ...

Opinion

If Prop 1 is approved, one delegate from every Michigan House and Senate District would be chosen in special elections on a partisan basis. These elections do not have to adhere to all of the same processes and procedures as our regular elections do and there is the potential for special interests like Big Tech, Big Pharma, and insurance companies to pour money into the election, unregulated, to influence the outcome. The convention is also open-ended and its rules and procedures are decided by the delegates. Delegates could decide to not change anything, or to rewrite the entire constitution.

Processes to amend Michigan's constitution already exist though. Voters can amend the constitution through ballot initiatives. This process is rigorous and thorough, and most importantly, is voter-led. The state legislature can also amend the constitution. Both State Senators and State Representatives can introduce amendments to the constitution and they must be approved by two-thirds of the sitting legislature.

Over the past decade, voters have succeeded in amending the Michigan Constitution to not only include access to legal abortion, but also to expand voting rights. Our elections are more accessible because voters approved same-day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and early voting. These improvements to the health of our democracy could also be taken away if a constitutional convention were approved, and are deeply tied to our fight for reproductive freedom because restricting access to the ballot would impact people's ability to weigh in on important decisions about their healthcare.

The number and breadth of organizations opposing Prop 1 is unprecedented and includes a bipartisan coalition of nonprofit organizations like ours, labor unions, the Michigan Catholic Conference, and chambers of commerce. Because we all know that it is far too dangerous to crack open our state's governing document and let special interests, the ultra-wealthy, and big corporations pour money into rewriting our constitution, there is just too much at stake.

At our core, we know that no matter who you are or where you live, all Michiganders should have equitable access to the healthcare they need — including abortion. Medical decisions about your reproductive healthcare should be between you and your provider and when serious medical complications arise during pregnancy, doctors must be able to provide the full range of treatment options that are best for the patient, including abortion. Thanks to voters, Michigan's constitution backs this up.

Across the country, we have seen the dangerous and deadly impact of the overturning of Roe v. Wade. We fought hard to secure reproductive freedom in Michigan's constitution, and we cannot reopen it to political attacks. We are coming together now, as we have before, urging you to Vote NO on Proposal 1.

Sommer Foster
Executive Director, Michigan Voices

Loren Khogali
Executive Director, ACLU of Michigan

Paula Thornton Greear
President and CEO, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan



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ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE
Williamstown Township
Ingham County, Michigan

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP TRUCK ROUTE ORDINANCE AND TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE.

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment

Section VI: Designated Truck Routes, shall be amended to read as follows: Commercial trucks shall not be operated upon the following routes in the Township except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance:

1. Barry Rd – From Shoeman Rd. to Williamston Rd.
2. Milton/Lovejoy Rd – From Ribey Rd. to Shaftsburg Rd.
3. Gulick Rd.
4. Epley Rd.
5. Lounsbury Rd.
6. Zimmer Rd., north of Haslett Rd.

Section 2. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any part is declared to be invalid for any reason by a Court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remainder of the Ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 3. Repeal. All other ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency only, are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage, publication, and recording by the Township Clerk.

Reviewed by Ingham County Road Department: September 15, 2026
Adopted by the Township Board: September 30, 2026
Published on: October 28, 2026
Effective Date: October 28, 2026

CP#26-400

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PAID FOR BY TOM BARRETT FOR CONGRESS



The vacant and grassy former Walter Neller property is next to the New Vision Grand Tower, where workers were hauling steel beams up on Monday, Oct. 26.

Gary Granger's $400 million proposal for Lansing has council member 'cautiously pessimistic'

By MIKE ELLIS

Gary Granger is proposing one of the most ambitious plans for Lansing, a year after his last downtown project fizzled out.

He recently told the Lansing State Journal about his new $400 million vision for downtown Lansing in a story published on Oct. 1.

Spanning four properties in the heart of downtown, the projects amount to one of the most ambitious plans for Lansing since the New Vision Lansing proposal was floated in 2023.

The new Granger vision would build on the former Walter Neller property and renovate One Michigan Avenue (to be renamed Granger Place) and it would convert two downtown buildings he does not yet own, the former Kostichek's building and the long-vacant YMCA building, into high-end housing, according to the newspaper article.

Photos by Mike Ellis

A month later, there are no more details.

Scott Bean, a spokesperson for the mayor's office, said he reached out to planning, economic development, building and other departments after reading the Lansing State Journal article but the city has not

See $400 million, Page 13



The Granger Group plans to renovate much of this block at North Washington Square and Ottawa Street, including the One Michigan Avenue building, which is expected to be renamed Granger Place, as well as the former Kostichek's and YMCA buildings across the street.



Kostichek's was a long-running menswear store in downtown Lansing that closed following a 2024 storm that collapsed the roof. It could be reimagined as housing in a new plan.



A block at North Washington Square and Ottawa Street includes the One Michigan Avenue building, expected to be renamed Granger Place, as well as the former Kostichek's and YMCA buildings across the street.

$400 million

from page 12

been contacted about any of the projects Granger described.

The Granger Group agreed to give City Pulse basic information about their proposed projects, the same information that was in the State Journal but they did not and then they stopped responding to phone and email messages.

A Granger Group executive left a message for a City Pulse reporter on Oct. 27. The executive did not answer or return a phone call and message from City Pulse soon after.

City Council President Peter Spadafore told City Pulse he is cautiously optimistic about the new Granger plan, which would bring more life to that part of Washington Square. He said he would love to see the project come to fruition.

Spadafore said he had a brief phone call about the project but didn't know details beyond what was in the newspaper and that official paperwork had not been filed with the city.

Council member Ryan Kost told City Pulse he "normally would be cautiously optimistic about a project like this but this time I'm cautiously pessimistic."

The last Gary Granger pitch

The last time The Granger Group proposed a major project was in summer 2025, when Gary Granger held a sledgehammer during a press conference in front of poster-sized renderings of a design for the former Walter Neller property.

It was to be a five-story, 76-unit apartment building.

The renderings they showed off were not done for the Granger project; they were copy-pasted from a September 2023 Downtown Lansing Inc. marketing effort.

And not being able to show an actual design for their building wasn't the only problem with the 2025 Granger Group plan.

They had sent out media invitations for the demolition ceremony a week before the event.

But they didn't turn in the demolition permit paperwork until that Friday, less than a business day before the planned Monday, June 2 ceremony.

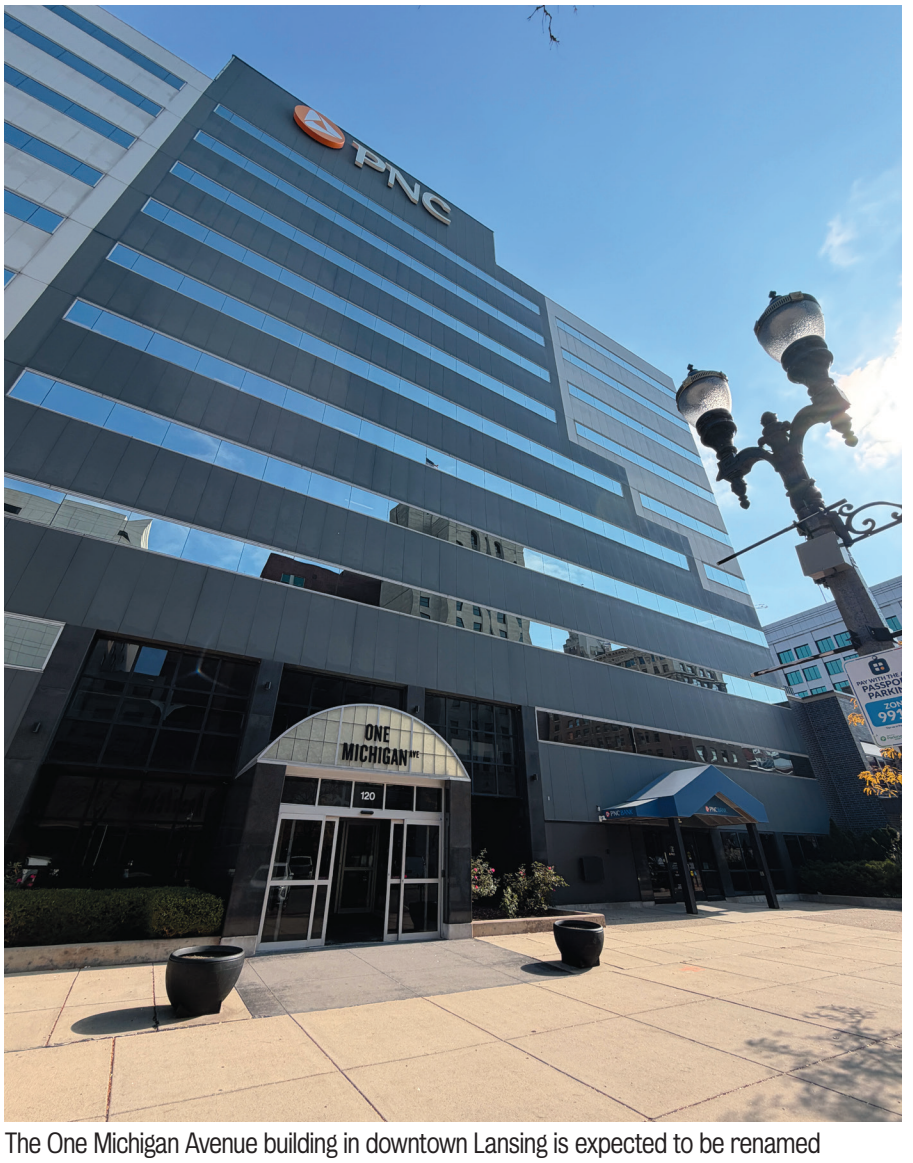
Lansing city staff were called in on the weekend and finished the permit shortly after noon on June 2, but that was too late.

By that time, the crowds were gathered and the catering tables were starting to empty.

An excavator, without a demo permit, sat quietly sidelined.

Gary Granger picked up and swung a sledgehammer at the building instead, noting that it would be torn down for real later.

See $400 million, Page 14



The One Michigan Avenue building in downtown Lansing is expected to be renamed Granger Place.

$400 million

from page 13

A few days later, when the permits were ready, the excavator driver made a curious decision as live video cameras caught the demolition.

The excavator began on a wall that included a large mural of a young woman with the words "You have a voice."

The machine's metal jaws skipped over the unpainted brick and started the job by punching directly into the mouth of the painted young woman.

The symbolism was bigger than the pile of Neller bricks that would later be hauled away.

What's happened since then?

It's been almost 17 months since the first Neller announcement and if you look at the intersection between the two sites today, the 2025 Granger plan of beating the New Vision Grand Tower to market seems almost laughable.

The skyscraper is racing ahead, nearing its full height, and is hoisting politicians above the current skyline for construction tours while the Neller property is growing tall weeds.

But Granger is back with more than a strong pitch this time.

One of the four components of his new plan is One Michigan Avenue, a 157,000-square-foot office building near the tower and the Neller property.

It was recently purchased by The Granger Group, a tangible and immediate part of the proposal.

Granger declined to tell the State Journal what he paid for the building, but according to public records, it was sold to his company at the beginning of September for $5.6 million, or about $35 per square foot. The building was last sold in 2017 for $16.4 million.

Gary Granger is CEO of The Granger Group, a Wyoming, Michigan-based company, and he got his start with his family's separate Granger Construction, a Lansing business, and branched off in the 1990s. Granger Waste Services was an offshoot of the construction business and started in the 1960s.

The Granger Group built the House of Representatives building and the Michigan State Police building in Lansing and the company also takes credit on its website for a Lansing City Hall project that never materialized.



The former YMCA building in downtown Lansing has been vacant for many years and could be reimagined as housing.



The One Michigan Avenue building in downtown Lansing is expected to be renamed Granger Place.



The former YMCA building in downtown Lansing has been vacant for many years and could be reimagined as housing.

Growing weeds

Kost said he's had to call city code officials because the vacant Neller site was growing knee-high weeds after it was leveled.

Kost said Gary Granger has a history of promoting developments in Lansing and often the plans don't materialize.

Granger was one of two bidders to build or create a new city hall for Lansing, in a drawn-out process that has spanned mayoral administrations and many years.

When construction finally became a real possibility in 2024 - thanks to $40 million in state funds - Granger objected.

Ultimately, the city's initial plan of moving into the too-large former Masonic Temple building and renting space to the Lansing School District was rejected.

In its place, the city commissioned a new city hall from The Boji Group, the other bidder. That city hall is expected to open by the end of November, a few blocks from the Neller property and the New Vision skyscraper.

Kost said he had taken Granger's side in the city hall dispute but later learned that a bidding email the company said they never received had been opened more than two dozen times.

"The entire city hall conversation, they had said they had not received the original bid and I took them at face value," Kost said. "It's tough with that track record."

Kost said The Granger Group has done significant construction work in Lansing, including the House of Representatives building and the timing is right for investments in the city.

"We're in a sweet spot; our downtown is where Grand Rapids was 20 years ago and we'll turn that corner," he said. "That Washington block is almost a lost block; there's not a whole lot happening and if he starts it there, it would be an exciting opportunity."

But Kost said he is more cautious about the Granger plan than he is with the average development, which typically has him cautiously optimistic due all the challenges.

"We would love to see this happen." Kost said, "but I have a hard time now because of the Neller experience."

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A long time coming

City celebrates Root Doctor Day with one-shot reunion concert

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Some scary days are coming up on the calendar. Halloween? scary. Election Day? so scary. Thanksgiving? What's scarier than rehashing the election with your relatives?

Fortunately, this year there's a new, non-scary holiday in the mix: Nov. 2, aka Root Doctor Day. By the authority of the mayor and the City Council, it is now your civic duty to bask in the healing soul-shine of Lansing's premier blues-jazz-R&B band.

