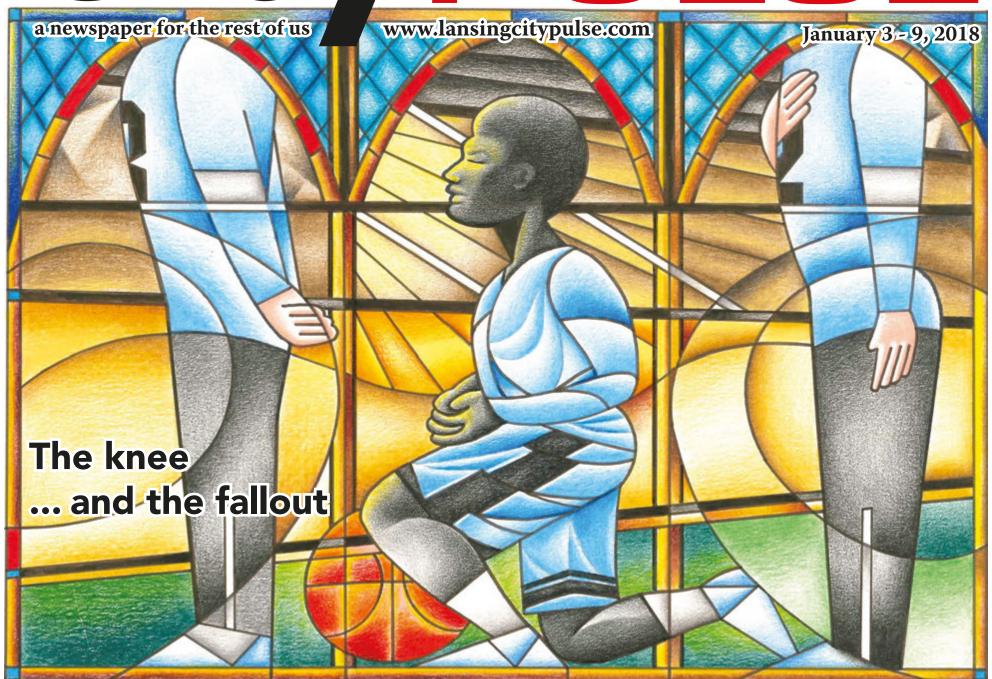
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS **East Lansing City Council**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, January 23, 2018** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

- 1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Western Golf Association/ Evans Scholarship Foundation for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 831 East Grand River Avenue for a 368 square foot building addition, parking lot reconfiguration, and associated site work. The property is zoned RM-32, City Center Multiple Family Residential.
- 2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1418, a citizen initiated ordinance to amend the Zoning Use District Map to rezone the Hawthorn Neighborhood into the R-O-1 Residential Rental Restriction Overlay District. The proposed District the boundary of the platted Hawthorn Subdivision as recorded with the Ingham County Register of Deeds on December 14, 1976 in Liber 34 and pages 2, 3, 4, and 5. The rezoning includes the following properties:

Street Address

Parcel Number

33-20-01-12-322-041 33-20-01-12-322-042	Street Address 1150 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S 1151 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-055	1207 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-026	1208 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-025	1214 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-024	1220 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-023	1226 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-022	1302 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-067	1307 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-021	1308 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-068	1313 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-020	1314 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-069	1317 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-072	1319 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-019	1320 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-071	1323 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-070	1325 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-018	1326 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
33-20-01-12-322-017	1332 CHARTWELL CARRIAGEWAY S
Parcel Number	Street Address
33-20-01-12-322-048	962 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-049	963 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-009	1303 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-008	1306 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-010	1309 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-007	1312 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-011	1315 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-006	1318 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-012	1321 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-005	1324 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-013	1327 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-004	1330 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-014	1333 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-003	1336 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-015	1339 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-002	1342 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-016	1345 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
33-20-01-12-322-001	1388 CHARTWELL DUAL CARRIAGE WAY
Parcel Number	Street Address
33-20-01-12-322-061	961 CRIMSON CT
33-20-01-12-322-060	966 CRIMSON CT
33-20-01-12-322-062	967 CRIMSON CT
33-20-01-12-322-059	972 CRIMSON CT

Parcel Number 33-20-01-12-322-063 33-20-01-12-322-047	Street Address 973 CRIMSON CT 968 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-050	969 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-046	974 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-051	975 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-045	980 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-052	981 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-044	986 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-053	987 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-043	992 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-054	993 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-040	1002 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-027	1003 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-039	1008 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-028	1009 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-038	1014 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-029	1015 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-037	1020 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-030	1021 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-036	1026 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-031	1027 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-035	1032 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-032	1033 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-034	1038 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-033	1039 TOURAINE AVE
33-20-01-12-322-058	978 CRIMSON CT
33-20-01-12-322-064	979 CRIMSON CT
33-20-01-12-322-057	984 CRIMSON CT
33-20-01-12-322-065	985 CRIMSON CT
33-20-01-12-322-056	990 CRIMSON CT
33-20-01-12-322-066	991 CRIMSON CT

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-377.



Marie Wicks City Clerk

CP#18-324

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

2018 HAGADORN WATER TANK REPAINT PROJECT

CITY OF EAST LANSING 410 ABBOT ROAD EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of East Lansing at the Office of the Director of Public Works, up to 2:00 P. M., Thursday, January 11, 2018, at which time and place proposals will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of materials, labor and equipment for the following work on the City of East Lansing 1,000,000 gallon ground storage tank located at 903 N. Hagadorn Road:

Exterior: High pressure water clean (5,000 to 10,000 psi), spot power tool clean to a SSPC-SP11 standard, and apply a three (3) coat epoxy urethane fluoropolymer system.

Wet Interior: Abrasive blast clean to a SSPC-SP10 near white metal standard, and apply a

three (3) coat zinc epoxy system.

Foundation: Replace missing areas of caulk between the baseplate and foundation. Water clean and apply a two (2) coat epoxy system.

Pump Building: High pressure water clean (5,000-10,000 psi), spot power tool clean to a SSPC-SP11 standard, and apply a two (2) coat mastic/fluoropolymer system.

Misc. Repairs & Additions: Install sidewall manway, overflow flap gate, roof handrail and sidewall ladder w/platform.

Proposals may either be mailed to the Director of Public Works at 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 or hand delivered to the Office of the Director of Public Works located at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Copies of the SPECIFICATIONS/PLANS and PROPOSAL FORMS may be obtained at the office of DIXON ENGINEERING, INC., 1104 Third Avenue, Lake Odessa, Michigan, 48849 upon payment of \$60.00 (handling charge for each set). Payment for SPECIFICATIONS should be made to Dixon Engineering, Incorporated. There will be no refund of handling charge for return of specification packages. Each BIDDER must deposit with his BID, Security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided in the INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS. The OWNER reserves the right to accept any PROPOSAL, to reject any or all PROPOSALS, and to waive any irregularities in any PROPOSAL. No BIDDER may withdraw his BID within sixty (60) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Davis-Bacon prevailing wages are required for this project.

The City will apply its Local Purchasing Preference Policy, Policy Resolution 2009-3, in making the

CITY OF EAST LANSING

Marie Wicks By: City Clerk

CP#18-333

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Mayor Schor makes Chàvez name change official



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WHAT? NO, YOU JUST -- I MEAN --

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PULSE JAMES & OPINION

Grass is greener

Marijuana industry is fueling an industrial land grab in Lansing

Michigan's marijuana industry is fueling a boom in Lansing properties zoned for industrial uses, with values increasing by 40 to 50 percent or more in the last year, according to elected city officials and at least one developer.

On the upside, the "marijuana speculators," as First Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington calls them, will significantly increase property values. On the downside, some Lansing small businesses are finding they no longer have a place to operate and are scrambling to find an affordable replacement.

That's the case for Greg Days, who owns Bill and Charlie's Automotive at 1206 E. Oakland Ave. The business, under different owners, has been in that location since 1970, he said, but last month he was informed the property had been sold and the new property owner was terminating his month-to-month lease.

"I've been looking for a new place. I have a Realtor looking. I have friends and family looking. But there isn't anything," he said, standing in his shop near two hydraulic lifts and a large truck missing an engine.

Lately, his days have less to do with repairs and oil changes on the mostly highend foreign imports he services and more on figuring out where to relocate his business. His shop, which has to be located in an industrial zone, needs at least the same 6,500 square feet and 14-foot-high ceilings to accommodate his operations.

The building sold in March 2016 for \$210,000. On Nov. 27, 2017, Team One Realty LLC bought the property for \$1.1 million

A company named HG Lansing LLC has applied for both marijuana grow and provision center licensing for the property. HomeGrown, a marijuana dispensary, is located at the far west end of the building where Days runs his mechanics shop. Foreshadowing Lansing's changing economy, the scent of marijuana cultivation overwhelms the smell of greases and oils.

Developers and Realtors are reticent to speak on the record about the land boom. One developer who spoke said his company was not involved in leasing or selling industrially zoned properties to marijuana businesses out of concern for zoning battles as well as the relatively unsettled conflict between federal and state law. But he acknowledged the run-up in prices.

Councilwoman-at-Large Kathie Dunbar



Todd Heywood/Gity Puls

Greg Days, owner of Bill and Charlie's Automotive, 1206 E. Oakland Ave., stands outside the building the business has been in since 1970. The property sold for \$1.1 million Nov. 27 for marijuana grow operation. Days has been told by the new owners, Team One Realty LLC, wouldn't be continuing his month-to-month lease. As a result he's scrambling to find a property that's zoned industrial to move his business into, but with little success.

welcomed increasing property values, noting that new owners would have a difficult time appealing for lower tax assessments. "They don't have a reason to go to the tax tribunal and say this property isn't worth that much, if they are paying that much, do they?" she said.

And while she acknowledged there might be some small businesses being pushed out of their homes, she is also aware of other small businesses that are being bought out by marijuana interests with cash "for more than they might otherwise get for their business"

Washington, who represents the area where Days' business is located, said the land speculation is bad for the area. She accused the "speculators" of "snatching up" the industrial zoned properties and "push-

See Green, Page 6





Photo courtesy Ingham County

Darius Moon house 108-110 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing

Darius Moon (1851-1939) was an architect well known for his buildings in Michigan and beyond. They include many in Lansing and East Lansing that have been maintained or restored. But his first home, 108-110 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., has fallen on hard times

It stands with scorch marks peeking out from behind thick plywood covering its windows. According to city of Lansing property record, the home has been boarded up since 2015, accumulating a stack of trash, week and other code violations.

