

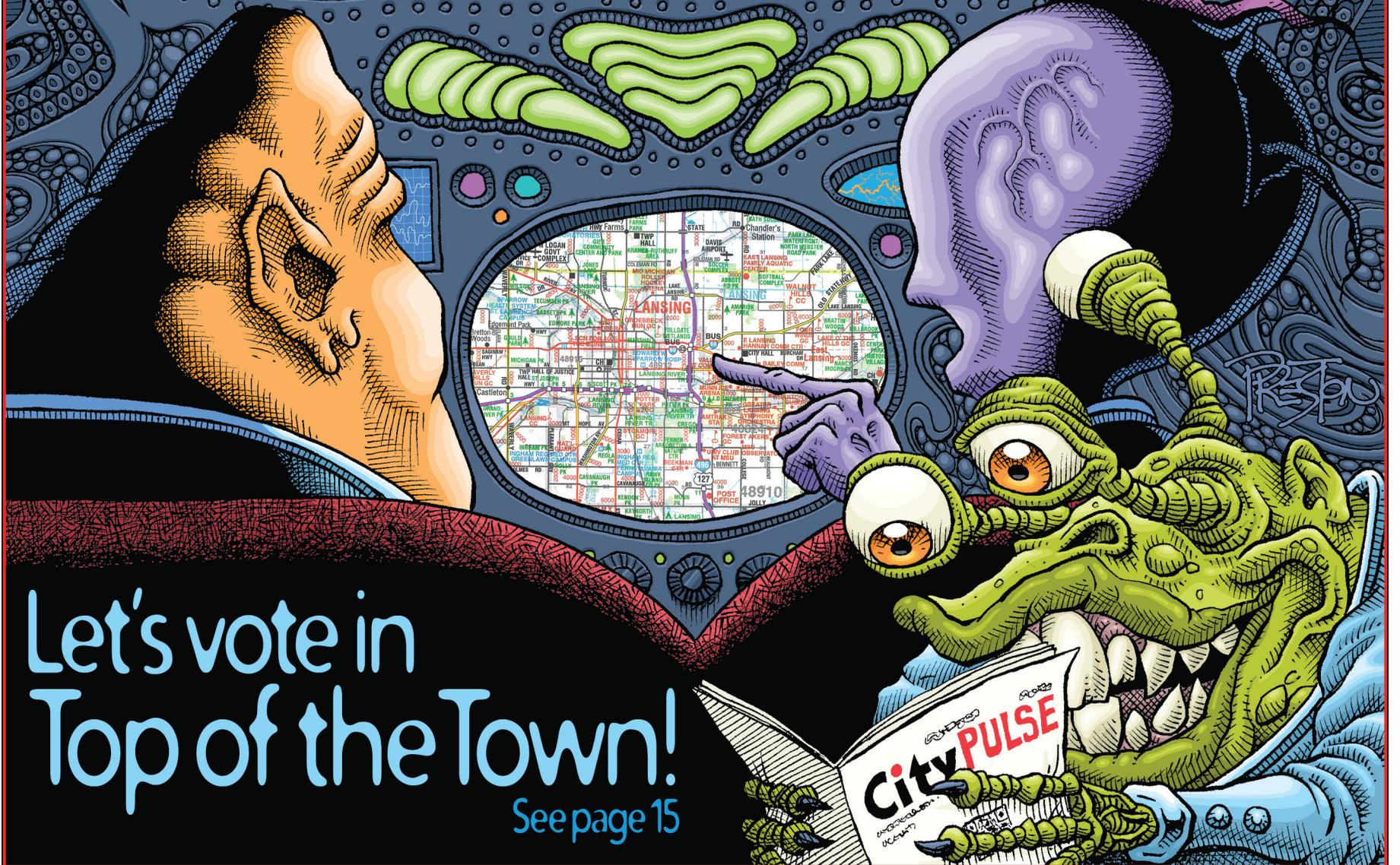
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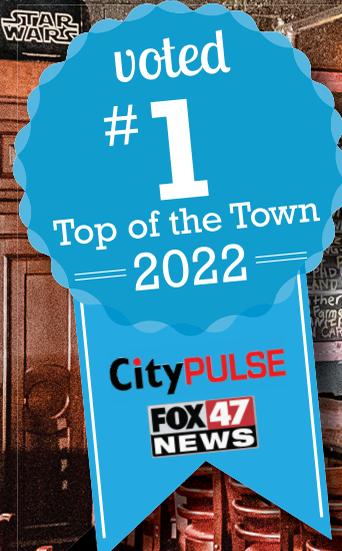
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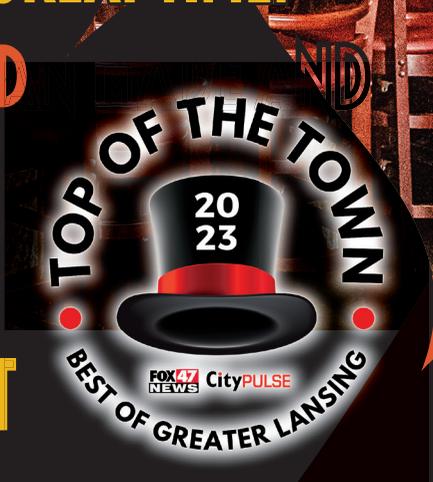
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# CityPULSE

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Mandy Gonzalez to show off Broadway pipes at Wharton

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New app helps college students make extra cash

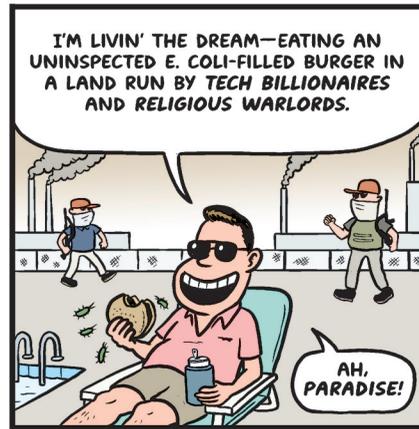
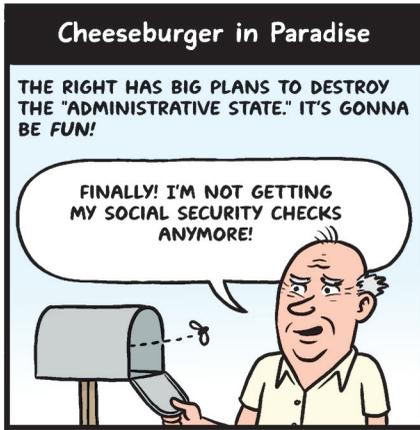
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An inside look at Ten Pound Fiddle's upcoming season

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Cover illustration by Dennis Preston



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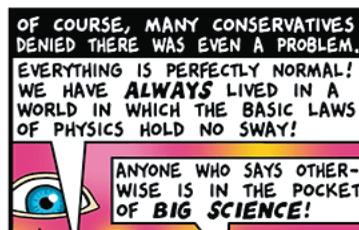
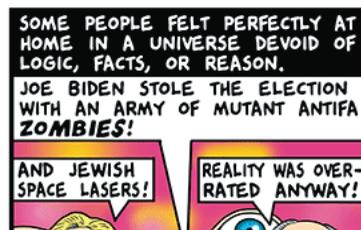
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## City Hall headed up the street to old Masonic Temple Schor to seek Council's approval of \$40 million plan

The historic Masonic Temple on Capitol Avenue will be the home of Lansing's new City Hall if the City Council approves, the Schor administration will announce today.

Mayor Andy Schor said that he expects the empty 99-year-old building, at 217 S. Capitol, will cost "\$40 million-ish" to convert. The state has appropriated \$40 million to Lansing for a new city hall. He hopes to move city offices into it in "two years or so or less."

Schor said that the Boji Group, which owns the building, submitted a plan in 2022 after the city sought requests for proposals for a new city hall. Boji Group bought it for \$1.75 million from Cooley Law School in 2021, which had vacated it in 2008 and put it on the market in 2014.

"We've been trying to find something for that space for quite a while," Schor said in an interview Tuesday with City Pulse. That "something" once included a possible performing arts center.

"What a great space to use for City Hall. It's beautiful, and it's repurposing and revitalizing existing space, so it checks a lot of boxes."

The formal announcement will be made at a 1 p.m. press conference.

Though smaller than the current City Hall, Schor said he was confident that the nearly 109,000-square-foot building will be big enough now that it will not have to accommodate the courts and police headquarters. They will move into a new building on South Washington Avenue as part of a \$175 million public safety plan that voters approved last year.

When Schor came into office in 2018, he inherited a City Hall building that is considered a classic example of mid-20th-century architecture but, due to neglected maintenance, needed at least \$55 million in work. The previous mayor, Virg Bernero, wanted to sell it to Chicago developer J. Paul Beitler to turn it into a hotel and restaurant. In turn, Beitler would have developed the old Lansing State Journal build-



Courtesy Linda Granger

This photo by Gerald G. (Doc) Granger, who worked for the Lansing State Journal, shows the Masonic Temple building in the foreground and what is now known as Boji Tower beyond it.

ing, at the corner of Grand Avenue and Lenawee Street, into a new city hall.

However, Schor halted the swap because it left hanging where to put the courts and police facilities, which would not have fit into the old LSJ

building.

The current City Hall is still on track to become a hotel in the hands of Beitler, with whom, Schor said, "we are having very good conversations. I am confident we will bring that to the fin-

ish line."

Whatever Beitler pays for City Hall can also go toward turning the temple building into City Hall, Schor added.

The Boji Group submitted one of the two plans that the city received when it sought proposals for a new city hall two years ago. The other was submitted by developers Gary Granger and Paul Gentilozzi as G2 Capital Partners.

The mayor said he was "excited" about the Boji Group's proposal from the outset, but he could not act on it for lack of funds.

But that changed after the state approved a \$40 million appropriation this year for a new City Hall. "Now we believe we can make the numbers work," Schor said, based on discussions with Ron Boji, CEO of the Boji Group.

A lot of details are still up in the air. "That's all being worked through," Schor said, "but we know it's going to be there," referring to the temple building.

He said his deputy mayor, Shelbi Frayer, and Boji "have been putting together all the numbers. They're convinced that they can get this done for the amount of money that we have appropriated."

One detail is how much the city will pay for the building. He said the Boji Group "has put a lot of money into it, and they've been carrying it and paying taxes and things, but I don't think we've finalized that." It will be, though, before the administration takes the plan to the City Council for approval.

Schor said the city hasn't picked a developer yet, but he expects Boji to be involved, perhaps as the "developer's rep. That's something I think he's expressed an interest in, and he's worked with the city on stuff like that before."

Schor said the building comes with a small parking lot on its north side, between it and The Louie, which is the old Billie S. Farnum Building, which Boji Group also renovated. For the most part, though, employees and the

# Masonic Temple approaches century mark with renewed future

The former Masonic Temple at 217 S. Capitol Ave. has been out of use since 2008, but it may soon be the site of Lansing's new City Hall.

Built in 1924 in a classical revival architectural style designed by Edwyn A. Bowd, the seven-story, 109,826-square-foot, limestone and buff-colored brick building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The Masons, believed to be the world's largest fraternal organization, built several temples as meeting places after establishing itself here in 1849.

The property was purchased by longtime occupant Cooley Law School for \$400,000 in 1974, back when a significant portion of the building's interior still lacked heat and water. Cooley spent more than \$10 million to retain and restore its classic exterior and develop and modernize the interior, transforming it into a classroom, office and auditorium space known as the Cooley Temple Conference Center.

In 2000, the law school began a transition from the former temple building to the 10-story Cooley Center facility at 300 S. Capitol Ave. The temple hosted its final classes in 2010. Facing decreasing enrollment, Cooley then put the temple up for sale in December 2014. It

did not settle on a buyer until July 2021, when the Boji Group closed on a deal to purchase it for \$1.75 million. Previously listed at \$8 million and later \$3.4 million, the building is assessed at a value of \$2,049,500 and sits on a parcel of land valued at \$163,600.

Prior to the Boji Group's acquisition, there had been speculation that local investors wanted to buy the temple and turn it into a boutique hotel. Another plan would have brought a performing arts center to the space, but it was scrapped in 2019 when city officials realized they would need to install a freight elevator to access the multi-story ballroom and auditorium area on the top floor. The performing arts center plan was also hampered by the Blue Cross Blue Shield declining to sell a portion of an adjacent parking at its Lansing Service Center on Capitol Avenue.

After finalizing its purchase in 2021, Boji Group CEO Ron Boji said he had no firm plans on how he might utilize the building. He expressed interest in turning it into a residential space for market-price apartments or even possibly reviving the hotel plans, with the expectation of spending between \$20 million and \$25 million on renovations. The

## Open Fine New Masonic Temple Today



The State Journal - Lansing, Michigan  
Tuesday, February 22, 1927 - Page 1

Lansing's new Masonic temple will be opened to members of the order at 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon when Lansing Masons will be given their best opportunity to inspect the building. The initial function to be staged in the new temple will start at 6:30 o'clock with a dinner in the main banquet room followed by a short program of talks. Music during the dinner will be furnished by the Lansing Masonic band. Following the dinner a dancing party will be held in the ballroom of the new building starting at 9 o'clock and continuing until midnight. Two orchestras will furnish continuous music for dancing.

This photo and story, announcing that the Masonic Temple was throwing an open house, ran in the Lansing State Journal in 1927.

firm had previously redeveloped several downtown properties, including the Boji Tower and the former Farnum Building, now known as The Louie.

In the nearly five-decade span of the Cooley Law School's ownership, a great number of its renovation efforts had been carried out with an eye for sustainability. A 2011 study by the Society of Environmentally Responsible Facilities cited the property as "a classic example of adaptive reuse."

"Though an older building, the Temple features modern water efficiency technology, a strong emphasis on recycling, and stringent air quality standards," the

organization wrote. "Older windows have been retrofitted with double pane glass, and reflective coating was applied to the existing roof to increase heating and cooling efficiency. Heavy insulation and an advanced building automation system are used to efficiently create optimal temperature conditions inside."

Back when the building was still operating as a Masonic Temple, it featured a popular public cafeteria on the ground floor and held proms, graduation ceremonies, and other events on the sixth floor, which was two stories high and featured a stage and a mezzanine.

**TYLER SCHNEIDER**

## City Hall

from page 5

public will have to park on the street or in parking lots and ramps, including a privately owned one across Capitol Avenue. He said there has not been any discussion of purchasing the surface lot on the south side of the building.

"We could do some kind of validation if you come to pay your city tax bill," he

added, "but we have to navigate all that as it's in a downtown location."

While the new City Hall's layout is still far from decided, Schor said one feature is certain.

"I very much want a customer service center on the first floor for paying taxes, getting permits, doing business with the clerk's office," and so on, he said. "I've laid down the gauntlet on that."

**— BERL SCHWARTZ**

### REAL ESTATE AUCTION

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**Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

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Last week I wrote about changes coming in the industry that assure that everyone is going to pay more for HVAC replacements starting in 2024. I wrote about how these changes were at least some sort of attempt to combat global warming; even if I don't think it's the best path forward, at least it's something. I also wrote about heat pumps and how I don't like the way they are being promoted, particularly because there are companies that are all too eager to sell something because you'll potentially get a rebate, regardless of whether you'll actually benefit from it.

And then I talked about what we at All Star Mechanical are doing in our little corner of the world to assure you that you are getting what you need and not what will make the most profit for us. I mentioned that we size our equipment so that it works as closely to the manufacturer's specs as it can. I explained how my supplier told me that we bought about half of the smallest furnaces in the state of Michigan that Trane manufactures. It was something like 40 out of 80 of those furnaces were purchased by us in 2021. That's pretty telling.

As I write this morning, I have updated numbers to show even more information, how the math does not make sense. The numbers are staggeringly out of whack. The smallest furnace is 40,000 btu. As of early Monday morning, September 11th, 2023, in the last 365 days, 37 of these 40,000 btu furnaces were sold in Lansing. Every single one of them was to us. In the state of Michigan, they sold a total of 83.

So again, we bought almost half of the smallest furnaces that were sold in the entire state, AND EVERY SINGLE ONE SOLD OUT OF THE LANSING BRANCH right here as a small company in little ol' Lansing. The next numbers I'm going to share are even more telling. In the last 365 days, my supplier has sold 390 furnaces at 80,000 btu. We purchased 1 of those. In the last 365 days my supplier sold 261 furnaces at 100,000 btu. We didn't buy not even one of them. They also sold 119 furnaces at 120,000 btu and again we purchased none of those.

I'm not saying there aren't houses that don't need 80,000-120,000 btu furnaces, but there aren't THAT many. In 15 years of business, I've installed only a handful of 80,000, a couple 100,000, and only one 120,000. I started out not knowing what I know now, and that's why we sell so few of them. It's just not necessary most of the time.

What this tells me is that other companies are installing 60,000 btu furnaces when a home only needs 40,000, or

80,000 btu furnaces when the home only needs 60,000, and so on. We sell a huge amount of 60,000 btu furnaces, and a good amount of 40,000 btu furnaces. The last time we installed an 80,000 btu furnace was in a home that was over 5,000 square feet back in November of 2022. That was the only 80,000 btu furnace in the last 365 days.

