

FREE

# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

[www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

January 16 - 22, 2019



## KING IN LANSING

See page 10

*Journey to the past.*

# ANASTASIA

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
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FOR PERFORMING ARTS



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**ON EXHIBIT IN THE  
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**CURATED BY:**

**JULIAN C. CHAMBLISS**  
Professor, MSU Departments  
of English and History



**ZACK KRUSE**

Ph.D. Candidate,  
MSU Dept. of English

This exhibit is supported in part by:  
Bruce & Lynn Edwards,  
Walter & Kathy Esselman, and Terry Malone.



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wsg  
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**Sunday, Feb 10**  
Matthew Byrne, 7pm  
*from Newfoundland, a stellar interpreter of traditional songs*



**Friday, Feb. 15**  
John Gorka



**Friday, Feb. 22**  
The Seamus Egan Project  
*featuring vocalist Moira Smiley*



**Friday, March 1**  
Strangers in the Night:  
The Bands of Elderly Instruments



**Friday, March 8**  
Concert & Pub Sing @ The AMP  
*7:30 pm Finvarra's Wren*  
*9 pm Pub Sing with Sally Potter*



**Friday, March 15**  
The Outside Track  
*Scots, Irish, and Cape Breton fusion of songs, tunes and step dance*



**Friday, March 22**  
Crys Matthews  
*songs of our times*

**All concerts begin at 7:30pm**



**Friday, April 5**  
Twin Bill of Old-Time Duos:  
The Matchsellers & Red Tail Ring



**Friday, April 12**  
Sweet Water Warblers  
*May Erlewine, Rachael Davis, Lindsay Lou*



**Friday, April 26**  
Pete Seeger's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration  
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ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE  
CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids marked **S/19/069, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing Mi. 48912 until but no later than, **1:00 PM**, local time in effect **WED. Feb. 13, 2019**  
Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson, Buyer, at (517) 702-6197 or email: stephanie.robinson@bwl.com - 30day notice.

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. FEB 13, 2019**, as follows:  
Shroyer's, 2740 Eaton Rapids Rd, Lansing Mi. 48911 8:30am  
PJ Towing, 1425 Rensen St. Lansing MI 48910 10:00 am  
Northside Towing, 226 Russell, Lansing, MI 48906 10:45 am

Auction AD Report

NORTHSIDE	
2008	TOYOTA
2011	FORD
2018	TOYOTA
2011	FORD
2010	FORD
2013	CHEV
2016	CHEV
2012	CHEV
2010	DODGE
2016	NISSAN
2004	NISSAN
2015	GMC
PJ	
1999	GMC
2007	CHRYSLER
2007	CHEV
SHROYERS	
2006	BUICK
2011	FORD
2013	TOYOTA
1999	MERCEDES
1994	JEEP
2007	DODGE
2012	CHEV
2004	BMW

CP#19-010

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**PAGE  
13**

MSU Jazz celebrates MLK and Aretha Franklin



**PAGE  
18**

Comedy comes to Lansing



**PAGE  
22**

The best ramen you've never tried



**Cover  
Art**

Courtesy Gary Boynton

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**NOW AT 10:00 A.M.  
SUNDAYS on**



## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**LIFE IN THE STUPIDVERSE: GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN EDITION**  
**EXTREMELY PERSUASIVE ARGUMENTS**  
IF DEMOCRATS HATE WALLS SO MUCH--WHY DO THEY LIVE IN HOUSES?  
HAHA! GOTCHA, LIBTARDS!

**NO PUPPET, NO PUPPET, YOU'RE THE PUPPET**  
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CAVE TO THE DEMS LIKE SOME KIND OF WEAK LOSER, ARE YOU? ARE YOU?!!  
N-N-NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!  
PLEASE DON'T CRITICIZE ME.

**THE WISDOM OF THE NEUTRAL ARBITERS**  
PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS THROWN THE COUNTRY INTO CHAOS WITH HIS IMPULSIVE, IRRATIONAL DEMANDS!  
DEMOCRATS COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS BY GIVING HIM EVERYTHING HE WANTED!  
FACT CHECK: BOTH SIDES ARE TO BLAME!

**HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS**  
FEDERAL WORKERS WHO AREN'T GETTING PAID SHOULD HAVE GARAGE SALES! OR MAYBE SELL THEIR ORGANS ON THE BLACK MARKET!  
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST ASK THEIR RICH FATHERS TO BAIL THEM OUT?  
GOOD POINT, SIR.

**NIHILIST NATION**  
HA HA, THE PRESIDENT IS A DERANGED SOCIO-PATH AND THE COUNTRY IS TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF FASCISM!  
WE'RE ALL DOOMED, HA HA HA!  
LOL, NOTHING MATTERS!

**A CHAMPION EMERGES**  
I WILL SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S AGENDA, BUT IN A VERY DIS-APPROVING MANNER!  
WELCOME TO THE RESISTANCE, MITT ROMNEY!  
THANK YOU, JEFF FLAKE!

**A MODEST PROPOSAL**  
SIR, WE SOLVED THE BORDER PROBLEM WITH AN INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD! AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS VIDEO OF AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT TRYING TO GET THROUGH, IT'S IMPENETRABLE!  
ANOTHER WIN FOR "TRUMP"!

**NEXT: SOMETHING EVEN DUMBER**  
NOW I WANT A ROOF OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, TO PROTECT US FROM ILLEGAL SPACE ALIENS!  
THAT SHOULD KEEP MUELLER OUT OF THE NEWS!  
AND, UH, KEEP AMERICA SAFE.  
SIR.

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TOM TOMORROW © 2019



## Who saves cash in court consolidation?

### Survey: Residents already satisfied with courts

Elected leaders are on a ticking clock: Craft a plan to consolidate Ingham County's three district court systems into one by November or abandon the lame-duck state legislation that makes the deal legally possible.

The bill makes no promises; it only creates an option for officials in Lansing, East Lansing and Mason to try to save cash and gain some key operational efficiencies by merging courts.

But as officials prepare to come to the table, the potential for cost savings isn't necessarily clear. And results from a recent survey indicate most people are already satisfied with their courtroom business regardless — giving local courts high marks for efficiency, accessibility and treatment of the public in terms of fairness and respect.

"It would be hard to say if it would be financially beneficial unless we had a firm plan to go with it, in terms of access and location," explained East Lansing City Manager George Lahanas. "Once we have something specific to look at, it'd be useful to have some expertise to look at the preliminary estimates. This is a big decision for us."

Early proposals suggested the 54A District Court in Lansing could combine cases with the 54B District Court in East Lansing while the 55th District Court remains in Mason. The idea would be to find staffing efficiencies and accumulate collective savings over the next decade as the judicial system shrivels from three courtrooms to two.

Another iteration would keep the judiciary divided into three courtrooms but still cut costs through a more evenly distributed workload, with fewer employees for the same tasks. One less building would conceptually save more cash, but the savings could also be offset by construction costs for a new, shared courtroom facility.

"I don't think it's possible to estimate any specific cost savings at this point," said Michael Dillon, 55th District Court administrator. "We just don't have a final plan where we can attach some firm costs. It's just estimates."

A county report suggested 11 to 14 (mostly clerical) positions could be phased out, trimming annual personnel costs by \$750,000 to \$1 million. But cumulatively, local governments still subsidize the three courtrooms to the tune of about \$2.2 million annually. Some, like the 54A District Court in Lansing, cost more than others.

The report indicates Lansing spends about \$1.8 million annually to operate its courtroom. Ingham County floats the 55th District Court by about \$886,000 annually. East Lansing actually turns a profit on operations at the 54B District Court, generating about \$460,000 in annual revenue, according to the county-created report.

All options remained on the table this week. But opportunity can also lead to continued uncertainty.

*"I was able to get my court business done in a reasonable amount of time today."*

**What portion of survey respondents agree or strongly agree with that statement?**

#### 2015

54A - 88%

54B - 79%

55 - 76%



54A District Court

#### 2016

54A - 90%

54B - 81%

55 - 74%



54B District Court

#### 2018

54A - 77%

54B - 83%

55 - 87%



55 District Court

Source: State Court Administrative Office

Ingham County officials aren't sure courtroom consolidation would save them any money at all. East Lansing officials — who are already generating surplus revenue through the 54B District Court — haven't yet formed an opinion. They plan to launch a financial audit later this year with the help of a third-party accounting firm.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor spots savings and an opportunity to push forward with long-stalled plans for a new city hall. The administration of Virg Bernero, whom Schor replaced in 2018, accepted a proposal from Chicago developer Beitler Real Estate to turn the existing building into a luxury hotel after the city moved to the old Lansing State Journal downtown building. However, those plans did not accommodate 54A District Court or the Police Department's lockup. That prompted Schor to put those plans on hold. Meanwhile, consolidation discussions continued.

Schor lifted the moratorium, though, after Michigan State University rejected the possibility of selling prop-

See Courts, Page 6



### East Lansing

John Kloswick of East Lansing was the first person to correctly identify the Nov. 28 Eye for Design (below) as "a fairly recent upper-story addition to MSU's International Center," adding, "I think these windows go well with the narrower windows underneath." Perhaps the architect was offering a tongue in cheek version of a keystone — one that incongruously bears little weight of the wall above it.

The carved stone detail above may be found in East Lansing. The first person to correctly identify the location of the detail will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to [daniel@eastarbor.com](mailto:daniel@eastarbor.com) by Jan. 23.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



"Eye for Design" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS  
FY2019, 7/1/2019 – 6/30/20**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: LANSING PLANNING BOARD

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING ON **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

TIME AND PLACE: **6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple Street, Lansing, MI.**

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2019 (7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020).

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at (517) 483-4063, M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2019 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2019 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity**

**PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS  
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS  
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2019 (7/1/19 – 6/30/20)  
CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of Lansing's Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low and moderate income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods.

- a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentration of poverty.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, street outreach and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low and moderate income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, sponsoring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.
- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs and citizens' awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- k. Improve the city's transportation, public facilities and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
- l. Protect and improve the city's physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
- m. Promote fair housing objectives.
- n. Provide affordable housing and economic development that benefits low and moderate

Continued on page 7

# Courts

from page 5

erty that officials had eyed as a site for a consolidated justice center.

In a change of thinking, Schor told City Pulse last week that the city is looking at the possibility of spreading out government functions among multiple buildings, with the intention of keeping the most widely used consumer services under one roof.

Potential construction blueprints could simply be adjusted to include or exclude courtrooms as a courtroom merger potentially solidifies later this year, he suggested.

He said Beitler's plan for the current City Hall remains his first choice. But he knows that Beitler — facing escalating interest rates on funding sources — could bail out before a decision is made.

As for court consolidation, Schor said, "My hope is that we have some savings, but if it were to be cost-neutral in the short-term and end up saving some more costs in the long term, that can still be good government."

"I don't expect it to be cost negative at all. There are very few scenarios where we'd move forward with this and lose money."

Even with all three facilities staying separated, consolidation offers to shift caseloads and ultimately save an inconvenient drive for the hundreds of residents in Lansing and Meridian townships who literally drive past a courtroom on the way to Mason. Those cases instead could be rerouted to East Lansing or Lansing facilities.

A recent survey conducted through the State Court Administrative Office indicates most of those who use the local courtrooms leave satisfied with the experience. Ratings have fluctuated over the last three years, but most respondents agreed that they "were able to get their court business done in a reasonable amount of time."

The percentage of those the report said are satisfied with courtroom efficiencies ranged from 77 percent in Lansing to 87 percent in Mason. East Lansing officials sent a press release indicating that 92 percent were agreeable with the timeliness of their operations, but the statistics, in reality, were much lower at 83 percent.

East Lansing spokeswoman Mikell Fray said the misleading statistics came directly from court officials without her independent review. She issued a corrected press release after City Pulse notified her of the inaccuracies. Court Administrator Nicole Evans couldn't be reached to offer an explanation.

But the question remains: If it isn't broke, why fix it?

Consolidation would also shift the eight-judge district court into county-wide elections. Lansing District Judge Hugh Clarke argued the electoral tilt would make it more difficult to elect a person of color to the bench. And Judge Andrea Larkin and Judge Richard Ball in East Lansing doubted the possibility East Lansing would save money.

"I've never understood this concept of big government being equated to good government, especially in terms of the courts," Larkin said. "We have these three branches of government. Our goal is to deliver fair and impartial justice, and we're doing that. I just don't know why we would want to turn this into a bigger bureaucracy."

Ingham County Commissioner Bryan Crenshaw said the conversation involves a regional approach to consolidate duplicative resources. He recognized Clarke's concerns about diversity on the bench; Those need to be fleshed out, he said. But he also said the concept is more about streamlining operations than reducing costs.

"It's money, but in some respects it's also about good government," added East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows. "Is it efficient to have three district courts in a single county? Is it better to centralize those administrative costs in some way? I think it's good government to take a look at this and see if we can reach an agreement."

Officials previously suggested a Michigan State University cornfield off Jolly Road could be home to a consolidated complex. Preliminary estimates suggested the three jurisdictions could share construction costs for a \$29.3 million, 113,000-square-foot complex, presumably on that cornfield. But then MSU dashed those plans, saying the timing was not right for such a sale.

County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth said the plan for that location "never got any real traction on many different fronts."

Meanwhile, court consolidation hangs in the balance.

"We want to make sure that justice is available for everybody, but it's also about the ability to save money for the cities and the county," added State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-East Lansing. "If we can find a way to make it work and save some taxpayer dollars, it's worth pursuing but there are still some obvious questions that need answers."

