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January 10 - 16, 2018



## THE PEOPLE ISSUE

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# Appreciation: Shirley Rodgers (1948-2018)

By PETER SPADAFORE

I came onto the Lansing Board of Education skeptical of the person the media portrayed as divisive and unreasonable.

But Shirley Rodgers won me over, like she did so many. She demonstrated a true love of her work and uncompromising convictions. She became one of my most trusted mentors, and our odd-couple friendship is one I will cherish for the rest of my days. It's difficult to accept that I'll never again hear her full-body laugh or get another late night call to talk about the budget or Spartan hoops. I join countless others in our community who mourn her loss but will forever value the mark she left on Lansing.

She was a fierce advocate for fairness and a dedicated public servant, right up until she passed away in her sleep at 69, leaving behind her a lasting legacy — one unique to each person whose life she touched.

Born in the South and raised in Saginaw, Shirley was the only child of parents who demonstrated the value of hard work and instilled in her a belief in service. It was that belief that lead her to a lifetime of involvement in her sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Inc., a sisterhood dedicated to improving the human condition. Although she bled green, she rarely left the house without her Zeta blue. After leaving MSU, Shirley embarked on a 30-year career at the Lansing School District, first in administration and then on the Board of Education, from 2007 until last week.

A trailblazer in every sense of the word, she was elected in 1981 to the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees, the first African-American to serve on that body. She also served our community on the Ingham County Road Commission, the MSU Black Alumni Association, the City Clerk's Office as an election super chair, and countless other boards and volunteer positions.

None of these positions was more dear to her than as the Board of Education's

liaison to the Junior Board. The kids thought of her as a mentor. She thought of each child as one of her own.

I first came to know her as a controversial figure leading the Ingham County Road Commission and the Lansing school board. The courage of her convictions and her bravery to do what she thought was right didn't always endear her to the media and politicians, but the electorate and those who worked with her loved her.

We entrust our elected officials to make difficult decisions when faced with financial hardship. Shirley's ability to make tough decisions is what made her such an effective and respected public servant.

She measured barely 5 feet tall, but she was a giant. She gave all she had to service, not for personal gain, but out of a belief that leaving the world a better place for those that come after you is our obligation. We should all aspire to care as much as Shirley Rodgers.

Growing up during the Civil Rights movement, she witnessed firsthand cruelty and inequality. Those experiences shaped her outlook and formed her mantra; she'd often say, "It takes just a little effort to make someone feel special, and it will always come back."

Shirley put forth more than just a little effort.

She will be missed by me, our community, her friends and by everyone whose lives she touched.

Rest in peace, Shirley — you've earned it.

*Peter Spadafore served on the Lansing School District Board of Education with Shirley Rodgers from 2012 to 2018 and was recently sworn in as an at-large member of the Lansing City Council.*

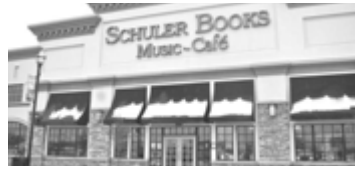


Rodgers

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ISSUE 22**



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Emotions run high as local bookstore announces closure



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Metal heads gather for Oigs Fest



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Art**

Photo by Khalid Ibrahim and design by Madeline Rosemergy

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SUCK IT UP WHINERS! WE'LL BE BACK AFTER THESE MESSAGES.

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 22, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider Executive Order 2018-01 recognizes the new name of the Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development as the Department of Economic Development and Planning, transfers Code Compliance from the Lansing Fire Department to the Department of Economic Development and Planning, and creates a new Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement.

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

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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Wake-up call

## Civil rights leader Diane Nash wants to empower people, not politicians

From the segregated lunch counters of 1950s Nashville, to hushed buses threading the hostile highways of the Deep South, to the sweaty meeting halls and phone rooms that wove the civil rights movement together, Diane Nash has a message for those who hope for a better world today.

Nash, the honored speaker at the 33rd Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission Luncheon, is a brilliant organizer from way back. While still a student at Fisk University in 1959, she led the breakthrough sit-in movement that desegregated lunch counters in Nashville. In 1961, she coordinated

**Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission Luncheon**  
**Diane Nash, guest speaker**

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the Freedom Ride from Birmingham, Alabama, to Jackson, Mississippi.

As a movement leader, she roused people in the morning to join her and face a day of unknowns, including possible beatings and arrests. She knows how to deliver a wake-up call.

"In a democracy, people are rulers of the country, but United States citizens don't see themselves as rulers of this country," she said in a phone interview last week. "That is the biggest problem. There are what, 300 million of us now. That is a lot of brain power and human power."

Leaving progress to politicians, Nash said, has never worked.

"Suppose we had left desegregating restaurants, buses and public accommodations and getting the right to vote in the South to elected officials," she said. "I think, 50 years later,



Courtesy photo

Tessa Thompson brought civil rights leader Diane Nash's flinty determination to the screen in the 2014 film "Selma."

they still wouldn't have done it. Citizens need to look at the lessons of the sixties. The methods we used were effective. They worked."

Convicted of "contributing to the delinquency of a minor" for organizing nonviolent student protests, she turned herself in, rather than accept bail, and insisted she serve jail time, even though she was pregnant with her first child.

She served 30 days, dodging cockroaches at night (and something larger that she heard crawling on the floor, although she never found out what it was).

President John F. Kennedy named her to the national committee that promoted pas-

sage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Later, she was a vehement opponent of the Vietnam War. She defends the principle of nonviolence espoused by King, not with sentiment, but with mathematical logic.

"With all the violence that's been perpetrated in the last century — violence of all kinds — if it made a better society, we'd all be living in Utopia," Nash said. "In my observation, violence doesn't create a better society, it creates more violence, more harm to human beings and just makes things worse."

To Nash, 79, the "jail-no-bail" principle was central to the success of civil rights battles in the South. As a new cohort of protesters calmly replaced each group that was hauled

away, the prospect of arresting hundreds of people peacefully sitting at lunch counters threatened not only to overwhelm Tennessee jails. The spectacle roused the collective conscience of the state, the segregated South and the nation.

Younger generations are equipped with far-reaching tools such as social media Nash admits are "unknown" to her.

"We had to crank those mimeograph machines, in order to turn out leaflets," she said with a laugh. "I haven't thought about applying social media to the 1960s."

But the nuts and bolts of organizing for change, Nash said, still aren't visible on screens.

"Young people are doing what they saw on television —

namely, marching," she said.

"But that's only about 20 per-

cent of what we did, I'd say, in the South. They didn't see on television the door-to-door

organizing and the many, many meetings we had, to educate

people about their responsibility in becoming a voter and learning to act in unison. We did have a great deal of discipline in the civil rights movement, which is absolutely required any time you're dealing with a large group of people."

When I asked her to single out today's

See Nash, Page 6



Nash

## Jazz in a time of chaos

## Annual Martin Luther King concert wades into healing waters

The annual concert honoring Martin Luther King Jr. presented by MSU's Jazz Studies Department has taken a winding journey through various venues and formats, but musical excellence and communal healing have always been at the heart of the event.

This year's concert will put the MSU Professors of Jazz and the powerhouse student jazz orchestras, conducted by Rodney Whitaker, front and center.

"It's a collective vision, a conversation,

and a celebration of Dr. King's life and legacy," Whitaker said. "Living in times like this only makes us even more creative."

The evening will begin and end with two different arrangements of "We Shall Overcome."

One is by trumpeter Etienne Charles that Whitaker described as "not really avant-garde, but on the edge of out." The other is a gospel-flavored arrangement by saxophonist Diego Rivera.

The concert will also feature spoken

word commentary from MSU literature Professor Jeff Wray, a master of gentle, humorous provocation, along with guest appearances from the MSU College of Music's vast talent reserves.

Favorites from past MLK concerts will include a slashing arrangement of drummer Max Roach's "Freedom Now" suite; an arrangement of James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"; and "I Wish I Knew

**Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest**

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What it Meant to be Free" by Nina Simone, a trombone feature for MSU Professor Michael Dease.

—LAWRENCE COSENTINO

(For a fuller story, please visit [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com))



# Nash

from page 5

most pressing civil rights issues, she gave a surprising answer.

“One of the most important battles, that I think is important, isn’t really being fought very hard,” she said. “That is reversing the Citizens’ United Supreme Court decision that allows people to purchase politicians.

Because if you don’t have equal power in everyone’s vote, you really don’t have democracy.”

But Nash already sees one sign of hope in the unprecedented wave of women filing for local, state and national office in 2017. She is gratified that the Women’s March — Nash’s “20 percent” part of the job — is translating into real change.

She also feels that the current wave of indignation over sexual harassment in the

workplace is long overdue.

“I think it’s wonderful,” she said “I think women have a right to be in the workplace and devote their attention to their job instead of having to deal with harassment and all the unpleasantness that women have had to put up with.”

Nash’s own remarkable experience shows that when people take matters into their own hands, peacefully, there is no limit to what they can do. If the system seems rigged now, take a ride on a time machine and try sitting at a lunch counter in Nashville in 1958.

“People spend a lot of time talking about the Trump administration, what they’re doing and not doing, and I think, to a large extent, that’s wasted time,” Nash said.

“We’ve had a chance to see who these people are. They’re going to act the way they’re acting. The issue is, what are the citizens going to do? People could be working on the economic system, education, health care, the criminal justice in their town, their

state, rather than spending so much angst over what politicians are doing. No matter how much you talk about them and worry about them, they are who they are.”

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

## McIntyre settlement took months to negotiate

New released documents reveal details about the Bernero administration’s settlement negotiations with former City Attorney Jeanine McIntyre. Mayor Andy Schor ordered the documents released after Virg Bernero, his predecessor, refused City Pulse’s request under the state Freedom of Information Act, citing attorney client privilege. For the full story, go to [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com).

