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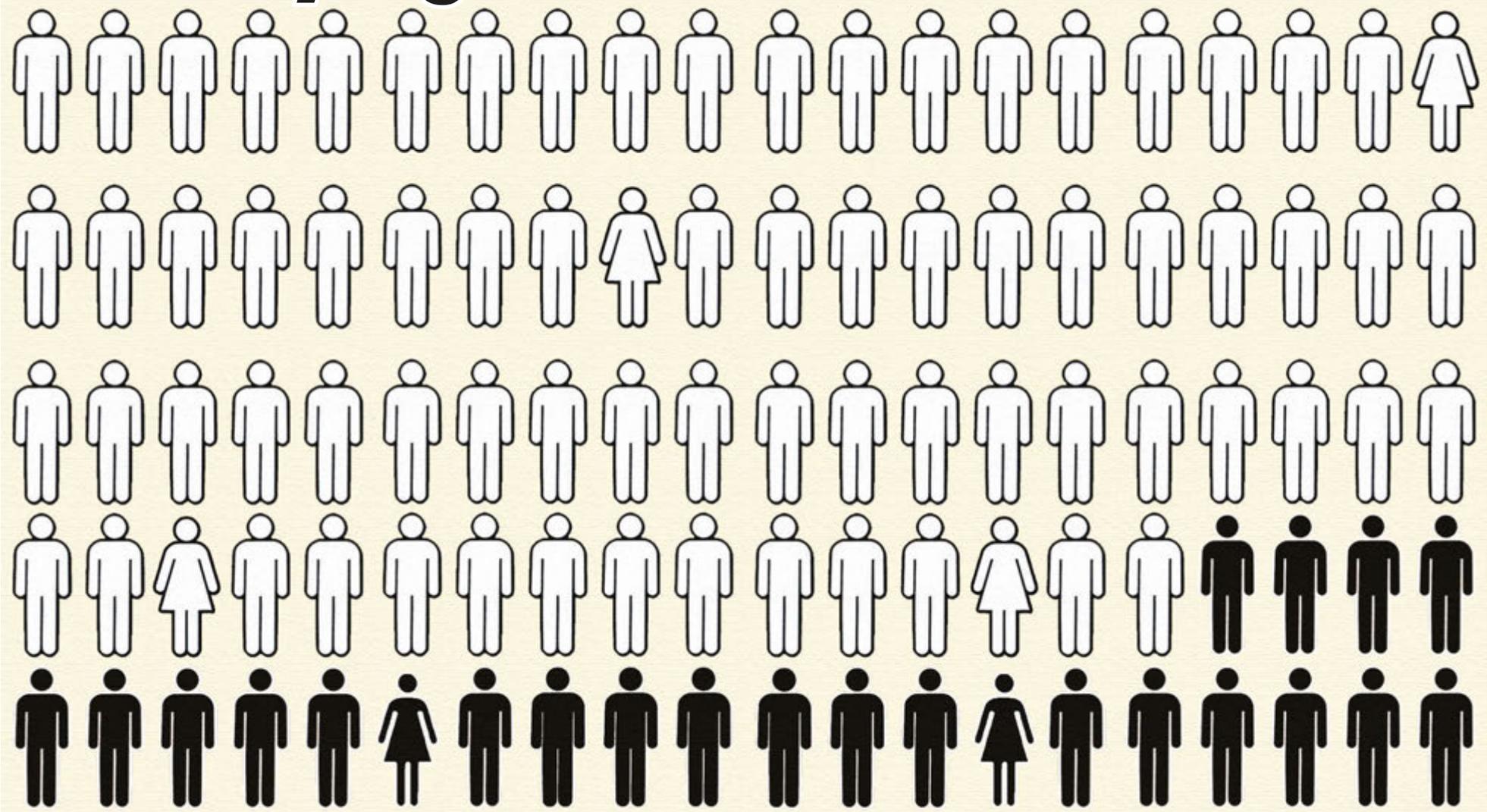
CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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December 12 - 18, 2018

Playing with a stacked deck



Local governments struggle with racial, gender disparities

See page 9

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City Pulse thanks you for helping us maintain and expand award-winning local coverage.

Thanks for your thoughts

It's wonderful opening envelopes from readers answering our call for contributions, not just for the checks but also the occasional notes.

Some comment on their favorite content, such as the crossword, Sudoku listings, theater reviews. "This Modern World," by Tom Tomorrow (aka Dan Perkins), and "Free World Astrology," by Rob Breznsy, received mentions. When we launched City Pulse in 2001, an alt paper in Grand Rapids, called The Paper, with expansionist dreams, had rights to Breznsy in the Lansing market. The owner was a journalist with no business experience. He produced a terrific publication — with few ads. Resigned to the struggle of operating even one newspaper, he conceded Breznsy to City Pulse. Alas, The Paper lasted just a few years more. I learned of its demise from the printing salesman City Pulse and The Paper shared. He called me in a panic. Would I know how to track down The Paper's owner? It seems The Paper left my printer without even a bad check to show for it.

That digression aside, I particularly enjoy the diverse comments from readers. There was this in last week's batch: "I am an unrepentant Trump voter, but I recognize the value of your publication. Best wishes." His signature followed.

This note came a month after we all but accused anyone not voting for



BERL SCHWARTZ

Democrats in the midterm election of being unAmerican. I cannot fathom why this obviously intelligent man — he supports City Pulse, after all — still backs Trump, whatever may have motivated his vote two years ago. But he gives me hope that perhaps civility can be restored (absent Trump, of course).

Then there's this: "You get the Izzy Stone award. I am sure he is weeping up there in the afterlife. Thank you for your faithfulness: you give me hope."

As you do as well. And more. Just to hear City Pulse mentioned in the same breath as I.F. Stone is gratifying (and daunting). His investigative bent and progressive views are reasons enough to admire him. But he is a legend because he overcame being blacklisted in the 1950s (long after renouncing Communism, for which he had been a fellow traveler). Unemployed, he launched I.F. Stone's Weekly, which became must reading by reporting on stories buried in the public record. Thank you, Peter, for the compliment.

Thanks to the scores of you who have donated. If you wish to join them, please turn back a page for more info. And drop us a line with or without a check.

CityPULSE

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**PAGE
11**

Our Last Minute Gift Guide will help you find a perfect present



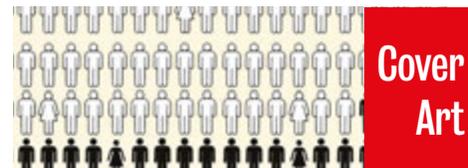
**PAGE
21**

Bath Twp. art gallery features Robert Park



**PAGE
27**

Holiday cocktails around the Capital City



**Cover
Art**

Design by Skyler Ashley

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

WE'RE JOINED NOW BY OUR FREQUENT GUEST, THE FAR-RIGHT SOCIOPATH WE'VE INEXPLICABLY CHOSEN AS THE VOICE OF SENSIBLE CONSERVATISM!

OH, THAT'S MUSIC TO THE EARS OF THIS AVOWEDLY NON-PARTISAN NEWSMAN! SURE, TRUMP'S UNIQUELY DIVISIVE, BUT BOTH ENDS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM ARE STILL PRETTY MUCH EQUIVALENT, AMIRITE?

IT'S NOT COMPLICATED, BIFF! YOU TAKE SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE UP IN A HELICOPTER--AND PUSH THEM OUT! PROBLEM SOLVED! ARGUMENT OVER! IT'S THE SORT OF BOLD SOLUTION WE NEED IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO BREAK PARTISAN GRIDLOCK!

YOU KNOW, BIFF, THE PROBLEM WITH POLITICS...IS THAT PEOPLE SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ARGUING!

ABSOLUTELY, AND THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE MY POLITICAL OPPONENTS SHOULD BE DROPPED OUT OF HELICOPTERS--LIKE PINOCCHET USED TO DO!

ER-- WAIT, WHAT?

WELL, PARTISAN GRIDLOCK IS A PROBLEM!

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

BUT I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT HAVE A SLIGHTLY MORE, AH, CENTRIST VIEWPOINT FOR US? MAYBE SOMETHING ABOUT WORKING TOGETHER TO GET THINGS DONE DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES?

WELL--THANKS AS ALWAYS FOR YOUR PROVOCATIVE BUT UNDOUBTEDLY WELL-INTENTIONED PERSPECTIVE! AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR NEW BOOK, "FIFTY WAYS TO KILL A LIBERAL!"

THANK YOU, BIFF, FOR HELPING TO MAINSTREAM MY BELIEFS WHILE PAYING VERY LITTLE ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY ACTUALLY ARE!

COMING UP NEXT: TRUMP'S WAR ON THE MEDIA!

SURE! THAT SOUNDS GREAT! AS SOON AS WE PUSH ALL THE TROUBLE-MAKERS OUT OF HELICOPTERS!

I SEE!

YOU KNOW, HE HAS A VERY LARGE HELICOPTER! I BET YOU COULD TOSS A LOT OF FAKE NEWS JOURNALISTS OUT OF THAT THING!

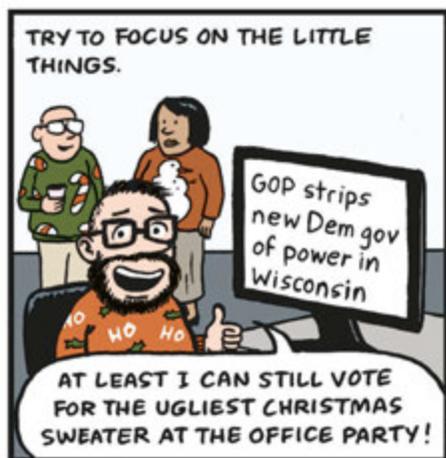
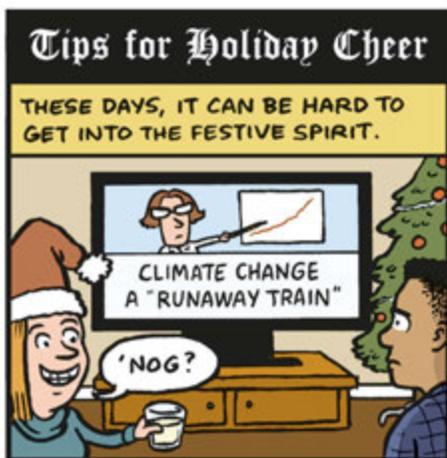
SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

I AM JUST SAYING, IN THE SPIRIT OF LIVELY DEBATE!

OF COURSE! IT'S ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO HEAR BOTH SIDES OF AN ISSUE!

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Final push for Capitol visitors space

Plan asks \$55 million for 'Heritage Hall'

State Capitol officials are making a final late run at scrounging up \$55 million in state money for a large meeting space and 500-seat, auditorium-like room on the back lawn of the Capitol.

"Heritage Hall," as it's being proposed, would be a meeting space for the 250,000 annual visitors who tour the Capitol and the 350 events that take place each year. It would also give legislators a large meeting space to hold big committees, like the governor's annual budget presentation.

House Clerk Gary Randall, who chairs the Michigan Capitol Commission, is urging legislators to carve out money for the project from the year-end \$371 million General Fund spending bill set to be approved in the lame duck's closing days.

Now is, realistically, legislators' last chance to make this capital improvement before crews button up the \$70 million geothermal and internal capital infrastructure project that's had the Capitol ground's backside torn up for more than a year, he said.

Last year, legislators declined a similar \$85 million learning center as part of the "guts" project, but that one was a bit more elaborate and included a parking lot. This scaled-back plan would create a 54,000-square-foot indoor center on the northwest corner near Ottawa Street where large groups could meet.

The plans call for a small loop where buses could unload and load passengers. Plans developed by the Christman Co. for the State Capitol Commission also include a large skylight providing natural sun for a spacious meeting center and learning area.

"Heritage Hall will create jobs, increase tourism, and most importantly, provide a safer, expanded educational environment for the more than 115,000 Michigan school children who visit the Capitol each year," read the plans provided to the commission.

"The addition would complement our treasured National Historic Landmark and relieve the heavy pressures placed on this 139-year-old building. It would promote learning for Michigan's students and provide a place for interaction between Michigan citizens and state officials."

If the full House and Senate fund Heritage Hall, Randall said it would add another 18 months to the construction timeline, which



Christman Co.

A rendering of the proposed Heritage Hall. Legislators are being asked to greenlight a \$55 million plan for a new visitors and meeting space on the back side of the Capitol.

doesn't have crews finishing up for another year and a half.