Visit [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com) for previous and continued coverage on district court consolidation.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**  
[kyle@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:kyle@lansingcitypulse.com)



# Rural communities reject recreational marijuana sales

## Advocates expect voter referendums to shift tide

Williamston City Councilman Kent Hall doesn't think recreational marijuana has a place in his small town.

The 72-year-old veteran has some "strong opinions" about what he called understated consequences of smoking pot. Studies show early use could hinder brain development. Hall also claimed most users have a lower IQ. And crime invariably follows the blossoming medical marijuana industry wherever it goes, he argued.

Most of the state, which voted 56 percent to 44 percent to approve Proposal 1 in November to legalize recreational marijuana legalization — simply must've gotten it wrong, Hall claimed. That apparently also goes for city of Williamston residents, who voted 1,142 for Prop 1 and 848 against — at 58-to-42 percent an even wider margin of support than the state.

"Setting up stores all around Michigan sends the wrong message that it's OK to use," he added.

Newly enacted state law can't stop cities from allowing homegrows and personal possession, but local officials can still block the commercial side of the industry within their borders. In Williamston, it was the only avenue left to protect the city's small-town charm from the stigmas associated with marijuana, officials contended.

"We just don't need it," said Williamston City Councilwoman Sandy Whelan. "We have these beautiful little mom and pop stores downtown. I just can't see these fitting in. These are not mom and pop shops. They're here for another reason. I could be totally wrong, but I'm also concerned with the type of clientele they'd bring into town."

Williamston is one of at least 77 municipalities statewide to prohibit recreational marijuana businesses. Unlike the medical side of the industry where townships and villages could opt in to the system, Proposal 1 loops them into the state regulatory structure by default. Officials instead need to opt out to avoid the industry's expansion.

State law requires the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to accept license applications by Dec. 6. And with a ticking clock, local governments are tapping the brakes on prospects of new business. In Ingham County, the city of Williamston, the village of Dansville and Ingham Township have since opted out.

Delta Township last week became the

first government in Eaton County to block retail sales among other facets of the yet-to-be established industry. Dallas, Essex and Greenbush townships in Clinton County took a similar tack. The statistics show opposition has edged close to the 109 municipalities that opted into the medical system.

"We don't have a police department and very seldom do we have issues where we'd need one," said Dansville Trustee Karen Ceccanese. "People can smoke in their houses here. We just don't want it being sold around here. We also don't need people coming here from the outside to start these businesses. This is a small town."

Others, such as Delta Township Supervisor Kenneth Fletcher, are hesitant to endorse the industry in the absence of state regulations. Officials can always reverse course later this year, although all seven of the communities to opt out in the tri-county region have yet to greenlight the medical side of the industry as well.

"It's the same reason we don't have a porn shop," Ceccanese added. "People can go somewhere else for that."

County election results show the majority of voters in each of those seven jurisdictions supported Proposal 1 in November. And industry advocates contended its passage also included an expectation of local, commercial availability. Some have raised eyebrows at local prohibitions as elected officials continue to swim against the tide.

"It's important for local representatives to pay close attention to how their constituents voted on the issue and to understand, should they go against the will of their voters, they may not be reelected," said Robin Schneider, former finance director for the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, which led the fight for legalization. "We're keeping track of votes."

Local voters, under state law, can gather signatures and eventually trigger a referendum that could overturn local prohibitions. Schneider said that maneuver would only force residents to vote twice for what they had hoped would have been accomplished with the passage of Proposal 1. But they're inevitable as bans continue, she said.

"It's absolutely disrespectful to the electorate," added Jeffrey Hank, an East Lansing attorney and pot-repreneur. "It's a clear symbol of political failure and the ability to appreciate what this country is supposed to be about: freedom. These are the politicians that failed to change the laws, just continuing to frustrate the system."

See Marijuana, Page 8

From page 6

income people in the context of mixed use development along transit corridors.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

#### **CDBG Single-family, Owner-Occupied Rehab Program/Public Improvements**

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies. Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures, funds to assist in emergency housing rehabilitation, market analysis activities and technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, contractors, and low- and moderate-income households. Includes loans and grants for owner-occupied single-family units through city sponsored programs, loans to rehabilitate historic homes in conjunction with rehabilitation of the unit, and loans or grants for ramps, hazard remediation or weatherization. Includes staff, office space, technical assistance, training and other direct project costs associated with delivery of Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant and other State and Federal Programs.

General street, sidewalk, water/sewer improvements, including assistance to income eligible owner-occupants or those in CDBG-eligible areas for special assessments related to new improvements. Includes improvements to neighborhood parks, recreational facilities; public neighborhood, medical and community facilities in CDBG priority areas.

Proposed funding amount: \$1,243,249

#### **CDBG Rental Rehab Program**

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

Proposed funding amount: \$ 10,000

#### **Acquisition**

Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation and clearance of dilapidated structures. Funds may also be used to acquire properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$1,000

#### **Public Services (limited to 15%)**

Includes services for low- and moderate-income individuals such as: homeownership counseling, education, neighborhood counseling, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 300,980

#### **Economic Development**

Loans, technical assistance and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, and façade improvement loans/grants. Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents.

Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing.

Proposed funding amount: \$50,000

#### **CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)**

Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs.

Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.

Proposed funding amount: \$401,307

**TOTAL CDBG: \$2,006,536**

### HOME

#### **Down Payment Assistance**

Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$40,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance not limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$100,000

#### **New Construction/HOME Rehab/Development Program**

Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs.

HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers,

Continued on page 8

# Marijuana

from page 7

Hall said the city is “strapped for dough” and could use some additional tax revenue — just not from allowing medical or recreational marijuana shops to open downtown.

Besides, Williamston Mayor Tammy Gillroy said local businesses don’t want dispensaries to come into town.

“Are we going against the will of the voters? Perhaps, but I’m willing to gamble that,” Hall explained. “Some things are just worth standing up for. If someone wants to challenge me on it, please, just go ahead and do it.”

Outright prohibitions on retail recreational marijuana shops would also leave

thousands of dollars in potential municipal revenue on the table. Cities and townships can charge \$5,000 for application fees to handle the regulations and collect a 15 percent share of 10 percent excise taxes on all products that pass through the market.

A Senate Fiscal Agency analysis estimated the industry will generate about \$26.9 million for local cities by 2023.

“People don’t want to rely on the illicit market to obtain their cannabis,” explained Rick Thompson, founding board member for the Michigan chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. “People are still going to have a hard time dropping the drug war hysteria, and that’s what we’re seeing now.”

Ingham Township Trustee David Harns — who is also the spokesman for LARA, which regulates marijuana for the state — said personal possession and commercial

sales aren’t necessarily intertwined through the new law. Some voters simply wanted to be able to smoke pot without the fear of arrest. Not everyone supports commercial regulation, he suggested.

Ingham Township residents voted 590 in favor and 560 against, or 51 percent to 49 percent.

“Just because a community voted to pass Proposal 1 doesn’t mean they were looking to opt into the business side of recreational marijuana,” Harns said. “They could only be interested in those personal use provisions. We just approached this in that way.” As for the possible tax revenue? “That’s not a concern for us,” Harns added.

Township Clerk Holly Speck voted with Harns to prohibit recreational marijuana sales. She didn’t know the local results of the election, but she argued the lack of police presence in the rural areas near Dansville, which votes as part of Ingham Township, made it impossible to ensure that would-be dispensaries are adequately patrolled by the county Sheriff’s Department.

“The other 40-something percent (that voted against Proposal 1) needs to have a say too,” added Dansville Clerk Cheri Michalewicz. “It’s not that everyone out here is against recreational marijuana. I just don’t know if we want to have these types of businesses in the village. We’re just concerned about what comes along with them.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI  
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

## Local leader works for state regulators

Ingham Township Trustee David Harns voted to ban recreational marijuana sales in his rural community. Not everyone there supports the business side of the industry, he said. And he might understand the market more than most. Harns is also the spokesman for Michigan’s Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The agency for years has been charged with regulating the statewide licensing process for the entire industry. “It’s actually quite easy to wear the two hats,” Harns explained. “The roles hardly ever intersect — let alone conflict. I’d say that my role as a state employee has actually allowed me to do a better job on the township board, since I have learned how different parts of government work in concert with each other.”

Harns said local, township issues like budgets, roads and emergency services have no bearing on his public relations role at the state department. But he does keep a sharp eye out for any potential conflicts that may arise. He also said he has no personal interests in any marijuana-related business ventures across the state.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

From page 7  
including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 456,376

### **CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)**

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

Proposed funding amount: \$ 119,223

### **Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating (limited to 5%)**

Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDO’s utilizing the City’s HOME funds to produce affordable housing in the community.

Proposed funding amount: \$39,741

### **HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)**

Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.

Proposed funding amount: \$79,482

**TOTAL HOME: \$794,822**

### **EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)**

#### **Street Outreach**

Street Outreach activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 5,028

#### **Homeless Prevention**

Homeless Prevention activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$50,282

#### **Administrative Activities (limited to 7.5%)**

Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 11,732

#### **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**

Funds will be provided for HMIS and comparable database costs.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 5,028

#### **Shelter Operation**

Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities and furnishings in shelter facilities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 95,535

**TOTAL ESG: \$167,605**

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Forty-Fifth Year Community Development Resources**

Administrative, management and operation costs for the above programs include the administration, management and operations of the eligible activities, **as well as other federal and state community development programs in which the city is now or may be participating.**

CP#19-012

### **NOTICE TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF CHARTER TOWNSHIP of LANSING**

#### **VACANCY ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Charter Township of Lansing is seeking a township resident to fill a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees meet every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Trustees also serve on various committees that meet throughout the year.

The current term expires November 20, 2020; if you are interested in continuing as a Township Trustee beyond that date, you will be required to follow the procedures to put your name on the ballot for the August 2020 Primary Election. You can obtain more information on the position and filing requirements from the Clerk’s office.

Interested parties must be 18 years of age, a US Citizen, and an elector of the Township. Please submit your letter of interest and resume by 5:00 p.m. Thursday, January 31, 2019 to Susan Aten, Clerk, 3209 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48917, or clerkaten@lansingtowship.org

Susan L. Aten, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#19-015

# How Heritage Hall came back to life at the Capitol

POLITICS



KYLE MELINN

The Capitol visitors project was dead.

In fall 2017, conservative lawmakers and Gov. Rick Snyder felt the \$70 million project to replace the Capitol's electrical wiring and heating and cooling system was steep enough.

Another \$85 million for a "learning center" and underground parking ramp was too much. And once the geothermal holes started being drilled into the Capitol's west lawn, the thought was that building a learning center for thousands of visiting school children was dead.

But if there's one truism in Lansing, it's this: The dead can rise again.

Gary Randall, the head of the state's Capitol Commission, spent much of his professional life under the Capitol dome as the House clerk and knew this better than anyone. Instead of burying the Heritage Hall plans, he and the commissioners worked on a scaled-down plan.

The parking ramp had to go. Yes, legislators were losing roughly 200 surface spots behind the Capitol in the renovation project. But the political optics of bonding money so legislators wouldn't have to walk outside to the Capitol were bad.

The cost had to come down. Legislators love entertaining in-district school groups. The crush of kids, parents, teachers, etc., jamming the Capitol's east entrance? Not so much.

Michigan's Capitol apparently brings in more school groups than just about anywhere. Creating area where kids and parents can learn more Michigan history had appeal.

Also, building a large meeting area would

## Eye on Slotkin

News coverage of our members of the U.S. House of Representatives tends to be shallow. That's because no local papers can afford to cover them in depth. In fact, only big-city papers with Washington bureaus cover them at all in Washington, D.C., and then only when they make big news. And coverage when they are home tends to be driven by the legislators' agendas. Often, they will be in town and the media are not even aware of it.

Hence, our new occasional web feature, "Eye on Slotkin," by Kyle Melinn. He will let you know what the 8th District's new representative, Democrat Elissa Slotkin is up to, what she is thinking on issues of national and local importance, and how she votes. Look for "Eye on Slotkin" at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com).

be a big selling point for lawmakers.

Fact: The Capitol area has no good area to hold the governor's budget presentation. Inevitably, dozens of people are locked out because neither the House Appropriations Room nor the ground floor Boji Tower room is large enough. The same holds true for big-issue committee meetings. They often spill into one or two overflow committee rooms with a video feed.

The Christman Group was asked to draw up a scaled-down, 54,000-square-foot plan with a bus friendly pull-off along Ottawa Street and an underground corridor to the Capitol building. Final price: \$55 million.

Behind the scenes, a renewed push began with the Lansing Chamber of Commerce working local Republican members. Contrary to early belief, construction could start without disturbing the geothermal holes.

Then-Sens. Rick Jones and Margaret O'Brien and then-Rep. Tom Barrett were all sold on what a boon the project would be for the area.

Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-East Lansing, was always a big fan, as was someone with the benefit of being in leadership — then-House Minority Leader Sam Singh, also an East Lansing Democrat, who never gave up

on the project. He brought it up in literally every budget meeting.

Meanwhile, Michigan's state revenue picture, for once, looked good at the end of 2018. The governor and legislative leaders had more than \$200 million to spend.

As one insider put, the governor was signing off on projects "like candy" as Snyder secured votes on an A-F grading scale, among other lame duck priorities.

Against this backdrop, Singh pushed for Heritage Hall. But even at \$55 million, the price was too steep. Lame duck's initial supplemental budget didn't include it.