The real fun comes on Root Doctor Day Eve, when a gala celebration of 30-plus years of music making will take place at The Green Door. Original band member and vocalist Freddie Cunningham and original bassist James Williams will be joined by the rest of the band's current lineup and a rotating panoply of past members in a once-in-a-lifetime reunion.

Cunningham professed to be "flabbergasted" by the honor. To ice the cake, Nov. 2 happens to be his 83rd birthday.

"I was speechless, to tell the truth, kind of shell shocked. It's quite a tribute," he said.

The idea for Root Doctor Day came from Shawn VanSteeland, owner of the Music Instrument Swap in Holt and longtime producer of summer concerts in Lansing, Grand Ledge, Delta Township and Mason. Over the past 17 years, he has marveled at the band's ability to draw phenomenal crowds everywhere it goes.

"In Lansing, they will put 600 to 700 people in the park, and I'm lucky to get 100 or so for everybody else," VanSteeland said. "The last two years, they have absolutely drawn the biggest crowd at the Sun Dried Music Festival in Mason. They're one of the most underrated bands in this town."

Root Doctor Day celebration
5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1
The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
$15 in advance; $20 at the door
greendoorlive.com

VanSteeland successfully coaxed Root Doctor into appearing a few times each summer after its putative "retirement" year of 2021.

Cunningham's wife, Marge Mooney, spotted Lansing Mayor Andy Schor at one of the summer concerts and mentioned the idea.

"He said, 'Absolutely. Just let me know what you need,'" Mooney recalled. The paperwork was filed, the requisite "whereas" statements were hammered out, and Schor said he would be "honored" to make the presentation.

Now, about that 2021 "retirement" tour. Cunningham was happy to clear up any misconceptions.

"It was the band retiring," he said. "It was time for the band to retire. I never thought about retiring. I'll be singing until I can't do that anymore."

Health-wise (and voice-wise), Cunningham is in fine form, although foot trouble forces him to sit a bit more than he'd like.

"That feedback from the audience cures a lot of your ills," he said.

Gliding into his 80s, his voice mellowing like fine Scotch, Cunningham has kept up a regular schedule of work, co-hosting a monthly blues jam at Moriarty's Pub with the Johnny D Blues Band (the next date is Nov. 29) and playing regular jazz shows with drummer Jeff Shoup and organist Jim Alfredson at Red Cedar Spirits (the next date is Dec. 18).

Getting back with Root Doctor a couple of times a year brings almost as much comfort to Cunningham as it does to longtime fans of the band.

"James was with me the whole 30 years," he said of Williams. "Everybody else was with us at least 10 years or so, and I'm really proud of the longevity each of them put in."

Many of the band's most significant past stalwarts are expected to be on hand Sunday, beginning with its original leader, keyboardist Mike Skory, and first guitar player, Scott Allman.

Skory put together the Downtown Blues Band, Root Doctor's first incarnation, for a 1989 gig at the long-defunct Tango's club in the downtown Knapp's Centre.

It wasn't supposed to last 30 years, but Williams pushed the band to mix upbeat, danceable Top 40 material like The Commodores' "Brick House" with heartfelt ballads and gutbucket blues, and the formula clicked with the public.

Unlike the music, the band's name came off as a bit generic, so they picked a new one from a hat: Root Doctor, the title of a raunchy Roy Hytower tune.

Half a dozen guitarists and keyboard players have come and gone since then. But the heart of the band is unchanged. Cunningham's yearning vocals still leap into the air on the springy substratum of Williams' bass.

In the 2000s, Alfredson, who is still an on-and-off member of the band, and guitarist Greg Nagy joined to spark an era of touring and studio work that led to wider recognition, awards and several of the "whereas" clauses in the city's proclamation. The band played gigs across the state and as far away as Manitoba, discovering that its winning blues formula was just as welcome in rural hinterlands as it was in big-city bars.

Cunningham expects to perform some of the band's most crowd-pleasing songs on Sunday, like the ebullient "Soul Shine," gritty "Last Two Dollars" and danceable "Walkin' Out on You," but another, less upbeat Root Doctor original has hit him extra hard in recent years.

In "Hold On," a weary-walking blues track from the band's CD "Been a Long Time Coming," his leathery voice exudes quiet determination to get through life's scary times: "If you need consolation, honey, I'll be there."

"It's about holding on to your beliefs and not taking the easy way out," Cunningham said. "It's not as popular as some of our other songs, but it strikes a chord with me."

Returning to the prospect of scary days ahead, Cunningham finds that music is more of a healing balm than it has ever been in his experience, and that makes Root Doctor Day a welcome ray of soul-shine.

"There's so much nebulous stuff going around, so much negativity, and if you're not 100% on your game, you can get caught up in that crap," he said. "Music has got to be uplifting. It's got to mean something."



Courtesy

Thirty-plus years in, Lansing blues-jazz-R&B band Root Doctor's lineup includes (from left) drummer Austin Howard, bassist James Williams, vocalist Jim Alfredson, keyboardist-vocalist Freddie Cunningham and guitarist-vocalist Bill Malone.

First-ever HIDE Fest celebrates movies, music and Halloween at Lake Lansing Park South

By SARAH SPOHN

Independent filmmaker Paul Rothman is proud to be able to give back to the community he grew up in through a new event he's organizing, Haslett Independent Discoveries and Entertainment Fest.

The fest's profits go toward repairing damage from the 70 mile-per-hour winds that blew through Haslett's Lake Lansing Park South back in September.

"It's a really amazing community," said Rothman, who grew up in Okemos and lived in Haslett before moving to Canton 10 years ago. "I lived in the Shoals subdivision, so you had a lot of places you could go. You could go to the park nearby, you could go down to the river, you could go into town to the mall. If you wanted a nice lake scenario, you could go to Lake Lansing Park South. It's a really nice area that I think, now especially, is a little bit slept on. It's really cool to come back and do something."

The inaugural HIDE Fest will take over Lake Lansing Park South and the nearby Mayfair Bar on Saturday to celebrate independent film, Michigan music and, of course, Halloween. The free, all-ages, rain-or-shine event aims to provide accessible entertainment to folks, with seven bands, a costume contest, trick-or-treating and a full lineup of film screenings.

Many of Rothman's projects have ties to Mayfair Bar, where the films will be shown. One of his short films, "Salamander," was shot at the local watering hole. The 15-minute movie won third place at the Saugatuck Film Festival on the west side of the state.

His new film, "Small Business," will debut at 8 p.m. during HIDE Fest.

The movie and music lover enjoys attending large-scale live events, including Sonic Temple music festival, the former Common Ground Music Festival and the East Lansing Film Festival, a formative event during his youth.

"I personally think it's important to have that type of outlet for kids," Rothman said. "I remember what it was like to be a kid in the Okemos area. I remember getting in trouble while trying to find something to do and feeling that sort of suburban dread. You need something to do, and if you don't have that outlet, it can be hard."

He aims to provide a stage for all generations of filmmakers.

"I've been to enough film festivals to see the things I like and don't like about them," he said. "I really wanted to do something that gets young or new filmmakers activated, shows them it's not that hard."

Rothman hopes that Michigan's filmmaking scene can flourish again, even though the state no longer offers tax incentives to Michigan-made movies. He also hopes that as the festival grows and more filmmakers and artists travel to attend, there can be a positive economic impact on the local community.

"The idea is to try to build up Michigan as a film state," he said. "With Hollywood kind of going away in terms of how it's working, people are going elsewhere. Michigan really does have a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of that. In my opinion, it's the best place to make films because we have so many different locations. You can go to the mountains and beach within the same day. In terms of populus, we have a wide range of talented people to cast."

The goal is to build HIDE Fest into a Sundance-type film festival, putting Michigan back on the movie-making map.

While bringing in high-class talent is a priority, it's also important to Rothman to keep ticket prices low for attendees. HIDE Fest tickets are free, but online registration is encouraged. Ingham County Parks has waived the parking fees for the event. There is a $30 VIP package that includes special film-fest seating, access to a covered VIP tent for live music, two drink tokens and exclusive HIDE merch.

"One of my philosophies of life that has served me very well is that numbers and money follow, they don't lead. Anything you go after in life, if you're looking to get money first, it's generally not going to work out that well for you," Rothman said.

The movie screenings begin at 11 a.m., with awards at 6 p.m. on the bandshell at Lake Lansing Park South. Films are broken into different categories, with more family-friendly options earlier in the day, leading up to the more bloody, mature flicks in the evening. Filmmaker Q&As and discussions will take place between movie blocks.

In addition to the movies, there's also a range of live music, including punk, pop-rock, emo, metal, alternative/indie and folk.

"One artist I'm really excited about is Victoria Irish," Rothman said. "She's got some really cool folk music, stuff to put on in the car. She's got a song called 'Groceries' that's awesome.

"The headliner is a metal band called Honeyfoot that travels the entire state," he continued.

Although the music might get loud, Rothman ensures the event is welcoming to attendees of all ages.

"The whole idea is to get the youth out here. At the park itself, we'll have water, soda pop and some snacks for $2 or less. We're not trying to overcharge you, not trying to nickel and dime you. We really just want to celebrate some good music and get some fun energy out."

Being on Halloween, the event is also designed to be a break from the endless trunk-or-treating-type events.

"It's a great way to get families out of the house and get some fresh air," Rothman said.



The inaugural HIDE Fest will take over Lake Lansing Park South and the nearby Mayfair Bar on Saturday.





Courtesy photos

Metal band Honeyfoot (left) and rock band Mind Riot are two of the eclectic groups slated to play on Saturday.

HIDE Fest

11 a.m.–11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31
Lake Lansing Park South
1621 Pike St., Haslett
Mayfair Bar
1589 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
hidefest.org

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of:
Indian Lakes Drain

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Paulette Hatchett, John Leonard, Dennis Williams, and Jennie Nerkowski (Alternate), will meet on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Meridian Charter Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated October 15, 2026, for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, relocating along a highway, providing structures, mechanical devices and pumping equipment, and adding branches and a relief drain are necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, in accordance with Section 191 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

Members of the public will only be able to speak during the public comment portions of the meeting. To provide for orderly public participation, a person wishing to speak must state their name and request to be recognized by the Board. The Board of Determination will recognize all persons wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

YOU ARE FUTHER NOTIFIED that the persons aggrieved by the decision of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties and public corporations that benefit from the project. A landowner, or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: October 22, 2026

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
(517) 676-8395

CP#26-402

Great Lakes Current

Local Journalism. Statewide Perspective.

A Healthy Dose of Politics



LONNIE SCOTT

THE PUBLISHER'S PORCH

My wife and I spent Saturday night at a sock hop.

Well, sort of.

We were in Deckerville for the McKenzie Health System Autumn Benefit, which this year was billed as "A Dance with Death: A 1950s Sock Hop Gone Sour." There were poodle skirts, leather jackets, a murder mystery, and plenty of people who looked considerably more comfortable in 1950s attire than I did.

It was a lot of fun.

But underneath the costumes and murder mystery was something considerably more serious.

McKenzie is building a new hospital in Sandusky.

Think about that for a minute.

At a time when rural hospitals around the country are closing, cutting services, or wondering how they will survive the next decade, a small community in Michigan's Thumb is building one.

That matters.

It matters if you have a heart attack.

It matters if your kid gets hurt playing football.

It matters if there's an accident on a country road or a farmer gets injured miles from the nearest city.

And it matters even if you are fortunate enough to rarely see the inside of a hospital, because hospitals are also employers, economic anchors, and one of the things that make it possible for people to live, work, raise families, and grow old in rural communities.

You can't spend decades talking about saving rural America and then shrug when the hospital disappears.

On our drive to the benefit Saturday, I saw something that has stuck with me.

Along the road was a barn with a weather-beaten flag hanging from it that said:

"DON'T BLAME ME. I VOTED FOR TRUMP."

Almost immediately afterward, we passed a gas station.

The big illuminated sign out front said:

Unleaded. $5.19 a gallon.

I wondered if whoever hung that flag still felt the same.

Presidents usually get far too much credit when gas prices are low and far too much blame when they're high. Oil is traded on a global market, and there are a lot of things that determine what we pay at the pump.

But today's prices didn't just happen.

Before the war with Iran began earlier this year, the national average for regular gasoline was about $2.98 a gallon. Today it's well over $4. The war and the disruption of oil moving through the Strait of Hormuz have played a major role in that increase.

And unlike most debates about presidents and gas prices, there isn't much disagreement about the connection this time.

See PORCH next page

Trump's Port Huron rally draws thousands, protesters and far-right agitator Jake Lang

BY LIEZA KLEMM
The Yale Expositor

PORT HURON — Thousands from across the state gathered at the riverfront town of Port Huron on Sunday, Oct. 25, to see President Donald J. Trump. The rally, less than 10 days before Election Day, also drew in a fair number of demonstrators and counter-demonstrators, including far-right agitator and Jan. 6 rioter Jake Lang.

Attendees lined up as early as 9 a.m. to get into McMorran Place, the event center where Trump took the stage. Physical barriers cordoned off Huron Avenue, one of the event center's cross streets, limiting attendees to the sidewalk on the street's west side.

Demonstrators gathered on the corners of Huron Avenue and Grand River Avenue, and lined the sidewalk on Huron Avenue parallel to the event center.

Kathleen Grantom, of Yale, heard about the planned demonstration through Blue Water Indivisible, a grassroots organization formed to protect constitutional rights and protections for citizens in the Blue Water region. The group is not affiliated with a particular political party, according to its website.

Grantom said the number of demonstrators was encouraging to see, but expressed disappointment at the number of Michiganders in line to enter McMorran Place. "We didn't realize there were going to be [this] many people here," she said, "but it's still so sad to see how many people are here just to hear him talk, knowing that he's going to say the same things that he says every time."