However, Randall said if this project isn't done now, when the ground is already chewed up, it will cost at least \$1.5 million more when a future Legislature realizes the Capitol's crammed east entrance facing Michigan Avenue isn't convenient or secure for visitors.

In the past, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce has pushed the project as an economic catalyst. An estimated 100,000 more people would visit the center, according to the projections.

"It really is time to look forward on how we want to use what is truly a public treasure 20 or 30 years down the road," said John Truscott, a member of the Michigan Capitol Commission. "There is significant wear and tear that comes with a building this old. We have thousands and thousands of people coming through what is essentially a museum and it costs a lot to maintain it. We can take some of the stress off this building with this proposal."

Legislative leaders are chewing on the proposal after receiving a briefing a couple weeks ago.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell) said he has not been supportive of the prior Capitol learning center proposals due to cost. The question he and other Republican leaders ask is whether

spending \$55 million on the Capitol is a truly a necessity or a nicety.

The Governor's original \$371 million supplemental proposal includes \$183 million in new money for roads, \$52 million for a new Soo Lock, \$35 million into responding to the perfluoroalkyl (PFAS) contamination, among various other projects. It hires 246 more Child Protective Services (CPS) workers.

It puts \$160 million into the rainy day fund to get it to \$1.2 billion or 5 percent of the total General Fund and School Aid Fund combined, which Wall Street rating agencies consider "best practices." This is before legislators get at the budget for specific projects they want funded.

In short, Heritage Hall has a lot of competition.

Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing), who will be the Senate Democrats' ranking member on the Senate Appropriations Committee next year, said he will continue to push for the plan.

"No one has ever regretted investing in improvements in the Capitol building, especially when it helps respect our history and gives us all gentle reminders that the building belongs to the people of Michigan," he said.

— **KYLE MELINN**
(Melinn of the Capitol news service
MIRS is at melinnky@gmail.com.)

CANDY OF THE WEEK



People love to make fun of the four giant red balls that materialize each December in the traffic roundabout east of the state Capitol, but they are a bit less ballsy this year.

For years, owing to their bald, raw redness and frightening testosterone capacity, they were usually mentioned with a snicker. Brazenly rolling around so close to City Hall, they were jokingly assumed to be aspirational attributes of former Mayor Virg Bernero.

This year, the balls are back, but this is a different era. Nice mayor Andy Schor is ensconced in City Hall and the balls are now decorated with an appropriately friendly, holiday sweater snowflake design, courtesy of Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland. (Downtown Lansing Inc. purchased the ornaments from Bronner's in 2009.)

The red layer was also repainted, using automotive paint, so they are extra shiny and lacquered up. The tops of the ornaments were also changed from silver to bronze.

The spiffy upgrade makes these arresting objects look like ornaments, not just balls. They don't loom quite as angrily, as if they are about to roll off the roundabout and crush your non-GM car. Passersby can appreciate their whimsy as well as their size, or just run around downtown, buying nuts at the Nuthouse and pretending they are excited little ants on Christmas morning.

Enjoy them while you can, for there are plans to put a permanent public sculpture into the roundabout. When that happens, no doubt the formerly angry balls will find another place to nestle.

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

Demands outweigh medical marijuana supply

Lansing to drop lawsuit but statewide concerns persist

The medical marijuana industry is breaking new ground in the capital city after Homegrown Lansing became the first local dispensary to earn a state operating license from Michigan's Medical Marijuana Licensing Board.

But industry professionals suggested the number of local dispensaries won't matter if they aren't able to stock their shelves. And it doesn't appear the supply, at least for now, will be able to meet the growing demand.

The 45 licensed dispensaries in Michigan — including HomeGrown — will be required to resupply only from 28 licensed growing facilities across the state by Dec. 31. They can still buy from caregivers until then, but advice from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs pushed the board to tighten the regulatory leash.

The licensing board last week agreed not to take "disciplinary action" against shops that peddled caregiver bud, just as long as they notified patients and agreed to switch their supply chain by the end of the year. But some have contended the limited number of growing facilities are simply incapable of meeting statewide demand.



Kyle Kaminski

Andrew Livingston, the director of economics and research for the law firm of Vicente Sederberg, provides legal analysis and market projections for the marijuana industry in Colorado and across the nation. And even with the most liberal of estimations, Michigan will be destined to enter into a statewide drought without some sort of change, he said.

"The hardest thing is that even if these facilities are licensed, they're not grown out yet," Livingston added. "Even with the most outrageous estimates, on the high end for what will be grown, it's still not going to be close to even meeting one-

Homegrown Lansing, at 1116 E. Oakland Ave., was the first dispensary in Lansing to receive a state operating license from Michigan's Medical Marijuana Licensing Board. Its Facebook page advertises the shop as the "newest and soon-to-be best" provisioning center in the capital city.

third of the demand. We're also going to see a bottleneck with testing and transportation."

Sixteen growing facilities were licensed by the state board last week, edging up the total number to 28 statewide. Twenty-six of those facilities can produce up to 1,500 plants. Two are capped at 500 plants each. Some quick math, assuming those facilities are filled to capacity, indicates the statewide market can hold 40,000 plants.

Livingston suggested each one of those pot plants — assuming they're able to meet peak harvest yields — can only be expected to generate 1 pound to 1.5 pounds of usable marijuana product every year, or a maximum total of 60,000 pounds. And with more than 300,000 patients across the state, the market isn't likely to produce leftovers.

Livingston estimated that each patient can be expected to annually consume at least a half-pound of pot.

Put simply, it means the current market won't be able to adequately supply medicine for at least half of all patients statewide. And to further exacerbate the problem, only four testing facilities and secure transporters have received a state license, and they'll soon be expected to carry the weight of the entire statewide industry.

The licensing board, following LARA's advice, will allow dispensaries to sell off the remainder of their caregiver-bought marijuana as long as it has been tested in full compliance with the law and regulatory rules. Growers and processors can also buy caregiver pot through Feb. 28, 2019 under the same restrictions.

"Allowing growers and processors to supplement the market with caregiver product is an important part of bridging the gap," explained LARA spokesman David Harns. "We're working with licensees to ensure that patient access is maintained." LARA, however, hasn't estimated how much pot will actually be needed to

do so.

The state license issued Friday to Homegrown was the first of its kind to arrive in Lansing after City Clerk Chris Swope doled out his first batch of city-level licenses to 11 local pot shops within the last few weeks. The recent development also spelled what's likely to be the end of a lawsuit the city had waged against the state.

Lansing filed suit against the state's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs over concerns about patient access to medicinal bud. But city officials, given the recent developments in the licensing process, have repeatedly voiced a willingness to dismiss the case. And a state judge has since placed the dispute on pause.

The possibility of a settlement "appears likely," according to a recent order to stay the proceedings. Meanwhile, Court of Claims Judge Stephen Borrello has postponed any future hearings and allowed First Class Inc. — a company with marijuana interests in Jackson County — to continue its negotiations with state officials.

The lawsuit, which was initially filed by First Class Inc. in October, pushed back against a now-rescinded rule from the state. LARA previously ordered dozens of unlicensed dispensaries to close by Oct. 31 before Borrello invalidated the mandate. A court order remained in place this week barring the state from imposing any similar deadlines.

As the prior deadline passed, officials with LARA agreed not to enforce any closures for temporarily operating dispensaries until at least Dec. 31. Lansing, in turn, agreed to consider dismissing its portion of the lawsuit given the new, extended timeframe to sort through applications and dole out 11 licenses within the city of Lansing.

The lawsuit against LARA, however, could still press forward regardless of whether Lansing remains involved.

First Class Inc. attorney Joslin Monahan has said its arguments will continue should LARA again decide to impose another "arbitrary and capricious" shutdown deadline. But her case is also focused on the ability for the "industry at large" to provide an adequate supply of medical marijuana across the state.

And First Class Inc. President Eric Kanaia, although not formally qualified as an expert in the courtroom, previously testified to his concerns about the looming supply drought that now faces the industry. Additional licenses could arrive at the board's next meeting on Dec. 21 but the concerns over a potential shortage remain.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for previous and continued coverage on statewide medical marijuana regulation.

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

B/19/056 BOARD UP SERVICES 2018-2019 as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the City of Lansing, C/O LBWL, Purchasing Office, 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on Dec. 18, 2018 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197 email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#18-310

RFP/19/059 HEALTH SAVINGS PLAN SERVICES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept proposals at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on DEC. 28, 2018 at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#18-312

RFP/19/053 OFFENDER EMPLOYMENT SERVICES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept proposals at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on DEC. 21, 2018 at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#18-313

RFP/19/058 PROGRAM BASED BUDGETING CONSULTANT SERVICES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept proposals at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on JAN. 8, 2019 at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#18-314

Local cities set to cash in on scooters

Officials prepare licensing agreements for spring

As wintry weather slows electric scooters in Lansing and East Lansing, local officials are working on rules to regulate their usage for the spring. And it'll likely include thousands of dollars in revenue for both cities.

Lansing rushed together a temporary licensing agreement in October after Lime and Bird rolled out a fleet of electric scooters with little (if any) notice. East Lansing took a largely hands-off approach as thousands of college students zipped around city streets.

But the Lansing agreement has since expired. The City Council, spurred by Councilman Peter Spadafore, is working on the next version. And East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows doesn't want to see East Lansing miss the same opportunity. He just wants them off the streets while city officials can figure out a plan.

Lansing's draft licensing agreement, following a brief hearing Monday, was referred to the Council's Public Service Committee. It includes several key differences from the existing rules. Perhaps most notably, the 250-scooter limit within the city has been entirely removed from the draft language.

And that didn't sit well with some residents, who voiced concerns about the dozens

of scooters scattered around the city, some in the middle of public sidewalks.

Local resident Kathy Miles suggested the potentially limitless number of scooters was "disturbing," especially should another company decide to roll into the city. And some riders have been known to ignore stop signs and weave through traffic, causing concerns for traffic safety — particularly at night.

The yet-to-be finalized licensing agreement provides legal definitions for dockless scooters and establishes rules about how the companies are to operate and where the scooters can be driven and parked. Each company will likely need to pay a \$5,000 annual licensing fee and a \$1 fee per scooter, per day.

With 200 scooters from each company, the city could stand to rake in more than \$150,000 annually. The draft resolution allocates the funds to the city's "Complete Streets" initiative to help promote access for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and those who use public transportation.

"We didn't know they'd have the scooters out in the winter, but these streets are clear right now," explained Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. "The date doesn't really mean anything here. It's just a matter of the conditions."

See Scooters, Page 8

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing

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STATUTORY PUBLICATION
in this newspaper

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Sealed bids marked **S/19/055, 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. Jan. 16, 2019**

Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson, Buyer, at (517) 702-6197 or email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com - 30day notice.

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. JAN. 16, 2019**, as follows:

Shroyer's, 2740 Eaton Rapids Rd, Lansing Mi. 48911	8:30am
H&H Towing, 1500 Haslett, E. Lansing, MI 48823	10:00 am
Northside Towing, 226 Russell, Lansing, MI 48906	10:45 am

**Auction AD Report
NORTHSIDE**

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2010		MAZDA
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1986		GMC
2019		OTHER
2009		PONT
2002		CHRY
2008		SATURN
2011		CHEV
2007		DODGE
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2008		TOYO
2008		CHRY
2004		CHEV
2015		HYUN
2002		CHEV
2001		PONT
H&H		
2007		DODGE
SHROYERS		
2015		OTHER
2013		DODGE
2014		HYUN
2006		CHRY
2007		BMW
2015		NISS
2001		HYUN
2008		CHEV
2012		HONDA

Scooters

from page 8

What if these companies litter the streets with 1,000 scooters, as some residents fear?

“These companies track the usage and if they’re being used, they stay. If not, they’ve moved somewhere else,” Schor said. “They’re not just dropping off scooters to leave them

around town. If we have several hundred being used, then we’ll have several hundred scooters on the streets.”

In East Lansing, officials sent letters asking both companies to remove the scooters from the streets by today while city officials lock down a licensing agreement. Lime agreed to pull its fleet, but Bird ignored the request, a city spokesperson confirmed Tuesday.

Meadows said eventual confiscation would

be the next logical step.

“It’s wintertime, plus school is on break. The students are the primary users so they’re not getting much use out here, and we don’t have any agreements in place,” Meadows explained. “If they continue to leave them out on the streets, other than confiscation, I don’t know what else we could do.”

East Lansing’s City Council was expected to discuss the topic Tuesday evening. Meadows indicated that before the scooters will be allowed to return, officials need to have “everything” in place, including a revenue-based franchising fee.