As it so happened, about this time, Snyder was pushing for a constitutional amendment, SJR O, which would allow voters to steer more oil and gas royalty money to state land upkeep as opposed to land purchases. Apparently, the state was

buying up so much land that it didn't have the money to keep it up.

SJR O needed a two-thirds majority in the House. That meant it needed Democratic support. Singh linked the measure to legislation making the \$11 annual passport charge on vehicle tabs for state parks an "opt-out" as opposed to the current "opt-in." If funding parks was the issue, Singh thought, "Let's raise more money for parks."

House Speaker Tom Leonard was a "hell no." He saw an "opt out" as an unfair, subtle tax increase on unsuspecting drivers.

But Leonard was concerned the supplemental budget had become a pork-laden Christmas tree of Republican junkets. What if too few Republicans and no Democrats voted for it. Leonard asked Singh if he'd lay off SJR O and any objections to the supplemental if he'd agree to a Singh amendment to increase the bond cap \$40 million for Heritage Hall.

In this business, a half loaf was better than no loaf, and Singh signed off. Singh won the honor of sponsoring the amendment. The House and Senate approved it overwhelming. The Governor signed it into law.

If everything goes according to plan, we'll all see a new Capitol visitors' center in 2 1/2 years.

*(Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS is at [melinnky@gmail.com](mailto:melinnky@gmail.com).)*

### Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority

Notice is hereby given that the Ingham County Land Bank will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 5:30pm at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing MI 48906. The public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering the fiscal year 2019 budget. See the meeting agenda packet posted at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org) for more information, or call 517-267-5221. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

CP#19-011

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

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **February 6, 2019** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Chris Parsons and Kara (Nygren) Parsons for the property located at 1107 Daisy Lane, in the R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential, zoning district for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

*Section 50-301 – Minimum setback, principle building on a corner lot line. The minimum setback requirement is 20 feet.*

The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing single-family residential structure and build a new single-family residential structure that would be located ten feet from the east property line adjacent to Larkspur Drive.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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 should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

Dated: **January 10, 2019**  
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#19-013

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Townsend Parking Ramp between the City of Lansing and the Michigan Senate

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on January 28, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, to consider a resolution selling the parcel commonly known as Townsend Parking Ramp, specifically described as:

Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, ALSO that part of Lot 11 described as beginning at a point on the East line of Lot 11 a distance of 104.04 feet Southerly from the Northeast corner of Lot 12; thence Southerly along the East line of Lot 11 to the Southeast corner of Lot 11; thence Westerly along the South line of Lot 11 to the Southwest corner of Lot 11; thence Northerly along the West line of Lot 11 to a point on the West line of Lot 11 a distance of 104.33 feet Southerly from the Northwest corner of Lot 12; thence Easterly to the point of beginning of Block 116, of the Original Plat of the City of Lansing, according to the recorded Plat as thereof recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 36, Ingham County Records.

Details of the sale are on file with the City Clerk's Office and are available at Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. or [www.lansingmi.gov/clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk). For more information about this sale, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#19-014

# KING'S NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

## Why and when Martin Luther King Jr. came to Lansing

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

On Feb. 11, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. came to MSU to deliver a speech on education. It sounds routine, but there was no such thing as a routine speech by Martin Luther King.

The enriching root of education and its potent fruit, voter registration, were life and death matters in the segregated South. King was determined to recruit help. Although his responsibilities were multiplying by the day, he wedged MSU into a grueling schedule of meetings, speeches and sermons.

“When I picked him up at the airport, he wasn't feeling too

well,” MSU Professor Robert Green recalled. “He was tired and had a sore throat. It was the only time I ever saw him ill.”

Over 50 years later, King's sore throat was news to former Lansing Mayor David Hollister, then a teacher at Eastern High School.

Spellbound by King's oratory that day, Hollister and dozens of others volunteered to teach underserved students in the South and register people to vote. They ended up facing down KKK thugs in Mississippi that summer.

“That day changed my life,” Hollister said.

### GIANT STEPS

The speech at MSU was the last of at least three visits King made to the Lansing area. In 1954 and 1957, King came to Lansing at the request of his uncle, the Rev. Joel King, pastor of Lansing's Union Baptist Church. The 1957 speech drew thousands of people to the Lansing Center.

By 1965, King was a national force with his finger on the hour hand of history, but he still sweated the details. He came to MSU to kick off the first all student-run educational outreach program in the country — the Student Education Program, or STEP. He made the fund-raising pitch to 4,500 students, faculty and community members at the MSU Auditorium.

Green, a professor emeritus at MSU, where he was the dean of urban development, and keynote speaker at MSU's King commemoration at the Erickson Kiva Monday, remembers the day vividly.

Green drove King from the Lansing airport to his office at MSU, on the second floor of Erickson Hall, and made him hot tea with lemon.

Green had a lot of questions, but King didn't talk about himself.

“He was always turning it on you,” Green said. “He wanted to know about me, about my job, about MSU, how were they treating me. He asked about my kids.”

To his amazement, Green noticed King quicken his step, lose the cough and grow more animated on the walk from Erickson to the auditorium.

“He became invigorated, alive, and gave a great speech,” Green said. “He didn't have time to get sick.”

King didn't confine his remarks at MSU to the STEP program. Never one to shy from big themes, he urged the assembled students and faculty to adopt a “world brotherhood perspective,” denounced the notion of superior and inferior races and called for worldwide action to end seg-



Courtesy Robert Green

(Left) MSU Professor Robert Green confers with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Lansing airport Feb. 11, 1965. Green brought King to the Auditorium that day, where he spoke before 4,500 students, faculty and community members.

(Below) Robert L. Green will share his memories of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at MSU's Erickson Kiva Monday, Jan. 21. Green worked closely with King as education outreach director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

regation.

King called for new civil rights legislation and name checked MSU President John A. Hannah, who was appointed chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in 1957 by President Dwight Eisenhower.

In the wake of assaults and harassment, King urged action on the Civil Rights Commission's recommendation that federal staffers handle voter registration in the South.

Green couldn't have refused King's call even if he had wanted to. He got the OK from Hannah to take a leave to work for King from 1965 to 1967 as educational outreach director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Working for King wasn't a cubicle job. In tense times, Green helped King organize the 1966 March against Fear in Mississippi.

His time with King was an eye-opener.

“He was so adamant about not being afraid to die,” Green said.

In Green's book, “At the Crossroads of Fear and Freedom,” he recalled driving in the South with King, his confidant Andrew Young and three other associates. When they stopped at a red light, a white gas station attendant recognized King in the front seat.

The man walked up to the car, pulled out a gun and held it to King's head.

“I love you,” King replied calmly.

The would-be assailant walked away.

It took years for Green to wrap his head around King's surreal serenity.

“Listen to his old sermons,” Green said. “There are a lot of them on line. King always talked about death. It was his way of purging himself of fear.”

When traveling, Green and King's other associates begged him to sit in the back of the car, flanked by aides, but King resisted.

“He said, ‘You guys can't protect me. John Kennedy had the Army, the Air Force and the Secret Service, and they got him. I don't have all that. When they're ready for me they're

going to get me, and I'm prepared to die.”

King teased his friends and associates about their solicitude.

“He would say, ‘You guys are so worried about me getting shot. One day, someone will shoot at me and miss and hit one of you,’” Green recalled. “And he started giving a mock eulogy for his ‘good friends.’”

### ‘I'M SIGNING UP’

On the day King came to MSU, an unknown MSU student changed David Hollister's life by handing him a flier.

The former Lansing mayor, then a teacher at Eastern High School in Lansing, made his way to the MSU campus to hear King.

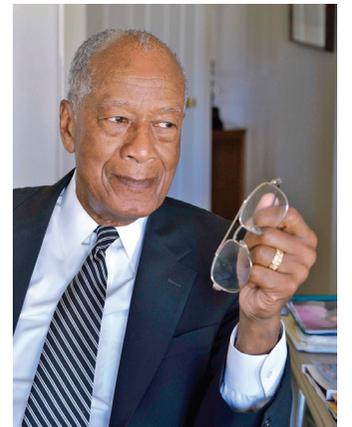
“I was mesmerized,” Hollister said. “I could tell he was speaking extemporaneously.”

Hollister was so moved by the speech that he rushed to get near the rear exit to meet King when it was over.

“I shook his hand, looked in his eye and said, ‘I'm signing up,’” Hollister said. “I didn't realize what that would mean, but it was a brief encounter, less than a minute.”

Hollister spent the summers of 1966 and 1968 teaching math, history and government at underserved schools in Mississippi, for no pay.

“Oh my God, it was life-changing,” Hollister said. “You can read all you want to about segregation, but we were harassed by the Klan and supporters trying to terrify both the volunteers and the students. That experience fundamentally impacted everything I did in 50 years of public service.”



# King

from page 10

## BURNING MESSAGE

Martin Luther King Jr. was a young Ph.D. student in theology at Boston University when his uncle first invited him to speak at Lansing's Union Baptist Church on Jan. 3, 1954.

Joel King, the younger brother of Martin Luther King Sr., was pastor of Union Baptist — now Union Missionary Baptist Church — in southwest Lansing for eight years in the 1950s. The old church building, at the corner of Logan (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard) and St. Joseph streets, is no longer standing. Joel King also ran, unsuccessfully, for the Lansing City Council.

Starting with this comparatively low-key appearance, King's three Lansing visits would climb sharply in urgency and scale.

"Nothing so eventful on that day — other than the climax of a rally for beautifying the interior of the church," Joel King wrote in his invitation to Martin Luther and Coretta King.

The 1954 visit was put off until the first Sunday in March, when Joel King made a more urgent request in a second letter. "I am asking that you would accept the engagement, as it would mean much to you and me," he wrote. "Remember that this is a cross section of Negro and White. Usually the message is from one half hour to one hour long. Would like for you to bring them a burning message, centering around some of our present-day problems."

King spoke March 7 at the morning service. That day, King was also scheduled to address the Lansing branch of the NAACP. The church has no record of the text of King's speech, but church member LaVerne Wilson is compiling a history of King's ties to Union Baptist, Joel King and Lansing.

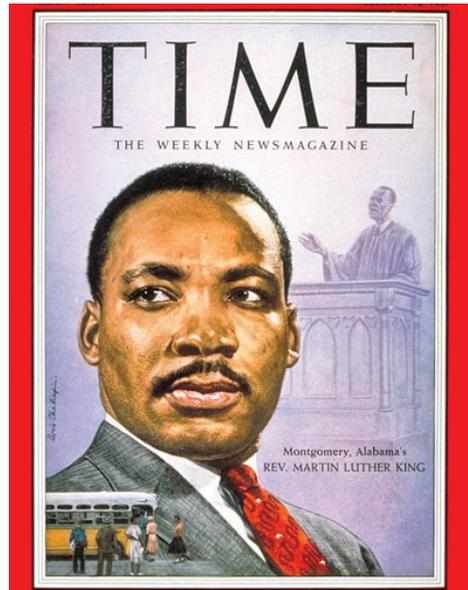
"I found it amazing that King has all these ties to Lansing, and yet it's hardly known or talked about," Wilson said. "The Martin Luther King luncheon is in its 34th year, but I don't know how many people realize there's more history of Martin Luther King in Lansing."

By 1957, King's stature in the moral, spiritual and political life of the nation had grown considerably. In May of that year, King would deliver his first national address, "Give Us The Ballot," at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom in Washington, D.C.

This time, Joel King had a bigger forum in mind for his nephew. "I feel it's time for you to come to us," he wrote Martin and Coretta King from Lansing. "People of all races are continually asking about your coming. I would like to make this one of the finest programs that they have had at this huge new Civic Center Auditorium."

## ATOMIC CANNON

On Feb. 17, 1957, King spoke to over 3,000 people at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium of the 2-year-old Lansing Civic Center, urging



The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. appeared on the cover of Time Magazine Feb. 18, 1957, a day after he spoke to over 3,000 people at Lansing's Civic Center.

a vigorous but peaceful fight against segregation. His national profile was in the ascendant. The next day, his face would appear on the cover of Time Magazine. Three days earlier, King became head of the Southern Leaders Conference, later the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Donations at the Lansing speech went to the victims of racially motivated bombings of homes and churches that had recently wracked the South, including the bombing of the home of the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth in Birmingham, Alabama, the previous December.

King gave the Lansing audience a vivid description of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott that made national news two months earlier.

"They decided it was more honorable to walk in pride than ride in humiliation," he told the group. "They substituted tired feet for tired souls."

Headlines from Hungary were dominating the news at the time. The previous November, Soviet troops crushed a student-led revolution in Hungary, killing thousands and sending hundreds of thousands into exile.

King knew that Americans were riveted by events in the Eastern bloc and watched with horror as the tanks rolled into Budapest. He admonished the crowd to remember the plight of their own African-American brothers and sisters at home.

"If the United States is to be a first-class nation, it can no longer have second-class citizens," King declared. "It is a puzzle to us why the government of this nation cries out against Communist oppression and not against oppression of people here at home."

Michigan Gov. G. Mennen Williams, a strong advocate for civil rights and racial equality, attended the speech with his wife. King said Americans would make a "great move" if they elected Williams president.

When King was finished, Joel King invited Williams to speak. The bow-tied governor pleaded that his oratory, compared to King's,



Courtesy Gary Boynton

Children of all ages gather for a march in Lansing on April 8, 1968, four days after King was assassinated in Memphis.

would come off like a "pop gun compared to an atomic cannon."

## EVERGREEN WORDS

Every year, when the King holiday comes around, people find the question irresistible: What would King be saying today?