The furnaces we install are always getting as close to the efficiency at which they are rated. I can only imagine how inefficient so many of the furnaces that are oversized are. Not only are they inefficient, but they are also getting more wear and tear, they are likely louder than they should be, and they are likely not providing the best comfort.

It is my belief that these companies are content with selling you something that has a sticker that says it's 96% efficient, but installing something that will not operate to the design specs and therefore not getting its desired efficiency because the consumer's only measuring stick will be if it reaches the set point on the thermostat. An oversized furnace will operate like a car in the city by starting and stopping hundreds of times a day. That wastes fuel and adds unnecessary wear and tear.

The furnaces we install are sized closely to assure highway miles most of the time. A properly sized furnace offers the best efficiency, comfort, and noise reduction, as well as longer lifespan of all the components due to less wear and tear. Global warming isn't the only reason to size equipment properly; your energy usage and untimely repairs are money out of your pocket. If every company did what we do, we'd use A LOT less fuel, which would be more impactful than much of what's being implemented next year. I often wonder why the energy companies don't lobby for contractors to size equipment properly. Maybe it has something to do with not selling as much of their product.

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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY TYLER SCHNEIDER



**MSU suspended head football coach Mel Tucker without pay Sunday, following reports that he sexually harassed a rape survivor.** The alleged victim, Brenda Tracy, is a national advocate for sexual assault survivors who has visited MSU to speak to the team at least three times since 2021.

The incident in question was an April 28, 2022, phone call between the two, during which Tucker has admitted to making sexual comments and masturbating. Tucker said the relationship was consensual “phone sex” and denied that he engaged “in misconduct by any definition.” Tracy filed her complaint with the university in December 2022, prompting an investigation by Ann Arbor-based Title IX attorney Rebecca Leitman Veidlinger that concluded in July. Interim President Teresa Woodruff said Tuesday that she and the trustees were unaware of the details that led to the investigation until Sunday. A formal hearing is scheduled for Oct. 5 and 6.

after Leuth had ended a relationship with Cournaya. In 2014, State police confirmed that Cournaya was the only suspect in the case, but he wasn’t charged for another six years. Cournaya is in prison for a 2017 human trafficking and commercial sex conviction in Ingham County. “You have no conscience,” Ingham County Circuit Judge Joyce Draganchuk told Cournaya.



**MSU trustees voted 5-2 Friday to approve an ordinance revision that will add provisions to the campus weapons ban.** The previous policy made exceptions for police or others specifically authorized to do so, while

the updated version allows concealed carry permits in vehicles of drivers who are passing through. In related news, the university introduced new metal detectors at Spartan Stadium on Saturday as the team played Richmond. The Breslin Center already has them, with plans to equip the Wharton Center, Munn Ice Arena and the MSU Tennis Center soon.

**Survivors of former MSU sports medicine doctor Larry Nassar presented the university’s Board of Trustees with a lawsuit Friday.** Filed on July 27, the lawsuit alleges that the university refused to cooperate fully with the Attorney General’s Office when it failed to release over 6,000 documents related to its investigation of Nassar — which survivors said violated the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information acts. In 2016, an Indianapolis Star investigation revealed that Nassar had sexually abused over 265 young women and girls, including MSU student-athletes and underage gymnasts, beginning in at least 1997. He was convicted in 2015 and sentenced to 60 years in federal prison in December 2017. In early 2018, Nassar was sentenced to a minimum of 40 to a maximum of 175 years in prison for the sexual assault of minors by both the Ingham and Eaton County courts.



**The hotel long known as the Radisson was officially rebranded as a DoubleTree by Hilton after new owner Waramaug Hospitality removed the sign Friday.** Waramaug purchased the property at 111 N. Grand Ave. in downtown Lansing in 2021 and renovated it. This is the eighth hotel property the company has placed under the Hilton brand. The renovated space includes 256 rooms and connects to the Lansing Center. The hotel will continue to be operated by Texas-based Aimbridge Hospitality.



The state Board of Ethics found that the executive director of the Michigan Library Association violated state law by failing to recuse herself from votes to award grants to her employer and another group she was part of. Deborah Mikula, a Howell resident and former executive director the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, violated two sections of the Ethics Act as a governor’s appointee to the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, the board found,

voting 7-0 and 5-2 against Mikula on Thursday. The decision came as a result of a complaint made by East Lansing artist Tedda Hughes, who cited Mikula’s consistent pattern of voting to award grants to both the Michigan Library Association and the Cultural Advocacy Network of Michigan, where Mikula has served as both a director and president.



**Automakers are preparing for a possible UAW strike if an agreement is not reached on a new contract by 11:59 p.m. Thursday (Sept. 14).** The decision would impact around 146,000



workers — 46,000 at General Motors, 57,000 at Ford and 43,000 at Jeep maker Stellantis. UAW President Shawn Fain’s demands included a 40% wage increase, an end to tiered wages, cost of living adjustments and reinstated pensions. Fain has rejected three counter-proposals. The UAW struck General Motors in 2019, but the union has never called a national strike at each of the Big Three simultaneously.

**Brad Cournaya, 56, convicted of killing Krista Lueth in June 2008, was sentenced to life in prison without parole Wednesday (Sept. 6).** Leuth went missing 15 years ago, and her remains were never found. The murder occurred days

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# Preserving and creating place: 2 neighborhoods and parks

By **JOAN NELSON**

A few weeks ago, I watched the unveiling of “Mother Tree” in Hunter Park. This magnificent sculpture is the work of Ivan Iler, a Michigan artist with a national reputation.

So, you may ask, how did placement of a commissioned art piece in Hunter Park come about? “The small but mighty neighborhood of Prospect Place” is responsible, Yasmina Bouraoui explained. Yasmina is an active member of Lansing’s Prospect Place neighborhood, and she leads its effort to increase public art along the Kalamazoo corridor on the east side. She mobilized her immediate neighbors, engaged the Allen Neighborhood Center to serve as the fiduciary and then was part of a team that wrote grants and made pitches to funders such as the City of Lansing and the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, or LEAP. Once funded, Yasmina and her cadre of eastsiders worked with the artist on the concept and planned, with ANC, a festive, all-neighborhood unveiling.

“Mother Tree” is the latest addition to the corridor that includes several colorful and fabulous Ivan Iler-designed bike racks in front of Allen Neighborhood Center and in the park. And the 1600 block also proudly features the work of local artists in the Allen Community Health Center and Eastside Lansing Food Co-op. And, of course, there is the ever-growing Brian Whitfield mural on the east wall of the complex.

Yasmina and her neighborhood allies, working with ANC, are determined to turn Kalamazoo Street into an art-filled corridor. Of course, they also have a number of other issues they are addressing as a neighborhood group: affordable, well maintained housing, tree planting and gardening in the public domain, and working with the city and other collaborators on safety and health issues. This mobilized bunch has a broad and ambitious agenda that supports life and growth in their neighborhood.

## Moores Park and Pool

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, residents of the Moores Park neighborhood, as well as several historic preservation advocates and groups, were coming together, determined to repair and preserve the historic Moores Park Pool. The pool, closed in 2019, had been a centerpiece of the heavily utilized and

beloved Moores Park. As reported by local historian Bill Castanier, the pool was designed in 1923 by Lansing city engineer Wesley Bintz, who described its unique shape as “an upside down derby hat with amenities under the brim.” Bill notes that for decades the pool has been a destination, an historic structure, and a major draw of people to this vibrant park.

An emerging collaboration resulted in the creation of Friends of Moores Park Pool, which went on to raise \$40,000 toward a city assessment of the cost of repairs. While there were a couple of larger donors, 315 neighbors and friends raised fully

\$35,000 of the total.

The assessment of repair costs came in high: up to \$6.2 million in repairs. Undaunted, the group engaged political allies, including Mayor Andy Schor (who had been involved from the get), state Sen. Sarah Anthony and Rep. Emily Dievendorf, who managed to get the project into the state budget. Word has it that Anthony vows she will finally learn to swim, once Moore’s Park Pool re-opens!

Referring to the friends group’s successful effort to secure funding, Dale Schraeder of Preservation Lansing declares, “It’s a miracle! But we haven’t stopped. We recently scheduled a clean-up to get leaves out of the pool and drew 50 people.”

## Parks and neighborhoods

Parks are huge neighborhood assets, critical components of livable and lively neighborhoods. Former U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt once noted, “City parks serve, day in and day out, as the primary green spaces for the majority of Americans.”

Neighbors have a major role to play in creating parks that are attractive and inviting for many users and uses, as preached by urban activist Jane Jacobs, author of the clarion work “Death and Life of Great American Cities,” published in 1961.

Taking Jacobs’ advice to heart, the Friends of Hunter Park, back in 2004, worked with ANC to create an 11-point improvement plan that created many reasons for people to come to the park. Within a decade, a walking path, greenhouse-based gardening education center, picnic pavilion, repaired pool and splash pad, benches, playgrounds and more resulted in Hunter becoming one of the most heavily utilized Lansing parks.



Opinion

Moores Park residents and its allies are very likely to continue to identify improvements that will grow the number of citizens making use of Moores Park’s many assets.

Moreover, there are over 20 friends of parks’ groups in Lansing — envisioning, driving and shaping the creative and varied uses of their parks. Brett Kashinski, Lansing’s parks and recreation director, oversees the 111 parks and 2,000 acres of parkland — unusual for a city our size. He notes that his department supports an Adopt-a Park-Program that gives Lansingites “the opportunity to become involved with the growth of city parks and neighborhoods.” As Brett points out, sharing stewardship of the commons and creating community begins with initiative and contributions from Lansing residents who understand the importance of parks in creating loved and vibrant neighborhoods.

So, whether you organize (or are already a part of) a neighborhood group

or another civic group, consider what you and your associates might do to create the inviting, safe, jam-packed-with-options and neighbor-friendly park you want to enjoy. There are people with resources who are eager to help you, including the aforementioned Adopt-A-Park Program as well as Lansing’s Department of Neighborhoods, Art, and Citizen Engagement. (Call Robin Anderson-King at (517) 483-4293 to get started.) You might also engage with a place-based nonprofit or a neighborhood center that can act as a fiduciary for those aspirations that involve raising significant funds for your project.

As the ever-pertinent Jane Jacobs would remind us, our work to improve our parks will “give back grace and delight” to our neighborhoods.

*(Joan Nelson is the retired founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center. Her column appears monthly.)*

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

Request from 530 Albert 2023, LLC, for site plan and a special use permit approval for 530 Albert Avenue. The proposed application would construct a five-story building with 120 units of affordable rental housing and approximately 1,100 square feet of commercial space. The 0.68-acre (29,969 square feet) site is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.

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.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may also participate virtually via Zoom. Please contact City Clerk Marie E. Wicks at 517.319.6914, [mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com), (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) for additional information. Visit the City’s public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> for electronic access information.

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 and 5:00 pm or on the City’s website located at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [council@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:council@cityofeastlansing.com)

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [asiev@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:asiev@cityofeastlansing.com).

**This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 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.**

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#23-241

**CITY OF GRAND LEDGE  
NOTICE OF PROJECT PLAN PUBLIC HEARING**

The City Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, 09 October 2023, to consider and receive public input on the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System Improvements project. The purpose of the proposed project is to make improvements to the existing sanitary sewer collection system and treatment system. The improvements will allow for the continued treatment of sanitary sewage throughout the service area in accordance with the current NPDES permit.

Project elements include collection system improvements, an influent equalization tank, a fine screening system, a vortex grit removal system, a membrane bioreactor (MBR) secondary treatment system, an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system, solids handling improvements, site works, and ancillary improvements as required to provide a complete and functioning system.

Long term positive impacts from the project include improved reliability of the treatment system and improved treatment efficiencies. Short term impacts related to construction activities could include increased construction traffic and disturbances in the immediate vicinity of the Wastewater Treatment Plant site. Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements are estimated to require less than one acre of Fitzgerald Park.

The current total estimated project cost may be up to \$95,225,000. The project cost will be funded through a low-interest Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan.

Copies of the plan detailing the proposed project will be available for public inspection on and after 22 September 2023 at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and on the City's website at [www.cityofgrandledge.com](http://www.cityofgrandledge.com).

The 09 October 2023 City Council meeting and public hearing on the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System Improvements project will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://www.zoom.us> with the Meeting ID: 837 6086 0726, or by calling +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) with Meeting ID: 837 6086 0726.

The City Council invites anyone interested to attend in person and offer comments at the public hearing. Written comments can be mailed or delivered to Elected or Appointed Officials to:

Gregory Newman, City Clerk  
City of Grand Ledge  
310 Greenwood St.  
Grand Ledge MI 48837

or

Joshua Redner, PE  
Fishbeck, Inc.  
1515 Arboretum Drive SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49546

or placed in the drop box in front of City Hall, or emailed to [cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com). All written comments will be considered during the public hearing if received by 5:00 p.m. the day of the hearing. Written comments received before the hearing record is closed on 09 October 2023 will receive responses in the final project plan.

Please call (517) 627-2149 or email [cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com) for further information or to request accommodations for disabilities.

**Gregory Newman, City Clerk**

**CP#23-239**

**COUNTY OF INGHAM  
NOTICE OF CLOSEOUT PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)  
FUNDING FOR CARES FUNDING GRANT**

Ingham County will conduct a closeout public hearing on September 26, 2023 at 6:30 pm at 341 S. Jefferson, Ingham County Courthouse in Mason, Third Floor for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to submit comments and receive a final report on the completion of the CARES Funding Grant.

The CDBG grant provided funding to assist in reimbursing for unexpected costs associated with COVID-19. The CDBG project benefitted at least 51% low to moderate income individuals. No individuals were displaced as a result of this project.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the project in person at the public hearing.

Citizen views and comments on the CDBG project are welcome.

Ingham County  
Megan Oberlin  
Program Analyst, CDBG  
(517) 230-2716

**CP#23-242**

## Could Biden be subbed out of prexy race? Marianne Williamson wouldn't be shocked

Could President Joe Biden's declining abilities push him out of the 2024 reelection campaign, forcing Democrats to go to their ample bench to find a replacement?

Political pundits doubt it'll happen, particularly since the Biden team just spent \$25 million on a television ad buy in battleground states like Michigan. That's not exactly something you'd do if you were thinking about getting out of the game.



**KYLE MELINN**

**Opinion**

That said, one of Biden's two announced Democratic primary opponents, Marianne Williamson, told the "MIRS Monday" podcast she wouldn't be surprised if it happened "in the next few weeks."

"Before two or three weeks ago, you simply were not allowed to mention that Joe Biden might be a weak candidate. It was, like, blasphemous to say such a thing. Today, the cat's out of that bag," she said.

In Michigan for a few campaign events, Williamson also said that one doesn't need to be a political genius to see Biden's vulnerability if he runs again against previous President Donald Trump.

In nearly every national poll on RealClearPolitics, a Trump-Biden rematch is a within-the-margin-of-error coin flip.

Williamson said that "you can almost feel it in the air" as Govs. Gavin Newsom of California, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, J.B. Pritzker of Illinois and U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg have each had their names dropped by pundits as possible fill-ins if Biden steps down from his safe position in the Democratic primary race.

"It's a delicate conversation for me because I don't want to sound ageist or mean-spirited, but we all see what we see, and it concerns us when a president makes gaffes that seem related to some level of cognitive decline. We shouldn't have to apologize" for concerns around that, Williamson said.

As for the lineup of theorized Biden successors, Williamson said while she actually appreciates, admires and respects Whitmer, she believes "there is a status quo political class that is so tied into subservience, and the analysis (of) subservience to

corporate power, that they become at least unwitting agents too often of the corporate greed that is the deeper problem."

She described any candidate "who would be proffered by the Democratic elites" as "cookie cutter."

Obviously, a winner in some candidate reshuffle is Williamson herself. Biden, for all of his failings, is well ahead in the polls. The general public knows his name. The Democratic poobahs feel like he's the only one who is guaranteed to beat Trump.

Some folks who follow national politics point out that it would take more than Biden's departure for Whitmer to get in.

"There's a slight chance if, and only if, Biden doesn't run for president and Vice President Kamala Harris doesn't run either," said Mario Morrow of Mario Morrow and Associates. "I see the governor as a team player. If Biden decided not to run and Harris is viewed as his heir apparent, the chance of Whitmer getting in would be slim. But if Biden doesn't run and Harris isn't seen as heir apparent, the floodgates would open for any Democrat to seek that seat."

Republican strategist Jamie Roe agrees that there's only a "slight chance" of Whitmer running.

"I don't think they can move VP Harris out of the way," Roe said, adding that there'd be a big contest with Newsom.

A few weeks ago, Martin Waymire PR firm partner Josh Hovey said he gave the chances of Biden getting out as "absolutely no way." Now, he's moving his prediction to a "slight chance."

Jenell Leonard, owner of Marketing Resource Group, said the idea of Whitmer jumping into the race isn't far-fetched at all, especially given her fall legislative agenda mirrors the Democrats' national talking points: green energy, paid sick leave and lower prescription drug costs.