“We chose not to confiscate any scooters, unlike the university, but now it’s time to get some structure in place,” Meadows added. “They’ve had the fall. They’re not being used right now. We need to outline where they can be parked and how much these companies

will have to pay before they can continue to operate in East Lansing.”

MSU officials, in contrast to East Lansing’s laissez-faire approach, have impounded hundreds of scooters for improper parking. They’re largely treated as mopeds and have only been allowed to be kept at metered parking spaces. And that policy remains intact.

Lime didn’t respond to a request for comment. A Bird spokesman said a team is “dedicated to closely monitoring all conditions, and they adjust our operations accordingly. This includes pausing our service when weather does not permit safe riding, and can sometimes lead to removing Birds from the road during periods of inclement weather.

“We look forward to continuing our collaborative partnerships with local officials.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

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CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1241

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend Chapter 812, Section 812.04 to include within the prohibited transportation devices on sidewalks in the Principal Shopping District for electric scooters and other similar devices.

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk’s Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC
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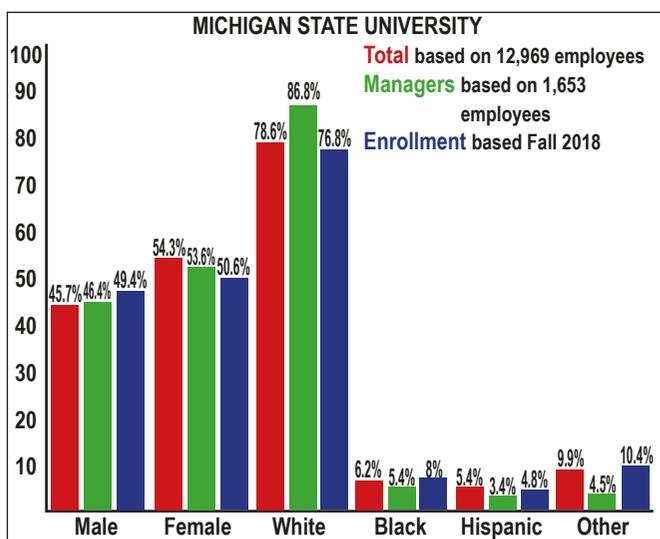
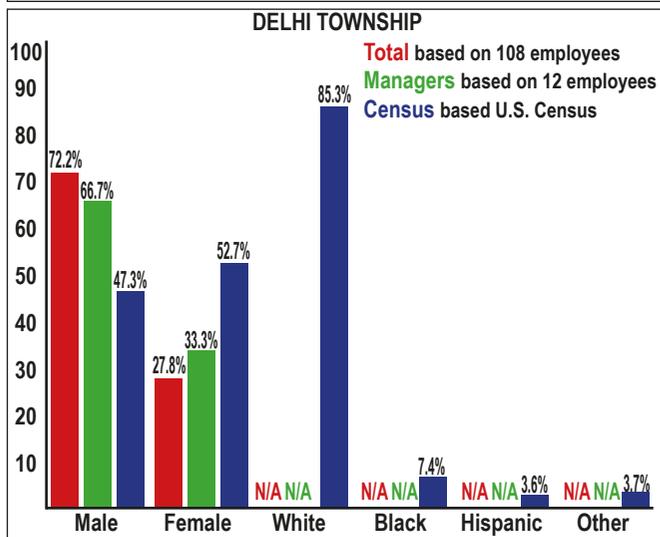
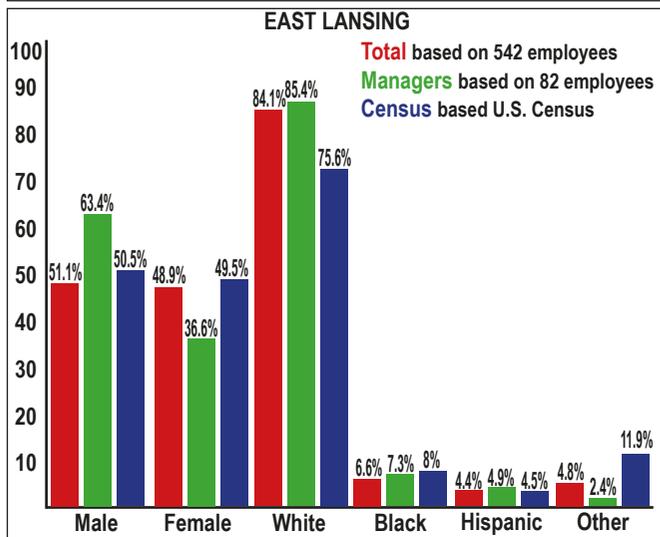
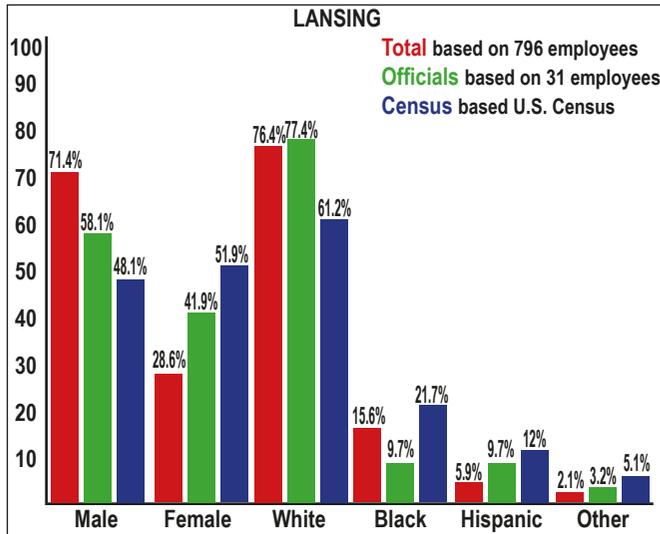



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Does local government reflect the community?

Gender, racial disparities still pervade local municipalities

Local government works for the people. But what happens when the people don't work for local government?

A City Pulse investigation revealed several key disparities among employees hired within townships, cities and other governmental agencies within the Greater Lansing region. The overarching trend: Municipalities have made strides toward gender and racial diversity — but the statistics, by and large, are still skewed toward white men.

Freedom of Information Act requests sent to various governmental agencies bear out that most employees are disproportionately male. And white employees, in every agency, still tend to outnumber their African American and Hispanic counterparts — particularly those within managerial roles.

Figures from the U.S. Census Bureau show that women account for a larger portion of the population than men within every local community. The local region, even in the most diverse areas of Lansing, is at least 60 percent white. But locally employed white men still routinely exceed those census percentages across the board.

So what's the problem? True diversity, according to officials with the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, requires committed leadership and continuous improvements to workplace culture. A "pipeline" needs to engage diverse talent from an early age and citizens need to stay meaningfully involved if they ever want to bridge that divide.

Most local officials suggested diversity in employment has remained at the tops of their agendas, especially after a record-breaking number of women ran for elected office earlier this year. Diverse ideas, including those from people of color, invariably lead to a richer discourse and a more realistic representation of local neighborhoods.

But only three public entities have made significant strides in achieving gender equity in management and employment, officials said. And while some local municipalities have leveled their racial composition with census figures, the struggle to attract and retain a diverse and locally representative staff requires constant commitment.

And the statistics show that not every local governmental agency has been able to keep up with the pace.

"The Year of the Woman"

Men outnumber women within most of the local agencies that provided data to City Pulse. In some cases, those figures align with overall demographics from the U.S. Census Bureau. In others, the number of men employed within governmental positions is disproportionately higher than statistics from the rest of their communities.

Each municipality was also asked to provide a roster of employees tasked with managerial responsibilities. The gender-based disparity — particularly within the upper echelons of the organizations — only continued to grow.

Women were not only outnumbered, but many seemed to be stuck on a lower rung of the organizational ladder.

Data shows "the same disparities in the employment of women, particularly in managerial positions, that we see across the country," explained Mary Engelman, the executive director of the Michigan Women's Commission.

Only Ingham County government, Michigan State University and the city of East Lansing have managed to keep up with a gender-balanced staff, Engelman noted. Females outnumber their male colleagues at both MSU and Ingham County. And East Lansing's staff (with about 49 percent wom-



Engelman

en) closely matches with city demographics.

"This pattern tells us that when employers — in government, private business or academia — focus on equity, they can deliver it," Engelman added, labeling the diverse path forward as an "ongoing struggle."

"The more reflective our public bodies are of the people they serve, the more responsive government becomes."

The City of Lansing and Delhi Township were among the worst gender offenders. While the capital city boasts about a 52 percent female population, they only account for about 29 percent of the city staff. Delhi Township, with a population of 53 percent women, is also heavily weighted down with about 72 percent male employees.

Delhi Township Manager John Elsinga — who said he "doesn't pay much attention" to diversity statistics — blamed the disparity on the general nature of the job. Firefighters and maintenance personnel have historically been men. Office workers are typically women. And it can be difficult to shake up the status quo, he maintained.



Elsinga

"I wasn't aware of that situation," added Township Supervisor John Hayhoe. "I'm paying attention to the streets and the sidewalks, and I don't really look at the sex of the people we hire. I don't look at their ages and their race. I just like to make sure we have the best people working to do the best job possible for the township."



Hayhoe

Officials at the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan cautioned local officials to take a "long and hard look" at their hiring and recruitment efforts. It's critical for local municipalities to reflect the communities they serve. When the decision-making table doesn't look like the community, everyone suffers, officials contended.

"Passively waiting for people of color and women to apply in hopes that this will somehow create a diverse staff is a formula for failure and puts the blame on people of color and women for not applying rather than a recruitment process that leaves people out," added Rana Elmir, deputy director of the ACLU of Michigan.



Elmir

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor has kept a closer eye on the composition of his staff. He contended most of the gender disparities among city personnel are based on a long and imbalanced history. Since he was elected mayor, Schor has been intentionally careful to hire a more equitable mix of men and women into city offices, he said.

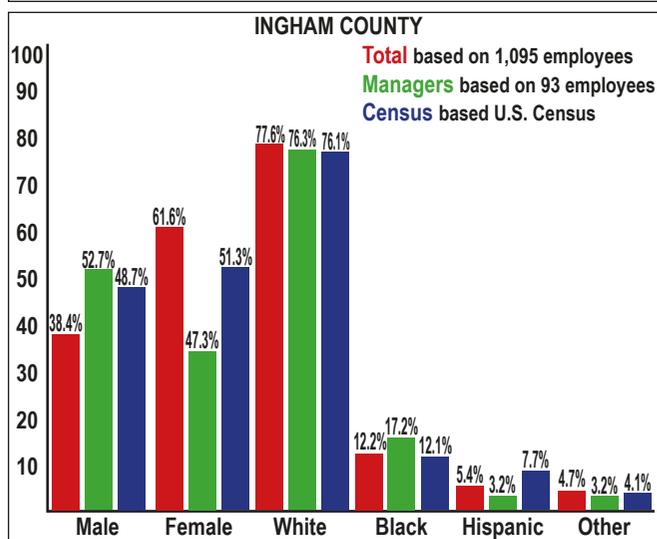
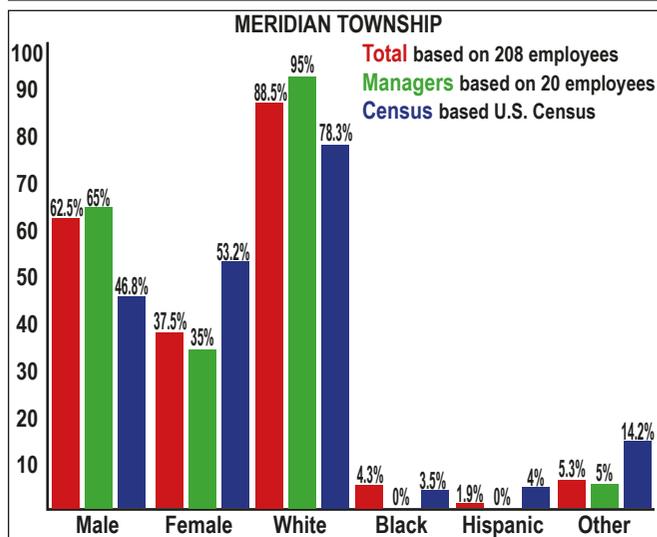
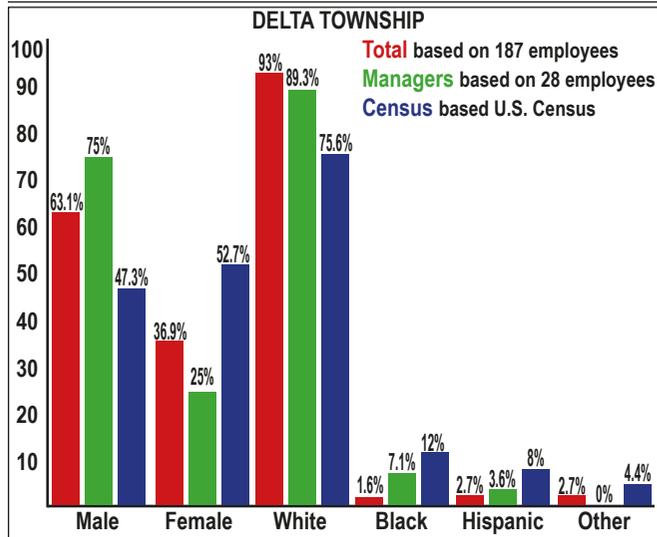
Lansing hired 134 men and 98 women since Schor was elected amid an effort to balance those statistics. But, like many other local officials explained, it can be difficult to hire a diverse staff when diverse applicants aren't going after the jobs. While Schor expressed a commitment to diversity, he said his hands are tied by the applicant pool.