The question is tragically easy to answer. Chances are, anything King said 50, 60, or 70 years ago is doubly or triply relevant now. Consider this snippet from an editorial King wrote in the Morehouse College student newspaper — in 1947.

"At this point, I often wonder whether or not education is fulfilling its purpose," King wrote. "Education must enable one to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction."

Robert Green heard King say such things first hand.

"There's a lot of unreal stuff being said today," Green said. "King would have been in the forefront now of challenging the many untruths that are being spread around the country, especially about poor people, about immigrants."

King also hammered at the need for early childhood education.

"That's a big deal today," Green said, "but he talked about it 50 years ago — making sure kids can read and process information."

While in Lansing, King talked to Green about lynchings and beatings of black men who were organizing voter registration in the South. In 1965, King was preparing to

lobby President Lyndon Johnson to sign voting rights legislation.

Green said King would have been "very upset" with recent attempts to erode voting rights in several states, and would have denounced 11th-hour legislation in Wisconsin and Michigan aimed at restricting the powers of incoming Democratic officeholders.

"If he were alive today, he would call together black, white, Hispanic, Native American leaders, like he did for the poor people's march, and say, 'This is wrong,'" Green said.

In Green's view, recent protests by student and professional athletes like Colin Kaepernick would also have gotten King's attention.

"Dr. King admired Muhammad Ali because he spoke out on human rights issues and denounced the Vietnam War," Green said. "He admired Ali because he was fearless inside and outside the ring. He would have been 1000 percent behind Colin Kaepernick. He would have respected him, met with him, encouraged him and supported him."

The list goes on and on. It's so hard to keep up with Martin Luther King, even today, that it would almost be dispiriting, were not King so good at lifting them back up.

"I constantly think about him," Green said. "I feel that he's there. He used to quote William Cullen Bryant a lot: 'Truth crushed to Earth will rise again.'"

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# 'HE NEVER GAVE UP'

## Former Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder honors King in Lansing

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The gentlemanly voice of former Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder seems out of touch with the screamers and shouters of today's politics. Or is it? Wilder, 87, has some timely life lessons to share, as the first African-American elected governor of an American state (he served from 1990 to

### Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Luncheon

L. Douglas Wilder, keynote speaker  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Mon., Jan. 21  
Lansing Center  
Tickets are \$50 and are available at Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., and East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd. (517) 410-2998

African-Americans were banned from Virginia law schools. He comes to Lansing Monday to give the keynote address at the Lansing Center's annual Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday luncheon.

The title of his speech is "Be the Change You Wish to See in the World."

### Many young people are terrified of getting into politics because it seems so dysfunctional and toxic.

I don't blame them. However, you cannot complain about anything unless you're willing to take a shot. The first advent of Africans to these shores was in 1619. In 2019 we're celebrating 400 years, and yet it's not a real celebration. We've had to go through any number of things. Has there been improvement? Yes. Can there be more? Yes. You can be a part of it.

### How did you muster the confidence to run for state Senate and governor in a state that was overwhelmingly white?

I really got it at home, from my mother, who was a very bright lady. She used to say, 'It doesn't matter where you are today. Work and dream to better yourself tomorrow.' My father's parents were slaves. He never wanted to talk about it. It pained him to talk about it. And yet he had a brother two years older who went to medical school and became a doctor. His parents were slaves! So I said, 'If he can do that, good Lord, these are not barriers to me.'

Virginia has the smallest concentration of people of color in the South, about 14 percent when I ran for governor. That meant I had to go and let people know what my positions were.

Americans want to move ahead. There are some who benefit by the divide, and

that's what we've got to guard against. I never thought the divide applied to me. I thought I could be anything I chose to be.

**You succeeded in signing gun legislation in the home state of the NRA. (Virginia's "one gun a month" law stayed in effect for 20 years before being repealed in 2012.)**

**Why is it so hard to pass gun legislation today, even after so many mass shootings?**

People misunderstand gun legislation. You're not trying to stop people from owning guns. But how many guns do you need? It's a money thing. You and I know that. We need to decide — do we want to go back to the West days when everyone has a side-arm strapped on? That's not going to work. Sensible legislation is always needed.

**With the rise of highly partisan news outlets and other changes in the political landscape, would you still get into the public arena if you were 40 or 50 years younger?**

I think so, and I hate to say that. You'd think that by this time, I'd have some sense. But I've enjoyed being in the public arena. I've learned that if you make your case, if you have a case, people will listen.

I was the only person of color in the Virginia state Senate when I was elected in 1969. I introduced a bill to have a holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King. It took me eight years to get it done. I'd get it passed in the Senate and the House would kill it. I'd get it passed in both the Senate and the House and the governor would veto it. I went through that whole process twice and two governors vetoed it. But eventually, I was able to get Virginia to become the first state that had a legislative holiday for Dr. King, even before the federal government. That wasn't just passed by my vote. I was able to understand why people were voting against it. I ended up having people who voted against it being patrons of the bill, along with me. It was a matter of education and information and understanding and seeing who you can get to your side.

**Is public office the best platform for change?**

This is one of the things King spoke of. He said that increased numbers don't necessarily mean too much because eventually



Wilder

you'll find that numbers in a column add up to zero. We've got more elected officials of color than ever in the history of this country and we're still complaining. Why? It shows you that increased numbers don't necessarily make the difference.

I've always believed in what I call the polity, the group of people who are affected by our laws, who make the decisions as to whether they should be changed or not, how they should be changed and to insist they should be changed. So, no, you don't have to be in elected office.

People, particularly young people, need to demand what is right and criticize what is wrong, notwithstanding the perpetrator, their party, their color or anything else.

Many of the good ideas people give me credit for, I learned from the people. I used to ride buses and listen to people, go to the Wal-Mart. Stop, say hello, listen to them and see what they have on their minds. Hear it and use it.

**Did you meet Dr. King? What do you admire most about him?**

Well, one thing is that we're close to the same age. Our birthdays are two days apart. [King would have turned 90 Dec. 15; Wilder turns 88 Thursday.]

He was a brilliant man — not just a theologian but a philosopher. I met him the first time in Petersburg, Virginia, when he came to speak at an event for Wyatt T. Walker [later one of King's top strategists]. I went over to Virginia State and met with him, enjoyed the conversation.

What I admired most about him is that he never gave up on the need for education. He pushed it everywhere he went. It's important that we keep on doing that.

We have been arguing and talking about education for the last 50 years in terms of improvement, and yet we see our numbers falling. Fewer people are graduating in our schools in central cities. Our graduates are not there. What are we doing wrong? Is it just money, or the way that money is being spent? Unfortunately, people don't drill down into King's message as much as they should. They remember 'We Shall Overcome.' Yes, but how? 'One day we'll get there.' How? King was not all by himself. The NAACP, King, Malcolm X and others were all in the same boat. Their ways to reach the top may have been different, but the object is the same — to have uplift, to have education, to have perseverance, and to commit to doing it until we are successful.

**To paraphrase what you said about your family, perhaps some people will hear you speak Monday and say to themselves, 'If he did it, I can do it.'**

I hope so. If you can do it in a state that was at the heart of the Confederacy, you can do it anywhere.



Courtesy Gary Boynton

Gary Boynton happened upon a march on the day of King's funeral and started taking photos.

## How he got those pictures

It happened by accident.

Gary Boynton was driving on what was then Logan Street — now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard — when he saw people marching. One of the leaders held a sign: "King did not die in vain."

Boynton, then in his 20s, began taking pictures.

Fifty-one years later, his may be the only photos of the march in Lansing on the day of the funeral of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., April 8, 1968. One of Boynton's photos is on the cover, and two more are on pages 11 and 12.

"I think I had the camera in the car and just saw these people marching. Got my camera out and said, 'This is cool.'"

"I'm a white guy," he said. "These people just me treated me like I was a king, you know what I mean. They waved at me and high fives. It was very upbeat."

Boynton stayed with them as they turned east on Allegan Street heading to the Capitol. He broke away to return to work as they neared Pine Street.

Boynton, 76, said he was not a King fan at the time.

"My grandfather was a Baptist minister — very, very stringent on race at that time. When you grow up with that kind of atmosphere, you know, black people ... they're not as smart as you are, the whole crap. It took me a while after I got out of school and started working in the real business world to realize there's no difference. We all cry, we all smile, we all love, we all have children. This segregation crap is all bull."

After REO Motors folded, Boynton started his own photography business. He had a studio in the 1600 block of East Michigan Avenue till 2003.

In the 1980s, he was shooting a wedding of an African-American family in Lansing when he learned that King's wife, Coretta Scott King, was there.

"I made it a point to go talk to her," he said. "She was very lovely."

He also recalled visiting the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. "Very, very moving."

"That's about all I remember," he said. "I shot them on 35mm film. Decent images. Had to work with them a little bit."

—BERL SCHWARTZ

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## ARTS & CULTURE

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### King meets the queen

MLK tribute concert honors Aretha Franklin

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

MSU's eagerly awaited annual Martin Luther King tribute concert is always about respect.

This year, that goes in all caps: "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

**Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest**

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3 p.m. and 7 p.m.  
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The death in August of American icon Aretha Franklin left no doubt what this year's theme would be.

From church pulpits to kitchen radios to the Presidential inaugural platform, Franklin's life and work melded the civil rights movement with the most beloved American music, from gospel to jazz to pop. At every level of life.

In 1967, Franklin's cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" shot to No. 1 and became the unofficial anthem of the civil rights and feminist movements.

"Aretha was an empowered woman," Jazz Studies director Rodney Whitaker said. "She came out of an abusive relationship early in life, emerged as a superstar, handled her own business and was a pioneering role model in the music industry."

The sheer magnitude of Franklin's legacy didn't make it easy for students and faculty from the MSU College of Music to keep it down to a couple of hours.

Even the resounding voice of classical baritone Jadrian Tarver, a doctoral student at MSU, with a full jazz orchestra backing him up, performing the iconic spiritual "Amazing Grace," will only plumb a portion of Franklin's legacy.

"She was a part of my life since I was lit-



Franklin

tle," Tarver said. "Her gospel songs, her soul songs — there are so many that are part of me, of all of us."

Tarver grew up in Florida, steeped in the black church. His mother and aunt grew up listening to Franklin's seminal gospel album with the Rev. James Cleveland.

His grandmother listened to Sunday broadcasts by Franklin's father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, a civil rights leader and supporter of Dr. King, with a young Aretha Franklin singing gospel music.

In the mid-1960s, Aretha Franklin traveled the country with King on a voting rights campaign, an experience she later said "forever changed" her life.

On a February 1968 visit to Detroit, King surprised Aretha Franklin with a special award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as the mayor declared "Aretha Franklin Day."

It was the last time they saw each other. In April 1968, five days after King was shot, Franklin sang "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" to mourners at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. Nearly 40 years later, Franklin sang "America" at Barack Obama's inauguration in 2009.

Whitaker played with Franklin several times, usually in informal settings such as Franklin's house parties.

There was nothing "semi" about Rossini's Semiramide Overture, the expansive opener of a lavish and varied Lansing Symphony concert Friday.

The meatbally chords and pasta-rific melodies were dry at first, but they mixed and thickened to a bountiful bounce under the baton of maestro Timothy Muffitt.

And what follows pasta better than lemon ice?

The event of the night, a new harp concerto by composer Jennifer Higdon, was a sweet-tart, crystalline delight, glittering with extra percussion.

Harpist Yolanda Kondonassis made it look easy.

Starting alone, she played a descend-



Courtesy MSU College of Music

MSU Jazz Orchestra with Rodney Whitaker.

"She could put her vibe, her way of hearing, on anything," Whitaker said.

Franklin was also fan of trumpeter Roy Hargrove's great quartet, with Whitaker on bass, and sat in with the group on occasion.

"The few times I played with her, she got up and sang standards like "Try a Little Tenderness," but it was still soulful, it was Aretha Franklin," Whitaker said. "It was like being in a black church. She brought it."

Tarver said Franklin's legacy is "unparalleled."

"She gave to her country, and to her people, unapologetically, because she loved us and loved people to be free," he said. "You can hear it in 'Respect' and see it in her giving."

To curate the Franklin tribute, Whitaker called upon Color Me Music, a new group of College of Music students seeking to promote and perform music by people of color.

Two members of the group, Tarver and jazz studies senior Jordyn Davis, combed through Franklin's catalog and picked the greatest of the greatest, including "Think," "Respect" and "Natural Woman."

"Amazing Grace" marks the first time

Tarver will perform with jazz students.

"It's two worlds coming together, but that's in the spirit of Aretha Franklin," Tarver said.

The jazz and vocal forces will also perform "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and other songs from Franklin's gospel record with Cleveland, along with pop tunes she put an indelible stamp on, "I Say a Little Prayer" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

Whitaker also invited special guest Kenny Washington, a masterful Bay Area tenor who frequently sings with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, to lift his sinuous, soulful voice at Sunday's tribute.

The tribute will also feature spoken word performances honoring King and — MSU being MSU — plenty of hard-swinging, straight-up jazz, including Etienne Charles' modern reworking of "We Shall Overcome," Oliver Nelson's arrangement of "Down By the Riverside," and Dizzy Gillespie's blazing fast "Things to Come."

"Dr. King grew up on jazz," Whitaker said. "Of course, he was a preacher, so he liked Mahalia Jackson, but jazz was the music he dug the most."

### A first and a Ninth

Symphony serves up lush and varied feast

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Meatballs seven feet in diameter fell with juicy thuds, like chords in a Rossini overture. Airy strands of angel hair spaghetti drifted like melodies from an opera.

Oops — left the Metaphor-mobile in reverse. Nearly took her through the garage there!