See PROTEST next page



Thousands from across the state gathered at the riverfront town of Port Huron on Sunday, Oct. 25, to see President Donald J. Trump. **[Lieza Klemm/ Expositor staff]**

Great Lakes Current

Protest

continued from previous page

On the parallel road, Michigan Street, demonstrators held signs that read "Democracy Dies While Trump Lies" and "Go To Hell Trump" across from counter-demonstrators, namely Jake Lang.

Lang is known to attend rallies and campaign events, either in support of or against the candidate, and stir up a crowd. He was most recently at a campaign stop for U.S. Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed in Hart, Michigan. Lang has a history of pushing Islamophobic rhetoric, including traveling to Dearborn in August, home to the largest Arab American population in the nation, where he spoke about his grievances to the city council.

During the Port Huron rally, Lang held up a red sign in bold white lettering reading "Stop Muslim Takeover of Democrat Party" and on the flip side "Deport Terrorist Abdul El-Sayed" from the bed of a pickup truck, surrounded by a dozen supporters.

There were moments when it seemed the shouting between the two groups would turn violent. Members of Jake Lang supporters and anti-Trump demonstrators crossed the bustling street, often impeding traffic.

Yale's Grantom said Lang's appearance is something she expected. "He's got to find ways to make money," she said. "So this is how he gets engagement and viewers."

Andrew, who declined to share his last name, stood on the side of Lang's supporters. He said he was there to attend the rally, but decided to stay by Lang's truck.

"I'm here to support Donald Trump and Mike Rogers and, of course, against Abdul," he said.

Andrew is from Harper Woods in Metro Detroit. He echoed Lang's Islamophobic attitude, specifically concerning Dearborn and the percentage of those who identify as Muslim in positions of power. According to Andrew, the religious affiliation of the city's mayor, Abdullah Hammoud, is "the problem."

On the sidewalk opposite Lang supporters, Nicole Robinson held up a "Trump is a c-nt" sign. A Lapeer County resident, Robinson traveled with her aunt to participate in the demonstration. Like Yale's Grantom, the number of demonstrators gave Robinson hope for a potential blue wave with the upcoming midterm elections. "I think it's a sign people want something different," she said.

The rally, with all of its security and precautions, took a toll on the surrounding businesses.

An employee at Senior Tequila Mexican Restaurant, located on the street law enforcement cordoned off, said they found out about the rally from social media, long before the city made them aware.

Owners ordered extra food, liquor and added extra staff to the schedule. Throughout the day, however, the staff only saw a fraction of the normal crowd. "People think we're closed," the employee said.

Concerned about clashes between demonstrators and attendees, the restaurant moved its outdoor furniture inside. "We moved all of them because we were worried, like, what if they get in a fight and throw a chair or something," the employee told The Expositor.

While business was slow before and during the rally, employees suspected it would pick up once the event wrapped up. With the majority of employees there being Hispanic, there were concerns about potential conflicts with rally attendees. "The owners said if something happens and it gets rowdy, we'll just shut our doors," the employee said.

The rally saw few physical confrontations between demonstrators and counter-demonstrators. Attendees wearing "Make America Great Again" baseball caps got in the face of demonstrators holding "Abdul for U.S. Senate" signs without any physical assaults.

Attendees were cut off from entering McMorran Place around 2 p.m. when it reached capacity. As the afternoon continued on, attendees gradually left the event center, and the number of supporters waiting in line dwindled.

The rally wrapped up around 5:45 p.m., and demonstrators lined the street of Trump's exit route, shouting at the former president's limo as he waved from the backseat.

Porch

continued from previous page

The day after we were in Deckerville, President Trump was in Port Huron campaigning alongside Republican candidates Mike Rogers and John James.

Gas prices came up.

Trump called the higher prices a "short-term hit" and a "small price to pay" for the war with Iran. He acknowledged knowing prices would rise when he made the decision to go to war.

In other words, the $5.19 sign we had passed the day before wasn't some abstract economic argument.

It was one of the costs of a decision.

Whether that decision was worth the cost is something voters can decide for themselves.

But there is a cost.

And I couldn't help thinking about that as we drove toward a fundraiser for a rural hospital.

Because healthcare policy works the same way.

Wars are choices.

Budgets are choices.

Cuts are choices.

And elections are how we choose the people who make them.

Republicans in Washington, including U.S. Rep. Lisa McClain, approved significant cuts and changes to Medicaid last year. The Michigan Health & Hospital Association says those changes will cost the state's hospitals more than $6 billion over 10 years.

Rural hospitals are particularly vulnerable.

They tend to serve older populations, more patients on Medicaid and Medicare, and communities where there simply aren't enough privately insured patients to make up the difference.

So when Washington cuts healthcare spending, that's not just a number buried somewhere in a federal budget.

Eventually that number arrives on Main Street.

Sometimes political choices show up in six-foot-tall numbers on the sign outside a gas station.

Other times they're harder to see.

They show up as a service that isn't offered anymore.

A position that isn't filled.

An ambulance that has to travel farther.

A family that has to drive an hour for care.

Or, in the worst cases, a hospital that closes its doors.

We've already watched that happen in rural communities across Michigan and across the country.

That's what makes what is happening in Sandusky so encouraging.

While other communities are losing healthcare, this community is investing in it.

McKenzie's new hospital represents something bigger than a construction project.

It's a statement that rural communities are worth investing in.

That people shouldn't have to move to a metropolitan area to have reasonable access to healthcare.

That the Thumb has a future.

Saturday night, a hundred or so people weren't debating Medicaid reimbursement formulas or federal budget projections. They were eating dinner, bidding on auction items, solving a pretend murder and raising money for their hospital.

That's what communities do.

But there is a limit to what chicken dinners, silent auctions and generous donors can accomplish.

With Election Day coming Nov. 3, that seems worth remembering.

The choices we make at the ballot box aren't simply statements about which team we're on. They're choices about what happens next.

What we invest in.

What we cut.

And what kind of communities we're going to have when all the campaigning is over.

Great Lakes Current

El-Sayed rallies in Ottawa County, outlines progressive Senate vision

BY SARAH LEACH
Ottawa News Network

HOLLAND — Deep in Ottawa County, a traditional stronghold of West Michigan conservatism, an overflow crowd gathered Sunday, Oct. 26, to witness an unusual convergence of media, grassroots activism and high-stakes U.S. Senate politics.

Local Latino community leaders Cynthia Martinez and Rebecca Padnos Altamirano organized a live town hall and podcast recording that brought physician, epidemiologist, and Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Dr. Abdul El-Sayed to a region rarely visited by progressive candidates. The atmosphere inside the venue reflected both the urgency of the moment and the unique stakes of El-Sayed's candidacy.

Refusing corporate political action committee money and advocating for systemic reforms — from Medicare for All to restructuring federal law enforcement — El-Sayed laid out a distinct political vision that links public health directly to the core survival of democratic institutions.

The race for Michigan's open Senate seat has become one of the nation's premier battlegrounds, featuring a sharp contrast in vision between El-Sayed and Republican nominee Mike Rogers, a former U.S. representative and FBI agent.

On faith

Drawing on personal reflections about his Muslim faith and his late grandmother, he argued that true spirituality is rooted in personal conscience and voluntary commitment, not state-enforced compliance.



Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Abdul El-Sayed speaks in Holland on Sunday, Oct. 26, 2026. A former Detroit health director, Rhodes Scholar and Wayne County health officer, El-Sayed has mounted a campaign that defies standard political playbooks. **[Courtesy/Ottawa News Network]**

As El-Sayed explained, his tradition rejects coercion at its foundation.

"There's actually a statement in the Quran itself that says there is no compulsion in religion. You can't tell somebody else to live their life according to a particular set of precepts because, at the end of the day, the point of the thing is about it being a relationship you have with God," he said.

He contrasted that individual relationship with the purpose of constitutional governance, noting: "Faith is about you and God, not everybody else. America — the Constitution — is about everybody else relative to each other."

On restructuring ICE

A central focus of the discussion was immigration enforcement.

El-Sayed expanded on his long-held call to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement and replace it with a system modeled on civil constitutional principles.

He carefully delineated border security — managed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection — from internal enforcement, arguing that ICE's contemporary practices resemble paramilitary overreach rather than constitutional law enforcement.

"ICE is, in effect, an agency that has flipped the Constitution and immigration law," he said. "They take immigration law as the supreme law of the land, and they will enforce immigration law even to the detriment of the Constitution itself. In this country, the law of the land is the Constitution, and every other law gets enforced within the bounds of the Constitution."

Illustrating the stark difference between due process and arbitrary detention, he offered a vivid comparison.

"What is the difference between an arrest and a kidnapping? When you're under arrest, you are told you're under arrest, you know exactly who's arresting you, you are told why, and you are told how to challenge the circumstances of your arrest," he said. "Kidnapping is just somebody coming and picking you up off the street. Ask yourself whether ICE detention looks more like an arrest or kidnapping."

On the healthcare crisis

As a physician and epidemiologist who co-authored a definitive book on universal healthcare, El-Sayed offered a stark analysis of current federal policy directions.

He warned that pending rollbacks to Medicaid coverage and Affordable Care Act subsidies will destabilize the entire medical economy, creating a catastrophic feedback loop for private insurance holders as well.

"Our healthcare system is too often more focused on billing than healing," he said. "It shouldn't be this hard in the richest, most powerful country in the world to see a doctor, and it should not be this hard to pay your taxes and know that that money is going to be spent on you and your kids, rather than dropping bombs on somebody else and their kids."

Detailing the systemic consequences of safety-net reductions, he explained: "You're going to watch tens of thousands of people in every state get kicked off of Medicaid. When they get kicked off, they still need help. ... So what do they do? Show up to an emergency room with the worst manifestation of the illness. The cost gets pushed back onto people who pay premiums. ... It's what economists call a death spiral."

On political courage

Decrying political gamesmanship in Washington, he emphasized that too much of politics is dictated by people for whom it is not a matter of life and death.

"Too much of politics is dictated by people for whom politics is not a matter of life and death. And right now, there are a lot of people who are struggling with the life-and-death issues of politics. I'm not going to the United States Senate to play the political game," he said.

The general election is Nov. 3.

— Read more at ottawanewsnetwork.org.

Opinion: Too little, too late for John James



KYLE MELINN

It is less than two weeks before Election Day, but it is increasingly clear that John James will not be Michigan's next governor.

The national money dried up a couple of weeks ago. The DeVos-fueled political action committee is not making up the difference. The Michigan Republican Party, still trying to find its footing after the Kristina Karamo implosion, cannot bridge the gap either. Former President Donald Trump is not helping, leaving James spinning his wheels.

The MIGOP pledged $1 million in television and streaming advertisements over the next few days. But with Democrat Jocelyn Benson and her allies reserving $5.28 million for the campaign's final week, the party's buy will barely register.

The RealClearPolitics polling average showed James trailing by 7 percentage points as of Oct. 20. Once Benson's final ad blitz lands, the deficit could easily reach double digits.

See MELINN next page

Great Lakes Current

Uncounted ballots name new Hamtramck mayor

BY CHARLES SERCOMBE
The Hamtramck Review

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. — Hamtramck has a new mayor, and he's no stranger to voters.


Mahmood

Former city councilmember Muhith Mahmood is now in the mayor's seat following the tabulation of 37 uncounted ballots from last year's November election.

The ballots were tabulated in a three-hour meeting by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers on Friday.

The ballots in question were found a day after the November election by employees in the Hamtramck City Clerk's office, and they were immediately taken to Wayne County election officials.

But the Board of Canvassers declined to count those ballots, which set off an eight-month legal battle. Mahmood argued in favor of counting the ballots, while Mayor Adam Alharbi was opposed.

This long saga is not over yet.

Alharbi and his attorney, Nabih Ayad, have vowed to challenge those 37 ballots.

"This dance is not over," Ayad told reporters after the new election results were announced.

Mahmood won't officially become mayor until the Board of Canvassers certifies the results Nov. 4, and he is sworn into office.

So, in the meantime, "We don't have a mayor," said City Attorney Odey Meroueh. "I've already cut off access for Adam."

That means City Council Member Abu Musa is now acting mayor since he is next in line as mayor pro tem.

Mahmood might be facing more legal challenges.

Ayad said that the Attorney General's office is considering whether to bring criminal charges against a person he declined to name.

"You can probably guess who," Ayad told the press.

Mahmood told The Review that Ayad is likely referring to him.

Alharbi insists that Mahmood is not a resident of the city, although he has struck out so far in court to have Mahmood disqualified.

Mahmood has denied the charge, saying that although his wife and family live in Troy, he lives in Hamtramck, in an apartment on Holbrook.

As for being named the winner of the election, Mahmood said, simply, "I'm elated."

Alharbi conceded that the election result with the newly counted ballots was expected.

"It's not a surprise," he said.

The ballots came from a precinct that is populated by mostly immigrants from Bangladesh. Mahmood is also from Bangladesh.

Alharbi insists that the 37 ballots are "not trusted" because of past accusations of ballot harvesting and manipulation of ballots.

While there have been investigations into election fraud, none of the accusations have held up in court.

Alharbi has fought against counting the ballots, claiming that since they were discovered a day after the November election, they should not be included in the final count because they lost their "chain of custody."

But Mahmood prevailed after a number of court hearings and finally won his case.

As it turned out, Mahmood toppled Alharbi by 12 votes, winning 2,089 votes compared to Alharbi's 2,077 votes.

Alharbi initially won the November election by 11 votes.

After the new results were announced, a loud cheer rang out from Mahmood's supporters who were packed in a meeting room where the ballots were counted.

It took the county a pain-staking three hours to get through the process in a room that turned hot and sweaty, and thick with tension in the air. The county repeatedly cautioned those in attendance to keep their emotions in check and be courteous to others while speaking.

Mahmood stressed that his quest to have the 37 ballots counted was not about him becoming the mayor, but to uphold "voters' rights."

He called for Alharbi to now "move forward."

— Read more at thehamtramck-review.com.