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## ANDY WARHOL

### A DAY IN THE LIFE



Andy Warhol, *Marilyn*, 1967

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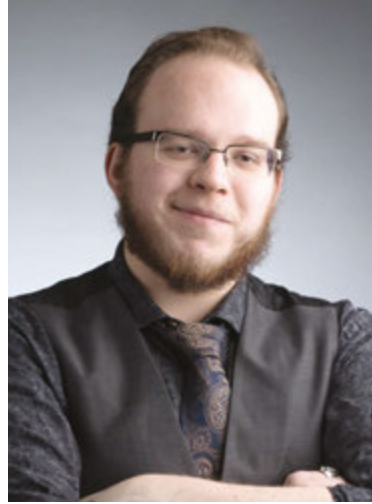


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# THE PEOPLE ISSUE



These people aren't the 10 richest, the 10 most influential, the up-and-comers, the movers and shakers, the whatever-happened-tos or any other of the labels that are pretty much used up on the newsstands by now. Most of

them made some news, big or small, in 2017. We talked with them for a while and found much more to enjoy and learn from. The interviews were edited for length and clarity. The photos are, for the third year, by Khalid Ibrahim.



## ETIENNE CHARLES MUSICIAN AND TEACHER

Trinidad-born composer-trumpeter Etienne Charles, 34, is a teacher-scholar, one of the world's greatest jazz trumpeters, an ethnomusicologist and much more. A 2015 Guggenheim Fellow in Creative Arts, Charles joined MSU's jazz studies faculty in 2009. He has recorded seven albums that delve with nimble clarity into the knotted roots of American, African and Caribbean music.

Last January, Charles went to Queen's Hall, Trinidad, to premiere his newest project, "Carnival," which will be released in the U.S. in June 2018.

—LAWRENCE COSENTINO

**How do you deal with the tension between music as a diversion from what is happening and music as an immersion in what is happening?**

I do both. Music is for making people feel good. The activism is something you can throw in because you have people in a state of feeling good. We play "Speed City" from my last album, "San Jose Suite," at just about every gig. While writing the suite, I got to know Dr. Harry Edwards, the mind behind the resistance at San Jose State that led to desegregation on campus. In the early 1960s, black students could only major in bail bonds, social work, physical education. Most of them couldn't get a lease for an apartment. I talk about that before we play the song. I talk about inequality.

**How does that go over?**

People thank me for it. A lot of people in this country know that something is wrong. But sometimes people come up to us and they're like, "That ruined the show for me." We play Harry Edwards' voice clip before we play the song. ["Our struggle must be multi-faceted and perpetual, and there are no final victories."] I remember playing in New York, and a Canadian police officer said that it ruined the show for her because I talked about police brutality. We had an hour-long conversation.

**Did you bring her around?**

No. She's a police officer. It actually got really messed up. These are the risks we take. But we played it somewhere else, and a gentleman was there, who was at San Jose State student at that time. He was like, "Man, I don't believe you brought this up. I remember it like it was yesterday."

**Sometimes it's easy to confuse yesterday with today.**

It's weird in America, because you've got people protesting the same shit they were



protesting 50 years ago. You've got athletes protesting police brutality. I get pulled over all the time in East Lansing. I could write a song using police lyrics: 'Where are you coming from? Where are you going? Is this your car?' Fortunately, the police here aren't trigger-happy. Harry Edwards is a dear friend and mentor now. Every time something happens, I text him and he rattles off his thoughts: "I was thinking about this 60 years ago."

**Even your newest project, "Carnival," began with months of research in ethnomusicology but comes around to today's headlines.**

I see it also as a form of peaceful protest. This album is about, "Y'all take note. It's about to get even more messed up here."

**What can "Carnival" teach us today?**

The reason we have Carnival [in Trinidad] the way it is today is we have a conflict, a clash. The British had problems

with aspects of Carnival, the stick fights, and they sent the police to try to suppress it. In 1884, they banned drums. No drums with skins allowed in public.

So they used bamboo, and later iron, and that led to steel bands. That's the evolution of our resistance against British oppression. That's what my composition "Black Echo" is about — when you silence something, there's an echo.

**That is a very powerful idea.**

You saw it in New York, when they stopped public school music education. The echo of that was hip hop. Most of those rappers, MCs and producers would have been the next generation of jazz musicians, had they had instruments. I'm not saying hip hop would not have happened. But there were a lot of people who didn't get a chance to learn music in that generation. I'm waiting to see what's going to happen because they just stopped public school music in Lansing. I'm waiting to see what

that echo here in Lansing is going to be.

**Is there an endgame to all your research? Are you heading toward a synthesis?**

No, no, no, no, no, no, no. There's so much to learn. The deeper you dig, the deeper you want to dig.

**Your international profile grows every year. What keeps you in Michigan?**

I'm grateful to be on the best full-time jazz faculty in the world. I'm a tenured professor, and ethnomusicology is close to my heart. MSU is a Research One institution. Some places couldn't care less what happens in the hills of Trinidad, but they care. I'm close to a lot of good, clean water. This place is special.

## STEVE FLASTER SALESMAN AND EDUCATOR

Steve Flaster, 72, still has his accent from the Bronx, where he grew up and where he was "always, always, always, always" interested in apparel, influenced by his grandmother, who owned a small fashion shop in Brooklyn. While in business school, his adviser told him about his college roommate, Stanley Hollander (the late husband of Selma Hollander, another New York transplant and artist who recently turned 100), who taught business at MSU. "You go there and he will take you under his wing," his adviser told him. "So, I did, and he did. I meant to be here four years. And here I am 51 years later talking to you." Those five decades spanned education, running a local chain called Green's Apparel, selling women's clothes at the old Jacobson's Department Store in East Lansing and, for the last 10 years, teaching at MSU.

—BERL SCHWARTZ

**How did you get your start?**

In New York, I was an assistant buyer for a resident buying office, where you helped smaller stores who couldn't be in the New York buying market all the time. And then, before I came out here I was on the executive training squad for Bloomingdale's.

**How did you get involved with Green's?**

I did some consulting for the owner while in school. He says, "I like all your ideas, but I don't know how to implement them myself. Why don't you come into the business with me? I'll make it worth your while." And he did. So I did. Until the business went bankrupt 30 years later.





STEVE FLASTER



LUCAS HOLLIDAY

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### Why?

Women were very much into dressing for business, but then it all changed. Women started wearing pants and jeans to work. Everything became more casual. And when that all changed, all these stores like mine started going downhill. I was foolish and arrogant enough not to think it would happen to me, but it did. And, literally, I lost everything and had to start over again at age 57. Which I did.

### What did you do?

Well, I did not lose my self-concept. I went to Jacobson's. I said, "I wanna sell." They said, "How can you sell? You were the president of a company, how can you get on a sales floor and sell?" So I said, "I think I'd be very good." They didn't wanna hire

me. It was just after Thanksgiving. I said, "Why don't we try it till Jan. 10? Say I'm a temporary worker. If it's no good, I leave and you never see me again. If it's good, we make a new deal." It was good from day one. In a year and a half, I became the No. 1 salesman of women's apparel in their 11 Midwest stores, selling almost a million dollars a year. I was ready to spend the rest of my career there, and they were delighted about it. And then after 134 years for Jacobson's and 4 1/2 years of my life, they went bankrupt, too.

### You were 62. What did you do then?

I remembered two things. Number one: You're rewarded in life for doing a good job. I had done such a good job with my customers that I had a very steady following, a few hundred women who said, "Steve, what are we gonna do now? We're so used to you helping us pick out clothes." My wife actually thought of the idea. She says, "Why don't you start a service?" So

we started Jacobson's Alumni Association, which was literally by membership for all my former customers. The manufacturers did trunk shows at our house. And it's been very good. It's much smaller now, because a lot of them have gone south in one way or another.

### What was the other thing you remembered?

"You're qualified to teach at the college level. Why don't you go back and do it?" I had a master's and most of a doctorate, except for writing my dissertation. I have this position at MSU in the Advertising Department called a professor of practice. I teach senior level courses, so I must be good. OK? I'm also the campaign chairman for the Humanitarian Charity. And I try to write and publish at least one article a year. I stay busy.

### What do you hope students learn from you?

How to approach a problem and then create a solution. Because that's what we are —problem solvers. If a woman needs a dress for a wedding, we're a problem solver. In business, we're all problem solvers. And you really do better for yourself and for people who depend on you if you think of it that way. And that's what I try to get my students to do. One of them wrote in my evaluation, "Flaster doesn't just teach you a course, he gives you life lessons." And it's true. I'm very, very light in computers, technology, anything like that. But I'm great in experiences.

## LUCAS HOLLIDAY VOCALIST

In the span of one year, Lucas Holliday went from an unknown local Dollar General store clerk to singing in front of millions on NBC's "The Voice." The cata-

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lyst for this burst of fame was a November 2016 viral video of the vocalist belting out a soulful Maxwell cover behind the cash register. From there, Holliday, 27, was featured on “Good Morning America,” and soon after the lifetime Lansing resident was chatting it up backstage with the likes of Jennifer Hudson and Miley Cyrus. He is in the studio recording a solo album with producer “Boogie” Bob Baldori as well as a record with his group, Tell Yo Mama. This interview was conducted before his arrest in Lansing for drug possession.

— RICH TUPICA

**Looking back, are you happy with your run on “The Voice”?**

I made the Top 24, and that’s great. That all started when I was emailed by folks at NBC. They hunted me down. It wasn’t my initial intention. They used my viral video as my audition tape.

**Can you pin down one surreal moment while you were in Los Angeles shooting the show?**

Everything leading up to it was kind of routine, just working as a musician with other people in the professional world. I was excited, but I wasn’t tense. I’d known the song for years. The first song I did was “This Woman’s Work,” by Maxwell, and obviously I was known for singing his song “Ascension” in the viral video. Then I get on stage, the lights come down and the music starts playing. It gets real. You realize this is going to be on television and millions of people will see it.