"After the president's bizarre press conference in Vietnam over the weekend and his lack of attention to 9/11 this morning, I think it's becoming more likely he won't be on the ballot in 2024," she said. "If that's the case, we can fully expect Gov. Whitmer to be in."

*(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol newsletter MIRS at [melinnky@gmail.com](mailto:melinnky@gmail.com).)*

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Hard work pays off

### Mandy Gonzalez's fearless journey to multidisciplinary stardom

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Mandy Gonzalez is known for major Broadway roles, TV and movie appearances, authoring young-adult books and being a breast cancer research advocate. Tens of thousands follow her on her social media pages, and she has an acclaimed LP, "Fearless," that features her colossal voice.

"My biggest thrill is live performance," Gonzalez said from her home outside New York City. "I love connecting with an audience."

Touring smaller venues and cities delights Gonzalez. She's excited to appear at the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre Sept. 20 to sing, "A little bit of Broadway, a little bit from my album and a little bit of some other pop stuff," she said.

"And a little bit of Bruce (Springsteen). I live in New Jersey, so you must pay homage to him," she added. "I love to be able to take these songs I've done on the stage and bring them into different communities. It's a little bit of Broadway for whatever community I get to go to."

Her professional singing career began with a garage band that played Hollywood dive bars.

"I'm glad I did that to see if that was the kind of life I wanted to live," she said.

That band taught her multi-ranges of harmonies, which led her to be a backup singer for Bette Midler's "Divine Miss Millennium" tour.

Gonzalez later moved to New York City and worked as a coat checker, a "grocery bagger for rich people" and a hostess at a Thai restaurant while auditioning during the day. She became emotional recalling how the restaurant offered a free meal before shifts.

"That really saved me," she said.

Her East Lansing show embraces another one of her passions: outreach in local schools. She's meeting Michigan State University students and hosting masterclasses for Grand Ledge High School students. Besides her pianist — and a local drummer and bassist — the Grand Ledge High School choir will join Gonzalez on stage for the Wharton finale.

Local school choirs are regular additions to Gonzalez's concerts.

"I like to get to know young people — especially to show them a life in the arts is possible," she said.

At about 15, she attended a performance camp where the late actor, singer and tap dancer Gregory Hines was an instructor.

"That completely changed my life," she said. "I remember how somebody who was doing what I wanted to do looked at me and put me on the same level. Doing that for young people is so important to me."

Gonzalez is certainly qualified to be an inspiration. She helped create the role of Nina Rosario in Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical "In the Heights," from early readings to its Broadway debut.

"It was exciting for me to do something I always dreamed of," she said. "I was the first person to sing some of those songs."

In 2010, Gonzalez starred as Elphaba in the Broadway production of "Wicked."

"I turned it down originally so I could continue 'In the Heights.' Two years later, they called again!" she said. "It was one of the most fearful times for me. I had to prove to myself in the rehearsal process — that I was good enough. I was a lot stronger than I thought I was."

In 2016, she joined the Broadway cast of "Hamilton," another Miranda blockbuster, as Angelica Schuyler.

When Gonzalez was recording her debut album, "Fearless," she asked Miranda to write the title song.

"He's a dear friend," she said. "He's larger than life

now."

Gonzalez also starred in "Dance of the Vampires" and "Lennon," two plays that bombed.

"As devastating as it is, you learn a lot from something that doesn't work," she said. "Going on after bad reviews, I learned a lot about integrity, and I learned a lot about fearlessness."

Gonzalez has appeared on TV shows like "The Good Wife," "Third Watch," "Guiding Light," "Quantico," "Madam Secretary" and "Only Murders in the



Courtesy photo

Actress, author, musician and breast cancer activist Mandy Gonzalez is excited to appear at the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre to sing, "A little bit of Broadway, a little bit from my album and a little bit of some other pop stuff," she said.

Building," in which she played Selena Gomez's character's mother. Her movie appearances include "Across the Universe," "After," "Better Nate Than Ever" and "Man on a Ledge," and her voice is heard as Mei in "Mulan II."

On top of all that, she has published four young-adult books in her "Fearless" series. She said her 11-year-old daughter "absolutely" influenced her writing.

The series ended, but Gonzalez "definitely will continue to write stories," she said.

"When I get up, I write. That's my favorite time," she said. "I'm so blown away that I had this idea and decided to write about that idea, and people said, 'Yes.' It means so much to me when I see young people have read the books and come up to me to sign the book."

Based on her book series, Gonzalez started the social media movement #FEARLESSSQUAD, which empowers kids and teens to dream big, embrace differences, look for the good in everything

and help each other when they fail.

"A lot of young people were writing to me and telling me of feeling alone and helpless," she said. "I put it into the metaverse, and I had no idea it would catch thousands and thousands of people."

Gonzalez is also passionate about supporting the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. While in "Hamilton," she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Being in the production helped her cope — until COVID-19 closed the show.

"I'm a survivor now, and I feel proud of that — and lucky," she said. "What they're working on offers a lot of hope."

Gonzalez attributes her drive to her grandparents, who are Mexican on her father's side and Jewish, Polish and Romanian on her mother's. She said having a hardworking immigrant background has been an inspiration. She learned that nothing was going to happen without hard work, and it's gotten her pretty far.

#### "Mandy Gonzalez: Fearless"

Sept. 20  
7:30 p.m.  
Wharton Center Pasant  
Theatre  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East  
Lansing  
Tickets from \$45  
517-432-2000  
whartoncenter.com

# Delta Township author explores German immigrants' role in abolishing slavery

By **BILL CASTANIER**

In her new book, "Freedom at Niagara: German-American Activism in the Abolition of Slavery," Delta Township-based author Lynne Breen tells the unvarnished story of slavery in the United States through the eyes of German-Americans who helped bring the practice to an end.

Breen said she was inspired by another book, "Inventing Niagara: Beauty, Power, and Lies," by Ginger Strand, which details how runaway slaves crossed the Niagara Railway Suspension Bridge in upstate New York on their journey to freedom in Canada.

"When I was writing my own book, 'How German Ingenuity Inspired America,' I learned even more about the German bridge builder

John Augustus Roebling, and I began wondering if there were other German-Americans who were involved in the anti-slavery movement," she said.

Roebling was an ardent abolitionist, and his suspension bridge was used by the likes of Harriet Tubman to help slaves enter Canada, where slave catchers could not legally travel.

Breen's curiousness paid off. It's likely that you've never heard the names of most of the individuals she profiles. About Charles Follen, who was a German-born Harvard professor, she writes, "Clearly, Follen — who had embraced his generation's German ideas of liberty and freedom — was ahead of his time in his adopted country."

Breen uses these philosophies of liberty and freedom to help readers understand the basis of German-Americans' activism.

"Germans who came to this country were liberal-minded individuals who saw inequality and tried to end it," she said.

The book is illustrated with dozens of historic paintings and artistic renderings, which Breen gathered from mu-

seums across the United States. The author also provides extensive endnotes detailing sources for the information she used.

In the book, Breen presents a concise history of slavery in the U.S. prior to the Civil War. For most, there will be cloudy memories of high school history classes and the concepts of the Missouri Compromise, the Fugitive Slave Acts and the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

Breen shines a light on how many of our first presidents owned slaves and how certain political policies led

to the South's control of Congress. She also points out how students were probably never taught about the Yellow House in Washington, D.C., where slave owners visiting the nation's capital could house their slaves for 25 cents a day, or the slave pens that surrounded the National Mall.

"It was much worse than I ever thought, how much the federal government was complicit," Breen said. And that was coming from someone with a bachelor's degree in history.

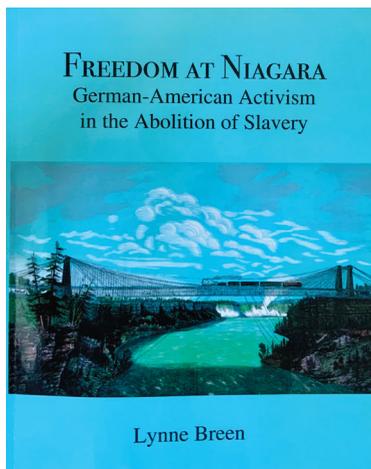
One group Breen writes extensively about is the Forty-Eighters, Germans who immigrated to America in 1848 after failed revolutions and social reform movements in their home country.

Breen tells how many of the free-thinkers who made their way to America became part of a broad network of German-language newspapers that became crucial to the abolitionist movement. In 1848, there were around 88 German-language newspapers in the U.S., but by 1890, that number had risen dramatically.

One of the most outspoken Forty-Eighters was Carl Schurz, who settled in Wisconsin after immigrating to the United States. Breen discusses how Schurz recognized the importance of the German bloc in voting, formed a friendship with Abraham Lincoln, became a Union officer during the Civil War and served as the U.S. ambassador to Spain for a short period.

"Freedom at Niagara" is Breen's third book delving into her German-American heritage.

Her first book, "I'll See You Again, Lady Liberty: The True Story of a Ger-



Courtesy of Lynne Breen

Delta Township-based author Lynne Breen's "Freedom at Niagara: German-American Activism in the Abolition of Slavery" is her third book delving into her German-American heritage.

man Prisoner of War in America," tells the story of Ernst Floeter, a prisoner of war who returned to America after World War II and became a successful photographer in Grand Ledge.

Her second book is a sweeping look at the vast contributions made by Germans in United States, titled, "How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom."

Breen said that she wrote these books in part to combat the bad rap German-Americans had after World Wars I and II.

"I want to show that Germans are good people," she said.

Her next book, already underway, explores how Germans helped America get through World War II.

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# Potential cannabis rescheduling leaves many divided

By LUCAS HENKEL

On August 30, top Biden administration health officials recommended that the United States Drug Enforcement Administration reclassify marijuana as a Schedule 3 substance — the same level as Tylenol with codeine. Cannabis companies across the country rejoiced after hearing the announcement. If cannabis were to be rescheduled, it would dramatically reduce the amount of federal taxes these companies pay each year.

According to an analysis by cannabis research firm Whitney Economics, marijuana companies paid an excess of \$1.8 billion more in federal taxes in 2022 compared to non-cannabis businesses. Cannabis companies are prohibited from deducting expenses from their taxes like other businesses because they're selling a Schedule 1 substance.

The rescheduling of cannabis would also expand the potential for research. Many scientists are reluctant to pursue cannabis research because of the heavy federal requirements associated with Schedule 1 substances: registering with the DEA, undergoing background checks, tracking and discarding the drug and more. There can be numerous state requirements as well.

While much more needs to happen before tangible effects are felt — including a separate DEA review and possibly a judicial review — the health officials' statement that cannabis has medical value has been referred to as a "game changer" by folks on Capitol Hill. Advocates and policy experts, however, say rescheduling marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act does not address the racial justice issues caused by current cannabis laws. Many of these advocates believe rescheduling is a far cry from the promises of decriminalizing cannabis for personal use that President Joe Biden made during his presidential campaign.

"It takes people who already have access, who already have resources, who already have connections, who already have politicians in their pocket, and it gives them a leg up," Natacha Andrews, executive director of the National Association of Black Cannabis Lawyers, told The Hill. "It doesn't address the over-policing, it doesn't address the immigration issues, it doesn't address the access to federal services, and it's not in alignment with what 38 states have done to regulate and legalize."

Karen O'Keefe, director of state policies for the Marijuana Policy Project, said in the same article that the only path toward true racial justice would be the complete legalization of canna-

Schedule	Description	Examples
Schedule 1	Drugs with no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.	Heroin, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), marijuana, methylenedioxymethamphetamine (ecstasy), methaqualone, peyote.
Schedule 2	Drugs with a high potential for abuse, with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence.	Combination products with less than 15 milligrams of hydrocodone per dosage unit (Vicodin), cocaine, methamphetamine, meperidine (Demerol), oxycodone (OxyContin), fentanyl, Adderall, Ritalin.
Schedule 3	Drugs with a moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence.	Products containing less than 90 milligrams of codeine per dosage unit (Tylenol with codeine), ketamine, anabolic steroids, testosterone.
Schedule 4	Drugs with a low potential for abuse and low risk of dependence.	Xanax, Soma, Darvon, Darvocet, Valium, Ativan, Talwin, Ambien, Tramadol.
Schedule 5	Drugs with lower potential for abuse than Schedule 4, consisting of preparations containing limited quantities of certain narcotics.	Cough preparations with less than 200 milligrams of codeine or per 100 milliliters (Robitussin AC), Lomotil, Motofen, Lyrica, Parepectolin.

Source: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Nicole Noechel/City Pulse

On August 30, top Biden administration health officials recommended that the United States Drug Enforcement Administration reclassify marijuana from a Schedule 1 to a Schedule 3 substance.

bis. Legalization, according to O'Keefe, should also include reparative justice.

"Reparative justice measures things like removing the stigma, removing old criminal convictions, freeing prisoners, having set up so you have employment training and assistance for disproportionately impacted and Black and brown communities to own cannabis businesses," she said. "So, at the bare minimum, I think legalization is what's needed federally."

While the DEA doesn't have a deadline to respond to the rescheduling request, many suspect that a recommendation from the DEA is likely before the presidential election in November 2024.

## Cannabis labor market update

For the first time since regulated marijuana markets opened in the United States, the number of cannabis jobs has declined during the past year, according to a February report by Denver-based marijuana industry recruiting firm Vangst. The firm found there were 417,493 full-time equivalent retail and cultivation jobs in early 2023, a 2% drop from early 2022.

Global inflation, depressed cannabis prices, a lack of investment funds and oversaturation in mature markets have compelled marijuana companies to lay off workers. The most vulnerable job positions? Mid-management, human resources, compliance and marketing.

With the increase in employee layoffs, many mid-level managers are getting the axe.

"When you're reducing the number of individuals within your organization, you don't need as many layers in the middle to support those workers," said Kara Bradford, CEO of the Seattle-based cannabis industry recruiting firm Viridian Staffing, in an interview with MJBizDaily. "That's the reason why we see middle management getting laid off, and it's not just in cannabis."

Other positions that are being affected are those not perceived as "revenue generating," Bradford said, including human resources, marketing and com-



pliance, which are being outsourced to third-party providers. Hourly workers — harvesters, extraction technicians, packagers and other workers who get products to the market — have not been impacted. However, cannabis companies are turning to temporary workers because it's more affordable and flexible than hiring permanent staffers.

Bradford and others who follow the cannabis labor market are concerned that hourly employees and salaried workers will leave cannabis for other sectors because of the industry's struggles and other sectors' abilities to offer attractive pay and benefits packages.

"One big trend right now is attrition. It's higher now than it's ever been for hourly workers," Bradford said. "We're competing for the same hourly worker talent as a lot of other industries right now."

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Building Board of Appeals on **Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, Conference Room A, Second Floor, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an **appeal of Adam Fisher of Glacier Property Management Group for the apartments at property at 1624 Cambria Drive**, to reconsider a Code Official's decision to repair baseboard heaters that are below outlets, pull permits and have all inspections done on all 7 units.

### 2006 International Property Maintenance Code:

604.3 Where it is found that the electrical system in a structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants or the structure by reason of inadequate service, improper fusing, insufficient receptacle and lighting outlets, improper wiring or installation, deterioration or damage, or for similar reasons, the code official shall require the defects to be corrected to eliminate the hazard.