Melinn

continued from previous page

James is keeping a stiff upper lip. He talked about running a "grassroots campaign" at a recent stop. That might have snowballed into something formidable — had it started a year ago.

It did not. Twelve months ago, the Republican gubernatorial field featured seven declared contenders, six of whom gave the grassroots circuit an earnest run.

James? He was nowhere to be found on the campaign trail. He and his team calculated that he did not need to make the Lincoln Day dinner rounds. As for the three primary debates the state party staged as fundraisers? James never showed up. Why take the risk? That was the theory, at least.

As it turned out, the strategy held up in the primary. James kept his head down, watching rival campaigns flame out or fade away from a lack of cash and organization. His camp figured that once he secured Trump's endorsement — which he did — there was little point in putting 100,000 miles on a campaign vehicle.

After all, there would be time for that later, right? James wrote in his April 7, 2025, announcement on X: "We'll have the rallies and the balloons soon — but first, I want to share exactly why I'm doing this."

The rallies did not come soon. In fact, James was barely seen on the trail until after businessman Perry Johnson launched his bid in January 2026.

By then, a fatigued grassroots base had cycled through seven conservative alternatives before settling on Johnson, the only non-James candidate mounting an active campaign heading into the Aug. 4 primary.

Irked that James seemed to take their support for granted rather than making time for them, many grassroots activists backed Johnson. Once James emerged as the nominee, little evidence suggested those activists rallied behind him with any real enthusiasm. The "rallies and balloons" promised in April fell flat.

A muted media presence. No clear policy platform. No track record in state government to lean on. Beyond the familiar, smiling face from eight years ago, James offered little substantive material for voters to latch onto.

In theory, that should not have doomed him. Backed by Trump and the DeVos family, James appeared to have all the institutional firepower necessary to win.

Except Trump rarely cuts checks to the statewide candidates he endorses. The former president raises enormous sums from individual donors. To monitor the volume of those solicitations, I subscribed to his email lists long ago.

Since James announced his bid on April 7, 2025, the Trump fundraising apparatus has sent me 3,417 appeals for cash — an average of roughly six per day.

The amount of television and digital ad money a Trump-aligned entity has contributed to James' general election effort: zero.

Trump has aided select congressional contenders. Mike Rogers' U.S. Senate bid received $25 million from Trump's No Going Back PAC, according to tracking data from AdImpact.

James never matched Benson's national fundraising footprint. He exited the primary with $1.45 million in cash on hand; Benson held nearly $6 million.

Benson's operation has spent an average of $1 million a week on television since August. James has spent $2 million total.

That money will not go far. As it turns out, neither will John James' bid for governor.

‘All will be revealed’

Rock legend Alice Cooper releases memoir

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

In his new memoir, “Devil On My Shoulder” (Da Capo, $32.50), Detroit native Alice Cooper details his “evilution.”

“After over 30 records and 60-plus years, the story of Alice Cooper has become a tangle of embellishments, elaborations and outright fabrications,” the “godfather of shock rock,” 78, said in a statement announcing the book. “I think it’s time to sort reality from myth: the slaughtered chickens, the bans and record burnings, the evangelical terrors, Ouija boards and poltergeists, resurrections and revenge from the grave, the cross-dressers, thieves, drug addicts and hopeless alcoholics, the house fires and car crashes — all will be revealed for what they really were.”



Alice Cooper live
8 p.m. Nov. 7
Wings Event Center
3600 Vanrick Drive, Kalamazoo
$45–675
(269) 345-1125
wingseventcenter.com

Cooper, who was born Vincent Damon Furnier, also comes clean about his addictions and his blackout years, as well his rise to the top and his “terrible slide” back down.

“I want to talk about the origin of ‘Cold Ethyl,’ the guillotine and the dead babies, the best and worst of my reviews, my feelings of guilt and regret after people got hurt or died, what life was like on the road until the wheels came off the bus, what a romantic I am at heart and how I’ve stayed married for half a century even after my wife came at me with a frying pan,” the statement continues.

Cooper is a born-again Christian. He returned to his faith in the mid-1980s after receiving Christian counseling and going through rehabilitation. He grew up in a religious household: His father, Ether Moroni Furnier, was an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. His paternal grandfather, Thurman Sylvester Furnier, was a leader and later the president of the same church organization.

“I want to talk about God,” Cooper adds. “Don’t worry, I’m not gonna bang you on the head with a Bible, I just want to describe how it is that I found him dwelling in me. Alice, that inveterate liar, was a voice in my ear for so long — whispering lies and sweet nothings, pretending to be my better conscience and my inspiration, pretending to be me — that I think it’s only right to present both sides of the story: the angel on one shoulder, the devil on the other.”

Cooper was born in Detroit and grew up several blocks away from the Eastland Center mall. When he was around 10, his faily moved to Phoenix.

“There’s always somebody who says I lived next door to them or went to high school with them,” Cooper said in an interview. “If they say I went to high school with them, you know it’s a lie because I left Detroit when I was 10. I’m still a dyed-in-the-wool Tigers and Lions fan, though.”

Cooper’s passion for music was heavily inspired by the Beatles. He was 16 when the Fab Four made their historic U.S. debut on “The Ed Sullivan Show” in 1964, which launched Beatlemania across the country.

At the time, Cooper was attending Cortez High School in Phoenix and wanted to participate in the talent show. He gathered four classmates and formed a band called the Earwigs. They dressed up as the Beatles and parodied their songs.

Not long after, they renamed themselves the Spiders, inspired by the music of the Rolling Stones, the Who, the Doors, the Yardbirds and the Kinks. For the next year, the band performed regularly around the Phoenix area with a huge black spider’s web as their backdrop.

“I was the perfect age to be sitting there, going, ‘I don’t want to work in my dad’s office, I don’t want to do this, I don’t want to do that. I wanna be the Beatles, I wanna be the Rolling Stones, I wanna do that for a living,’” Cooper said.

By 1967, they had graduated from high school and renamed the band the Nazz. However, there already was a band with the same name, so they needed a new moniker. Cooper believed the band also needed a gimmick to succeed and pointed out that other bands weren’t taking advantage of their showmanship potential.

“Having a name like ‘Devil’s Blood’ or ‘Satan’s Dog’ or whatever ... the idea was everyone’s trying to come up with a name that’s startling,” Cooper recalled. “I said, ‘Let’s go the other way. Let’s have a name that sounds like a little old lady who lives down the street and makes cookies for the kids, except maybe there are, like, 12 bodies buried in her basement. Let’s make this Alice Cooper character sound really macabre.’”

The band made its debut as Alice Cooper in 1968. It was one of the few glam rock or glitter rock acts to achieve mainstream success in the U.S., rising to fame with the 1971 hit single “I’m Eighteen” and making waves again with 1972’s “School’s Out.”

“‘School’s Out’ is timeless,” Cooper said. “Every graduation day, ‘School’s Out’ is the national anthem to this day.”

In 1974, the band broke up. In 2011, the original band was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Between 1999 and 2021, the band reunited several times before coming together in 2025 to record its first studio album in 52 years, “The Revenge of Alice Cooper.”

In 1975, Furnier legally changed his name to Alice Cooper to secure the rights to the name and to avoid any legal problems as he transitioned from the lead singer of the band to a solo artist. Cooper stated in interviews that changing his name was one of his most important and successful career moves. He’s referred to himself as the “Darth Vader of the rock ‘n’ roll set.”

“Think about it: Does Alice Cooper look like a hero? No. Alice Cooper is definitely the villain type. Paul McCartney is the hero, Bono is the hero, Sting is the hero. Alice Cooper is the archvillain. The villain gets all the good lines,” he said.

Cooper is also an avid golfer.

“I had to trade addictions,” he said. “I had a drinking addiction. I was the most functional alcoholic in the world: I never missed a line, I never missed a show, I never missed anything. I never got drunk; I was just on a nice, golden Dean Martin buzz all the time.

“But it got to me,” he continued. “I got up one morning and started throwing up blood. That was me going into the hospital right then. Since 1983, I have not had a drink. I think God just took it away from me, changed my desire for it. I never went to AA, never did any of that stuff. When I got out of the hospital, the urge was gone.”

Even though he’s pushing 80, Cooper has no desire to pack it in.

“I’ve never lost the urge, never lost the love of that gigantic power chord when you start the show and see the audience reacting to every song,” he said. “I can’t even think about Alice Cooper retiring. I’ve got more energy than the audience does. I’m not gonna be the one who gives up. Let them give up.”

Visit alicecooper.com.



Photo by Jenny Risher

Detroit native Alice Cooper, known as the godfather of shock rock, details his “evilution” in his new memoir, “Devil On My Shoulder.”

City of Grand Ledge

Notice of Availability of Proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan for Public Review & Notice of Public Hearings

A draft 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Grand Ledge is available for public review and comments. Anyone interested can send comments to the Parks and Recreation Commission or will be given an opportunity to comment at the following public hearing:

Parks and Recreation Commission: Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Grand Ledge City Hall, 310 Greenwood Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Written comments may be sent to:
Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Commission
c/o Community Development Department
310 Greenwood Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

or emailed to
cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com

Copies of the plan are on file at the following locations:
Grand Ledge City Hall: 310 Greenwood Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Grand Ledge Area District Library: 131 E. Jefferson Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

A copy of the plan is also available on the City’s website:
cityofgrandledge.com

For more information contact:
Rich Morrison, Community Development Director

The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. The City of Grand Ledge will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the learning impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon one week’s notice to the City of Grand Ledge. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aid or services should contact the City of Grand Ledge by writing or calling the following:

Gregory Newman, City Clerk
310 Greenwood Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Voice: (517)-627-2149 Email: gnewman@cityofgrandledge.com

CP#26-401



Live & Local

CityPULSE

The Avenue
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Halloween kickoff party w/ DJ Randyswrldd, DJ Dougie, DJ Thousand Sunny
Thurs., Oct. 29, 9 p.m.
Magnolia Avenue Farm benefit w/ Soft Dog, worm, Itchy Tomato, Cylindrical Blazing Star
Sun., Nov. 1, 6 p.m.

Blue Gill Grill
1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
New Rule
Fri., Oct. 30, 8-11 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church
215 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
Candlelight: A Haunted Evening of Halloween Classics
Fri., Oct. 30, 6:30 and 8:45 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill
16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Medusa
Fri., Oct. 30, 8 p.m.-midnight
Garage Sale Band
Sat., Oct. 31, 8 p.m.-midnight

Dublin Square
327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Kenny Flowers
Wed., Oct. 28, 9 p.m.-midnight
Lewie Austin
Wed., Nov. 4, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Justin of Red Moon Rounder
Wed., Oct. 28, 7-9 p.m.
Songwriters' Night, with Bart Moore
Wed., Nov. 4, 7-9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Taylor Tatum
Fri., Oct. 30, doors 7 p.m.

Graham Vineyards
8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg
Rory Nevins
Fri., Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m.

Grand Ledge Opera House
121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Grand Ledge Community Band: "Happy Hauntings"
Wed., Oct. 28, 7 p.m.

The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., Oct. 28, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
Wolf & Bear, Coletta, Origami Button
Fri., Oct. 30, doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.
Mean Green Halloween, with Nunya, Joe Hertler, James Gardin, Jahshua Smith and more
Sat., Oct. 31, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Freddie Cunningham's Birthday Bash, featuring Root Doctor and Tommy Foster
Sun., Nov. 1, doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m.
Doom Scroll, Pentagram String Band
Tues., Nov. 3, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Tanner Dane
Wed., Nov. 4, doors 6 p.m., show 7 p.m.

Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
In Her Own Words, Every Avenue, Fluorescents, Farewell Come April
Wed., Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m.
Post Animal, GIFT
Thurs., Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
A Nightmare at the Soul Lounge
Fri., Oct. 30, 8 p.m.
Microwave, Free Throw, Carly Cosgrove, Kerosene Heights
Tues., Nov. 3, 5:30 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market
7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
John Beltran
Wed., Oct. 28, 5-9 p.m.
The Brothers Ralph
Thurs., Oct. 29, 5-8 p.m.
The Further Adventures of FatBoy & JiveTurkey
Fri., Oct. 30, 5-8 p.m.
The Lynx Band
Sat., Oct. 31, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Nov. 1, 2-7 p.m.

The Irish Pub
1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., Oct. 29, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Gimme Five
Sat., Oct. 31, 8-11 p.m.

Lake Lansing Park South
1621 Pike St., Haslett
HIDE Fest
Sat., Oct. 31, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Nathan Grant
Thurs., Oct. 29, 5-8 p.m.
Roxy Riot
Thurs., Oct. 29, 9 p.m.-midnight

LCC Gannon Commons
600 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
LCC Jazz Band's Fall Swing Fling
Fri., Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.
115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
David Salvador
Fri., Oct. 30, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Devil's Night Costume Party Extravaganza, with Rock & Roll Bad Guys, Vlad's Skeletal Circus, Autumn Affect, Last Place Finish
Fri., Oct. 30, 8 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Nov. 2, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., Oct. 29, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Nov. 3, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

MacDonald Middle School
1601 Burcham Drive, East Lansing
Meridian Community Band's 31st annual Grand Sousa concert
Sun., Nov. 1, 3 p.m.