Schor

"Clearly, we want our workforce to be reflective of the community, but you can't get people hired if they don't apply for the job," Schor added. "In terms of women as opposed to men? I don't really have thoughts on that. We advertise far and wide. We have folks send emails out to different groups. We're really doing our best."

Ingham County, on the other hand, is 51 percent female but women account for nearly 62 percent of the staff. Human Resources Director Sue Graham said that diversity was only



About the data: These figures were generated through Freedom of Information Act requests that sought to determine the number of male and female employees within each municipality. The request — with the exception of Delhi Township — also provided details about the racial composition of each employee base. Specifically, we reviewed figures for white, black and Hispanic employees.

“Officials” or “Managerial Positions” were defined by each municipality. These are positions that provide direct supervision to lower-level employees and are given other leadership responsibilities with each organization. Again, these positions were defined by each agency.

Key Findings: Within most municipalities, male employees tend to outnumber women employees in governmental positions. That disparity, on average, also tends to grow wider within managerial positions. Essentially, men seem preferred over women in the defined leadership positions.

The majority of employees within local municipalities are white. This generally matches trends within overall census demographics for each area, but in most cases, these positions are given to white people on a disproportionate basis. While Hispanic employees tend to be more in line with census demographics, that disparity is widened for African American employees.

Again, this disparity tends to grow wider within managerial positions for people of color.

Diversity

from page 9

made possible by recruiting with a “wider net.” She always reaches out to inclusion-based organizations when looking to fill each position, she emphasized.

“We’re fully aware of that (applicant pool) issue,” explained County Commissioner Bryan Crenshaw. “We work with outreach. We look at different groups to share these job postings, and it’s working. There are ways to put these options in front of people. It’s just about reaching out and working with different community groups.”

As for the grittier professions that typically scare away female applicants? An ACLU spokesperson emphasized it provides “all the more reason” a diverse recruitment plan should be a key priority for local governments.

“One way to do this is to develop a robust recruitment plan seeking a diverse pool of applicants year-round by fostering relationships with organizations and people who are also committed to diversity and can help identify potential hires,” Elmira added. “It’s about prioritizing what you want and making it a reality.”

Racial Disparities

Every local government that provided data for this story tallied a significantly larger number of white employees compared to people of color. Based on overall population demographics, this (at least to some degree) was an expected finding. But some local agencies have clearly been able to diversify their staff more than others.

So what’s their secret?

State Rep.-elect Sarah Anthony has been involved with politics since she took an internship in high school. She said women of color — particularly those placed in management roles — helped her to realize the viability of successfully pursuing a government career. It just took one person to help open the door, she said.

“I think it’s important to have people of color in these managerial positions,” Anthony added. “It instills trust in the system among people of color. It means something when you have people reflective of the diversity within the community. That’s an intangible benefit because sometimes these systems are inherently biased against us.”

Delhi Township doesn’t track the racial composition of its staff at all. Delta Township has a 12-percent black population but African Americans only account for 1.6 percent of the heavily white staff. Meridian Township operates with similar statistics but has so far failed to promote a single African American into management.

Joyce Marx, the human resources director at Meridian Township, said most (primarily white) employees have been on staff with the township for decades. Diversity is important to the township overall, but it’s hard to enact any meaningful statistical changes when the job openings are so far and few between, she maintained.

“We’re looking for African American employees. But we haven’t needed additional people in years,” Marx said.

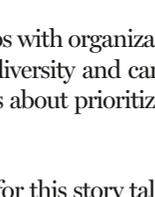
In Lansing Township, Supervisor Dion’trae Hayes has made diversity a key element within the hiring process. Local residents like to be able to see some version of themselves within the governments that represent them, she empha-



Anthony



Crenshaw



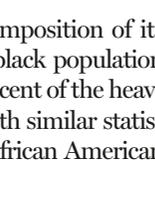
Anthony



Anthony



Anthony



Anthony



Anthony

sized. And the township, accordingly, is “constantly” looking to diversify its staff, she said.

“It’s also important for identity,” Hayes added. “Specifically, for children of color growing up, they need role models in the community. They want someone to identify with. I don’t think elevating one group of people over another really means you have to put one down. It’s about working collaboratively, together.”

Delta Township Manager Brian Reed wasn’t happy to see the statistics for his neck of the woods. He recognized that people of color usually serve on several, unpaid township boards and commissions but he’d still like to enhance the racial diversity of his staff. It’s going to take some “continuous effort” to make a change, he said.

“I think you have to make a commitment to it and do your best to try to make it happen,” Reed added. “I think that Delta Township has really made that commitment. It’s obviously not reflected in our numbers at the moment, but I think we’ll only continue to improve on those from here. It’s certainly a priority for us.”

But officials at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights — after reviewing the employment data — said that Lansing area communities that grew in the white flight era of the late ‘60s and ‘70s have failed to adequately represent people of color within their employment ranks. And it’s about time for some change, officials said.

“That points to a need for intentional and targeted strategies to achieve more equitable outcomes in government and in the hiring and retaining of people of color,” according to Agustin V. Arbulu, state department director.

And that doesn’t necessarily mean that minorities should be hired based on census quotas, said Lansing Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley. It’s simply about recognizing that racial disparities still exist within local governments and taking intentional steps to weed out decades of implicit bias in the overall hiring practice.

“We already know traditional recruiting doesn’t work,” Spitzley said. “If it did, we wouldn’t be talking about it. We all need to take an extra step to recruit in other places and make sure our employment and applicant pools are diverse. It’s about acknowledging that the existing method isn’t the correct one and doing something about it.”

Officials at Ingham County, with a racial employment composition that almost exactly mirrors local census figures, said that process includes reaching out to organizations like the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission and the Hispanic-Latino Commission of Michigan whenever county-level jobs become available.

“As demographics change, we should look to grow our workforce to reflect the community,” Spitzley added. “We have to break away from these stereotypes and break away from being offended by even talking about diversity. Until we’re able to do that, we’re bound to repeat the same mistakes that we’ve made in the past.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

Editor’s Note: Due to a reporter’s oversight, Lansing Township was not given the same amount of time to produce records to reflect the gender and racial diversity of its staff. Officials there were unable to provide that documentation based on those time constraints and data for that township is regrettably absent from this story.



Hayes



Reed



Arbulu



Spitzley

2018 LAST MINUTE Holiday Gift Guide

Pets and holiday gifting

Furry, finned and feathered friends help make a house a home. These companions are more than just pets; they're often cherished family members. So it should come as no surprise that, come the holidays, people want to lavish extra attention on their animals by way of presents.

The American Pet Products Association says pet owners spend billions of dollars on

their pets each year. The majority of pet owners plan to gift their pets on holidays such as Valentine's Day, Halloween and Christmas. DogTime.com says that pet presents are not a North American phenomenon, either. Pet owners in the United Kingdom are expected to spend the equivalent of \$46 U.S. per pet on gifts.

While dog owners are more likely to buy



their pets gifts, cat owners have been closing that gap over the years. Some pet parents even offer Christmas cards or hang Christmas stockings for their pets.

According to data from PricewaterhouseCoopers, shoppers between the ages of 17

and 21 are willing to spend more than anyone else (\$70) on holiday gifts for their pets.

Gifting pets has become the norm, but various animal welfare organizations advise that giving companion animals as pets should be avoided. Pets given as gifts may be at a higher risk for surrender to shelters by families who miscalculated the amount of time and money that's necessary to care for pets. Welcoming a pet into the family is often a personal decision, and one that should be weighed carefully by all members of the household.

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Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

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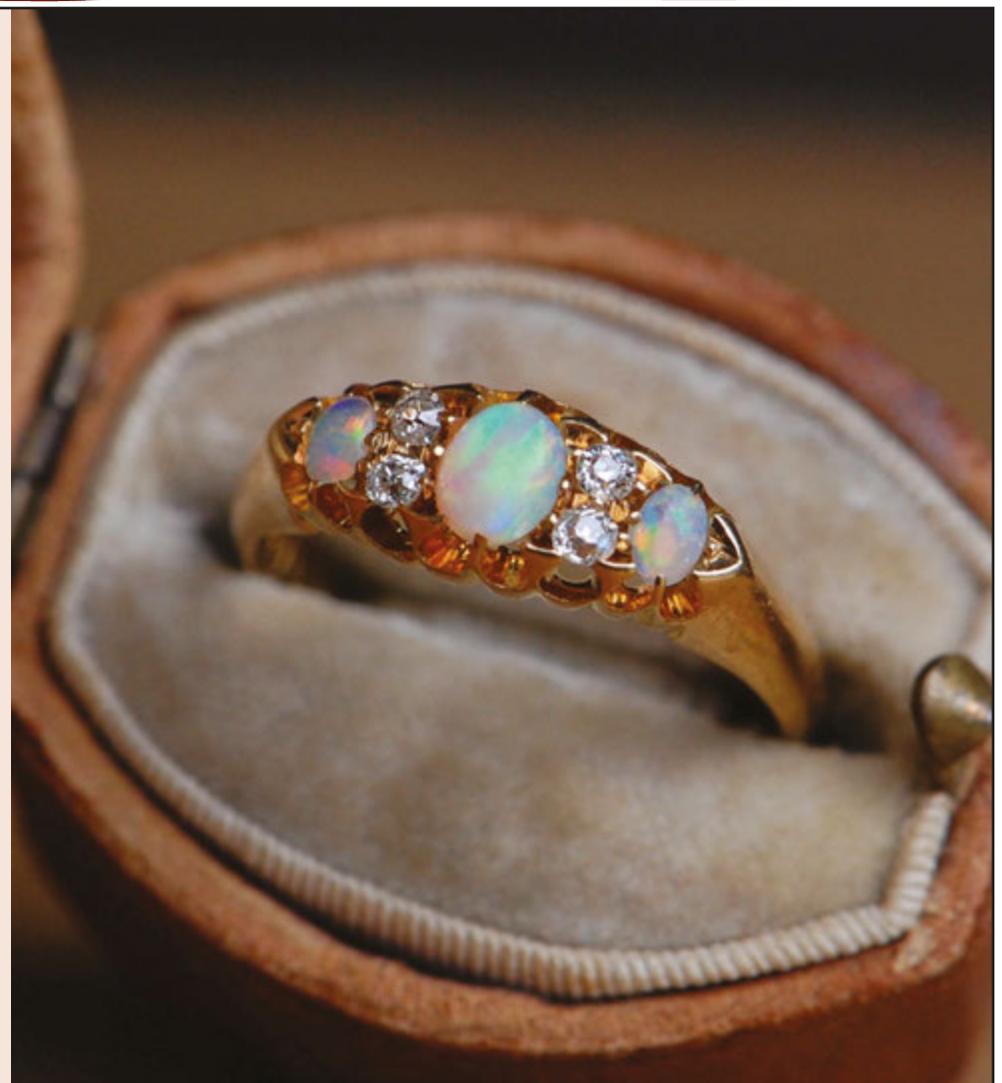
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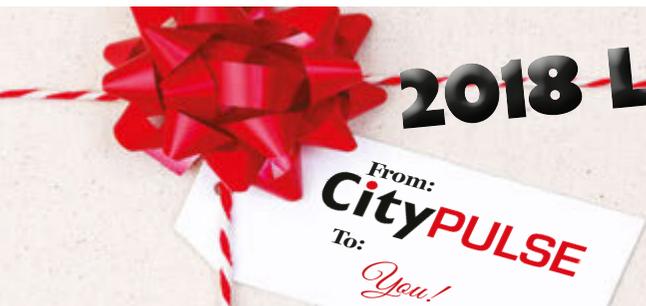
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2018 LAST MINUTE Holiday Gift Guide