**Who were the celebrity judges in front of you? Were you nervous you wouldn’t get picked?**

Sitting there were Adam Levine, Miley Cyrus, Jennifer Hudson and Blake Shelton. I was singing, and finally, right near the end, I thought, “Well, this is it.” At the last second, before my last line, I hear the noise and the light go off and Jennifer Hudson turns around and I see her jaw drop to the floor. I was happy just to experience that moment.

**Your viral video has scored millions of eyes, but what initially inspired you to sing at the store, on the clock?**

While I was working at Dollar General, there was a point where my manager had left. The store had some issues and was rough managerially. There were many times I almost walked out, but I stuck it out. Since there were people not caring about certain protocols, I thought,



THIERRY NANA

“I’m just going to start singing while I’m here.” It wasn’t for attention, it was my therapy and I like sharing music.

**Another high point of your year was performing before thousands at a Maxwell concert at the Palace of Auburn Hills. How did that come about?**

Maxwell, through “Good Morning America,” sent me this video, a formal invitation. The whole week, I had to work like normal at the store, then the day of the show I arrive in Detroit I was able to take the day off. That was the moment I realized this was not a joke. I had never been to the Palace for a show or a game. My first time there was walking through the back, VIP entrance.

**When did you first realize you have such a strong voice?**

Around 2005, when I was a freshman at Everett High School, but I had been singing my whole life. I was always sing-

ing with my friends recreationally, always outside or on the corner singing. Around that time, I had already been in a bunch of choirs. It was around my freshman year of high school that someone told me, “You need to promote yourself more.”

**In high school, what records were you spinning the most?**

At the time, I was into R&B groups like Jodeci, Mint Condition and Boys II Men. I was also into Dru Hill, H-Town, all of the classic ‘90s R&B. Guess I was 10 years behind. Want to talk about antiquated? When I was a kid I was listening to ‘50s doo-wop, that was through my father. He grew up in that era of the four or five-man vocal groups.

**So music was just a part of growing up?**

Both of my parents were musically inclined. My dad, who passed away in 2012, was a fan but wasn’t really a singer. My mom is a singer — she was singing in a

karaoke joint last week. She used to sing in the church choir. It was church and karaoke that kicked off my inspiration to sing.

**Since “The Voice,” you’ve become known as a solo artist. Do you still have time for your local band, Tell Yo Mama?**

For sure, that’s my main breadwinner right now. It’s everything I am pushing for musically. We have been recording and hope to release that soon. The band is a seven piece, so it allows us to spread out sonically. These days, we’ve moved toward funk, dance and a little disco. It’s always R&B oriented and a good mix of covers and originals. I am a soul guy, so anything I consider soul, I’m down with.

**THIERRY NANA**  
STUDENT, DESIGNER AND ARTIST

Thierry Nana, 30, left Douala, Cameroon, in West Africa and moved to Lansing three years ago, fleeing a disapproving family and a conservative culture that couldn’t handle his being gay. With help of friends in Lansing, Nana has moved with impressive speed toward his goal of becoming a world-class fashion designer. He is finishing his sophomore year at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids and has mounted several painting and fashion shows. Next year, he plans to move to L.A. to go to FIDM, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

**How would you describe your approach to fashion?**

I’m trying to give a vision where fashion is also art. I’m trying to be a high fashion designer. I don’t want to be boring. I want to say something, open people’s minds.

At school I decided to do design some clothes with a very complicated fabric. My mom said, ‘You’re crazy. How long have you been in school?’ I told her, ‘If you think this is crazy, you’ll be surprised about what’s coming next.’

**How did things work out in Grand Rapids?**

I struggled and went through depression. The culture was strong and people were mean because I have an accent. My family said, “Pack your stuff and accept that Grand Rapids was a mistake.” People look at you and judge you, the way you look like. For me, being black, I didn’t think it was a problem, but you feel some people are being racist with you because of your skin or your accent. And you have to

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pay the bills, be responsible. I got a job in a restaurant, and then at Hop Cat.

## Is that why you're leaving the Kendall College of Design to go to L.A.?

People at Kendall are very conservative. I felt I had to go someplace bigger than Michigan. I couldn't go from Lansing to L.A. just like that. I had to go step by step and learn American culture and attitudes. I went to Grand Rapids to see how a big city works and not get eaten by people.

## Your mom is a fashion designer. Does she approve of your being one too?

She didn't teach me, not because she couldn't, but because people back home make her think teaching me fashion would make me more feminine, make me gay.

My mom started to believe in me when I was at home and I started showing her some of my stuff.

I brought some paintings home, and my mom started to look at me differently. I sewed some clothes for a band doing a video and showed her the clothes.

## Are your parents OK with your being gay?

They're not super happy. They're OK, though. What I went through in Grand Rapids brought me together with my mom. We had a talk. She said, "You have to give me time. I'm trying. If you're happy, I'm happy." It's not like they're calling to ask, "Do you have a girlfriend?" They know I'm gay. They accept what's going on.

## What is the hardest thing about adjusting to life in America?

My expectation when I came here was too high, from American TV. I felt like I wanted to go back home because it was hard for me. A big thing was relationships. I started dating. I tell myself, "I'm a classy guy. I believe in love." I wanted to find someone I would learn to know, someone where you would not be afraid he's going to leave you in two years because he found someone else. Someone that — even if you go out and find someone more beautiful, you still believe you love him and stay with him, not treat it like a change of clothes.

## And that has been hard to find?

People just say, "Well, you're cute." That's why they are interested. "The conversation should be, "I learned something, you learned something." Sorry to say it, but people talk about some stupid thing, they are just looking for sex. You start talking serious, they say, "I'm too young to think



MARILYN PLUMMER

about this."

## What are you looking for in life?

I'm looking for something bigger. I don't think I was born to be that man who is going to just have a good job, take care of my family and go to work. I believe I have a big purpose. I can't be Mr. Normal. I tried but it didn't work for me. If I went to California too soon, I don't think I'd be alive. People take drugs, do bad things because they can't handle things. I learned from going to Grand Rapids. I can be ready for L.A. now. I know it won't be easy, but I know it will be great.

## MARILYN PLUMMER PUBLIC SERVANT

Marilyn Plummer, 63, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's community outreach coordinator, has lived her life in the greater Lansing area, witnessing and being party

and my sister, who would be on her way to Sexton High School if we had remained at Lansing, so we started to make plans of how we were not going. We were just not gonna go. We had lots of relatives in the city. We could easily stay behind and live during the week with an aunt, any one of them. So needless to say, as we inquired more, talked with our relatives, they looked at us like, "I don't think so." Whatever your parents say is what you're gonna need to do. So they declined our idea, and I just kind of put it out of sight, out of mind until it was really time to go.

## You showed up at Mason High School in 1970. What was that like?

We had a beautiful house on 10 acres. We walked this half-mile dirt road into the main road to take a bus to go to school. So that didn't sit too well with me, I mean in the city we'd walk with our friends a couple blocks — you're at school. With any student, I think, when you're riding a bus full of strangers, you get on the bus and everybody is looking at you, first of all it's like, "Oh, when did you move out here?"

"We get on the bus and get the stares, you really didn't get ... and I'm really thinking hard. I don't really remember seeing a lot of smiling faces. Shocked. "Where did you come from? Oh you're really coming to our school?" Not that anybody wasn't nice, it was just strange. Later in the week the curiosity helps out, so we start having conversations on the bus. And everybody wanted to know, well, what brings your family out here? "Well, we don't have other families that look like you." Yes, I know, and probably that's because economically if you can't afford 10 acres, and it took my family awhile to save to get this property, so they didn't build right away. The conversations were really interesting. One neighbor pinched my hand and said, "Oh, your skin is just like mine, it's not different, just the color." Like, yep, right. And she said to me "So what color is your blood?" And I said it's red, what color is yours? So it was just totally an eye opener. She was young, she was a little girl, so I wasn't offended by it. She was curious and wanted to know.

## Tell us about the Lansing Juneteenth celebration?

Juneteenth has been a thriving slow-growth movement for 25 years. I was a founding member. I bought in early on because I respected my elders and I respected history. The church member from Texas who introduced the celebration in town said it's something that we should do. You should not let your culture, your history, die, you should always try to make improvements for the next

to some of the region's important gains for African-American equality and history recognition. While a freshman at Sexton High School, she joined upperclassmen in protesting the district's lack of education on African-American history. The next year her family moved to Mason, where she became the first African-American to graduate from Mason High School. That history, she said, helped her focus on bringing the annual Juneteenth celebration to the city. She's served as president since 2004.

— TODD HEYWOOD

## Tell me about that conversation with mom and dad when they said, "So we're moving to Mason."

Oh, well we were quite rebellious. My oldest brother didn't have to go. He was of age. He was done with school. So it would have been me myself, being the second oldest child and everyone underneath me. No one seemed to react as much as myself

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generation. And my church and my family instilled that into us. So quite naturally, my entire family is part of the Juneteenth celebration. I've raised my grandchildren to understand and know what Juneteenth is. They always celebrate it, not even knowing when they were little, they just knew that we were celebrating and then as they got older they understood what we were celebrating. That's what you have to do, you have to teach it throughout the generations so it doesn't die.

## AMY RICKETT ACTOR AND DIRECTOR

At 55, Amy Rickett has held numerous titles: mother, wife, actor, director. Despite the positive reviews she receives for her work in community theater, she shies away from the idea she's recognized and tied to the theater in the popular mind, but she also recognizes she is connected to the art form that has been part of her life since 1992.

— TODD HEYWOOD

### Why did you get started in theater?

I love theater. I love to go to theater and be around people in theater. My brother tried to be a professional actor for a time and gave it his all till he was 30. It was just too hard. And so theater has always been in the family in that regard. I went to an open call for Spotlight Theater's summer season. Anyone who knew Len Kluge knows he was very charismatic in the sense that what he did was different than anything I had ever seen at an audition. Anyway, I didn't get cast that season. But at the end of that, Len talked about his acting workshop. I had to audition for that workshop, and that was really the beginning. Because then I could work once a week on going with a group of people that were like-minded in approach and learn the craft. And that's what I did. I learned the craft and I absolutely fell in love with it.