Marketplace on the Green
1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
School of Rock
Thurs., Oct. 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Mash Bar
212 Albert Ave., East Lansing
JR & the Last Call
Wed., Oct. 28, 7-10 p.m.
JP & the Energy
Fri., Oct. 30, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.
402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Unity Halloween Takeover
Sat., Oct. 31, 6-10 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Nov. 2, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub
802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Oct. 28, 8-11 p.m.
Atomic Boogaloo
Thurs., Oct. 29, 9 p.m.-midnight
517 Funktet
Fri., Oct. 30, 8 p.m.-midnight
Spoonful
Sat., Oct. 31, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Nov. 3, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Nov. 4, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music
Trombone Colors
Wed., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Carillon Halloween Concert, "The Ringing 3"
Thurs., Oct. 29, 8 p.m.
Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
State Singers and University Chorale
Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre
"Frack to You"
Sun., Nov. 1, 3 p.m.
Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
French Connection
Mon., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre
Percussion Ensemble
Wed., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre

Nico's Pub and Grill
117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Showdown
Fri., Oct. 30, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
Cheep Tequila
Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Nuthouse Sports Grill
420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Atomic Annie
Sat., Oct. 31, 8 p.m.-midnight

One North Lansing
5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
The Tenants
Fri., Oct. 30, 7 p.m.
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Nov. 2, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Lonnie Spangler
Fri., Oct. 30, 8-10 p.m.
Orion's Note
Tues., Nov. 3, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Live music
Fri., Oct. 30, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., Nov. 1, 6-9 p.m.

The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Futuretime String Band, Super Secret Cult Band
Thurs., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Abigayle Oakley, Fairhazel
Wed., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Sholty's Bar
1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Frog & Koop
Tues., Nov. 3, 6-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar
812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Live music
Sun., Nov. 1, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Live music
Tues., Nov. 3, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.
1957 Cedar St., Holt
Open mic & karaoke
Thurs., Oct. 29, 7-10 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center
3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Live music
Wed., Oct. 28, 6-9 p.m.

Uncle John's Cider Mill
8614 U.S.-127, St. Johns
Jen Sygit
Sun., Nov. 1, 1-4 p.m.

Unicorn Bar
327 E César E. Chávez Ave, Lansing
Universe Band
Fri., Oct. 30, 8 p.m.
Full House
Sat., Oct. 31, 8 p.m.

University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Sally Rogers & Claudia Schmidt
Sun., Nov. 1, 3 p.m.

UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Oct. 28, 6-9 p.m.
Pzazz ... an afternoon of poetry & jazz
Sun., Nov. 1, 4-6 p.m.
Rodney Whitaker presents Motown to Jazz
Sun., Nov. 1, 7 p.m.
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Nov. 4, 6-9 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse
3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Deacon Earl
Wed., Oct. 28, 7-10 p.m.
Potts Road
Sat., Oct. 31, 7-11 p.m.

Celebrating nonprofits, churches and volunteers

By MR. JOE WALKER

Adam Williams, the founder and executive director of MissionsFilled, created his online network to connect churches, local nonprofits and volunteers to help support charitable goals.

Williams saw those goals bear fruit as MissionsFilled hosted its second annual Community Champion Volunteer Fair Oct. 17 at the Lansing Mall.

Sponsored by Against All Odds, United Way South Central Michigan and LAFCU, the fair occupied the mall's west end with a stage, music, a photo area, exhibits and vendors.

"Last year's fair at Great Lakes Christian College, we had 22 nonprofits and ministries," Williams recalled. "This year, with the vendors as well, the room was filled."

Community Champion participants were encouraged to dress as superheroes, and fair attendees had opportunities to meet service providers directly.

Photos by Mr. Joe Walker

"This year, we had an exhibit to help people find ways to really impact the community and learn about issues affecting homelessness, incarceration, the youth, foster children, health and people affected by cancer," Williams said. "Also, in past events, we did a grant application. This year, we had a pitch competition."



Host Sheri Jones, Amirika Richardson of Made In Amirika LLC and Paul Schmidt of UnoDeuce Multimedia at the second annual Community Champion Volunteer Fair on Oct. 17.



MissionsFiled executive director Adam Williams addresses attendees.



One of the pitch competition participants shares their vision with a panel of judges.

Seven contestants gave a three-minute pitch, evaluated on whether their projects were doable, sustainable and fundable. The potentially change-making ideas were presented to LAFCU Senior Vice President of Lending Laura Hosey, Base Builder Labs owner and founder Cyrina Enty and UnoDeuce Multimedia owner Paul Schmidt.

"What I loved about it was the energy," said Schmidt, also a MissionsFilled board member. "I thought the energy was there and it was sustained through the time."

The pitch winner was Erica Munchbach, founder of homeless-assisting nonprofit L-Town Jubilee. She was awarded a prize valued at $3,000: $1,000 in direct project funding and

See Volunteer, Page 24

One 'yes' away: What Claire Donohoe taught me about community

By MASAKI TAKAHASHI

To best describe my relationship with Claire Donohoe, my co-host at The Poetry Room, think of Pixar's "Up." I'm the grumpy old man. Donohoe is the adorable child knocking on my door, trying to earn her poetry badge.

Anyone who knows me knows I take this work seriously. I have high standards, and I believe opportunities should be earned, not given (ugh, okay, grump).

I've known Donohoe since she was a freshman at Michigan State University. When she tried out for the university's College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational team, I initially had her as a reserve, prioritizing upperclassmen. It wasn't a lack of talent. I wanted to see how people responded when asked to do more (see what I mean?!).

Jillian Bowe, the team's leader at the time, pushed back. Donohoe was the one person Bowe was 1,000% certain belonged on the team. I've never been happier to be wrong.



Photo by Jasper Baldwin

Masaki Takahashi (left) and Claire Donohoe co-host The Poetry Room.

The CUPSI tournament never returned after the pandemic, but Donohoe still stuck around. Over the past five years, we've organized events featuring nationally touring poets and invested in videography to bring our poets' work to wider audiences.

Donohoe's "Girl Dinner" was featured on Button Poetry, and "I Choose the Bear" reached 1 million views in 48 hours. It's now approaching 3 million views on The Poetry Room's platform. She earned every bit of that success, and I couldn't be prouder.

I asked Donohoe what keeps bringing her back to Lansing, especially now that she lives back home and drives 90 minutes to join us at least once a month. She told me Lansing is supportive and that you don't find events like ours everywhere.

She's built community and friendships here.

As a student, Donohoe would pack her car with other students and bring them to The Robin Theatre, encouraging them to venture into Lansing. She saw an open door and walked through it.

Why wouldn't she bring others along? Opportunities in Lansing don't always come with neon signs promising success. Sometimes you have to show up before you understand what a place can offer. Donohoe did that. She kept showing up and brought people with her. She is the definition of leading with love. She put in the work long

See Donohoe, Page 24

Masaki

from page 23

before millions watched her videos. She was ready when opportunity came.

What she may not know is that our relationship has been a source of healing for me. Community work comes with its share of bumps.

I won't spill the tea on those experiences in a City Pulse article, but pouring into a student and watching her grow became my own redemption story. I had grown cynical. I was carrying a lot, and somewhere along the way, I'd become the grumpy old man from "Up."

Donohoe, meanwhile, loved this poetry thing so much. She brought excitement and affection to everything she did. Her enthusiasm reminded me what it looks like to care about something without holding back. As she would say, "This is like my Super Bowl!"

Knowing I was the elder in our working relationship, I felt a responsibility for bringing my best self. Someone was watching. In the process, Donohoe helped me remember why I started doing this work. She's become one of my favorite people to work with. We have an unlikely yin-and-yang energy that works for our audience, and I think she'll make an incredible mentor one day.

When I asked what advice she would give students, her answer was simple: do all the things you want to do, even if it doesn't make sense right now. One day, it will all come together.

You can't predict which opportunity will change your life or which community will make you feel like you belong. An entire adventure might be waiting on the other side of a drive you weren't sure was worth making. Donohoe understood that as a student. She walked through Lansing's open door and kept coming back, even when she no longer had to.

I thought I was giving a student an opportunity. I didn't realize how much she would give back.

Sometimes, the person knocking on your door to earn a poetry badge reminds you why you opened the door in the first place.

So, do all the things. Bring your friends. Cross the highway. Show up before you know what it will mean. You never know what's waiting on the other side of one "yes."

You can follow Donohoe at CWroteIt on TikTok, Instagram and Substack.



Big Rewards in the Grocery Aisle

Groceries are a part of everyday life — your rewards should be, too. Whether you're stocking up for the week or grabbing a few last-minute essentials, **earn 3% cash back** on grocery purchases with an MSUFCU Visa Signature® Credit Card.

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Volunteer

from page 23



$2,000 in professional advertising and consulting services.

"It gives me the capacity to create another podcast, which can spread our message further through different channels, like YouTube and social media," Munchbach said. "This event is amazing! It's a really exciting thing to be a part of in so many ways. It was a lot of cool people here who are doing cool things. The vibe was remarkable."

That vibe was set by Against All Odds' annual cancer walk through the mall. The route ended in the main area near the stage. DJ Just Jereny handled the soundtrack for the day, and Stellar Award-winning singer, songwriter and producer Alfred Singleton III opened the event with an impassioned performance.

Jereny said his job was to maintain that kickoff energy throughout the fair.

"I was told to always be the light, so I tried to bring the light to the room, bring smiles and bring joy," Jereny said. "I just wanted to add to what was already there. It was cool to see the pitch contestants walk through their passion, understanding that it's hard to talk in front of people."

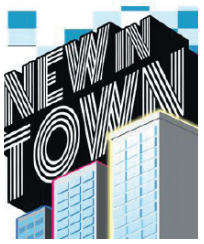
Event co-host Sheri Jones showed her veteran comfort in front of a live audience.

The former WLNS reporter and news anchor, now the host of WKAR's "Impact: Michigan," maintained energetic hospitality throughout the event.

"There was so much collaboration between our churches, our volunteers, our community groups, and everybody stayed engaged with one another. It was so impactful," Jones said. "I love the enthusiasm for what's next and what's to come. Adam is a genius, and he has such a servant heart for the community. I loved it."

Rug tufting studio adds to Lansing's craft scene

By LIEZA KLEMM



TUF Creations

123 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
11 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday
11 a.m.–8 p.m. Friday, Sunday
11 a.m.–9 p.m. Saturday
(517) 709-3143
tufcreationsinc.com

Pursuing entrepreneurship takes bravery and determination. For some, it's a dream they never achieve.

Tara Montgomery was always drawn to the idea of running her own business. A self-described creative who enjoys decorating cakes and taught herself to draw, she could see herself working in a variety of areas.

"I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do," she said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Montgomery was diagnosed with breast cancer. She decided to push her fears aside and take her dreams of entrepreneurship seriously.

"Basically, I just jumped in, not knowing anything," she said.

Now, four years cancer free, Montgomery's dream is alive and well.

At her studio, TUF Creations, which recently relocated to Kalamazoo Street downtown, she helps people turn visions into one-of-a-kind rugs.

Rug tufting is the process of punching yarn in and out of a canvas. At TUF Creations, tufting guns, which are heavier than they look, are used to make things easier.

Customers trace an image of their choosing on a tufting cloth. Yarn is fed through the tufting gun, and customers use the gun to punch the yarn through the cloth. Montgomery described the process as similar to latch hooking, only less tedious.

Tufting has become trendy on social media over the past few years. Montgomery saw a video and was immediately inspired.

"I just needed to know how to do it," she said.

While tufting is typically used to create rugs, Montgomery said the possibilities are endless.

"You can make purses, you can make pillows. It can go further than just something on your floor. It's really a work of art."



Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

At her downtown Lansing studio, TUF Creations, Tara Montgomery helps people turn visions into one-of-a-kind rugs.

For many customers, it's their first time tufting, but Montgomery said novices catch on easily.

The studio offers a variety of sizes, from as small as 15-by-15 inches to as large as 30-by-30 inches. Pricing ranges from $65 to $180 and is all inclusive.

TUF adds to downtown Lansing's growing craft scene, which already has ceramics, painting and woodworking studios.

"It's really for people who are willing to try something different than painting," Montgomery said.

For Montgomery, owning and operating a business is more than accomplishing her dream. As a Lansing native, she wanted to bring a fresh activity to the developing downtown area.

"They're building so much down here, and I really wanted to be a part of it," she said.

As far as trends go, she believes rug tufting will remain popular. TUF has had customers from around the state, including Jackson, Flint and Grand Rapids.

"I'm always shocked when I hear where everybody's from," she said.

Starlight makes a strong case for its survival with 'The Butler Did It'

By MARY CUSACK

Review

"The Butler Did It"
Friday, Oct. 30
Dinner 6:30 p.m., show 8 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 1
Dessert 1:30 p.m., show 2 p.m.
Waverly East Intermediate School
3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 243-6040
starlightdinnertheatre.com

After making an appeal to the community for help in overcoming recent economic challenges, Starlight Dinner Theatre's production of "The Butler Did It" serves as a reminder of the family-friendly entertainment experience the theater uniquely provides to the Lansing area.

It's a dark and stormy night in the English countryside as the Covington family awaits the arrival of famed mystery novelist Edwina Corry (Cheryl Sheridan). Playboy neighbor Trevor Barstow (Adam Bright) has dropped by uninvited, much to the chagrin of Jenkins, the butler (Chris Klaver). Despite having a secret relationship with the Covington's maid, Sarah Jane (Nicole Buchmann), Trevor surprises Col. Nigel Covington (David Brooks) by asking for his daughter's hand in marriage.

Kat Covington (Molly Woods) is a plucky, independent woman who aspires to be the first female pilot to circumnavigate the globe. Her plans change when Nigel informs her that the family is bankrupt and he needs her to marry Trevor for his money. As Nigel prepares for the announcement, a murderer strikes and throws the manor into chaos.

Meanwhile, Edwina arrives just before the bridge to town washes out, preventing the police from coming to investigate. Edwina takes charge, ensuring the players that she has the singular skills to suss out the killer. Evidence pointing to Jenkins as the primary suspect mounts, and he is secured to a chair, in which he spends the entire second half as he tries to prove his innocence.

The plot is fairly cliché and not terribly innovative, but Todd Wallinger's script provides enough witty banter to keep it entertaining. The clueless Nigel has some of the best lines, particularly when he gets confused between references to his daughter Kat and the family cat in conversation.