Grkgrkgrgr-chunk. Now we're good.

Review

was happening live.

The slow movement offered not only a contrast, but something new in concert-dom — a delicate round robin of melody, using only solo instruments, like the circle of dancers in that famous Chagall painting.

Kondonassis and the soloists passed the luminous ball of melody around to each other with a tenderness that hinted at an alternative way of being human — democracy, communism and love, all at once.

There followed a bit of unexpected drama when the harpist announced that one of her strings was broken. She handed the broken string to a fan in the front row, and calmly

# Comedy Central–featured comedian Robert Kelly headlines Robin Theatre

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Robert Kelly cannot be contained. The boisterous comedian is born of the same Boston and New York City comedy circuit

## Robert Kelly

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that produced talent like Dane Cook — whom he's toured with — Bill Burr and Marc Maron. Since appearing on television shows like

“Louie” and “Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll,” he's mostly kept busy with his podcast “You Know What Dude,” which features Kelly hosting a swath of comedians as they riff on various topics, or just roast each other — no holds barred.

Now, he's returning to the road for a tour across the Midwest and East Coast, where he'll be sampling new material for his first filmed comedy special since 2014's “Live at the Village Underground,” which aired on Comedy Central. His second stop, this weekend, is at Lansing's Robin Theatre.



Kelly

Kelly told City Pulse he's happy to be back on the road.

“The clubs I work now are great; the people are great. Whereas when I first started headlining, I had to take whatever the fuck they gave me, for whatever price, because

that's what I had to do to earn my bones.”

But, escaping his poor, comedian punk house living situation in New York City made it all worthwhile for the young Kelly.

“I lived in a shithole in Harlem with the cockroaches. I didn't want to be there. I was either there, or I was in a Hilton.”

In addition to no longer working “clubs that suck,” Kelly said the fear of bombing has all but disappeared with time.

“Now I don't give a fuck; now I don't have a Plan B. It's just, “This is what I'm talking about. I know it's funny and I know I can make shit funny.’ It's a little less anxiety, which makes the road nicer.”

Kelly's sets have a distinct introspective, self-deprecating flavor — it can be dark, but never pitch black. “Live at the Village Underground” featured many jokes at the expense of his difficulty losing weight, or as he explained to this reporter, “You're gonna be 48 some day, and your wife's going to say, ‘Don't eat the fucking croutons, fatso.’”

Kelly's jokes on the phone about dietary restrictions raised an interesting question based on the idea “cool is the enemy of fun-

ny,” a comic proverb attributed to either Chris Rock or Rich Voss — “one of them is lying,” Kelly says.

He elaborated on why turning the joke inward is the bread and butter of standup comedians.

“Once you start believing the hype and once you start acting cool — there's no room for funny, because of your ego,” Kelly said. “If you start to get too cool for school, that's it. You're done. Look at the top comics. They're still fucking silly, still self-deprecating and still fucked up.”

And for Kelly, nothing is off limits — but that's not to say he picks the controversy of the month and riffs on it for easy shock value. The tragedies he morphs into comedy instead come from a personal place.

“I don't think you should have limitations as a comic. I think you should be able to tackle any topic. When my dog died, I was very sad; I cried,” Kelly said. “Then I went on stage a month later and talked about it. Now I have a great fucking bit about my dog dying. These were all tragic things that weren't funny, but I made them funny.”

## Symphony

from page 13

restrung it.

The concerto ended with the most volatile ice-scape yet, an elemental fantasia frosted with bells, scrapers, triangles and other percussion. Silver slabs of sound coalesced around the harp, achieving impressive tonnage in seconds, only to be cracked apart by roiling North Sea breakers swelling from the strings and brass. The complex cross-currents kept the ear off balance and exhilarated all the way to the end. The pasta and the lemon ice were pretty filling, but there was still a massive meat course left to go.

Franz Schubert's stentorian Ninth Symphony sounded extra uptight after the supple tapestry of the Higdon concer-

to. Almost every melody in it could double as the national anthem of some obscure Central European country.

But Schubert gives you nearly an hour to settle in — more than enough time to savor Muffitt's obvious passion for this revered classic (he didn't even have a score in front of him) and the orchestra's spirited, enthusiastic performance.

A pile-driving industriousness kept the epic first movement from dragging. With the dance floor firmly installed, Muffitt and company launched briskly into the march that followed, their light step underpinned by a rock-solid cadence.

This symphony holds a lot in reserve, especially for an emotionally expressive composer like Schubert, but as pure music, it's pretty air tight. There's no sonic gimmickry or Beethoven-ish melodrama to fall back on, so it's all down to musicianship. A matter-of-fact mastery permeated Friday's

performance, from the section work to the solos, the tutti and even the pauses.

The gallant, genteel waltz movement made even better use of the spacious dance floor. When the finale hauled the trombones into active duty, they responded with glory. Like most big symphonies, the Ninth winds up with serial buildups and start-over-agains that threaten to try your patience, but the orchestra fleshed out Schubert's inexorable logic with a skillfulness and verve that defied finale fatigue.

The Ninth is a pretty stolid affair, but toward the end, Schubert pulled a few tricks from his mutton chop sideburns. Round after round of jaunty, syncopated beats rolled along with zero friction, boosted at the end by sudden, roaring thrusts from the basses that made my vertebrae click into line with my amygdala.

It all felt so authoritative that for all I know, the viola players were wearing peri-



Kondonassis

od underwear. When you know you are in sure, strong hands, you can let go and let the music carry you down the stream.



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# Talking Bolsheviks, villainous low notes with actor Jason Michael Evans

By SKYLER ASHLEY

A musical perfect for the cold, wintry landscape of January in Michigan

**“Anastasia”**

\$43  
Through Jan. 20  
Wharton Center  
750 E. Shaw Lane,  
East Lansing  
www.whartoncenter.com  
(517) 432-2000

has arrived at the Wharton Center. The Broadway tour of “Anastasia,” the fictionalized tale of the royal Romanov family’s fate at the hands of the Bolsheviks

after the Russian Revolution, run through Sunday. Jason Michael Evans, who plays lead antagonist Gleb, spoke by phone about his role and the production’s innovative visual set pieces.

**How does “Anastasia” come to life visually on this tour?**

It’s not just your typical set that moves in and moves out. While there are set pieces that come onto the stage, they’re joined by a giant HD screen that has these breathtaking projections.

In the sequence with the train, an actual train comes out onstage and it is turning and moving, but in the background there’s this screen that is moving high speed through the countryside of Russia. It makes you feel like you’re there.

That screen can also show you a beautiful opera house, or it can show you a palace and it can show you the streets of St. Petersburg. But it’s not like a regular set—it moves. There’s snow, there’s clouds moving. If the Volga River is in the background, then you see the stream moving, you see it flowing.

**Gleb is an insecure villain. He projects himself as being so certain about his politics, but on the inside he’s not sure of himself. As an actor, how do you convey that inner conflict?**

I think he’s sure of the ideology of the Bolsheviks, but he’s unsure of his job within it. You find out pretty early on in the story that his father was one of the guards



Courtesy Wharton Center

Jason Michael Evans plays Gleb in “Anastasia,” now playing at the Wharton Center.

who carried out the assassination on the Romanovs and then later, out of shame, kills himself.

So Gleb’s a very conflicted guy. He’s looking to redeem his father’s legacy by carrying out the job his father couldn’t, but also trying to prove to himself that his father’s death was meaningful.

The way I approach it is by trying to block portions of history that I know from my mind. I try to place myself in the time and place of the matrix within ‘20s Russia, where you’re just coming out of the war and you’ve lost a generation of young men.

You use the revolution as a way to get past this horrible thing in World War I that dec-

To read City Pulse’s review of “Anastasia,” visit [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

imated the population and the morale of the country. And that’s how I approached it, just trying to live in that post-World War I moment.

**How does playing a villain inform the way you sing? Or, how is a villain supposed to sing?**

Traditionally in musical theater — if you look all the way back to Rodgers and Hammerstein — the hero of the show is more of the tenor and the antagonist is more of the baritone. That’s the basic structure of musical theater. My singing voice is a little darker, which is why I’m prone to playing these roles more, because the darker voices are either older characters or villains. And right now, since I’m a little younger, I tend to play the villain. The nice guys, whose voice parts are right for my voice, I’m not quite old enough to play yet.

My pieces in “Anastasia” are written for a darker voice. Low notes are just more villainous in nature; they just sound more devious to the ear.

It’s a lot easier for the audience when they know that the low voice is the guy we’re rooting against and the high voice is the hero. That’s as simple as musical theater structure gets.

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# Indie rock band Petal unpacks mental health and the music industry

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Scranton, Pennsylvania-based indie rock band Petal arrives in Lansing Jan. 17. Petal, which is helmed by multi-instrumentalist

## Petal

All ages  
\$13 Advance, \$15 Doors  
7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17  
Mac's Bar  
2700 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing  
www.macsbars.com  
(517) 484-6795

Kylie Lotz, has been on the road in support of its latest album "Magic Gone," released on Run for Cover Records, since mid-2018. Petal's sound has a glossy tinge, but it doesn't

avoid a primal edge thanks to its use of loud power chords and simplistic, deep banging drums. Lotz spoke with City Pulse via phone about her lyrics and the tour thus far.

**The lyrics to "Better Than You" from "Magic Gone" — "...You're not doing okay, maybe tonight you could barely play..." — speak to a place of frustration and alienation. Where does that come from?**

That definitely comes from feeling frustrated with myself and with the industry. You start writing music and playing shows because you love it; it makes you happy and you continue to do it for those reasons. But, when it starts to become your job, or you decide that you want it to be your job — you tacitly sign up for all of this stuff that comes



with industry, which you may not be fully aware of when you first start.

There's also the idea of competing and seeing your peers as competition, instead of them just being your friends. It feels like you can't really complain, but at the same time you desperately want to scream a little bit sometimes. I think I just needed to poke fun at myself and the industry a little bit to acknowledge how absurd it all is.

**The music videos from "Magic Gone" are really up close and personal. What was it like to put yourself in that position?**

I think music videos are so important to me because I grew up watching them. It was like way more of a part of my music culture in terms of watching VH1, MTV and all that stuff growing up, all the time.

That was always a dream of mine, to make

a music video. So, a very young me is very starry-eyed over getting to make videos at all. I'm really glad people still do it, despite it not being necessarily the most relevant way to get your music out there anymore. I really love it. I hope people take the time to watch them, because I think it does take the music to the next level.

**Your label, Run for Cover Records, has put out some seriously cool records in the past. How has it been working with them?**

So I started working with Run for Cover when I was in college. They were fairly young, but they were putting out amazing records. They had already started working with Title Fight and Tiger's Jaw. When I started working with them it was a kind of a surprise, because I just put my music on Bandcamp and on Tumblr and eventually, I got an email from Jeff and I was pretty surprised.

Since then, it's done really great. They let me make what I want to make, which is a real privilege. Often times, you are sort of doing a push and pull with a label and a creative process, but Run for Cover is always really open to whatever you're making and making sure it reaches people's ears.

**Your essay with OUT Magazine described your process of coming to terms with your sexuality and mental health and how that**

**affected "Magic Gone." Have those feelings changed since taking the album on tour?**

Touring on this record has been challenging and really beautiful. Obviously the songs are very personal, so some nights it feels like I'm sort of reopening old wounds. But I try to just feel whatever it is that's coming up in performing them and let it be a cathartic experience.

It's been really powerful to talk to people at shows who have found some comfort or support in the songs.

Getting to write an essay for OUT was such an incredible privilege and an opportunity to put auxiliary material out there to accompany the songs. I got to talk to a lot of fans who felt inspired to come out to their families and friends through the music and the essay or felt some validation in hearing the record.

My mental health is something that has improved greatly but will always be a work in progress, a non-linear journey forward. I think there is no shame in struggling, making mistakes, and admitting you need help. Being human is complicated and hard. I'm learning a lot and still have a long way to go. In the meantime, making music and talking to fans has allowed me to grow in ways I never could have imagined and for that, I am grateful.

## Peeking inside Elderly Instruments' vault

By DENNIS BURCK

From guitars strummed in smoke-filled juke joints of the Mississippi Delta to banjos and mandolins played round campfires three generations ago — most of Elderly Instruments' rare vault collection prices in the thousands.

However, two items blast higher to six figures: a 1963 Gibson Explorer valued at \$218,000 and a 1924 Gibson F5 Lloyd Loar mandolin priced at \$120,000.

"Lloyd Loar mandolins have sold upwards of \$275,000 and we have one for \$120,000. Can you believe the deal? Why don't you just buy it now?" owner of Elderly Instruments Stan Werbin jokes.

In 2008, the recession tanked the rare instrument market and it never really recovered, Werbin said. "They went down in price for the first time. We've been doing this since 1972. It was always a steady up and just about nothing went down."

Behind the flashy price tags are signature stories of their own.

The Gibson Explorer was a commercial failure in its 1958 debut. It was the age of big orange hollow body guitars thumping out the roots of rock 'n' roll, and the "z" shaped Explorer with its hockey stick headstock was the odd man out.

"It was the beginning of the space race. Kennedy announced we would be on the

moon in 10 years. It was part of that generation of things," Werbin said. "Guitar-making piggy backed on this, figuring to have something more modernistic looking."

However, the more popular guitar players in the late '50s and '60s passed on the design, Werbin said.

"Someone at Gibson eventually said, 'Wait a minute. No one is buying these. Let's just put them on a shelf.'"