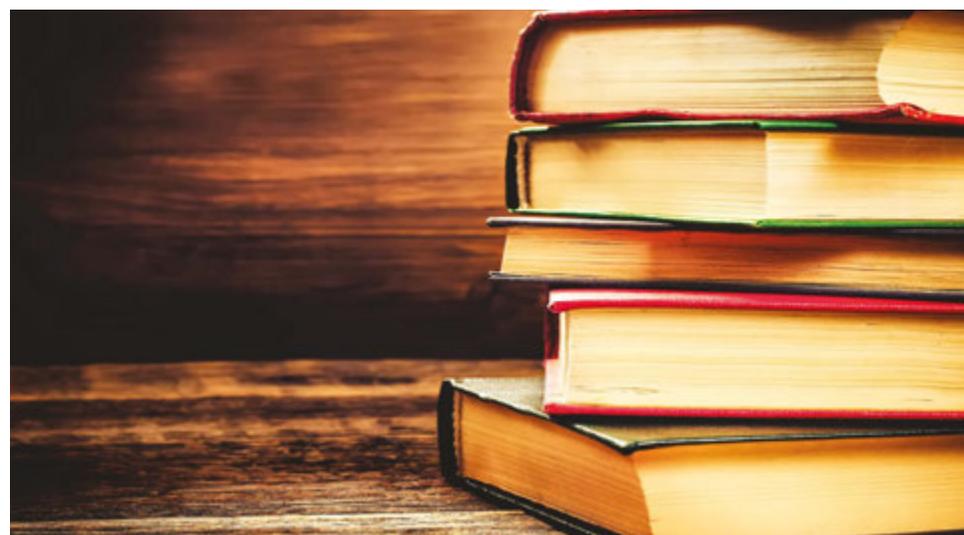
Great last-minute gift ideas

Tradition is a hallmark of the holiday season. Religious services, family gatherings and trips to see Santa Claus are just a few of the many traditions people adhere to during the holiday season.

Many holiday shoppers also adhere to the time-honored tradition of last-minute shopping. The perfect gift can sometimes prove

elusive, especially as the sand in the holiday hour glass keeps dwindling. These last-minute gift ideas may be just what shoppers need to put smiles on the faces of their loved ones this holiday season.

- **Books:** Books are often overlooked, especially now that so many readers use e-readers. But books can be an ideal gift and espe-



cially convenient for last-minute shoppers, who can even gift e-books. For example, Amazon, which has thousands of e-books in its online library, makes it easy for shoppers to gift e-books to Kindle users, who will simply receive an email on Christmas morning informing them that their books are ready to be downloaded to their devices.

- **Experiences:** A 2017 survey by the global research firm NPD Group found that roughly 40 percent of holiday shoppers planned to give experiences as gifts last year. Experience gifts open up a host of possibilities for last-minute shoppers stuck on what to give those loved ones who seemingly have it all.

- **Food/beverage:** Television channels such as The Food Network have changed the way

many people look at food. When gifting the family foodie, last-minute shoppers may not need to look further than the latest hotspot restaurant or specialty grocery store for the perfect gift. Take them out for a night on the town or give a gift card they can use at their convenience. The craft beer boom has created a host of devoted and knowledgeable beer drinkers, so a gift card or growler from a local craft brewery is sure to please people who love hoisting frosty pints.

- **Streaming service subscriptions:** Many people are cutting the cord with their cable companies in favor of streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu. Subscriptions to such services can make ideal and affordable holiday gifts. A six-month or yearlong subscription likely won't break shoppers' budgets and will provide months of entertainment to loved ones.

Last-minute holiday shopping is easier than ever, especially for shoppers willing to think outside the box.

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Holiday Gift Guide



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Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

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2018 LAST MINUTE Holiday Gift Guide

How to time holiday shopping right

The holiday season begins at the end of November and stretches into the first week of January. But this five-week stretch may not necessarily be the best time for everyone to shop. Harvard Business Review says that the



and 12 percent started shopping for the holidays in the summer.

So when should consumers do their holiday shopping? It all depends on what fits a person's individual needs.

- Shop sales, not schedules. If budget is a big concern, shoppers should grab items that are on sale whenever they are available. That can mean shopping at any time of the year. People can try making a master shopping list early in the year and saving it on their mobile phones. While shopping throughout the year, items from the list can be purchased and stored until the holidays.

- Shop your strengths. Those who get a thrill from tackling their entire shopping list in one haul can still do that. Shopping in this manner can help shoppers focus on the task at hand and reduce the likelihood of wasting time. But keep in mind that, according to a survey conducted by Business Wire, 65 percent of holiday shoppers scramble to complete their purchases in the last two weeks before Christmas, so shoppers who delay may be stuck in long lines at the mall.

- Embrace in-store pickup. Many retailers are merging their online and brick-and-mortar operations. Shoppers have the convenience of price-comparison and on-line shopping, with the physical enjoyment of going out to the store to complete their purchases. In-store pickup often enables shoppers to avoid hefty shipping fees, as in-store pickup is free. Plus, scoping out items online — and ensuring they're in stock — saves the hassle of making a trip in vain.

Shoppers can look beyond the conventional holiday season to get the best prices and deals that fit their shopping needs.

retail industry has been turned on its head in recent years, and shoppers and retailers may want to rethink their approaches to the holiday shopping season. Consumers are no longer interested in retailers dictating their shopping schedules, and some people have grown accustomed to buying products when they wanted them — especially when price is of no concern.

Even budget-conscious shoppers have changed their habits, says the shopping advisor RetailNext. Many holiday shoppers are delaying their shopping until January to take advantage of post-season sales.

Holiday shopping need not wait until after the holiday season, either. A 2017 RetailMeNot survey found that 45 percent of U.S. consumers said they planned to start shopping before November 1. One-quarter of the survey respondents said they planned to start shopping before October,



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2018 LAST MINUTE Holiday Gift Guide

Get Christmas crafty with homemade ornaments

Handmade gifts, trinkets and treats help make the holiday season special. Although cookies and other baked goods are some of the most popular homemade creations this time of year, gift-givers young and old can put their talents to use with various craft projects. Ornaments and decorations are one such idea. Here are some clever and, not-too-time-consuming craft projects to try this holiday season.

- **Mini sleighs:** Create miniature replicas of Santa's famous sleigh. Paint several popsicle sticks to form the main body of the sleigh and glue them together. Put one at the top perpendicular to the others to serve as the steering rudder. Two silver-painted popsicle sticks placed on their thin sides act as the blades of a sled.

- **Popcorn garland:** Garland made of popcorn is a classic handmade holiday project. For a new twist, toss the popcorn with food coloring and allow it to dry before stringing for some bright color on the tree.

- **Photo ornaments:** Print out several different photos that you love. Purchase round or square thin wood pieces

from a craft store and attach the photos with Mod Podge®. When dry, drill a hole through the top and thread with twine.

- **Advent calendar:** Make an Advent calendar to count down to Christmas by covering a foam board with fabric. Use paper tags or small ornaments and write a number on each for each day of the month. Hang these all from the board. As each day passes, move the tag or ornament to the tree.

- **Wooden snowflakes:** Have children collect small twigs from outdoors, as well as holly leaves and some sprigs of evergreen. Arrange similarly sized twigs in the shape of snowflakes and glue together, or tie with twine. Embellish with stickers, glitter, dried berries, and more.

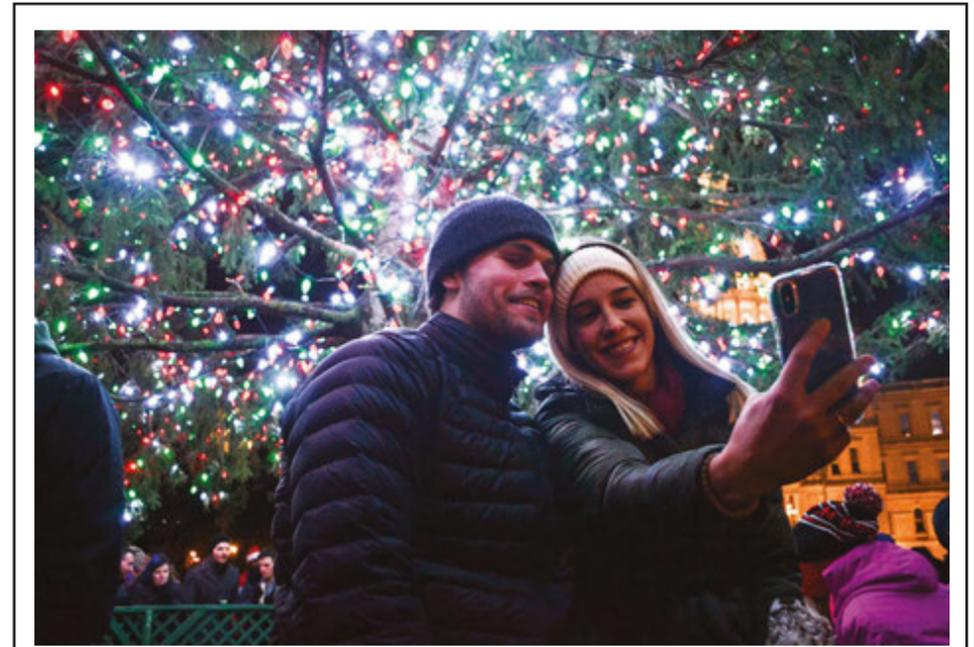
- **Dough ornaments:** Anyone can have fun molding their own ornaments, letting them dry and then painting them. Use cookie cutters to get perfect holiday shapes. Craft stores sell various types of modeling clays and lightweight modeling materials. Or, make your own salt dough.

- **Reindeer bottle topper:** Put to use any wine corks you have lying around. Attach googly eyes and a small fuzzy nose to the

front of a cork. Insert twisted, brown pipe cleaners to make the antlers up top. Add ribbons, small snippets of faux fur or any

other extras you desire.

- **Sweet sentiments:** Use old Scrabble® letter tiles to form a favorite holiday phrase, like "Joy to the World." Glue the tiles together and hang from the tree on a piece of ribbon.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

The best place for a selfie during Silver Bells in the City is in front of the tree.

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ARTS & CULTURE

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From rust-collecting MSU exhibit to feature film star

Pere Marquette 1225 is the real 'Polar Express' train

By DENNIS BURCK

The steam locomotive that inspired "The Polar Express" looked like its days were numbered after being retired from service in 1951.

History Hounds Q&A with Kevin Keefe

7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 12
Historical Society of Michigan
5815 Executive Dr., Lansing
(517) 324-1828
www.michigansteamtrain.com

The 400-ton behemoth had only been operational for 10 short years. Pressure from General Motors on railways to switch from steam engine to diesel locomotives made the Pere Marquette 1225

obsolete, despite being mechanically sound. To operate, the Pere Marquette 1225 took eight hours to fire up, would need one ton of coal for every 12 miles and required 10 to 15 people to run, according to Michigan State University archives.

The locomotive ran between Toledo, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Chicago on the Pere Marquette Railway. "It was a big heavy duty hauler of industrial Michigan, especially for automotive Detroit," said Kevin Keefe, a board member of the Center for Railroad Photography.

"During World War II, it was part of the American railroad legend. It went far beyond the call of duty during the war. It ran way more miles than it was designed to run."

It was sitting at a New Buffalo, Michigan, scrapyard in line to be reduced to rubble, when a stay of execution came in 1957. MSU Trustee John Akers lobbied MSU President John Hannah to save the train for engineering students to study.

However, the dean of engineering did not have use for the train.

"The technology was already out of date in the general sense, and way out of date for



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Passengers pose for a photo in front of the Pere Marquette 1225 at the Village of Ashley Country Christmas celebration.

a major university engineering department," Keefe said.

The train instead found a new home as part of the MSU Museum, which was mainly dedicated to natural and anthropological history at the time.

Rollin Baker, then director of the MSU Museum, put the train on display near Spartan Stadium where it sat relatively untouched from 1957 to 1970.

During this time, Chris Van Allsburg, a young Grand Rapids native, became enamored with the train and its emblematic "1225."

Van Allsburg became award-winning author of the "The Polar Express," which earned a Caldecott medal in 1986 and

was later adapted into a 2004 feature film directed by Robert Zemeckis.

Keefe first encountered the train in 1970 after transferring into the MSU journalism program from Albion College. He was part of the original crew that began restoring the train.

"I walked by it on the way to my first classes and I saw these guys working on it," Keefe said. "They told me they were rebuilding the engine. It was so crazy yet so romantic, and I couldn't resist."