### Isn't it part of the theory at least behind community theaters — having that bonding, that experience of conversation about the art that you're putting together as a team?

Everybody does theater for different reasons. I can only really speak about why I do it. I do it because for me it is a creative outlet and an expression and I love the work, although it's really hard. To dive into a script and figure out what the play-



wright's intention is, how do you fit that and serve that correctly or in a way that makes sense? Yes, absolutely the magic, absolutely the magic. Art is created in so many different ways.

### You've begun to focus on directing over acting. What's that about?

I love to string actors and creative people together, and that's everybody, even from a technical standpoint, which is not my forte. So when I do get people who are technically proficient and creative and can contribute to the project in a way that I haven't thought of, then that is fantastic. And then I get to see the whole thing. I get to really direct it, I get to move it and mold it and have conversations, and I love the rehearsal because I get to talk to actors about choices and moments and how do we put that together? And it's challenging and I just love it. I love, love, love it.

### Isn't directing much like recreating that workshop experience you talked about with Len and Spotlight Theatre?

Absolutely. The last show I directed, "Superior Doughnuts" at Riverwalk was as close to a workshop experience as I've had. Moment to moment work, and I just sat there and was so proud of that piece, really. And it was great, I didn't want it to end.

### Do you think theater is a dying art form?

The arts as a whole are at risk. Only because they depend on grants and money, patrons' money, patrons coming to see shows. Certainly the younger generation loves musicals, and that's entirely the focus in a lot of the high school programs. In high school, there needs to be the same amount of focus given to a straight dramatic piece. But in order to sustain dramatic work, or even comedy, kids have to be exposed to it, and they aren't. They're exposed to musical theater.

### What would your message be to readers?

People need to be curious and explore all aspects of the fine arts. Theater is an important medium, it always teaches us about the human condition. It always helps us be more empathetic. We're becoming too detached through our technology where we don't have to talk to each other on the phone, we text, we don't have to write a letter anymore, we email. It's just we have to connect as human beings, we're losing that connection. Theater can sometimes bridge that gap.

## ALICE SESSIONS PRESERVATIONIST

Alice Sessions, 92, has fended off drooling developers for decades to keep a beautiful red house built in 1876 at 402 S. Walnut St. from falling to the bulldozers. The house is a small miracle of survival, alone in a sea of downtown office complexes and parking lots. Last year, Sessions spent \$30,000 to fix up the house and received a Preservation Lansing award for keeping it alive.

—LAWRENCE COSENTINO

### How long have you lived at 402 S. Walnut?

I've been in and out of that house all my life. My mother lived there when she was 15. I came all the time and slept in the basement. I went over to Arbaugh's Department Store to roller skate. My grandparents bought it in 1912 and turned it into a boarding house.

### The house has a lot of history, doesn't it?

Oh, yes. The stonemasons who worked on the state Capitol built it and were the first people who lived there — the Glaister brothers. Two of them died from silicosis. No mask. Richard Glaister, the father, was so distraught over it he committed suicide. Right in my kitchen. Mayor Ralph Crego lived in Apt. 3 when he was a newlywed.

### Where did you grow up?

My family lived out in the DeWitt area. I was a member of the first graduating class at the new high school, Sexton in 1943. I went to work for a year at Sprowl Bros. — they had very expensive clothing. I started MSU with a sister, studying social science. We shared a car to get to MSU together. They hadn't built all these dorms yet but people were pouring in with the G.I. Bill. Odd things would go on, building a dorm. You'd wake up every morning because they

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ALICE SESSIONS



WHITNEY SPOTTS

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started hammering at 7 a.m. We had to go back home for a while because there wasn't enough housing.

### How did you meet your husband, Homer?

It's so strange. I married a blind date. The guy that got the blind date for me — my husband said, "Not many people would have taken anything that guy found." He was back from World War II in the Philippines. He did well on the GI Bill. We met about when he was graduating. Very good with numbers, very honest, very needed. We were married 61 years before he died. Probably sex every night. I thought that was a great occupation, fun time. We had four kids, let the babies come whenever.

### How did you end up at 402 S. Walnut?

When the grandparents died, the kids inherited it.

My mother also had a cottage at Lake Lansing that my father had built for a former girlfriend. When the girlfriend found out my father was planning to take care of his mother, and they would all live together, she dumped him! My mother was glad to get him!

Anyway, the taxes on 402 S. Walnut were not paid for six years, and it went up for auction. My mother and father bid for it and they took over in 1966.

### Have you ever been tempted to sell?

When we found out the Radisson Hotel was interested in it — my husband thought, 'Oh boy.' This was in the 1970s. The other houses — there were five junkers on that corner. Their water pipes froze, they were empty and it was easy to see that they would be demolished.

But no, when the Radisson came, it moved into the place downtown that it's in now. We bought the house, and the others, the neighbors, have all been torn down. I told the first inspector, "We're going to retire there." He said, "What? That house?" He thought it was unbelievable.

### What's special about that house for you?

We moved a lot because of my husband's job. I counted it recently — I've had 40 addresses following my man. We were in Fenton, Alma, Saginaw, Litchfield, we lived in Denver. I'm so glad to be living here — probably because of the 40 addresses elsewhere. Finally, home!

### What's your setup like?

I've got Apartment 1. I'm living high on the hog. It's the first time I've ever gotten an apartment so big. My view is the Capitol dome and the Boji Tower. That's my bay window at night. There is one tree

in the way. I haven't asked them to cut it down yet.

**Who planted the irises that fill your front yard? There are so many you can touch them from your car window as you go by on Walnut Street in the spring. I always hope for a red light at Kalamazoo Street so I can be with them a bit longer.**

I put them in years ago. They just come up every spring. I got a Roto-tiller, and it was kind of risky because of the utilities underneath the turf. It happened to my son, out in Nebraska. He jumped on the spade and he did get electricity. I haven't, though.

## WHITNEY SPOTTS VOCALIST AND EVENTS COORDINATOR

Back in her college days, Whitney Spotts promised herself she'd never fall into a typ-

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ical career or office job. Today, it's obvious the Lansing native succeeded. Some know her as the animated, tutu-donning vocalist of Starfarm, a popular local '80s cover band. Prior to that, she took years of classical voice lessons and fronted the hard-rock band Bit. In 2017, she became a professional photographer. Area bookworms might recognize Spotts, 40, as Schuler's Books & Music author-events coordinator, often seen cruising across the store with her signature blonde dreadlocks and myriad of tattoos and piercings.

— RICH TUPICA

**You've been in Starfarm for 10 years now. How has the scene changed in that time?**

We used to play in East Lansing, and we don't anymore. It's all DJs. It's a strange time to be in a band. The only thing I can say for what we do is that it's really fun. Obviously, moms are our bread and butter. Forty to 50-year old women adore us. But I've noticed we have an older crowd at the beginning of the night and a younger crowd at the end.

**Does Starfarm have a mission when it hits the stage?**

Our goal is to keep people dancing the whole time. It's funny, the '80s were a miserable time. We had trickle-down economics, we had the Cold War. We had all that, so a lot of that '80s music, like "99 Luftballons" and Prince's "1999," were about: "The world is a scary place, so let's just have fun tonight." I think we're at that place again, culturally and politically. It sounds cheesy, but I feel it's my job to bring people some joy and escapism on the weekend. It provides it for me, as well. Every year I think it'll be the year audiences get bored, but it keeps getting better. Every time we play the Green Door, it's crazier.

**Career-wise, you wear a couple of hats. What was your initial job path after graduating from Waverly High School?**

I went to Michigan State University. I changed my major so many times, but I eventually dropped everything and went with English Lit. I graduated in 2000, but the final year was a study abroad I did at King's College in London. It was supposed to be a three-month thing, but I stayed there for two years and did my master's at Goldsmiths, University of London.



**After 15 years at Schuler's Books, what author events stick out the most?**

It's always David Sedaris. I've worked with him four or five times. He is literally the nicest author I've ever worked with, but I somehow manage to always embarrass myself in front of him. The first time we hosted him at Eastwood we had 450 people there, so we put his voice on the overhead. Then he started telling a blowjob joke. Parents were leading children out of the store with their hands over their ears. I was like, "Oh, my God! It's too late to stop." Now we know, if he comes to the store, keep it centralized.

**You said you were 17 when you got your first tattoo. Have they ever caused you problems in the job market?**

When I was in London, I stumbled upon this shop. I went in and told him, "I want this dragon that's a mixture between Chinese traditional and tribal." I wanted it on my forearm. He said, "That's a really

big tattoo in a very visible spot. Why do you want it there?" I said, "This is my, 'I will never have a normal 9-to-5 job' tattoo."

**What kept you coming back for more ink?**

Sometimes, as it happens, you date a tattoo artist and you get covered everywhere. We broke up halfway through the second arm. Part of it is, I just love art. My entire life is about art, so it made sense to have my body be art, as well. I think subconsciously, I have used them as a shield. I am a very tender-hearted person, but people look at the tattoos and don't fuck with me. It might make me look tougher, but all it truly means is I have a high pain tolerance and could probably take a good ass kicking.

**Are you able to pick one favorite tattoo?**

My favorite is my full back. It's a tiger. It was the most painful thing I've ever done.

I have multiple autoimmune disorders and one of them is fibromyalgia, a chronic pain condition. It primarily lives in my back, so I get a lot of back spasms and pain. The tiger was the reclaiming of my back. It was pain I chose to endure. The tiger is meant to represent never stopping the fight and being strong even when it hurts. I'm not always that person, but it's who I want to be.

## JOSEPH STEINHARDT RECORD PRODUCER AND EDUCATOR

Joseph Steinhardt, 33, doesn't lead a double life. He just leads one that's extremely busy. Steinhardt immersed himself in the world of independent music and academia, founding Don Giovanni Records in 2003 and earning his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2015. Now an assistant professor and researcher at Michigan State University, Steinhardt still makes the time to manage Don Giovanni. He's moving its headquarters to Lansing later this year.