Following its poor reception, Gibson would only send out specialized orders if requested. Elderly Instruments' 1963 Explorer was one of these orders assembled from late-'50s parts, Werbin said. It is one of 38 left in the

world.

Forty years prior, the Lloyd Loar mandolin also shared this fate. Gibson, then based in Kalamazoo, hired sound engineer and mandolin player Lloyd Loar to reinvent its traditional mandolin model in 1921.

Loar carved the inside of the instrument to match its natural intonation, as Stradivari did with his violins. These were Gibson's "master model" instruments.

"The last one was made in December 1924 and then Loar got fired," Werbin said. "In those three years, they made only a couple of hundred of these instruments. That may sound like a lot, but a lot of skilled mandolin makers can only make 10 a year, and Gibson had a whole workforce."

They also were expensive for the time and only appealed to mandolin maestros; the \$200 price tag for the new F5 in 1922 is comparable to \$3,000 in 2019 when adjusted for inflation.

Commercial trends also showed mandolins going down in popularity during this time, Werbin added.

"By the time Loar developed the ultimate in mandolins, its popularity was going down. Imagine you designed the greatest electric guitar ever made, but disco is the 'in thing' and nobody cared."

But the mandolin's commercial failure didn't sink Loar's career. He later became an early pioneer of electric instruments with his company Vivi-Tone.

For more information about viewing or purchasing these rare instruments, visit [www.elderly.com](http://www.elderly.com)

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# Space race, Gov. Romney, Mackinac Island center focus in new YA novel

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Monumental themes like civil rights, the Vietnam War and women's equality are common storylines for baby boomer novels. Lansing author Diane Petryk has added the space race to the fray with her new young adult fiction novel, "Walter Hudson and the Mackinac Island Affair."

Petryk, a veteran journalist, has always had a bent for science. In her new book, the space race is front and center for 11-year-old protagonist Walter Hudson.

"I wanted to portray the excitement of the space program, so kids today could at least understand why we were going," she said.

Petryk also weaves the seemingly bucolic atmosphere of Mackinac Island into the book when Walter and his mother leave Brooklyn, New York, for the island after Walter's mother inherits its only newspaper, the Huron Shores Herald. But, despite Walter's objections, they are in for an adventure involving former Michigan governor George Romney, his son Mitt, faculty of the Mackinac College (founded by a shadowy religious rights group called Moral Rearmament) and an attempt to bribe the governor to prevent a black family from moving into Bloomfield Hills.

The author also has found a place in this plot for Jane Briggs. In real life, Briggs and her husband, U.S. Senator Phil Hart, had a "cottage" on the east bluff of the island just up the hill from Moral Rearmament's fledgling college.

"She's the best character in the book. She's real, but larger than life," Petryk said.

The author delves into some of the famous aviatrix's accomplishments, including becoming the first woman licensed in Michigan to fly a helicopter. Briggs actually passed the grueling test to become an astronaut, but could never be one at the time because she was a woman.

The plot to bribe the governor is revealed when Walter records a secret meeting of the perpetrator putting himself and his

mother's newspaper at risk.

Petryk knows the island's history and its eccentric residents intimately after working for three years at the St. Ignace News — parent newspaper of the Mackinac Island Crier, the island's real weekly newspaper.

"For three years the island was our private playground," she said.

The book is peppered with pop culture references to the '60s, including "Star Trek," "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.," Phyllis Diller and, of course, Sonny and Cher. Fortunately for contemporary readers, Petryk has compiled a comprehensive 50-page glossary of pop culture. Since her book reads like a veritable Forrest Gump, it comes in handy.

Petryk also introduces an agoraphobic genius, MontesQ, who has sequestered himself in the Grand Hotel year-round. MontesQ, named after the famed philosopher Montesquieu, becomes a good friend to Walter and his friend Fletch. Coincidentally, Montesquieu's working as a consultant to the space program and has a maquette of the proposed lunar excursion module to show the boys.

Petryk said, "The book is aimed at anyone who lived in the '60s and those that didn't. Even if you didn't live in the '60s, your jaw is going to drop," she said.

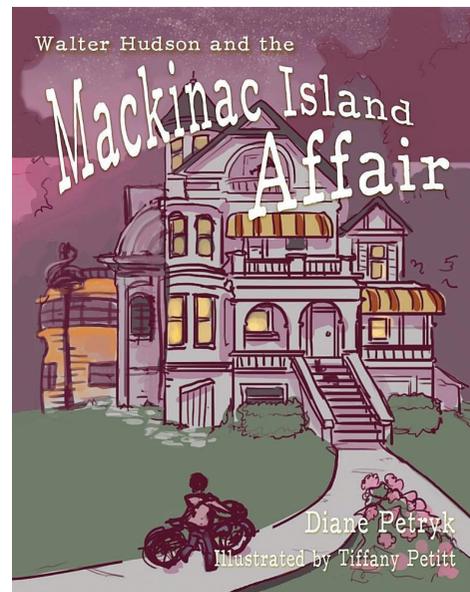
One such jaw-dropping incident described in the book involves a writer for one of the Detroit dailies, who, when confronted with a no trouser for women policy at a Detroit restaurant, just takes them off and enters the establishment.

"True story," Petryk said.

The author works this journalist into portions of the book, including having her own a rare Apollo, one of only five created, for a retail exhibit.



Petryk



Petryk also uses her extensive newspaper experience in places as varied as Sanford, Florida, New Zealand, North Carolina and Savannah to provide a real life glimpse into running a small town newspaper.

She describes her own journalism experience as "going from one fairy tale place to another."

Petryk's book is reminiscent of the young adult mystery series "The Hardy Boys," punctuated by Forrest Gump-like experiences. There are also lessons about race, equal rights and social justice running rampant through the plot line. The book will also remind readers of how far we've come — especially in terms of women's equality.

One scene in the book takes place at the Lansing Sears Store where Walter's mom is buying a camera for the newspaper. The saleswoman waiting on her tells her she has to have a male salesman ring up the camera, since women aren't allowed to ring up big ticket items.

The rationale is men are supporting a family and need the commission money more. Petryk once worked undercover at

a car dealership for a feature story that revealed the tricks of a used car salesman. It brought her death threats.

Petryk also wants to make the point in her novel about the important role newspapers play in democracy. In the book, Walter's mom and another journalist are jailed for refusing to reveal a source. In the dramatic denouement Walter and his band of friends help capture the bad guys.

"Throughout a newspaper career, in between editing press releases, typing obits and covering late night school board meetings, you occasionally get to nail a bad guy," Petryk said. "My fictional character helps nail some bad guys. He helps me feel justice will be served, as long as there's a journalist left standing."

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### January Author Events

More information may be found on our website and Facebook page

**Joe Koenig**

**Tuesday, January 22 @ 7p**

***Getting the Truth "I am D. B. Cooper"***

The legend of D. B. Cooper is known as one of the most daring and creative robberies in the history of aviation. Now Joe Koenig, lead investigator of the James R. Hoffa disappearance, is releasing the details of his investigation into this case.

**Erin Bartels**

**Thursday, January 24 @ 7p**

***We Hope for Better Things***

*Publishers Weekly* called Erin's book "...a deeply moving story of heart-break, long-held secrets, and the bonds of family." Her talk will touch on national and Michigan history, including the Detroit riot of 1967.

**Dr. Madeleine Albright**

**Friday, February 8 @ 7:30p**

Our sister store, Nicola's Books in Ann Arbor, hosts a conversation with Secretary Albright at the Michigan Theater. Tickets include a signed paperback copy of *Fascism*.

**Children's Story Time**

**Saturday, January 19 @ 11a**

Join us as one of our booksellers reads a book and guides your child in a small art project or related activity to instill the love of reading in your little one.

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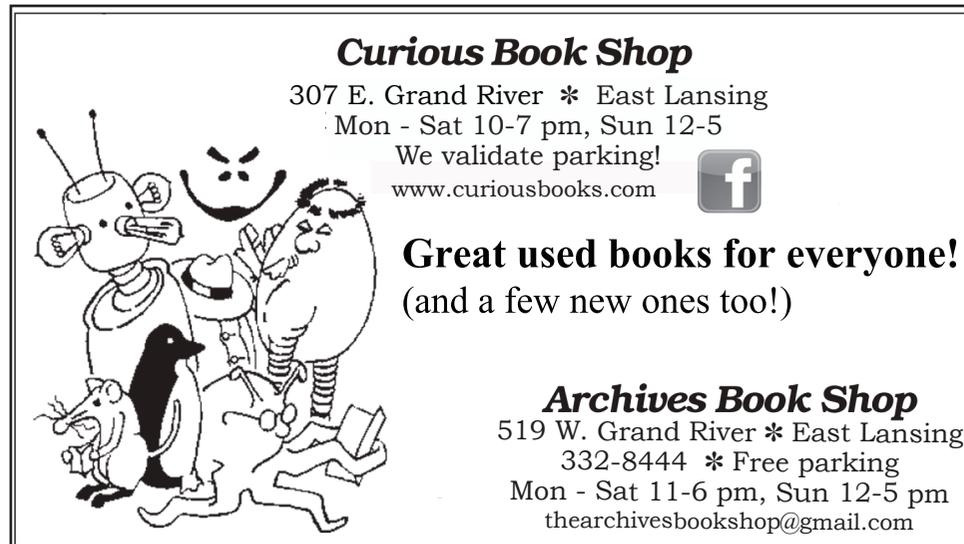
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# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Paul at (517) 999-6704.

## Wednesday, January 16

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**Beginning Salsa.** From 7:15 to 8:05 p.m. \$135.00 per person for this ten week class. \$95.00 per person for this ten week class if a MAC member. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

**Intermediate Salsa.** From 8:15 to 9:05 p.m. \$135.00 per person for the ten week class; \$95.00 per person if MAC member. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

**Mindfulness Meditation.** From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple - New location - 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing.

**Open Studio Life Drawing.** From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Info 517-337-1170. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others. Room 208, Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.

**Shamanic Education & Healing Clinic.** From 6 to 8 p.m. Donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

**Starting a Business.** From 9 to 11 a.m. Free! To Register Call: (517) 483-1921. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

## Thursday, January 17

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**Beginning Texas Two Step.** From 7:15 to 8:05 p.m. \$135.00 per person for the ten week class; \$95.00 per person if a MAC member. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

**Bronze - American Style Viennese Waltz.** From 8:15 to 9:05 p.m. \$135.00 per person for the ten week class - \$95.00 per person if you are a MAC member. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

**Crafting for a Cause.** From 4 to 5:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

**Chipmunk Story Time.** From 10 to 11 a.m. \$3/child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

## Friday, January 18

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**MSU Libraries' Introduction to QGIS: Make a Simple Map with Vector Data.** From 4 to 5 p.m. free MSU Digital Scholarship Lab. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700

**MSU Libraries' Special Collections Pop-Ups.** From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

### MUSIC

**Ten Pound Fiddle: Heartland Klezmerim The American Experience: The Musical Journey From The Shtetl.** From 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$20 Public; \$18 Fiddle Members; \$5 Students. Available online or at the box office at 6:30 PM. <http://www.tenpoundfiddle.org/event/heartland-klezmerim-american-experience-musical-journey-shtetl/>. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Rd. East Lansing. (517)355-7661.

### EVENTS

**Howl at the Moon: Guided Night Walk.** From 7 to 8 p.m. \$3/person. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

**MSU Libraries' Hidden in Plain Sight.** From 7 to 9 p.m. free MSU Libraries' Digital Scholarship Lab. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

## Saturday, January 19

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**How to Adult-Courtesy.** From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

**Intro to Numerology.** From 10 a.m. to noon \$29.92 Tickets. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

### MUSIC

**Elden Kelly Live Acoustic Jazz.** From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. Henry's Place Neighborhood Gastro Sports Bar, 4926 Marsh Road Okemos.

**Old-Time String Band Fiddle Tune Repertoire Week 3, Key of A.** From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$20. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 372-7880.

**Old-Time String Band Fiddle Tune Repertoire Week 2, Key of G.** From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$20. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 372-7880.

**Ten Pound Fiddle: Contra and Square Dance.** From 7 to 10 p.m. \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members, and \$6 for students and first time dancers. <http://www.tenpoundfiddle.org/event/contra-and-square-dance-19/>. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

### EVENTS

**Dinner Dance.** From 5:30 to 11 p.m. Cost of dinner is \$10.00 ( \$4.00 for children 11 and younger). Cost of dance is \$6.00 ( free for children 11 and younger). Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing.



## Comedian Stewart Huff at the Fledge

The Fledge, in association with the Michigan Comedy Co-op, brings national touring comic Stewart Huff back to Lansing for an exclusive one-night-only show.

### Stewart Huff

Jan. 18, 9 to 11 p.m., \$10. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing (517) 230-7679, [www.thefledge.com](http://www.thefledge.com)

The Tennessee native has practiced comedy for 20 years. His career started when he dropped out of college to become a writer. According to his website, his comedy focuses on embracing the foibles of humanity in unexpected ways. Huff has been fea-

ured on the HBO Las Vegas Festival, Orlando Fringe Festival and 2012 documentary "Road Comics: Big Work on Small Stages." His topics include making fun of how cotton balls need warning labels, how rednecks are everywhere and the true story behind how he donated sperm to his sister's wife. Huff has performed in Lansing on multiple occasions including an underground house comedy show in East Lansing. Aside from practicing comedy, Huff is an avid vintage and vinyl collector making stops for each on the road.

### WEDNESDAY JAN. 16 >> THE DANGLING PARTICIPLES AT ALLEN FARMERS MARKET

See this hometown acoustic Americana band play during the bustle of the Allen Farmers Market as it hosts its weekly winter market. Despite the winter season, Allen Farmers Market offers fresh produce year round.