For more information on the request please contact Scott Weaver at (517) 319-6810 or sweaver@cityofeastlansing.com. 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 and 5:00 pm. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Building Board of Appeals, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to bba@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at mwicks@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: 9/7/2023  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Marie Wicks  
Interim City Clerk

CP#23-240

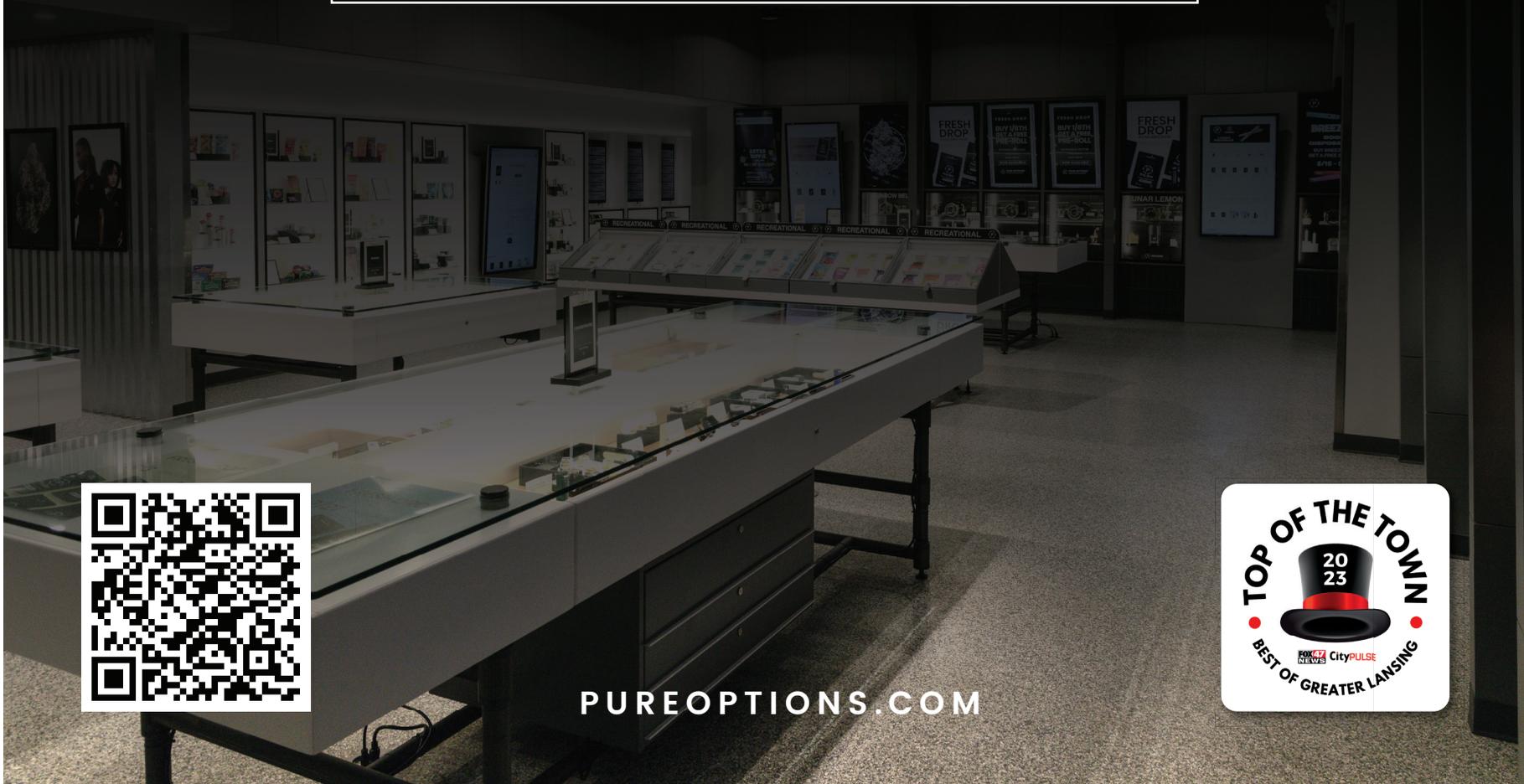


PURE OPTIONS™

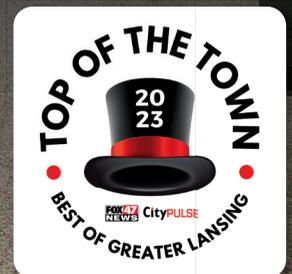
# NOMINATE PURE OPTIONS

FOR TOP OF THE TOWN 2023!

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“★★★★★ UNMISSABLE AND UNFORGETTABLE.” *Rolling Stone* PETER TRAVERS



RICHARD THOMAS  
ATTICUS FINCH  
OCTOBER 3-8

HARPER LEE'S  
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

A new play by  
AARON SORKIN  
Directed by  
BARTLETT SHER  
WHARTONCENTER.COM

# Welcome to Earth — and Top of the Town 2023!

## Presented by City Pulse & FOX 47 News

By STEVE UNDERWOOD

Imagine that our beloved Lansing area was visited by friendly aliens from a distant world. Imagine they had a chance to experience, from a completely unbiased perspective, the very best Lansing has to offer for one year.

What would they say is Lansing's best olive burger? Its best ice cream? Its best barbecue, best auto dealership, best pet groomer, best budtender, best barber shop or best urban farm? How would they vote in the more than 300 categories that make up our Top of the Town contest, co-sponsored once again by Fox 47 News? It would be fascinating to see how their choices compared to ours.

Meanwhile, YOU can vote in the 16th Annual Top of the Town, which goes live TODAY (Sept. 13)! We are excited to present a new voting platform with our partners from Friends2Follow that better showcases all the categories, nominees and, ultimately, our Top 5 next month and Top 3 in November. More than two dozen new categories make their debut in 2023!

The integrity of the contest is of utmost importance, so all nominations will come from the community. Yes, winners past and present often place ads, which sometimes results in more votes because of greater exposure. But it does not influence the results in any other way, and buying an ad is not required to participate or win. Top of the Town is absolutely a people's choice contest.

To get started, please visit [lansingcitypulse.revfluent.com/ToTT](http://lansingcitypulse.revfluent.com/ToTT). There, you will find the contest's homepage and links to register and vote. Or, to begin voting, select any category and follow the prompts in the pop-up window. Please note that



all votes are submitted automatically. Once you've cast them, you're done. Don't worry about a second submission screen.

If you need to stop and come back to your ballot, or your internet browser closed, you can return to the site and continue voting exactly where you left off. Remember that

you can always log out of your voting session and, when you are ready to resume voting, log back in and get back to the contest.

As always, you can vote in as many (or as few) categories as you wish, but please remember to finish your ballot before **11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 3**. That should give you plenty of time to make even the most gut-wrenching of decisions! The Top 5 in each category will advance to the second round, which will be announced on

**Wednesday, Oct. 18.**

You will then have two more weeks to vote for the Top 3, which will be announced in our **Nov. 15** issue.

If you are the first one to nominate a business, please be patient. It will be submitted to an approval process so we can verify it is in the right category, spelled correctly, etc., so it may not show up immediately. If you do not see it after 24 hours, please contact Steve Underwood at (517) 999-6705 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays or [steve@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:steve@lansingcitypulse.com).

Also, when you vote or nominate, you have an opportunity to comment on why it is the best. Please do so! We want to use those comments in the next round when the Top 5 nominees are winnowed down to the winner and second- and third-place finishers.

If need be, you can also send us your list of votes via snail mail to Steve Underwood at City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing 48912.

Top of the Town is THE platform in Greater Lansing to vote for the best, and our new Lan-

sing Guru website will host the Top 5 results after the contest concludes and serve as an invaluable reference for our community all year long! And thanks so much to Dennis Preston for his outstanding artwork on the cover and within this story!

While you're on the City Pulse website, make sure you sign up for our new and improved newsletters. If you're not sure if you're one of the 7,000+ signed up for it already, enter your email address and we will sort it out for you and make sure you only get it once.

See Top of the Town, Page 16

### NEW CATEGORIES

<b>Bar</b>	Best Mocktail
<b>Dining</b>	Best BBQ Sauce
<b>Dining</b>	Best Bubble Tea
<b>Dining</b>	Best Cupcake
<b>Dining</b>	Best Sandwich/Wrap
<b>Dining</b>	Best Vegan/Gluten-Free Dessert
<b>Dining</b>	Best Vegetarian/Vegan Dish
<b>Dining</b>	Best Lasagna
<b>Hangouts</b>	Best Sober Hangout
<b>Hangouts</b>	Best Beach
<b>Cannabis</b>	Best Distillate Cartridge
<b>People</b>	Best Academic Advisor
<b>People</b>	Best Barber
<b>People</b>	Best Barista
<b>People</b>	Best Customer Service Worker
<b>People</b>	Best Drag Performer
<b>People</b>	Best Nail Tech
<b>People</b>	Best Entertainer
<b>People</b>	Best Farmer
<b>People</b>	Best Librarian
<b>People</b>	Best Retail Salesperson
<b>People</b>	Best Local Author
<b>Services</b>	Electric Repair
<b>Services</b>	Engineering Firm
<b>Services</b>	Estate Sale Company
<b>Services</b>	Holistic Healing
<b>Services</b>	Home Inspection
<b>Services</b>	Irrigation Services
<b>Services</b>	Junk Removal
<b>Services</b>	Kayak Rental
<b>Services</b>	Local Computer Store/Repair
<b>Services</b>	Local YouTube Channel
<b>Services</b>	Pet Rescue
<b>Services</b>	Travel Agency
<b>Shopping</b>	Art Supply Store
<b>Shopping</b>	Lingerie Store
<b>Whatever</b>	Best Place to Cry in Public
<b>Whatever</b>	Best Vehicle Ever Made in Lansing
<b>Whatever</b>	Place to Find Quiet
<b>Whatever</b>	Staycation Hotel in Lansing
<b>Services</b>	Best Facial
<b>Services</b>	Best Med Spa



## Top of the Town

from page 15

### BAR



- Best Bar Food
- Best Cocktails
- Best Dance Bar
- Best Dive Bar
- Best Happy Hour
- Best Jam Night
- Best Karaoke
- Best LGBTQ-Friendly Bar
- Best Lansing-Area Brewery
- Best Lansing-Area Distillery
- Best Margarita
- Best Mocktail

## BEST MARGARITA 2022

El Azteco – Winner  
 Acapulco – Second Place  
 Barrio East Lansing – Runner Up

There's nothing like grabbing a hefty frozen margarita on the rooftop deck of El Azteco during the summertime, which is likely why the restaurant took the top spot in 2022. You can overlook the surrounding downtown East Lansing area and people watch while enjoy-

ing a perfectly sweet, refreshing beverage that doesn't break the bank.

You also can't go wrong with the large selection of flavors at Acapulco or the more artisanal options at Barrio, but now that Lansing stalwart Pablo's has opened its second location on East Michigan Avenue and is serving up its own selection of tequila-based beverages, it will be exciting to see which restaurant takes the crown this year.

- Best Neighborhood Bar
- Best Open Mic Night
- Best Pub/Tavern
- Best Spartan Sports Hangout
- Best Sports Bar

### CANNABIS

- Best Budtender
- Best CBD Store/Boutique
- Best Cannabis Flower - Hybrid
- Best Cannabis Flower - Indica
- Best Cannabis Flower - Sativa
- Best Cannabis Growing Brand
- Best Distillate Cartridge
- Best Gummy Edible



### DINING

- Best Indoor Grow Shop
- Best Marijuana Provisioning Center
- Best Marijuana Provisioning Center - East Lansing
- Best Non-Gummy Edible
- Best Non-Solvent Concentrate
- Best Solvent Concentrate
- Best Topical
- Best BBQ
- Best BBQ Sauce
- Best Bagels
- Best Bakery
- Best Baklava
- Best Breakfast
- Best Brunch
- Best Bubble Tea
- Best Buffet
- Best Burger
- Best Chicken Strips/Tenders
- Best Chinese Food Restaurant
- Best Cider
- Best Coney Dog



- Best Cupcake
- Best Deli
- Best Dessert
- Best Diner
- Best Donuts
- Best Drive-Up Location
- Best Family Friendly Restaurant
- Best Fast Food
- Best Fish Fry
- Best Food Truck
- Best French Fries
- Best Greek
- Best Hibachi
- Best Ice Cream
- Best Indian Restaurant
- Best Irish
- Best Italian
- Best "Kids Eat Free" Restaurant
- Best Lasagna
- Best Late-Night Food
- Best Mediterranean
- Mexican Restaurant - Chain
- Best Mexican Restaurant - Non-Chain
- Best Nachos
- Best New Restaurant
- Best Olive Burger
- Best Pancakes
- Best Pho
- Best Pizza
- Best Prime Rib
- Best Ramen
- Best Ranch Dressing
- Best Restaurant Beer List
- Best Restaurant Wine List
- Best Restaurant for Seniors
- Best Reuben
- Best Salad/Salad Bar
- Best Sandwich/Wrap
- Best Seafood Restaurant

See Top of the Town, Page 21

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 John Montgomery, Manager/Director  
 Darin R. Vickers, Owner/Director



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- Best Place to Work



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# MICHIGAN BLUESFEST



## WE'VE EXPANDED TO 4 DAYS!

Come to Michigan BluesFest on the streets of **OLD TOWN** - Lansing, with over 30 unique performances. We have a terrific line-up of artists who will be performing new and exciting arrangements.

Come to MICHIGAN BLUESFEST to enjoy a weekend of music, food and beverages. Meet old friends and make new ones.

### 4 VENUES & NOW 4 DAYS

We've added a kickoff concert on Wednesday night with an all-star band. There will be four venues: the South Turner Street and North Stages, the River Stage (Premiere seats only) and the UrbanBeat Afterglow Stage. See the map for details.

### ENJOY THE SOCIAL DISTRICT

Old Town's new designation as a Social District means festival goers can buy and consume and walk on the streets with appropriately labeled alcoholic beverages from sponsor UrbanBeat and other bars and restaurants, while experiencing all that BluesFest has to offer.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Seating at BluesFest 2023 will be by ticket. Here's why: In the past, beverages sales covered production expenses. Now, a variety of restaurants and bars have flourished in Old Town. While we love this (and take a bit of credit for it) we will not be running our own beverage tent. Instead beverages can be purchased at the Social District bars. Therefore ticket sales are how we can pay for the musicians, production crew, tables, chairs, etc. We've priced tickets to cover our expenses. As a non-profit organization, your donations to MICA beyond a ticket purchase are truly needed and greatly appreciated.

## MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART 2023 • SEPTEMBER 13-16 OLD TOWN, LANSING

ORDER TICKETS AT [BIT.LY/BLUESFESTMI23](https://bit.ly/bluesfestmi23)

or at [micharts.org](https://micharts.org) or pick up at UrbanBeat  
1213 Turner St. Lansing, MI 48906

[micharts.org](https://micharts.org)



### WED SEPT 13 • KICK OFF CONCERT

Featuring **Jeff Baldori Blues Band**  
at UrbanBeat doors open at 6pm

### THUR SEPT 14 • BENEFIT CONCERT



Featuring **Tom Duffield**  
**Gina Garner & The All Night Long Band**  
at UrbanBeat | doors open at 6pm  
To support MICA's KidzBeat Programs

### FRI SEPT 15 • SAT SEPT 16

*River, South Turner & UrbanBeat Stages*  
**General admission \$15\* | Premier seats \$25\***  
*\*good for both days, includes South Turner & River stages*  
**AFTERGLOWS \$5 per night at UrbanBeat - limited seating**

### SPECIAL SONG PREMIERES

As an added benefit, each artist will premiere a song, composition or arrangement that they've never performed publicly before. Be the first to hear up to 30 original performances.

### T-SHIRTS & POSTERS

We're excited to announce that our 2023 BluesFest T-shirts & Posters will be on sale Friday and Saturday at the festival, so get one for yourself or grab one for a friend! Vintage T-shirts & Posters also available. Artist Denny Preston will be signing Posters at MICA Gallery at 5pm to 7pm on Saturday.

### LIVESTREAM

Portions of the festival will be livestreamed at vimeo.

[vimeo • LIVE](https://vimeo.com/live)

[bit.ly/bluesfestlivestream2023](https://bit.ly/bluesfestlivestream2023)



# MICHIGAN BLUESFEST



## WED SEPT 13 • KICK OFF CONCERT



### JEFF BALDORI BLUES BAND

8:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Singer, guitarist, songwriter and pianist. Jeff begins his career studying classical, jazz, and boogie-woogie. He performed many times with Chuck Berry. Start your BluesFest weekend with a spark from the Jeff Baldori Blues Band.

## THUR SEPT 14 • BENEFIT CONCERT



### TOM DUFFIELD

6:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Tom Duffield's piano work has been a part of the jazz and blues scene for decades. His repertoire includes interpretations of the standards as well as some surprises.



### GINA GARNER & THE ALL NIGHT LONG BAND

8:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Gina Garner and the All Night Long Band serves a mix of Lansing legends like Frog (guitar), Mike Daniels (drums), and Mike Skory (piano) with bass master extraordinaire Mike Smalley and the soulful vocals of Gina Garner.

## MICA MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

Featuring the artwork of OLD TOWN founding artists

### Barbara Morris

- Bob Weil • Dave Kleis
- Jane McChesney
- Clif McChesney
- John Domanski
- Sam Mills • Bob Sealock
- Robert Busby



OPEN DURING BLUESFEST • @ 1210 Turner St

## FRI SEPT 15

### TOM DUFFIELD

5:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner



### SCHOOL OF ROCK › Adult Band

5:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

School of Rock East Lansing Adult Band delivers a revolutionary music program to students from Lansing and surrounding communities. Hear fresh sounds from upcoming musicians. Catch them live to experience the magic firsthand.



### NICKY T AND THE SNAKE CHARMERS

6:30pm | **River Stage**, behind UrbanBeat

Nicky T and The Snake Charmers are a stone cold blues band with a contemporary edge. The band consists of all former members of one of Detroit's premier blues bands and Lifetime Achievement Award Winners, The Alligators.



### SCHOOL OF ROCK › House Band

6:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

School of Rock is proud to bring their talented student performers to this year's BluesFest. The revolutionary music program refines young musicians in many skills, who then blow away audiences.



### DEACON EARL

7:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Deacon Earl, also known as Swervin' Ervin, is the son of a preacher. He grew up with gospel music in the home and ventured into the blues in his twenties. Since then he has been playing Mississippi influenced blues with roots in gospel. He plays electric and acoustic guitars, bass, banjo, lap steel, harmonica, keys and the ukulele. His main influences are Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Lightnin' Hopkins and Deacon Arnold.



### TOMAS ESPARZA BLUES BAND

7:30pm | **South Turner Stage**

Tomas's passion for Chicago Blues, and his electrifying energy, have opened many listener's ears and eyes to the power of the Blues. He grew up in Mexico City. He also fronts with the Detroit Band The Boa Constrictors. Tomas is a man who feels has found his true calling: "I really think I was born to play the Blues".