Director Linda Granger has assembled a capable cast that embodies their stereotypical roles well. Klaver has the look and demeanor of a proper butler, although his accent is not quite consistent. On the other hand, as the local vicar Father Timothy, Douglas Hoy maintains a great Irish brogue throughout the play. Paul Levandowski is a delight in drag as Gram, the addled but formidable mother of Lady Miranda Covington (Sandy VanLancker).



Courtesy

From left: Chris Klaver, Cheryl Sheridan, Molly Woods, Sandy VanLancker, David Brooks and Nicole Buchmann in Starlight Dinner Theatre's production of "The Butler Did It."

The production team — including set designer Jim Lorenz, props wrangler Ruth Tepin and set dresser Granger as well as their construction crew — has created a beautiful 1930s drawing room, complete with luxurious but tasteful furniture and décor. Granger also handled costume duties, which are excellent, although Nigel's explorer outfit, complete with pith helmet, is especially fitting and funny.

One detail of special note is the effect of the rain outside the windows when the lights are down. Gently moving foil streamers and perfect lighting create a beautiful and realistic downpour, enhancing the environment of isolation.

Starlight offers the audience the opportunity to guess who the killer is during intermission, and those who guess correctly are entered into a drawing for prizes at the end of the show. Along with the option to have dinner or dessert, this bit of audience participation is another example of the qualities that set Starlight apart from other local theater companies.

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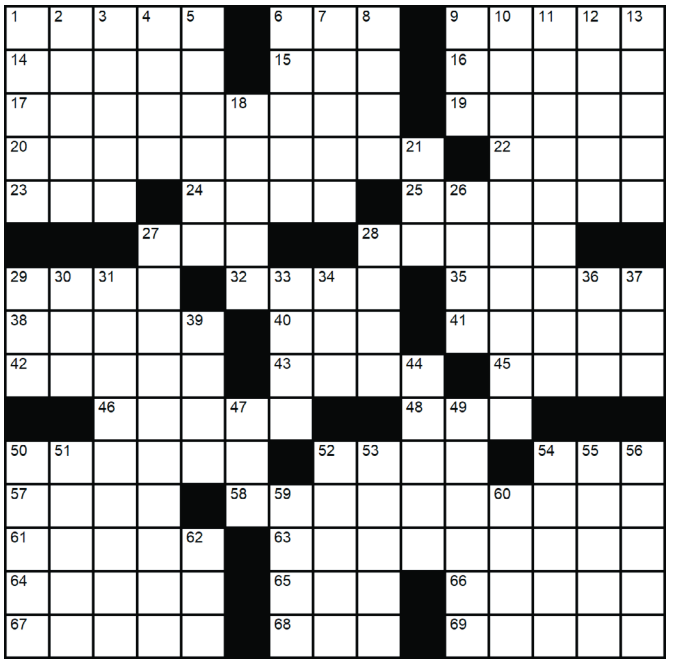
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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Against the Grain" -- a few special breakfast items.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones



ACROSS
1. Component of some salads
6. An HMO may require you to have one
9. Fall blossom
14. Nomo in the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame
15. "The Serpent and the Rope" novelist Raja ___
16. Get going
17. Mischievous visages
19. Airport circlers
20. Breakfast maker's reattempt?
22. Annoying one
23. Furtive
24. Personal emanation
25. Sigourney Weaver sequel of 1986
27. AMA members
28. Pac-Man enemy
29. Archbishop Desmond
32. Montreal baseball player, once
35. Integra maker
38. Detergent brand formulated for baby clothes
40. Pursue office
41. Late 1990s toy fad
42. Blunder
43. Ripening element
45. "Come Back, Little Sheba" playwright
46. Like most toothpaste
48. Have lunch
50. British mathematician and author (and "Celebrity Traitors" player) Fry
52. Daily Planet reporter Clark
54. Principle of Eastern religion
57. "___ all possible ..."
58. Obvious pop-up observation at breakfast?
61. Pumbaa's pal
63. Classification for yttrium or ytterbium
64. Blintz relative
65. Vat contents, maybe
66. Beach
67. "Siddhartha" author Hermann
68. Little ___ (viral late 2000s pitchman for Starburst Berries and Cream)
69. Grad student job

DOWN
1. Processes food?
2. Opponent
3. Impart knowledge to
4. ___-driving vehicle
5. "Great news!"
6. Earlier in time
7. Graphic design software company based in Australia
8. Be a model
9. ___-J (indie rock band)
10. Part of a maritime breakfast?
11. April filing
12. Aquafina competitor
13. Sits for a bit
18. Upcycle, maybe
21. Cheerleader's cheer
26. Bakery purchase
27. Comment about a breakfast item being the best?
28. Not there anymore
29. QB stats
30. Decorative server
31. Pub quiz creations
33. Revealing picture
34. Pooch with a curly tail
36. Late SCOTUS member
37. Yes vote
39. Subway option
44. "Cold Mountain" star Zellweger
47. Shakespearean pronoun
49. Bear witness
50. Sudden snag
51. Blazing
52. ___ Lumpur, Malaysia
53. Messed up
54. Judgement deck?
55. Jetson family pet
56. "Everything else" category
59. Like folk traditions
60. Diamond Head's island
62. "Born," in some announcements

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Answers on page 30

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

Oct. 28-Nov. 3, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): For centuries, Japanese craftspeople have cultivated an ethos called "shokunin kishitsu," a devotion to skilled work, lifelong learning, and continual refinement. The pursuit of perfection is less about reaching a final state than about bringing ever greater care and precision to the work. In traditional carpentry, this can mean years of learning to make joints whose quality resides in their strength and durability even though no customer will ever notice. I suggest you try out this attitude, Aries. Pour extra focus into details, regardless of whether anyone will applaud them. For Halloween, be a blacksmith, artisan, or eccentric inventor.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): How do the oldest trees live for so many years? What's their secret to longevity? They're very adaptable. During storms, they bend without breaking. During droughts, they slow down their growth. Cultivating alliances with fungi is one of their brilliant tactics. You're in an opportune phase to favor this approach to strength and endurance, Taurus. Here's what I propose: Weave gleaming strands of buoyant resilience into your fervent willpower. Experiment with yielding strategically rather than resisting reflexively. Boost your soulful power through flexibility and adaptability. For Halloween, be an ancient oak tree, forest guardian, or mushroom spirit.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): When archaeologists unearth a fresh batch of ancient artifacts, they never find a complete civilization in one dramatic moment. Each object or bone fragment helps explain another. A piece of pottery illuminates the meaning of an inscription. A broken staircase reveals why buildings were constructed as they were. Through educated guesswork and chains of association, knowledge accumulates. I invite you to wield your curiosity in the same way, Gemini. Treasure the sequence of little discoveries that gradually reshape your overall understanding. Have eager faith that every clue will lead you to further clues. For Halloween, be an archaeologist, paleontologist, or investigator of crime scenes.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Researchers studying wolves have found that play remains essential to them throughout their lives. Mature wolves wrestle, chase, and invent games that strengthen trust and sharpen cooperation. They never graduate from joyful experimentation. I hope their friskiness inspires you to remember, dear Cancerian, that serious responsibilities don't require a terminally serious personality. That's especially crucial to keep in mind now. I invite you to bring maximum amounts of playful intelligence into everything you value. Laugh during challenging conversations. Invent rituals that nobody else would think of. Observe the true rule: Amused delight generates an atmosphere where meaningful work may become exceptional. For Halloween, be a playful wolf.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Peacocks' extravagant feathers are beautiful displays that also communicate health, vitality, and genetic resilience. They're excellent role models for you. You should never apologize for expressing your charisma with style and theatrical flair. As long as your outer brilliance reflects inner vitality, your radiance will nourish rather than intimidate others. Authentic glamour is a public service. For Halloween, be a sun deity, lion monarch, or glamorous ringmaster.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): "Dear Oracle: I am obsessed with improving things. I tinker with systems that already work fine. I wake at 3 a.m. and catalog details I could have done better. My results are never ultimate enough. Please offer tips to help me find rest. — Drooping Purist." Dear Drooping: The autumn season is your teacher. The harvest is in; the fields are meant to lie fallow. Nothing more can be improved by force. Growth happens underground, invisibly. In that spirit, I invite you to practice the radical art of leaving at least one thing gloriously alone so it can work its magic outside the reach of your conscious awareness. For Halloween, be a scarecrow who stands serenely in the harvested field, watching over everything, accomplishing its whole purpose by being present.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): If you've spent years regretting the moment a friend took credit for your best idea, that sting may finally lose its hold on you. If an opportunity you earned was handed to someone else, you may soon receive recognition in a form you never anticipated. And if an ancient family legend claims you were doomed to repeat the same mistake forever, you can now break that pattern. The days ahead favor overdue adjustments. Watch for turns of fortune that don't erase what happened but change what it means and what becomes possible next. For Halloween, be an exorcist.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): This is your high holy season, Scorpio, which also happens to be the time when the veil is thinnest between this world and the other world. Others find this eerie, but you've always been at home here. You know how to explore the deepest depths, how to abide with what's buried and hidden, and how to find treasure in the dark. In the coming weeks, your natural power to perceive what's concealed will be amplified. For Halloween, be a psychopomp: a keeper of the threshold, a soul guide draped in shadow and starlight who walks comfortably between the living and the dead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Early balloonists had little control over the direction of their flights. They couldn't steer horizontally. But they found that changing altitude allowed them to catch different winds moving in different directions. The smartest way to change course was to rise or descend. Keep that image close, Sagittarius. If you can't alter external circumstances directly, shift your perspective or your social environment. A new current may be waiting higher or lower than where you've been drifting. For Halloween, be a hot-air balloon pilot, comet rider, sky pirate, or bird god like the Hindu Garuda.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Life must both perpetuate itself and surpass itself. Capricorn philosopher Simone de Beauvoir said that. We need continuity, but we also need transcendence. This beautifully encapsulates your assignment in the coming months. Your fun job will be to continue honoring the commitments that anchor your life while also making room for an exhilarating experiment or two. Make stability your launching pad rather than your destination. For Halloween, be the person you will be three years from now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Inventors often describe breakthroughs arriving after weeks or months of seemingly unproductive tinkering. Clearly, their subconscious minds kept working on the puzzles even while their conscious minds felt frustrated. Eventually, a fresh arrangement appeared as if by magic. I suspect you're approaching a threshold like that. Your experiments have been subliminally educating your intuition. The solution that's searching for you may be cleverer than the one you've been searching for. For Halloween, be a time traveler, benevolent extraterrestrial, or eccentric professor.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Travelers crossing dark marshes on foot may report eerie, flickering lights hovering over the bog. Science explains these will-o'-the-wisps as gases from decaying matter that ignite in the night air. Folklore provides other theories: They're spirit lanterns, fairy lights, the lamps of the dead, or beckoning wanderers. I believe you're in a similar liminal zone these days. Science and magic are both at work. Truth may take the form of both inexplicable mystery and fascinating anomalies that light your way. Be open to both! For Halloween, be a will-o'-the-wisp made flesh: a glowing spirit of the marsh draped in mist and lantern light, beautiful and uncanny.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsny'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. 28

517 Social Singles Mixer (Ages 30-45) - We'll provide an optional go-at-your-own-pace icebreaker activity, tabletop games, and conversation starters so you can relax and enjoy interacting with new people in a fun, low-pressure environment! 7-9 p.m. Davis Pavilion at Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121710135609.

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.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenFarmersMarket.

An Evening with Curtis Chin - Join us for an evening with Great Michigan Read author Curtis Chin, author of the award-winning memoir "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant." 7-8:30 p.m. MSU Main Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. bookings.lib.msu.edu.

Beginning Group Dance Class: Hustle - Hustle is one of the most popular dances today and is today's version of disco dancing. This class will use fun, upbeat and well-known songs! 8-8:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8800. themac.org.

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

Bookend Gallery Display by Nancy Aitcheson - 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.

Clay Play - Kids can enjoy time to create with clay! We'll have several different kinds on hand, from PlayDoh to Sculpty-type clays for older kids to enjoy. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Coloring Pages and Stencil Bookmarks - Come sit down and color a coloring page or use a stencil to create a fun bookmark! 10 a.m.-7 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.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.

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

Fall Speaker Series presents Dan Nevins - Dan, a double amputee, cancer survivor, teacher, and internationally recognized speaker, knows what it means to have life change in an instant. Join us for a powerful keynote about adversity, purpose, resilience, and strength. 10:30-11:45 a.m. Peckham, 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. peckham.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.

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.

Group Dance Class: Beginning Cha cha - Learn the lively rhythms, basic footwork, partner connection, turns, and simple combinations that make the cha cha one of the world's most popular social dances. 7-7:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8800. themac.org.

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.

Master the Art of Pasta! - Learn to craft vibrant pastas bursting with seasonal flavor. 6-8 p.m. Bradly's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

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

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

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. MICA, 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. lapsg.org.

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

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

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

Trick or Treat on the Square

5-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30
Washington Square, downtown Lansing
Free
downtownlansing.org/events/trick-or-treat-on-the-square



Families are invited to get into the Halloween spirit during Downtown Lansing Inc.'s annual Trick or Treat on the Square. More than 40 local businesses and community partners will hand out candy to costume-clad trick or treaters. There will also be a costume contest, Halloween-themed games and crafts, face painting, balloon animals, a visit from local Ghostbuster Ryan Homes and live entertainment by magician Chad Banister and DJ Metro Melik. Several participating downtown businesses will offer special deals and discounts during the event.

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

Tools for Effective Facilitation: Working with Groups in Conflict - A practical four-day workshop focused on developing comfort with high-heat situations in group settings. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. canr.msu.edu/facilitative_leadership.

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

Thursday, Oct. 29

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.

Beginning Group Dance Class: West Coast Swing - West Coast Swing can be danced to a wide assortment of music, from country to jazz to ballroom. 7-7:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8800. themac.org.