— SKYLER ASHLEY

**How did you move from playing and releasing music in New Jersey to obtaining a Ph.D. from Cornell University?**

In some ways it wasn't a direct path. I never really stopped being involved with underground music in New Jersey. When I went to college, I stayed involved, but I never really saw it as something I wanted to do for a living. I kept pursuing what I wanted to do at the time, which was filmmaking and documentary filmmaking. Eventually, I didn't want to work in film anymore, which led to the realization that I wanted to do research. That was a good five- or six-year journey. But, the whole time I was doing that, I was still running Don Giovanni. The label grew and grew, especially while I was in grad school. The label became something that felt much less like a hobby and more like a substantial full-time business or career. So, right now, I kind of do both.

**You started Don Giovanni to put out your own band's album. How did it grow from there? Will the label move with you to Lansing?**

It made sense for me to release my own music. Then, through doing that and playing in this music scene, I started having these friends that were also looking for someone to help them. They said, "Well, if you got yours out, you want help get ours out?" The goal of the label was to kind of document this music scene that was happening in New Jersey. As ways to share

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music on the Internet came out, the goal was no longer documenting this one scene of bands and this community of bands, but trying to get them out there in the public record. Now that I have this full-time job, it makes sense to move the label here. Hopefully we'll start to focus a little bit regionally, the same way I was focusing regionally in New Jersey.

## Your label releases a lot of work from members of marginalized groups. Is that important to you?

I think it's people's duty to think about how the work they do affects culture and society, which, for an independent record label, means being thoughtful about what artists you are and are not working with. So it's not something I consciously think about in the sense of a quota, but it's something that happens very naturally when you start being thoughtful about who you are working with in independent communities and when you're attracted to people that are doing new and interesting things.

## Can you tell us about your research for MSU?

I do risk and health communication research. My area looks at decision making about health and risk. I've done some work with tobacco. Right now I do a lot of work with road safety. What I specifically look at is the role that narratives play in helping people make better judgment decisions about safety, risk, health, et cetera.

## How do you balance your work at MSU with your work at the label? Is that a challenge?

It's a huge challenge, not to mention, of course, I have a family, so trying to balance three sort of full-time operations, family, being a tenure track professor, and owning the label is very challenging. I don't get a lot of sleep. I've been honestly working to harmonize the music world and the academic world for me a little bit. For now, I'm creating some new classes at Michigan State and starting new research projects related to independent music.

## Have you found one side of your life more rewarding between your academic work and your work in the music industry?

I find them both incredibly rewarding so there's not an easy answer. Which is one of the reasons it hasn't just been, like, "Ok, I'm going to stop one and do the other."



## Do you ever see yourself picking one over the other?

I mean, I don't know. I hope I don't have to, but I might have to at some point.

## ELAINE WOMBOLDT NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

At 69, Elaine Womboldt has become a regular face at Lansing City Council meetings. She's been rallying neighbors on the city's south side for several years as the facilitator of Rejuvenating South Lansing, but this is only the latest phase in her long-running push for reforms in the area.

— TODD HEYWOOD

## You've held numerous office jobs. Why did you shift to doing advocacy work for children with disabilities?

Both of our kids were discovered to have learning disabilities. I decided that I wanted to help other parents become better advocates for their children. I didn't

want the kids to feel like there was anything wrong with them just because they learn differently. I wanted them and the parents to understand that every child had a unique style of learning, but they all had very strong abilities and that the learning difference was only a part of them, but not them — no different than people having to wear glasses.

## What happened when your children were diagnosed?

Our daughter was in kindergarten in a gifted program. By second grade I was saying, "Something's not right. She's not getting these letters right, she's having trouble writing." And I was just given a lot of different excuses. So we took her to Michigan State University in the Learning Clinic and had her evaluated. And she had a very high IQ, but she had four different learning differences. The school system did not want to identify them. We ended up having to go through the school district and

filing many complaints because she was two years academically delayed. We went through a two-week due process hearing. That was a unique experience, because at the time, she was getting private tutoring twice a week. We were helping her, she was getting therapy to help her self-esteem and going to school. And I was working in the school, and people who work there wouldn't talk to me. I was shunned. So for a while, I was the president of a national learning disabilities group, and that wasn't really doing it for the family. So I said, "OK, I'm going to start one." The commander at the Navy Marine Corps on West Saginaw had me come in and I talked to him, and he really liked the idea of helping kids. He gave me office space.

## There's a word I keep hearing from you, and that's advocating. How did that come about for you?

Well, I'm a farm girl, and we would have a lot of migrant farm workers that would live on the farm. And I went to a country school, and some of those students were in our school, and they were treated differently at times. And I knew that wasn't right. So I just talked to them and fought for them, and just tried to help them understand that we're all people and we all deserve the same rights.

## Talk about starting Rejuvenating South Lansing.

When we started that, I told my husband I didn't know if we'd have more than one meeting. But that just keeps growing and growing, and most of that's because people want their voices heard.

## You've mentioned several times the disconnection in community. What do you mean?

In our neighborhood, I was a stay-at-home mom, and other women were, too. But we watched out for all the kids, and we yelled at them all. I mean, it didn't matter whose mom you were. And that's not happening that much anymore. It isn't that people are picking on your kids, it's that they're watching out for your kids and taking care of them. I think that some of the technology now is good, but my husband and I went out to eat a couple months ago, and this man and woman came in and they sat down. They both got their phones out, and they were on their phones. You can survive without living on the phone. Especially if you're there to have some type of communication. And I hear different moms talking about their Facebook and this and that, and I wonder, how many hours a night they're spending on that instead of interacting with their kids? And are their kids plugged into something different?

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

## Now what? Schuler patrons ponder where to hang

By **BILL CASTANIER**

It was Friday morning and writer Jason Karabatsos stood waiting outside of Schuler Books & Music at the Eastwood Towne Center.

This was his routine and he was often Schuler's first customer of the day. Karabatsos spends hours in Schuler doing his daily writing and rewriting of his unfinished novel.

He'll have to finish the novel elsewhere. He was informed upon his arrival that come February, there won't be anybody coming to unlock the doors for him every morning.

"I was the first one to know, and for a few seconds I was stunned. It sucks," Karabatsos said.

Schuler bustled with shoppers during the holiday season. The store had survived the assault of Amazon and e-books and had by all appearances come out on top.

Friday, just after opening, Schuler had already sold out of the new Michael Wolff tell-all "Fire and Fury." Then came the announcement.

Scattered across the store were small groups of employees talking quietly among themselves about the revelation. Their tearful, reddened eyes told the whole story about what was going on in their heads.

For nearly 18 months, owners Bill and Cecile Fehsenfeld grappled with an almost biblical leasing problem and the cost of doing business at the Eastwood Towne Center.

Retail Properties of America, or RPAI, the Oakbrook, Illinois owner and leasing agent for the Edgewood Towne Center, had been pressing the Fehsenfelds to agree to a re-configuration and reduction in size of their



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Schuler Books & Music announced last week that it will be closing the Eastwood Towne Center location in February.

leased space. RPAI declined to comment on whether it has two new stores in line for the new space configuration.

A smaller, adjacent space had been mostly vacant since Eastwood Towne Center's opening in 2002. According to Bill Fehsenfeld, RPAI wanted to create two moderate size spaces. Doing so would require cutting Schuler's 24,000 square feet to 15,000 in order to recombine the two spaces. A spokesman for RPAI declined to comment on the falling out or lease negotiations.

These changes would have meant nixing the Chapbook Café, which to Fehsenfeld was unacceptable. In addition, he said the leasing

costs for the remaining space would increase.

Fehsenfeld said to have offered RPAI a number of alternatives, none of which seemed to gain any traction. With the leasing dispute at a deadlock, the Fehsenfelds decided they could not operate the Eastwood Towne Center at an acceptable level of risk.

In a media release, Fehsenfeld cited taxes as a reason for closing the location in addition to the leasing imbroglio.

He said taxes at the Towne Center store are "quadruple" those at other Schuler locations. Taxes on properties such as malls are charged to the mall owner and then prorated to individual stores.

Fehsenfeld said in the first few years taxes at the Eastwood Towne Center, which is located in Lansing Township, were much lower than taxes on the store in Meridian Township. But in 2004, the Eastwood Towne Center was sold to RPAI and a new assessment raised taxes dramatically to where they are today.

Public records from Lansing Township show RPAI paid nearly \$1.86 million in property taxes for Eastwood Towne Center in 2017. By comparison, Meridian Township Treasurer Julie Brixie said Meridian Mall Limited Partnership, which owns the Meridian Mall, paid just over \$2.31 million in 2017 property taxes.

In malls, like these, tax experts said, the property taxes are generally distributed among the tenants. How much is paid is part of each lease agreement, which is not publicly available.

Fehsenfeld said the company will attempt to place the Eastwood Towne Center's 30 full-time and part-time workers at their other stores. Some employees, including Eastwood Towne Center Manager Rhoda Wolff, have more than two decades of experience with the independent bookstore chain.

Nationally and locally, Schuler became noted for attracting top-tier authors for in-store appearances. These author signings and the several book clubs that met at the store helped create a vibrant literary scene in the Lansing area.

A number of local and regional authors grew into successful literary careers after

See Schuler, Page 17

## Local reactions



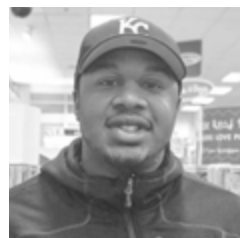
Kari Decker  
Age: 24  
East Lansing

### Your thoughts on the closing?

It's pretty sad that it's closing. I come here once a week. It's sad that will I have to go all the way out to Meridian.

### So you will make that trip out there?

Yeah. Definitely.