### CLIQUE VOCALS

9:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner met as members of Singers on the Grand, and their similar approach to performing and a shared love of singing led to the formation of Clique in 2016. The duo will perform blues songs arranged in a unique style with tight harmonies. Their mesmerizing performances are a must listen.



### KATHLEEN & THE BRIDGE ST. BAND

9:00pm | **River Stage**, behind UrbanBeat

Kathleen & the Bridge St Band brings to the stage high-energy blues and soul covers as well as original blues and sultry ballads. If you love your blues with a shot of soul, you will love Kathleen & the Bridge St Band.



### MIKE ESPY GROUP

9:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

The Mike Espy Group has been performing at Old Town Blues Fests since its beginning in the 1990's. The Mike Espy Group is comprised of veteran musicians dedicated to preserving the Classic Deep Blues Sound.





**PERFORMERS**



**JAN JAMES**

10:00pm | **South Turner Stage**

It has been over thirty years since Jan James released her first album Last Train. That record gained her a large fanbase in Europe. With creative partner guitarist Craig Calvert, her latest and twelfth release "Time Bomb" is drenched with feeling and soul. She lived in Old Town, Lansing for many years performing on a Band called Jewel Fetish, and now resides in Chicago. James' musical-wheelhouse is centered in American roots, and embraces R&B, Soul, Country, Rock, and Blues.



**JOHNNY D BLUES JAM**

11:30pm | **AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**

Well-known in the community for his performances and the local blues jams he hosted for years, Johnny D is bringing straight-up blues to this year's festival. The band will perform from 11pm-12am, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:00 am. You don't want to miss their jams.

**SAT SEPT 16**

**TOM DUFFIELD**

3:00pm | **UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**

**KIDZBEAT** > **North Turner Stage**

2:00pm | **Children's Ballet Theatre & Power Dance**

Combine to perform light-hearted dances by children for children of all ages. Directed by Jesse Powers.

2:30pm | **Instrument Petting Zoo**

Children and adventurers of all ages can try their hand at stringed instruments, keyboard, and percussion in this playful experience with encouraging music teacher Bryce Berry.

3:15pm | **Greater Lansing Ballet Company & Academy of Dance**

Under the direction of Jim McEwan, Greater Lansing Ballet Company and Greater Lansing Academy of Dance perform classical and contemporary choreography that's fun for the whole family. This performance includes an opportunity for children to join in one of the dances.



**JAMES REESER & THE BACKSEAT DRIVERS**

5:00pm | **South Turner Stage**

Harp driven, swing guitar fueled, oiled in traditional first-generation electric blues, James Reeser and the Backseat Drivers deliver music in the style of William Clarke meets Junior Watson.

**SCHOOL OF ROCK** > **Adult Band**

5:00pm | **North Turner Stage**



**KEV NICHOLS**

5:30pm | **UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**

Kev is a winner of the Capital Area Blues Society Blues Brawl. He also performed in many International Blues Challenge competitions in Memphis with the WhooDoo band, 6 Hands Down band and Kev Nichols Band.

**SCHOOL OF ROCK** > **House Band**

6:00pm | **North Turner Stage**

**LEXIE BLUE**

6:30pm | **River Stage, behind UrbanBeat**



**THE DEDFOOT DUO**

7:00pm | **UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**

Official challenger of International Blues Challenge IBC 2023 in Memphis. The Dedfoot Duo are two blues brothers from Lansing, Michigan representing the Capital Area Blues Society.



**BLUES LADY CHAMPAGNE** feat. **OMAR COLEMAN**

7:30pm | **South Turner Stage**

Lady Champagne is an outstanding exciting entertainer. She is a very expressive blues singer with a powerful voice that instantly captures the audience's attention every time she sing. Lady Champagne is known for her amazing crisp and clear alto sound that delivers the lyrics you'll feel deep down in your soul. Champagne was inducted into the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame.

Chicago's Omar Coleman, is a songwriter, with fiery harmonica skills with soulful vocals. He was a nominee for "Most Outstanding Musician" by Living Blues Magazine.

**MIKE ESPY GROUP**

9:00pm | **North Turner Stage**



**SHARRIE WILLIAMS**

9:00pm | **River Stage, behind UrbanBeat**

Powerhouse Tour de Force performer Songstress. Writer. Curator of oral history. Purveyor of life lessons, Sharrie Williams embodies all of these categories and more, Sharrie has written and produced four exceptional CDs to date. She was nominated three times by the Blues Foundation for Traditional Female Artist and Soul Blues Female Artist of the Year. She won JAZZed Magazine's World Music Artist of the Year in 2014.



**ASAMU JOHNSON & THE ASSOCIATES OF THE BLUES**

10:15pm | **South Turner Stage**

This unique and captivating blues band, Asamu Johnson & the Associates of Blues have performed across the nation and were winners from west Michigan at The International Blues Festival. They have an array of original songs that can be heard on their CDs, *Bow Legs and Big Feet*, *Got To Go*, and *Blues You Can Use*.



**JOHNNY D BLUES JAM**

11:30pm | **AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner**

The band will perform from 11pm-12am, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:00 am.



# MICHIGAN BLUESFEST

# 2023 • SEPTEMBER 13-16

## LANSING OLD TOWN

[micharts.org](http://micharts.org)



**About MICA** The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art's mission is to create open spaces where people can come together, meet old friends, make new friends, and in the context of the arts take action to bring about positive community transformation. MICA's exhibitions in the visual arts and programs in music, performance, film and literature provide opportunities to entertain, educate and inspire. For more, see [micharts.org](http://micharts.org).

**MICA Board**

Terry Terry	Brandon Leathers
Tammy Slavik	Sarah Eyde
Tom Cathey	Matthew Anderson
Tim Fedewa	Carol Hildebrand

Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for community transformation through quality arts programming. Grants, donations, sponsorships and other revenues support art and artists.

**Call for volunteers** BluesFest relies on the efforts of people just like you. Please join us as a volunteer. In addition to free admission, you'll meet some great people, get a cool Festival t-shirt, and know you've played an important role in your community. We also need folks for set-up and tear-down, before and after. Visit [MichArts.org/volunteer](http://MichArts.org/volunteer) to sign up! Looking forward to hearing from you.

<b>WED SEPT 13 • KICKOFF CONCERT</b>	<b>UrbanBeat STAGE</b>
8:00pm Jeff Baldori Blues Band	1213 Turner

<b>THUR SEPT 14 • BENEFIT CONCERT</b>	<b>UrbanBeat STAGE</b>
6:00pm Tom Duffield	1213 Turner
8:00pm Gina Garner & the All Night Long Band	1213 Turner

<b>FRI SEPT 15</b>	<b>STAGES</b>
5:00pm Tom Duffield	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
5:00pm School of Rock • Adult Band	North Turner Stage
6:30pm Nicky T & the Snake Charmers	River Stage, behind UrbanBeat
6:00pm School of Rock • House Band	North Turner Stage
7:00pm Deacon Earl	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
7:30pm Tomas Esparza Blues Band	South Turner Stage
9:00pm Clique Vocals	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
9:00pm Kathleen & the Bridge St. Band	River Stage, behind UrbanBeat
9:00pm Mike Espy Group	North Turner Stage
10:00pm Jan James	South Turner Stage
11:30pm Johnny D Blues Jam - AFTERGLOW	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner

<b>SAT SEPT 16</b>	<b>STAGES</b>
2:00pm KidzBeat › Children's Ballet Theatre & Power Dance	North Turner
2:30pm KidzBeat › Instrument Petting Zoo	North Turner
3:00pm Tom Duffield	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
3:15 pm KidzBeat › Greater Lansing Ballet Company & Academy of Dance	North Turner
5:00pm James Reeser & the Backseat Drivers	South Turner
5:00pm School of Rock • Adult Band	North Turner
5:30pm Kev Nichols	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
6:00pm School of Rock • House Band	North Turner
6:30pm Lexie Blue	River Stage, behind UrbanBeat
7:00pm The Dedfoot Duo	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
7:30pm Lady Champagne feat. Omar Coleman	South Turner
9:00pm Mike Espy Group	North Turner
9:00pm Sharrie Williams	River Stage, behind UrbanBeat
10:15pm Asamu Johnson & the Association of the Blues	South Turner
11:30pm Johnny D Blues Jam - AFTERGLOW	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner

STAGE	Kickoff Concert \$20	Benefit Concert \$35	General Admission* \$15	Premier Seating* \$25	Afterglow \$5 per night
SOUTH TURNER			X	X	
NORTH TURNER			X	X	
RIVER			X	X	
URBANBEAT	X	X	X	X	X

\* good for both days

(GA) General Admission & Premier - Good for both days

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MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>GOLD</b>	<b>SILVER</b>	<b>BRONZE</b>

# Top of the Town

from page 16



- Best Signature Dish (must include restaurant)
- Best Sliders
- Best Soup
- Best Steak
- Best Sub Sandwich
- Best Sushi
- Best Tacos
- Best Thai Restaurant
- Best Upscale dining
- Best Vegan/Gluten-Free Dessert
- Best Vegetarian/Vegan Dish
- Best Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten-Free Restaurant
- Best Wings

# HANGOUTS

- Best Beach
- Best Biggby
- Best Bowling Alley
- Best Cafe
- Best Coffee Shop (non-Biggby)
- Best Comedy Night
- Best Corn Maze
- Best Dog Park
- Best Escape Room Venue
- Best Golf Course
- Best Hangout Solo
- Best Hangout for Seniors
- Best Hangout for Students
- Best Haunted Attraction
- Best Library
- Best Local Attraction for Kids
- Best Movie Theatre
- Best Music Venue
- Best Nature Center
- Best Non-Bar or Restaurant Date
- Best Patio



See Top of the Town, Page 23

## BEST ARTIST 2022

Dennis Preston – Winner  
 Marissa Tawney Thaler – Second Place  
 Steph Joy Hogan – Runner Up

Lansing is awash with visual art, both on the streets and within its many galleries. Last year's top artist, Dennis Preston, is a longtime contributor to the Lansing art scene,

creating posters, record jackets, CD covers, T-shirts and, of course, plenty of City Pulse covers, including this week's Top of the Town kickoff art.

But there are so many other Lansing-area artists who are also making stunning contributions, including the above-mentioned 2022 runners-up, painter Brian Whitfield, cartoonist Daniel J. Hogan, Shiawassee Street Mosaic Project leaders Alexandra Leonard and Bob Rose, crosswalk painter Jill Dombrowski and sculptor Ivan Iler, just to name a few. Are you a fan of any local artists who you think deserve some recognition? Be sure to vote for them in the 2023 contest!

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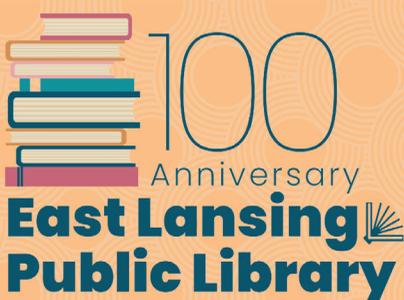


[www.therecordlounge.reotown.com](http://www.therecordlounge.reotown.com)

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- MUSIC VENUE
- PATIO



- Best Tabletop Gaming
- Best Trivia Night

## LOCAL ARTS



- Best Artist
- Best Choral Group
- Best Classical Musician
- Best Club DJ
- Best Country Artist/Band
- Best Cover Band
- Best Experimental Musical Act
- Best Folk Artist/Band
- Best Hip-Hop Artist/Group
- Best Jazz Musician/Group
- Best Local Theatre Organization
- Best Pottery Studio
- Best Public Art/Sculpture
- Best Punk/Metal Group
- Best Rock Artist/Band

## Top of the Town

from page 21

- Best Place of Worship
- Best Place to Play Pinball
- Best Place to Play Video Games
- Best Place to Shoot Pool
- Best Place to Sled
- Best Public Park
- Best Smoke Shop/Hookah Lounge
- Best Sober Hangout

See Top of the Town, Page 24



### Vote for the Nuthouse Sports Grill in 2022! Every vote counts!

**Best Sports Bar!**  
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**Best Sparten Sports Hangout!**

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# Top of the Town

from page 23



## PEOPLE

- Best Academic Advisor
- Best Advocate/Activist
- Best Auto Salesperson
- Best Barber
- Best Barista
- Best Bartender
- Best Brewer
- Best CATA Bus Driver
- Best Chef
- Best College Instructor
- Best Comedian
- Best Cosmetic Surgeon
- Best Customer Service Worker
- Best Dance Instructor



## BEST NEW BUSINESS 2022

Odd Mama's Plants – Winner  
 Hooked – Second Place  
 Grave Danger – Runner Up

There are always new businesses popping up around Greater Lansing. If you need a refresher, take a look at the City Pulse e-edition repository

at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com) for our weekly New in Town columns.

Odd Mama's Plants, a plant shop in Eaton Rapids owned by a mother of four who had a casual interest in horticulture that turned into an obsession during the COVID-19 pandemic, stood out to voters in 2022, but it's a toss-up over which new business will lead the pack in 2023.

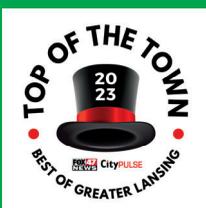
- Best Developer
- Best Drag Artist
- Best Entertainer
- Best Esthetician/Cosmetologist
- Best Farmer
- Best Food Delivery Person
- Best Hairstylist
- Best Handyman
- Best High School Coach
- Best High School Teacher
- Best Insurance Agent
- Best Librarian
- Best Local Author
- Best Local Politician
- Best Local TV News Personality
- Best Massage Therapist
- Best Nail Technician
- Best Personal Trainer
- Best Piercer
- Best Police Officer
- Best Radio DJ
- Best Realtor/Agent (full name and realty company)
- Best Restaurant Waitstaff
- Best Retail Salesperson
- Best State/National Politician
- Best Tattoo Artist
- Best Yoga Instructor
- Worst Local Politician
- Worst State/National Politician



# Vote

## Dagwood's for:

- **BEST** Neighborhood Bar
- **BEST** Dive Bar
- **BEST** Spartan Sports Hangout
- **BEST** Diner
- **BEST** Olive Burger
- **BEST** French Fries
- **BEST** Burger
- **BEST** Cocktails
- **BEST** Food



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## SERVICES

- Best Accountant/CPA
- Best Apartments
- Best Appliance Repair
- Best Attorney/Law Firm
- Best Audiologist/Hearing Firm
- Best Auto Detailing Service
- Best Auto Repair Shop
- Best Bank
- Best Barber Shop
- Best Bicycle Shop



# Top of the Town

from page 24

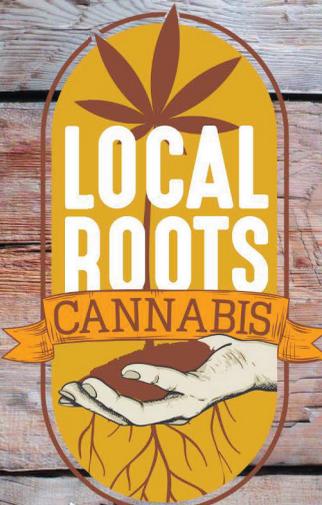
- Best Building Development
- Best Car Wash
- Best Caterer/Catering Service
- Best Cemetery
- Best Chiropractic Office
- Best Med Spa
- Best Place to Get COVID Shot
- Worst Place to Get COVID Shot
- Best Cleaning Service
- Best Credit Union
- Best Curbside Pickup
- Best Dance Studio
- Best Day Spa
- Best Dentist Office
- Best Dry Cleaners
- Best Electrical Repair
- Best Engineering Firm
- Best Estate Sale Company
- Best Facial
- Best Financial Planner/Company
- Best Funeral Home
- Best Gutter Cleaning
- Best Gym/Fitness Studio
- Best Heating/Cooling/Plumbing
- Best Holistic Healing
- Best Home Healthcare Company
- Best Home Inspection Company
- Best Insurance Agency
- Best Irrigation Services
- Best Junk Removal
- Best Kayak Rental
- Best Landscape Company
- Best Laser Hair Removal
- Best Law Firm
- Best Local Computer Store/Repair
- Best Local YouTube Channel
- Best Massage Studio
- Most Trustworthy Business
- Best Music Lessons
- Best Nail Salon
- Best News Source
- Best Non-Profit Organization (local)
- Best Oil Change Shop
- Best Online Ordering (local business)
- Best Optometrist
- Best Pest Control Company

See Top of the Town, Page 26

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## Top of the Town

from page 25

- Best Pet Grooming
- Best Pet Rescue
- Best Pharmacy (locally owned)
- Best Photography
- Best Post Office
- Best Property Management Company
- Best Public Relations Firm
- Best Radio Station
- Best Residential Remodeling Company
- Best Salon

See Top of the Town, Page 27

**TOP OF THE TOWN**  
2023  
BEST OF GREATER LANSING

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# Top of the Town

from page 26

- Best Senior Living Community
- Best Tailor/Seamstress Company
- Best Tanning
- Best Tattoo Parlor
- Best Therapy/Therapist Service
- Best Towing Company
- Best Travel Agency
- Best Veterinarian Service
- Best Wedding Services
- Best Wifi/Internet Service Provider
- Best Yoga Studio