The owner, E L Investment Properties LLC, is facing a deadline and must pay nearly \$10,000 before April 2, or lose the property to tax foreclosure. Edwar Zeineh, who serves as resident agent for the company, disputes the tax information provided by Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing.

"E L Investment Properties has always paid its property taxes — however late, they are paid," Zeineh wrote in an email. "E L Investment Properties only hopes that the treasurer's accounting is accurate, which has been a concern as of late."

The structure caught fire in June 2017, he confirmed. He also said the company is seeking a buyer for the property.

"Just another example of decay through neglect," said historian James MacLean, author of "Darius Moon: The History of a Michigan Architect."

"It's a shame it's going this way," he said. "You have preserve these historic buildings or eventually all you will have left is the Capitol."

- TODD HEYWOOD

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

6 www.lansingcitypulse.com City Pulse • January 3, 2018

Unfinished business

Schor and Council could tangle over Bernero's secret McIntyre documents

Barely settled into the Mayor's Office, Andy Schor will face an early test of his collegial relationships with the City Council. Looming is a battle over whether Lansing's legislative body can order the release of documents under the state Freedom of Information Act over the opposition of the Mayor's Office.

The issue is twofold. The first question centers on the City Council president waiving attorney client privilege asserted by the mayor. The second deals with the City Attorney's Office and its conflict of interest when the Council president legally orders a reversal of a FOIA denial, but the Mayor's Office refuses to comply.

The fight has been brewing for weeks, originating from a request by City Pulse for documents related to the exit and large payout to former City Attorney Janene McIntyre. The original document request was granted in part, but heavily redacted based on the claim by former Mayor Virg Bernero citing attorney client privilege. An appeal of the Bernero administration's action to City Council President Patricia Spitzley resulted in a partial reversal of the decision.

Spitzley, an attorney, served as the legal director for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a time. As part of her job, she routinely handled FOIA requests for the department. In a Dec. 21 letter, Spitzley ordered the release of billing records from Dykema Gossett, the law firm that handled the negotiations for McIntyre's exit from the city.

"The document is to be released unredacted," she wrote. But City Attorney Jim Smiertka is refusing to release the materials Spitzley cleared for disclosure.

"The Attorney Client Privilege has not been waived in this case," Smiertka said by email last week.

Attorney client privilege is a legal concept that keeps legal advice and conversations between attorneys and their clients secret. It can only be broken if the client releases the privilege. But who exactly the client is in this situation is unclear.

With a new mayor in office, the question now is whether the claim of privilege, designed to ensure secrecy, applies to the executive office in general or only to the person in the office at the time — Bernero.

If it is the former, Schor, sworn in on Monday, must decide whether to fight with the City Council to withhold the documents or release them. On the other hand, if the privilege was with Bernero acting as himself, can the City Council release the documents anyway?

Smiertka did not respond to questions related to the privilege. Schor said that he was unaware of the issue and wants to consult with the the city attorney.

The McIntyre departure issue has hung over the city for nearly two years. In January 2016, she requested and was granted a Family Medical Leave by the city. Records show that the city hired Dykema Gossett on Jan. 7 of that year to negotiate her exit. She left the city's employment on March 4. Under a separation agreement signed by Bernero and McIntyre, she was paid \$160,663 in compensation. Bernero characterized nearly \$80,000 of that payout as "greasing the skids" for her departure and less expensive than a legal fight. He has never disclosed why she left or what the additional compensation addressed.

For her part, Spitzley said she is uncertain where the privilege sits now that Bernero

See McIntyre, Page 7

odd Heywood/City Pulse

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor following Monday's inauguration with Police Chief Mike Yankowski, a holdover from the Bernero administration. Schor will have to decide whether to pick up predecessor Virg Bernero's battle with the City Council over releasing documents related to the payout to former City Attorney Janene McIntyre.

Green

from page

ing our small businesses out for grows." As a result, she favors revisiting the licensing ordinance adopted last summer. She wants to add caps on the number of licenses issued for growing, processing, transporting and compliance facilities. That ordinance already has a hard cap of 25 for provisioning centers.

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said by text message Tuesday that as of Friday, his office is reviewing 85 applications for provisioning centers, 34 for growing operations, nine for processing facilities and one for a safety compliance operation. He can only approve 20 of the 85 provisioning center applications.

Dunbar said she would oppose any move to place caps on the other licensing options.

"I conceded to the cap of 25 provisioning centers in order to get an ordinance in place to comply with the state," she said. "I am for the free market."

New Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said Tuesday that increasing property values are good for the city and that he wanted to wait and see how the licensing process played out before pushing any new regulations.

But Carol Wood, who was expected to be elected Council president Tuesday night, said her concern is that many of the industrial sites abut residential neighborhoods and worries about the impact to those areas.

"We have dealt with the smell issue with grows in residential areas with home grows before," she said. "Are we going to deal with that with these grows?"

She said she would support adding caps for additional licensing categories, but she said the Council will have to move carefully since it is facing a lawsuit from Let Lansing Vote challenging the ordinance. The lawsuit was filed Dec. 19 in Ingham County Circuit Court. The group, which circulated a petition to create its own marijuana licensing ordinance, is challenging the determination by Swope that rejected the petitions as not having enough valid signatures.

"We will certainly be talking about it," Wood said. "But we will have to be careful moving forward until the lawsuit is settled."

- TODD HEYWOOD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING East Lansing Planning Commission

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday**, **January 24**, **2018** in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1419, an ordinance to amend Section 50-612 of Division 5 – Restricted Office Business District, B-4 – of Article VI – Business, Office and Industrial Districts of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to allow for Hotels and Motels.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Marie Wicks

CP#18-323





McIntyre

from page 6

has left office and Schor has been sworn in.

That in turn could result in the Council seeking outside legal representation to determine the next steps in addressing the conflicting issue. She said she believes the city attorney is in conflict on this issue because he is serving both the city council and the Mayor's Office.

She is also concerned that there is a structural issue between the power of the Council and the administration of the mayor. Under FOIA, appeals go the head of the public body — in this case the City Council — before a court action. The appeal to the head of the body can be circumvented completely and the issue taken to circuit court.

Because the Lansing City Charter makes the head of the public body the Council president, refusing to comply with her Dec. 21 letter could have further ramifications.

Spitzley said she believes the refusal to

release the documents is a "likely charter violation."

Technically, the Council has no official president. That will likely change tonight when Councilwoman Carol Wood is expected to win the approval of the body as its new president. She served as vice president last year and was briefed on Spitzley decisions regarding the FOIA appeal.

She said she will continue to pursue the release of the documents as ordered by Spitzley and believes "it is likely" the body will have to hire outside counsel to shift through the legal issues the situation gives rise to. Such a move will require approval of five of the eight members.

Councilwoman Jody Washington, who represents the First Ward and will likely be selected as vice president tonight, said she supports Spitzley's decision. In her position at the state Department of Corrections, Washington handles FOIA requests as well.

"I've never known of a bill to have attorney client privilege," she said. "I support releasing the documents."

-TODD HEYWOOD

Catlike, Schor climbs pole to christen Chavez street sign

On his full day in office, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor made his first official act to unveil the new Caesar E. Chavez Ave. sign to a crowd of over 50 people Tuesday afternoon at the corner of Turner Street and Grand River Avenue. The renaming of a stretch of Grand River though Old Town comes after months of sometimes contentious negotiations between the Latino community and the Old Town Commercial Association. The name change was approved by the City Council in November, and in December the Council approved the addition of a "Historic Grand River Ave." sign to top the new traditional green sign. But former Mayor Virg Bernero vetoed the plan on Dec. 14. Schor said he was interested in working with Old Town businesses and the Latino community to find a way to recognize both the new and old names.

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum

Michigan State University

517 884 4800

ANDY WARHOL

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A DAY IN THE LIFE



Andy Warhol, Marilyn, 1967

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JAN. 13 -

MAY 6, 2018

MSU BROAD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LANSING,

INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, and any other interested persons:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, the 6th day of February, 2018, at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., at the Township Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917, for the purpose of reviewing, and receiving comments and input from the public about, Lansing Township's proposed Parks & Recreation Plan (the "Plan").

The proposed Plan will be available for review and examination at the office of the Township Clerk (located at 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917) during regular business hours of regular business days until the date and time of the hearing, and may further be examined at the hearing. The proposed Plan will be made available for review and examination by the public for at least thirty (30) days before the public hearing. The plan will be available for review electronically on the Lansing Township website at www.lansingtownship.org.

You may attend the public hearing in person or by representative, and provide comments during the public hearing, and/or submit written comments before the public hearing to the Township Planner, Sam Schultz, at the above-referenced address, or at sschultz@lansingtownship.org.

Susan L. Aten, Township Clerk

CP#18-332

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regular meetings of the Board of Water and Light Commissioners of the City of Lansing, Michigan, are scheduled to be held at 5:30 p.m., at the Board of Water and Light Executive Office Depot Facility, 1201 S. Washington Ave, Lansing, Michigan on the following dates:

2018

Lansing Board of Water & Light Board of Commissioners Regular Board Meeting Schedule

> Tuesday January 23 Tuesday March 27 May 22 Tuesday Tuesday July 24 Tuesday September 25 Tuesday November 13

In the event a special meeting or rescheduled meeting is held, a notice will be posted in the Lobby area of the Executive Office, 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, Michigan, at least 18 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

Posted by order of the Board of Water and Light Commissioners in conformity with Act 267, PA 1976.

BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT M. Denise Griffin, Corporate Secretary (517) 702-6033

CP#18-322



left) Kabbash Richards, Roje Williams and Michael Lynn knee during the national anthem at a Dec. 20 forum at the Michael Lynn Jr., sits behind his son.

Lansing Catholic High School student athletes (from front III talked about their recent experiences after taking a Schmidt Community Center in south Lansing. Lynn's father,

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Michael Lynn Sr., slowly made his way to the microphone at a public forum Dec. 20 on Lansing's south side.

"I want to apologize to my grandson," he said. "When I heard about this stuff happening, I thought he was at Catholic Central, having a good old time."

Not so much.

Michael Lynn III is one of four student football players — the LCHS 4 — who knelt in protest during the national anthem at football games in 2017, in the manner of national figures such as former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, to call attention to racial inequality, police brutality and other forms of injustice.

As fall turned to winter, the four students have been whiplashed by cross currents of warm support and icy blowback.

Lynn, a senior, is finishing the year at Lansing Catholic. Junior Kabbash Richards is also staying put. The other two, senior Matthew Abdullah and senior Roje

Williams, have transferred to other schools.

When the Lansing City Council recognized them in a resolution Dec. 11, public response was not pretty.