By the time Keefe was a senior, he was president of the MSU Railroad Club.

"The train became my main focus and my GPA proved it," he laughed.

The team of ragtag students cut their teeth rebuilding smaller parts of the engine, often drawing the ire of MSU administrator Jack Breslin with train parts strewn about near Spartan Stadium.

"Most of them require a lift truck to get them off. We would take them over with an elevator to the engineering department to tear down and rebuild them," Keefe said.

The team was also able to use parts from the 1225's sister train, the Pere Marquette 1223. However, it came to a point where, in order to further rebuild the train, it had to be off MSU grounds.

"We did have to hurry up, because the administration was running out of patience," Keefe said. The Michigan State Trust for Railway Preservation was formed in 1979 to take ownership over its restoration. Removing

the train from the stadium, the group placed it on a spare set of tracks on Trowbridge Road before a new permanent residence would be selected.

Owosso and its former Ann Arbor Railway Backshop — a garage for trains — made sense because it had the facility and room to restore the train, Keefe said.

The Michigan State Trust for Railway Preservation moved the train to its current home in 1983, renaming the facility the Steam Railroading Institute.

In 1985, after years of work from volunteers throughout Mid-Michigan and MSU students, the Pere Marquette moved down the tracks on its own power for the first time. Its first substantial trip was in 1988, when it ran 12 miles from Owosso to Chesaning.

Working as an associate editor of Trains Magazine in Milwaukee at the time, Keefe made the trek to Michigan to witness the fruition of his work as a young Spartan with his MSU Railway Club compatriots.

"I remember late that night we sat next to the engine for a couple hours and drank massive amounts of beer," he recalled.

Now running as the flagship for the "North Pole Express" and other other yearly events, the Pere Marquette 1225 far exceeded its ten year stint as a working train in its retirement.

In its thirtieth year of service, the Pere Marquette will carry oodles of families from Owosso to the Village of Ashley's Christmas celebration with rentable cabooses and amenities like hot chocolate.



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

A train car on the Pere Marquette 1225 locomotive bears the name of the Pere Marquette railway, which ran from 1900 to 1947.



Robert Park in front of a Blue Loop display at Eggleston Gallery & Studios.

Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Bath Twp. community stands behind artist Robert Park

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Bath Township artist Robert Park was in good company Saturday at the opening of his new Eggleston Gallery & Studios exhibit. Visitors gathered to admire Park's work, but

Robert Park Exhibit

Eggleston Gallery & Studios
Wednesday-Saturday,
noon to 4 p.m.
14035 Webster Road,
Bath Twp
www.egglestongallery.com
(517) 999-3343

also to voice opposition to the township court decision that Park must remove an art installation known as the Blue Loop from his property.

Park called the support “over-

whelming.”

“I’ve made a lot of friends. It’s very heartening to see that people care about homeowners’ and artists’ rights too — they’ve come together,” Park said. “They go hand in hand. You buy property, because you want the freedom to do what you want on it.”

The exhibit features photography of the Blue Loop, as well as more than a decade of Park’s past work. The gallery also served as habitat for several blue ducks, a symbol adopted by Parks’ supporters when the township only allowed a single blue rubber duck to remain on Park’s property. Visitors picked up maps guiding them to the Blue Loop on their way out.

Melissa Eggleston, chairwoman of the Bath Arts Council and owner of the gallery, said the township board doesn’t represent the mentality of citizens who are hostile toward Park’s doings.

“Bath is very open-minded,” Eggleston said. “People have been coming in and they’re all talking to me about how much they don’t feel this is right. They say, ‘Why are they picking on him? They should leave him alone.’”

Eggleston said she has yet to meet anybody with something negative to say about

the Blue Loop.

Bath Township photographer Christine McCallister captured the images of the Blue Loop used by the exhibit. She said the township’s current junk ordinance is ripe for abuse and hopes it will change.

“Someone could come and say my Christmas lights are too much, or someone could say that my garden is too much,” McCallister said.

McCallister doubled down on that thought.

“I haven’t heard of a community member that’s not in support of him,” she said.

Bath Township residents are also upset about the growing cost of going after Park. At the time of his Halloween court hearing, costs to enforce the ordinance ranged between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

“I support anybody expressing themselves on their private property, and I think what he contributes is an asset,” resident Christine Elsesser said. “But I don’t agree with the way our public funds are being used to a fight something such as his art.”

Fellow Bath Township artist Jim Wolnosky, whose work also appears in Eggleston Gallery & Studios, feels the junk ordinance is being applied unfairly toward Park’s Blue Loop.

“Having the township claim that it’s junk just because it’s made out of recycled materials is totally ridiculous,” Wolnosky said. “Just about every piece of artwork is made from natural materials that are found in the ground. There’s a lot of dirt used in oil paint.”

Park is now huddling with his attorneys to prepare for the appeal process and hopes the issue between him and the township can be resolved amicably.

“I want them to walk away and say, ‘We’ve come up with a better ordinance which doesn’t allow discrimination against artists,’” Park said.



HOLIDAY POPS

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Okemos-based photographer releases collection of shots taken in Australia

By **BILL CASTANIER**

David Robert Austen is a man of few words. He lets his magnificent photography speak for itself. His latest photography book, "Being Australian Under a Southern Sun: All I Really Know is What I See," stands as a work of both photojournalism and art.

The book's opening statement sums up Austen's artistic vision: "Nature — including human nature — is the truest art of all."

For Austen, who has spent his more than 40 years on the road photographing mostly people, the book represents decades of work and the distillation of tens of thousands of slides taken for National Geographic, the New York Times, Newsweek, Sports Illustrated and the Smithsonian.

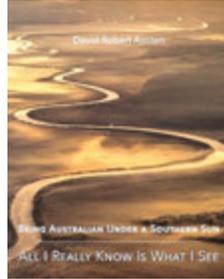
The book's photographs are intensely colored images — derived from Kodachrome film — of Australians taken mostly in the '70s, '80s and '90s. The photographs are described minimally with a short title and location, leaving the viewer to imagine the rest of the story.

A picture of a young couple in shorts, sitting on steps, the man looking forward and the woman gazing past him, is titled "Manager and Girlfriend at Kitchen Door, Dunbar Station, Queensland."

One of the more dramatic photographs is spread across two pages showing two men.



Austen



The one in the foreground is in focus, while the other behind him is blurred. The face of the man in the foreground is darkened by the sun with deep creases and the other is youthful; almost angelic. The title: "Cattle and Grain Farmer and Son, Blue Hills, near Dalby" tells us all we need to know.

Austen likes to point out that the photographs have captured a time which has passed.

"There are no brands on the clothing. It wouldn't look the same today," he said.

There are no swooshes, or branding of any sort, because there are few tennis shoes at all. Most of the subjects are either barefoot or wearing sandals or worn work boots. The photos often show muscled men hardened by ranch work going about their business, or women holding infants and shepherding small children.

Although Austen taught photojournal-

ism at Indiana University, he had no formal training in photography. While serving a three-year stint in the military, he learned what he calls "the love of the photograph through trial and error."

"I had a lot of on-the-job training without actually having a job," he writes in the book.

While in the service, he had the opportunity to travel to several countries where he discovered he wanted to take photos especially of people.

After his time in the military and college, he worked for two weekly newspapers honing his skills. He had the luck of having renowned photographer Aileen M. Smith as a mentor, while taking photographs of the President Richard Nixon's inauguration and legendary Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo.

Smith, along with her husband at the time W. Eugene Smith, are praised for their work exposing the results of mercury poisoning in Minamata, Japan. The MSU Archives has eight of their photos in its collection.

Shortly thereafter, Austen moved to Paris and began almost a vagabond life as a freelance photographer and for the news service Gamma Press.

There he learned French, one of several languages he would master, but he soon

grew tired of big city life. He had grown up in rural Indiana and he liked the wide-open spaces. A chance encounter with an Australian family led him to seeking immigrant status in Australia.

The bush and the outback, along with glorious sunny weather and exotic beasts, was all he could ask for as a photographer.

"It was a dream, a fantasy, a mecca. I was 23 and to this day it seems remarkable," he said.

The photographs in his book were compiled as a companion piece for a photo exhibition at Valparaiso University, which Austen has plans to revive for a tour. Austen's photographs all have that magical quality of what Austen calls "stopping power" — a phrase he first heard from Robert Gilka, the legendary director of photography for National Geographic.

The photo subjects in Austen's work all seem to challenge the viewer asking "what am I thinking" or "where am I going?" Austen avoided the typical outback photography of cute kangaroos opting for personal photographs of his people.

"Among my favorite images are those of Aboriginal people," he writes. "Their features seemingly sculpted by those same forces that sculpted the landscape."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at 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, December 12

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Mindfulness Meditation. From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington 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.

EVENTS

Games at the Meridian Senior Center (See Descriptions for Dates and Times). From 12:30 to 4 p.m. Bingo and Bridge- \$1 - \$2 per person to play. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

LANSING MENS SUPPORT GROUP. From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. NO FEES OR DUES. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Thursday, December 13

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

A Course in Miracles. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Love offering.. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

EVENTS

English Country Dancing. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. \$6/students \$4/MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, The intersection between Grand River Ave. and Bogue St. on MSU campus East Lansing. (517) 355-1855.

Lunch at the Senior Center. From 12 to 1 p.m. suggested donations of \$3.00. If you are age 59 and under, there is a charge of \$5.75 (this is not a suggested donation). Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Friday, December 14

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Psychic Oracle - Anaoania. From 7 to 9 p.m. \$29.92. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.



Craft Hard: 'Die Hard' Christmas Ornament Workshop

Do you remember when Bruce Willis had hair and Alan Rickman's acting career wasn't defined by Harry Potter? If you're a "Die Hard" fan, you

Craft Hard: "Die Hard" Christmas Ornament Workshop

7 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 13
The Artist's Gym
Donations accepted
1475 Lake Lansing Road,
#201, Lansing
missy@
LansingArtistsGym.com
www.lansingartistsgym.com

certainly do. Remember the classic film with a screening at the Artist's Gym. Attendees can also craft "Die Hard" themed ornaments to hang on their trees. All crafting supplies will be provided. Though the event is free, donations are accepted to cover the cost of crafting supplies. The Artist's Gym strongly suggests to RSVP due to

planning for craft materials. Founded in 2017, the Artist's Gym is a maker-space focused on building an inclusive, kind and helpful community advocating for healthy self-expression of mind, body and spirit, according to its website. Beverages and snacks are welcome.

HOLIDAYS

TGIF Festive Holiday Apparel Dance Party Friday 12/14/18. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$15 includes complimentary dance lesson & buffet.. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Rd. Bath. (517) 641-4295.

MUSIC

Erynn Marshall & Carl Jones Live at Elderly Instruments. From 6:30 to 8 p.m. \$15. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 372-7880.

LCC Rock Band. From 7:30 to 10 p.m. free (Donation encouraged). Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

EVENTS

Silver Bells Ball - Friday, Dec 14, 2018. From 7 to 10 p.m. \$18.00/guests; \$15.00/MAC members
Free parking. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

Saturday, December 15

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Reiki One. From 10 to 3 p.m. \$75. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

HOLIDAYS

Kid's Crafting for Christmas. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. free. Grand Ledge Area District

See Out on the Town, Page 26

WEDNESDAY DEC. 12 >> ASTRONOMY ON TAP

MSU astronomy Professor Elias Aydi and Ph.D. student Matthew Mitchie discuss the mysteries of the cosmos while enjoying some brews. This week will cover when the universe was orange and how molecules form in space.

7:30 to 10 p.m., The Loft,
414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 913-0103, www.theloftlansing.com



FRIDAY DEC. 14 TO DEC. 16 >> 'SHOW ME HOLIDAY SHOWDOWN' OPEN HORSE SHOW



This annual horse show sees all breeds of horses competing for best in show. The event includes an ugly sweater party, stall decorating and costume class with over 300 stalls and horses.

3 p.m., Dec. 14, 6 p.m., Dec. 16, Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Ln., East Lansing
(517) 432-5566, www.shomeshows.com

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

THE LUVS 6TH ANNUAL SHOW AT THE ROBIN THEATRE

Fri. Dec. 14

THE SWON BROTHERS AT TEQUILA COWBOY

Fri. Nov. 9

10TH ANNUAL UNKALLED 4 CHRISTMAS SHOW

Sun. Nov. 11



Old-timey 'yuletide tradition' returns to REO town



'The Voice' finalists headed to Lansing



Rapper Jimi Kanklez returns to Mac's Bar

Friday, Dec. 14 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave. All ages \$13, 3p.m. & 7p.m.