- Best Cheese Department
- Best Clothing Store (locally owned)
- Best Comic Shop
- Best Consignment Shop
- Best Farmers Market
- Best Florist
- Best Furniture Store
- Best Gardening Center
- Best Gas Station
- Best Gift Shop
- Best Grocery Store (locally owned)
- Best Hardware Store
- Best Hot Tub/Pool/Sauna Store
- Best Jewelry Store
- Best Lingerie Store
- Best Liquor Store
- Best Metaphysical Store
- Best Musical Instrument Store
- Best New Business

- Best High School
- Best Historical Place
- Best Instagram Account (local)
- Best Local Art Festival
- Best Local Event/Festival
- Best Outdoor Adventure
- Best Place to Cry in Public
- Best Place to Find Quiet
- Best Place to Work
- Best Podcast (local)
- Best Science Event
- Best Shop Pet
- Best Staycation Hotel in Lansing
- Best Twitter Account (local)
- Best Urban Farm
- Best Vehicle Ever Made in Lansing
- Best Wifi Spot
- Category We Didn't Think of
- Cleanest Public Restroom
- Eye Candy Building
- In Memoriam: Businesses Lost
- Worst Eyesore
- Worst Pothole (specific location)

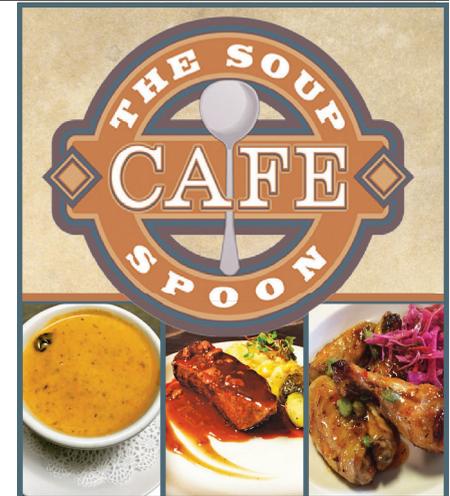
## SHOPPING

- Best Art Supply Store
- Best Asian Market
- Best Auto Dealership
- Best Beer Selection in Retail Store
- Best Antique Shop
- Best Bookstore (locally owned)
- Best Butcher
- Best Candy Store



## WHATEVER

- Best Casino
- Best Day Trip
- Best Facebook Group (local)



### Vote for Us!

- Breakfast
- Brunch
- Pancakes
- Reuben
- Soup
- Vegetarian/Vegan/ Gluten Free Restaurant
- Upscale Dining
- Hangout for Seniors



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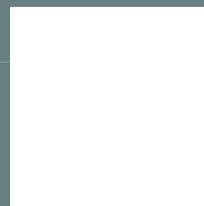


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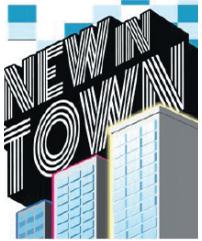


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# Stunio sets students up for success



## Stunio

Available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store

stunio.com

By LUCAS HENKEL

According to a 2022 survey by the self-storage company Neighbor, one in five college students has less than \$100 in their bank account. As a former college student, this doesn't surprise me. I remember going to Meijer with friends to return cans for grocery money and attending events on campus just because they offered free food.

Adam Green faced a similar struggle during his undergraduate years at Michigan State University. He frequently donated plasma just to make ends meet, and he knew there had to be a better way.

His new company, Stunio, hopes to empower college students by connecting them with flexible opportunities to earn money while simultaneously providing local businesses with a reliable platform to find extra help.

"The idea for this company started two years ago when I was sitting on the floor of my dorm room," Green said. He

met his business partners, Hemkesh Agrawal and Collin Pavlov, through MSU's Burgess Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation in 2021.

According to its website, the Burgess Institute provides programs, courses and resources that foster an entrepreneurial mindset and help students create new ventures. In short, it helps students make their business ideas a reality. From connecting students with lawyers and marketing professionals to paying for patents, the Burgess Institute offers students an opportunity to kickstart their companies before "life hits and all the real-world expenses kick in," according to Paul Jaques, the Burgess Institute's managing director for venture creation. Staff also encourage students to connect with each other to form personal and professional connections with other aspiring entrepreneurs.

With Agrawal's expertise in computer science and coding, Pavlov's background in data science and politics and Green's laser focus, the trio worked together to launch the original versions of the app, first known as UniServices. After months of testing and revamping the app, the team rebranded and cre-

ated a sophisticated matchmaking algorithm to help students connect with potential job opportunities.

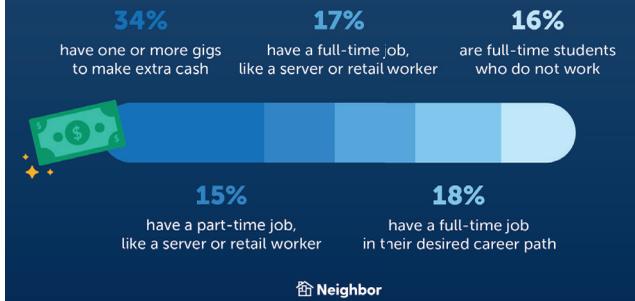
"We want to give our customers the best experience possible while making sure they're able to get their jobs done," Agrawal said.

Students can choose from multiple categories of odd jobs, such as yardwork, moving, tutoring, cleaning, pet care and event support. Once they've selected a category, students set their pay rate and availability and list their location. Within 10 minutes, they receive recommendations for jobs near them and have 90 seconds to confirm which job they want.

"This is the beauty of the app, the flexibility," Pavlov said. "If you get offered a job but have class or a prior arrangement, you can deny that job, and it will go to the next person in line that is interested in that type of work."

Stunio is available to students attend-

## Gig Work is the Most Common Way for College Students and New Grads to Earn Extra Money



Courtesy of Neighbor

With the Stunio app, college students can choose from multiple categories of odd jobs to make extra cash, including yardwork, moving, tutoring, cleaning, pet care and event support.

ing MSU and Lansing Community College, but the developers plan to expand to the Rochester Hills and Grand Rapids areas soon.

The newest version of the app officially launched on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store Sept. 1. Users must register with their student email address. Last week, Green posted on his personal LinkedIn that Stunio reported a 100% booking rate within the first few days of its launch. In the coming months, the app will partner with other Greater Lansing organizations like the Lansing Lugnuts, tinkrLAB and its first nonprofit partner, HelloSteam, for further job opportunities.

# Small-town politics with larger implications

## Get your fix of both drama and comedy with 'The Minutes'

By MARY CUSACK

On paper, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s latest production, "The Minutes," sounds like a smash hit. The cast includes some of the Lansing area's most seasoned actors, and it's directed by Mary Job, whose track record for managing challenging material is outstanding. In addition, the script was written by Tracy Letts, who penned the fabulous play "August: Osage County."

Yet the ball hits the rim and bounces off, primarily because the script is problematic. The play is about a city council meeting in the fictional town of Big Cherry. New councilmember Mr. Peel (Edward Heldt) missed the prior week's meeting for a funeral, and he's scrambling to catch up on a mysterious controversy regarding his missing colleague, Mr. Carp (Matt Land). As the

council tries to plod forward through the agenda, Peel continues to push for information.

As the tedious meeting proceeds, Peel's ignorance about the history of the town allows the council members to produce a pageant play about the founding of the town, which is a genuinely funny scene. But after Peel persists in his attempt to uncover the truth behind Carp's absence, the play takes two sudden turns.

In the first twist, the audience is treated to the single best dramatic performance of the show as Carp forces the council to reckon with the town's true history. The second twist becomes increasingly predictable, but the cast embraces its horrific absurdity with absolute resolve, adding gravitas to the scene.

The primary issue with the play is that the script is no longer the satire

Letts intended when the play was first produced in 2017. Unspooling a major theme about those in power controlling the future because they control history by portraying it happening in a small town is now trite since we witness this happening at state and national levels often. Reality has made Letts' work antiquated and ineffectual.

The second issue with the play is the unevenness of tone and approach to the characters. The council is made up of several caricatures, including the doddering elder of the group, Mr. Oldfield (Doak Bloss); high-strung, oblivious Ms. Matz (Debbie Lundeen); and blowhard bully Mr. Breeding (Daniel Dye). While they play to their stereotypes for laughs, Heldt's character is earnest but a bit hyperactive, and Mr. Hanratty (Joe Dickson) and Mr. Assalone (Joe Clark) play it fairly straight. As Mayor Superba, Gini Larson is the epitome of a serious career politician, and she gleams with malevolence when reining in Peel.



### Review

#### "The Minutes"

Through Sept. 17  
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
3 p.m. Sunday  
Sycamore Creek Church  
1919 S. Pennsylvania Ave.,  
Lansing  
\$15 general admission,  
\$10 student/senior/  
veteran  
517-927-3016  
peppermintcreek.org



Photo by Trumpie Photography

(From left) Edward Heldt, Joe Clark, Gini Larson and Daniel Dye in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of "The Minutes."

The first two-thirds of the script employs broad humor, but it's possible that the ridiculous nature of the meeting scenario would still garner laughs if played with deadpan humor. Such an approach might have helped even out the overall tone and smoothed the transitions to the last two scenes.

The play will leave audiences with some post-show conversations regarding its themes, but they're the same conversations that could be had after watching an hour of broadcast news. In terms of sparking timely debate on issues of the day, "The Minutes" is a few years past its prime.

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Back to the Beginning"-- two by two, to the start.

by Matt Jones  
© 2023 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. "Bye now!"
- 5. Barber's tool
- 10. Union underminer
- 14. Business higher-up
- 15. Give the slip
- 16. Saved GPS setting, usually
- 17. On the verge of
- 18. Gripped tightly
- 19. Natural soother
- 20. [Mystery Clue 1]
- 23. Partner of "neither"
- 24. Spacy character in the main "Derry Girls" group

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

- 25. [Mystery Clue 2]
- 31. Actress Hayek
- 33. Nullifies
- 34. \_\_\_-Caps (Nestle candy)
- 35. Big events on Wall St.
- 36. Tears apart
- 37. Velvet Underground singer
- 38. Litter peep
- 39. "Beetle Bailey" boss
- 40. 3x4 box, e.g.
- 41. [Mystery Clue 3]
- 44. One of the Gulf States
- 45. "Kill Bill" actress Thurman
- 46. [Mystery Clue 4]
- 53. Bowl-shaped skillets
- 54. Pass
- 55. Mystical presence

- 56. Steve of the "Guardians of the Galaxy" series
- 57. Synchronously
- 58. Bird sacred to ancient Egyptians
- 59. House member
- 60. One of the Gulf States
- 61. Heron's residence
- DOWN
- 1. Minister (to)
- 2. Pink slip giver
- 3. Word before work or spirit
- 4. Initial offerings, sometimes?
- 5. Amp effect
- 6. Athletic footwear brand
- 7. Silent screen star Pitts
- 8. Reverential poems
- 9. Northern California attraction
- 10. "Want me to demonstrate?"
- 11. Measure for some dress shirts
- 12. Singer Tori
- 13. Apiary dweller
- 21. What Italians call their capital
- 22. Messes up
- 25. Place for an all-day roast, maybe
- 26. Blatant
- 27. Vowel sound in "phone" but not "gone"
- 28. Raul Castro's predecessor
- 29. "\_\_\_ Upon a Time in Hollywood"
- 30. Lunch time, often
- 31. Actor Liu of the MCU
- 32. Sci-fi planet inhabitants
- 36. Reason to save
- 37. Words after "Oh jeez"
- 39. Train for a bout
- 40. Smallest U.S. coin
- 42. Kept occupied
- 43. Out of the blue
- 46. \_\_\_ de Ch o (Brazilian steakhouse chain)
- 47. Peacefulness
- 48. Supercollider collider
- 49. "Father of Modern Philosophy" Descartes
- 50. Cartoonist Goldberg
- 51. Dwarf planet named for a goddess
- 52. Part of SSE
- 53. \_\_\_-Dryl (store-brand allergy medication)

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com) Answers on page 32

## SUDOKU

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

## Beginner

### 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 Breznsky September 13-19, 2023

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** So it begins: the building and nurturing togetherness phase of your astrological cycle. The next eight weeks will bring excellent opportunities to shed bad relationship habits and grow new ones. Let's get you in the mood with some suggestions from intimacy counselors Mary D. Esselman and Elizabeth Ash Vélez: "No matter how long you've been together or how well you think you know each other, you still need to romance your partner, especially in stability. Don't run off and get an extreme makeover or buy into the red-roses-and-champagne bit. Instead, try being kind, receptive and respectful. Show your partner, often and in whatever tender, goofy way you both understand, that their heart is your home."

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** From May 2023 until May 2024, the planets Jupiter and Uranus have been and will be in Taurus. I suspect that many Taurus revolutionaries will be born during this time. And yes, Tauruses can be revolutionaries. Here's a list of some prominent rebel Bulls: Karl Marx, Malcolm X, activist Kathleen Cleaver, lesbian feminist author Adrienne Rich, Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh, artist Salvador Dali, playwright Lorraine Hansberry and dancer Martha Graham. All were wildly original innovators who left a bold mark on their cultures. May their examples inspire you to clarify and deepen the uniquely stirring impact you would like to make, Taurus.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Gemini writer Joe Hill believes the only fight that matters is "the struggle to take the world's chaos and make it mean something." I can think of many other fights that matter, too, but Hill's choice is a good one that can be both interesting and rewarding. I especially recommend it to you in the coming weeks, Gemini. You are poised at a threshold that promises substantial breakthroughs in your ongoing wrangles with confusion, ambiguity and enigma. My blessings go with you as you wade into the evocative challenges.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Author Crescent Dragonwagon has written more than 50 books, so we might conclude she has no problem expressing herself fully. But a character in one of her novels says the following: "I don't know exactly what I mean by 'hold something back,' except that I do it. I don't know what the 'something' is. It's some part that's a mystery, maybe even to me. I feel it may be my essence or what I am deep down under all the layers. But if I don't know what it is, how can I give it or share it with someone, even if I wanted to?" I bring these thoughts to your attention, Cancerian, because I believe the coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to overcome your own inclination to "hold something back."

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** In her book "Undercurrents: A Life Beneath the Surface," psychologist and author Martha Manning says she is more likely to experience epiphanies in "grocery stores and laundromats, rather than in the more traditional places of reverence and prayer." She marvels that "it's in the most ordinary aspects of life" that she is "offered glimpses of the extraordinary." During these breakthrough moments, "The baseline about what is good and important in my life changes." I suspect you will be in a similar groove during the coming weeks, Leo. Are you ready to find the sacred in the mundane? Are you willing to shed your expectations of how magic occurs so you will be receptive to it when it arrives unexpectedly?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** "These are the bad facts," said author Fran Lebowitz. "Men have much easier lives than women. Men have the advantage. So do white people. So do rich people. So do beautiful people." Do you agree, Virgo? I do. I'm not rich or beautiful, but I'm a white man, and I have received enormous advantages because of it. What about you? Now is a good time to tally any unearned blessings you have benefited from, give thanks for them and atone by offering help to people who have obtained fewer favors. And

if you have not received many advantages, the coming months will be an excellent time to ask for and even demand more.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** My favorite creativity teacher is author Roger von Oech. He produced the Creative Whack Pack, a card deck with prompts to stimulate imaginative thinking. I decided to draw one such card for your use in the coming weeks. It's titled EXAGGERATE. Here's its advice: "Imagine a joke so funny you can't stop laughing for a month. Paper stronger than steel. An apple the size of a hotel. A jet engine quieter than a moth beating its wings. A home-cooked dinner for 25,000 people. Try exaggerating your idea. What if it were a thousand times bigger, louder, stronger, faster and brighter?" (PS: it's a favorable time for you to entertain brainstorm and heartstorms and soulstorms. For best results, EXAGGERATE!)

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** If you buy a bag of popcorn and cook it in your microwave oven, there are usually kernels at the bottom that fail to pop. As tasty as your snack is, you may still feel cheated by the duds. I will be bold and predict that you won't have to deal with such duds in the near future — not in your popcorn bags and not in any other area of your life, either literally or metaphorically. You're due for a series of experiences that are complete and thorough and fully bloomed.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Writer George Bernard Shaw observed that new ideas and novel perspectives "often appear first as jokes and fancies, then as blasphemies and treason, then as questions open to discussion and finally as established truths." As you strive to get people to consider fresh approaches, Sagittarius, I advise you to skip the "blasphemies and treason" stage. If you proceed with compassion and good humor, you can go directly from "jokes and fancies" to "questions open to discussion." But one way or another, please be a leader who initiates shifts in your favorite groups and organizations. Shake things up with panache and good humor.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Novelist and astrologer Forrest E. Fickling researched which signs are the worst and best at various activities. He discovered that Capricorns are the hardest workers as well as the most efficient. They get a lot done, and they are expeditious about it. I suspect you will be at the peak of your ability to express these Capricornian strengths in the coming weeks. Here's a bonus: You will also be at the height of your power to enjoy your work and be extra likely to produce good work. Take maximum advantage of this grace period!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** The British band Oasis has sold more than 95 million records. The first song they ever released was "Supersonic." Guitarist Noel Gallagher wrote most of its music and lyrics in half an hour while the rest of the band was eating Chinese takeout food. I suspect you will have that kind of agile, succinct, matter-of-fact creativity in the coming days. If you are wise, you will channel it into dreaming up solutions for two of your current dilemmas. This is one time when life should be easier and more efficient than usual.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** "When sex is really, really good," writes Piscean novelist Geoff Nicholson, "I feel as though I'm disappearing, being pulverized, so that I'm nothing, just particles of debris, smog, soot and skin floating through the air." Hmmmm. I guess that's one version of wonderful sex. And if you want it, you can have it in abundance during the coming weeks. But I encourage you to explore other kinds of wonderful sex as well — like the kind that makes you feel like a genius animal or a gorgeous storm or a superpowered deity.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky'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](https://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

### Wednesday, Sept. 13

**"A Course of Love" Book Study, Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

**Aaron Johnson at Cleats Bar & Grille** - 6 p.m. 5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. 517-574-4008. [cleatsbarandgrille.com](https://cleatsbarandgrille.com).

**Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market](https://allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market).

**Anti-Violence Initiative** - Seven-week program for teens ages who have faced violence or bullying due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. 4-5:30 p.m. Salus Center, 408 S. Washington Square, Lansing. [saluscenter.org/programs/calendar](https://saluscenter.org/programs/calendar).

**Beginning Bachata Dance Class** - 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. [sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club](https://sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club).

**Beginning Salsa Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. [sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club](https://sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club).

**BluesFest Kickoff Concert: Jeff Baldori Blues Band** - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](https://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Coffee & Books** - "Chain Gang All Stars," by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah. Intended for adults. 11 a.m. BlackDog Coffee, 120 W Hamlin Street, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](https://eradl.org).

**Dimondale Island Jam** - Music by Organissimo jazz trio, food for purchase from Krystal's Kitchen food truck, booths from arts and crafts vendors. Bring a lawn chair. 6 p.m. Danford Island Park, 201 W. Washington St., Dimondale. [facebook.com/villageofdimondale](https://facebook.com/villageofdimondale).

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](https://meridian50plus.com).

**Food Frenzy** - Try food from more than a dozen food trucks. 4-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 N. Cedar St., Holt. 517-930-2655. [holtfoodfrenzy.com](https://holtfoodfrenzy.com).

**Improv Acting Class** - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Jazz Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - Sing your favorite tunes or bring a group and listen while enjoying drinks and food. 7-10 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](https://lansingshuffle.com).

**Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. [lamc.info](https://lamc.info).

**Puzzle Piece Wall Décor** - Create wall decor with puzzle pieces! 18+. Registration req. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St.,

Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](https://eradl.org).

**Tap II Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Weaving the Web: Diversity** - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftware.org](https://weaversoftware.org).

**Webster's Cat Café** - Visitation and adoption event presented by Constellation Cat Café. Snacks, coffee and tea provided. 5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](https://gladl.org).

**Wednesday Night Free Concerts - Kanin Wren** - 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. [meridian.mi.us/calendar](https://meridian.mi.us/calendar).

**"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](https://lansingartgallery.org).

**Wrestling with the Truth** - Author Robert Shegog shares his story of being a wrestler and gay man with HIV in the '80s and finally deciding to reveal his truths. 7 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](https://peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

### Thursday, Sept. 14

**"A Course in Miracles," Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

**Acting 101 Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Acting Ensemble Class** - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. 517-641-6728. [shopbfm.org](https://shopbfm.org).

**Chipmunk Story Time: "Hey, Little Ant"** - Stories followed by nature activities and a guided walk. This month, we'll enjoy stories about insects! 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. [meridian.mi.us/hnc](https://meridian.mi.us/hnc).

**"Democracy in Hotter Times"** - David Orr, author of "Democracy in Hotter Times," will present. 7 p.m. MSU Natural Resources Building, Room 158, 480 Wilson Road, East Lansing. [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](https://peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

**(De)Tour: Balancing Act** - Take a closer look at the often-blurry boundaries between labor and leisure in search of the elusive work-life balance. 6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broad-museum.msu.edu](https://broad-museum.msu.edu).

**Dimondale Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. [villageofdimondale.org](https://villageofdimondale.org).

**Eloquents Toastmasters Weekly Meeting** - Safe and positive environment to practice public speaking and leadership skills. 6:30 p.m. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. [eloquents.toastmastersclubs.org](https://eloquents.toastmastersclubs.org).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use

### 'Rocky Mountain High'

7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17

**Wharton Center Pasant Theatre**  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

Michigan State University's annual New Musical Laboratory, formerly known as imáGen, brings together Broadway professionals, MSU students and local high school students, who all work together to produce a new piece of musical theater. The collaboration between the Wharton Center Institute for Arts & Creativity and the MSU Department of Theatre is celebrating its 10th anniversary with its debut of "Rocky Mountain High" 7 p.m. Friday (Sept. 15) and 2 p.m. Sunday (Sept. 17) at the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre.

Each year, the New Musical Laboratory puts out a call for new theater works. This year, mother-and-son duo Kia Beth and Cooper Kofron submitted the winning concept, "Rocky Mountain High," which takes place in a "football-focused high school that finds itself without future funding, teetering on the brink of financial uncertainty. Faced with an uncertain future, the community rallies together to transform their climate-controlled stadium into a thriving marijuana cultivation center. Their audacious endeavor is aimed at thwarting the takeover of their beloved institution by a conservative televangelist with intentions to reshape the school's curriculum in his own image."

The creative team behind the musical also includes Tony Award-winning composer Mark Hollmann, musical theater composer and lyricist Drew Gasparini and playwright and director Marc Acito. According to the Lansing State Journal, Hollmann and Gasparini have melded their styles — Gasparini's pop-rock sound and Hollmann's more traditional musical theater approach — to create more than 20 musical numbers for the show.

Tickets are \$18.50 for the general public and \$13.50 for students and children under 18. To purchase tickets, visit [whartoncenter.com](https://whartoncenter.com) or call 517-432-2000. The show is best suited for ages 12 and up due to some strong language and simulated cannabis use.



the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Jazz/Hip Hop II class** - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](https://greendoorlive.com).

**Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club** - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. [ladiessilverblades.org](https://ladiessilverblades.org).

**Laingsburg Farmers Market** - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. [laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1](https://laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1).

**Michigan BluesFest Benefit Concert: Gina Garner & the All Night Long Band, Tom Duffield** - 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](https://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Opening Reception: "Wholly Integrated," a solo exhibition by Zoe Beaudry** - Artist talk at 6 p.m. Light refreshments provided. 5-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansing-artgallery.org](https://lansing-artgallery.org).

**Organic Yoga with Maja McKeever** - 6 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington

Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

**REACH Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People** - 4 p.m. Zoom meeting ID: 828 0808 9879. 517-999-3643. [reachstudioart.org](https://reachstudioart.org).

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Thursday Night Live Courthouse Concert - Mason High School Band** - Bring lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy live family entertainment. 6:30-8 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse lawn, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 517-676-1046. [masonchamber.org](https://masonchamber.org).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly** - Weekly weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1536 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. [facebook.com/HaslettTops](https://facebook.com/HaslettTops).

**"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](https://lansingartgallery.org).

### Friday, Sept. 15

**"A Course in Christ," 3rd Friday of the Month Book Study** - 10:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

TEN POUND FIDDLE TURNS 49



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Ten Pound Fiddle celebrates its 49th season with another stacked series of concerts and dances, plus a vinyl and CD sale. This season features May Erlewine (left) on Nov. 3 and True Blues (right) on Jan. 12, 2024.

## Sally Potter talks concerts, dances and vinyl sale

Since 1975, authentic folk music from across the map has had a steadfast home in East Lansing, thanks to the Ten Pound Fiddle. The organization hosts events at various venues throughout the Lansing area, but all come with the Fiddle's trusted stamp of quality.

Now in its 49th season, the Fiddle hosts approximately 30 shows each year, as well as its Holiday Sing, Mid-Winter Singing Festival, 15 to 18 dances and three Fiddle Scout meetings — totaling an average of 50 events in its September-to-April season.

One of its long-running traditions, the

Contra and Square Dance, returns this Saturday (Sept. 16). Julie Levy-Weston, the dance caller, said it's open to everyone.

"Contra dancing is very beginner-friendly," she said. "There is an intro session before each evening of dance. A caller teaches and guides the dancers through each dance as we dance to our wonderful live-string-band music.

"Community dancing is part of our folk tradition," she added. "When Bob and Laura Stein relocated from the Boston area in 1976, they brought this kind of dance with them. Bob learned to call, and Laura played piano. In the early days, folks came from

all over to contra dance in the Ballroom at the MSU Union. Gradually, other dances have started up around Michigan. We have been dancing for almost 50 years."

Sally Potter, the Fiddle's booking manager for more than a decade, said there's much to be excited about in this year's calendar. She looks forward to hosting Miko Marks Sept. 29.

"Miko was raised in Flint, spent time in Nashville and now lives in the (San Francisco) Bay Area," Potter said. "Her voice is magnificent, her writing is spot on, and she also does lovely, inspiring interpretations of older, classic songs. Her song 'Goodnight America' has been in my head for weeks. She'll be with her four-piece band."

Another act Potter noted was True Blues, a dynamic duo composed of Cedric Watson and Corey Harris. The pair kicks off the Fiddle's winter season on Jan. 12, 2024. Later that month, on Jan. 19, Potter said local dancer Nic Gareiss will join Irish fiddler Liz Carroll and banjoist Allison de Groot.

This year, there's also a CD and vinyl record sale for the crate diggers. From Robert Johnson to Alison Krauss, the selection ranges from classics to rarities. Many cost only \$1.

"The selection is outrageous. The list is endless," said Potter, who also name-dropped records by the Beatles, Bob Dylan, the Doors, Emmylou Harris, Nat King Cole, Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, to name a few.

The sale, made possible by donations, runs 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at University United Methodist Church in East Lansing. It benefits the Fiddle Scouts, a program offering young people "a chance

to explore folk music and the folk arts in a relaxed community setting." Local or visiting musicians and artists engage children in hands-on, interactive experiences.

But for those solely looking for live music, the return of Fiddle fixture Joel Mabus is a noteworthy show. The Michigan folk legend performs Oct. 6 at University United Methodist Church.

"This is Joel's 47th Fiddle show in 49 years," Potter said. "He gave the Fiddle's second concert back in January 1975."

Over the last several years, Potter said yet another local Fiddle staple has emerged: May Erlewine. She returns Nov. 3.

"Most of her shows are either with a band or with the Sweet Water Warblers, so it's rare for her fans to hear just May," Potter said. "This is the fourth or fifth year the Fiddle has featured her solo in the fall."

So, how does the Fiddle manage to make all these events happen each year? It has a dedicated 10-person board, 50 volunteers, 300 paying members and several other donors. This allows the organization to pay out more than \$50,000 each year to performers. It's impressive since the series does not receive any grants. All

revenue comes from ticket sales, memberships and donations.

Last year, following the COVID-19 shutdown, Potter said, "The Fiddle was back with strong crowds for all our events. In addition, both memberships and outright donations were the highest ever. This post-COVID comeback is a testament to our community, which believes in supporting live music and dance. In an industry where not all venues survived COVID, the Fiddle is blessed to receive this tremendous support from mid-Michigan."

## Contra and Square Dance

Saturday, Sept. 16  
7 p.m.  
Central United Methodist Church  
215 N. Capitol Ave.,  
Lansing  
\$5-\$25

## The Very Last Not-So-Annual Fiddle Scouts Used CD and LP Fundraiser

Sept. 22  
University United Methodist Church  
1120 S. Harrison Road,  
East Lansing  
9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
tenpoundfiddle.org

## Events

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**Cruise to Holt** - Bring your classic, modern or project cars and bikes — if it has wheels, bring it, or just come take a look! 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market parking lot, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. 517-694-2135. delhitownshipmi.gov.

**Faculty Donuts** - Grab coffee and donuts and learn more about the Center for Object Research and Engagement, slated to open in November. 9 a.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Justin Deason at Harrison Roadhouse** - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

**The Louderthans** - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**Mark Collins at The Peanut Barrel** - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

**Meridian Historical Village Volunteer Open House** - Volunteers are needed for school field trips, Saturday tours, large events and more. 10 a.m. Village Chapel, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-347-7300. meridian.mi.us.

**MICA Presents: Michigan BluesFest** - Gates open at 5 p.m., music at 6:30 p.m. Turner Street, Old Town. micharts.org/about-bluesfest.

**Minecraft Club** - Play "Minecraft" on the library's private server! Laptops provided. Grades 3 and up. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**Peace Vigil** - Noon-1 p.m. Michigan Capitol, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org

**"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry** - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

## Saturday, Sept. 16

**50th Down Home Days Courthouse Show** - Variety of food trucks and vendors. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse lawn, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 517-676-1046. business.masonchamber.org.

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## The White Oranges

Saturday, Sept. 16

6-9 p.m.

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mt. Hope Hwy., Lansing

The White Oranges has recorded five of its six studio albums at Monument Audio in Lansing, a DIY recording studio run by Andy Jeglic of the progressive-metal band Orc, but the rock 'n' roll group has never played a show in the capital city — until now. The band will make its Lansing performance debut 6 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 16) at EagleMonk Pub and Brewery, playing three full sets throughout the evening. The show is free to attend and is open to all ages.

The band formed in 2012 with Justin O'Kelly on vocals and guitar and Kyle Roksiewicz on drums. Later, bassist Corey Potchynok and lead guitarist Josh Story joined the fold. O'Kelly said the group is best labeled as an indie-rock or straight-up rock 'n' roll band.

"We kind of pull influences from all over the place," he said. "Our four members all listen to very different music from one another. It's kind of like a four-part Venn diagram, and in the middle is rock 'n' roll."

The band will play all original songs during its three sets.

"It'll be a good mix of heavier rock songs, some acoustic songs, so there's gonna be a wide variation of music. I think there will be a little bit of something for everybody," O'Kelly said. "The four of us are really looking forward to it. Not only to play for some familiar faces but to meet some of the Lansing people and support EagleMonk. We really want to put together a good show for those guys since they extended the offer to have us play."



# Events

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**“Bluey” Bash** - Make crafts and play games inspired by the popular show “Bluey.” 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**East Lansing Scrabble Tournament** - Eight-round tournament. Pizza and drinks included in admission fee. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-230-8890. cross-tables.com/download/2023/09/eastlansing.pdf.

**Eliezer Temple Church Community Musical** - Afternoon of high praise to our God with talent from far and near, honoring the memory of our beloved pastor, the late David W. Maxwell. Free-will offering will be collected. 3:30 p.m. 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-763-8693.

**Free Brush Drop-Off** - 8 a.m.-noon. Recycle Center, 1418 Grovenburg Road, Holt. 517-699-3874. delhitownshipmi.gov.

**Free Library Saturday** - Take as many books as you'd like for free! Attendees can also bring books to donate. 10 a.m.-noon. The Reading People, 1028 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. 517-485-4949. thereadingpeople.org.

**Friends of the Lansing Regional Trails Coffee and Cleanup** - Help trim overgrown brush and pick up trash on the Lansing River Trail. Complimentary coffee. Gloves highly recommended. 9 a.m.-noon. Maguire Park parking lot, 4900 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. ta@lansingtrails.org.

**Game Night** - All table games are welcome, so bring your campaigns, board games, card games — whatever you like. BYOB. 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

**Geech** - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**Intermediate Ballet Class** - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Lansing Roller Derby | 2023 Home Season Bout #6** - 3 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. 517-802-7974. lansingrollerderby.com

**Mason Farmers Market** - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lee Austin Park, corner of Lansing and Ash streets, Lansing. facebook.com/masonfarmersmarketmi.

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/farmersmarket.

**MICA Presents: Michigan BluesFest** - KidzBeat and free events from 2-4 p.m. Gates open at 4 p.m., music at 5:30 p.m. Turner Street, Old Town. micharts.org/about-bluesfest.

**New American Civic Engagement Fair** - Learn the steps to becoming a U.S. citizen and meet ESOL and citizenship test prep providers in Lansing. Noon-2 p.m. Schmidt Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

**Oktoberfest Dinner Dance** - German dinner 5-6:30 p.m., music starts at 6:30. Liederkrantz Club Lansing, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-882-6330. facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub.

**Storybook Art: A Cosmic Smashbook Journey Series** - Join Kendall Scott for three Saturdays to connect with your current story through collage and mixed media. 10 a.m.-noon. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansing-artgallery.org.

**Turtle Toast** - Enjoy a relaxing evening in nature with live music by the Further Adventures of FatBoy and JiveTurkey. Light refreshments provided. 21+. 7-10 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

**Village Crafters Home Sweet Home Craft Show** - Handmade crafts for sale, free refreshments, kids' craft area. Bring pet supply donations for Ingham County Animal Control to earn raffle tickets. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds Community Building, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. villagecrafters.net.