To quote a handful of emails received by the Council: "Pathetic! Using minors and glorifying their actions is sickening!"... "It is a spit in the face of the nation" ... "a disgrace to America and the people who had fought for there [sic] rights to be able to even play sports. God bless America" ... "a laughable moment for the state of Michigan" ... "as a business owner and resident, you have embarrassed our great city."

Office manager Sherrie Boak reported a call from a constituent who was "so disgusted she got sick, and felt she got slapped across the face" and two callers who "stated a lot of things I cannot repeat."

"Want to stop 16 unarmed black men from getting shot by cops while committing crimes?" one person wrote. "Maybe someone should teach them 'personal responsibility."

Among the mildest things people say to

Lynn, his father and the other three players and their families is that they are grandstanding, a charge that makes Michael Lynn Jr., shake his head in amazement.

"I don't enjoy people calling my son a thug," he said. "I don't enjoy having to worry about some crazy maniac trying to snipe him from across the street. We don't need this."

When the charge of attention-seeking was put to him directly at the forum, Michael Lynn III answered calmly and firmly.

"If you say we're doing it for attention, you're pretty right," he said. "We're doing it for the awareness. The five minutes of fame, we could do without. If we could get your awareness without having our names out there, that would be perfect."

When Kabbash Richards knelt during the anthem at a Dec. 8 basketball game between Lansing Catholic and Williamston, Tashmica Torok, mother of a Lansing Catholic student, heard a man from the Williamston side yell, "Get your ass up."

"The only thing I kept thinking about was

people screaming at black people sitting at lunch counters to get up and get out, you don't belong here," Torok said. "People are acting the same way now, but I don't understand why they don't see it."

In late fall, while looking for a wayward ball at a golf course, the two elder Michael Lynns, senior and junior, forgot about the ball, sat on a stump sat in the woods and had an eye-opening talk about Michael III that reminded Michael Lynn Sr. of the 1960s.

"I watched TV news and saw minorities having dogs sicced on them, hoses turned on them, being beaten by police," Michael Lynn Sr. said at the forum. "It didn't bother me, because it didn't affect me. I look at it today, and I think, if I'd had the guts my grandson had, to get up and do something, say something, maybe he wouldn't be going through this today. So I'd like to apologize."

History of problems

With about 40 people, all of them support-

Giving a knee

Did Pat Gillespie bump a protester at Lansing Catholic game?

Soon after the Dec. 8 Lansing Catholic vs. Williamston High School basketball game at Williamston, allegations began to spread on social media that developer Pat Gillespie, a Lansing Catholic alumnus with a son attending the school, deliberately bumped a protester who was kneeling during the national anthem.

The alleged push-ee, LaShawn Erby, was kneeling in solidarity with Cougar basketball player Kabbash Richards, who took a knee during the anthem.

Attendees described a charged atmosphere at the game. As the anthem started, about 20 supporters of Richards sat together on the Cougar side of the court in anticipation that Richards would kneel.

Counter-protesters were seen and heard on the opposite side. Some were wearing red Make America Great hats; others waved American flags. Two people carried an "American Eagle" banner and another man wore a cape fashioned from an American flag.

Several attendees heard an adult voice call "Get your ass back up" from the Williamston side as Richards knelt during the anthem.

As the anthem began to play, Gillespie, with two men alongside, stood at courtside,



Photo by Michael Lynn Jr

Attendees described a "charged" and "challenging" atmosphere at a Dec. 8 basketball game at Williamston, when Lansing Catholic High School player Kabbash Richards took a knee during the national anthem. Supporters of Richards kneeled in solidarity while Williamston fans (shown) waved flags, wore MAGA hats and heckled Richards.

in front of Richards' supporters.

Several supporters of Richards said Gillespie and the two other men were deliberately trying to block them. As the anthem got underway and Richards took a knee, supporters moved courtside, around and in front of Gillespie, and knelt in solidarity.

Tashmica Torok, a supporter of the LCHS4 and parent of a student at Lansing Catholic, said she was kneeling near Gillespie and Erby and saw the shove up close.

"I look up and I see Pat Gillespie step into LaShawn with his left leg," Torok said. "She falls over, catches herself with her hands, still kneeling, and asserts her position. He looks down at her and just looks back up."

Torok said she put her hand on Erby's back.

"I wanted her to know I was there and I saw it happen," Torok said. "I held her hand through the rest of the anthem."

Erby did not return calls and messages asking for comment.

Pat Gillespie's spokeswoman, Tiffany Dowling, said in an interview last week that Gillespie "did not shove or push anyone." Dowling and Gillespie fielded questions together.

"I was walking in, I stood there, and everyone came in and filled in behind me and next to me," Gillespie said. "I don't recall ever having any contact with anyone."

Gillespie said he is meeting with Erby on Monday.

He declared that he "absolutely" supports the students' right to protest and would say as much to school or diocese officials if the opportunity arose.

"I believe in people's right of peaceful protest," Gillespie said. "That's all our right as Americans. They've got a right to protest."

Larry Kirchhoff, a westside resident with a son attending Lansing Catholic, was among the supporters who knelt to support Richards.

Kirchoff said that before the anthem started, Gillespie and the other two men "turned, squared off, made their shoulders as big as possible and positioned themselves as if to silence us, hide us or intimidate us in some way."

Another supporter of Richards, Rovonya Velasquez, was kneeling a few feet away. Velasquez is the mother of Roje Williams, one of the LCHS Four. "The gentlemen wove their way in to stand in and block us," Velasquez said. "They knew what they were doing. It was very willful."

Michael Lynn Jr., father of Michael Lynn III, one of the LCHS 4, said Gillespie's group looked "very organized."

"It's almost like they mobilized to create a wall in front of us," he said.

Gillespie said he was merely on his way to his seat and stopped in place to put his hand on his heart when the anthem started.

"I was not there to block anyone,"



Courtesy Photo

Developer Pat Gillespie denies he deliberately pushed or interfeared with supporters of the Lansing Catholic 4 at a basketball game in Williamston.

Gillespie said. "I was not there to protest. I just wanted to watch a basketball game and happened to be at that spot."

Neither Kirchhoff, Velasquez nor Lynn saw any physical contact between Gillespie and Erby.

Gillespie said he first heard of the alleged shove on social media and was "confused." He called David Maxwell, a bishop at Lansing's Eliezor Temple Church and director of Mayor Virg Bernero's Office of Community and Faith Based Initiatives, for advice.

"I was not there, but that would be totally outside Pat's character," Maxwell said. "The Pat Gillespie I know would not do anything like that," Maxwell said in a phone interview.

Maxwell, who strongly supports the LCH Four and has offered to help them, confirmed that Gillespie called and they are discussing what to do next.

"My thrust with Pat is for him to use himself as a leading citizen to advance diversity and understanding of both sides," Maxwell said. "He is very interested in trying to engage and bring sides together to be a bridge builder instead of a destroyer of that bridge. I don't want this to define him."

Torok said she has gotten indirect overtures from Gillespie. "He has sent other people – I can't tell you who they were — saying things like, 'I've never known him to be that way, he didn't mean it," Torok said. "He's trying to gaslight me." ("Gaslighting" is making someone think they're remembering or interpreting events wrongly, or even delusionally, from the play and 1944 thriller "Gaslight.")

"Guys — mm-mm," Torok said, nodding her head 'no.' "If I didn't see him do what he did, I would never have put it out there."

- LAWRENCE COSENTINO



Knee

ive, in attendance, three of the students and their parents talked of a history of problems at Lansing Catholic at the Dec. 20 forum.

Rovonya Velasquez is the mother of Roje Williams, one of the LCHS 4.

"Roje and I and our family have been going through racism issues at Lansing Catholic since his freshman year in 2014," Velasquez said.

In 2014, another student called Roje the N-word. "You think, this is a Catholic school, this is not going to happen," Velasquez said.

But it happened again and again, most recently on Dec. 1 of this year.

"A kid ran into the locker room and hollered out 'hard R,' Velasquez said. ("Hard R" refers to the last consonant in the N-word.)

Velasquez said the offending student was suspended for a day and told to write an apology letter to Roje, who was in the locker room at the time, and read it to him directly, as part of the school's "face process" of dealing with problems among students.

But she and other parents say the school is not doing enough to change the culture at Lansing Catholic.

"We could tell you so many stories," Michael Lynn Jr. said. The parents speak to each other in knowing shorthand of "the Harambe incident."

At the first football game in 2016, Roje's junior year, a student wearing a Harambe mask was seen running around at the game. Harambe was the gorilla that was shot and killed at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2016.

Other students brought a sign to the Everett game with a picture of a gorilla, saying, "We cheer for Harambe."

Michael Lynn III was newly arrived at Lansing Catholic as a star quarterback from Sexton High School. He led the team to victory against Waverly.

"We were mildly offended, we noticed it the whole time, but we were new at the school, trying to be cool and fit in," Michael Lynn Jr. said.

Nobody objected to the Harambe sign at Waverly, but several weeks later, at a football game at Everett High School, Lansing Catholic student supporters trotted out the gorilla signs again. This time, it was obvious to the largely African-American crowd at Everett that the sign was directed at Lynn, a star player, the only African-American starter and Lansing Catholic's first black quarter-

"Everett students went nuts," Lynn said. "The Lansing Catholic administration didn't understand what the problem was. Everett players and coaches were explaining it to Lansing Catholic."

The Harambe signs disappeared after the

Everett game.

At the Dec. 20 forum, Michael Lynn III said part of the reason he knelt for the anthem is local: he doesn't feel he has the school's support.

"When I'm on the field and I get called the N-word, I can't do anything on the field, nor should I," he said. "I go tell somebody. The first time, nothing happened. A year later, it happens, they're still not going to do anything. This isn't a problem that just now appeared."

Lansing Catholic principal Doug Moore and president Tom Maloney did not return calls and emails asking for comment. Automatic messages say they won't be available until Christmas vacation is over Monday.

Velasquez said more communication between school administrators and parents is urgently needed.

"I would like the diocese, and the school, to come out with a statement, that 'We know there is an issue, we are looking into it and trying to figure it out, and we will not tolerate racism or bigotry or discrimination of any sort," Velasquez said. "Instead, they decided to punish the kids that are taking the knee, the kids that are telling there is a problem."

Taught to shine

Representing then Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, Bishop David Maxwell said at the Dec. 20 forum that taking the knee was a demonstration of "love for the nation, just like putting a hand across the chest."

"They're demonstrating and you're demonstrating, but they are not penalized for their demonstration," Maxwell said.

"This is not a theatrical production and we cannot be spectators. The continued punishment of not starting the game is unaccept-

Around the country, in places like New York, Toledo and New Jersey, Catholic dioceses have warned that students who take a knee during the anthem at school events will be disciplined.