5 to 6:30 p.m., Allen Farmers Market, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing (517) 999-3911, [www.thedanglingparticiples.com](http://www.thedanglingparticiples.com)



### THURSDAY JAN. 17 >> "FINDING YOUR VOICE" SPOKEN WORD POETRY SEMINAR



Hosted by the Lansing Poetry Club, poet Ruelaine Stokes will facilitate a seminar on how to bring stories to life through the art of spoken word poetry. Stokes, a veteran LCC and MSU English professor, is a spoken word artist and runs poetry workshops throughout Lansing.

6:30 to 8:30 p.m., East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, (517) 351-2420, [www.facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub](http://www.facebook.com/LansingPoetryClub)

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Hey Nineteen"--  
welcoming in the new  
year. Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Gymnastics equipment
- 5 Pointillism detail
- 8 It's called "orange" but is really black
- 13 "Grand Ole" venue
- 14 Salve plant
- 16 Collect little by little
- 17 Element #19, whose chemical symbol derives from the word "alkali"
- 19 "No Hard Feelings" band The \_\_\_ Brothers
- 20 Here, at the Louvre
- 21 Italian city where "Rigoletto" is set
- 23 \_\_\_ facto
- 24 British tabloid since 1964
- 26 Not so much
- 28 Card game holding where it's impossible to score 19 points
- 34 Number on a liquor bottle
- 37 Instrument with stops
- 38 Actor Keegan-Michael
- 39 Julia Roberts, to Emma Roberts
- 40 Singer with the hit 2008 debut album "19"
- 41 Lima, for one
- 42 Belarus, once (abbr.)
- 43 Afghani neighbor
- 44 Spend thoughtlessly
- 45 Stephen King series that makes many references to the number 19
- 48 Yokozuna's activity
- 49 "The Stranger" author Camus
- 53 Hare crossing your path, e.g.
- 55 Eucharist disks
- 59 "See-saw, Margery \_\_\_"
- 60 Cold-weather coat
- 62 Golf course hangout known as the "19th hole"
- 64 Simon's brother
- 65 Chuck

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					63		
64					65				66		
67						68			69		

- 66 ComEddie segment
- 67 Charges on personal property
- 68 "Karma Chameleon" singer \_\_\_ George
- 69 Achievement
- Down**
- 1 Hasbro game with voice commands
- 2 Division of a geologic period
- 3 "Glee" character Abrams
- 4 One of four singers on the "Lady Marmalade" remake
- 5 Coca-Cola bottled water brand
- 6 "The Reader" actress Lena
- 7 Publicize
- 8 Links gp.
- 9 Language spoken in "The Lord of the Rings"
- 10 Souvenirs
- 11 They may be steel-cut
- 12 Prefix meaning "inside"
- 15 National bird of Australia
- 18 Character pursued by Gargamel
- 22 Aquarium accumulation
- 25 Aberdeen resident
- 27 End of the end of October?
- 29 "\_\_\_ Yellow" (Cardi B song)
- 30 Spiner of "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
- 31 Spaghetti \_\_\_ e olio (garlicky pasta dish)
- 32 "That's swell!"
- 33 Physical force unit
- 34 Realm of one "Christmas Carol" ghost
- 35 "Tom Sawyer" band
- 36 Like popular library books
- 40 It'll show you the way
- 41 Insulting comment
- 43 "\_\_\_ not kidding"
- 44 Language for Llanfairpwllgwyngyll
- 46 \_\_\_ Donuts
- 47 Quavering, like a voice
- 50 Draw out
- 51 Wailers fan, maybe
- 52 Presidential policy pronouncement, probably
- 53 Birthstone of some Scorpions
- 54 Burkina Faso neighbor
- 56 "Oh," overseas
- 57 Mess up, as lines
- 58 Prefix with vision or Disney
- 61 Part of Q&A, for short
- 63 LummoX

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Answers Page 21

# SUDOKU

# Advanced

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

## TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 21

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

January 16 - 22, 2019

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** In 1917, leaders of the Christian sect Jehovah's Witnesses prophesied that all earthly governments would soon disappear and Christianity would perish. In 1924, they predicted that the ancient Hebrew prophet Moses would be resurrected and speak to people everywhere over the radio. In 1938, they advised their followers not to get married or have children, because the end of civilization was nigh. In 1974, they said there was only a "short time remaining before the wicked world's end." I bring these failed predictions to your attention, Aries, so as to get you in the mood for my prediction, which is: all prophecies that have been made about your life up until now are as wrong as the Jehovah Witnesses' visions. In 2019, your life will be bracingly free of old ideas about who you are and who you're supposed to be. You will have unprecedented opportunities to prove that your future is wide open.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Movie critic Roger Ebert defined the term "idiot plot" as "any film plot containing problems that would be solved instantly if all of the characters were not idiots." I bring this to your attention because I suspect there has been a storyline affecting you that in some ways fits that description. Fortunately, any temptation you might have had to go along with the delusions of other people will soon fade. I expect that as a result, you will catalyze a surge of creative problem-solving. The idiot plot will transform into a much smarter plot.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20):** In 1865, Prussia's political leader, Otto von Bismarck, got angry when an adversary, Rudolf Virchow, suggested cuts to the proposed military budget. Bismarck challenged Virchow to a duel. Virchow didn't want to fight, so he came up with a clever plan. As the challenged party, he was authorized to choose the weapons to be used in the duel. He decided upon two sausages. His sausage would be cooked; Bismarck's sausage would be crammed with parasitic roundworms. It was a brilliant stratagem. The proposition spooked Bismarck, who backed down from the duel. Keep this story in mind if you're challenged to an argument, dispute, or conflict in the coming days. It's best to figure out a tricky or amusing way to avoid it altogether.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22):** An imaginative 27-year-old man with the pseudonym TheWildandCrazy decided he was getting too old to keep his imaginary friend in his life. So he took out an ad on Ebay, offering to sell that long-time invisible ally, whose name was John Malipieman. Soon his old buddy was dispatched to the highest bidder for \$3,000. Please don't attempt anything like that in the coming weeks, Cancerian. You need more friends, not fewer—both of the imaginary and non-imaginary variety. Now is a ripe time to expand your network of compatriots.

**Leo (July 23-August 22):** In December 1981, novice Leo filmmaker James Cameron got sick, fell asleep, and had a disturbing dream. He saw a truncated robot armed with kitchen knives crawling away from an explosion. This nightmare ultimately turned out to be a godsend for Cameron. It inspired him to write the script for the 1984 film The Terminator, a successful creation that launched him on the road to fame and fortune. I'm expecting a comparable development in your near future, Leo. An initially weird or difficult event will actually be a stroke of luck.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22):** Psychologists define the Spotlight Effect as our tendency to imagine that other people are acutely attuned to every little nuance of our behavior and appearance. The truth is that they're not, of course. Most everyone is primarily occupied with the welter of thoughts buzzing around inside his or her own head. The good news, Virgo, is that you are well set up to capitalize on this phenomenon in the coming weeks. I'm betting you will achieve a dramatic new liberation: you'll be freer than ever before from the power of people's opinions to inhibit your behavior or make you self-conscious.

**Libra (September 23-October 22):** What North America community is farthest north? It's an Alaskan city that used to be called Barrow, named after a British admiral. But in 2016, local residents voted to reinstate the name that the indigenous Iñupiat people had once used for the place: Utqiaġvik. In accordance with astrological omens, I propose that in the coming weeks, you take inspiration from their decision, Libra. Return to your roots. Pay homage to your sources. Restore and revive the spirit of your original influences.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21):** The Alaskan town of Talkeetna has a population of 900, so it doesn't require a complicated political structure to manage its needs. Still, it made a bold statement by electing a cat as its mayor for 15 years. Stubbs, a part-manx, won his first campaign as a write-in candidate, and his policies were so benign—no new taxes, no repressive laws—that he kept getting re-elected. What might be the equivalent of having a cat as your supreme leader for a while, Scorpio? From an astrological perspective, now would be a favorable time to implement that arrangement. This phase of your cycle calls for relaxed fun and amused mellowness and laissez-faire jauntiness.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21):** Trees need to be buffeted by the wind. It makes them strong. As they respond to the pressure of breezes and gusts, they generate a harder kind of wood called reaction wood. Without the assistance of the wind's stress, trees' internal structure would be weak and they might topple over as they grew larger. I'm pleased to report that you're due to receive the benefits of a phenomenon that's metaphorically equivalent to a brisk wind. Exult in this brisk but low-stress opportunity to toughen yourself up!

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19):** Writing at ThePudding, pop culture commentator Colin Morris reveals the conclusions he drew after analyzing 15,000 pop songs. First, the lyrics of today's tunes have significantly more repetitiveness than the lyrics of songs in the 1960s. Second, the most popular songs, both then and now, have more repetitive lyrics than the average song. Why? Morris speculates that repetitive songs are catchier. But in accordance with current astrological omens, I encourage you Capricorns to be as unrepeatable as possible in the songs you sing, the messages you communicate, the moves you make, and the ideas you articulate. In the coming weeks, put a premium on originality, unpredictability, complexity, and novelty.

**Aquarius (January 20- February 18):** In May 1927, Aquarian aviator Charles Lindbergh made a pioneering flight in his one-engine plane from New York to Paris. He became instantly famous. Years later, Lindbergh testified that partway through his epic journey he was visited by a host of odd, vaporous beings who suddenly appeared in his small cabin. They spoke with him, demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of navigation and airplane technology. Lindbergh's spirits were buoyed. His concentration, which had been flagging, revived. He was grateful for their unexpected support. I foresee a comparable kind of assistance becoming available to you sometime soon, Aquarius. Don't waste any time being skeptical about it; just welcome it.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20):** More than four centuries ago, a Piscean samurai named Honda Tadakatsu became a leading general in the Japanese army. In the course of his military career, he fought in more than a hundred battles. Yet he never endured a major wound and was never beaten by another samurai. I propose we make him your inspirational role model for the coming weeks. As you navigate your way through interesting challenges, I believe that like him, you'll lead a charmed life. No wounds. No traumas. Just a whole lot of educational adventures.

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

# TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Thurs. Jan. 17

PETAL AT MAC'S

Thurs. Jan. 17

TOMMY PLURAL SOLO AT THE AVENUE CAFÉ



Songwriter delivers 'bitingly honest' indie-rock

Thursday, Jan. 17 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.  
All ages, \$15, \$13 adv., 7 p.m.

Petal, a Scranton-based indie rock outfit, headlines Thursday at Mac's Bar. Opening the all-ages show are Sir Babygirl, Cave People, and Shortly. Led by its only permanent member, songwriter Kiley Lotz, the band has dropped a series of alternative EPs and LPs that range from riff-driven, upbeat rockers to moody and melodic pop ballads. In 2013, Lotz launched the project with a self-released EP, "Scout," which caught the attention of Run For Cover Records, a Massachusetts-based imprint, that promptly signed the band. By 2015, Petal issued its first proper album, the "Sooner" LP, and the sophomore full-length, "Magic Gone," followed in 2018.

According to the label, "Magic Gone" takes a "bitingly honest" look at adulthood, accountability,

responsibility and mental health. "There comes a moment where all the paranoia, anxiety and pain become too much and you realize the structure you built to survive is no longer going to serve you," Lotz said of the intense three-year period that inspired her album. "I had to make some very big life changes to make sure I didn't die. It was not easy taking that level of control over my life." The end product offers a candid snapshot of Lotz's life, and showcases her dynamic abilities as a vocalist, guitarist and songwriter. Drawing inspiration from her heroes, like Queen and Nina Simone, but also contemporary artists like Solange and Mitski, the disc is stacked with powerful vocals and earnest lyrics that dares listeners to face their personal demons.

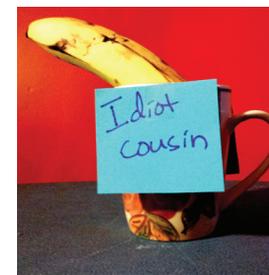


The Stick Arouns open free rock show

Thursday, Jan. 17 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.  
21+, FREE, 8 p.m.

GTG Records co-founder Tommy McCord, aka Tommy Plural, has been a positive force on the Lansing music scene for more than a decade — releasing a string of albums with his band, The Plurals, and overseeing a long catalog of discs from other local and national indie groups. In 2013, McCord started to quietly release his own solo projects, including "Tall Paul's Winter Ride" EP. The following year, he dropped the lo-fi "Nothing could Possiblye Go Wrong" EP — all via his locally-operated label: GTG. In the spring of 2017, McCord issued his most polished solo record to date, the "Idiot Cousin" LP. The 10-song album, which is streamed at [tommyplural.bandcamp.com](http://tommyplural.bandcamp.com), echoes throwback punk and alt-rock bands like The Replacements and Hüsker Dü.

The disc was self-recorded and produced by McCord from October 2016 into early 2017 at his Lansing studio — however the tracks were



mastered by Rick Johnson (of Mustard Plug) at Cold War Studios in Grand Rapids. Thursday, Tommy Plural stakes the stage for a solo gig at The Avenue Café—opening the free show are

The Stick Arouns (local power pop) and Elroy Meltzer (West Michigan-based indie pop duo). As for the Stick Arouns, late last year the Lansing-based five-piece released its latest album, "Ways to Hang On." The vinyl LP, pressed by GTG, of course, is available at [stickaroundsmusic.com](http://stickaroundsmusic.com) and at local record shops.