**“Wholly Integrated,” by Zoe Beaudry** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

**Yoga for Peace** - Bring a mat or towel. Extra mats available. 4:30-6 p.m. Peoples Yoga Studio, 1146 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

## Sunday, Sept. 17

**Chinese Tea Ceremony and Meditation** - 10:30-11:30 a.m. Erickson Hall Room 133F, 620 Farm Lane, East Lansing. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

**GLAD Drum Circle at Lake Lansing Park North** - All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

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

**Eastern Ingham Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

**Eco Sunday: Poems in the Key of Hope** - Featuring former Lansing Poet Laureate Dennis Hinrichsen. Attendees may share an ecological poem during open mic. 4-6 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing.

## Cracked Pot Studio Tour

Sept. 15-17  
6-10 p.m. Friday  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
Multiple venues



The annual Cracked Pot Studio Tour is a celebration of clay art and the artists behind it. This year, potters from all over the state will present their work at 10 different studios throughout Greater Lansing for attendees to admire and purchase. The entire event is free and open to the public.

The weekend begins with the Cracked Pot Throw Down, running 6 to 10 p.m. Friday (Sept. 15) at 5413 Meridian Road in Haslett, where 15 artists will compete in five unconventional pottery challenges. Light refreshments will be served, and the event will also be livestreamed at [insagram.com/cpstudiotour](https://www.instagram.com/cpstudiotour).

Saturday (Sept. 16) and Sunday (Sept. 17) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., guests can travel to the 10 different studios in Laingsburg, East Lansing, Haslett, Williamston and Mason for a host of pottery displays and demonstrations, plus chances to meet a variety of Michigan potters. For a list of locations and information about each of the artists presenting, visit [crackedpotstudiotour.com](https://www.crackedpotstudiotour.com).

Lansing. [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](https://www.peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

**International Red Panda Day Celebration** - Activities such as children's crafts, a scavenger hunt and animal enrichments. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. [potterparkzoo.org](https://www.potterparkzoo.org).

**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](mailto:mikemarhanka@gmail.com).

**Laingsburg Outdoor Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Roosevelt Row, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. [laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1](https://www.laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1).

**Native Plant Sale** - Perennial wildflowers, grasses and sedges and 1-gallon native trees and shrubs available for purchase. Noon-4 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. [wildoneslansing.org](https://www.wildoneslansing.org).

**Overview of Unity's Five Basic Principles, with Danielle McMahon** - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. [unitylansing.org](https://www.unitylansing.org).

**Sermon on Peace by Pastor Dillon Burns** - 10 a.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](https://www.peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

**SPARTan Wellness: Sharpie Tie-Dye** - Use Sharpies to tie-dye pencil cases! Feel free to bring your own supplies (like a T-shirt or pillowcase). Registration encouraged. 2-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://www.broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Unity's Monthly Euchre and Games Day** - Self-organizing event. Potluck snacks. Bring your favorite board game. Noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. [unitylansing.org](https://www.unitylansing.org).

## Monday, Sept. 18

**Ballet II Class for kids** - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://www.ruhalacenter.com).

**Beginning Knitting Workshop** - All ages welcome. Supplies provided. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](https://www.charlottelibrary.org).

**Beginning West Coast Swing Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. [sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club](https://www.sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club).

**Culver's Donate While You Dine Fundraiser for UNICEF** - All funds raised will be 5x matched. 5-9 p.m. Culver's, 5140 Times Square Drive, Okemos. [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](https://www.peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

**“Fitness Over 50” Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](https://www.meridian50plus.com).

**Gloss Mondays Open-Floor Drag Show** - Aspiring drag performers showcase their talent. 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](https://www.urbanbeatevents.com).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Improv Acting Class** - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://www.ruhalacenter.com).

**Jazz Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://www.ruhalacenter.com).

**Jump Into Reading** - Stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Intended for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](https://www.eradl.org).

**“Letting Go,” by David Hawkins: Book Study with Lucille Olson** - 1:30 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://www.unitylansing.org).

**Meet the Author: “Jan’s Journey”** - Meet Bill Blanchard as he presents the compelling true story of his new book, “Jan’s Journey.” Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](https://www.gladl.org).

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://www.ruhalacenter.com).

## Tuesday, Sept. 19

**“Achieving Educational Equity: How Research Drives Educational Improvement in Michigan” Panel Discussion** - Featuring researchers from the MSU Education Policy Innovative Collaborative. 7-9 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. [stewart3743@gmail.com](mailto:stewart3743@gmail.com).

**Acting 101 Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://www.ruhalacenter.com).

**Acting Ensemble Class** - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://www.ruhalacenter.com).

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 29

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 29

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5	9	8	4	6	2	1	7	3
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1	6	2	3	9	7	4	8	5
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# FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

## A taste of the South right here in Lansing

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

This week, I thought I would step out of my comfort zone and try a type of cuisine I haven't had much experience with, so I made my way to Okemos to visit Social Sloth Cafe & Catering for its Turkish offerings. However, upon arrival, the restaurant was empty and dark, and there was a piece of paper taped to the door noting new hours.

I was ravenous, so I decided to patronize another nearby restaurant instead: Saddleback BBQ. I'd previously only eaten chicken wings from Saddleback and pizza from Slice by Saddleback, so I was excited to dig in and see how the food stood up to other barbecue dishes I've tried.

I decided on the Sandwich & Two Sides combo, which was a bit out of my price range at \$16.49, but after feeling the weight of the hearty portion sizes in my stomach

and tasting just how delicious everything was, I think it's a fair price point.

I went with a pulled-chicken sandwich, mac and cheese and mashed sweet potatoes. I would have preferred the pulled pork, but it was sold out by my 7 p.m. dining time. The chicken was a bit dry, which wasn't surprising since it's hard to get the texture of white-meat chicken just right, but any qualms I had about that went out the window once I drizzled the barbecue sauces over the sandwich.



**Sandwich & Two Sides**  
\$16.49

Saddleback BBQ  
Multiple locations — visit [saddlebackbbq.com](http://saddlebackbbq.com) for locations, hours and phone numbers

I tried two sauces, Sweet and Savory and Spicy Vinegar. The former was very sweet but still had the classic barbecue flavor, and the latter was a mild-to-medium spice level and very vin-

egary, something I can always appreciate. If you're not a big vinegar fan, don't go with the Spicy Vinegar. Both sauces

were incredibly runny, which I'm not used to, but they covered and hydrated the meat well.

The sandwich bun was large and fluffy, keeping all the ingredients tucked away inside, and since the sauce was served on the side, it wasn't soggy at all. I also have to note the cole slaw, which had just the right amount of mayo and provided a satisfying crunch with every bite.

Now let's move on to the sides. The mac and cheese noodles were cooked to the perfect consistency — soft but not falling apart — and the cheese sauce was creamy, warm and plentiful, drowning all the noodles in its richness. The cheese sauce could have used more salt or the addition of a saltier cheese, in my opinion, but when cheese is included, I'll eat just about anything.

The mashed sweet potatoes almost tasted like a deconstructed pumpkin pie. It would be a perfect side to order in the fall or winter for a warm hug of



Nicole Noechel/City Pulse

Saddleback BBQ's portion sizes are hefty, but it would take a strong will to keep from devouring every delicious bite in one sitting.

sweet, rich seasonal flavor, and you don't even have to do any chewing, which is always a bonus.

After finishing my meal, I loudly exclaimed to my boyfriend that I would definitely eat at Saddleback again, and I meant it. The large portion sizes, bold flavors and obvious love cooked into the food made me feel like I was transported to the South in the best way possible, a brief reprieve I'll be looking for when the cold weather rears its ugly head.

### TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2022 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

#### TOP 5 MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANTS

##### 1. Zaytoon Mediterranean

Counter-service restaurant serving shawarma, falafel and other Mediterranean staples  
940 Elmwood Road, Lansing  
517-203-5728  
[facebook.com/ZaytoonLansing](http://facebook.com/ZaytoonLansing)  
11 am.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

##### 2. Woody's Oasis

Quick-service Mediterranean joint with classic eats and vegetarian options in a casual space  
1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing  
517-351-2280

[woodysoasis.com](http://woodysoasis.com)  
11 a.m.-7:45 p.m. daily

##### 3. Choupli Wood-Fired Kabob

Casual eatery serving wood-fired kebabs made with chicken, beef, veggies or halloumi cheese  
4411 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
517-708-0404  
[facebook.com/choupli](http://facebook.com/choupli)  
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday

##### 4. Sultan's Restaurant

Roomy eatery offering Middle Eastern dishes and lots of vegetarian options in an open, bright space  
1381 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
517-333-4444  
[sultansmediterranean.com](http://sultansmediterranean.com)  
11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday  
3-7 p.m. Sunday

##### 5. Jerusalem Bakery

Middle Eastern deli, groceries and pastries  
1456 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
517-485-9975  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

**Make sure to vote for your favorite restaurants in Top of the Town 2023!**

**Welcome Back to The Airport Tavern!**

Home of the World Famous Sizzler

Buy one entree Get

# \$5 OFF

Second Entree of equal or lesser value

Valid Monday-Thursday Only. Dine-In Only. Valid with coupon Only. Void if reproduced. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 9/30/2023.

Thank you for voting us #1 in PRIME RIB!

5000 N. Grand River  
(517) 321-3852

# Great Depression food to take away your blues

By ARI LEVAUX

I somehow made it through childhood with minimal exposure to what I now realize was a cherished part of many growth spurts: grilled cheese and tomato soup.

This iconic lunch combo, as American as a burger, wasn't in my parents' cooking rotation. And forget about school lunch. It only took a sloppy Joe or two and one of those reddish, dry slabs they shamelessly called "pizza" to teach me the importance of packing a lunch. I remember being dimly aware that the school-lunch eaters sometimes had grilled cheese and tomato soup, but I was never intrigued.

Not that I could have learned at school the joy of biting into the glistening edge of a dunked grilled cheese, at once crusty and soggy, dry and wet, acidic and fatty, melty and cheesy. But I can now see how for many, this dish was eye-opening.

It's also a hearty meal, a complete source of protein and vitamin C, which is why during the Great Depression, school cafeterias stockpiled cans of tomato soup and grilled cheese materials. I knew none of this until a Los Angeles-based client reached out, asking if I would investigate a certain Depression-era meal from southwest Montana.

"My Grandma Fay, who lived in the Bitterroot Valley, used to prepare tomato toast, which was basically a piece of toast smothered with a creamy tomato sauce. She probably used real cream back in the day, topped with a cooked egg if you had them."

I never did track down Grandma Fay's recipe, but the research process — and the keywords involved — occa-

sionally brought me to corners of the web occupied by crusty grilled cheese sandwiches and smooth, tangy tomato soup.

The archetypes and keywords were on my mind when Chad Dundas, a friend of the column and noted novelist, Tweeted despairingly, "Perhaps my biggest disappointment as a father so far is my children's unwillingness to recognize the splendor of pairing grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup. They could take or leave it, and I'm considering petitioning for a DNA test."

Dundas might not have been Grandma Fay, but I knew I needed this man of letters as my guide like Dante needed Virgil. He wasn't looking for angles to improve upon perfection. The soup was Campbell's. The bread was white. The cheese

was American. I brought those ingredients home, and the next thing I knew, I was making the combo for my kids, who all wolfed it down like it was their first taste of food. Soon my kids' hungry friends were over, also wanting food. When the dust settled, I had stuffed six little bellies for about \$7.

That night, feeling deviant, I texted Dundas.

"Have you added any special ingredients in the intervening years of single and family living? Any secret sauce you bust out when everyone is asleep and you need some midnight power?" I asked.

He didn't text back, and I felt awkward.

Left to my own devices, and in honor of Grandma Fay's tomato toast, I worked on cooking an egg in the middle of the grilled cheese, which turned out to be pretty tasty, like a cheesy egg-

in-a-nest. Then I turned my attention to the soup.

The Campbell's label suggests mixing the contents with a can of milk or water, which, if done right, also salvages whatever soup clings to the can — an important Depression-era trick. But I found milk dulled the tomatoey sharpness, which lessened the dramatic contrast between soup and sandwich. The soup already has bread mixed in, which adds a certain bisque-like creaminess, even without cream.

If you have serious soup eaters, that can of water is the way to go, but I kept finding leftover soup after the sandwiches were long gone. Now I leave it thick, with added garlic, black pepper and hot sauce.

Finally, Dundas got back to me after giving it some thought. He suggested perhaps making a second sandwich.

## Grilled cheese and egg sandwich

This time of year, when heirloom tomatoes taste like soup and are so ripe you can suck the juice out of them like a spider feasting on a hornet, consider using fresh tomatoes in the sandwich.

1 14-ounce can of Campbell's tomato soup

4 tablespoons olive oil

½ teaspoon black pepper

1 large clove of garlic, pressed, mashed or minced

2 pieces of sliced bread, preferably white

The equivalent of two Kraft Singles worth of cheese, preferably cut from a finer, if similarly-hued, block of cheese

1 egg

Optional: hot sauce

In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, heat



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Grilled cheese and tomato soup is an iconic and cost-effective lunch combo. Consider elevating this classic dish by cooking an egg in the center of the sandwich.

It was a bit too little and a bit too late. But hey, Virgil only brought Dante within sight of the summit.

two tablespoons of oil on medium. When the oil is hot, add the garlic and pepper. After about a minute of fragrant stir-frying, add the soup to the sizzling garlic oil, mixing it quickly. After a minute, turn off the heat and make the sandwich.

Add a tablespoon of oil to a heavy-bottomed pan preheated to medium. Swish a piece of bread around the pan like you're mopping up gravy, then add the cheese. Make a frame with your thin rectangles of cheese around the edge of the bread and crack the egg in the middle. Add the second piece of bread. Pour the last tablespoon of olive oil onto the top of the upper slice. When you smell the bottom start to burn, flip the sandwich and cook the same amount of time on the other side. Allow it to cool to a safe temperature and slice it corner to corner.

## Events

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**Effervescent Bath-Ball-Making Workshop** - 5-6:30 p.m. Buff City Soap, 3490 Okemos Road, Okemos. [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](http://peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

**FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food: Blended Training Course Part II** - 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU Food Processing and Innovation Center, 3361 Hulett Road, Okemos. 517-580-3404. [events.anr.msu.edu/fspcapart22023](http://events.anr.msu.edu/fspcapart22023).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Intermediate Ballet Class** - 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Intro to Acting/Improv for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road,

East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**LAGE Game Night East** - Variety of board games, card games, dice games, cooperative games and strategy games. Bring your own or play games other people bring. All skill levels welcome. 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. [meetup.com/lansing/events](http://meetup.com/lansing/events).

**LAGE Game Night West** - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. [meetup.com/lansing/events](http://meetup.com/lansing/events).

**Level I Dance Class** - Introduction to theater dance using ballet, tap and jazz. Ages 5-8. 4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Living with Arthritis: Options & Strategies** - Learn how NovaCare can help with hand pain and arthritis. Resources from the Arthritis Foundation of Michigan also available. Registration req. 3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [glad.org](http://glad.org).

See Events, Page 35

## Appetizers

WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED?  
CALL 517-999-5064



**El Oasis**  
2501 E. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing  
(517) 648-7693  
[eloasisfood.com](http://eloasisfood.com)

**TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS.**  
Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.



**Meat Southern BBQ**  
1224 Turner Rd.  
Lansing  
(517) 580-4400  
[meatbbq.com](http://meatbbq.com)

**WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ.**  
Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too.

# Events

from page 34

**North of Five at Cleats Bar & Grille** - 6 p.m. 5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. 517-574-4008. cleatsbarandgrille.com.

**Organic Yoga with Maja McKeever** - 6 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

## Wednesday, Sept. 20

**"A Course of Love" Book Study, Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

**Anti-Violence Initiative** - Seven-week program for teens ages who have faced violence or bullying due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. 4-5:30 p.m. Salus Center, 408 S. Washington Square, Lansing. saluscenter.org/programs/calendar.

### BTBL Library Services for Print Disabilities

- Learn how individuals who can't comfortably read print materials can access thousands of audio and Braille books through the Braille and Talking Book Library. Registration req. 1 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. 517-669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

**Cars & Cones** - Bring your classic car, grab a coney dog and enjoy the company of others who love cars. Drivers (plus one passenger) receive free admission for the evening. 5:30-8 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-372-0529. reoldsmuseum.org.

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

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Friends of the Lansing Regional Trails Annual Meeting** - Presentations on regional trail projects, both current and upcoming. 5:30 p.m. Grand Trunk Railroad Depot, 1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lansingtrails.org.

**Improv Acting Class** - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

## THE PULSIFIEDS

### Senior Software Development Engineer In TEST (Sr.SDET)

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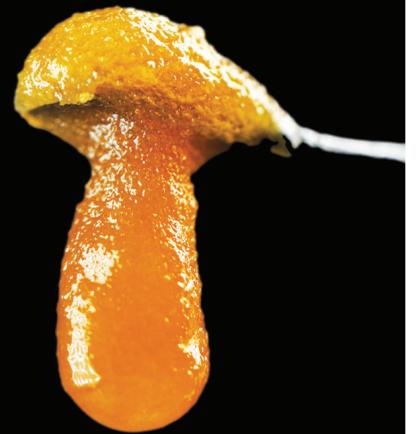
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