The Lansing Diocese Office of Education has directed that "all students shall stand without individual gestures during the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance at all school events ... out of respect for America and the brave military men and women who protect our country, to foster unity and teamwork within the school community, to avoid politicizing school events and consistent with longstanding school teachings and policy."

Parents of LCHS students received a letter from Maloney, Moore and Athletic Director Brian Wolcott Dec. 5.

"While we recognize that peaceful protests have an important role in society," the letter stated, "school athletic events are not an appropriate venue."

The letter warns that if a student athlete

does not stand for the anthem, "that student will not play in the game." If the school knows in advance, "the student athlete will not dress or accompany the team for the game." The letter goes on to warn of "appropriate actions going forward, up to and including dismissal from the team."

to the Lansing

Catholic community and it made sense to leave the school when "things started to unravel," but "we won't leave the fight until Lansing Catholic makes this right."

But Rovonya Velasquez was very reluctant to pull Roje Williams out of Lansing Catholic halfway through his senior year, when he has never been to a public school before in his life.

Velasquez said Lansing Catholic has "one heck of an education program" and she wants him to "stay grounded in faith."

In early December, Tashmica Torok's 12-year-old son, Isaiah, told her he intended to kneel during the pledge of allegiance at Lansing's Immaculate Heart of Mary-St. Casimir Elementary School.

She got a book about Cesar Chavez, a Catholic, from the library.

"We had a conversation about how protest is super-American. It's just what we do. We tie ourselves to things and we block parades, burn bras and Catholics are no different."

She read about the split in the Catholic Church over Chavez and his protests for better working conditions for migrant laborers.

"Both the growers and the migrants were Catholic. In the end, the Catholics aligned themselves with the Catholic social teachings and support of Cesar Chavez," she said.

Isaiah was sent home from school for the rest of the day Dec. 22.

A knuckle-rapping Nov. 21 letter from Immaculate Heart of Mary-Casimir Principal Angela Johnston to parents warned that students choosing not to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance would "have their parents called and be sent home for the rest of the day." Students who don't stand for the pledge a second time would be sent home for "the remainder of the week." If the child continues the behavior, "the school will receive that as a signal that the parents/caregivers of the child wish to terminate their



Michael Lynn Lansing Catholic High School student athlete Matthew Abdullah speaks Jr. said his fam- at a Dec. 11 Lansing City Council meeting honoring the LCHS 4. Abdullah ily had few ties was not able to attend the Dec. 20 forum.

> relationship with IHM-St. Casimir and remove their child from the school."

Torok doesn't want to pull her kids from Catholic school but she doesn't intend to tell Isaiah to stop.

"The policies talk about the longstanding tradition, as if Jesus Christ and his protest is not the longest standing tradition of the Catholic Church," Torok said. "Justice is one our core values. 'This little light of mine,' y'all! We all know that song, whether you like it or not. We teach them to shine, wherever they are."

Joseph Garcia, director of the Cristo Rey Community Center and a member of the Lansing Catholic board, encouraged the students to keep up the protests.

"I'm proud of you guys," he said at the Dec. 20 forum. "I'm frustrated, and I, too, could leave, but it's time to educate from the inside out."

Garcia said it's a case of "an administration not knowing how to meet a minority student where he's at."

"I'm part of the board, I'm not some double-O spy," he said. "From within, I'd love to bring a minority point of view. I don't think something quick will happen, but change has to happen."

At the forum, he told the students to "keep up with what you're doing. Be who you are. We get this one life. Let's make it count."

Kabbash Richards' mother, Negla, didn't say much at the forum, but her words carried extra weight.

"I went to Catholic school in Africa. I came here to this country for a better education and a better future," she said, nodding at her son, sitting beside her on the stage.

"Maybe he will make a difference," she said. "I want him to stay in Lansing Catholic because when you start something, you've got to finish it in my book. You don't quit."

ARTS & CULTURE

ART · BOOKS · FILM · MUSIC · THEATER

Remembering Fix bassist Michael Achtenberg

The story of an influential Lansing musician

By SKYLER ASHLEY

It was 1980 when Craig Calvert noticed a guitarist-wanted ad stuck to the wall of a Lansing laundromat. An unusual place to recruit musicians, this was the nexus point of the Fix, one of Lansing's most storied punk-rock groups.

After arranging a meet-up via the phone number he snagged from the flier, Calvert was greeted by a large, soft spoken man with a seemingly infinite knowledge of music. This was Michael J. Achtenberg.

"I remember meeting this big, wide shouldered dude and you don't really know what people are gonna be like at first," Calvert said. "But Mike was super kind and a total music connoisseur. He could tell you who played bass for the Stranglers back in 1978."

Achtenberg, bassist of the Fix, Blight, the Meatmen and Just Say No, died on Dec. 14 after a battle with heart disease. He was 60.

Achtenberg devoted much of his life toward his passion for music, playing out of love and never for reward, of which there was often none.



Achtenberg

"We called him the gentle giant, he was a very peaceful guy," said former Fix drummer Jeff Wellman. "He played a great bass and he played it fast."

The Fix, co-founded by Achtenberg and vocalist friend Steve Miller at the dawn of the '80's, was different from other local bands. Their punishing sound was more akin to wartime machinery than conventional music

The Fix's emphasis on precision put them a cut above and

saved their razor-wire sound from the sloppiness that often dogs punk-rock musicians.

"We got together to play music sometimes in our little apartment," Miller said. "We'd seen the Stranglers and the Ramones and were inspired to pick up a cheap guitar from Sears."

Achtenberg's musical knowledge gave the band a strong pallatte of influences the Fix would soon draw from.

"Mike knew everything about music," old friend Doug Wood remembered. "He taught me about the good stuff."

Pals throughout the '70s, Achtenberg and Miller got serious about forming a band and upgraded their apartment to a house on 1435 Roosevelt Street in 1980. The space gave them freedom to rehearse without worry of the police knocking down their door, no matter how much the neighbors groaned.

The two were eventually joined by Craig Calvert on guitar and Jeff Wellman on drums.

Together the group honed their sound into an aural whiplash assault, a style that had caught on in Europe, Los Angeles and the East Coast, but was still completely alien to mid-Michigan.

"You weren't doing this to make friends, you weren't doing this to make money," Miller said. "You were doing this because

it was something you felt."

The Fix made its concert debut in April of 1980. By that fall, the band was able to attract a crowd of curiosity seekers blended with fellow punk enthusiasts.

"That music was just starting to get recognized and the Fix were at the forefront of that," Wood said. "You had Black Flag on the West Coast, Bad Brains on

the East Coast, and at the same time Lansing had our own band called the Fix."

Miller and Wellman travelled down to Chicago in December 1980 and scored big when Chuck Dukowski of Black Flag shared his famous stash of promoters' phone-numbers.

Black Flag was well known for touring endlessly across the United States and the Fix joined in on the action.

"We wanted to spread the gospel," Miller said. "If they could inflict this damage on people, why couldn't we?"

From there, the Fix dared to hit the road for the West Coast, something most Midwest hardcore bands never bothered with.

The tour saw them sharing bills with legendary bands like Flipper and the Dead Kennedys, carving Achtenberg into a lineage of immeasurably influential bands.

The band endured tough conditions, travelled with zero cash, dined in soup kitchens and slept on grimy floors. But for a crew of music-obsessed outsiders, to be out on the road playing was a dream come true, poverty be damned.

Achtenberg and Miller returned to Lansing and moved the Fix's headquarters into a house at 2204 Stirling Avenue. There, the Fix crew hosted fellow hardcore bands such as D.O.A. and Bad Brains, spending several days together listening to music and swapping stories about their travels.

The band that Achtenberg helped form was now making a considerable impact in Lansing. By mid-1981, there was an emerging batch of bands experimenting with the sound. The most notorious of these was the Crucifucks, infamous public menaces to the East Lansing Police Department.

The Fix shared a local bill with the Necros and Black Flag, who headlined their infamous March 22, 1981 gig at a packed Club DooBee in Haslett. A scene was brewing.

Despite all the hard work, the Fix dissolved unceremoniously in 1982, leaving behind a single and an EP recorded for Touch and Go Records.

"The Fix was a volatile thing," Calvert said. "We were an



Courtesy phot

The original members of The Fix (left to right): Steve Miller, Michael Achtenberg, Craig Calvert and Jeff Wellman.

socially."

But it didn't prove to be the end of Achtenberg's musical

odd mixture of guys and the times were crazy musically and

ventures. Achtenberg stuck tight with his friends and played in a series of other bands, including Just Say No. Achtenberg would also hop back on the road as a volunteer roadie for Miller's post-Fix band Strange Fruit, simply out of

his love for music and riding across America.

Achtenberg managed to play on one record with Touch and Go co-founder Tesco Vee's band, the Meatmen, before rejoin-

ing Miller in a more experimental project known as Blight. Blight's sonic landscapes were cold, harsh and could hardly be described as rock music. But this abrasiveness didn't come to define Achtenberg's personality.

"You hear that old cliché, he'd give you the shirt off his back," Wood said. "Well with Mike that was true. He did that for me and many others."

After a few years in Just Say No, Achtenberg moved on from playing in bands as the '80s came to an end. He proudly worked for decades as a team member of Michigan State University's Culinary Services, right up until his death.

Achtenberg was both happy and proud to see his band's legacy widely celebrated, though he couldn't help but laugh when he discovered the original Fix 7-inch record was fetch-

ing prices as high as \$4,000.

He continued to travel with Miller, even though there was no longer a band to tour with. The pair visited Death Valley and the desert Southwest on a yearly basis for a decade straight.

"He was a true original," Miller said. "It's often missed that he was real creative. He loved to play and he loved that music."



A horn hero's homecoming

David Cooper's winding road from DeWitt to the Berlin Philharmonic By LAWRENCE COSENTINO themums and sell them in the front y

David Cooper may be the most spectacular case of "local boy makes good" to come out of Lansing since Magic Johnson.

Cooper, who grew up in DeWitt on the western edge of town, was named principal horn of the Berlin Philharmonic in 2016. He'll get a grand homecoming as soloist with the Lansing Symphony Saturday.

The pinnacle of international success doesn't seem to have gone to his head.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

David Cooper, horn 8 p.m. Sat., Jan.6 Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall www.lansingsymphony. org (517) 487-5001 "I'm a huge Spartan fan. I'm actually wearing my Spartan T-shirt right now," he enthused by phone from his newly rented flat, a few minutes' walk from the famed Berliner Phil-

harmoniker.