Tyler Wilson  
Age: 27  
Lansing

### What's your take on the closing?

Any time you the lose the ability to tangibly touch books, or take away book stores, it takes away the natural essence and joy of having a place to sit down and read a book.

### Will you visit other Schuler locations?

If there's one close by, I don't see why I wouldn't.



David Robert  
Age: 60  
Dimondale

### How do you feel about the closing?

I think it's a travesty. This is a landmark for the Lansing area. With book stores closing right and left, it's a real travesty we're losing this one.

### Will you visit the other Schulers?

Yes, I will. It's just we have more selections with two stores.



Anne Paquet-Howard  
Age: 69  
Lansing

### Are you upset about the closing?

I love this book store. I come here all the time. I'm really sad, because I love book stores. I'm sad to this one go. I am thankful for the Meridian Mall, but I love this one's atmosphere.

### Will you make the trip to Meridian?

I have to.



# The ergs of Cooper

## Berlin horn master, Lansing Symphony generate solar power

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Coming near the end of a string of subzero days and nights, at the post-holiday nadir of winter gloom, the golden horn, golden tone and golden grin of soloist David Cooper was the most timely musical intervention the Lansing Symphony has performed on the shivering city in many a year.

Cooper got a joyful welcome from a packed house at Saturday night's Master-Works concert. The experience heightened by an astronomically rare convergence of circumstances.

Not only is Cooper, 33, the principal horn of the Berlin Philharmonic, but he also happens to be a native of Delta Township. Cooper went to school in Grand Ledge, not DeWitt, as I erroneously reported in my previous story.

Cooper looked thrilled to be back home. He made the unlikely combination of gee-whiz, spike-haired wonderment, and the lofty horn mastery of a mythical Greek demigod, seem perfectly natural.

Cooper is used to playing with the greatest orchestras and conductors in the world, Berlin foremost, but LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt and the orchestra synched up with him almost seamlessly.

In the tradition of the best LSO guest soloists, Cooper and the orchestra fed off each other's energy. His glinting instrument was the sun to the orchestra's 80 solar panels deployed at maximum angle.

They played the sometimes corny and pompous horn concerto of Russian composer Reinhold Glière with almost languorous appreciation, as if it were Wagner or Tchaikovsky.

There's nothing more exposed or difficult to get right than a horn solo, let alone a wall-to-wall marathon like this. But with Cooper, it was nothing but net.

The problem with perfection is that it can make you glaze over after a while, but not when this much love is at the core of the fire. Each note floated from Cooper's horn, with no sharp angles or corners, like a globule of molten light, sometimes in the form of tiny beads that vanished as fast as they appeared, sometimes in the form of long, ductile tones that extruded like thick strands of honey into the air.

Cooper grinned like a prep school forward after every cutoff, as if he couldn't help making three-pointers left and right.

Cadenzas are generally a signal to snooze, but Cooper built a compelling dramatic arc into his solo, keeping the mind fascinated, fulfilling virtuoso expectations only as a secondary morsel for the ears.

There is a quantum physics bit at the end of the cadenza, when the notes seem to wobble in three different sectors of space at once, that Cooper sent into plasma state.

He calibrated his intensity with great care, turning down the wattage when he played figures behind the orchestra, then taking the field like Alexander the Great when it was his turn to command.

Toward the end of the first movement, he seemed to grow a third lung and a second mouth to keep the energy escalating.

The yearning slow movement, the heart of the concerto, ditches the curlicues and flourishes of the hunt and goes full-on Rachmaninoff. Again and again, Cooper responded to a sweeping melody from the orchestra, not just by echoing it, but by stroking it more fervently, muscle stirring under the skin, like a lover in an escalating romantic tryst.

The slow setup is the best part of the finale. The woodwinds intone a low fanfare and the brass go even lower, bowing as if the Metropolitan of Moscow were about to enter the room in full ecclesiastical garb. It was a solemn moment, but didn't last long. In rushed an almost silly jig melody, like a coterie of ca-



Courtesy Photo

French horn soloist David Cooper, a Grand Ledge High School graduate.

pering Cossacks, but Cooper and the orchestra were so deep in the zone by now they ennobled everything they touched. Somewhere in the middle of the dance, Cooper stopped the show to play a stern fanfare, answered by a solemn orchestral flourish, then deigned to join to dance himself, burnishing the music's Russian-for-export kitsch until it sounded as grounded as the Parthenon.

The millennial advent of Cooper leaves little room to describe the night's other delights, but they deserve mention. The evening began with a delicate, finely etched reading of Maurice Ravel's "Tombeau de Couperin" and ended with a rattling, masterful romp through the bumpy, serio-comic landscape of Beethoven's Second Symphony. The Ravel was an exquisite bouquet in which each flower had its own spirit, texture, and fragrance. Between the blossoms of "Tombeau" and the ergs of Cooper, we may have enough spring to hold us until the real sun brings real flowers.

## Schuler

from page 16

their first reading at the Eastwood Schuler location.

New York Times best selling author Karen Dionne, who most recently published "Marsh King's Daughter," said, "I was shocked. This wonderful, magical oasis will soon be no more."

"I will be forever grateful to the staff at Schuler for the support and enthusiasm provided to me and my novels," author of international best-seller "Sweet Forgiveness" and Lansing native Lori Nelson Spielman said.

Linda Peckham, a local author and founder of A Rally of Writers, said she was devastated.

"I thought it had to be a mistake. The warmth of the entire store cannot be replaced," Peckham said.

Intangibles like "community" were also a hot topic of discussion for the regulars at the Chapbook Café.

They uniformly agreed they wouldn't go to Meridian Mall, but others said otherwise. (See page 16.) One regular who called himself Andy said, "The whole place has become a family. It's a lifestyle and it's like cutting part of it out."

Local author and radio personality Michael Patrick Shiels said, "It was an essential gathering place for people and ideas."

The Facebook page of Eastwood Towne Center had this to say:

"We would like to thank Schuler Books for serving the Lansing community for the last 15 years. While its residency at Eastwood Towne Center is ending, our goal is to continue to add viable, interesting and relevant shops, services, restaurants and events while maintaining our longstanding commitment to serve the greater Lansing community."

It's likely the soon-to-be-former employees and customers of Schuler would agree with this assessment.

"Cecile and I will be looking around for another location, but right now we are focused on closing the store and taking care of the employees." Bill Fehsenfeld said.

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& MUSIC

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

# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, January 10

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

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

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

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

Bookworms at the Broad. From 1 to 2 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

Bookworms at the Broad: Collecting. From 1 to 2 p.m. free. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

Greenthumbs StoryTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MSU Creative Writing Center Group. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

Sing-a-long with Alan Bloomfield- Senior Discovery Group. From 10 a.m. to noon free. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

### EVENTS

\*Early Literacy Playtime (Ages 1-5). From 10 to 10:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. 517.485.5185.

Family Storytime (Ages up to 6). From 11:15 a.m. to noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

Practice Your English. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Raising Little Ones Together. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## Thursday, January 11

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly . At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett.

### EVENTS\*

Introduction to Financial Planning--Part 2 (Adults). From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Do You BuJo?. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club . From 9:30 to 11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing.

Spanish Conversation Group. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### ARTS

Ballroom (Fox Trot). From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$41 per couple \$21 individual. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St. Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

## Friday, January 12

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

StoryTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

Ten Pound Fiddle: Joshua Davis. From 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$20 Public, \$18 Fiddle Members, \$5 Students. Available online or at the box office at 6:30PM.. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

### EVENTS\*

Getting Started with the Internet (Adults). From 10:30 a.m. to noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

\*Minecraft Game Night (Ages 8-15). From 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

## Saturday, January 13

MusicKicking off 2018 Live!! From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. free. Michigan Wildlife Conservancy, 6380 Drumheller Rd. Bath. 517.641.7677.

### EVENTS

Grossology (Age 5 & up). From 11 a.m. to noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Scratch 101 (Ages 7-17). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Slim Wars: Ideal Protein Challenge. At 10 a.m. Total Health Spine and Nutrition, 603 N Waverly Rd Lansing. 5173218568.

## Oigs Fest hits Lansing



Courtesy Photo

Stonecutters performing live. They will headline Oigs Fest 2018, catch their set at midnight.

• • • • • January 13 • 3 p.m. • • • • •

Lansing's chiropractors will be working overtime next week, as many heads are likely to bang when the second Oigs Fest comes to town Saturday.

"It's like Christmas for metal," Grave Leech vocalist Clint Harkness said. "Everyone gets together on this day once a year, to listen, play, and talk metal all day."

Oigs Fest is the spiritual successor to the annual Lansing extreme music showcase

Ogre Fest, which pulled off an entire decade of successful shows, before it was retired.

Ogre Fest was highly regarded by the Michigan metal community. It provided an opportunity for fans to network, while enjoying a carefully planned line-up of bands.

"Every year you went, you would see something new," Ogre Fest founder Dave Peterman said. "And we always kept it affordable."

The concert series was curated during its original decade-long incarnation by Peterman, who decided to leave the festival behind in 2015. Peterman will still appear at Oigs Fest, performing with his band Locust Point.

Enter Brad van Staveren, who often assisted Peterman in putting together Ogre Fest. Now he's continuing Peterman's work. Staveren said he's streamlined the festival, without sacrificing the opportunity to give Michigan metal bands a platform.

"Ogre Fest was always a fun time for the community, with all the metal bands

coming together from across town and state," Staveren said. "We're gonna continue that with Oigs Fest."

So who's on the bill? Staveren said he wanted to incorporate several subgenres.

Oigs Fest features 12 artists: The Bloody Lips, Centenary, Cruthu, Drink Their Blood, Grave Leech, Jackpine Snag, Locust Point, No Breaks, The Mound Builders, Recorruptor, The Revenant and Stonecutters.

The headlining set will come from Stonecutters, a metal outfit from Louisville, Kentucky. Stonecutters have come up to Michigan several times, and have become an out-of-town favorite. They've already played Mac's at least five times.