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DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Tommy Plural, The Stick Arouns 8PM	Guilty Pleasure Karaoke 9PM	Culture Clash 9PM
Buddies, 1937 W Grand River Ave		Karaoke, 9PM		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Wednesday Night Live	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM
Claddagh, 2900 Towne Center Blvd.		Trivia, 7:30	Bobby Standal 7PM	
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia			The New Rule 9PM
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	Avon Bomb	Avon Bomb
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night	Karaoke	Miranda & The M80s	Roux
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia Night W/Sporcle 9PM		The Aimeriers 7PM	Be Kind Rewind 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			The Q106 Home Grown Throw Down 6:30PM	Sailor's Mouth Yoga 1:30 PM
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Petal 7PM		Blank Mirror 6:30PM
Nuthouse, 420 E Michigan Ave.		Music Bingo 8PM		
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Showdown 7PM	
Unicorn Lounge, 327 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.	Comedy Open Mic	Game Night	Jimmy G & The Capitols - Kidd Cincinnati 9PM	

# Out on the town

from page 18

**Moonlight Ski and Shoe.** From 6 to 9 p.m. \$10/person with our equipment or \$3/person with your own equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

**ARTS**  
**Make Your Own Flag.** From 1 to 3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Winter Open House.** From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE. Delphi Glass, 3380 E Jolly Rd. Lansing. 1-800-248-2048.

**Sunday, January 20**  
**CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS**  
**Juggling.** From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.

**MUSIC**  
**LSO Chamber Series: Music for Two Pianos & Two Percussion.** From 3 to 5 p.m. General Admission - \$20 Student - \$10. Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St. Lansing.

**Monday, January 21**  
**CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS**  
**Teen Cooking Workshop: Breakfast Made Easy.** From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

**Tuesday, January 22**  
**LITERATURE-AND-POETRY**  
**Preschool Storytime.** From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

**FRIDAY JAN. 18 >> "CAPTURING STILLNESS" EXHIBIT BY SHANNON STACKHOUSE AND STEPHANIE PALAGYI**

Photographer Shannon Stackhouse and painter Stephanie Palagyi use their different mediums woven around the theme of stillness for their latest exhibition. Often taking on the subject of nature, Palagyi and Stackhouse both focus on roots in much of their exhibited work.



**5:30 to 8 p.m., Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq., Ste. 101, Lansing (517) 374-6400, www.lansingartgallery.org**

**SATURDAY JAN. 19 >> MURDER AT THE DISTILLERY**

Solve a murder with cocktail in hand like any good hard-boiled detective in this event co-hosted by Michigrain Distillery and the Murder Mystery Co. The show will last two hours. Admission includes a buffet style dinner. Fire and Rice Paella will cater.



**7 to 10 p.m., \$70, Michigrain Distillery Inc., 523 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing (517) 220-0560, www.michigrain.net**

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
 From Pg. 19

B	E	A	M		D	O	T		P	E	K	O	E		
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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
 From Pg. 19

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



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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



### HE ATE



### SHE ATE

## Ruckus Ramen

### Michigan Avenue's hidden gem

By **MARK NIXON**

Weird things are happening in the Nixon household. No, not that. Sicko.

I mean, breakfast has officially become dinner — dinner from the night before. It churns some people's stomachs to think of having, say, fish tacos for breakfast. Tough tofu. Let them eat pancakes.

Me, I will take the leftover Miso Ramen from Ruckus Ramen. As I write this, I am still slurping last night's leftovers, and it is just as good as the night before. Which is to say, perfectly delicious.

Pork and chicken broth, pork shoulder, pork belly and fresh scallions are ladled into a bowl heaping with fresh ramen noodles. For \$13, plus a \$1 upgrade for fried garlic and shallots, it cannot get any better on a cold winter's day.

This is going to sound like I'm bought and paid for by the Greater Lansing Convention and Tourist Bureau, but here goes: Michigan Avenue is one of the great selling points of our community. It is more vibrant and more alive than at any other time I can remember, which goes back 50 years.

Somebody should throw a parade in Michigan Avenue's honor; I'd vote for Ruckus Ramen as the parade marshal.

Even if you aren't in the mood for food (your loss) a pilgrimage to this place is a sensory treat. Ruckus Ramen is the hidden gem parked inside a wide-open joint called The Avenue Café. As the name suggests, The Avenue sits on a street corner on Michigan Avenue. The Avenue is part bar, part pinball palace, part pool hall. Throw in a trove of quirky posters, one stuffed peacock and a huge dose of music that basically is a soundtrack of my youth, and you've got yourself a sensory paradise.

One minute the Coasters are belting out "Yakety Yak", and minutes later Patsy Cline pines over lost love in "I Fall to Pieces."

The place is practically a museum for cultural references. I fully expected to see an Andy Warhol print of Campbell Soup cans. Instead, I strolled around admiring the 19 pinball machines, many representing iconic movies like "Star Wars" and "Lord of the Rings."

On our meal receipt is the word

"Cowabunga!" Younger generations recognize it as a term from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Folks my age know it as the somewhat culturally insensitive exclamation uttered by Chief Thunderthud on the "Howdy Doody Show."

Why am I fixating on all this? Because this place has attitude down to an art form. Its website proudly boasts being "home to local miscreants."

Let us return to the menu ... Judy ordered a small plate of Karaage, Japanese-style fried chicken with barbecue sauce and spiced mayonnaise on the side. She declared the \$7 dish authentic, but not spot-on in the traditional Japanese tradition. She would know. Throughout her teaching career, Judy has spent several months in Japan, feasting on food from street vendors and straight from the kitchens of host families.

She next ordered the Shoyu Ramen (\$11), similar to the Miso Ramen. But this dish was topped with saffron-like threads of a mild chili pepper, plus a soy-soaked egg. Judy writes: "It's been many years since I had my first real ramen from a ramen cart outside the train station, on my way home from a night of celebrating with friends. I have had many, many bowls of ramen since then. Yes, there are differences (Where's

### Noodles for the whole family

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

A big, steaming, brothy bowl of fragrant noodles. Don't the words just make you want to start slurping? So many cultures have their own iteration of this comfort food, from spaghetti to pho, and I've never found a carb I didn't like.

Ruckus Ramen's offerings are a far cry from Ramen Noodles of yore. Get rid of your idea of pouring boiling water on top of a hard clump of noodles and stirring in your sodium-laced flavoring packet. Ramen is a work of art at Ruckus, and while the general shape of the noodles

remains the same, these bowls also feature protein and other flavor-boosting things like kimchi, green onions, and seaweed.

During one of our recent blustery nights — one of what, two blustery nights that we've had this year? Where is winter? I daydreamed about curling up in front of a fire in our den with steaming bowls of ramen. To that end, I found a telephone number on Ruckus' Facebook page and started calling. And calling. Every time I called, the phone rang and rang until a fax machine picked up. I finally sent them a Facebook message, which resulted in someone answering the phone to take my order. With limited hours that start at 3 p.m. and busy evenings, we needed to do a takeout dinner and this was a bump in the road.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Ruckus Ramen's Shoyu ramen.

### Ruckus Ramen

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
Inside Avenue Cafe  
(517) 492-7403

Order online: [www.kyscart.com/r/295/restaurants/delivery/Japanese/Ruckus-Ramen-Lansing](http://www.kyscart.com/r/295/restaurants/delivery/Japanese/Ruckus-Ramen-Lansing)  
Monday through Saturday 3 p.m.-1 a.m.

See He ate, Page 23

See She ate, Page 23

# He ate

from page 22

the corn? Maybe I forgot to order it!), but I would say the ramen at Ruckus Ramen fulfills my wish for a bowl of real ramen. Is it different from what I had in Japan? Probably. Is it good, anyway? Yes. The broth is rich and yummy, the other ingredients are tasty, and the noodles themselves are chewy. It was even good warmed up for breakfast.”

For our second meal, we shared a small plate of pork gyoza (\$3.50) and a Pork Belly Rice Bowl for \$7. The gyoza — a popular Japanese dumpling — was filled with bits of pork, ginger and chives, and daubed with a fermented soy sauce called Ponzu. My only regret is asking for a single order — three gyoza. I could have wolfed down a half-dozen.

# She ate

from page 22

chopped scallions studs the bowl, and the flavor profile is rounded out with menma, a fermented bamboo shoot that kind of looks like an egg noodle. The star, of course, is the ramen noodle, and even Baby She Ate chomped on a few of them. He only has six teeth, so we will save the pork dumplings and fried chicken for Mama.

The location, inside the Avenue Café, is unorthodox. As someone who lusts after Cuban sandwiches made in a gas station and once had to get a Hepatitis A vaccine before a trip abroad because I couldn't promise my doctor that I wouldn't eat any “weird meat,” this doesn't faze me. Ruckus Ramen is eclectic and delicious, but maybe they should consider a dedicated phone line.

The rice bowl gets passing marks, but doesn't come close to the ramen bowls we tried previously. They didn't skimp on the chunks of braised pork belly, so kudos for that.

For those adept at using chopsticks, know that they are standard operating equipment at Ruckus Ramen. For those inept souls who find chopsticks a form of mental torture (me), you can ask for a fork and they won't kick you out.

Many years ago, I lived two blocks from where the Avenue/Ruckus Ramen now resides. It used to be Raupp Campfitters. The closest restaurants were a fast-food fish and chips joint, and a narrow, dark Italian restaurant, Emil's. Both are gone now.

Better dining spots have thankfully appeared along Michigan Avenue. Ruckus Ramen has joined the party, and Lansing's restaurant scene is better for it.



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- 2. Taste of Thai • (517) 324-0225**  
2838 E. Grand River Ave. Suite 2, East Lansing | www.tasteofthaiel.com
- 3. No Thai! • (517) 336-5555**  
403 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing | www.nothai.com
- 4. Niang Myanmar Family Restaurant • (857) 615-8393**  
3308 S. Cedar St. #3, Lansing | Order online: doordash.com
- 5. Thai Princess • (517) 381-1558**  
1754 Central Park Dr., Okemos | www.thaiprincessmi.com



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# Bento Kitchen Cravings

By DENNIS BURCK

A Korean and Japanese fusion restaurant offering sizzling bibimbap bowls, entrancing green glass noodles and hulking bulgogi burritos comes to Frandor to market its off the wall creations.

“There are a lot of Asian restaurants in the East Lansing and Frandor area. We wanted to be a little different,” owner Frank Cheng said.

“Americans like to have finger food and something they can grab like tacos and burritos. Koreans are known for marinated barbecue meats and K-Mex is getting very popular in the East and West Coast areas.”

With its two-week soft opening behind it, Bento Kitchen Cravings will host its grand opening Jan. 16 with a classic rice bowl with kimchi and choice of meat for \$5 until Jan. 19.

Cheng, a New York native from Manhattan’s Chinatown neighborhood, moved to Lansing in the early 2000s with his parents and started longtime Lansing Chinese takeout staple China Garden on Mt. Hope. He spent the last 20 years in the local food industry, working with several different Asian cuisines around Lansing, including operating the former Xiao Asian Bistro on Saginaw Street. “Millennials want more diverse food. You see it across the spectrum where everyone is trying different things. It’s not all hamburgers and hotdogs like in the ‘80s. We’ve been exploring our palate,” Cheng said.

This is much different from the Lansing of 10 years ago, he added.

“Before, you had to really go to Detroit or Chicago to eat better food. But now, you can just stay here and explore the local area.”

An entry level dish that can sum up the Bento Kitchen Cravings experience is the K-Mex bulgogi burrito, Chen said. “Bulgo-

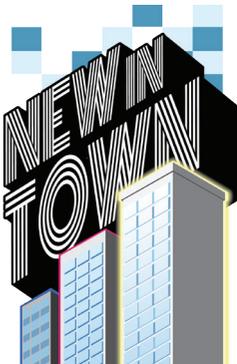


Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Bento Kitchen Cravings’ bulgogi bibimbap is a traditional Korean stone bowl dish cooked directly on a stovetop flame featuring marinated sliced ribeye, assorted vegetables, rice and a sunny side up egg.

## Bento Kitchen Cravings

Grand Opening Jan. 17  
Monday to Thursday  
11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday  
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
310 N. Clippert St. Ste. 6,  
Lansing  
(517) 580-8103  
www.bento-kitchen-cravings.business.site



gi is marinated sliced rib eye. It is different than a typical burrito. That’s for sure.”

Meaning “fire meat” in English, Bulgogi is a Korean staple traditionally marinated in soy sauce, sugar, sesame oil, garlic and ground black pepper. Also within Bento Kitchen Cravings’ bulgogi burrito is kimchi fried rice, cheese, pico de gallo and Bento’s signature sauce.

Moving into more traditional fare, Bento Kitchen Cravings offers a bibimbap, a crispy rice dish cooked directly on the stovetop

flame in a clay bowl including seasoned vegetables, Korean chili paste, a sunny side up egg and choice of tofu or meat.

Chen said there is no need to feel worried about trying new food — all of Bento Kitchen Cravings’ staff can walk customers through the menu and explain items if necessary.

“We have to educate our guests if they come in here to see what they want to try,” he

said. “Teriyaki chicken and rice bowls people are familiar with, but we also have very traditional Korean seafood noodle soups that are very flavorful too.”

The new restaurant brings 8 new jobs to the Lansing area.

“It’s been nice to broaden the American pallet with different food choices. We want everyone to try something new and get what they want out of it.”

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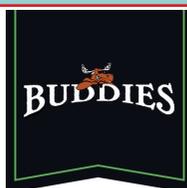
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