Despite his exalted position in the world of symphonic music, he said it's a "dream come true" to come back to the house where he was raised, on St. Joseph Street, near the "new Wal-Mart, although it's not so new anymore." His mom still lives in the same house.

We used to grow thousands of chrysan-

themums and sell them in the front yard," he said.

He produced his first horn blast at his grandma's house in Lansing, when he was four years old.

"She got this French horn out of a closet, dusted it off, polished up the mouthpiece. Wow! Making my first note — it was incredible."

Cooper's grandmother, Marie Grasius, studied the horn after seeing John Philip Sousa's band in Brookings, South Dakota, around 1910. "It was unusual for a woman to take up the French horn," Cooper said.

When Cooper's grandparents moved to East Lansing in 1953, Marie and her brother, Edward, both played in the Lansing Symphony.

"I still have a couple of old programs with her name and my uncle's in them," he said.

Cooper remembers listening to the radio in the car at four or five years old and falling in love with the sound of the horn.

"It could be heroic, soft, sensitive, sad, joyous, angry," he said. "It just strikes this chord in my soul."

Cooper's pump was already primed with Wagner and Rossini music from Looney Tunes cartoons, but what really sunk him

> "hook, line and sinker" was the music of "Star Wars."

> When Luke Sky-walker starts to grow up and face his destiny, a pensive French horn enhances Mark Hamill's performance considerably.

"Getting to hear those John Williams horn solos. Oh, God," Cooper said. In 2009, Cooper played "Star Wars" with the Fort Worth Symphony for John Williams himself, who was conducting a few feet away.

"It was my childhood dream come true," Cooper said. Dreams that come true are a recurring theme in his life.

While still in Lansing, Cooper took life-changing lessons with Dale Bartlett, an unorthodox Lansing Symphony musician and MSU musicologist. Bartlett spiced lessons with nutty head games that were right



Courtesy photo

Principal horn of the Berlin Philharmonic, David Cooper. Cooper began playing with Michigan State University ensembles at 15 and was in the top MSU collegiate ensemble by the time he was 16.

up Cooper's alley.

"He talked about a wall of masks, with every note having a different mask," Cooper recalled. "He'd say, 'take the mask for middle C off the wall and put in on.' I'd imagine these fantastic tribal masks."

When Cooper was 17, the Berlin Philharmonic came to Ann Arbor in the last year of Claudio Abbado's tenure as music director. On the slate were Beethoven and Wagner, perhaps the horn-iest composers of all.

"Every sound was the best sound of that particular instrument," Cooper said. "You could see that everybody was listening to everybody else. It made this 100-piece ensemble sound like chamber music and I didn't think that was possible."

When the principal horn gig in Berlin opened in 2016, Cooper was doing fine as principal horn of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Although he had already narrowly missed the Berlin position in 2013, Cooper decided it was time to go for the brass ring. He flew to Boston to huddle with a long-time mentor, Eric Ruske of the Empire Brass and Cleveland Orchestra.

"Do you want to go to visit or do you want to win?" Ruske told him. "This is the Olympics. The way you're practicing, you're not going to win."

On Sept. 16, 2016, after the final round of auditions in Berlin, Cooper called Ruske. "I tried as hard as I could, but I don't

think I got it," he told him.

A few minutes later, they offered him the

job.
"It was the best day of my life," he said. If

we're piling up dreams come true, why not make it a Trifecta? "I never, ever thought I'd be principal

"I never, ever thought I'd be principal horn of the Berlin Philharmonic," Cooper said. "It's such a long shot."

But he broke some hearts in Dallas.

"A player of satin-finished tone, aston-

ishing breath control and elegant expression, Cooper has led the DSO horn section to new heights," Dallas News critic Scott Cantrell wrote, lamenting Cooper's departure as a "huge loss."

Needless to say, Cooper's life has completely changed.

"I was nervous at first," he admitted. For one thing, he keeps on cheerfully saying hello, like a Michigander, even though people often reward him with a Werner Herzog glare.

But the Berlin players are not as stern and scary as you might imagine. A recent YouTube video shows the rest of the horn section looking for their new principal in the rehearsal room. Cooper pops out of a closet, wearing a cowboy hat and playing the John Wayne-ish Marlboro Man melody ("The Magnificent Seven") on his horn. They give him a hat that says "New Guy."

Cooper really felt tight with the group when he played soccer with them on the Berlin Philharmonic's recent Asia tour.

"I'm one of them now," he said.

Saturday night in Lansing, he'll play one of the greatest of all horn concertos, by Russian composer Reinhold Glière.

He started to sing it over the phone. Who needs an Alexander horn, anyway? "It's got all these gorgeous, singing melodies," he said. "The first movement is very heroic and triumphant, then goes to this lyrical melody, like a lullaby. The second movement is sad and nostalgic and the last movement is this Cossack dance. It's just fun to play and fun to listen to."

Cooper has been nuts about the concerto since high school. "I played it a bunch when I was in Michigan when I was in my teens," he said. "This piece has a real connection for me with Lansing. I couldn't ask for a better homecoming piece."



Courtesy photo

Cooper with legendary composer John Williams in 2009. Cooper played under Williams during a Forth Worth Symphony performance of "Star Wars."



Steven Glynn Photography

Blue Owl Coffee Co.'s weekly Monday night open mic nights are getting cozier each week.

Blue Owl Coffee Co. builds a community

By SARAH SPOHN

Community can mean many different things to people. For some Lansing musicians, there's a sense of community every Monday night at REO Town's Blue Owl Coffee Company.

Since the first open mic night in August, local area residents, artists and coffee-lovers have come together to enjoy a family-friendly evening of original music each week.

When Blue Owl Coffee Company first opened last year, co-owner Nick Berry knew he wanted to foster an environment conducive to live music events. He approached local singer-songwriter Tania Howard about hosting an open mic night and she immediately began marketing the event to fellow musicians.

According to Howard, Blue Owl's space is rich in acoustics and atmosphere. Blue Owl's exposed brick and colorful, quirky dining chairs help create a relaxed, warm and cozy community feel.

"I hope that the open mic and the live music that we do at Blue Owl is one of the ways that people can find that sense of community and home," Howard said. "I hope those connections can end up actually being meaningful beyond just a nice night out, but really can help to form some long-lasting friendships as well."

While there are other open mic nights around town, many of the frequent Blue Owl regulars say this one is different from their counterparts.

Local guitarist and singer Brendan Hamilton has been to the weekly event five times and said it's been useful as a networking tool to meet other musicians.

"I've been to most of them around town. The atmosphere feels a little bit closer than most of them," Hamilton said. "The musicians kind of click together a little bit more. A lot of regulars make it feel more of a closer-knit feeling."

Fellow musician Matthew Shannon has also frequented the Monday night open mic sessions.

"The people are there to listen to the music, not passively let it wash over them," Shannon said. "There's very little conversation for the performer to have to try to cut through, and whether you've played for years or are just starting out, people are paying attention. Not to mention the caliber of performers that have performed there is stellar."

Shannon has performed in bands for 20 years, but credits this particular weekly event as a key muse for crafting more tunes

"I've given myself a rule that as long as I play at the Blue Owl, I have to write and perform at least one new song every week," Shannon said. "To date, I've written 11 brand new songs, and I have the Blue Owl to thank for that."

Shannon has made a lot of connections with other musicians at Blue Owl. "Several of the regulars are extremely talented songwriters, who, because of this open mic, are now people I'll get to collaborate with in the near future," Shannon said. "I've gotten word of other open mics in the greater Lansing area that I never would have heard of otherwise."

Host Howard encourages people to come out to the event, even if they're nervous to play in front of people.

"Community, to me, means that everybody has a place; everybody belongs," Howard said. "People can enjoy each other's company, people can be exactly who they are, and be wanted and needed and appreciated. People can come from all different walks of life, and still find something in common."

Theater of the mind

By PAUL WOZNIAK

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Audio Airforce's presentation of "Super Heroes... and Little Orphan Annie!"

Mason resident and creator of the audio theater ensemble Audio Airforce Dave Downing is presenting a new production of audio theater by performing classic radio scripts from the 1930s and '40s in a theatrical setting.

Upcoming auditions are open to the public. For audiences, it's a chance to enjoy a time capsule from the past with your eyes closed as well as open.

Downing, 64, has been working in radio and audio theater for over 40 years, including 38 years teaching radio classes at Lansing Community College. During that time, he founded LCC's popular holiday-themed audio production which celebrated its 11th anniversary in 2017.

Now retired, Downing has more time to reconnect audiences with their own imaginations.

"People are so visually stimulated with computer generated graphics in computer games, TV and movies. A lot of people have lost that kind of imagination," Downing said. "We encourage people to watch what's going on but we also encourage people to close their eyes, listen, and let the picture develop in their heads."

For actors who may worry about "looking the part" Downing says in audio theater you only need to "sound" the part.

"For audio theater, it's a lot more flexible than casting a stage play. If your character is, say, somebody in their 60s or 70s, you have to look for somebody that either looks the part or can look the part with makeup and other alterations," Downing said. "In audio theater, you just have to have somebody that can sound like they're in their 70s. It's all about theater of the mind."

Audio theatre is also about the chal-



lenges of creating live sound effects to trick the ear. "One of my favorite sound effects is the footsteps walking through snow. That crunch, crunch, crunch," Downing said. "You get that sound effect by wrapping duct tape around a package of cornstarch and squeezing it."

Downing says he's still working on developing the sound effects for the upcoming super-hero themed shows, but the goal is to perform all the sounds live if possible. Sometimes

"Super Heroes...and Little Orphan Annie!

Auditions 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, January 8 and Wednesday, January 10, Downtown Lansing Library, 401 South Capital Ave., Lansing

Performances Audio Air Force 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19 \$10 The Robin Theatre 1105 S. Washington Ave., REO Town,

performing the sounds alone requires a team of people.

Downing had to create the sound of flashbulbs for a 1940s-press conference... without flashbulbs. "We found that if we took snack-sized baggies and blew them up part way and then popped them with a pin, that was the sound of the flash-bulb going off," Downing said. "We had 40 or 50 of these baggies blown up sitting on the sound-effects table and we had four of us with pins popping them to make the noise of a lot of cameras going off. It was a lot of work for 15 to 20 seconds worth of sound but it worked."

Grass roots: Emily Dufton revisits the marijuana movement

By BILL CASTANIER

Hey! Don't bogart that joint, man! This week, California will join Washington D.C. and seven other states with its vote to legalize recreational marijuana. Here at home, Michigan tries to bring some order to the growing and sale of medical marijuana.