"We love that place," Stonecutters guitarist and vocalist Brian Omer said. "It's a home away from home."

Those anxious to see Stonecutters in action, will have to hang around Mac's until about midnight.

"If I catch anyone leaving before Stonecutters, I will tag and bag them myself," said Jacob Nevin, former host of Impact FM's metal show Thee Hourz O' Power.

The fest will feature Lansing staples and a handful of newcomers.

Stalwarts like Centenary and the Revenant have long since established themselves in the Lansing metal scene. Recorruptor and Grave Leech, both relatively new, should perform exciting sets. Recorruptor is on a hot streak, after sharing bills with several national acts, such as Morbid Angel and Battlecross.

—SKYLER ASHLEY

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## Out on the town

from page 16

### Sunday, January 14

#### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Juggling. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.

### Monday, January 15

#### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Detox (& Weight Loss) Seminar. From 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. Gilead Healing Center, 306 S Creyts Rd Lansing. (517) 319-5818.

### Tuesday, January 16

#### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Build Your Own Business Website . From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free - to register call (517) 483-1921.

Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

#### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

ToddlerTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

#### MUSIC

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

LAINGSBURG COMMUNITY SINGERS SPRING 2018 REHEARSALS. Auditions not required. Tuesdays from 7-9:30pm. St. Isidore Catholic Church, 310 Crum St., Laingsburg 810-624-5385.

#### EVENTS


Knitting and Crochet Group. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

STEAM Club. From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.


### JAN. 6 >> BLUES ARTIST HARMONICA SHAH PERFORMING AT STOBER'S BAR


Seward Shah, better known as Harmonica Shah, is highly regarded for continuing the Detroit blues tradition with his skills on the electric harmonica. Shah made the move to Detroit by way of California in 1967. Since then, he's played with artists like: Bobo Jenkins, Eddie Kirkland and Willie D. Warren. He'll bring his talents to Lansing next Tuesday for an electric performance featuring support from Howard Glazer and Harry Oman

**10 p.m. at Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, [www.facebook.com/stobers](http://www.facebook.com/stobers)**



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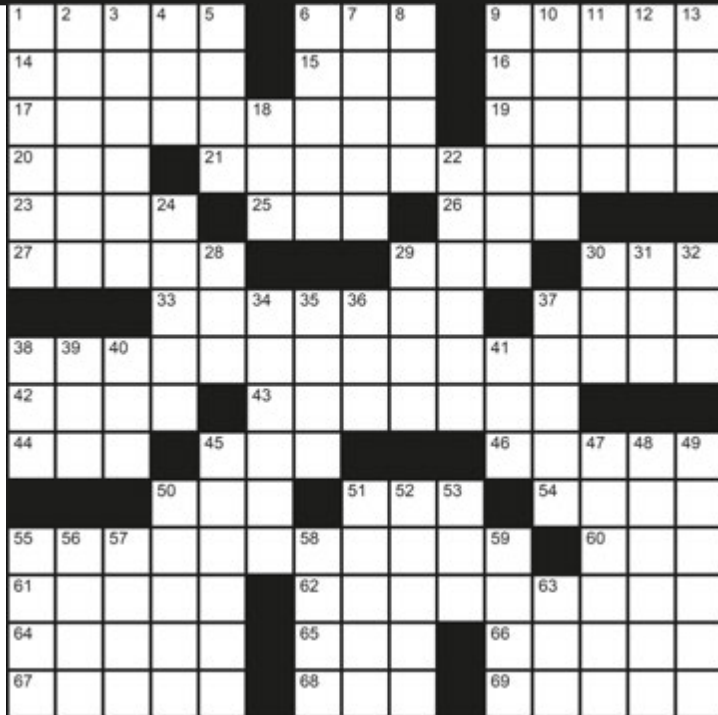
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Sounds Like It's '18"--you'll hear it in the middle.

**Across**

- 1 Mature insect stage
- 6 528i maker
- 9 Arrears
- 14 Once less than once
- 15 Noise at the dentist
- 16 Andrews of "Mary Poppins"
- 17 Port-au-Prince or Fort-LibertÉ, as an example of what to call cities?
- 19 "\_\_\_ we all?"
- 20 City SE of Oklahoma City
- 21 Just the right amount of stellar?
- 23 Haves and have-\_\_\_
- 25 They may be removed in "premium" versions
- 26 Some smartphones
- 27 Uncool sort
- 29 Uncle, in Oaxaca
- 30 Software problem
- 33 Jazz combo instrument
- 37 Facebook action
- 38 Oscar news about "Reds" or "Bulworth" (or "Network")?
- 42 Shirt sleeves
- 43 Journalist Cokie who appears on ABC and NPR
- 44 Afternoon break
- 45 Part of FWIW
- 46 Congo basin animal
- 50 Solar system center
- 51 Surprised sounds
- 54 Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"
- 55 Much, much smaller?
- 60 Fish eggs
- 61 "That's \_\_\_ shame"
- 62 Go out with Carrie Ann of "Dancing With the Stars?"



- 64 Blue-gray shade
- 65 Back in time
- 66 Ambulance attendant
- 67 Scammed
- 68 Actor Jeong
- 69 Hard worker's output
- Down**
- 1 Under one's control
- 2 Grassland
- 3 Do some flying
- 4 Figure out
- 5 First of its kind (abbr.)
- 6 Made some barnyard noises
- 7 Half of a 1960s pop quartet
- 8 Put a sharper edge on
- 9 "\_\_\_ Unchained" (Tarantino movie)
- 10 Continent-wide money
- 11 Chicken Cordon \_\_\_
- 12 Triangle sound
- 13 Late-night host Meyers
- 18 Program begun under FDR
- 22 Alchemist's potion
- 24 Stadium capacity
- 28 Crispy sandwich
- 29 Mild
- 30 Drill piece
- 31 Island strings, for short
- 32 Diploma equivalent
- 34 Power in old movies
- 35 \_\_\_ about (roughly)
- 36 Show sorrow
- 37 Eye surgery acronym
- 38 Outlaw
- 39 Notable period
- 40 Current measure
- 41 Utmost degree
- 45 Put gas in
- 47 Holiday procession
- 48 Intense fear
- 49 Short play length
- 50 What a two-letter abbreviation may denote
- 51 "August: \_\_\_ County" (2013 Streeep film)
- 52 Show interest in, in a way
- 53 Figure out
- 55 Laundry
- 56 "Alice's Restaurant" chronicler Guthrie
- 57 Affirmative votes
- 58 Bismarck's home (abbr.)
- 59 Wheel accessories
- 63 Word after "brand spanking"

©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 22**

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

January 10 - 16, 2018

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** I'm happy to inform you that life is giving you permission to be extra demanding in the coming weeks -- as long as you're not petty, brusque, or unreasonable. Here are a few examples that will pass the test: "I demand that you join me in getting drunk on the truth;" "I demand to receive rewards commensurate with my contributions;" "I demand that we collaborate to outsmart and escape the karmic conundrums we've gotten ourselves mixed up in." On the other hand, Aries, ultimatums like these are not admissible: "I demand treasure and tribute, you fools;" "I demand the right to cheat in order to get my way;" "I demand that the river flow backwards."

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Are you familiar with the phrase "Open Sesame"? In the old folk tale, "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," it's a magical command that the hero uses to open a blocked cave where treasure is hidden. I invite you to try it out. It just may work to give you entrance to an off-limits or previously inaccessible place where you want and need to go. At the very least, speaking those words will put you in a playful, experimental frame of mind as you contemplate the strategies you could use to gain entrance. And that alone may provide just the leverage you need.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** While thumping around the Internet, I came across pointed counsel from an anonymous source. "Don't enter into a long-term connection with someone until you've seen them stuck in traffic," it declared. "Don't get too deeply involved with them until you've witnessed them drunk, waiting for food in a restaurant for entirely too long, or searching for their phone or car keys in a panic. Before you say yes to a deeper bond, make sure you see them angry, stressed, or scared." I recommend that you take this advice in the coming weeks. It'll be a good time to deepen your commitment to people who express their challenging emotions in non-abusive, non-psychotic ways.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** My high school history teacher Marjorie Margolies is now Chelsea Clinton's mother-in-law. She shares two grandchildren with Hillary Clinton. Is that something I should brag about? Does it add to my cachet or my happiness? Will it influence you to love me more? No, nah, and nope. In the big scheme of things, it's mildly interesting but utterly irrelevant. The coming weeks will be a good time for Cancerians like you and me to renounce any desire we might have to capitalize on fake ego points like this. We Crabs should be honing our identity and self-image so they're free of superficial measures of worth. What's authentically valuable about you?