Led by band leader Dylan Rogers and group manager Lindsay Gluf, the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle is best known for its dynamic vaudevillian variety show that not only encompasses a unique, gypsy-jazz-meets-Americana musical spectacular, but other over-the-top stage antics, like live puppets, spirited dancers and other surprises. The current lineup — which also comprises Jeana-Dee Allen Rogers, Jonah Magar, Connor Meston, Mary Molnar, Dan Nunez, Chris Russell, Scotty Smith, Iris Thompson and Nan Beyers — performs its old-timey annual Holiday Show this weekend at the Robin Theatre. Now in its sixth year, this 75-minute Lansing yuletide tradition often sells out multiple shows and delivers equal parts snarky charm and sonic sincerity through a series of festive sketches, dances, sing-alongs and more. While the Friday and Saturday show times are sold out, at press time, tickets for the Sunday shows (3 p.m. and 7 p.m.) were still available. Advance tickets are available at therobintheatre.com.

Saturday, Dec. 15 @ Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 21+, \$20, \$15 adv., 9p.m.

Since 2000, The Swon Brothers have perfected their vocal harmonies into a hybrid of country and pop with a classic rock edge. Saturday, the group headlines at Tequila Cowboy inside the Lansing Mall. The band comprises brothers Zach Swon and Colton Swon — Muskogee, Oklahoma natives who just dropped their new modern-pop single “Midnight Lovers,” available now on all digital platforms. Though music is nothing new to this duo, the brothers were raised performing in their parents’ gospel group, Exodus. Beyond that, they spent their childhood years sharing stages with their neighbor, a pre-“American Idol” Carrie Underwood. By 2013, the brothers received some national attention of their own when they wowed the judges with a cover of Tom Petty’s “American Girl” on NBC’s “The Voice.” They completed the season in third place, landed a record contract with Arista Records and nabbed a 2014 CMA “Vocal Duo of the Year” nomination.

Saturday, Dec. 15 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing. All ages \$8, \$5 adv., 7p.m.

Rapper Jimi Kanklez returns to Mac's Bar Local emcee Jimi Kanklez aka “JFK” (real name James Secord) has been dropping otherworldly raps via Roach Records, and his indie record label, E.T. Entertainment, for over a decade. During that time, he's also hosted Unkalled 4 Christmas Show. The annual event, now in its milestone tenth year, blends Christmas with a dark dash of Halloween. “I started throwing the show because I love Halloween,” Secord explained. “I figured, ‘Why does it have to be over after October?’” While Jimi Kanklez will headline, he'll be joined with a long roster of fellow local talents, including Jayson Starks, VALO, Suicide Saints and DJD. Since his 2007 debut on the Lansing music scene, Jimi Kanklez has independently issued a series of discs, including “Alien Muzik” Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. His label has also distributed locally-made albums from Jayson Starks, including his 2016 “Laundry Day” LP.

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT PAUL@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Dezel Night	80s Karaoke	Tease A Gogo 9PM
Buddies, 1937 W Grand River Ave		Karaoke, 9PM		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	North of Five	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Jerry Sprague
Gladdagh, 2900 Towne Center Blvd.		Trivia, 7:30		
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia		Alskn "Walleye" Ayce	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	Be Kind Rewind	The Knock Offs
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night	Karaoke	Mix Pack	
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia	Ugly Sweater Party / DJ Skillz 8PM		
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Lucky Samurai, Realboy Auto, Shun, Tahoezoey	Ugly Sweater Party, 4 DJs	Handsome Pete-Las Vegas or Bust
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Zandy, Thumper, DeadKid, Prof-X, Geezy 8PM	Residivis, Stereogaze, Youth at Risk 8PM	Jimi Kanklez and more 7PM
Nuthouse, 420 E. Michigan Ave.		Music Bingo 7PM		
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw			The New Rule 9PM	The New Rule 9PM
Unicorn Lounge, 327 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.	Comedy Open Mic	Game Night	Big Sur 9PM	Capital Sundogs 9PM
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner St.				Iced Out & Haterproof Christmas Party

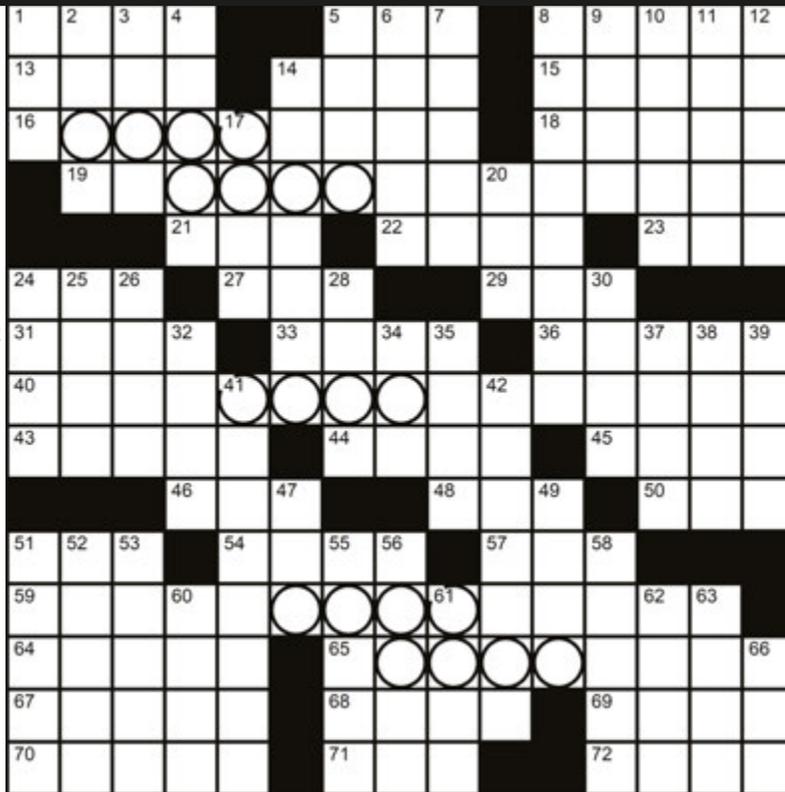
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"It's Not Unusual"-
-the phrase makes
it.. Matt Jones**

Across

- 1 Little drinks
- 5 TV monitoring gp.
- 8 Waits
- 13 Muscle problem
- 14 Jazz legend Fitzgerald
- 15 Fail to be
- 16 Lubricant used at the front and rear of an automobile drivetrain
- 18 Cuba ___ (rum drink)
- 19 Artistic interpretation of one's feelings, maybe
- 21 Alfonso Ribeiro-hosted show featuring viewer submissions, for short
- 22 Ward of "Gone Girl"
- 23 "Claws" network
- 24 "Matilda the Musical" songwriter Minchin
- 27 Lover
- 29 "___ Believer" (Monkees song)
- 31 It may be half-baked
- 33 Cedar alternative
- 36 Bisected
- 40 It contains numerators and denominators within numerators and denominators
- 43 Skier's spot
- 44 Clean up some topiary
- 45 ___ gin fizz
- 46 Lamentable
- 48 Family member, briefly
- 50 PGA VIP Ernie
- 51 Place to chill out
- 54 Lemon zest source
- 57 "Death ___ Funeral" (2007 or 2010 film)
- 59 Snarky social media



- response to an undeserved boast (and this puzzle's theme)
- 64 Heart chambers
- 65 Eddie Murphy's role in "Beverly Hills Cop"
- 67 Adrien of "The Pianist"
- 68 Adjust, as banjo strings
- 69 Dory helped find him
- 70 Heavy items dropped in cartoons
- 71 ___-Pekka Salonen (conductor soon to lead the San Francisco Symphony)
- 72 Cable channel since 1979
- Down**
- 1 Rocksteady precursor
- 2 "Never Tear Us Apart" band
- 3 Global extremity
- 4 Ancient stone slab (anagram of TESLA)
- 5 State of change
- 6 Snippets, like those shown on 21-Across
- 7 Core group
- 8 Vinegar variety
- 9 Spring bloom
- 10 Credit counterpart
- 11 "The Smartest Guys in the Room" company
- 12 Cardiologist's dilator
- 14 Heighten
- 17 Excruciatingly loud, in sheet music
- 20 Roth of "Inglourious Basterds"
- 24 Nervous spasms
- 25 "Rebel Yell" singer Billy
- 26 Inbox item
- 28 "thank u, ___" (Ariana Grande song)
- 30 Farm residents?
- 32 Venmo and Hinge, e.g.
- 34 Egypt's cont.
- 35 Kardashian matriarch
- 37 Scrabble piece
- 38 Sheared stuff
- 39 They're "on" in binary
- 41 They're always in February
- 42 Good-natured
- 47 "___ Poetry Jam"
- 49 Double ___ (Oreo variety)
- 51 Q-Tip ends
- 52 Ancient city in Jordan
- 53 With an ___ distinction
- 55 Bring delight to
- 56 High-end Toyota
- 58 Make good (for)
- 60 Six Flags attraction
- 61 TV "Warrior Princess" played by Lucy Lawless
- 62 Acapulco accolades
- 63 1996 veep candidate
- 66 Hither and ___

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 26**

SUDOKU

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

Beginner

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 26

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

December 12 - 18, 2018

Aries (March 21-April 19): When I write a horoscope for you, I focus on one or two questions because I don't have room to cover every single aspect of your life. The theme I've chosen this time may seem a bit impractical, but if you take it to heart, I guarantee you it will have practical benefits. It comes from Italian author Umberto Eco. He wrote, "Perhaps the mission of those who love humanity is to make people laugh at the truth, to make truth laugh, because the only truth lies in learning to free ourselves from insane passion for the truth." I swear to you, Aries, that if you laugh at the truth and make the truth laugh in the coming days, you will be guided to do all the right and necessary things.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You have a cosmic mandate and a poetic license to stir up far more erotic fantasies than usual. It'll be healthy for you to unleash many new thoughts about sexual experiments that would be fun to try and novel feelings you'd like to explore and people whose naked flesh you'd be interested to experience sliding and gliding against yours. But please note that the cosmic mandate and poetic license do not necessarily extend to you acting out your fantasies. The important thing is to let your imagination run wild. That will catalyze a psychic healing you didn't even realize you needed.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): In my continuing efforts to help you want what you need and need what you want, I've collected four wise quotes that address your looming opportunities. 1. "What are you willing to give up, in order to become who you really need to be?" —author Elizabeth Gilbert 2. "Leave the door open for the unknown, the door into the dark. That's where the most important things come from." —Rebecca Solnit 3. "You enter the extraordinary by way of the ordinary." —Frederick Buechner 4. "Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you." —Nathaniel Hawthorne

Cancer (June 21-July 22): I've called on author Robert Heinlein to provide your horoscope. According to my astrological analysis, his insights are exactly what you need to focus on right now. "Do not confuse 'duty' with what other people expect of you," he wrote. "They are utterly different. Duty is a debt you owe to yourself to fulfill obligations you have assumed voluntarily. Paying that debt can entail anything from years of patient work to instant willingness to die. Difficult it may be, but the reward is self-respect. But there is no reward at all for doing what other people expect of you, and to do so is not merely difficult, but impossible."

Leo (July 23-August 22): What does "beauty" mean to you? What sights, sounds, images, qualities, thoughts, and behavior do you regard as beautiful? Whatever your answers might be to those questions right now, I suggest you expand and deepen your definitions in the coming weeks. You're at a perfect pivot point to invite more gorgeous, lyrical grace into your life; to seek out more elegance and charm and artistry; to cultivate more alluring, delightful magic.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): You know the expiration dates that appear on the labels of the prescription drugs you buy? They don't mean that the drugs lose their potency after that date. In fact, most drugs are still quite effective for at least another ten years. Let's use this fact as a metaphor for a certain resource or influence in your life that you fear is used up or defunct. I'm guessing it still has a lot to offer you, although you will have to shift your thinking in order to make its reserves fully available.