In the meantime, everyone holds their breath in hopes that the Department of Justice will continue to turn a blind eye to the federal policy which places marijuana on its Schedule I list with the likes of heroin and LSD.

Since 1937, when marijuana was initially made illegal, the drug has faced disparate enforcement and public response. It was not coincidental that the infamous movie "Reef-

er Madness" hit the circuit in 1936. Can we expect a similar backlash in 2018?

That's one of the fascinating questions Washington D.C. history professor and author Emily Dufton considers in her new book, "Grass Roots: The Rise and Fall of Marijuana in America."

Dufton, who began working on the book as the basis of her master's thesis, was inspired by demonstrations against the Iraq War back in 2003. She realized '60s-style protests had a limited role in modern times.

"I thought there has to be a better way to increase the efficacy of activism," she said. "Previously, researchers had mostly studied the left and what they were doing while no one was exploring conservative grass roots activism."

While exploring grass roots activism she discovered the "Just Say No" campaign. Though often credited to Nancy Reagan, it was created by parent groups that banded together as a response to their children's drug use. By 1987 there were more than 10,000 Just Say No clubs meeting across the country.

Dufton also delved into several pro-marijuana initiatives in the '70s. These groups seemed to indicate that legalization was right around the corner, a temporary dalliance that even saw some support from the Carter Administration.

Dufton also gives brief mention to Michigan's own John Sinclair, who turned his marijuana bust into a lifetime of advocacy.

She details in her book how the Just Say No program was co-opted by the private sector to promote their consumer prod-

Book Club meets Jan. 11

City Pulse will kick off its book club for 2018 at 7 p.m. Jan. 11 at Schuler Books & Records in Eastwood Towne Center, not Jan. 4, as previously reported. For the entire year, the club will read books related to 1968 in this its golden anniversary year. The first book is '1968 The Year that Rocked the World," by Mark Kurlansky.

ucts. The pro-marijuana initiative also faced a total downer when Jimmy Carter's drug czar, Peter Bourne, did some lines of cocaine at pro-marijuana group NORML's Christmas party. The ensuing controversy resulted in his firing, costing anti-drug war activists an important ally.

Today's activists, at both a national and local level, would be well served to take a trip back in time with Dufton's book. They'll learn the battle is far from over.

One example of success that Dufton cites in her book is that of Mary Jane Rathbun, popularly known as Brownie Mary. Mary was a San Francisco waitress turned care taker for gay young men struggling with HIV/AIDS.

Dufton titles the chapter "The Florence Nightingale of Medical Marijuana" and shows first-hand how a grass roots movement could be started by inspired individuals.

Dufton also reminds readers about Robert Randall, the person who has been called the "father of the movement." Randall popular-

ized the use of marijuana for slowing the onset of glaucoma.

He was busted for growing marijuana and his subsequent trial found him not guilty, turning him into a national activist for medical marijuana.

It's important to note that Brownie Mary's business wasn't run just for love. She was regularly making \$500,000 annually from her business. This was pointed out by law enforcement officials when they busted her in 1981 and again in 1992.

The second bust rocketed her into national fame and in 1992, 80 percent of San Francisco voters supported a ballot issue for medical marijuana. Prop 215, passed in 1996, made California the first state to legalize medical marijuana.

CRASS ROOTS

THE RISE AND FALL

AND RISE OF

MARIJUANA IN AMERICA

EMILY
DUFTON

Dufton also points out that while parent activists called the new law a "Trojan horse," their cries were largely ignored as other states began seeking their own protections for the use of medical marijuana.

Dufton writes a cautionary tale for current activists. "History shows that nothing is certain and you never know what lies around the corner," she said.

The book argues that doctors need to be won over by the drug's potential medical uses and more research needs to be done, but the necessary research can be limited by the drug's Schedule I classification.

Dufton also warns that even though Big Pharma, which has the most to lose from legalization, may not have the same clout as the parenting movement of the '80s, it is still a "formidable opponent."

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OUTHE TOWN

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

Wednesday, January 3

Classes-and-Seminars

Free Photography Clinic. From 6 to 9 p.m. FREE!!.. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St. Lansing. (517) 482-0668.

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

MSU International Student Speaker-Senior Discovery Group . From 10 a.m. to noon free. Allen Market Place, 6129 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

Fvents

Apps That Make Your Life Better (Adults). From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Kids Reading to Dogs (Age 6 & up). From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St. Haslett. 517-339-2324.

Lansing Coat Bank. From 5:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 122 S. Pennyslvania Ave. Lansing. 517-339-9119.

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

Thursday, January 4

Classes-and-Seminars

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

Events

*Crafternoons for Kids--Snowman Mobile (Ages 5?10). From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

*Introduction to Financial Planning--Part 1 (Adults). From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Capital Area Audubon Society . From 7 to 9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

Drop-in LEGO Club (Age 4 & up). From 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

Family Storytime (Held at Whole Foods Market East Lansing). From 10 to 11 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

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.

Friday, January 5

Classes-and-Seminars

Picture This!. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. \$28/\$50 for two. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

Fvents

*Video Game Night (Ages 8-18). From 5 to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. 517.694.9351.

Arts

Featured Artist Friday with Katherine Hagman. From 7 to 10 p.m. Free!. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N Larch St Lansing. 517.999.2631.

Saturday, January 6

Events

*Code Club. From 2 to 3:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St. Haslett. 517-339-2324.

*Reading with the Animals (All ages). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

Family Day at the Broad. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

Lansing Coat Bank. From 1 to 4 p.m. FREE. St. Lukes Lutheran Church, 122 S. Pennyslvania Ave. Lansing. 517-339-9119.

Arts

Family Day: Collect, presented by Farm Bureau Insurance. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. free. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

Sunday, January 7

Classes-and-Seminars

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

Holidays

White Stone Ceremony. From 10:30 a.m. to noon Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

Events

First Sunday Gallery Walk Artist Reception (All ages). From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

Arts

Virginia Artis Artist Reception. From 3 to 5 p.m. free. EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 W. Mount Hope Highway Lansing.

Monday, January 8

Classes-and-Seminars

Detox (& Weight Loss) Seminar. From 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. Rassel-Daigneault Family Chiropractic, 537 N. Clippert St. Lansing.

See Out on the Town Page 18

Collector shares rare rock'n'roll postcards



January 9 • 6 p.m. • • • • •

By BILL CASTANIER

Postcard collecting can be addictive. Just ask Wally Jung of Lansing, who recently added a cache of rock 'n' roll cards to his already impressive hoard of postcards.

For years Jung has been collecting postcards from Battle Creek, Benton Harbor, Lansing and many other Michigan cities he's called home.

Jung was first drawn to a postcard issued by a southwest Michigan radio station WHFB

Exhibition of Rare Rock Art Postcards

Tuesday, January 9, 6 p.m.
Delta Township
Library
5130 Davenport Dr.,
Lansing
Admission: Free

and then one from WKZO advertising the country band Rem Wall & the Green Valley Boys.

"I never liked country that much, but I picked it up for my mother who listened to the program," Jung said.

That one postcard led to another and soon he was building a collection of music themed postcards. Jung eventually added a card from the rock group the Vogues which had several hits in the '60s including, "You're the One" and "Five O'clock World."

Then Jung picked up a card featuring The New Christy Minstrels, a large-ensemble folk group whose alumni includes Kenny Rogers and Gene Clark. He also has numerous postcards from local radio stations.

"Now I have a whole box of cards," Jung said.

"I had two requirements: the cards had to be of groups that I liked and I had to like the graphics."

This past November, Jung bought a large collection of postcards from a Las Vegas dealer. The trove included many cards from the legendary Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco, featuring art by renowned psychedelic artists.

Since then Jung has added similar postcards from the Grande Ballroom in Detroit. Russ Gibb, impresario of the Grande Ballroom, produced about 80 cards to promote his concerts.

Today, some of those cards by legendary artists Gary Grimshaw and Carl Lundgren sell for more than \$150.

"My favorite music cards are the psychedelic ones, they are cool," Jung said.

He also has numerous Coral-Lee postcards from the '80s which were commercially produced and feature popular musicians like Elvis Presley and Diana Ross.

"Music of the sixties and seventies tells the story of my life," Jung said. "I couldn't tell you where I was three weeks ago, but I can tell you where I was when I first heard 'Ferry Across the Mersey' by Gerry and the Pacemakers."

Jung will take guests on a rock 'n' roll tour at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at the Delta Township Library. His presentation includes music from several eras.

Jung will showcase a couple hundred rock postcards accompanied with music.

JAN. 6 >> WILL GOODALE'S MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

The Will Goodale Memorial Foundation honors the memory of the child Will Goodale, who died November 2015. The foundation honors his name by providing scholarships to students entering police academy, as Will Goodale dreamed of being a police officer at 10 years old. The event will be held at City Limits Bowling Center and will feature: pizza, soda, bowling and a balloon release. There is a contact for more information about the event and how you can support the foundation listed below.

1—5 p.m. at City Limits Bowling Center, 5290 M-78, Haslett, Contact: will@shanegoodale.com

Jonesin' Crossword By Matt Jones "The Somethingest of 2017"--not good, not bad, just...something. Drives Me Crazy" (1989 hit) 4 Curvy letters 8 Took off on two wheels 13 Edinburgh resident 14 And nothing more 15 Lawn straightener 16 "No way" 17 Binary digits 18 Oath-taker's prop 19 St. Vincent album on a lot of "Best of 2017" lists 22 Whitman of TV's "Parenthood" 23 Abbr. for someone who has just a first and last name 24 Actress Sissy of "The Help' _-Lorraine (area in northeast France) 30 Thor Heyerdahl's 32 Half of CXII "Frozen' 36 First South Korean Sammy 33 2017 movie that could president Syngman 62 Fasten, in a way 10 Soviet org. dissolved be Daniel Day-Lewis's 37 Certain Gls last, if he sticks with 63 Got up retirement 11 Sushi selection 38 Laugh-out-loud type 64 Unrestrained way 12 Beats by 37 Fuel-efficient Toyota 42 6'11", say to run (headphones brand) 39 365 billion days, in 65 RR stops astronomy cum laude (with pecans or almonds, 66 Tropicana's locale highest honors) mavbe 40 "Can you give me 67 Cartoon skunk Le Pew 20 Protect, as with 47 Bear-ly? 68 Go with ___ grain 41 Toy fad that caught on

Down

44 Olympic gold medalist

52 Took in dinner (but not

54 Major 2017 event that

required special glasses

58 Parrot's cousin

61 1998 baseball MVP

no words

_ moment

Sebastian

(epiphany)

a movie)

53 "There _

46 Depletes

49 Casual walk

Man on Earth"

2 Common eight-legged

3 Suffixes after "twenti-",

5 Boredom

7 Part of DOS, for short

9 Menzel who sang in

1 Kristen of "The Last

"thirti-," etc.