**Leo (July 23-August 22)** If I were your mentor or your guide, I'd declare this the Leo Makeover Season. First I'd hire a masseuse or masseur to knead you firmly and tenderly. I'd send you to the nutritionist, stylist, dream interpreter, trainer, and life coach. I'd brainstorm with the people who know you best to come up with suggestions for how to help free you from your illusions and infuse your daily rhythm with twenty percent more happiness. I'd try to talk you out of continuing your association with anyone or anything that's no damn good for you. In conclusion, I'd be thorough as I worked to get you unlocked, debugged, and retooled.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)** "It takes an extraordinary person to carry themselves as if they do not live in hell," says writer D. Bunyavong. In accordance with the astrological omens, I nominate you Virgos to fit that description in the coming weeks. You are, in my estimation, as far away from hell as you've been in a long time. If anyone can seduce, coax, or compel heaven to come all the way down to earth for a while, it's you. Here's a good way to get the party started: Gaze into the mirror until you spy the eternal part of yourself.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)** In accordance with the astrological omens, I encourage you to move the furniture around. If you feel inspired, you might even want

to move some of that old stuff right out the door and haul it to the dump or the thrift store. Hopefully, this will get you in the mood to launch a sweeping purge of anything else that lowers the morale and élan around the house: dusty mementoes, unflattering mirrors, threadbare rugs, chipped dishes, and numbing symbols. The time is ripe, my dear homies, to free your home of deadweight.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)** When he was 16 years old and living in New York, Ralph Lifshitz changed his name to Ralph Lauren. That was probably an important factor in his success. Would he have eventually become a famous fashion designer worth \$5.8 billion dollars if he had retained a name with "shitz" in it? The rebranding made it easier for clients and customers to take him seriously. With Ralph's foresight as your inspiration, Scorpio, consider making a change in yourself that will enhance your ability to get what you want.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)** In 1956, the prolific Spanish poet Juan Ramón Jiménez was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. The award committee praised his "high spirit and artistic purity." The honor was based on his last thirteen books, however, and not on his first two. Waterlilies and Souls of Violet were works he wrote while young and still ripening. As he aged, he grew so embarrassed by their sentimentality that he ultimately tried to track down and eradicate every copy. I bring this to your attention, Sagittarius, because I think it's a favorable time for you to purge or renounce or atone for anything from your past that you no longer want to be defined by.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)** Three centuries ago, Capricorn genius Isaac Newton formulated principles that have ever since been fundamental to scientists' understanding of the physical universe. He was also a pioneer in mathematics, optics, and astronomy. And yet he also expended huge amounts of time and energy on the fruitless attempt to employ alchemy to transform base metals into solid gold. Those efforts may have been interesting to him, but they yielded no lasting benefits. You Capricorns face a comparable split. In 2018, you could bless us with extraordinary gifts or else you could get consumed in projects that aren't the most productive use of your energy. The coming weeks may be crucial in determining which way you'll go.

**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)** A rite of passage lies ahead. It could and should usher you into a more soulful way of living. I'm pleased to report that this transition won't require you to endure torment, confusion, or passive-aggressive manipulation. In fact, I suspect it could turn out to be among the most graceful ordeals you've ever experienced -- and a prototype for the type of breakthrough that I hope will become standard in the months and years to come. Imagine being able to learn valuable lessons and make crucial transitions without the prod of woe and gloom. Imagine being able to say, as musician P.J. Harvey said about herself, "When I'm contented, I'm more open to receiving inspiration. I'm most creative when I feel safe and happy."

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)** The Kalevala is a 19th-century book of poetry that conveys the important mythology and folklore of the Finnish people. It was a wellspring of inspiration for English writer J. R. R. Tolkien as he composed his epic fantasy novel The Lord of the Rings. To enhance his ability to steal ideas from The Kalevala, Tolkien even studied the Finnish language. He said it was like "entering a complete wine-cellar filled with bottles of an amazing wine of a kind and flavor never tasted before." According to my reading of the astrological omens, Pisces, in 2018 you will have the potential of discovering a source that's as rich for you as Finnish and The Kalevala were for Tolkien.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://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.

# SUDOKU

# INTERMEDIATE

		8				5		
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	3		1				4	2
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		7		5				

## 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 22

# TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Fri. & Sat.,  
Jan 12-13

FRANK VIEIRA



Frank Vieira at Tequila Cowboy

Thurs., Jan. 11

HAYSTACK



Haystack at The Loft

Sat., Jan. 13

CONSPICUOUS BYSTANDERS



Conspicuous Bystanders album release at the Avenue Café

Friday-Saturday, Jan. 12-13 @ Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. 21+, FREE, 8 p.m

Pittsburgh-based country singer and guitarist Frank Vieira headlines two free shows, Friday and Saturday, at Tequila Cowboy inside the Lansing Mall. Fans of Eric Church, Dierks Bentley or Brad Paisley might want to check out his 2014 debut EP, "Three Little Words." In June, he also released a sophomore EP, "Right Here." The six-song disc features the heartfelt single "Hands Down." Before becoming a full-time musician, Vieira played several sports competitively, becoming an all-star quarterback and hockey player. By his senior year of high school, a fateful wood-shop class taught him how to build an acoustic guitar from scratch. From there, he never put it down and chased songwriting. Today, he tours across the Midwest, along with plenty of regular gigs across his home state of Pennsylvania.

Thursday, Jan. 11 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$15, \$10 adv., 9 p.m.

Southern rapper Haystack returns Thursday to the Loft for a headlining show. The event is hosted by Beats Bangin' Productions, a local promotion company. In high school, the Nashville-based rapper (real name Jason Winfree) was busted for bringing drugs to school and he spent two years behind bars. In 1998 though, he switched his focus from crime to rap, and the Southern-fried rapper was soon signed to Street Flavor Records. His first two LPs were "Mak Million" and "Car Fulla White Boys." By 2000, hip-hop publications like Murder Dog Magazine were covering his releases as his underground following swelled. The prolific 44-year old rapper has released a handful of mixtapes and more than 20 full-length records, the latest being 2016's "Still Standing." The Pinaypounder Records-released disc features guest spots from CremRo and BB Swing.

Saturday, Jan. 13 @ the Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, 8 p.m.

Local rock band Conspicuous Bystanders, which dropped its debut record, "You Can Have It All" last week, celebrates its release Saturday at The Avenue Café. Openers are Miski Dee (of City Mouse) and two Jackson-based rock'n'roll outfits: the Dead Flames and Unknown Crowe. At the show, the Conspicuous Bystanders will perform their new CD in its entirety, so you can try it before you buy it. The record is also streamed on SoundCloud. The band – which describes its sound as a mixture of Amy Winehouse, Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath – comprises lead vocalist Jenna Roark, Emmet McGuire (guitar), Duncan Tarr (bass) and drummer Zachary McKinney. For those in the mood for more local music, the Dead Flames also just issued its first record, the "Mystery Girl" EP.

## UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT

ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Industry Night	Free Comedy Night	Odds Fish, Aimcriers (FREE)	Conspicuous Bystanders
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	North of Fove	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tournament, 7:30 p.m.	Alskn "Walleye" AYCE	DJ, 9 p.m
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends Open Mic, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy	Smooth Daddy
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night	Karaoke	Avon Bomb	Roux
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Astronomy on Tap, 7pm	Haystack, 9pm	Homegrown Throwdown Round 2, 6:30 p.m.	Homegrown Throwdown Round 3, 6:30
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Midnight Gold, 7pm		Oigs Festival, 3pm
The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.	Olivia Mainville and the Aquatic Troupe			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Frank Vieira, 8pm	Frank Vieira, 8pm
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's

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Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Last week, Justin Hartig opened the second location for his DeWitt-based coffeehouse, the Crafted Bean, near downtown Lansing. The new café will have a food truck parked outside a couple days a week, serving up inventive waffle creations.

### STRANGE MATTER COFFEE CO. / THE CRAFTED BEAN / TABOOLI

By ALLAN I. ROSS

One year after opening his rockabilly-themed specialty café, the **Crafted Bean Coffee Co.** in DeWitt, Justin Hartig's second location had its debut just outside downtown Lansing last Friday. Hartig spent the last five months building out the ground floor of developer Pat Gillespie's Willis Building. Work included putting in a bar, adding a giant bench to one wall, and giving the walls a cinema-themed urban punk aesthetic.

"Lansing has more of a connection to movies, so I wanted to express that with the look," Hartig said. "There's a different vibe there than in DeWitt, and I wanted to make sure that this location stands on its own."

#### The Crafted Bean

800 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
(517) 977-0550, [craftedbeanvip.com](http://craftedbeanvip.com)

#### Strange Matter Coffee Co. (opens Monday, Jan. 15)

2010 E. Michigan Ave. Ste. #103, Lansing  
6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday  
[strangemattercoffee.com](http://strangemattercoffee.com)

Hartig introduced the Lansing area to the idea of coffee cocktails, non-alcoholic coffee-based drinks utilizing creative mixers such as grass-fed butter, raw honey and organic peanut butter. That tradition will continue at the new location, with several Lansing-only creations. Hartig will also park his street waffle food truck, Press, outside two days a week, providing specialty food options.

Meanwhile, just down the street, Cara Nader permanently closed her first **Strange Matter Coffee Co.** location on Sunday, in preparation for a big move across the street. She'll expand her 3 1/2-year-old specialty café in the ground floor of the recently completed Venue at East Town mixed-use development. Besides the ability to accommodate more customers, the new space will allow Nader to follow through on a dream she's had for a while: making doughnuts.

"This is something I've thought about even before the opening of the original location," Nader said. "Many places I've worked at and managed prior to Strange Matter have run successful bakery operations, and I've always enjoyed baking as a hobby in my spare time."

Nader hired a pastry chef, Victoria Bailey, to develop a line of vegan offerings, and Nader will complement those items with non-vegan selections, including selections that use kid's breakfast cereal and Space Doughnuts, which look like tiny toroid-shaped chunks of the cosmos. And as for the proximity to the Crafted Bean, Nader said she welcomes Hartig.

"I wouldn't consider our relationship as a 'rivalry,' friendly or otherwise," Nader said. "I feel 100 percent like we could drink beer together, and have a good time as humans, which is usually my decider for people. I think there is enough of a difference for us both to thrive in the area."

#### Bye, 'Booli

The flagship restaurant of the local **Tabooli** micro-chain closed last week. In 2014, the fast casual Mediterranean restaurant took over the digs of a former KFC at 1620 E. Michigan Ave., and inspired two subsequent locations, in East Lansing and on Lansing's west side. An employee at the East Lansing restaurant confirmed the Michigan Avenue location was closed for good, but neither of the co-owners, Fathy and Mohamed Shetiah, could be reached for comment.

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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

I	M	A	G	O	B	M	W	D	E	B	T	S		
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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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



# ARTS NIGHT OUT

2018 DATES

January 12 *NEXT*

March 2

May 4

July 13

September 7

November 2

## Arts Night Out 2018

Arts Night Out returns to Old Town Lansing on January 12, 2018 from 5-8pm! Experience a variety of unique venues – from one block to the next – alive with music, art, demonstrations and a whole lot more. Come explore, meet the artists, wine and dine. Arts Night Out has something for everyone!

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



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By Joseph Zettelmaier

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