Libra (September 23-October 22): Libran rapper Eminem is renowned for his verbal skill. It may be best exemplified in his song "Rap God," in which he delivers 1,560 words in six minutes and four seconds, or 4.28 words per second. In one stretch, he crams in 97 words in 15 seconds, achieving a pace of 6.5 words per second. I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will also be unusually adept at using words, although your forte will be potent profundity rather than sheer

speed. I encourage you to prepare by making a list of the situations where your enhanced powers of persuasion will be most useful.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): In May of 1883, the newly built Brooklyn Bridge opened for traffic. Spanning the East River to link Manhattan and Brooklyn, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. But almost immediately people spread rumors that it was unstable. There was a growing fear that it might even crumble and fall. That's when charismatic showman P. T. Barnum stepped in. He arranged to march 21 elephants across the bridge. There was no collapse, and so the rumors quickly died. I regard the coming weeks as a time when you should take inspiration from Barnum. Provide proof that will dispel gossipy doubt. Drive away superstitious fear with dramatic gestures. Demonstrate how strong and viable your improvements really are.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Robert Louis Stevenson published his gothic novel "Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" in 1886. It was a bestseller, and quickly got turned into a theatrical production. In the ensuing 132 years, there have been well over a hundred further adaptations of the story into film and stage productions. Here's the funny thing about this influential work: Stevenson wrote it fast. It took him three feverish days to get the gist of it, and just another six weeks to revise. Some biographers say he was high on drugs during the initial burst, perhaps cocaine. I suspect you could also produce some robust and interesting creation in the coming weeks, Sagittarius—and you won't even need cocaine to fuel you.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): A blogger on Tumblr named Ffssh composed a set of guidelines that I think will be apt and useful for you to draw on in the coming weeks. Please study these suggestions and adapt them for your healing process. "Draw stick figures. Sing off-key. Write bad poems. Sew ugly clothes. Run slowly. Flirt clumsily. Play video games on 'easy.' OK? You do not need to be good at something to enjoy it. Sometimes talent is overrated. Do things you like doing just because you like doing them. It's OK to suck."

Aquarius (January 20- February 18): Aquarian athlete Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player who ever lived. He was also the first to become a billionaire. But when he was growing up, he didn't foresee the glory that awaited him. For example, in high school he took a home economics class so as to acquire cooking abilities. Why? He imagined that as an adult he might have to prepare all of his own meals. His ears were so huge and ungainly, he reasoned, that no woman would want to be his wife. So the bad news was that he suffered from a delusion. The good news was that because of his delusion, he learned a useful skill. I foresee a similar progression for you, Aquarius. Something you did that was motivated by misguided or irrelevant ideas may yield positive results.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): The Bible does not say that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute or even a "sinner." There's no mention of her sexual proclivities at all. Delusional ideas about her arose in the Middle Ages, instigated by priests who confused her with other women in the Bible. The truth is that the Bible names her as a key ally to Christ, and the crucial witness to his resurrection. Fortunately, a number of scholars and church leaders have in recent years been working to correct her reputation. I invite you to be motivated and inspired by this transformation as you take steps to adjust and polish your own image during the coming weeks. It's time to get your public and private selves into closer alignment.

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

Out on the Town

from page 23

Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

The Nutcracker Ballet. From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. adults \$25, seniors and children \$20. Waverly High School, 160 Snow Road Lansing. (517) 323.3831.

MUSIC
Silent Night, a Christmas Concert. From 7 to 9 p.m. Free. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road Okemos.

The Lansing Concert Big Band presents their Holiday Jazz Concert with Singers! . From 7 to 9 p.m. General Admission Tickets will be sold at the door - \$10 Adults, \$5 Seniors & Students. Kids 12 & Under Free!. Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St. St. Johns.

ARTS
Tease-A-Gogo: Holiday Burlesque Variety Show. From 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance \$15 at the door
The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

Sunday, December 16

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS
Juggling. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumpchouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.

HOLIDAYS
Joy to the World: Men of Orpheus Christmas Concert. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 955 Alton Road East Lansing.

Lansing Symphony: Pops 1 - Holiday Pops. From 3 to 5 p.m. Pricing: \$42 and \$55, student pricing available (balcony only). Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln East Lansing. (517)353-1982

MUSIC
Michigan's Elite Brass Band, Mountain Town Brass Celebrates the Holidays! From 7 to 8:30 p.m. There is No Admission Charge - Donations are Graciously Accepted!. Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St. St. Johns.

THEATER
LCC Dance Open House. From 4 to 6 p.m. free (Donation Encouraged). Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

Monday, December 17

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS
A Course of Love. From 1 to 2 p.m. Love offering. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

Addiction Recovery Therapy and Yoga. From 6 to 7 p.m. Health Insurance of Sliding Scale Fee. GPS Guide to Personal Solutions, 913 W Holmes Road Suite 141 Lansing. 5176670061.

Teen Cooking Workshop: Holiday Mix. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

Tuesday, December 18

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS
Mens Issues Therapy Group. From 6 to 7 p.m. Call office for more information. Health insurance and sliding scale fee.. GPS Guide to Personal Solutions, 913 W Holmes Road Suite 141 Lansing. 5176670061.

Literature-and-PoetryPaws for Reading. From 6 to 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

Preschool Storytime. From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

MUSIC
Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's. From 7 to 10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

EVENTS
Lansing Death Cafe. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. Donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

Tuesday Games. From 1 to 4 p.m. Euchre Free, Bridge \$1 - \$2 per person. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

S	I	P	S	F	C	C	B	I	D	E	S			
K	N	O	T	E	L	L	A	A	R	E	N	T		
A	X	L	E	F	L	U	I	D	L	I	B	R	E	
S	E	L	F	E	X	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	
A	F	V	S	E	L	A	T	N	T					
T	I	M	F	A	N	I	M	A						
I	D	E	A	T	E	A	K	I	N	T	W	O		
C	O	M	P	L	E	X	F	R	A	C	T	I	O	N
S	L	O	P	E	T	R	I	M	S	L	O	E		
S	A	D	S	I	S	E	L	S						
S	P	A	P	E	E	L	A	T	A					
W	E	I	R	D	F	L	E	X	B	U	T	O	K	
A	T	R	I	A	A	X	E	L	F	O	L	E	Y	
B	R	O	D	Y	T	U	N	E	N	E	M	O		
S	A	F	E	S	E	S	A	E	S	P	N			

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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

SATURDAY DEC. 15 >> THE SNOWBALL UGLY SWEATER PARTY

Hosted by Asio Aviance, Spiral's annual Snowball Ugly Sweater Party will feature a holiday inspired cocktail menu, gogos and drag queen performances. DJ Klees will be providing tunes.

9 p.m. to 2 a.m., \$5 21+/\$10 18 to 20, Spiral, 1247 Center St., Lansing (517) 371-3221, www.spiraldancebar.com



SUNDAY DEC. 16 >> MSU VS RED WINGS ALUMNI CHARITY GAME



The Red Wings' finest take on alumni Spartans in a charity game benefiting Volunteers of America and the Cristo Rey Community Center. Lansing native Kevin Miller, a retired Red Wing and MSU graduate, organized the event. Tickets available at all 30 Quality Dairy locations.

1 to 3 p.m., \$6, Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing (517) 353-4698, www.spartanwingsgame.com

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Seasonal drinks across Greater Lansing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Let's be honest — deep down inside we all love a gimmicky cocktail or craft brew. Sure, they often make way for bold flavors to clash acrimoniously in the name of aesthetics — but sometimes its fun to marvel at a well-prepared cocktail that reflects a holiday or a season. And if we're lucky, they'll actually taste good and provide a decent buzz. Now that the holiday season is upon us, let's take a look at what Lansing is offering:

"The Grinch-tini" — Michigrain Distillery, Lansing

This drink is every bit as green as the Grinch, but without the soul-crushing bitterness. Ingredients include green apple infused vodka and white grape juice, while the drink is shaken over ice and poured on top of a maraschino cherry.



The Grinch-tini

alcohol craft brew that evokes the flavor and mouthfeel of champagne. It has "loads" of citra, mosaic and simcoe hops and is described as "bone dry."

"Sweet and Salty" — Lansing Brewing Co., Lansing

What's more Christmas-y than sugary and salty snacks? The Sweet and Salty incorpo-



Brut IPA

rates gin, lemon juice, lavender and salted caramel syrup, all blended with ice into a shaker. It's then strained into a cold martini glass with cream soda.



Sweet and Salty

"Sugar Plum Cherry" — Red Cedar Spirits, East Lansing

Red Cedar Spirits keeps it a bit minimal with only three, but still powerful, ingredients: cherry brandy, plum simple syrup and lime juice.

See Cocktails, Page 31



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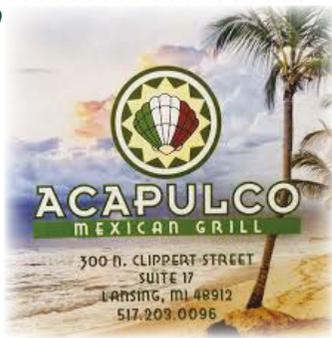
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- 3. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine • (517) 333-6295**
 1312 E Michigan Ave, East Lansing | www.eatataltus.com
- 4. Leaf Salad Bar • 2 locations**
 1542 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing | 2319 Jolly Rd., Okemos
- 5. Aladdin's • 2 locations**
 300 N. Clippert St., Lansing | 208 S. Washington Square, Lansing

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New ownership takes over downtown crepe restaurant

By TIARA TERRY

In 2014, Mark and Deborah Owens introduced For Crêpe Sake to the Lansing City Market in the form of a simple food stand. In 2016, they relocated the restaurant to its current home at Washington Square. But since last month, the shop has undergone new management and is now run by restaurateur Gina Mudrey.

Mudrey, an MSU graduate with a communications degree, was inexperienced in the food industry, but she was overjoyed to take on the opportunity of running For Crêpe Sake.

"It was really something I was looking forward to. I had more excitement than anxiety," Mudrey said.

She spent many days at the restaurant sampling menu items and learning about the company. When she became familiar with her new dedicated staff, Mudrey knew For Crêpe Sake was "her new home."

She was confident in the investment due

See Crepes, Page 31

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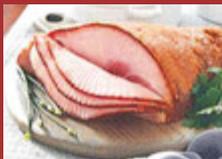
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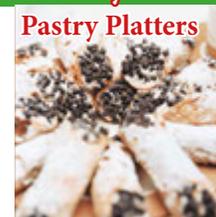
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Crepes

from page 30

to For Crêpe Sake's status as a well-established eatery.

"I saw it was for sale and it just made sense," Gina said. "I am building on what the previous owners have established. I don't want to make any drastic changes, because they did such a great job."

For Crêpe Sake is working with a classic French breakfast treat. But the restaurant has created its own special place in Lansing by offering a sampling of embellishments to the thin pancakes that are endless. Think



Mudrey

a crepe shop meets Chipotle.

Customers choose between a sweet or savory style. Basic sweet ingredients include staples like Nutella, bananas, strawberries

and cinnamon. For customers looking for a hearty, full-on breakfast, For Crêpe Sake has sausage, turkey, bacon, cheese and eggs ready to go. There's also a salad bar.

"Our best-selling crepe is the savory 'Hunchback of Notre Dame' and the sweet pomme and Nutella infused pastries," Mudrey reported.

Making sure For Crêpe Sake had vegan and gluten-free options was important for Mudrey, who wanted her restaurant to be all encompassing for people with different diets.

"Not everybody fits in a box. People have different dietary needs now more than ever," Mudrey said.

For Crêpe Sake also has a unique source

for its coffee, the Zingerman's Coffee Co. from Ann Arbor. "We put our order in over the weekend. It's roasted on Monday and we receive it on Tuesday. So it's always very fresh," she said.

Mudrey has enjoyed befriending a returning customer base smitten with the tasty crepes and takes pains to let them know that the restaurant offers on-site catering and delivery.

She plans to expand to East Lansing with a food truck, or standalone storefront.

"We're very open to different ideas. We wouldn't be opposed to moving to the full thing," Mudrey said. "I just think that a food truck would be so much fun."

Additional reporting by Skyler Ashley.

Cocktails

from page 27

"Festivus for the Rest of Us" — American Fifth Spirits, Lansing

American Fifth turns to its in-house vod-

ka and combines it with pomegranate juice, orange juice, house-made cherry shrub and rosemary for its alcoholic nod to "Seinfeld."

"Good Tidings" — EnVie, Lansing

Good Tidings comprises Glenlivet 12, all-spice dram, cherry juice, Angostura, torched

orange peel and, finally, branded cherry.

"Resting Grinch Face" — Bridge Street Social, DeWitt

With a list of ingredients so potent, don't be surprised if you wind up Grinch-faced all night long. Here's what's in the drink: Hayman's Old Tom Gin, Journeyman

OCG Apple Cider Liqueur, Tentura Antica, Domain de Canton, Buddha's hand tincture and a long lemon twist.



Sugar Plum Cherry



Festivus for the Rest of Us



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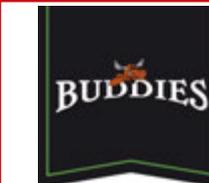
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