Beginning Ukulele for the Family - You'll learn the basics of the uke, including: parts of the instrument, tuning, beginning chords, and simple songs to get you used to chording and strumming. Four-week class. Registration req. Ages 8+. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

BLAC Arts & Culture Creatives Summit - Get ready to dive into the vibrant world of Black arts and culture! This in-person event is the perfect spot to connect, create, and collaborate with fellow creatives. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Michigan Economic Development Corp., 300 N. Washington Square, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/90479966063.

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

Courtyard at Delta Trick-or-Treat Event - The evening offers a safe, interactive, and festive environment for trick-or-treaters of all ages to get into the Halloween spirit together. 6-7:30 p.m. 350 S. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. thecourtyardatdelta.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.

Futuretime String Band and Super Secret Cult Band: Twin Bill - Buckle up for a night of fun and intrigue. Both groups present traditional folk music with a twist from the future, adding diverse sounds and musical elements from other cultures and genres. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

See Events, Page 29

Events

from page 28

Group Dance Class: Beginning Nightclub Two-Step - Nightclub two-step is a smooth, romantic social dance for slow to medium pop or country songs. 8-8:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8800. themac.org.

Halloweekend Kick-off Party - Start your Halloweekend off right! We've got DJs, a costume contest w/ prizes, pool and darts all night! Hosted by Rose! 9 p.m. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Halloween Hangout - The University Activities Board is bringing Halloween to the museum! Hang out, get creative, enjoy some trick-or-treats, and screen print your own glow-in-the-dark art. 7-10 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Halloween Spooktacular Event - Families are encouraged to dress up in costume and enjoy games, crafts, music, and more. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Immortal Grounds Haunted House Day Tour - Please bring donations for the Holt Food Bank. 4-6 p.m. 1963 Cromwell St., Holt. facebook.com/immortalgrounds.

Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed is mid-Michigan's premier family-friendly Halloween event, featuring more than 5,000 hand-carved jack o' lanterns in more than 30 scenes and themes. 6:45-9 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

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

MSU Film Collective: "ZUMBI ZUMBI ETERNO" (2023) and "Black Zombie" (2026) - Presented by MSU Broad Art Museum assistant curator Dalina A. Perdomo Álvarez in conjunction with "Laas / Absan / Peldía: Caribbean Cinema Cultures," On view through January. 7-10 p.m. Wells Hall, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Next Gen Leadership Academy - A practical opportunity for emerging and current leaders to strengthen communication, build confidence, and grow the skills they use every day. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. One Church, 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. facebook.com/LisaFisherAssociates.

Nonprofit Education Series: Tech, Efficiency, and the Future of Nonprofits - Join us for a practical conversation on how nonprofits are using technology to work more efficiently, make better decisions, and strengthen their operations. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at manercpa.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.

Pumpkin Tower STEM Challenge - Join us all day to try your hand at making the tallest pumpkin candy tower. The patron who constructs the tallest tower that can stand for one minute will receive a prize! 10 a.m.-8 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

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

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

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

Tools for Effective Facilitation: Working with Groups in Conflict - 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. canr.msu.edu/facilitative_leadership.

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

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

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

Friday, Oct. 30

Bridge Street Trick or Treat - Local businesses on both sides of Bridge Street and Bridge Street Plaza will be bustling with kids in costumes and their families. 5-7 p.m. Downtown Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/bridge_street_trick_or_treat.php.

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

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

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

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.

Gimme Gimme Disco - A DJ dance party playing all your favorite ABBA tracks, plus plenty of other disco hits from the '70s and '80s. 9 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.com.

Gumbo Connect: Let's See What's Cooking for 2027 - Whether you're from Louisiana, have Louisiana roots or simply love Louisiana culture, you're invited to join Mardi Gras La'MI' for an evening of food, culture, community connections and exciting possibilities. 6:30-8 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. mardigraslami.com.

Halloween Party at MP Social - Join us for a Halloween night filled with drinks, costumes, games, and a little friendly competition. 8-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

Haunted Library - Young children and their parents are invited to visit our "gently haunted" library and collect treats from friendly costumed characters before heading out to trick-or-treat on Bridge Street. 4-6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

The Healing Feast - This month's theme is "ancestral wisdom for future generations," featuring the Sari Brown Band, Bryana Clover and Sundance Living Waters. Dinner: homemade tamales, with gluten-free and vegan options. 5:30-8:30 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. givebutter.com/Healing-Feast-October-2026.

Immortal Grounds Haunted House - Please bring donations for the Holt Food Bank. 7-9 p.m. 1963 Cromwell St., Holt. facebook.com/immortalgrounds.

Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - 6:45-9:30 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

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

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

New Music & Arts Forum: Haunted Installations III - Attendees are invited to wander through the historic Turner-Dodge House at their leisure and experience a spooky experimental music performance with visual elements. Family friendly, costumes welcome! 6:30-8 p.m. 100 E. North St., Lansing. 21potluck.com.

Next Gen Leadership Academy - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. One Church, 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. facebook.com/LisaFisherAssociates.

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.

Portrait Painting Class at Shiawassee Arts Center - A strong focus will be placed on color theory, painting techniques, and anatomy. Students may choose to work in oils or acrylics. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays through Nov. 20. 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. shiawasseearts.org.

Rock City's Annual Halloween Party - DJ Rock City and DJ Kane take the floor for a night built around one thing: keeping people dancing. Expect throwbacks, hip-hop, R&B, house, and jams all night. Costumes are not required but highly encouraged. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. The Banq, 2102 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. rockcityhalloween.com.

Self-Honoring Circle — Chapter 6: Sure I'll Do It - Through Cosmic Smash Booking, reflection, journaling, guided meditation, and supportive conversation, we practice noticing the difference between saying yes from pressure and saying yes from truth. 1-4 p.m. Virtual — register at deepsoulcreativeart.my.canva.site.

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

Tools for Effective Facilitation: Working with Groups in Conflict - 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. canr.msu.edu/facilitative_leadership.

Trick or Treat on the Square - Stroll historic Washington Square for a family-friendly trick-or-treat experience with neighborhood businesses. Collect free candy, join in games and activities, and enjoy plenty of spooky surprises along the way. 5-7 p.m. Downtown Lansing. facebook.com/downtownlansing.

UPNXT517 Presents: After Dark — A Halloween Party - After Dark is taking over King Ocean Crab! Pull up in your best costume. Big energy and Halloween vibes 10 p.m.-2 a.m. 21+. 727 E. Miller Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/120728221993.

Women on the Wall ... The Intercession Part I - Join us in person for a powerful gathering of faith and fellowship. 7 p.m. Hampton by Hilton, 900 N. Canal Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121270826824.

Saturday, Oct. 31

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

Costume Party at The Venue - Great food. Full bar. Huge dance floor. Great music. Dancing all night. Cash prizes. And $200 for best costume. Ages 21+. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. venue1111.com.

ELFCO Halloween Party - Free food - Activities - Music - Prizes. 2-5 p.m. 1605 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. elfco.org.

Fall Adventure - Admission includes a corn maze, a cow train, a pumpkin house, fall photo ops, a culvert slide and more! And while you're here, don't forget the delicious fall donuts and special fall-themed cocktails at Burgdorf's Winery! 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Choice Farm Market, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Halloween at The Ave - Halloween dance party hosted by Secretia Noxious with costume contest. Free. 21+. 9 p.m. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

The Halloween Bar Crawl: Lansing - Round up your boo crew, show off your costumes, and prepare for a night of creepy cocktails, chills, and unforgettable bar-hopping fun! 4 p.m.-midnight. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/16755297782.

Halloween Elementary Parade - Laingsburg's Halloween elementary parade takes over downtown, a festive daytime event for young trick-or-treaters and families to enjoy. 1:30-2:30 p.m. laingsburg.us/calendar.

Hecate's Keys Halloween Party - Hecate is the keeper of keys and the goddess of the crossroads, and this year she's throwing a Halloween party. Hecate's Keys is a free all-day celebration for witches, families, and anyone else who's been planning their costume since August. Noon-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

HIDE Fest 2026 - A one-day Halloween celebration of independent film, music, art, photography, and creativity. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. hidefest.org.

See Events, Page 30

A Nightmare at the Soul Lounge

8 p.m. Friday, October 30
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
grewalhall.com/



A Night at the Soul Lounge, a regular gathering for R&B, hip-hop and soul enthusiasts, returns to Grewal Hall Friday for its spookiest night of the year. The lineup includes DJs Kaels and JMT, hip-hop/soul artist MikeyyAustin and house band Caleb Robinson & Reaching.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their best Halloween costume for a chance to win $100 based on creativity, originality and overall presentation. Tickets are $18 in advance or $25 at the door. VIP booths are $250 plus tax and include admission for four guests. This is the last Soul Lounge event of 2026.

Souls to the Polls

2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31
Lansing Elections Office
701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing
Free
lansingvotes.gov



Everyone is welcome to come out to the non-partisan Souls to the Polls trunk-or-treat event Saturday, promising plenty of candy, toys and other goodies.

Hosted by the Lansing City Clerk's Office to promote voter participation ahead of Tuesday's election, there will be mock elections to determine kids' favorite Halloween character and favorite candy, as well as a "ballot proposal" about sharing candy with kids who aren't able to go trick or treating.

For the grown voters, the event is a chance to fill out their actual election ballots. Any registered voter in Lansing has the right to vote early in person up to and including Election Day.

"We are so excited to be able to work with community partners to engage the community and educate our youth about voting," Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said. "At the same time, we can provide this new option for early voting, which will be convenient for many people with very busy schedules."

Events

from page 29

Immortal Grounds Haunted House - Please bring donations for the Holt Food Bank. 6-8 p.m. 1963 Cromwell St., Holt. facebook.com/immortalgrounds.

Investigative Séance Circle, with Eli Stewart - Twenty-five chairs, one medium, and the lights staying mostly off. On Halloween night. Come skeptical. Come curious. Both get a seat. 6-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.



Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - 6:45-9:30 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

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

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

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

MSU Bug House: 6 Legged Saturdays - Join us for a Halloween-themed Six-Legged Saturday at the MSU Bug House. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 288 Farm Lane, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/bughouse.

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.

Saturn as the Mother in Your Birth Chart - Most astrology apps will tell you the moon represents your mother in your birth chart. Claudette Holloway has been reading astrology charts professionally for over 26 years, and for most people, she finds the mother somewhere else: with Saturn. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Women on the Wall ... The Intercession Part I - Noon. Hampton by Hilton, 900 N. Canal Road, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121270826824.

Sunday, Nov. 1

Fall Adventure - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Choice Farm Market, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Hallows Ritual for Women - We'll dive into the season with Hekate, open ourselves to divination, sing chants and raise energy. Step into a beautiful temple space filled with many images of the Great Mother. No experience necessary. 2-4 p.m. Goddess Within: A Feminist Goddess Temple for Women. Contact organizer for address. 515-681-6781. goddesswithin.us.

Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - 6-9 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

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. MICA, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

Open Church for All Souls - Silent prayer, music, and remembrance. 2-4 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 Meridian Road, Williamston. facebook.com/stkatherinesepiscopalchurch.

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

Pumpkin Chuckin' - Bring your pumpkins the day after Halloween and launch them in catapults made by our friends at the Lansing Makers Network. 10 a.m.-noon. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. eastsidecompost.com.

Pzazz ... an Afternoon of Poetry & Jazz - November's Pzazz will highlight the rich history and heritage of Latin music and culture. Vocalist, guitarist, and director of Orquesta Ritmo, Mike Eyia, will be joined by percussionist Angel Hernandez, bassist Terrence Newman, and poets Tari Muniz and Cruz Villarreal. 4-6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 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.

Sally Rogers & Claudia Schmidt - Great friends, Rogers and Schmidt will present a balanced, delightful, warm and funny Sunday afternoon program of poignant selections as well as old-favorites. 3-5:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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.

Monday, Nov. 2

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

Acting/Improv for Teens & Adults - Perform your characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Biscuit the Dog Storytime - In honor of author Alyssa Satin Capucilli's birthday (author of the Biscuit series), join us for a dog-themed storytime! 6:30-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Dementia Caregiver Series - Three-session series intended to reduce stress for those caring for a person with dementia by providing useful tools and information. 1:30-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

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.

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.

Intro to CAD and 3D printing using Fusion 360 - In this concise intro course, participants will learn to use Fusion 360 to design a personalized phone stand, ready to be 3D printed. 6-8 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St. Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/5307332073.

Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series w/ John U. Bacon - Bacon is an acclaimed author, historian, and storyteller known for his engaging narratives and meticulous research into American culture, history, and the Great Lakes region. 11 a.m.-noon. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. facebook.com/p/Lansing-Town-Hall-Series-Inc-100066385607610.

See Events, Page 31

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

C	R	E	S	S	■	P	C	P	■	A	S	T	E	R
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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5	7	9	1	4	3	2	6	8
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A
LANSING CHRISTMAS
ADVENTURE
BY ROBERT HAWLMARK

A charming holiday comedy that delivers laughter, nostalgia, and a reminder of what the season is all about.