4 There were "A Few" in

a 1992 film title

6 Util. measured in kWh

8 Charlie Parker's genre

plastic

21 Ceases to exist 25 Scythes through the underbrush, perhaps

26 "Dear Hansen' 27 Pirate executed in 1701 29 "I think somebody

needs 30 Turtle-ish enemy in Super Mario Bros.

31 Prefix meaning "all" 34 John of "Entertainment Tonight"

and new age music 35 He followed a trail of breadcrumbs

43 Dessert made with

48 Clementine coats

50 Industrial city of Japan

51 Home Depot competitor

52 "The Ant and the Grasshopper" storyteller

55 "Get on it!" 56 Setting for "Julius

Caesar'

57 Part of MIT

58 Dallas player, briefly 59 Overwhelming wonder

BEGINNER

60 Gearwheel tooth

©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 17

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 17

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

January 3 - 9, 2018

Aries (March 21-April 19) In 2018, your past will undergo transformation. Your memories will revise and rearrange themselves. Bygone events that seemed complete and definitive will shimmy and shift, requiring new interpretations. The stories you have always told about how you became who you are will have to be edited, perhaps even rewritten. While these overhauls may sometimes be disconcerting, they will ultimately be liberating. **Taurus (April 20–May 20)** In 2018, people will be drawn to you even more than usual. Some will want you to be their rock -- their steady, stable source of practical truth. Some will ask you to be their tonic -- their regular, restorative dose of no-nonsense. And others will find in you a creative catalyst that helps them get out of their ruts and into their grooves. And what will you receive in return for providing such a stellar service? First, there'll be many opportunities to deepen and refine your integrity. To wield that much influence means you'll have to consistently act with highminded motivations. And secondly, Taurus, you'll get a steady supply of appreciation that will prove to be useful as well as gratifying.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Influences that oppose you will fade as 2018 unfolds. People who have been resistant and uncooperative will at least partially disengage. To expedite the diminishing effects of these influences and people, avoid struggling with them. Loosen the grip they have on your imagination. Any time they leak into your field of awareness, turn your attention instead to an influence or person that helps and supports you. Here's another idea about how to collaborate with the cosmic rhythms to reduce the conflict in your life: Eliminate any unconscious need you might have for the perversely invigorating energy provided by adversaries and bugaboos. Find positive new ways to motivate yourself.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) I predict that in 2018 you will figure out how to get your obsessions to consistently work for your greatest good. You will come to understand what you must do to ensure they never drag you down into manic selfsabotage. The resolute ingenuity you summon to accomplish this heroic feat will change you forever. You will be reborn into a more vibrant version of your life. Passions that in the past have drained and confused you will become efficient sources of fuel for your worthiest dreams.

Leo (July 23-August 22) Just because you have become accustomed to a certain trouble doesn't mean you should stop searching for relief from that trouble clust because a certain pain no longer knocks you into a demoralized daze for days at a time doesn't mean it's good for you. Now here's the good news: In 2018, you can finally track down the practical magic necessary to accomplish a thorough healing of that trouble and pain. Make this the year you find a more ultimate cure

Virgo (August 23-September 22) Have you ever nursed a yearning to speak Swahili or Chinese or Russian? The coming months will be an excellent time to get that project underway. Do you fantasize about trying exotic cuisines and finding new favorite foods? I invite you to act on that fantasy in 2018. Is there a form of manual labor that would be tonic for your mental and physical health? Life is giving you a go-ahead to do more of it. Is there a handicraft or ball game you'd like to become more skilled at? Get started, is there a new trick you'd like to learn to do with your mouth or hands? Now's the time.

Libra (September 23-October 22) Before the fifteenth century, European nations confined their sailing to the Mediterranean Sea. The ocean was too rough for their fragile, unadaptable ships. But around 1450, the Portuguese developed a new kind of vessel, the caravel. It employed a triangular sail that enabled it to travel against the wind. Soon, exploratory missions ventured into the open sea and down along the coast of West

Africa. Eventually, this new technology enabled long westward trips across the Atlantic, I propose that we make the caravel your symbol of power for 2018, Libra. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will find or create a resource that enables you to do the metaphorical equivalent of effectively sailing into the wind.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) The

Aztecs were originally wanderers. They kept moving from place to place, settling temporarily in areas throughout the land we now call Mexico. An old prophecy told them that they would eventually find a permanent home at a site where they saw an eagle roosting on a cactus as it clutched a snake in its talons. There came a day in the fourteenth century when members of the tribe spied this very scene on an island in the middle of a lake. That's where they began to build the city that in time was the center of their empire. I bring this to your attention, Scorpio, so it can serve as a metaphor to guide you in 2018. I suspect that you, too, will discover your future power spot -- the heart of your domain for years to come.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) Not every minute of every day, but when you have had the time, you've been searching for a certain treasure. With patience and persistence, you have narrowed down its whereabouts by collecting clues and following your intuition. Now, at last, you know its exact location. As you arrive, ready to claim it, you tremble with anticipation. But when you peel away the secrets in which it has been wrapped, you see that it's not exactly what you expected. Your first response is disappointment. Nevertheless, you decide to abide in the presence of the confusing blessing and see what happens. Slowly, incrementally, you become aware of a new possibility: that you're not quite ready to understand and use the treasure; that you'll have to grow new capacities before you'll be ready for it in its fullness.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) Soulful beauty will be a major theme for you in 2018. Or at least it should be. But I suppose it's possible you're not very interested in soulful beauty, perhaps even bored by it. Maybe you prefer skindeep beauty or expensive beauty or glamorous beauty. If you choose to follow predilections like those, you'll lose out on tremendous opportunities to grow wilder and wiser. But let's hope you make yourself available for a deeper, more provocative kind of beauty -- a beauty that you could become more skilled at detecting as the year unfolds.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18) "Let your freak flag fly" was an expression that arose from the hippie culture of the 1960s and 1970s. It was a colorful way to say, "Be your most unique and eccentric self; show off your idiosyncrasies with uninhibited pride." I propose that we revive it for your use in 2018. I suspect the coming months will be a favorable time for you to cultivate your quirks and trust your unusual impulses. You should give yourself maximum freedom to explore pioneering ideas and maverick inclinations. Paradoxically, doing so will lead to stabilizing and enduring improvements in your life.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) In accordance with the astrological omens, I suggest you start compiling a list entitled, "People. Places. Ideas, and Things I Didn't Realize Until Now That I Could Fall in Love With." And then keep adding more and more items to this tally during the next ten months. To get the project underway in the proper spirit, you should wander freely and explore jauntily, giving yourself permission to instigate interesting mischief and brush up against deluxe temptations. For best results, open your heart and your eyes as wide as you can. One further clue: Act on the assumption that in 2018 you will be recentive to inspirational influences and life-transforming teachings that you have never before been aware of.

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S TURN IT DOUL MUSICAL LANDSCAPE BY RICH TUPICA

SQUIRREL

Sat., Jan. 6



Esham at The Loft

Saturday, Jan. 6 @ The Loft, 424 E. Michigan Ave., Lanisng. 18+, \$25 9 p.m.

Esham, Detroit's legendary horror-core rapper, headlines Saturday at The Loft. Now embarked on his Dead of Winter Tour, the highly influential rapper is on the road promoting his sixteenth studio LP, "Scribble." The new disc, released in May via his own Reel Life Records imprint. features the singles "Trust No One" and "Black Sheep." Born Esham Smith, the iconic emcee debuted at 16years old with 1989's "Boomin' Words From Hell." The primitive DIY album was recorded in one day and tackled issues like the crack epidemic, murder and the devil - the earliest blueprint of his own style of hip-hop he dubbed "acid rap." Since then, he's dropped a stack of albums offering scathing religious and political commentary – he's also been namechecked by the likes of Eminem, who described his sound as a hybrid of "Manson, Esham and Ozzy" on his breakthrough "Slim Shady LP."

Thurs., Jan. 18



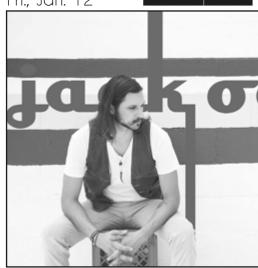
Squirrel Nut Zippers at Wharton Center

Thursday, Jan. 18 @ Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Ln., East Lansing. Tickets from \$25, 7:30 p.m.

It's been over 20 years since the Squirrel Nut Zippers' "Hot" LP helped usher in the big-band swing revival - today the North Carolina natives are back at it. Chief songwriter Jimbo Mathus (vocals, guitar and trombone) and fellow founding member Chris Phillips (drums) started the group back in 1993 and have since taken multiple hiatuses, but have reemerged every few years. In 2009, the band reunited and released its "Lost at Sea" LP, a live album featuring romping versions of their fan favorites, like the hit single "Hell" and "Memphis Exorcism," a rowdy instrumental. This latest tour, which stops at Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, is a rootsy showcase of true Delta blues. Gypsy-iazz and '30s swing - presented by some of New Orleans top players. Opening is Davina & the Vagabonds.

Fri., Jan. 12

JACK OATS



Jack Oats at The Avenue Cafe

Friday, Jan. 12 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 8 p.m.

Detroit-based indie folk-rock band Jack Oats, a trio known led by songwriter Justin Erion (guitar/vocals), makes its Lansing debut Jan. 12 at The Avenue Café, sharing a bill alongside a roster of local bands, including the Aimcriers, Odds Fish and Cat Midway. While the Jack Oats originated in 2010 as a Erion solo project, the group now also comprises multi-instrumentalists Aaron Strichartz (drums, strings) and Mike Ryan (bass/banjo, mandolin). Since its growth spurt, the band cut its first proper CD, the five-song "Unsteady Hands" EP. Deep Cutz critic Jeff Milo praised the collection of rock'n'roll-tinged Americana tracks for their "beauty in starkness" and "grit and tenderness." The entire EP is streamed at jackoats.bandcamp.com. Fans of Bright Eyes or Fleet Foxes might want to check it out.

UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT

ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Industry Night	90's Karaoke	Desmond Jones, 8 p.m.	Tears in Rain Synthpop Showcase, 9 p.m.; Dance Party		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		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.		DJ, 9 p.m.		
Darb's Tavern, 117 S. Cedar St.				The Pryorities		
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	n.			
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	The Hot Mess, 9:30 p.m.	Medusa, 8 p.m.		
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	Homegrown Throwdown Round 1, 6:30 p.m.	Esham, 9 p.m.		
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Winter Wonder Lan 2018 9 p.m.			
Reno's West, 5001 W Saginaw Hwy						
The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.						
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.						
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's		

Out on the town

from page 16

Marketing Mondays: Learn to Network Like a Pro. From 12 to 1 p.m. Free - To Register Call: (517) 483-1921. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

Literature-and-Poetry

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

Better Living Book Club. At 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Theater

Monday Movie Matinee. At 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Events

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

Tuesday, January 9

Literature-and-Poetry

Books on Tap Book Club. At 6:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road East Lansing. (517) 324-7100

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.

Events

DIY Fidget Spinners (Age 13 & up). From 4 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School Street Williamston. 517.655.1191.

Mid-day Movies (Adults). From 2 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Reminisce Group (Adults). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Aurelius Branch, 1939 South Aurelius Road Mason. 517.628.3743.

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

TED Talk® Tuesday (Adults). From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021. Tuesday Book Group (Adults). From 1 to 2 p.m. FREE.

Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. 517.485.5185.

Wednesday, January 10

Classes-and-Seminars

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.

Event

*Early Literacy Playtime (Ages 195). 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.

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

& SOUTHERN KITCHEN / PUNK TACO

CREOLE BURGER BAR

By ALLAN I. ROSS

For 2 ½ years, the Creole restaurant has been serving New Orleans-style bistro cuisine in the former home of Old Town's historic Creole Gallery. But this weekend, Metro Lansing diners will get one last chance to order its upscale menu items such as the sous vide pork chop and the roasted steelhead before it transforms into a more casual dining location.

"Our food and drinks are amazing, but with our price points we were being viewed more as a place to go for special occasions," said co-owner Sam Short. "So we're sending the old menu off with a bang before switching it up next week. And I think people are really going to like the new concept."

The Creole is closed Monday through Thursday this week as

Short's team gives the interior a fresh coat of paint and a new look. Then this Friday, Jan. 5-Sunday, Jan. 7, the old menu will get a final hurrah. It will be closed again next Monday-Thursday as the final touches are made before permanently reopening on Friday, Jan. 12 as the Creole Burger Bar & Southern Kitchen.

The Creole Burger Bar & Southern Kitchen (opens Friday, Jan. 12) 1218 Turner St.,

Friday, Jan. 12)
1218 Turner St.,
Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Monday-Thursday; 8
a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday,
8 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday
(517) 371-1361,
thecreolelansing.com

"Our chef, Scott Macpherson, is a world-class act, and we wanted more people to see what we see," Short said. "We're keeping the creative, chef-driven aspect and transitioning into something that's more reasonably priced."

If the new name doesn't give it away, the menu will be burgercentric, featuring

specialty creations that include wild game options. There will also be hand-cut fries and a second line parade full of Southern staples, including shrimp and grits, oyster po' boys and build-your-own jambalaya. All entrees will be priced in the \$10-\$18 range, with appetizers in the \$5-\$9 area. Short said the restaurant's popular weekend brunch will survive the transition, albeit with "two or three tweaks."



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Next week, the Creole restaurant in Old Town will reopen as the Creole Burger Bar & Southern Kitchen, a more casual version of the New Orleans bistro concept started by Sam Short and his team, the Potent Potables Project. Among the changes will be the addition of Punch Pots: copper urns filled with specialty cocktails that can serve four.

The drink menu will also get an overhaul, including the addition of a full tap system and a new line of creative cocktails. The most notable newcomer will be the Punch Pots, 128-ounce copper kettles filled with shareable mixed drinks for four that will be left at the tables. There will also be a pared down wine menu, including two new wines that will be available on tap, as well as 150 types of whiskey.

"Lansing has a rich restaurant culture that's nurtured a growing base of adventurous diners, and this new concept is very much in line with that," Short said. "We've been able to connect with those diners at our other locations, and now it's time to bring that here to the Creole."

Short is one of the partners of the Potent Potables Project, which refashioned the former dive bar Zoobie's Old Town Tavern into a hip watering hole in 2013, and constructed the gourmet wood-fired pizza joint the Cosmos as its conjoined twin in 2015. The group also launched the Dolson in Charlotte last year. He said that the group's long-gestating Punk Taco bar/restaurant near Frandor is "definitely" still on, just not at the Frandor location where work has been stalled for over a year.

"We had to walk away from that deal, but we're planning to bring Punk Taco to somewhere in Old Town in 2018," Short said. "We try to do a little something different at each location. It's fun to keep people on their toes."

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JAN. 5>> HOMEGROWN THROWDOWN ROUND I

Homegrown Throwdown returns for its 15th year. Homegrown Throwdown 2018 is sponsored by Lansing rock radio station Q106. The Throwdown will feature 24 bands over five nights. Bands will be competing for a trove of prizes including cash and studio time. Round 1 will feature: Revolution in Progress, The Amber Tide, Some People's Kids, the 89th Key, lejir and Suits and Daggers

6:30—11:30 p.m. at the Loft, Admission: \$10, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, theloftlansing.com

JAN. 12>>LANSING BOARD GAMERS MEETUP

Lansing board gamers will have a chance to meet fellow enthusiasts at Summit Comics & Games in downtown Lansing. The evening will feature an opportunity to play some of your favorite games with players both familiar and new.

2—9 p.m. at Summit Comics & Games, 216 Washington Square S. B, Lansing, www.summitlansing.com

DINING GUIDE THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2017 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, The Pulse. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to facebook.com/lansingapp or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download. Bon appétit!

TOP 5 ASIAN BUFFET

I.) Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet 5837 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 886-9999 hibachigrilllansing.com II a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; II a.m.-10 p.m. Friday & Saturday

2.) Asian Buffet (Okemos)

4920 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864 (517) 381-8388 okemosasianbuffet.weebly.com II a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; II a.m.-10 p.m. Friday & Saturday; II a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

3.) Xiao

3415 E Saginaw St, Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 580-3720 xiaochinagrille.com II a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; II a.m.-II p.m. Friday & Saturday; Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

4.) World Buffet

 $5002\,W$ Saginaw Hwy # 3, Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 327-6688 restaurantwebx.com/WorldBuffet II a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; II a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

5.) BD's Mongolian (Okemos)

II a.m.-II p.m. Friday & Saturday

2080 W Grand River Ave, Okemos, MI 48864 (517) 347-3045 II a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday;

Uncorked: A wrap-up of 2017 wines

2017 was quite a year for wine values, trends, and hot-button issues

Value Wines of the Year

Wine fads come and go, but saving monev never goes out of style. I've tasted about 900-1,000 wines this year and a few under \$20 bottles shine a little brighter than the

others.



To start, the 2013 My Essential cabernet sauvignon was perhaps the most bang-for-the-buck American red wine I've had this year. It should

retail for about \$20 and is stuffed with a generous amount of rich black fruit, without ever coming close to tasting goopy.

This is a smart and fun project by Master Sommelier Richard Betts and should be consistently enjoyable, because it's not an overpowering representation of cabernet.

From the old world of Europe, a topnotch red blend from southern France was a huge favorite: the 2015 Domaine Rimbert Saint-Chinian. This mourvedre/ syrah/cinsault blend should only set you back about \$18 and is now a preferred pizza-and-burger wine. It's full-bodied, meaty, floral, and remarkably interesting for a style of wine that sometimes hits the hammer hard on bringing spicy fruit to the

Klaus Lentsch pinot grigio is the "dark horse" winner for favorite everyday-drinking white wine. There are oceans of innocuous wine made from this grape variety, but this is not one of them. For \$16, this easily bests the big boys of the category that are twice the price.

Pinot grigios can be tricky to pin down stylistically. Oregon pinot gris tends to have increased alcohol and sometimes a touch of sweetness. Alsace, France almost always carries some sweetness with a little mushroom earthiness combined with citrus/tropical fruit notes.

Northeastern Italy doesn't exactly have one style, but where Lentsch is from in Alto Adige, that's about as close to a "typical" style that you'll find: a fruit bowl of apple, pear, peach, and maybe some candied flavors, in a dry representation. The 2015 release is impeccable.

Wine Trends for 2018

You will probably continue to hear more about "natural wine." There is no legal definition to the term. But often enough, they exist in a deliberate alternative to the Mega Purple wineries of the world.

Many writers and sommeliers earnestly support many natural wine producers and for good reason.

Plenty of bars/restaurants have incorporated these wines into their beverage programs without treating them like an affectation. Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels in New York City might lead the way in true natural wine/classic wine balance, and is a must-visit when you venture to the city.

Locally, the trend is just starting to find a voice and hopefully we see it grow, while making sure it's about good wine first.

Without coincidence, the old guard of the wine world doesn't matter much to wine lovers in their twenties and thirties. Wine Spectator and Wine Advocate, giants of the '90s, are simply not read that much by the new generation.

Many younger folks digest wine content on Instagram and Facebook. They are able to connect with sommeliers or writers they like. And they're building an evolved social currency that might seem flippant to some, but is realistically more of the same romanticism and storytelling of wine, but without some of the drab window-dressing.

Podcasts, social media and old-fashioned word of mouth will stake out a larger share with a younger demographic.

The Reckoning

Throughout human history, men have largely exploited their power and influence to get what they want. Not exactly news, right?

It's time we get honest about what exists in this industry of wine, restaurants, et cetera: a heaping dose of patriarchy.

The New Orleans restaurant industry got rocked with more than 25 allegations of sexual harassment in the Besh Restaurant Group, primarily by John Besh, who almost immediately resigned. But if you talk to NOLA food & beverage workers, you'll find this is not a surprise.

To extrapolate, if you talk with dozens of Mid-Michigan servers, bartenders, hostesses, wine salespeople, you will find the same culture exists here in Lansing.

A colleague who wants to remain anonymous said "I started in the industry at a very young age and with every passing year that I remained, I became more desensitized, less offended and rarely surprised by even the most offensive of behaviors. It wasn't until I got out of the business that I started to see how truly inappropriate it is."

Of course, there are others who have experienced these horrible situations.

"Having spent almost 15 years in this industry, I can say it has gotten better with time," said Kristen Pennington, industry veteran and current business development manager for a Michigan wine import company.

"The only way we can move forward is to shine a light on the problem we so frequently sweep under the rug and to stand up and say this isn't right."

Pennington is right. This conversation is long overdue.

We need to cultivate a culture that protects the rights of all workers and lets them know there are people who will listen, and will diligently verify the truth.

Justin King is an Advanced Sommelier and owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktails-focused restaurant in De-Witt. He was named 2017 Best New Sommelier by Wine & Spirits Magazine. Send your patriarchal hate mail to justingking@gmail.com.



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