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NOV. 19 - DEC. 27, 2026

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7710 W. Saginaw Highway
Lansing, Michigan 48917
(517) 323-8500

TOWNSHIP BOARD
Synopsis of Meetings

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 5:59pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Treasurer Dennis R. Fedewa, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman, and Trustee Karen J. Mojica. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Finance Director Courtney Nicholls, Lieutenant Preston Dahlgren, Assistant to the Manager/Communications Administrator Mary Worland, Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Director Marcus Kirkpatrick, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser, Deputy Director Water John Stopczynski

OPENING CEREMONIES

1. Board Recognition and Moment of Silence for Former Lansing Mayor David Hollister

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Sheriff's Contract Funding – Special Assessment Public Hearings
   a. Establishing the Special Assessment District
   b. Setting the Special Assessment Roll

COMMUNICATIONS

3. Eaton County Drain Office Keller Drain Notice of Necessity
4. Emergency Manager Introduction

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. $41,117,698.72
6. Minutes – a. Monday, September 21, 2026

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

7. Final Consideration of Rezoning #PRZ2026-0002 (Eyde Development)
8. Special Land Use Permit #PSL2026-0003 (Kroger Pharmacy Drive-Through)

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

9. Zoning Amendment request: Nonpublic Schools on Nonprimary Roads

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026 – REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Brewer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Supervisor Fonda J. Brewer, Clerk Mary R. Clark, Trustee Elizabeth S. Bowen, Trustee Andrea M. Cascarilla, Trustee Joshua I. Lyman, and Trustee Karen J. Mojica. Others Present: Manager Brian T. Reed, Finance Director Courtney Nicholls, Fire Chief John Kahler, Captain Robert Block, Deputy Manager Erin LaPere, Planning & Economic Development Director Peter Menser

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. A Resolution Recognizing November 11, 2026, as Veteran's Day and the Contribution of Veterans to the Delta Township Community

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Public Hearing and Adoption of FY27 Budget

COMMUNICATIONS

3. Bank Intercounty Drain Notice of Grant Funding for Special Assessment Reduction or Refund

PUBLIC COMMENTS

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

4. Zoning amendment request (Berroa): Nonpublic schools on nonprimary roads

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Bills and Financial Transactions – a. $3,745,079.46
6. Minutes – a. Monday, October 5, 2026
7. Ena Dr. Warehouses Closeout
8. 2027 Holiday Schedule
9. 2027 Employee Medical and Pharmacy Insurance Plan Recommendation

ITEMS ADDED TO AGENDA UNDER SECTION V. SET/ADJUST AGENDA

10. Strategic Planning

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

MANAGER'S REPORT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

11. Krimson Housing TIF Introduction

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:13pm

CP#26-404

Events

from page 30

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Quinnipiac Bobcats - 7 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

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

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

Playtime Pals - Bring your little one to the library for a fun, informal playdate designed to build social skills, creativity, and early literacy through the power of play. 11 a.m.-noon. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Ribbon Cutting for New Wastewater Treatment Plant - Join the city of Mason and the Mason Area Chamber of Commerce as we celebrate a major milestone in our community's infrastructure! 5 p.m. 345 N. Jefferson St., Mason. facebook.com/mason-chamber.

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.

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

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

Tuesday, Nov. 3

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Next Gen Leadership Academy - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. One Church, 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. facebook.com/LisaFisherAssociates.

November Gales: A Ric Mixter Lecture - Join us as Mixter shares not only insight and rare survivor interviews from autumn gales, but also firsthand accounts of dives to freighters lost to the winds. Registration req. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

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

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

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

Story Hour - Participants will enjoy activities including stories, songs, rhymes, guided play, and crafts. Adults leave their children at the program after signing them in, but they must remain in the library building. Ages 3-6. 10-11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Wednesday, Nov. 4

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.

Abigayle Oakley, Fairhazel: Twin Bill - Since her appearance on "The Voice," Abigayle Oakley has hit the folk music circuit running. She'll split the night with Fairhazel, another singer-songwriter with a strong voice to be heard. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.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.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenFarmersMarket.

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.

Careers in Business - Network with local employers to learn more about career opportunities for students pursuing business-related degrees (such as accounting, business, economics, insurance and risk management, management and marketing). 11 a.m.-1 p.m. LCC Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. lcc.edu.

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.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE 2026-10
MASS TIMBER CONSTRUCTION

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Zoning Amendment #2026-10 (Mass Timber Construction)

The Township Board at its regular meeting on October 20, 2026 approved for final adoption Ordinance 2026-10 to amend the Zoning Ordinance in multiple locations to include mass timber as an amenity for mixed use planned unit developments and commercial planned unit developments.

A complete copy of the amendment may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Angela Demas, Township Clerk October 28, 2026

CP#26-406

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Directed by Ann Folino White



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Department of Theatre
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on November 9, 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 of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend sections of the Sign Ordinance, being Part 13, Title 2 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to: remove references to zoning districts that no longer exist; modify the minimum setbacks, allowable height, and total size of freestanding signs in certain zoning districts; and regulate freestanding signs near driveways in certain zoning districts..

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#26-405

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Taco Shawarma is your new favorite fusion

By LIZY FERGUSON

THE DISH

Tacos
$2.99 each
Fattoush salad
$4.99
Taco Shawarma
3122 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing
11 a.m.-8 p.m.Tuesday-Sunday
(517) 203-5269

After not having it for many months, I've really been into Middle Eastern food lately. There are so many great options in Lansing, but there's only one that combines Middle Eastern with another of my favorite cuisines: Mexican.

Taco Shawarma offers Mexican classics like nachos, burritos and tacos filled with Middle Eastern staples such as kafta, falafel and, of course, shawarma. If you're more of a purist, you can also get a straight-up Mexican-style burrito, birria tacos or a chicken shawarma plate with rice and a side of hummus.

I knew I had to get the eponymous tacos, but deciding between fillings was a challenge. Think of the à la carte menu at a Middle Eastern restaurant, and then imagine almost all of those options in taco form. Being in a carnivorous mood, I ended up selecting the chicken shawarma, beef shawarma and the lamb kabob, as well as a fattoush salad to balance things out.

The salad was excellent, with fresh veggies, crispy pita chips and a bright and herbaceous red wine vinegar dressing. The tacos, though, were incredible. First of all, I've never had tacos delivered to me in such pristine condition. I'm glad I always tip drivers well, but credit also goes to the kitchen staff because the presentation was lovely. Each taco was topped with red onions, fresh parsley, a tomato wedge, pickled turnips, a dusting of paprika and a drizzle of tahini. The chicken shawarma taco also appeared to have a slaw on it that I'd seen as a side option. This was some very thoughtfully prepared food.

It's difficult to choose a favorite of the three, as each was excellent. The corn tortillas were delicate and thin but hardy enough that they didn't fall apart when picked up. The meat was tender, moist and seasoned deliciously — even the lamb kabob, which can often be dry or tough. Tacos or not, this was some of the best shawarma and kabob I've had. Because of the extra texture the crunchy cabbage imparted, though, I think I liked the chicken shawarma the best.

There are so many other things I want to try on the extensive menu, including something called garlicado (garlic sauce and guacamole?), the birria nachos and the cauliflower and eggplant tacos. And there's nothing like knowing you can get a fresh green salad on the side to feel better about housing three tacos.



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 VEGAN/GLUTEN-FREE DESSERTS

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

1. Flour Child Bakery
Family-owned, made-from-scratch bakery and cafe
323 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
(517) 622-4772
flourchildbakeryandcafe.com
6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
6 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

2. Groovy Donuts — both locations
Donut shops offering a variety of specialty flavors, with allergy-friendly options
See groovydonuts.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

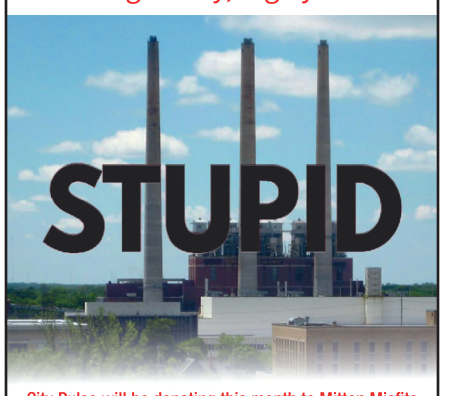
3. Strange Matter Coffee Eastside
Relaxed coffee shop serving house-made vegan and gluten-free treats
2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 224-5495
strangemattercoffee.com
7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday
7 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

4. Veg Head — closed permanently

5. VEG-N
Counter-service eatery offering vegan breakfast, burgers and treats
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
(517) 348-8810
eatvegn.com
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday
Noon-6 p.m. Sunday-Monday

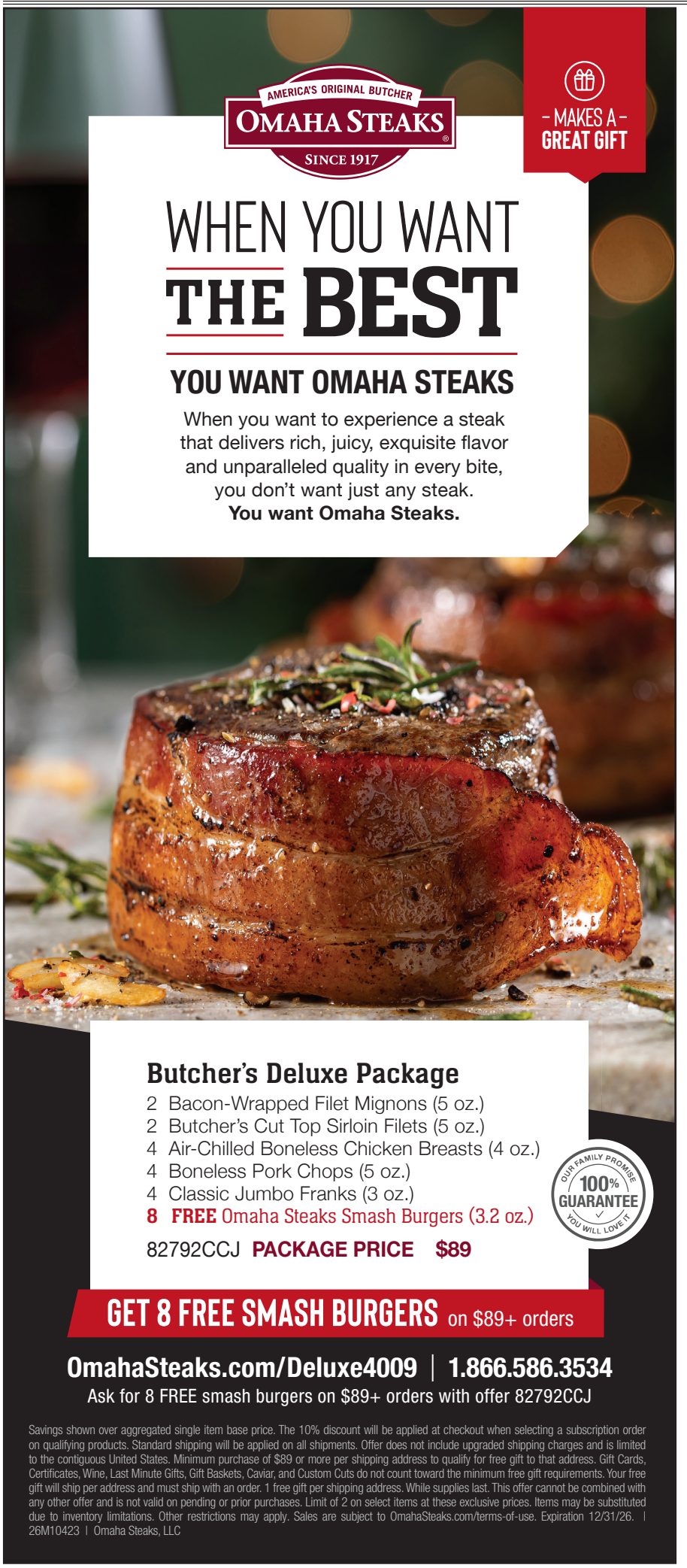


Big Penny, big eyes



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

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This traditional appetizer also makes a great entrée

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION



Seafood has inspired devotees in nearly every corner of the globe. It can be the star of the night as an entrée, and it also makes for an ideal appetizer. In fact, some seafood appetizers are so popular that they have pivoted from being served as starters to being the main course. Bacon-wrapped scallops might be considered an appetizer, but this tasty recipe for scallops wrapped in bacon on green rice from Lines+Angles also can make for a delicious dinner.

Scallops wrapped in bacon on green rice

Makes four servings

12 6-inch bamboo skewers, soaked in water for 30 minutes

For seasoning:
2 tablespoons sweet paprika
1 tablespoon salt
2 teaspoons onion powder
2 teaspoons garlic powder
2 teaspoons fresh ground black pepper
2 teaspoons dried thyme
2 teaspoons dried oregano
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
Fresh thyme, for garnish

For scallops:
12 large sea scallops, rinsed and patted dry
12 slices smoked bacon

For green rice:
1/2 cup chopped cilantro, tightly packed
1 cup stemmed spinach leaves, tightly packed
1 1/3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1 1/3 cups milk
1 teaspoon coarse salt
1 tablespoon olive oil
3 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 1/2 cups long-grain rice
1/4 cup finely minced onion
One clove garlic, peeled and minced

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. In a small bowl, combine all the ingredients for the seasoning, mixing well.

3. Sprinkle each dried scallop with seasoning; set aside.

4. Arrange the bacon strips on the prepared baking sheet and bake for about 10 minutes, or until just beginning to brown. The bacon should still be soft and very pliable. Remove the bacon from the baking sheet and drain on paper towels to remove excess grease. Let cool for several minutes.

5. Wrap each scallop with one piece of bacon, securing it through the center with a bamboo skewer. Place on a clean baking sheet. Bake until the bacon is crisp and the scallops are opaque, about eight to 10 minutes, turning once. Serve on a bed of green rice and garnish with fresh thyme.

For green rice:

1. Place the cilantro, spinach and broth in a blender and pulse until the vegetables are puréed. Add the milk and salt and blend until well combined.

2. In a heavy-bottomed saucepan set over medium heat, heat the olive oil and butter. When the butter is melted, add the rice and sauté, stirring every 30 seconds, until it just begins to brown, about three to four minutes. Add the onion and garlic and cook one minute longer, stirring constantly. Add the contents of the blender, stir well, turn the heat to high and bring to a boil. Cover the pan, turn the heat to the lowest setting and cook for 20 minutes. Stir the rice gently, cover and cook for another five minutes.

3. Remove the pan from the heat source and let the rice steam in the covered pot for 10 minutes. Serve hot.



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